

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION FOR ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCES

STRENGTHS:

- Important program to Alaska and nation (weather, air quality, fundamentals of climate system and climate impacts/change, applicable to many important public and private concerns).
- Strong faculty and scholarly output (PRJs, grants, student support).
- International experience and teaching experience in several different countries.
- First-class research facilities serve faculty and student researchers.
- Strong employment in their fields for graduates (academic, public, private).
- Strong collaborations across UAF, state, nation and the world.

WEAKNESSES:

- No undergraduate degree makes program vulnerable and leads to low enrollment numbers.
- Two-year rotation for classes makes it hard for other departments to coordinate their requirements.
- Reduction in support staff leads to more administrative demand on faculty.
- The necessity for research grad programs is a small student to faculty ratio and therefore tuition revenue is insufficient to support salaries.
- ICR goes to research institutes so increases in extramural funding do not directly benefit the department.

OPPORTUNITIES:

- Increased interest in Climate Change could lead to higher enrollments.
- Increased collaboration across campus including three proposed new minors, one certificate and one professional endorsement.
- The possibility to put more courses online and partner with the international education community.
- Contributing to additional collaborative professional graduate programs such as Hazard and Emergency Management as well as Homeland and Food Security.

THREATS:

- Uncertainty and reduction of state funding leads to a decrease in staff and outsourcing of administrative functions.
- Decreased thesis completion fellowships poses a threat to timely graduation.
- Increased overhead rates make grant proposals less competitive.
- Changes in VISA regulations make it difficult to enroll international students.
- Lack of adequate high performing computer resources limits capability to run high performance earth system modeling.
- Declining student enrollment and tuition revenue.

CENTRALITY TO MISSION:

- UAF Mission Centric (STEM, Alaska, Arctic, International, Tier 1 research status).
- The program is unique to the UA system.

COST-EFFECTIVENESS:

- The cost of the program includes \$300,000 instructional for an average of 1.6 masters degrees and 1.6 PhDs per year.

	MAJORS	DEGREES
Atmospheric Science MS	AY15: 8/ AY19: 3	AY15: 3/ AY19: 0
Atmospheric Science PhD	AY15: 9/ AY19: 10	AY15: 1/ AY19: 2

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Atmospheric Sciences MS:

RECOMMENDATION:	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:	DATE FOR FOLLOW-UP:
Revision or restructure (8 votes)	Academic programs may not be sustainable without restructuring of ICR revenue-sharing model between College and research institute.	one year (plan from dean and research director/s)

Atmospheric Sciences PhD:

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