

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

STRENGTHS:

- There has been a major expansion of the program into Aleutian and Pribilofs.
- The program has added 3 occupational Endorsements (Rural Waste Management and Spill Response, Sustainable Energy and Rural Water Quality Tech).
- Largely funded by external organizations and grants.
- Success of high school Salmon Science Camp and involvement in undergraduate research projects.
- There is a highly collaborative, hands-on approach to program, which leads to student engagement.
- Students are civic minded and involved with environmental community issues.

WEAKNESSES:

- Low graduation numbers and enrollments in the certificate program.
- Staff turn-over, which leads to instability and vulnerability.
- Reliance on grant funding makes the program vulnerable to cuts.
- There are few CRCD science faculty.
- There is more interest in Occupational Endorsement than the Certificate due to Math and WRTG requirements.

OPPORTUNITIES:

- Partnerships with economic development, regional, state and federal organizations.
- Working with school districts and offering dual credit courses.
- Collaborative work with UAFs RAP program and UAAs Geography Environment & Society Program.
- Alaska Department of Labor and WFD projects environmental jobs to be on the increase.

THREATS:

- Online education presents challenges in terms of instructor access, computer literacy, and limitations on technology.
- UAFs current education model does not always align with non-traditional and rural students' educational desires.
- OE appears to be drawing students away from the Certificate program.

CENTRALITY TO MISSION:

- Meets UAFs core themes through educating rural undergraduate student population.

INDICATORS OF QUALITY:

- Student involvement in undergraduate research projects.
- Cooperation with professional societies such as the Alaska Forum on the Environment.

COST-EFFECTIVENESS:

- Most of the funding is through USDA-NIFA Alaska Consortium grant, NSF TCUP Grant and TVEP.

	MAJORS	DEGREES
Environmental Studies Certificate	FY15: 6/ FY19: 9	FY15: 1/ FY19: 0

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Environmental Studies Certificate:

RECOMMENDATION:	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:	DATE FOR FOLLOW-UP:
Revision or restructure (6 votes; 1 abstention)	Consider the need for the certificate: pursue OEs and the creation of a minor.	one year