

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION FOR ETHNOBOTANY

STRENGTHS:

- The program is 100% grant funded and it would be a net loss to UAF if it was cut.
- The program offers hands-on and experiential learning and student-driven research projects
- Offers dual credit EBOT courses to high school students.
- Almost all courses are available through distance delivery.
- Student numbers are small but stable, and growing slightly.

WEAKNESSES:

- Faculty must have a specialized interdisciplinary skill set, making it difficult to find adjuncts to teach courses.
- There is currently no plan to support the program past the grant, leading to vulnerability for the program and its students.
- Lack of funding has reduced capacity to offer courses and advise students.
- Provides to a student population that is socio-economically challenged, leading to frequent stop-outs for financial reasons.

OPPORTUNITIES:

- Expanding program to attract students from other locations.
- Work with eCampus to develop more robust online programs.
- Collaboration with external organizations, such as Village Councils, Native Corporations, and educational institutions; i.e. AK Pacific University.
- Collaborations with other departments and programs within UAF, such as One Health.

THREATS:

- Potential loss of external grant funding makes the program vulnerable.
- Lack of internet access in rural sites, which leads to an inequitable access to education.
- Budget cuts increase demands on faculty and diminishes advising and recruitment.

CENTRALITY TO MISSION:

- Delivers content in key areas of knowledge, “restoration of cultural knowledge, community healing, and indigenous knowledge integration into research.”

INDICATORS OF QUALITY:

- Published ethnobotanical books and guides as well as learning material for the Alaska 4-H program.

COST-EFFECTIVENESS:

- The program is 100% grant funded.

	MAJORS	DEGREES
Ethnobotany Certificate	FY15: 10/ FY19: 19	FY15: 2/ FY19: 4

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Ethnobotany Certificate:

RECOMMENDATION:	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:	DATE FOR FOLLOW-UP:
Continuation w/ improvement plan (6 votes; 1 abstention)	Expand offerings: to other regions, through online learning, through Summer Sessions	One year