

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION FOR GEOSCIENCES

STRENGTHS:

- Programs meet science needs of the state.
- Offers GERs and required courses for other majors as well as courses for Geosciences majors.
- Strong graduate programs, representing a significant portion of UAF's PhDs.
- Faculty very productive in research and have proven success in competing for external grants.
- Most of the graduating students either continue on to higher education or find employment in the geosciences.
- Critical link with the Geophysical Institute: Research at the GI is led by GEOS faculty and carried out by graduate students in the PhD and MS programs (Geosciences, Geophysics).
- Close collaboration with The Alaska Division of Geological and Geophysical Surveys (DGGS) .

WEAKNESSES:

- Enrollment in Geoscience programs rises and falls with activity in the petroleum and mining industries.
- Reduction in numbers of faculty has limited the course offerings for students, and has directly affected the graduate programs since fewer faculty are available to supervise and support students.
- One of the staff positions that has not been replaced is the Director of the Advanced Instrumentation Laboratory (AIL).
- Enrollments are low at the undergraduate level, especially in Geography.

OPPORTUNITIES:

- Additional external funding may be available.
- Development of online courses to increase student credit hours and number of majors.
- Discussions with colleagues at UAA regarding an MOU that would allow UAA grad students to receive PhDs through the Geosciences Dept. at UAF.
- More field courses could increase enrollment, especially from out-of-state students.
- Increased RA support: Faculty in the department have been highly successful securing external funding and supporting graduate students on RAs.
- Geospatial and Remote Sensing Science Certificate.
- Alaska and national job demand for Geoscientists: At the national level demand for Geoscientists is expected to increase by 6% in the period 2018–2028.

THREATS:

- Continued reductions in state funding, leading to the inability to attract, hire, and retain faculty.
- Potential expansion of non-UAF programs.

CENTRALITY TO MISSION:

- Serves unique science needs of the state.

INDICATORS OF QUALITY:

- Faculty and students are highly productive in publication and external funding.
- Employment of graduates.

COST-EFFECTIVENESS:

- 9 FTEs for 172 students (94 undergraduates & 78 graduates) with unrestricted salaries and benefits cost of approximately \$1.65 million.

	MAJORS	DEGREES
Earth Science BA	FY15: 6/ FY19: 8	FY15: 0/ FY19: 1
Geography BA	FY15: 11/ FY19: 8	FY15: 2/ FY19: 0
Geography BS	FY15: 18/ FY19: 10	FY15: 3/ FY19: 2
Geoscience BS	FY15: 91/ FY19: 68	FY15: 8/ FY19: 7
Geoscience MS	FY15: 25/ FY19: 36	FY15: 4/ FY19: 9
Geoscience PhD	FY15: 11/ FY19: 11	FY15: 0/ FY19: 0
Geophysics MS	FY15: 12/ FY19: 8	FY15: 3/ FY19: 1
Geophysics PhD	FY15: 25/ FY19: 23	FY15: 0/ FY19: 5

*Geoscience was formerly Geology.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION FOR GEOSCIENCES**Earth Science BA:**

RECOMMENDATION:	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:	DATE FOR FOLLOW-UP:
Continuation w/ improvement plan (8 votes)	Improve enrollment and time to degree	Two years

Geography BA:

RECOMMENDATION:	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:	DATE FOR FOLLOW-UP:
Revision or restructure (8 votes)	There is not demonstrated need for both the BA and BS. Department should decide which is needed in order to	One year

	focus efforts on students' success in that degree.	
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Geography BS:

RECOMMENDATION:	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:	DATE FOR FOLLOW-UP:
Revision or restructure (8 votes)	There is not demonstrated need for both the BA and BS. Department should decide which is needed in order to focus efforts on students' success in that degree.	One year

Geoscience BS:

RECOMMENDATION:	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:	DATE FOR FOLLOW-UP:
Continuation (8 votes)		

Geoscience MS:

RECOMMENDATION:	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:	DATE FOR FOLLOW-UP:
Continuation (8 votes)		

Geoscience PhD:

RECOMMENDATION:	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:	DATE FOR FOLLOW-UP:
Continuation (8 votes)		

Geophysics MS:

RECOMMENDATION:	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:	DATE FOR FOLLOW-UP:
Continuation (8 votes)		

Geophysics PhD:

RECOMMENDATION:	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:	DATE FOR FOLLOW-UP:
Continuation (8 votes)		