

Northern Studies

College of Liberal Arts
(907) 474-7126
Interdisciplinary
www.uaf.edu/northern/

M.A. Degree

Minimum Requirements for Degree: 30 credits

The northern studies program offers an interdisciplinary study of northern problems and policy issues. The purpose of the northern studies program is to give interested students a broader study of the northern region—its environment, peoples and problems.

The geographic location of UAF is outstanding for the study of northern issues. Students examine the countries and regions throughout the circumpolar North, and their distinctive problems, such as the survival of indigenous populations, environmental and wilderness issues, high rates of alcoholism and suicide, fragile environments, adaptation to extreme cold and cycles of light and darkness and adult development in small frontier societies.

The M.A. program is designed especially for students who live and work in the North and who want to expand their knowledge of the history, economics, politics, psychology and anthropology of northern regions. Many northern studies students are seeking employment with northern agencies and want to develop a broad perspective on northern issues. Some students plan to pursue doctoral work in a discipline such as history or anthropology and seek a master's degree with a broad approach. Other students are employed as teachers, military personnel, or agency staff and want a rich, interdisciplinary program. The program is suitable for any of these goals, and it is designed to be compatible with either full-time graduate study or full-time employment.

The M.A. program offers three concentrations: northern history, environmental politics and policy, and individualized study. Students of northern history benefit from the availability of the Alaska and circumpolar collections of the UAF library, UA Museum of the North, and the Polar Regions Collection. The environmental politics and policy concentration focuses on political, social and psychological responses to environmental change. The individualized study concentration has a focus selected by the student.

The program offers a thesis or non-thesis option. The choice of option is guided by the student's interests and goals, the graduate advisory committee, and the requirements of the university. Faculty in the program are drawn from such disciplines as Alaska Native studies, art, anthropology, economics, English, geography, history, library science, political science and psychology.

For information on studying at McGill University, Montreal, Canada; the University of Copenhagen, Denmark; or opportunities for study in the former U.S.S.R., see International Study Abroad and Exchange Programs.

Graduate Program—M.A. Degree

Concentrations: Individualized Study, Environmental Politics and Policy, and Northern History

1. Complete the general university requirements (page 182).
2. Complete the master's degree requirements (page 186).
3. Complete the following
 - NORS 600—Perspectives of the North 3
 - NORS 601—Research Methods and Sources in the North..... 3
4. Complete two elective courses at the 400- or 600-level.....6
5. Complete one of the following:
 - NORS 698—Project..... 6
 - NORS 699—Thesis..... 6-12
6. Complete one of the following concentrations:

Individualized Study*

Complete 12 credits from the following:

- a. Course offerings selected from the relevant department** and,
- b. Courses offered within the Northern Studies program, including those in the other concentrations (below) and,
- c. Any of the following:
 - NORS 606—Science, Technology and Development in Northern Regions..... 3
 - NORS 614—Human Adaptation to the Circumpolar North 3
 - NORS 640—Ethics and Reporting in the Far North..... 3
 - NORS 652—International Relations of the North 3
 - NORS 660—Government and Politics of Canada 3
 - NORS 662—Alaska Government and Politics..... 3
 - NORS 668—Government and Politics of Russia..... 3
 - NORS 680—Comparative Education 3

* The individualized study concentration may be used as a basis for a M.A. thesis/project typically under the direction of a faculty member in the most relevant department.

** Some students may, with the consent of their graduate committee, develop an individualized program with an emphasis on Alaska Native studies, northern art, northern sociology, northern policy studies, or another northern field or discipline.

Environmental Politics and Policy*

Complete 12 credits from the following:

- NORS/PS 603—Public Policy..... 3
- NORS/PS 647—U.S. Environmental Policy..... 3
- NORS/PS 648—Environmental Politics of the Circumpolar North 3
- NORS/PS 654—International Law and the Environment 3
- NORS/PS 655—Political Economy of the Global Environment..... 3
- NORS/PS 656—Science, Technology and Politics..... 3
- NORS/PS 658—Comparative Environmental Politics..... 3
- NORS 613—Wilderness and Environmental Psychology 3

* The environmental politics and policy concentration may be used as a basis for the M.A. thesis/project.

Note: The environmental politics and policy concentration is a clear track toward interdisciplinary doctoral programs.

Northern History*

a. Complete the following:

- NORS/HIST 690—Researching and Writing Northern History 3
- b. Complete 9 credits from the following:
- HIST 470—Seminar in Alaska History 3
 - NORS 661/HIST 662—History of Alaska 3
 - NORS/HIST 663—Foundations of Russian History 3
 - NORS/HIST 664—Modern Russia..... 3
 - NORS/HIST 681—Polar Exploration and its Literature..... 3
 - NORS/HIST 683—20th Century Circumpolar History 3

* The northern history concentration may be used for the M.A. thesis/project.

7. Minimum credits required 30