

The UAF Faculty Senate passed the following at Meeting #183, May 7, 2012:

MOTION:

The UAF Faculty Senate moves to approve a Minor in Geospatial Sciences.

EFFECTIVE: Fall 2012
 Upon Chancellor's approval.

RATIONALE: See the program proposal #11-UNP on file in the Governance
 Office, 312B Signers' Hall.

Overview:

Earth is our habitat and it is important to understand that it works as a dynamic system that changes with time. Geospatial science uses information technology to understand people, places, and processes on the Earth. Knowledge of fundamental principles behind geospatial sciences, and skill-to use technology and apply it for decision-making, will empower our students to be success in personal and professional life.

The Department of Geology and Geophysics and the Geography Department are heavily vested in Geospatial Sciences. Faculty and leadership of both Departments have been working closely over the last year not only to raise the bar for geospatial science education, but also to make it widely appealing and accessible. This minor strengthens those ongoing efforts.

The positive impact of offering this minor are that it will provide an opportunity to a broad base of undergraduate students to learn about and use geospatial technology for understanding the Earth system and Earth processes. It will prepare the students to use technology for spatial orientation, mapping, planning and decision making. This knowledge and skill-set is high in demand in industry and this minor will prepare students to join the growing geospatial workforce.

This minor will prepare the undergraduate students to first understand that the Earth is a dynamic system and that exploring the evolution of the Earth helps to provide context to the present and future of the planet Earth. The minor then focuses on providing students with an introduction to geospatial sciences (remote sensing, geographic information systems (GIS) and global positioning systems (GPS), followed by honing student's skill sets in using emerging technologies in geospatial sciences.

The sequence of courses prescribed for the minor helps the students to systematically meet the above mentioned objectives.

Proposed Minor Requirements:

Geospatial Sciences

College of Natural Science & Mathematics

1. Complete the following:

- GEOS F10IX--The Dynamic Earth 4 credits
- GEOS F112X-The History of Earth and Life4 credits
- GEOS/GEOG F222--Fundamentals of Geospatial Sciences 3 credits
- GEOS F225--Field and Computer Methods in Geology 2 credits
- GEOS F458--Geoscience Applications of GPS and GIS3 credits
- GEOS F422--Geoscience Applications of Remote Sensing 3 credits

2. Minimum credits required 19 credits

Relationship to the "Purposes of the University":

This minor is anticipated to:

- have high appeal
- improve enrollments
- provide experiential learning as courses have hands- on lab component)
- prepare students to join the industry and be successful

Catherine J. Coble 5/7/12
President, UAF Faculty Senate Date

APPROVAL: 
Chancellor's Office

DATE: 5/8/12

DISAPPROVED: _____
Chancellor's Office

DATE: _____