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PROGRAM/DEGREE REQUIREMENT CHANGE (MAJOR)

SUBMITTED BY:

Department	Paralegal	College/School	Community & Technical College
Prepared by	Ed Husted	Phone	455-2835
Email Contact	eshusted@alaska.edu	Faculty Contact	Ed Husted

See <http://www.uaf.edu/uafgov/faculty-senate/curriculum/course-degree-procedures/> for a complete description of the rules governing curriculum & course changes.

PROGRAM IDENTIFICATION:

DEGREE PROGRAM	Paralegal Studies
Degree Level: (i.e., Certificate, A.A., A.A.S., B.A., B.S., M.A., M.S., Ph.D.)	Minor

A. CHANGE IN DEGREE REQUIREMENTS: (Brief statement of program/degree changes and objectives)

For several years, paralegal has been offered as a minor for students seeking a four-year degree. It requires a total of 18 credits. The paralegal minor is the best choice for students planning to enter law school after earning a B.A. in disciplines such as justice or political science, because the paralegal program focuses on practical skills required of law students, such as computer-assisted legal research, drafting legal pleadings and documents, and working with the rules of court. The courses are taught by lawyers and paralegals, many actively practicing in Fairbanks. However, many students elect other minors, such as "Law and Society," because they require only 15 credits and students, in addition, can often use courses they have already completed as part of the major requirements for their four-year degree. To continue to be a logical and attractive minor area of concentration for UAF students interested in the law, and especially those seeking to enter law school, the paralegal minor, in order to be "competitive," needs to be reduced from 18 to 15 credits.

B. CURRENT REQUIREMENTS AS IT APPEARS IN THE CATALOG:

Minor

1. Complete the following:
PLS F102--Introduction to Paralegal Studies -- 4 credits
PLS electives--15 credits
2. Minimum credits required--18 credits

C. PROPOSED REQUIREMENTS AS IT WILL APPEAR IN THE CATALOG WITH THESE CHANGES:
(Underline new wording ~~strike through old wording~~ and use complete catalog format)

Minor

1. Complete the following:
PLS F102--Introduction to Paralegal Studies--43 credits
2. PLS electives--~~15~~ 12 credits
3. Minimum credits required--~~18~~ 15 credits

D. ESTIMATED IMPACT

WHAT IMPACT, IF ANY, WILL THIS HAVE ON BUDGET, FACILITIES/SPACE, FACULTY, ETC.

There will be no impact on budget, facilities/space or faculty. No new courses will be added and no new faculty need to be retained.

E. IMPACTS ON PROGRAMS/DEPTS:

What programs/departments will be affected by this proposed action?
Include information on the Programs/Departments contacted (e.g., email, memo)

There will likely be fewer students electing to use existing minors currently requiring only 15 credits. These students will primarily be from the justice and political science departments.

F. IF MAJOR CHANGE - ASSESSMENT OF THE PROGRAM:

Description of the student learning outcomes assessment process.)


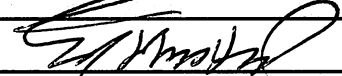
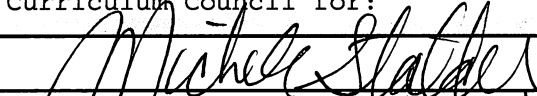
N/A


JUSTIFICATION FOR ACTION REQUESTED

The purpose of the department and campuswide curriculum committees is to scrutinize program/degree change applications to make sure that the quality of UAF education is not lowered as a result of the proposed change. Please address this in your response. This section needs to be selfexplanatory. If you drop a course, is it because the material is covered elsewhere? Use as much space as needed to fully justify the proposed change and explain what has been done to ensure that the quality of the program is not compromised as a result.



The paralegal program is frequently made aware that students who have earned the associate degree in paralegal, or who have used paralegal as their minor, that this is a wise choice for students planning to attend law school or enter a law-related profession. The program has letters and comments from students and graduates which strongly assert the value from their paralegal training at UAF. Nevertheless, some students are missing the opportunity to gain from the benefits of learning hands-on, practical skills which will be valuable upon entering law school, or a law-related occupation, because of their short-sighted decision to pursue a less rigorous minor. Reducing the paralegal minor to 15 credits will allow students to make a decision based on factors other than the minimally smaller number of credits required.

PPROVALS:

	Date	10-2-13
Signature, Chair, Program/Department of: PARALEGAL		
	Date	10-2-13
Signature, Chair, College/School Curriculum Council for: CTC		
	Date	10-4-2013
Signature, Dean, College/School of: UAF Community & Technical College		

	Date	10/15/13
Signature, Dean, College/School of:	CRCP	

ALL SIGNATURES MUST BE OBTAINED PRIOR TO SUBMISSION TO THE GOVERNANCE OFFICE

	Date	
Signature, Chair, UAF Faculty Senate Curriculum Review Committee		