

I. REGENTS GUIDELINES

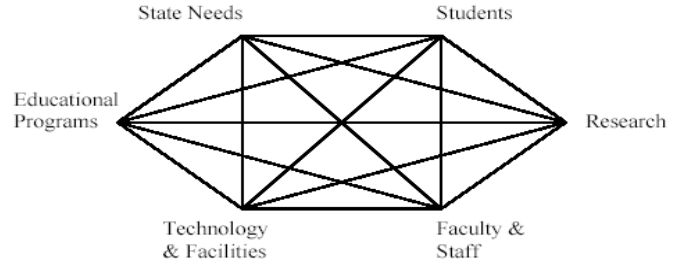
University of Alaska Board of Regents

Program Approval Summary Form

MAU: UAF

Title: Environmental Studies (ENVI)
Certificate

Target admission date: Summer 2009



How does the program relate to the **Education Mission** of the University of Alaska and the MAU?

The ENVI certificate was created by the UAF BBC, in cooperation with employers and educators, and will not specifically train a student for one career path but will teach the students a universal skill set that will be used for a broad range of careers. Training local students in these skills will not only give employers an opportunity to hire locally for technician work that is traditionally completed by non-local technicians, but will also support local economic development.

This program relates to and supports the Education Mission of the University of Alaska by:

- Serving as a program of higher education for traditional and non-traditional Alaska Native students by using the local resources and traditional knowledge of the region to teach skills and techniques desired by employers without requiring students to change or leave their culture or heritage (UA Strategic Plan 2010, Goal 1 and 2).
- Providing high quality undergraduate education in entry-level coursework, increasing the number of Alaska Native students, and increasing the number of degrees awarded to Alaska Native students with particular consideration given to the needs of permanent residents and students in non-traditional settings who seek skills and degrees suited to rural communities (UA Strategic Plan 2010, Goal 3).
- Collaborating with organizations, state and federal agencies, communities, and governments to meet rural Alaska needs in the field of natural resources (UA Strategic Plan 2010, Goal 4).

What **State Needs** are met by this program?

Upon review of this program, agencies in the Bristol Bay region, as well as statewide, (Dillingham City Council, Bristol Bay Borough, Bristol Bay Native Association, Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation, Wood-Tikchik Land Trust, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and National Park Service), have commented on the need for a skill-based, environmental studies education program for their entry-level positions. Finally, entry into and completion of a subsequent associate or baccalaureate science-related degree will qualify individuals for employment in fields varying from teaching to field research in both rural and urban settings.

State statistics

State statistics from the Department of Labor (<http://almis.labor.state.ak.us>) substantiate workforce and skill development needs in rural Alaska. The ENVI certificate will either prepare the student to directly enter this workforce or will prepare the student for an associate or baccalaureate degree which will provide entry to these high demand jobs.

What are the **Student** opportunities and outcomes?

The mission of the Environmental Studies (ENVI) certificate program is to provide students, including Alaska Native and rural students, with quality academic instruction and training

responsive to community needs. This program will help empower graduates and their communities to adapt to the overwhelming social, ecological, and economic changes presently occurring while protecting and enriching local culture.

Enrollment projections?

Information gathered by UAF BBC through a region-wide survey conducted in Summer 2003 shows a high interest in an ENVI certificate for the potential of skill development relating to job requirements. Piloted courses reached a total of 375 (duplicated headcount) students: 73% of the students enrolled in the pilot classes were Alaska Native and 2% were high school students. Using data gathered in the surveys and the piloted courses as well as observations taken from historical enrollment data (UA in Review and BBC Registration), an approximate enrollment expectation is 8-10 students in AY2010 from the Bristol Bay region and 32 students by 2013.

Describe **Research** opportunities:

Research is a component of this ENVI program. A key student outcome is a directed individual study (capstone project) where the students will design, collect and analyze data, and present results in a scientific format. Stronger collaboration between the scientific community and local entities is an expected result from this program such as the 2008 Western Alaska Interdisciplinary Science Conference in Dillingham.

Describe Fiscal Plan for development and implementation:

ENVI program development and implementation is directly supported by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service Alaska Native/Native Hawaiian (CSREES AN/NH) Serving Institutions Higher Education Grants program. This project addresses the USDA goal of increasing the number of AN/NH students engaged in USDA careers. These careers include environmental science, among others. USDA support currently stands at one full-time science faculty member who helped develop the program plus funding for a total of eight Alaska Native students to complete the ENVI certificate within approximately three years.

While the UAF BBC has developed this new program, other fund 1 faculty and staff from all campuses, both urban and rural, will potentially be involved with this program. The program will generate \$33,440 per year with a minimum of eight full-time students. As student participation increases, tuition income will increase gradually replacing grant funding.

The primary teaching faculty are already employees of the University. Current faculty are housed within the CRCD as well as Fairbanks-based UAF faculty. Cooperative Extension Service faculty will also participate in development and instruction of some ENVI certificate courses

CRCD campuses will provide classroom space for ENVI certificate courses. In communities without a local university facility, training space can be found in the private sector and reasonably supported by tuition fees through partnership arrangements. In addition, collaboration with school districts will provide space to teach some university courses. Therefore, through community and school district partnerships, the impact on existing UAF and CRCD technology resources and facilities are limited to existing resources and no new facilities or space will be required.