



January 4, 2006

From: Jan Gehler, UAA Provost
To: Systemwide Academic Council
CC: Doug Causey, UAA Vice Provost for Research and Graduate Studies
Subject: UAA Graduate Programs:
Master of Science in Applied Environmental Science and Technology
Master of Applied Environmental Science and Technology

This prospectus describes the proposed Master's degree programs to be offered by the UAA School of Engineering beginning in the Fall of 2006. The Master of Science is a research degree that mandates original research and a publishable thesis. The other is a professional degree that targets specialized competencies for scientists and engineers engaged in the environmental disciplines. While the degree names are new, the degree programs are in fact enhancements of and replacements for the existing master's degrees in Environmental Quality Science and Environmental Quality Engineering currently offered by the UAA School of Engineering.

The primary enhancements offered by these proposed degree programs are their interdisciplinary nature and the opportunities they offer to students to pursue their studies to a greater depth in their choice of disciplines. At the same time, the core requirements will ensure that students are knowledgeable in 5 essential areas of the environmental sciences. Program admissions will be determined, and faculty advisors will be assigned by a committee that includes a faculty member from each of those essential areas.

The collaboration that produced these programs involved faculties from three academic units housed at UAA and UAF. Students will be encouraged to pursue advanced studies with the highly qualified and accomplished faculty members in departments of science, mathematics and engineering. This approach makes maximum use of available expertise and resources and provides the most attractive options to graduate students.

The proposed programs have been reviewed through the regular graduate curriculum process, receiving approvals from the School of Engineering and the UAA Graduate Academic Board. The UAA Faculty Senate approved the proposed programs at their January 13th meeting. Please add your review and comments, and, with your approval, please present this proposal to the UA Board of Regents for their consideration.