

## University of Alaska Board of Regents

### Program Approval Summary Form

#### Requirements:

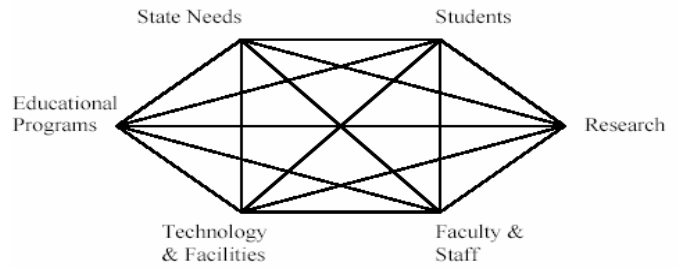
1. 2 pages or less
2. Must be a stand-alone document

MAU: UAF

Title: Master's Degree in Natural Resources

Management and Geography

Target admission date: Fall 2008



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

The development of this program was suggested and promoted by the faculty of the School of Natural Resources and Agricultural Sciences in response to a growing recognition of the inadequacies of the non-thesis option of the natural resources management M.S. program. Thus, a committee was formed to develop the program, but with input from all faculty in the school. An external survey was administered to assess need for the program.

This program is fully compatible with UAA's and UAF's missions as it is designed to enrich Alaska through teaching and research as it relates to development and conservation of Alaska's natural resources and it advances and disseminates knowledge in Alaska and the Circumpolar North by enhancing student's knowledge to in the management of Alaska's natural resources. This in turn will result in more opportunities for career advancement and will improve management of Alaska's natural resources.

#### What **State Needs** met by this program.

Many of the practitioners in natural resource public agencies and private firms in Alaska were trained outside of Alaska and many have degrees not closely related to natural resources or geography. Because of this, their knowledge of Alaska and its resources is often limited and their opportunities for advancement in their careers are limited. This degree option will allow students to become well versed in the latest knowledge and in cutting edge techniques for managing Alaska's resources and will enhance opportunities for career advancement. Thus, it will enhance work-force development in Alaska.

#### What are the **Student** opportunities and outcomes? Enrollment projections?

This degree program will target students who are currently working in or wish to work in natural resources/geography fields but who lack specific training or an appropriate undergraduate degree and students seeking advanced training in order to advance their professional effectiveness or advance their professional careers.

It will replace the current non-thesis option of the NRM M.S. degree. A recent web survey indicated more than 50 people currently employed in natural resources and geography fields in Alaska are likely to pursue this degree, with most indicating they would use it to advance their current career and to increase and update their technical skills.

We anticipate 5 – 10 students enrolled in the program each year.

Describe **Research** opportunities:

While students in this program will not be expected to conduct primary research requiring scientific sampling or experimentation, each student will be required to complete a project in which the student addresses some existing natural resources management or geography issue or problem and will therefore require background research and problem solving by the student. It will also enhance students' abilities to evaluate and conduct research in their profession.

Describe Fiscal Plan for development and implementation:

\*Identify funding requirement, sources and plan to generate revenue and meet identified costs to include:

The degree program will replace a current degree program (non-thesis option of M.S. in NRM) and will use existing courses and thus will not require any new resources. Thus, the only anticipated change will be an increase in enrollment, and may require some changes in faculty workloads to allow for increased demands for graduate student advising.