

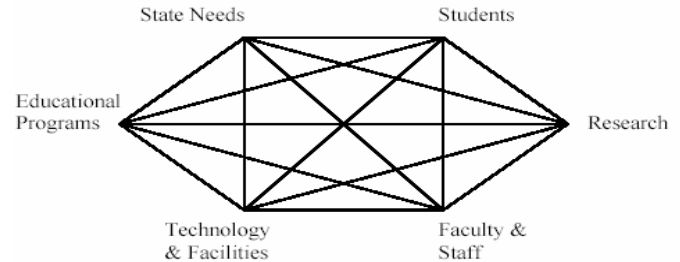
# I. REGENTS GUIDELINES

## University of Alaska Board of Regents Program Approval Summary Form

University of Alaska Fairbanks  
College of Rural and Community Development  
Northwest Campus

### Certificate in High Latitude Range Management

Target admission date: Spring semester 2008



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

The High Latitude Range Management Program (HLRM) was created by the Northwest Campus in cooperation with external employers and both internal and external educators. The program is focused on preparing rural students for immediate entry into natural resources-related employment and continued post-certificate education.

While the HLRM Certificate Program is not required by any other program, it has the potential to positively influence students to enroll in a variety of natural science degrees within the University of Alaska Fairbanks educational system. The proposed program is aligned with the UA mission to meet state and local needs and to provide opportunities to all who can benefit from educational programs of high quality.

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?

Current efforts to educate rural Alaskans in natural resources management has been limited to workshops and non-accredited seminars held sporadically. There is no structured education program below the baccalaureate level that addresses aspects of range management specific to northern regions, and teaches the techniques used by agencies to inventory and monitor high latitude plant and animal populations.

Federal agencies, state agencies (including the University of Alaska), natural resource management corporations, commercial enterprises (meat processing, grocery stores) and environmental consulting firms hired over 800 biological technicians or meat processors in 2004 in Alaska (Alaska Division of Labor Statistics). For example, a natural resource management corporation such as Kawerak (based in Nome) hires 14 biological technician staff members per year. A State agency such as the Alaska Department of Fish and Game hires 6-8 biological technicians per year. A federal agency such as the Bureau of Land Management and the National Park Service hires 3 and 4 biological technicians per year, respectively

Historical impacts and state statistics demonstrate a need for a statewide skills-based education program in Alaska and the HLRM program will contribute positively to that goal. The Department of Labor Website (<http://almis.labor.state.ak.us/>) illustrates an 11.9% increase in Professional, Scientific and Technical Services jobs by 2012.

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

The HLRM certificate will provide students with the opportunity to develop the skills and training necessary for entry-level natural resources jobs statewide or to continue their formal education in a variety of natural science associate and baccalaureate programs. Students will receive quality academic instruction and training, and be adequately prepared with a skill set in conventional field-based techniques to inventory and monitor northern animal and plant populations combining traditional knowledge with contemporary studies.

The general university course requirements for the certificate (ENGL 111, MATH 103, ABUS 155, ANTH/SOC 100, and ABUS 154) are already available to students throughout the state; therefore no additional resources are required.

For the general HLRM course requirements, the course delivery mode will be as follows (distance delivered will use Blackboard and Elluminate Live software and the intensives will be face-to-face):

NRM 101 – distance delivered from NWC, also face-to-face in Fairbanks

BIOL 104 – distance delivered from NWC, also taught both face-to-face and distance delivered statewide

BIOL 104L - five day intensive lab session at NWC

HLRM 120 – distance delivered from NWC

HLRM 130 – week long summer intensive at NWC

HLRM 140 – distance delivered semester course plus a 3-day intensive at NWC

HLRM 150 – week long summer intensive at NWC

HLRM 160 - distance delivered semester course plus a 3-day intensive at NWC

HLRM 170 - distance delivered semester course plus a 3-day intensive at NWC

HLRM 201 – week long summer intensive at NWC

HLRM 205 – distance delivered from NWC

The students enrolled in this program must be able to travel to Nome for the intensive portion of many of these courses, including the 3 summer courses. Much of the material

being presented to the students needs to happen in the field and in a face-to-face environment. In addition, the weather restricts much of this activity during the traditional Spring and Fall semester school year, therefore these field intensive courses need to take place during the summer (i.e. snow-free) months.

The enrollment projections for the HLRM certificate are 10 students per year. These students will begin the program together and move through the certificate requirements as a cohort. For example, spring 2008 will have 10 students beginning the program and then in spring 2009 an additional 10 students will begin the program and so on. All of these students will be part-time students, as the HLRM certificate is designed as a part-time program but still allows the student to complete it within 2 years. The traditional student enrolling in courses and programs at the rural campuses is not an 18-year old, single, full-time student. The traditional student is a middle-aged person with a family, who often has another job, therefore cannot afford to attend school full-time. The HLRM certificate program and the NWC strive to meet the needs of these people in the region.

Using an initial growth rate of ten students per year, from Seward Peninsula communities, other villages, from increased Fairbanks enrollments, and students participating in an exchange from other circumpolar northern nations, this program could be serving 30 full and part-time students by 2010.

	Full-time	Part - time
Year 1		10
Year 2		20
Full Implementation		30

Describe **Research** opportunities:

While research is not the primary focus of this program, it is a unique model which will be documented and shared throughout the academic and regional community. This program will produce information in student outcomes assessments, teaching styles and other information relating to workforce and skill development in rural Alaska. Increased scientific inquiry and research opportunities may increase on a local basis along with a stronger collaboration between the scientific community and local entities.

Individual students may have the opportunity to participate in ongoing research projects conducted by the UAF Reindeer Research Program in cooperation with local Native reindeer herders or with another agency or other university projects as part of an independent study, internship, or as a volunteer.

Describe **Fiscal Plan** for development and implementation:

Program development and implementation is supported by the United States Department of Agriculture Alaska Native/Native Hawaiian Serving Higher Institutions Education Grants program. This project addresses the USDA goal of increasing the number of Alaska Native/Native Hawaiians engaged in USDA careers and continuing in science degree programs. This grant will fund the current effort until at least 2010, plus funding

for 10 Alaska Native students to complete the HLRM program within two years. In addition, one science faculty member (100% salary from grant, \$70,748, then fund 1) will have primary responsibility for program coordination and management. Another \$12,482 in salaries and benefits (web technician and media technician) will come from the grant for support staff.

While the Northwest Campus has developed this new High Latitude Range Management certificate, other fund 1 faculty and staff from all campuses (urban and rural) will potentially be involved in this program. Primary faculty are already employees of the University; both faculty from the College of Rural and Community Development as well as Fairbanks-based UAF faculty. The Northwest Campus will provide classroom, lab, and office space with existing resources and facilities.

If USDA funding does not continue beyond 2010, NWC has committed fund 1 support for the full-time HLRM faculty position; in addition NWC will provide support for students in the program.