x

Proposal to Discontinue a Program of Study
University of Alaska

1a. UA University	1b. School or College	1c. Department or Program
UAF	CNSM	Geosciences

2. Complete Program Title:	BA in Geography

3. Type of Program:

Undergraduate Certificate		Associate		Baccalaureate	x
Master's		Doctorate		Post-Baccalaureate Certificate	

4. Type of Action:	x	Discontinue	
Implementation Semester:	Fall	Year:	2020

5. Other programs affected by the proposed action, including those at other campuses (please list):

Program Affected	Anticipated Effect
Few	Few programs require geography courses for their program; for those that do, program adjustment must be made.

Page number of attached summary where effects on other programs are discussed: _____

6. Specialized accreditation or other external program certification needed or anticipated. List all that apply or	7. Aligns with University or campus mission, goals, core themes, and objectives (list):
None	Core theme Educate.
	Page in attached summary where alignment is discussed:

8. Teachout Plan (attached)	x		
Submitted by:			
	Chancellor/Provost	Date:	3/31/2020
Consensus support of AC	(	Not supported by AC	
Recommend approval by VPASR	DocuSigned by:	Date:	$6712 "! #!#!
Recommend disapproval by VPASR		Date:	

Revised: 11/11/2019

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University of Alaska – Fairbanks
College of Natural Science and Mathematics
Teach-Out Plan

Proposed Discontinuation: BA Geography

- The program will be closed to new admissions immediately upon approval of discontinuance. Students who have been accepted into the program but have not attended class will be encouraged to switch to another program.
- The teach-out period will be for four academic years, beginning in the Fall 2020 semester and ending with the conclusion of Summer 2024 semester.
- Course work will be managed as follows:
  - Current courses will continue to be offered (either face-to-face or by distance) throughout the teach-out period;
  - Courses offering will be scheduled as to allow all students to complete their degree requirements but will be phased out over the teach-out period;
  - Students will receive regular communications as to when courses will be offered and will have comprehensive advising from both faculty and college advisers;
  - Course substitutions will be allowed per University guidelines and the program requirements published in the UAF Catalog;
  - Individual studies or directed studies, per University policy, where necessary;
  - Students will be allowed to use transfer courses, per University policy, from other accredited institutions to meet program requirements;
  - Students will be offered the opportunity to switch to an interdisciplinary degree or another major with comparable outcomes. Advisers will ensure students experience a minimal loss of credit hours and time.
  - Students who do not accept the teach-out plan, do not follow the plan, or who cannot complete within the defined period will be advised into a different program.

Degree Program Name	Geography BA
PROGRAM DEMOGRAPHICS	
FY19 Majors	8
FY19 Graduates	0
FY19 SCH from degree program	1078 SCH all GEOG (474 for BA)
FY19 UGF allocated to the program (based on % SCH)	$351,601 all GEOG ($154,704 for BA)
FY19 total program budget (based on % SCH)	$590,274 all GEOG ($259,720 for BA)
$ UGF/ SCH	$326.06/ SCH all GEOG ($326.38 for BS)
STAFFING	
Tenure-track FTE faculty impacted by program deletion	2.75 both BA and BS
Non-tenure track FTE faculty impacted by program deletion	0
staff impacted by program deletion	0.3 both BA and BS
-- for each of these describe reduction phase-in during teachout	2.75 FTE for the first two years; then 1.38 FTE for subsequent two years
PROGRAM IMPACTS	
Potential for the program to obtain external funding	High, majority of current faculty attract extramural funding
Impacts on meeting state or workforce needs	High, degree provides necessary skills of workforce
PROGRAM UNIQUENESS AND TEACH-OUT PLAN	
Is this program unique in the UA system? If no, describe duplicate or similar programs	No, Geological Sciences (UAA), Environment & Society (UAA), BA Geography, Environmental & Outdoor Studies (uas)
Are there other majors to which the students may transfer (at MAU and at other MAUs)?	Geology, Natural Science Managment,
What reasonable options within your university do students have ?	Geology, Natural Science Managment,
What reasonable options do students have across the UA System?	Geological Sciences (UAA), Environment & Society (UAA), BA Geography, Environmental & Outdoor Studies (uas)
What reasonable options do students have for transfer to another university?	Many universities offer Geography degrees
What are the on-line options within UA ů	≤ iversities offer Geography degrees
	2 75.FTE.for.the.first.two years;.then.1 38 FTE.for.subsequent.two years

Daniel M. White, Chancellor

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March 23, 2020

TO James R. Johnsen, President, University of Alaska

FROM Daniel M. White, Chancellor, University of Alaska Fairbanks

RE UAF Expedited Academic Review

In
10.06.10.C.2, UAF followed the following process for expedited, exceptional Program Review
eline are
incl https://uaf.edu/assessment-review/expedited-review.php).
The effort began last October and we are now nearing the final stages of the process. Remaining steps are as follows with this step constituting step number 1, below:

1. Monday, March 23 by 5pm - Chancellor recommendations will be sent to the UA President and VP of Academic, Students, and Research.
2. April 1, 2020 ons go to the SW Academic Council
3. April 9, 2020 BOR Public Testimony
4. April 13-14, 2020 BOR Academic and Student Affairs committee meets to discuss recommendations
5. June 4-

edges of our mission, and reducing footprint. And we will continue to identify what work we can simply stop doing.

I concur with _____
except in the following where I have recommended a different path:

1. Atmospheric science delete with opportunities for students in existing departments in similar areas (e.g., physics, chemistry, engineering) including possible alternative appointments at UAF for research intensive faculty
2. BA Earth Science delete
3.

DATE: 11 November 2019
TO: Expedited Program Review Committee
FROM: Kinchel C. Doerner, Dean College of Natural Science and Mathematics
SUBJECT: SWOT Analysis for Department of Geosciences

Introduction: The Department of Geosciences is an academically diverse department responsible for both undergraduate and graduate degrees. The educational services provided by the department are critical for Alaska and the w(tm)20().D l81.07 681.82 Tm0 g0 G

This analysis is written to help the committee understand the specific fiscal challenges facing the department. The SWOT analysis provided by the department relays an accurate description of the breadth, depth, and scale of departmental initiatives and faculty so will not be repeated at length here.

Strengths:
faculty produce many scholarly publications, write and are awarded many competitive grants, and teach across at least two distinct disciplines. The expertise of the faculty is critical to the industrial infrastructure of AK (e.g. study of oil and gas formations), the municipal needs (e.g. coastal erosion) of AK, and an understanding of the circumpolar north. The degrees programs prepare students in these critical areas for direct employment in Alaskan organizations and loss of the programs will be noticed by external stakeholders. I feel the strengths and relevance of this department are largely self-evident and are adequately

Weaknesses: in undergraduate programs. For FY19 the department had 174 total students (19.3 students/ faculty member). While this is a reasona 612 T[illegible] many departments, Geosciences is heavily oriented toward graduate programs (i.e., M.S., Ph.D.) which necessarily require fewer students per faculty member. If we consider the undergraduate and graduate enrolment separately we have 10.6 students per faculty (96/9.01) and 8.7 (78/9.01) students per faculty, respectively. Graduate enrolment is nearly equivalent to undergraduate enrolment. While the number of undergraduate students should be increased, geology and geography are not disciplines which tend to attract large numbers of students or provide service courses to other departments and colleges. Thus it is unlikely for Geosciences to quickly realize substantial increases in undergraduate students. Also, substantial increases in graduate students would not benefit to the department, as adding graduate students requires hiring additional faculty exasperating the situation.

Perhaps stated more clearly, the department currently manages its finances using an undergraduate-based model. That is, state support and tuition/ fees received from both non-majors and majors are used to subsidize the graduate programs. This model works well for departments with high undergraduate enrolments and modest research efforts; however the Department of Geosciences has the opposite structure with a modest undergraduate profile and an extensive research program. The current fiscal model is inappropriate and not sustainable.

Any increase in extramural funding received by faculty members will not benefit the department. Nearly all indirect cost recovery realized by Geoscience faculty (with few exceptions) is received by the university to be applied toward general overhead costs or received by the research institute to which the faculty member has sponsorship. Very little indirect cost recovery from extramural funded projects is available to the department to be applied toward academic salaries or other expenses. Similarly, extramural funding, to expand research, which pays for tenured or tenure-track faculty salaries for a few years should not be considered a viable solution to the fiscal problem of the department. Eventually, the extramural funding ends but the faculty salary costs continue, sometimes for decades. Thus, any claim that increasing levels of extramural funding will alleviate the fiscal challenges

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION FOR GEOSCIENCES

STRENGTHS:

- Programs meet science needs of the state.
- Offers GERs and required courses for other majors as well as courses for Geosciences majors.
- Strong graduate programs, representing a significant portion of UAF's PhDs.
- Faculty very productive in research and have proven success in competing for external grants.
- Most of the graduating students either continue on to higher education or find employment in the geosciences.
- Critical link with the Geophysical Institute: Research at the GI is led by GEOS faculty and carried out by graduate students in the PhD and MS programs (Geosciences, Geophysics).
- Close collaboration with The Alaska Division of Geological and Geophysical Surveys (DGGS) .

WEAKNESSES:

- Enrollment in Geoscience programs rises and falls with activity in the petroleum and mining industries.
- Reduction in numbers of faculty has limited the course offerings for students, and has directly affected the graduate programs since fewer faculty are available to supervise and support students.
- One of the staff positions that has not been replaced is the Director of the Advanced Instrumentation Laboratory (AIL).
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rses could increase enrollment, especially from out-of-state students.
upport: Faculty in the department have been highly successful securing
g and supporting graduate students on RAs.
Remote Sensing Science Certificate.
onal job demand for Geoscientists: At the national level demand for

Geoscientists is expected to increase by 6% in the period 2018–2028.

THREATS:

CENTRALITY TO MISSION:

- Serves unique science needs of the state.

INDICATORS OF QUALITY:

- Faculty and students are highly productive in publication and external funding.
- Employment of graduates.

COST-EFFECTIVENESS:

- 9 FTEs for 172 students (94 undergraduates & 78 graduates) with unrestricted salaries and benefits cost of approximately $1.65 million.

	MAJORS	DEGREES
Earth Science BA	FY15: 6/ FY19: 8	FY15: 0/ FY19: 1
Geography BA	FY15: 11/ FY19: 8	FY15: 2/ FY19: 0
Geography BS	FY15: 18/ FY19: 10	FY15: 3/ FY19: 2
Geoscience BS	FY15: 91/ FY19: 68	FY15: 8/ FY19: 7
Geoscience MS	FY15: 25/ FY19: 36	FY15: 4/ FY19: 9
Geoscience PhD	FY15: 11/ FY19: 11	FY15: 0/ FY19: 0
Geophysics MS	FY15: 12/ FY19: 8	FY15: 3/ FY19: 1
Geophysics PhD	FY15: 25/ FY19: 23	FY15: 0/ FY19: 5

*Geoscience was formerly Geology.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION FOR GEOSCIENCES

Earth Science BA:

RECOMMENDATION:	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:	DATE FOR FOLLOW-UP:
Continuation w/ improvement plan (8 votes)	Improve enrollment and time to degree	Two years

Geography BA:

RECOMMENDATION:	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:	DATE FOR FOLLOW-UP:
Revision or restructure (8 votes)	There is not demonstrated need for both the BA and BS. Department should decide which is needed in order to	One year

	focus efforts on students' success in that degree.	

Geography BS:

RECOMMENDATION:	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:	DATE FOR FOLLOW-UP:
Revision or restructure (8 votes)	There is not demonstrated need for both the BA and BS. Department should decide which is needed in order to focus efforts on students' success in that degree.	One year

Geoscience BS:

RECOMMENDATION:	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:	DATE FOR FOLLOW-UP:
Continuation (8 votes)		

Geoscience MS:

RECOMMENDATION:	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:	DATE FOR FOLLOW-UP:
Continuation (8 votes)		

Geoscience PhD:

RECOMMENDATION:	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:	DATE FOR FOLLOW-UP:
Continuation (8 votes)		

Geophysics MS:

RECOMMENDATION:	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:	DATE FOR FOLLOW-UP:
Continuation (8 votes)		

Geophysics PhD:

RECOMMENDATION:	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:	DATE FOR FOLLOW-UP:
Continuation (8 votes)		

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from research institutes, serve on our graduate student thesis committees as cooperating department faculty. 20 research faculty (primarily from GI) supervised graduate students who were enrolled in our MS and PhD degree programs.

Enrollment in the Geoscien¥

Geophysical Surveys, United States Geological Survey, Alaska Volcano Observatory, Alaska Earthquake Center, NOAA, NASA, and the International Ocean Discovery Program.

We educate students for jobs and careers, such as at Fort Knox, Pogo Mine, Alaska Department of Natural Resources, the Bureau of Land Management, major national and international oil and gas companies, environmental consulting firms (e.g. Shannon and Wilson), secondary education, and other government agencies.

The UAF Geophysical Institute (GI) and the UAF Department of Geosciences (GEOS) form a critical link that is vital for the success of both entities. Research at the GI is led by GEOS faculty and carried out by graduate students in the PhD and MS programs (Geosciences, Geophysics). GEOS faculty benefit from GI facilities (e.g., research computing, geochronology lab, Alaska Earthquake Center, Alaska Volcano Observatory, Alaska Satellite Facility) and from collaborations with GI (non-GEOS) faculty.

The Alaska Division of Geological and Geophysical Surveys (DGGS) forms a second critical link with GEOS. DGGS, which is located adjacent to campus, includes dozens of geologists who serve on graduate thesis committees of UAF students in geosciences. GEOS students are routinely hired for internships to conduct and support DGGS geological research for the state of Alaska. Many current employees at DGGS hold undergraduate and/or graduate degrees from the Dept. of Geosciences.

The GeoFORCE Alaska program was launched in 2012 at the request and expense of industry sponsors. Currently entering its 8th year, GeoFORCE continues to be funded by Alaska-based companies and Native Corporations, providing an important program to encourage and promote post- secondary STEM education and careers for rural Alaskans.

WEAKNESSES
:

Geoscience is a cyclical industry and student enrollment in Geoscience programs across the country rises and falls with activity in the petroleum and mining industries. Our current lower student enrollments (in all programs except the MS Geoscience) reflect those factors here in Alaska as well.

We have lost eight faculty positions in Geology and Geophysics, and two staff positions since our last program review. Most of these faculty positions have not been replaced. The reduction in numbers of faculty has limited our course offerings for students, and has directly affected our graduate programs since fewer faculty are available to supervise and support students. The decreased enrollment in the MS and PhD Geophysics, and PhD Geoscience programs is directly attributable to fewer faculty in the department.

One of the staff positions that has not been replaced is the Director of the Advanced Instrumentation Laboratory (AIL). A series of short-term measures has so far maintained the lab with faculty service and student RAs. This is not a permanent solution and has resulted in an uncertain future for the lab, potentially putting faculty and student research in jeopardy (not just in Geosciences; departments across UAF depend on the lab). Additionally, classes and critical lab training that the AIL Director offered to faculty and students are currently unavailable.

Current uncertainty with respect to budget reductions has limited our ability to participate in opportunistic hires that result from new external funding sources at the Geophysical Institute.

OPPORTUNITIES :

Funding sources: Recent success in obtaining even more external funding by units at the Geophysical Institute (AEC,AVO, UARC, PREEVENTS) has resulted in funding being available to hire one new faculty member (1¼-time in the department) in Geophysics. Similar successes in the future would make funds available for other faculty hires, and for supporting graduate students through RAs.

Online courses: The department continues to increase its online course offerings, up to 10 undergraduate and graduate courses by fall 2020: Geodetic Methods, Basin Analysis, Geological Hazards, Geology of Alaska

foundation for this online certificate program. The establishment of an online G

CNSM Geosciences

part	label	fy2015	fy2016	fy2017	fy2018	fy2019	2018-2019 Change	2015-2019 Change
Majors	BA Earth Science	6	16	12	10	8	-20.00%	33.30%
	BA Geography	11	7	4	8	8	0.00%	-27.30%
	BI Premajor - Earth Science	1	1	0	0	0		-100.00%
	BI Premajor - Geography	2	2	1	2	1	-50.00%	-50.00%
	BI Premajor - Geoscience	4	3	4	1	1	0.00%	-75.00%
	BS Geography	18	13	17	14	10	-28.60%	-44.40%
	BS Geology	21	12	5	5	4	-20.00%	-81.00%
	BS Geoscience	70	76	62	79	64	-19.00%	-8.60%
	MS Geology	25	26	28	19	17	-10.50%	-32.00%
	MS Geophysics	12	11	12	9	8	-11.10%	-33.30%
	MS Geoscience	0	0	1	0	0		
	PHD Geology	11						

FY19 Salaries and Benefits		
CNSM Geosciences	Restricted	$0.00
	Unrestricted	$1,668,376.32
	Total	$1,668,376.32

FY19 Instructional Expenditures		
CNSM Geosciences	Restricted	$0.00
	Unrestricted	$1,884,436.11
	Total	$1,884,436.11

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