

Contact: Rachel Boon

**REQUEST TO TERMINATE THE PROFESSIONAL SCIENCE MASTER'S IN ECOSYSTEM
MANAGEMENT AT THE UNIVERSITY NORTHERN IOWA**

Action Requested: Approve the request by the University of Northern Iowa to terminate the Professional Science Master's in Ecosystem Management in the College of Humanities, Arts and Sciences.

The Council of Provosts and Board office staff reviewed the proposal and recommend approval.

Background:

Description of program. This Professional Science Master's (PSM) in Ecosystem Management degree prepared students for career opportunities in conservation and restoration-related businesses, government agencies and nonprofit organizations. Emphasis was placed on blending ecosystem analysis, management and restoration skills with an understanding of conservation policy, and the degree includes a team project and an internship experience.

Reason for proposed termination. The PSM in Ecosystem Management program was offered at UNI from 2007 to 2014. Students in the program received a high-quality education, however there was not a significant demand for this program despite the importance of environmental resource management. To conserve university resources, the program was suspended in 2014. Since the program was suspended, it has been possible to reallocate resources toward the UNI Department of Biology Master of Science program in biology. Terminating the program now makes sense since it has not been offered for over five years and no students are currently enrolled in the program.

Effect on current students. There are no students currently enrolled in this program. UNI's current Master of Science program offers opportunities for students who want graduate education in biology.

Impact on resources. These resources have already been reallocated.

Impact on workforce. The termination of the PSM in Ecosystem Management program will have minimal effect due to the very small number of students who pursued this option. The most recent student was enrolled in 2011.

Alternative programs. There are no other similar programs in the state.

Effective date of termination. Upon approval by the Board of Regents.