

**PROGRAM FEE REQUEST**

**University** Northern Arizona University

**College/School** Coll of EGR, Forestry & Nat'l Sci

**Department** Schl of Earth Sci & Env Sust (SESES)

**Program** MS, Climate Science and Solutions (CSS)

<b>Graduate <u>xx</u></b>	<b>Undergraduate</b>	<b>Upper Division Lower Division</b>
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<b>New</b>	\$ <u>\$1,500 per semester</u> (proposed)		<u>Fall, 2013</u> (Effective Date)
<b>Existing</b>	\$ _____ (proposed)	\$ _____ (Current)	_____ (Year Approved)

**Rationale for Request (~100 words)**

The growth of the CSS program has generated a demand for career advising, professional preparation, and workforce outreach that exceeds the capacity of the program faculty. The placement of current and future students into top jobs will enhance the program’s reputation as a good value for new applicants. Thus, the CSS program seeks to hire a coordinator who will help students secure internships and jobs and help promote the visibility of the program. The program fee will be directed to salary and operations for this person.

**Compliance with Board Guidelines (~250 words)**

This request is consistent with ABOR Policy 4-104, "Procedure for Setting and Distributing Program Fees". 17% of the program fee will be set aside for scholarships that will preserve accessibility for eligible students to receive scholarships through the Office of Financial Aid. This financial aid can help offset all or part of the program fee for eligible students. We will use standard university methods and processes to ensure that the program fee funds are spent for appropriate purposes.

Professional Science Masters (PSM) degrees (<http://www.sciencemasters.com/>) are a new graduate degree designed to allow students to pursue advanced scientific training, while also developing workplace skills highly valued by employers. Similar to other PSMs, NAU’s Climate Science and Solutions PSM, includes an internship and hands-on career development workshops. Because of the professional component of this degree, it differs for the services typically provided for thesis-based Master’s degrees. As a result, the CSS master’s program must work to broaden career opportunities for its graduates, and strengthen and diversify industry, government, and NGO partnerships. The program fee allows the CSS program to fulfill the “professional” component of this degree program.

**Student Consultation (~100 words)**

The proposed program fee will apply to new students admitted after Fall, 2012. Current students, graduating in December, 2013, will be exempt from the fee. Students surveyed are in support of the program fee, understanding the importance of career advising and support to their success after graduation. Students understand that a coordinator devoted to identifying career opportunities, establishing connections with industry, and helping them refine their application and interview skills will improve job placement in today’s competitive job market.

**Market Pricing**

Even with the proposed program fee, NAU’s PSM in Climate Science and Solutions will be the fourth most affordable program for students among other Professional Science Master’s (PSM) programs in

similar fields of study at state universities. (Note: comparable degrees are not available at NAU's ABOR-approved peer institutions):

University	Degree Program	Credit hours	Tuition (resident)	Program Fee	Total
University of Miami	Weather, Climate & Society	30	\$49,800	\$0	\$49,800
Arizona State University	Solar Energy Engineering and Commercialization	30	\$14,565	\$15,000	\$29,565
California State University - Chico	Environmental Sciences	36	\$27,560	\$0	\$27,560
California State University - Monterey Bay	Coastal and Watershed Science and Policy	36	\$23,852	\$0	\$23,852
Rutgers	Masters of Business and Science with concentration in Sustainability	24	\$20,496	\$0	\$20,496
North Carolina State University	Climate Change and Society	31	\$17,866	\$0	\$17,866
<b>NORTHERN ARIZONA UNIVERSITY</b>	<b>Masters of Science in Climate Science and Solutions</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>\$12,459</b>	<b>\$4,500</b>	<b>\$16,959</b>
California State University - San Bernardino	Earth and Environmental Sciences (PSM option)	45	\$13,476	\$0	\$13,476
University of Idaho	Sustainability Science	35	\$10,743	\$0	\$10,743
University of Idaho	Climate Change	35	\$10,743	\$0	\$10,743

**ACCOUNTABILITY**

Prior to the beginning of each budget cycle, a detailed budget for this program will be prepared. All expenditures will be tracked according to NAU accounting policies. Quarterly, a report comparing the budget to actual expenditures will be prepared and provided to the Program Director and the Dean to ensure that the program fee revenues are being used according to ABOR Policy and in compliance with the above proposed expenditures.

Financial Aid Set Aside Amount: 17%

**Proposed Annual Revenue**

Program Fee	\$	3,000
Number of Students	#	10
<b>Total Revenue</b>	=	<b>\$30,000</b>

**Proposed Annual Expenditures**

Financial Aid Set Aside	\$	5,150
Institutional and Advising Personnel	\$	23,000
Support Staff	\$	
Operating Expenses	\$	1,900
<b>Total Program Costs</b>	=	<b>\$30,000</b>