Memorandum of Agreement for a Two Institution-Accelerated Bachelor's To Master's Degree Program – Tuskegee University

North Carolina State University
Routing for On-Campus Approval of Other Degree Program Actions

This request has been reviewed and approved by the appropriate campus committees and authorities.

Completed Proposal
Endorsed By:
See signature on original document
Head, Department/Program  Date

Recommended By:
See signature on original document
Chair, College Curriculum Committee  Date

Endorsed By:
See signature on original document
College Dean  Date

Proposal moves to Undergraduate or Graduate office for routing
Recommended By:
N/A
Vice Provost, DELTA (if DE degree/certificate)  Date

Recommended By:
N/A
Chair, University Courses & Curricula Committee or Administrative Board of the Graduate School  Date

Approved By:
See signature on original document
Dean, DASA or the Graduate School  Date

Proposal moves to the Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost's office for routing
Recommended By:
Council of Deans  6/27/19

Approved By:
Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost  6/27/19

Approved By:
Chancellor  7/15/19

Updated 04/11/2019
MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT FOR A TWO INSTITUTION-ACCELERATED BACHELOR'S TO MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAM

Collaborative Academic Agreement

Establishment of a two-institution accelerated bachelor’s to master's degree program with N.C. State University requires completion of this MOA and signatory approval by the Provost. In addition, SACSCOC must be notified 6 months prior to implementation of this agreement.

I. N.C. State Participation:

Level of Degree: Master
College Participating: College of Natural Resources
Full Title of Degree Conferred (Include concentration title if applicable): Master of Forestry

Name and contact information for the primary developer of Agreement:

Ted Shear, Director of Graduate Programs, Department of Forestry and Environmental Resources shear@ncsu.edu

II. Participating Partner Institution: If multiple partners, complete separate form for each.

Name of Partner Institution: Department of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences
College of Agricultural, Environmental, and Nutrition Sciences
Tuskegee University

Location of Institution: Tuskegee, Alabama

Name and contact information for the primary developer of this Agreement (address, phone, email, etc.)

Dr. Olga Bolden-Tiller
Head, Department of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences
College of Agriculture, Environment, and Nutrition Sciences
103 Mary Starke Harper Hall, Tuskegee, Alabama 36088
Phone: 334-727-8403  FAX: 334-727-8552  e-mail: oboldentiller@tuskegee.edu

Level of Degree: Bachelor

Full Title of Degree Conferred (Include concentration title if applicable):

Bachelor of Science in Environmental, Natural Resource, and Plant Sciences, concentration in Forestry

Partner Institution Accreditation Status: Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges

Other Accreditation, Licensure or Approving Body Information (Ex: ABET, EQUIS/EFMD, AACSB): N/A
Duration of Agreement: (Minimum 5 years. Unless otherwise specified – prior to end of 5th year, agreement must be approved for extension.)

Five years

III. Timeline:

Proposed Start Date of Agreement: January 1, 2020

Expected Date for recruitment and advertising: August 15, 2019

Expected Date of student matriculation/enrollment in the Accelerated Bachelor's To Master's Degree Program: January 1, 2020

Attachments:

- Memorandum of Agreement for an Accelerated Bachelor’s To Master’s Degree Program – page 15
- Outcomes and Objectives for the Forestry and Environmental Resources Graduate Program – page 21
- Society of American Foresters Standards for Accreditation of Master of Forestry Program – page 23

IV. Collaborative Objectives:

1. What are the purpose and benefits of the Accelerated Bachelor’s To Master’s Degree Program partnership?

The primary purpose of this agreement is to increase diversity within the natural resource professions by providing exceptional undergraduate students from one of the country's leading HBCUs with an accelerated Bachelor of Science/Master of Forestry program, in cooperation with one of the country's leading forestry research and education academies within an R1 university. This Accelerated Bachelor's To Master's Degree Program will enable students to earn both degrees in five years of full-time study and is expected to provide excellent career opportunities.

2. What evidence of institutional/program comparability exists (rankings, joint faculty research, publications, etc.)?

Both Tuskegee University and NCSU are land-grant universities that embrace the federal mandates to provide instruction in agriculture and the mechanical arts, conduct agricultural research, and deliver knowledge and practical information to farmers and consumers. Both universities offer a comprehensive suite of degrees in support of the land-grant mission. Both institutions rank relatively high among their peer institutions and provide excellent value in education for their students.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tuskegee University is ranked:</th>
<th>North Carolina State University is ranked:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>#27 in Regional Universities in the South</td>
<td>#80 in National Universities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#54 in Best Value Schools</td>
<td>#46 in Best Value Schools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#15 in Historically Black Colleges and Universities</td>
<td>#44 in Best Colleges for Veterans</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Both universities offer undergraduate training in forestry. Though the programs are not comparable, they are complementary. Tuskegee offers forestry instruction as an option in its Environmental, Natural Resources, and Plant Sciences Degree curriculum. The coursework is sound but not comprehensive, so Tuskegee has 3+1 programs with forestry programs at other universities (though not NCSU) to offer an undergraduate degree with complete training in forestry. NCSU offers bachelor’s and master’s degrees in forestry that are accredited by the Society of American Foresters.

3. What are the areas of mutual interest? Past partnerships?

Tuskegee is #1 in the nation for producing African-American undergraduate agriculture graduates. However, less than 3% of the foresters and conservation scientists in the United States are African-American. The NCSU College of Natural Resources is committed to growing that percentage.

Tuskegee offers quality forestry instruction, but because the amount of forestry coursework is insufficient for accreditation by the Society of American Foresters, it offers 3+1 degree programs in association with forestry schools at other universities. As the NCSU College of Natural Resources now offers an accredited Master of Forestry (MF) degree, we have the opportunity to develop an accelerated bachelor’s to master’s degree program with Tuskegee that will benefit their students who desire more than a 3+1 undergraduate-only program.

The two universities previously executed a 3+3 BS/MS program in forestry, which was effective for five years beginning May 2004. The Tuskegee University student would: 1) complete the senior year at NCSU, 2) apply to the Graduate School of NCSU during the senior year, 3) receive a BS degree from Tuskegee after completing the senior year at NCSU, and 4) attend graduate school at NCSU for two years.

Though the agreement did offer a unique undergraduate degree, students could not earn a Society of American Foresters-accredited undergraduate or graduate degree (the NCSU Master of Forestry program was accredited in 2015, after the 3+3 program agreement expired). Also, the 3+3 program did not confer any acceleration or other advantage for entering or completing the graduate program. The students were required to apply to the Graduate School and complete their graduate programs in the same manner as most other applicants. The Accelerated Bachelor’s To Master’s Degree Program proposed here is substantially different, as: 1) most of the courses taken in the senior year will fulfill requirements of the Master of Forestry degree, and 2) the Master of Forestry degree is accredited by the Society of American Foresters.

4. What are the partner institutional priorities?

The overall mission of Tuskegee University’s College of Agriculture, Environment, and Nutrition Sciences is to develop students with skills in critical and systematic thinking, intellectual curiosity, and a desire for lifelong learning, and to prepare them for leadership and service in the basic and applied sciences. The forestry, wildlife, and fisheries areas prepare students to protect, conserve, and manage our nation’s natural resources. Students are prepared for a variety of rewarding careers including park rangers, forest managers, land use planners, wildlife biologists, ecologists, fisheries biologists, zookeepers and wildlife area managers.

The NCSU College of Natural Resources has a proud history, going back over 85 years to when a School of Forestry was established in 1929 in recognition of the importance of North Carolina’s forests and
wood products to the state’s economy. The grand mission of the College is to become the “Go-To” place for solutions to natural resource challenges. CNR serves some of the largest economic sectors in the state of North Carolina, including the state’s largest manufacturing industry - forest and wood products - and more than half a million private forest landowners. The Forestry and Environmental Resources Department has the largest number of faculty in the college, with historical strengths in tree breeding, economics, and silviculture, as well as social sciences, geospatial sciences, biotechnology, Christmas tree production, land-use change, wildlife management and conservation, and environmental protection. With five undergraduate majors and five graduate programs (four of which are shared with other academic units), FER exemplifies a department taking interdisciplinary approaches to education, research, and extension and engagement.

An accelerated path to an NCSU Master of Forestry degree accredited by the Society of American Foresters empowers Tuskegee graduates to serve their communities with skill, conviction, and intellectual leadership.

5. How does this agreement fit with NC State Institutional Mission?

Both universities share the historic Land Grant Mission of the teaching of practical agriculture, science, military science, and engineering. Though originally focused primarily on agriculture, the Universities’ land-grant missions now embrace a wide spectrum of liberal arts, scientific, and technical and professional programs.

6. How does this agreement fit with NC State College’s Mission?

The NCSU College of Natural Resources’ mission is to provide solutions to the challenges of natural resources management, social and ecological sustainability, and human health and well-being by educating new leaders and professionals, generating new knowledge and technology, leveraging transdisciplinary insights, and engaging with communities in North Carolina, the nation and the world.

Our mission aligns closely with that of Tuskegee University’s College of Agriculture, Environment, and Nutrition Sciences - to develop students with skills in critical and systematic thinking, intellectual curiosity, a desire for lifelong learning, and to prepare them for leadership and service in the basic and applied sciences. Both colleges embrace the mission of preparing students for leadership and service in all aspects of environmental management.

V. Administration:

1. How were the proposed Accelerated Bachelor’s To Master’s Program degrees developed? Describe the process by which NC State faculty worked with the partner faculty to plan program content, select courses, and choose mode of delivery.

The individual bachelor’s and master’s degrees were developed by the individual universities. Tuskegee University designed its Bachelor of Science Degree in Environmental, Natural Resource, and Plant Sciences, concentration in Forestry to integrate the curricula of SAF-accredited forestry degree programs at other universities. NCSU redesigned its Master of Forestry degree to obtain accreditation by the SAF in 2015.
The Deans of the NCSU College of Natural Resources and the Tuskegee University College of Agriculture, Environment & Nutrition Sciences have championed the development of the accelerated program. Their faculties and staffs developed the format of the proposed partnership.

2. **How will the proposed program be administered?** Include detail regarding each partner responsibilities related to administration, academic policy enforcement, logistics, and student recruitment, registration, admissions. Attach organizational chart if applicable.

Each university will administer its respective degree, admit students to its degree program, and enforce its own academic policies. NC State agrees to provide records of courses taken at NC State that are counted towards the Tuskegee undergraduate degree in a timely manner so that the Tuskegee students can graduate in the semester in which all undergraduate work is completed.

Additionally, Tuskegee University and the NCSU College of Natural Resources will develop a joint recruitment effort to attract students to the program.

3. **How will tuition and fees be coordinated?**

The Administrations of the two universities have agreed to the following:

*Tuskegee students will complete a financial aid application and receive an award package for their senior year as if they would be enrolled at Tuskegee University. Tuition and fees collected by Tuskegee University from the students in the joint degree (both individual payments and scholarship awards) will be transferred to NCSU. Additional details concerning this arrangement are being discussed, and will be resolved in the Provost’s office.*

For the graduate program, students will be enrolled at and pay tuition and fees directly to NCSU.

4. **Proposed NC State SIS code for designated students participating in dual degree. (max 10 char)**

NC State University Master of Forestry - CIP Code: 03.0501 SIS Code: 15FORMR

**VI. NC State Policy Disclaimer for this agreement:**

"Students participating in this coordinated Accelerated Bachelor’s To Master’s Degree Program will be subject to all applicable N.C. State University policies and regulations."

**VII. Expected Annual Faculty/Student Participation:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuskegee University Bachelor of Science degree students studying at NCSU in the senior year:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuskegee University Bachelor of Science degree students studying at NCSU in the senior year:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
VIII. CURRICULUM DESIGN:

1. Provide an overview of how the degree requirements for each Institution will be completed as part of this Accelerated Bachelor's To Master's Degree Program arrangement.

*Tuskegee University - Bachelor of Science in Environmental, Natural Resource, and Plant Sciences, concentration in Forestry*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>1st</th>
<th>2nd</th>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>1st</th>
<th>2nd</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>First Year</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Second Year</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Orientation (Ind Dev) 100, 101</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td><strong>CHEM 231, 233 (Gen Chem)</strong></td>
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<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>EVSC/PLSS 100 (ENPS Oren)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td><strong>CHEM 232, 234 (Gen Chem)</strong></td>
<td>5</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BIOL 120, 121 (Org Biol &amp; Lab)</strong></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>4</td>
<td><strong>COMPUTER SCI 100/150 (Intro)</strong></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ENGLISH 101, 102 (Comp)</strong></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td><strong>ECON 201/202 (Prin Econ)</strong></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HIST 103 (World Civil I, II)</strong></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td><strong>ENGL 203/204 (Tech Writing)</strong></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MATH 107 or 207, 108 (Alg or Calc)</strong></td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td><strong>PHIL Elective</strong></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Physical Education</strong></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td><strong>Physical Education</strong></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FPA/RA/MUSC</strong></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>ECON 300 (Intro to Stats)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>PLSS 201 (Intro to Geol)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>PLSS 210 (Gen Soil)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FORE 205 (Intro to Forestry)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>English Proficiency Examination</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>17</td>
<td>17</td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>17</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Third Year 1st Sem* | Cr  | *Third Year 2nd Sem* | Cr  |
| BIOL 206 (Botany)  | 4   | BIOL 311 (Gen Ecology) | 4   |
| BIOL 513 (Entomology) | 3   | ENGL 327 (Public Speaking) | 3   |
| FORE 215 (Dendrology) | 3   | FORE 402 (Mensoration) | 3   |
| FORE 302 (Silviculture) | 3   | **SOCI Elect** | 3   |
| ***Free Elect**   | 3   | PLSS 400 (Seminar) | 1   |
| **Total**         | 18  | PLSS 211 (Gen Plant Sci.) | 3   |

Senior Year: An additional 33 credits of approved coursework in Forestry from NCSU is required to complete degree requirements.

**May include Advance Aerospace Studies or Military Science**

**These courses meet the Tuskegee University General Education Requirement for 1 Humanities/Fine Arts 14 (credits), 2 Social/Behavioral Sciences (12 credits), and 3 Natural Sciences/Mathematics (13 credits). 4 Humanities/Fine Arts: Select at least two credit from the following courses: FPAR 101, 110, 203, 204; MUSC 110, 111, 112, 113, 304, 305. Social and Behavioral Sciences: Select six credits from the following courses POLS 200, 201, SOCI 240, 241; PSCY270, 272; ECON 201, 202
During the senior year, courses will be taken at NCSU. The following 29 credit hours will be counted as partial fulfillment of the requirements of the Bachelor of Science degree. The twenty credit hours earned in the fall and spring semesters will also count towards the Master of Forestry degree:

**Summer session**

Forestry Summer Camp (these courses are the standard summer camp offerings required for the undergraduate forestry curriculum):
- FOR 204 Silviculture - 2 credits
- FOR 261 Forest Communities - 2 credits
- FOR 264 Forest Wildlife - 1 credit
- FOR 265 Fire Management - 1 credit
- FOR 273 Forest Mapping and Mensuration - 3 credits

Summer Camp is a nine-week full-time residential program offering a period of intense study and practical application of forestry studies. Students spend seven weeks at Hill Demonstration Forest, one of NC State’s college-owned forests where students gain real-world experience. They also study for one week in Croatan National Forest and one week in Pisgah National Forest.

**Fall Semester**

- FOR 501 Dendrology – 3 credits
- FOR 502 Forest Measurements – 1 credit
- FOR 574 Forest Measurement Modeling and Inventory – 3 credits
- SSC 461 Soil Physical Properties and Plant Growth – 3 credits

**Spring Semester**

- FOR 504 Practice of Silviculture – 3 credits
- FOR 506 Silviculture Laboratory – 1 credit
- FOR 534 Forest Operations and Analysis – 3 credits
- GIS 510 Intro to GIS – 3 credits

Students may take courses in addition to the credit hours prescribed for each semester of the senior year. Tuskegee University will determine which courses are applied to the undergraduate degree.

**NCSU – Master of Forestry**

During the fifth year, students will take the following twenty credit hours of courses which count as partial fulfillment of the requirements of the Master of Forestry degree:

**Summer Session**

- FOR 630 Master’s Supervised Research – 1 credit

**Fall Semester**

- NR 560 Renewable Natural Resources Administration and Policy – 3 credits
  or NR 571 Current Issues in Natural Resources Policy – 3 credits
- PB 421 Plant Physiology – 3 credits
- FOR 519 Forest Economics – 3 credits

**Spring Semester**

- NR 500 Natural Resource Management – 3 credits
- PB 565 Plant Community Ecology – 4 credits
- FOR 531 Wildland Fire Science – 3 credits

Successful completion of the forty credit hours of courses listed above, excluding the summer camp courses, will satisfy the coursework requirement for the Master of Forestry degree.
2. Provide list of NC State course requirements for degree and equivalency to related courses at Partner Institution. (Attach as semester-by-semester display of course requirements and provide a list of course requirements and equivalencies for the accelerated bachelor's to master's degree program):

N/A

3. Provide list of Partner Institution's course requirements, analysis of course content, and equivalency to related courses at NC State.

N/A

4. Describe how and when transfer courses will be evaluated.

The grade point average for each degree is calculated by the university awarding the degree. Transfer credits earned at NCSU will be posted to transcripts by the respective schools for the semester during which the coursework is completed (rather than deferred until when the degree is awarded).

5. If Thesis requirement, provide details (supervision/credit).

The Master of Forestry is a non-thesis degree.

6. What is the total percentage of courses taken at Partner Institution?

Undergraduate – 76% at Tuskegee University
Graduate – none

7. What is the total percentage of courses taken at NC State? (For graduate programs at least 50% of hours and for undergraduate programs at least 25% must be taken at NC State)

Undergraduate – 24% at NCSU
Graduate – 100%

8. To be eligible for a bachelor's degree, a student must have earned at least 30 of the last 45 hours of credit through NC State courses. If this requirement will not be met, please explain.

Not applicable, as the bachelor degree will be awarded by Tuskegee University.

9. Transfer hours allowed by NC State.

None

10. Transfer hours allowed by Partner.

35

11. Will course credit from Partner Institution count toward NC State GPA calculation? (If yes, explain)

No
12. Describe other requirements. (residence, comprehensive exams, internships, language, etc)

The students participating in this program will meet the same requirements as all other students earning the Master of Forestry degree at NCSU. They will take the same coursework, complete a project, and have oral final examinations conducted by their graduate advisory committees.

13. Provide list of courses that will be offered totally online and in hybrid format. Indicate the applicable format next to each course.

FOR 531 Wildland Fire Science – 3 credits Distance Education
GIS 510 Introduction to GIS – 3 credits Distance Education

14. Will NC State courses be offered at an off-campus site either through DE or face-to-face? If so, has the site been approved by SACS?

No

IX. ASSESSMENT/MEASURABLE OUTCOMES:

What are the measurable student learning outcomes for this academic arrangement and how will they be assessed? Note: Outcomes for the existing degree must be met in the Accelerated Bachelor’s To Master’s Degree Program arrangement. Provide any additional outcomes related to the academic collaborate arrangement.

The Master of Forestry program has two formal assessment plans.

First, the program falls under the assessment plan for the Forestry and Environmental Resources Program. A subset of expected outcomes is assessed each year in a 3-year rotation. There are no new objectives and outcome expected of the students in this proposed joint program. Every eight years, the program undergoes a formal review by the NCSU Graduate School, which includes a comprehensive self-assessment and review by independent NCSU and outside reviewers.

Second, the Master of Forestry program is assessed by the Society of American Foresters accreditation program. An SAF-led team conducts an assessment every five years, with a comprehensive self-assessment and review by a team of independent NCSU and outside reviewers.

The objectives and outcomes for each assessment shown in Attachments 2 and 3.

X. FACULTY CREDENTIALS FROM THE PARTNER INSTITUTION:

Provide a list of the faculty directly involved in teaching courses as part of this program of study. Attach the CV for each.

N/A, as no course credits earned at Tuskegee University will be transferred to NCSU.
XI. INSTITUTIONAL COMMITMENT AND RESOURCES:

NC State University:

1. Provide description of NC State's commitment to this academic arrangement.

   The Master of Forestry program is committed to counting the twenty credit hours of prescribed courses earned during the senior year (fall and spring semesters) towards the master's degree. University regulations require that at least eighteen credit hours must be graduate credits earned while the student is enrolled in the graduate program. As forty credit hours are prescribed for the master's degree, there will still be at least eighteen credit hours that are unique to the master's degree.

2. Provide detail regarding the funding for this arrangement (amount, source, duration).

   This agreement does not create a new degree or a joint degree; rather, it articulates the terms for both universities accepting transfer credits to be applied toward the BS and MF degrees at the two universities. It is not anticipated that any additional resources will be required over what would be necessary for any student enrolled in the respective programs.

3. Provide detail regarding facilities and space (amount, source, duration).

   No additional facilities or space are needed to accommodate students in this program.

4. Provide detail regarding library resources (amount, source, duration).

   No additional library resources are needed to accommodate students in this program.

5. Provide detail regarding equipment required for this arrangement.

   No additional equipment is needed to accommodate students in this program.

6. Other: This program is designed to facilitate the admission of Tuskegee graduates into our Master of Forestry program. No new courses, faculty, staff, space, or other resources or funding are needed to operate this program.

Partner Institution:

1. Provide description of Partner's commitment to this academic arrangement.

   Tuskegee University is committed to accepting transfer credits from NCSU as stipulated in the Memorandum Of Understanding. Tuskegee is also committed to promoting the program to its students pursuing the Bachelor of Science Degree in Environmental, Natural Resource, and Plant Sciences.
2. Provide detail regarding the funding for this arrangement (amount, source, duration).

   It is not anticipated that any additional resources will be required over what would be necessary for any student enrolled in the respective programs.

3. Provide detail regarding facilities and space (amount, source, duration).

   No additional facilities or space are needed to accommodate students in this program.

4. Provide detail regarding library resources (amount, source, duration).

   No additional library resources are needed to accommodate students in this program.

5. Provide detail regarding equipment required for this arrangement.

   No additional equipment is needed to accommodate students in this program.

6. Provide detail regarding any institutional policy or practice that would prohibit student participation based on race, gender, ethnicity, or religion.

   There are none. Tuskegee University, in recognition of its legal and moral obligations, does not tolerate discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national or ethnic origin, age, pregnancy, marital status, parental status, economic status, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, citizenship, veteran status, or disability. NCSU is equally committed to non-discrimination.

7. Other: None

XII. REVIEW SCHEDULE FOR AGREEMENT:

All agreements will be for a period of five years, unless otherwise specified. Prior to the end of the fifth year the agreement must be reviewed and re-approved if requesting an extension. Upon the scheduled review date, responses to review criteria will be required to be completed and provided to the university review committee. If the agreement will be discontinued, a teach-out plan will be required for those students remaining in the program.

As part of this agreement, specify the following:

What criteria will be used by the participating NC State College to determine whether the program should continue?

The primary criteria used to determine continuation of the program will be: 1) student enrollment at or above projected numbers, and 2) enrolled students earning both the undergraduate and graduate degrees.
In what year will this agreement be evaluated?

Spring semester of 2024.

XIII. This agreement must follow the stipulations listed below to be in compliance with N.C. State and SACS policies:

☐ The SACSCOC disclaimer is included in this agreement and will be included in any marketing for this accelerated bachelor’s to master’s degree arrangement.

☐ This agreement requires at least 25% of the credits for an Undergraduate program and 50% for a Graduate program be awarded by N.C. State.

☐ The SACSCOC logo does not appear on this agreement and will not be used by the N.C. State or the Partner institution.

☐ The Partner institution will provide timely access to their materials, physical site(s), and personnel in conjunction with accreditation reviews, if requested.

☐ This agreement will be reviewed in 5 years from the date of final signature.
The signing of this agreement and any supporting documentation assures compliance with the requirements of this Memorandum of Agreement. Any changes will require approval by the signatories and other approval bodies as applicable.

Signatures – Memorandum of Agreement

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the authorized representatives of the parties have executed this agreement on the date(s) indicated below: __________________________________________________________________________

For, and on behalf of,
North Carolina State University,
Raleigh, NC - USA

For, and on behalf of,
Tuskegee University,
Tuskegee, AL - USA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NC State University Signatures:</th>
<th>Tuskegee University Signatures:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stith T. Gower (FER Department Head) 4/17/19</td>
<td>Olga Bolden-Tiller (AES Department Head) 4/23/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eric Money (CNR College Course &amp; Curriculum Committee Chair) 4/13-19</td>
<td>Date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Watzin (Dean of the College of Natural Resources) 4/23/19</td>
<td>Walter Hill (Dean of the College of Agriculture, Environment, and Nutrition Sciences) 4-29-19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative Board of the Graduate School 1/17/19</td>
<td>Date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peter Darree (Dean of Graduate School) 6/14/19</td>
<td>Date</td>
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<td>SAG Liaison (SCRT) 6/21/19</td>
<td>Date</td>
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<td>Warwick Arden (Provost) 6/19</td>
<td>Roberta Troy (Provost) 5/31/2019</td>
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ATTACHMENT 1. MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT FOR A TWO-INSTITUTION ACCELERATED BACHELOR’S TO MASTER’S DEGREE PROGRAM

(beginning on the following page)
MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT FOR A TWO-INSTITUTION ACCELERATED BACHELOR’S TO MASTER’S DEGREE PROGRAM

Bachelor of Science (BS), Tuskegee University
Master of Forestry (MF), North Carolina State University

Purpose

This agreement sets the terms for students at Tuskegee University to earn the Environmental, Natural Resource, and Plant Sciences Bachelor of Science (BS) degree at Tuskegee University and the Master of Forestry (MF) degree from North Carolina State University (NCSU) in five years. This agreement does not create a new degree or a joint degree; rather, it articulates the terms for Tuskegee University students to complete coursework at NCSU to be applied to both the BS and the MF degrees, thereby reducing the time to earn the MF degree by one year.

Overview and Justification

The NCSU Department of Forestry and Environmental Resources and the Tuskegee University Department of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences jointly propose a two-institution Accelerated Bachelor’s To Master's Degree Program for exceptional undergraduate students from Tuskegee University. Students from Tuskegee University will have the opportunity to earn both the BS degree from Tuskegee and the MF degree from NCSU in five years. The MF degree does not require a thesis, and students in this program can complete the MF degree within twelve months after obtaining the BS degree.

The primary purpose of this agreement is to increase diversity within the natural resource professions by providing exceptional undergraduate students from one of the country’s leading land-grant HBCUs with an accelerated BS/MF program in cooperation with the one of the country’s leading forestry research and education academy within an R1 university.

The overall mission of Tuskegee University’s College of Agriculture, Environment, and Nutrition Sciences is to develop students with critical and systematic thinking skills, intellectual curiosity, and a desire for lifelong learning, and to prepare them for leadership and service in the basic and applied sciences. The forestry, wildlife, and fisheries degree options prepare students to protect, conserve, and manage our nation’s natural resources in a variety of rewarding careers including park rangers, forest managers, land use planners, wildlife biologists, ecologists, fisheries biologists, zookeepers, and wildlife area managers.

The Master of Forestry degree at NCSU is accredited by the Society of American Foresters (SAF). The programmatic accreditation is a peer-review process that assures the quality of the postsecondary education that students receive. Academic programs voluntarily undergo this comprehensive review periodically to determine if certain criteria are being met. Accreditation is not a ranking system. It is simply assurance that a degree program meets quality standards established by the profession. For example, Alabama state law requires registered foresters to hold a bachelor’s or higher degree from a school approved by the board or from a forestry curriculum accredited by the SAF. Similarly, the State of North Carolina requires that registered foresters earn a bachelor or master degree in forestry from an SAF-accredited curriculum (or to earn a degree in a related natural resources curriculum and satisfy the course requirements to take the SAF-certified forester examination).

An accelerated path to an NCSU Master of Forestry degree accredited by the SAF will reduce by one year the time needed to earn both a bachelor's and master's degree. Most importantly, it will provide excellent
career opportunities in both the private and public sectors, which need to increase the diversity of their workforces.

**Application and Admission Requirements**

Students must be granted separate admission into both programs. This entails submitting all required application materials and meeting the admission standards of both programs. The students will be admitted into the Environmental, Natural Resource, and Plant Sciences (ENRPS) bachelor of science degree program at Tuskegee University. During their junior year at Tuskegee, they will apply for admission to NCSU as non-degree undergraduate students. Students will attend NCSU as non-degree students during the senior year. Upon satisfactory completion of degree requirements, the students will be awarded Bachelor of Science degrees from Tuskegee University.

During the first semester of their senior year at NCSU, students will apply for admission to the Graduate School (to start enrollment in the following summer session). Students will be expected to meet entrance requirements of the NCSU Graduate School and the Master of Forestry program (have a bachelor’s degree with a 3.0 or better cumulative GPA, among other requirements as specified in the NCSU Graduate Catalog). In addition to academic requirements, each student will need a letter of commitment from a faculty member in the Department of Forestry and Environmental Resources expressing willingness to serve as major professor. Students must be accepted before the summer following the senior year.

**Degree Requirements**

The Tuskegee University Environmental, Natural Resource, and Plant Sciences bachelor degree program requires completion of 126 credit hours. At least 35 credit hours will be earned at NCSU.

The NCSU Master of Forestry program requires completion of forty credit hours of prescribed classes, all of which will be earned at NCSU.

Course lists may be modified with the approval of the appropriate academic officials at both institutions, in compliance with the standards of the accrediting agencies (SACS and the Society of American Foresters).

**Approval of Course Credits for Transfer**

During the summer session between the junior and senior year, students will attend the NCSU forestry summer camp, where they will earn nine credit hours. During the fall and spring semesters of the senior year at NCSU, students will take the first year of courses required for the MF degree. The MF degree requires forty credit hours of courses prescribed by the Society of American Foresters accreditation.

Credits earned during the senior year will be applied to the Bachelor degree at Tuskegee University. The credit hours of coursework to be earned at NCSU and applied toward the BS degree shall be approved by the appropriate deans, department heads, and committees at Tuskegee University. Initial approval has been granted to the following courses (29 credit hours):

- FOR 204 Silviculture - 2 credits
- FOR 261 Forest Communities - 2 credits
- FOR 264 Forest Wildlife - 1 credit
- FOR 265 Fire Management - 1 credit
- FOR 273 Forest Mapping and Mensuration - 3 credits
- FOR 501 Dendrology - 3 credits
FOR 502  Forest Measurements – 1 credit
FOR 504  Practice of Silviculture – 3 credits
FOR 506  Silviculture Laboratory – 1 credit
FOR 534  Forest Operations and Analysis – 3 credits
FOR 574  Forest Measurement Modeling and Inventory – 3 credits
GIS 510  Introduction to GIS – 3 credits
SSC 461  Soil Physical Properties and Plant Growth – 3 credits

When students are enrolled in the graduate program at NCSU, the twenty credits required for the MF degree that are earned during the senior year will be transferred to the MF program, provided that the course grades are B or better (courses with grades of B- or lower will not be allowed to transfer). Because the MF degree requires forty credit hours, the requirement that at least eighteen credit hours be unique to the master's degree is satisfied. Students can complete all of the requirements for the MF degree by the end of the fifth year (first year as a graduate student). Upon satisfactory completion of degree requirements, the student will be awarded the Master of Forestry degree from NCSU.

Granting of Degrees

In order to obtain the Bachelor of Science in Environmental, Natural Resource, and Plant Sciences, concentration in Forestry degree, a student must satisfy all the degree requirements, as determined by Tuskegee University. It is anticipated that Tuskegee University will award the BS degree at the end of the first four years of study.

In order to obtain the Master of Forestry degree, a student must satisfy all of the degree requirements, as determined by the NCSU Graduate School. It is anticipated that NCSU will award the MF degree at the end of the fifth year of study.

Registration and Tuition

Students will register for courses at Tuskegee University through the junior year, and at NCSU for the senior and graduate school years. The registrars of both institutions will coordinate to ensure students are properly classified (e.g., full time/part time; good standing) for purposes of financial aid, demonstrating continuous enrollment, and the like. The Administrations of the two universities have agreed to the following:

Tuskegee students will complete a financial aid application and receive an award package for their senior year as if they would be enrolled at Tuskegee University. Tuition and fees collected by Tuskegee University from the students in the joint degree (both individual payments and scholarship awards) will be transferred to NCSU. Additional details concerning this arrangement are being discussed, and will be resolved in the Provost’s office.

After graduation from Tuskegee University, students will be enrolled at and pay tuition and fees directly to NC State University.

Rules and Regulations; Student Services

The students in the Accelerated Bachelor’s To Master’s Degree Program shall comply with all rules, regulations, and requirements of both universities, and they shall have access to all the services that are available to students in the host school (including but not limited to library, health, and career placement services).
Coursework

Tuskegee University – Bachelor of Sciences in Environmental, Natural Resource, and Plant Sciences, concentration in Forestry

Students will attend Tuskegee University for the first three years, taking the following schedule of courses:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>1st</th>
<th>2nd</th>
<th>1st</th>
<th>2nd</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>First Year</strong></td>
<td>Cr</td>
<td>Cr</td>
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<td>Cr</td>
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<td>Orientation (Ind Dev) 100, 101</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td><strong>CHEM 231, 233 (Gen Chem)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>EVSC/PLSS 100 (ENPS Oren)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td><strong>Chem 232, 234 (Gen Chem)</strong></td>
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<td><strong>BIOL 120, 121</strong> (Org Biol &amp; Lab)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>4</td>
<td><strong>Computer Sci 100/150 (Intro)</strong></td>
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<td><strong>English 101, 102 (Comp)</strong></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td><strong>ECON 201/202 (Prin Econ)</strong></td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Hist 103 (World Civil I, II)</strong></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td><strong>ENGL 203/204 (Tech Writing)</strong></td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Math 107</strong> or <strong>207</strong>, 108 (Alg or Cal)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td><strong>PHIL Elective</strong></td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Physical Education</strong></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td><strong>Physical Education</strong></td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>FPAR/MUSC</strong></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>ECON 300 (Intro to Stats)</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>PLSS 201 (Intro to Geol)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>PLSS 210 (Gen Soil)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FORE 205 (Intro to Forestry)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>English Proficiency Examination</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>3</td>
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| **Third Year 1st Sem** | Cr | **Third Year 2nd Sem** | Cr |
| BIOL 206 (Botany) | 4 | BIOL 311 (Gen Ecology) | 4 |
| BIOL 513 (Entomology) | 3 | ENGL 327 (Public Speaking) | 3 |
| FORE 215 (Dendrology) | 3 | FORE 402 (Measurement) | 3 |
| FORE 302 (Silviculture) | 3 | **SOCI Elect** | 3 |
| **Free Elect** | 3 | PLSS 400 (Seminar) | 1 |
| Total | 18 | PLSS 211 (Gen Plant Sci.) | 3 |

Senior Year: An additional 33 credits of approved coursework in Forestry from NCSU is required to complete degree requirements.

**May include Advance Aerospace Studies or Military Science**

**These courses meet the Tuskegee University General Education Requirement for 1 Humanities/Fine Arts 14 (credits), 2 Social/Behavioral Sciences (12 credits), and 3 Natural Sciences/Mathematics (13 credits).**

During the senior year, courses will be taken at NCSU. The following 29 credit hours of courses will be counted as partial fulfillment of the requirements of the Bachelor of Science degree. The twenty credit hours earned in the fall and spring semesters will also count towards the Master of Forestry degree:

**Summer session**

Forestry Summer Camp:

- FOR 204 Silviculture - 2 credits
- FOR 261 Forest Communities - 2 credits
- FOR 264 Forest Wildlife - 1 credit
FOR 265 Fire Management - 1 credit
FOR 273 Forest Mapping and Mensuration - 3 credits

Fall Semester
FOR 501 Dendrology – 3 credits
FOR 502 Forest Measurements – 1 credit
FOR 574 Forest Measurement Modeling and Inventory – 3 credits
SSC 461 Soil Physical Properties and Plant Growth* – 3 credits

Spring Semester
FOR 504 Practice of Silviculture – 3 credits
FOR 506 Silviculture Laboratory – 1 credit
FOR 534 Forest Operations and Analysis – 3 credits
GIS 510 Intro to GIS – 3 credits

Students may take additional courses beyond the credit hours prescribed for each semester of the senior year. Tuskegee University will determine which courses are applied to the undergraduate degree.

NCSU – Master of Forestry

During the fifth year, students will take the following twenty credit hours of courses which will be counted as partial fulfillment of the requirements of the Master of Forestry degree:

Summer Session
FOR 630 Master’s Supervised Research – 1 credit

Fall Semester
NR 560 Renewable Natural Resources Administration and Policy – 3 credits
or NR 571 Current Issues in Natural Resources Policy – 3 credits
PB 421 Plant Physiology – 3 credits
FOR 519 Forest Economics – 3 credits

Spring Semester
NR 500 Natural Resource Management – 3 credits
PB 565 Plant Community Ecology – 4 credits
FOR 531 Wildland Fire Science – 3 credits

Successful completion of the courses listed above, excluding the summer camp courses, above will satisfy the 40-credit hour coursework requirement for the Master of Forestry degree.
ATTACHMENT 2 - OUTCOMES AND OBJECTIVES FOR THE FORESTRY AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES GRADUATE PROGRAM

(begiinning on the following page)
Outcomes and Objectives for the Forestry and Environmental Resources Graduate Program

Outcomes related to research in the broader program are struck as they are not applicable to the professional Master of Forestry degree program.

Objective: To prepare graduates for successful professional careers in industry, government or academia.

Outcomes: Students will demonstrate a strong foundation in the basic and applied natural resource sciences.

Students will demonstrate a breadth of academic experience across teaching, independent and collaborative research, grantsmanship, outreach, and leadership opportunities.

Students will present their research in peer-reviewed journals and conference papers given in a range of venues, from graduate seminars to professional meetings on the local, national and international levels.

Students will participate in professional organizations, becoming members and attending meetings.

Objective: To prepare graduates to be effective scientists and professionals in their chosen forestry and natural resource fields with an understanding of the social, economic, and environmental implications of their work.

Outcomes: Students will develop a comprehensive knowledge of the literature in their field of expertise and be able to demonstrate that knowledge capably.

Students will define critical issues and generate relevant questions within their field of expertise.

Students will apply appropriate research methods to their chosen research question.

Students will understand the importance and limitations of their work.

Students will effectively communicate the results of their work in both oral and written forms.

Students will demonstrate an awareness of current social, economic, and environmental issues in their field and the ability to articulate the implications of their work with respect to those issues.

Objective: To maintain and improve the program's leadership position nationally and internationally

Outcomes: Faculty are expected to continue to attract and retain high-quality students.

Faculty are expected to provide effective mentoring that encourages students to graduate in a timely manner.

Faculty are expected to place graduates in positions in government, industry, and academics.

The department is expected to maintain a nationally recognized faculty that is large enough and appropriately distributed across disciplines of forestry and natural resources to offer students a wide range of fields of expertise.
ATTACHMENT 3 - SOCIETY OF AMERICAN FORESTERS ASSESSMENT STANDARDS FOR ACCREDITATION OF MASTER OF FORESTRY PROGRAM

(beginning on the following page)
Society of American Foresters Assessment Standards for Accreditation of Master of Forestry program

STANDARD I: FORESTRY PROGRAM MISSION, GOALS, AND OBJECTIVES

Accreditation is based on an assessment of the total educational program, the institution's environment for stimulating intellectual and professional growth, and support for the program. Accreditation ensures that the environment, facilities, faculty, and infrastructure for the forestry program are sufficient and appropriate to meet the forestry program's stated mission, goals, and objectives.

The forestry program must be clearly defined and publicly state its mission, goals, and objectives. The program must provide the rationale and purpose for its existence and show how the goals and objectives of its current program meet the mission statement.

Dynamic forestry programs change with time. Periodic self-evaluation and revision of the program's mission, goals, and objectives are expected and must be documented. The program must also provide specific evaluations and measures of performance based on the integration of mission, goals, and objectives with the SAF Standards of Accreditation.

Accredited forestry programs' statements of mission, goals, and objectives must reflect:

2. The distinction of forestry as an interdisciplinary profession.
3. The needs of the constituencies that the program seeks to serve.
4. Sensitivity to the role of professional foresters in meeting diverse and changing social, cultural, economic, and environmental needs and values.
5. The professionalism and ethical behavior necessary to manage and use forest resources for the benefit of society.

STANDARD II: CURRICULUM

Subject matter described below may be incorporated differently by different programs. What may be a separate course in one program may be part of a more comprehensive course in another. What may be a required course in one program may be a restricted elective in another.

Forestry education is built upon the fundamentals of written and oral communication; mathematics; biological, social, and physical sciences; and the humanities. These general education subject areas are usually incorporated in, but are not limited to, instruction delivered by arts and science units at the university. Although certain courses delivered by the forestry unit may satisfy university general education requirements, this section differentiates between such courses and the broader scope of general education requirements that are critical to an urban forestry professional's development and ability to progress professionally.

The professional education areas of study must provide in-depth coverage of ecology and biology; measurement of forest resources; management of forest resources; and forest resource policy, economics, and administration. The forestry curriculum must be presented in a manner that fosters analytical and critical reasoning skills, including systematic problem solving and decision-making.
Awareness of historical and current issues and policies affecting resource management and conservation must be established.

The forestry curriculum must provide a variety of educational experiences including lectures, discussion, simulations, computer applications, and individual and group projects in laboratories and field experiences. The purpose of these experiences is to enable students to apply scientific methodologies necessary to attain an array of beneficial forest products, services, and conditions.

**General Education**

A. **Communications:**

Programs must document how oral and written communication skills are reinforced throughout the curriculum.

1. **Oral:** Competencies must be documented as ability in preparing, and delivering effective oral presentations.

2. **Written:** Competencies must be documented as:
   a. A proficiency in English composition, technical/business writing, and writing for non-professional audiences.
   b. An ability to read with comprehension a variety of documents, and critically evaluate opposing viewpoints.

B. **Science and Mathematics:**

Biological and physical sciences and mathematics must be included:

1. **Biological sciences:** Competencies must be documented as:
   a. An understanding of the components, patterns, and processes of biological and ecological systems across spatial and temporal scales,
   b. An understanding of molecular biology, cells, organisms, populations, species, communities, and ecosystems.

2. **Physical sciences:** Competencies must be documented as an understanding of physical and chemical properties, measurements, structure, and states of matter.

3. **Mathematics:** Competencies must be documented as the ability to understand and use the basic approaches and applications of mathematics and statistics for analysis and problem solving as appropriate for the program's stated outcomes.

C. **Social Sciences and Humanities:**

Competencies must be documented as an:

1. Understanding of, and an ability to address, moral and ethical questions and an ability to use critical reasoning skills.
2. Understanding of human behavior and social and economic structures, processes, and institutions of importance across a broad range of societies.
3. Understanding of the diverse dimensions of the human experience and culture.
Professional Education

The forestry program must document depth, breadth, and balance among the four major subject matter categories shown below. In each category, adequate instruction in basic principles, typical laboratory and field applications, and current practices must be provided.

A. Ecology and Biology:

Competencies must be documented as an:

1. Understanding of taxonomy and ability to identify forest and other tree species, their distribution, and associated vegetation and wildlife.
2. Understanding of soil properties and processes, hydrology, water quality, and watershed functions.
3. Understanding of ecological concepts and principles including the structure and function of ecosystems, plant and animal communities, competition, diversity, population dynamics, succession, disturbance, and nutrient cycling.
4. Ability to make ecosystem, forest, and stand assessments.
5. Understanding of tree physiology and the effects of climate, fire, pollutants, moisture, nutrients, genetics, insects and diseases on tree and forest health and productivity.

B. Measurement of Forest Resources:

Competencies must be documented as an:

1. Ability to identify and measure land areas and conduct spatial analysis.
2. Ability to design and implement comprehensive inventories that meet specific objectives using appropriate sampling methods and units of measurement.
3. Ability to analyze inventory data and project future forest, stand, and tree conditions.

C. Management of Forest Resources:

Competencies must be documented as an:

1. Ability to develop and apply silvicultural prescriptions appropriate to management objectives, including methods of establishing and influencing the composition, growth, and quality of forests, and understand the impacts of those prescriptions.
2. Ability to analyze the economic, environmental, and social consequences of forest resource management strategies and decisions.
3. Ability to develop management plans with specific multiple objectives and constraints.
4. Understanding of the valuation procedures, market forces, processing systems, transportation and harvesting activities that translate human demands for timber-based and other consumable forest products into the availability of those products.
5. Understanding of the valuation procedures, market, and non-market forces that avail humans the opportunities to enjoy non-consumptive products and services of forests.
6. Understanding of the administration, ownership, and organization of forest
management enterprises.

D. Forest Resource Policy, Economics, and Administration:

Competencies must be documented as an:

1. Understanding of forest policy and the processes by which it is developed.
2. Understanding of how federal, state, and local laws and regulations govern the practice of forestry.
3. Understanding of professional ethics, including the SAF Code, and recognition of the responsibility to adhere to ethical standards in forestry decision making on behalf of clients and the public.
4. Ability to understand the integration of technical, financial, human resources, and legal aspects of public and private enterprises.

Computer Literacy

Competencies must be documented as an ability to use computers and other contemporary electronic technologies in professional life.

Distance Learning

Any distance-learning component of a program must be consistent with the program’s stated objectives. Distance learning includes but is not limited to off-campus classroom programs, external degree programs, branch campuses, correspondence courses, and off-campus, electronically-based instruction.

STANDARD III: FORESTRY PROGRAM ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION

Administrator

The program must be administered by a person carrying the equivalent title and authority of administrators of comparable units in the institution.

Student Recruitment, Admissions and Transfers

There must be a clear, published university, department, and/or program procedure for evaluating and accepting students and for transferring credit to fulfill the general and professional education requirements in the forestry curriculum. Transfer courses and advance placement courses must equal or exceed the content and standards of the accepting institution’s courses.

Teaching

The administration must document that high priority is given to quality instruction through faculty appointments, evaluation, and recognition of performance.
Administrative Support

The forestry program must have adequate staff resources with competencies needed to support the students, faculty, and administration.

Program Planning and Outcomes Assessment

Policies, processes, and/or practices for both short- and long-term planning of academic programs must outline how periodic reviews and updates are conducted. The interests of students and external constituents must be represented in the assessment of educational outcomes. These assessments must indicate whether academic and professional goals have been met, the elements contributing to program success or lack thereof, and the means by which assessment findings are used to enhance program outcomes.

STANDARD IV: FACULTY

The faculty must provide high quality instruction, is expected and empowered to keep the curriculum current and in concert with the program’s educational goals and objectives, and provide effective guidance for students. The program must document that it follows its institution’s policies and guidelines in the recruitment and retention of faculty that reflect cultural, ethnic, and gender diversity.

The educational program for which accreditation is sought must show that a minimum of eight full-time equivalent (FTE) faculty members who participate in the program have their primary academic responsibilities in the forestry program and report to the responsible academic head.

Academic and Professional Competency

Collectively, the faculty must have a diversity of backgrounds as evidenced by varied professional experiences and education relevant to forestry from a variety of academic institutions. Close and continuing communication with the forestry profession and use of individuals from outside the forestry program can provide additional expertise and breadth of experience.

Teaching Skills

Faculty competence in teaching must be documented by expertise in their assigned areas of instruction; enthusiasm, ability, and effectiveness in instructing; an aptitude for working closely with students; and an ability to stimulate independent thinking and provide intellectual leadership. Faculty must be involved in continuous professional development and scholarly activities appropriate to their disciplines.

STANDARD V: STUDENTS

An important index of a program's commitment to its students is a well-planned effort, in line with the program's goals and objectives, to provide a broad range of academic and extracurricular offerings extending from recruitment to placement activities.
Recruitment and Retention

Following institutional policies and guidelines, the program must document that it seeks to recruit and retain motivated and academically qualified students who reflect cultural, ethnic, and gender diversity.

Advising

The program must document its commitment to quality student advising. Advisors must be readily available to students enrolled in the program for counsel regarding the student’s academic, professional, and career opportunities.

STANDARD VI: PARENT INSTITUTION SUPPORT

The parent institution must provide resources needed to support the program being considered for initial or continuing accreditation. Opportunities must be provided for faculty development and continuing education.

Forestry Program Support

The parent institution must provide adequate funding and other institutional support to allow the program to attract and retain highly qualified faculty, staff, and administrators. Adequate resources must also be provided for elements critical to the learning environment for professional foresters such as computers, spatial information technologies, specialized laboratories, and field instruction.

Supporting Programs

The parent institution must provide strong, well-staffed student support programs. Courses and support programs must be readily accessible for forestry students. Adequate library facilities, holdings, electronic access to information, and related services must be provided.

Physical Resources and Facilities

The parent institution, in collaboration with the unit housing the program, must provide a physical environment that is safe, healthful, and conducive to learning.