

Northern Marianas College

CURRICULUM ACTION REQUEST

Course: NR298 Natural Resource Management

Effective Semester / Session: FALL 2025

Type of Action:

- ☐ New
- ☒ Modification
- ☐ Move to Inactive (Stop Out)
- ☐ Cancellation

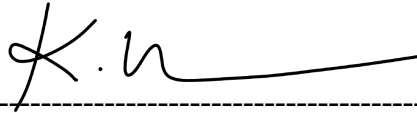
Course Alpha and Number: NR298

Course Title: Natural Resource Management Internship

Reason for initiating, revising, or canceling:

This course guide is being modified for specific sections that include: contact hours from 4 credits to 3 credits, course purpose, course description, course prerequisites, and student learning outcomes.

Kelsey McClellan



05.27.25

Proposer

Date


Velma C. Deleon Guerrero



May 27, 2025

Academic Unit Head

Date



Adam Walsh

05.22.25

Language & Format Review Specialist

Date

Yunzi Zhang



May 27, 2025

Academic Council Chair

Date

Lorraine C. Maui



May 27, 2025

Interim Dean of Academic Programs & Services

Date

Northern Marianas College

Course Guide

Page: 2

Course: NR298 Natural Resource Management

1. Department

Natural Resource Management

2. Purpose

NR298 is a required course for majors designed to provide the student with integration and application of academic knowledge and critical thinking skills while emphasizing professional development. The undergraduate internship is a graduation requirement for all NRM majors. The internship course consists of a work experience and associated written assignments. Most students engage in the work experience during the summer but complete the assignments associated with it during the fall semester. Others may work on the internship during the academic year and finish the assignments during the spring semester. NRM 298 is offered in the Spring to accommodate students. The student is placed with a cooperating institution, governmental agency, or private employer in the agricultural, environmental, or natural resource sciences. Employers in the governmental and private sectors who require well-trained, responsible entry-level employees who can immediately assume their duties in a professional manner have frequently requested a course of this type.

3. Description

A. Required/Recommended Textbook(s) and Related Materials

There is no text for this course. The student's work supervisor or the instructor/coordinator of the course will provide all materials required.

B. Contact Hours

1. **Lecture:** 3 per semester
2. **Lab:** None
3. **Other:** 20 per week for on-site internship / 320 per semester

C. Credits

1. **Number:** 3
2. **Type:** Regular Degree Credits

D. Catalogue Course Description

NR298 is a required course for majors designed to provide students with integration and application of academic knowledge and critical thinking skills while emphasizing professional development. Students are placed with a cooperating institution, government agency, or private employer in the agricultural, environmental, or natural resource sciences industry. Successful completion of the internship is required for completion of Natural Resource Management degree program. Prerequisite: NR153 (Offered in the Spring Semester).

Northern Marianas College

Course Guide

Page: 3

Course: NR298 Natural Resource Management

E. Degree or Certificate Requirements Met by Course

This Course fulfills the requirements for the AS degree in Natural Resource Management.

F. Course Activities and Design

This course consists of on-the-job training, working directly with research scientists, field technicians, extension agents, and other professionals in network institutions, governmental agencies or the private sector who have responsibilities in the discipline. Student's work supervisor and the instructor/coordinator of the course, based on the student's area of interest, will determine specific activities and evaluation of the student. This course is purposely designed to permit the student to experience a broad range of training and skill building while obtaining "hands-on" work experience.

4. Course Prerequisite(s); Concurrent Course Enrollment

Prerequisites: NR153

Concurrent Course Enrollment: None

Required English/Mathematics Proficiency Level(s)

English Placement Level: EN101

Mathematics Placement Level: MA132

5. Estimated Cost of Course; Instructional Resources Needed

Cost to the Student: Tuition for a 3-credit course and all applicable instructional materials and/or technology fees.

Cost to the College: Instructor's salary.

6. Method of Evaluation

Student progress and skill-building assessment for this course is determined by periodic evaluation by the work supervisor and course instructor/coordinator in discussion with the student. Students are required to keep a work log, a project report, or some type of documentation appropriate to the area of internship and agency involved. Both work supervisor and course instructor/coordinator will complete an end-of-internship evaluation. Successful completion of the internship is required for completion of the AS Science degree. NMC's grading and attendance policies will be followed.

Northern Marianas College

Course Guide

Page: 4

Course: NR298 Natural Resource Management

7. Course Outline

This is a topical outline and does not necessarily indicate the sequence in which the material will be presented.

- 1.0 Application of Technical Principles & Skills
 - 1.1 Permitting and regulatory compliance (e.g., environmental impact assessments)
 - 1.2 Field survey methodologies (e.g., transects, quadrats, GIS data collection)
 - 1.3 Species identification (flora, fauna, terrestrial, or marine depending on region and focus)
- 2.0 Development of Specialized Skills & Competencies
 - 2.1 Habitat restoration planning
 - 2.2 Invasive species control
 - 2.3 Ecosystem service valuation
 - 2.4 Natural resource GIS mapping
 - 2.5 Stakeholder engagement for land-use planning
- 3.0 Problem Solving & Critical Thinking with Real-World Problems
 - 3.1 Skills in negotiation
 - 3.2 Systems thinking
 - 3.3 Interdisciplinary planning
 - 3.4 Scenario analysis
- 4.0 Professionalism & Ethics
 - 4.1 Codes of conduct in decision-making and public communication
 - 4.2 Ethical dimensions of natural resource management
- 5.0 Understanding Industry Practices
 - 5.1 Current industry practices through on-site internships
 - 5.1.1 Government regulations
 - 5.1.2 Consulting
 - 5.1.3 Resource economics
 - 5.1.4 Non-Profit conservation strategies
 - 5.1.5 Other institutions in the Natural Resource Management field

Northern Marianas College

Course Guide

Page: 5

Course: NR298 Natural Resource Management

8. Instructional Goals

The course will introduce students to:

- 1.0 The responsibilities, demands, scope, concepts, ethics, and principles faced by an employee working in the agricultural, environmental, and natural resource sciences;
- 2.0 The critical influence of the agricultural, environmental, and natural resource sciences in shaping our society, our islands, and the future use of land, water, and air in the CNMI;
- 3.0 Project planning, preparation, implementation, and evaluation; and
- 4.0 Protocol and methodology for accurate data collection, data analysis, results interpretation, and reporting.

Northern Marianas College

Course Guide

Page: 6

Course: NR298 Natural Resource Management

9. Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- 1.0 Integrate and apply knowledge from their academic program to practical work responsibilities in an agricultural or natural resource field;
- 2.0 Develop strategies to improve interpersonal skills in the workplace;
- 3.0 Determine their level of interest in a specific field;
- 4.0 Develop professional contacts with people in this field; and
- 5.0 Identify future needs in the NRM educational program.

10. Assessment Measures of Student Learning Outcomes

Assessment of student learning may include, but not be limited to, the following:

- 1.0 Weekly Timesheets
- 2.0 Written Project Report and/or Field Study
- 3.0 Presentation of Project and/or Field Study












NR298.2

Final Audit Report

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