



UNIVERSITY OF THE ARCTIC

Circumpolar Studies Program

Advanced Emphasis Title: Designated Advanced Emphasis

Institution: Participating Institutions

Contact Info: bcs@uarctic.org

Credits: minimum 30 ECTS (15 North American credits at most institutions)

Requirements: At least two years of undergraduate study.

Program Description:

The **Designated Emphasis** is a 15-credit (30 ECTS) (minimum) undefined alternative to disciplinary or formally defined Advanced Emphases. It is intended to fill a void in current Advanced Emphasis offerings that can prevent certain students from embarking on or completing a BCS or its equivalent. A student pursuing a Designated Emphasis would work with a designated UArctic official, to select several (see below) advanced courses offered by any University of the Arctic member institution. This will enable students to fulfill BCS degree requirements for Advanced Emphases while assuring them of coursework that will enable them to achieve personal, academic and professional ambitions.

Given that the Designated Emphasis is intended to meet individual specific education and career goals, the student, in consultation with a UArctic designated official (site coordinator or UArctic Council representative, etc.), must determine the actual composition of the emphasis. However, to ensure that the program adheres to the principles established for Advanced Emphases, Designated Emphasis courses must:

- Total a minimum of 30 ECTS or the equivalent;
- Be selected from at least two separate academic disciplines (to ensure some degree of multidisciplinaryity);
- Include at least one course that focuses on human northern/circumpolar issues relevant to the student's academic goals (to promote an integrated view of the Circumpolar region, its people and the issues they face); and
- Include no more than one course at the second-year level (to ensure that the advanced emphasis builds on aspects of the student's previous academic work).

A student who wishes to undertake a Designated Emphasis should prepare an application package and/or academic portfolio to be reviewed by a UArctic Council representative, site coordinator, and/or someone designated by the Office of Undergraduate Studies. Students are encouraged to prepare their application in consultation with their home institution's UArctic site coordinator or council representatives.



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A Designated Emphasis proposal package, at a minimum, should include:

- A detailed written statement by the student about her/his learning goals;
- Transcripts of previous coursework; and
- A list of courses proposed for the designated emphasis with course descriptions and/or detailed outlines.

The Dean of Undergraduate Studies will be responsible for approving Designated Emphases upon the recommendation of the reviewing official.

Students would need to successfully complete all courses to be certified as having completed an advanced emphasis. The following conditions must be met:

- The overall average grade for the approved Designated Emphasis courses must be at least 70% or equivalent grade point, number grade, etc.;
- Courses may only be substituted with the approval of the designated official; and
- Other completion conditions may be required for some Designated Emphasis study plans.