Data-based decision for 2015 – MNR

We gathered information and used it to make decisions to improve our professional MNR program in the following ways:

- After reviewing data collected from 2010-2016 on new applicants and MNR graduates, the MNR Standing Committee has decided to reduce the number of students accepted into the MNR program who have low GPA’s and/or GRE or MAT scores. This decision reflects a conclusion that student success within the program is tied to sufficiently high GPAs and/or test scores.

- Completion rates reviewed from 2008-2016 indicate a need to better screen out applicants who are not currently working in a natural resource field, and do not have a close connection to a position in a government agency, NGO or a private business with ties to natural resources. This decision reflects a conclusion that successful capstone project completion is tied to the student’s work situation. It also reflects the core objective of the program to help natural resource professionals function better in management positions.

- In response to feedback received through phone conversations with students, alumni, agency partners and employees from other natural resource fields the MNR program is going to offer more online natural resource courses. We have recently added Advanced Geographic Information Systems, Wetland Ecology and Management, Human Dimensions of Wildlife Management and Principles of Remote Sensing.

- Feedback from students collected during informal communications with the Program Coordinator and key faculty indicate a need for change in our economics course offerings. We are in the process of looking for someone within the college to offer an online natural resource economics course.

- Based on feedback through informal communications with students, faculty and potential applicants, we are seeking approval to create a 12-credit Graduate Certificate in Geographic Information Systems.