

CAL POLY HUMBOLDT
University Senate
Resolution to Recommend Approval of the Cultural Resource Management Certificate of Study

09-25/26-ICC – November 18, 2025 – Curriculum Reading

RESOLVED: That the Cultural Resource Management Certificate of Study, detailed in proposal [24-2854](#), be approved.

RATIONALE:

The Cultural Resource Management (CRM) Certificate of Study provides students with applied training in the field and office practices of the cultural resource management industry, including the contemporary methods, regulatory frameworks, and ethical principles that guide professional work in this area.

Cultural resource management is the largest career area in applied archaeology, encompassing the monitoring, documentation, and management of cultural sites during construction, restoration, and land management projects. The industry is experiencing sustained workforce demand for qualified technicians with hands-on training and a working knowledge of relevant federal and state laws.

The CRM certificate ensures that Cal Poly Humboldt graduates are prepared to enter the profession with the technical and ethical competencies necessary for success in the field, reducing the need for extensive employer training. The curriculum emphasizes collaboration with Tribal and community partners, recognizing tribal sovereignty, authority, and the importance of ethical, community-based work.

This program builds upon Cal Poly Humboldt's applied strengths in anthropology, archaeology, and Native American Studies, and is supported by the on-campus Cultural Resources Facility (CRF)—a professional CRM organization that provides students with practical, real-world experience in the discipline. The certificate is aligned with Cal Poly Humboldt's polytechnic focus on hands-on, career-connected learning and supports the university's commitment to respectful and sustainable engagement with Indigenous communities.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW:

- **Total Units:** 22–23
- **Program Structure:** The CRM Certificate draws from existing courses in anthropology, archaeology, and Native American Studies that are already in rotation. No additional resources or funding are required to support the program.
- **Program Description:** The Cultural Resource Management Certificate of Study trains students in the methods, practices, and professional standards of the CRM industry. Courses emphasize compliance with federal and state legislation, ethical collaboration with communities, and technical skills essential for archaeological fieldwork and reporting.

- Students completing the certificate will be prepared to enter the CRM workforce as qualified technicians or to pursue advanced graduate study in applied archaeology.

Student Learning Outcomes: Students completing the Cultural Resource Management Certificate of Study will be able to:

1. Describe and apply the laws and regulations governing cultural resource management in the United States, with emphasis on current practices in California.
2. Critically evaluate historical, legal, and ethical contexts for CRM, including the role of federal and state agencies, private industry, and tribal governments.
3. Explain and implement the stages of a CRM project, from planning and survey through documentation and reporting.
4. Demonstrate technical field skills expected of entry-level CRM technicians, including mapping, excavation, soil identification, and completion of DPR 523 forms.
5. Apply archaeological methods and theory to reconstruct past environments and human activities using the scientific method and professional reporting standards.
6. Develop specialized competencies in at least two methods areas, such as material culture analysis, faunal analysis, remote sensing, GIS, ethnobotany, or soil science.
7. Recognize and uphold Tribal sovereignty and the importance of respectful, collaborative engagement with Indigenous communities in all CRM work.

Program Impact:

The CRM Certificate strengthens Cal Poly Humboldt's role as a leader in applied, field-based education and supports workforce needs in a high-demand professional area. It provides a competitive advantage for students across multiple majors—particularly those in anthropology, environmental science, and related disciplines—while promoting ethical and community-centered professional practice.

By integrating a Native American Studies course and emphasizing collaboration with Tribal partners, the program ensures that graduates engage in cultural resource management that reflects modern archaeological principles and respectful partnership with Indigenous communities.

No additional faculty, facilities, or funding are required to implement the program.

Related Proposals:

- [ANTH 450 - New Course](#): No resources needed other than what is currently available. The course is C-78 for 0 WTU. The Anthropology Department chair or a designated faculty with existing related WTU will review the completed competency logs.

Note on Document Preparation: Portions of this resolution were developed with the support of artificial intelligence tools to enhance consistency, formatting, and clarity. All content originates

from the official proposal documents and aligns with Chancellor's Office documentation standards. Each resolution is reviewed and finalized collaboratively by the Integrated Curriculum Committee Chair, committee members, and the proposal authors, with opportunities for revision prior to submission for Senate consideration.