capstone experience that meets their expectations and needs, whether that be a research-intensive thesis or a professionally oriented internship.

2) Accurate Enrollment and Recruitment Reporting:
To effectively manage and plan our program resources, it is essential to have accurate data on enrollment and recruitment in the various subplans. Currently, when students enroll in the MS Freshwater Sciences program, their choice between the tracks may not be explicitly recorded or reported. This can lead to difficulties in tracking program demographics and making informed decisions regarding admissions, curriculum development, and resource allocation. It also makes it difficult to then explain to the Provost and administration the trajectories of each program.

3) Meeting the Standards of an R1 Institute:
As an R1 institute, we are committed to maintaining the highest standards of research and education. Tracking the choices made by our students regarding thesis or professional science tracks is crucial for several reasons.

It allows us to identify students actively involved in our research programs and projects and contributing to our institution's research mission. In addition, it helps us to better account for the balance of students funded by and engaged in research grants versus those that are self-paying and contributing directly to the financial budget of the School.

SFS proposes that we implement a clear and distinct separation of the MS Freshwater Sciences: Aquatic Science (Thesis), Water Policy (Thesis), Aquatic Science (Professional), and Water Policy (Professional) tracks. This separation should be reflected in our program documentation, recruitment materials, and reporting mechanisms. It will not only benefit our students by offering clearly tailored experiences but also enhance our institution's ability to effectively manage resources, maintain our R1 status, and provide a transparent and attractive program for prospective students.

Please note that we are not requesting any major curriculum changes. We are requesting a small change for the list of required course options to the two professional plans by removing a course that will be inactivated (Frshwtr 508G Aquatic Technology) and replacing it with options that are already in existence under the freshwater or atmospheric science curricular code and taught regularly:

For the Aquatic Science (Professional) curriculum, Frshwtr 508G will be replaced with the following options:

- Frshwtr 471G *Introduction to Sensing Networks*
- Frshwtr 585G *Applied Water Statistics and Data Manipulation*
- Atm Sci 500G *Statistical Methods in Atmospheric Science*

For the Water Policy (Professional) curriculum, Frshwtr 508G will be replaced with the following option:

- Frshwtr 471G *Introduction to Sensing Networks*