

Peer comparisons are useful in establishing how well the University of Alaska (UA) or its campuses compare on given measures to institutions of like size, mission, and organization. Peer comparisons are also useful in targeting best practices. UA Institutional Research, Planning and Analysis prepares and utilizes several peer groups for comparison studies. Choosing an appropriate peer group should take into account the particular study and information requested. Peer analyses are intended to allow for uniform and consistent comparisons among institutions. However, definitional and reporting differences often exist between universities. As a result, the analyses are most useful for examining aggregate relationships, averages, or trends in the data rather than distinct and specific values in any one category.

Group 1 – Student Enrollment/Resource Allocation Peers

The Student Enrollment/Resource Allocation Peer group is used compare the UA System to other public university systems, covering a broad mission spectrum of community college through Ph.D. instruction to include significant research. Peer financial information can be found through the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) using definitions consistent with annual financial statement presentation for all universities with students receiving federal financial aid. From this information, UA can be compared to other public university systems in several common expenditure and revenue categories. However, in any one category definitional or reporting differences may exist among peer institutions. This group of peer institutions is further subdivided by student enrollment: student FTE under 30,000 between 30,000 and 60,000, and student FTE over 60,000. UA has a student FTE of approximately 16,000.

Student FTE Under 30,000

Montana University System
Southern Illinois University System
University of Maine System

Student FTE Between 30,000 and 60,000

Idaho State Board of Education
University of Colorado
University of Hawai'i System
University of Houston System
University of Iowa
University of Massachusetts System
University of Missouri System
University of Nebraska

Student FTE Over 60,000

Florida Board of Governors
University of Louisiana System
University and Community College System of Nevada
University of North Carolina
University of Texas System
University of Wisconsin System
University System of Maryland
Utah System of Higher Education

Group 2 – University-Selected Peers

Just as the UA system peer group allows for comparisons with other systems, university-selected peer groups are used to offer informational inquiry at the university and main campus levels. For example, when investigating how UAF faculty and staff levels compare to their peers, the peer group listed above for the UA system would not provide a reasonable comparison. As a result, each university has a set of self-selected peer institutions that are of similar size, mission, Carnegie classification, and program breadth. Community characteristics such as population and urbanization are also considered. Depending on the analyses some peers may be excluded because of lack of data. Also, for narrowing or expediting a given analysis, a subset of the university-selected peer groups may be chosen.



The University-Selected Peer Groups, originally developed in 2000, are reviewed and updated regularly. The table below lists the self-selected peers for each university, most recently validated in April 2017.

University of Alaska Anchorage

Arkansas Tech University
Boise State University
CUNY College of Staten Island
Ferris State University
Florida Gulf Coast University
Idaho State University
Indiana University-Purdue
University-Fort Wayne
McNeese State University
Northern Kentucky University
Northwestern State University
of Louisiana
Purdue University-Calumet
Campus
The University of Texas Rio
Grande Valley
The University of West Florida
Troy University
University of Arkansas at
Little Rock
Weber State University
Western Kentucky University
Youngstown State University

University of Alaska Fairbanks*

Research Peers-
Clemson University
Kansas State University
Mississippi State University
Montana State University-
Bozeman
New Mexico State University-
Main Campus
Oregon State University
University of Delaware
University of Idaho
University of New Hampshire
University of Rhode Island
University of Vermont
Utah State University
Academic Peers-
Idaho State University
Montana State University-
Bozeman
New Mexico State University-
Main Campus
North Dakota State University-
Main Campus
Oregon State University
The University of Montana
University of Idaho
University of Maine
University of Nevada-Reno
University of Wyoming
Utah State University

University of Alaska Southeast

Adams State University
Colorado Mesa University
Dakota State University
Eastern Oregon University
Great Basin College
Northern New Mexico College
Oglala Lakota College
Sul Ross State University
The University of Texas of
the Permian Basin
University of Hawai'i - Hilo

*Note – UAF peer list consists of ‘Research’ and ‘Academic’ peer groups

Group 3 – Competitive Peers

Another peer group includes states and universities viewed as competitors to the University of Alaska. Alaska has one of the highest negative net migration rates in the nation, i.e. net number of students leaving the state to pursue post-secondary training, behind only the District of Columbia and Hawaii (US Census Bureau, Census 2000 Special Reports). Alaska continues to be one of the highest exporters of recent high school graduates. Increasing the number of Alaska high school graduates who choose to remain in Alaska and obtain their higher education from the University of Alaska has historically been UA's goal. The seven institutions that were identified as having historically attracted the most Alaska high school graduates comprise UA's competitive peers.

- University of Idaho
- Eastern Washington University
- University of Nevada-Reno
- University of Nevada-Las Vegas
- Montana State University-Bozeman
- Colorado State University
- University of Oregon

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Group 4 – Community Campus Peers

Peer comparisons are also useful in establishing how well individual University of Alaska Community Campuses compare on given measures to institutions of like size, mission, and organization. Based on an analysis of significant demographic, economic, and institutional variables the following taxonomy was agreed upon for use in community campus peer comparisons. The same taxonomy was used for developing the University of Alaska Community Campuses peer institutions lists.

Type A	Type B
Kenai/Homer	Kodiak
Mat Su	Prince William Sound College
UAF CTC	Ketchikan
	Northwest
	Sitka
	Bristol Bay
	Chukchi
	Interior
	Kuskokwim

Kenai/Homer, Mat Su, and UAF CTC comprise the Type A University of Alaska Community Campuses. They are in urban areas with populations of less than 60,000. The Type A campuses have headcounts ranging from 1,500 to 4,000. There are 34 institutions in the UA Type A community campus peer group. The Institutions in the Type A peer group represent public or private non-profit 2-year institutions that are found in urban areas with similar-size populations below and with a student enrollment (FTE) of 1,300 to 4,000 (See table 1).

The remaining community campuses, all much smaller than Type A campuses, comprise the Type B University of Alaska community campuses. They are found in small isolated areas with populations of less than 12,000. The Type B campuses have headcounts ranging from 200 to 1,000. There are 51 institutions in the UA Type B community campus peer group. The institutions in the Type B peer group represent public or private non-profit 2-year institutions that are found in small urban areas with populations of less than 12,000, with a student enrollment (FTE) of 600 to 1,700, or rural areas near Native American or Alaska Native population concentrations with a student enrollment (FTE) of 800 or less (See table 4b).

Table 4a. University of Alaska Type A Community Campus Peer Group

Alexandria Technical College MN	Mid Plains Community College NE
Bay De Noc Community College MI	Morgan Community College CO
Big Bend Community College WA	North Central Missouri College MO
Blue Mountain Community College OR	North Dakota State College of Science ND
Cascadia Community College WA	Northwest Community College WY
Central Lakes College-Brainerd MN	Northwestern Connecticut Community College CT
Central Maine Community College ME	Pierce College at Puyallup WA
Central Ohio Technical College OH	Sheridan College WY
Clatsop Community College OR	Snow College UT
Dine College AZ	Southern Maine Community College ME
Eastern Wyoming College WY	Southwest Kansas Technical School KS
Gogebic Community College MI	Southwest Wisconsin Technical College WI
Hibbing Community College MN	Southwestern Community College IA
Kennebec Valley Community College ME	Trinidad State Junior College CO
Lake Washington Technical College WA	West Shore Community College MI
Luna Community College NM	Western Nebraska Community College NE
Mesabi Range Community & Technical College MN	Western Wyoming Community College WY

Table 4b. University of Alaska Type B Community Campus Peer Group

Bay Mills Community College MI	Kent State University-Geauga Campus OH
Blackfeet Community College MT	Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa Community College WI
Cankdeska Cikana Community College ND	Lamar Community College CO
Chief Dull Knife College MT	Leech Lake Tribal College MN
Clarendon College TX	Linn State Technical College MO
College of Menominee Nation WI	Little Big Horn College MT
Columbia Gorge Community College OR	Little Priest Tribal College NE
Crownpoint Institute of Technology NM	Mesabi Range Community & Technical College MN
DIN-E College AZ	Minot State University-Bottineau Campus ND
Eastern New Mexico University-Ruidoso NM	Nebraska Indian Community College NE
Eastern Wyoming College WY	New Mexico State University-Grants NM
Fond Du Lac Tribal and Community College MN	North Central Missouri College MO
Fort Belknap College MT	York Country Community College ME
Fort Berthold Community College ND	Northland Pioneer College AZ
Fort Peck Community College MT	Northwest Community College WY
Gogebic Community College MI	Northwest Iowa Community College IA
Independence Community College KS	Northwestern Connecticut Community College CT
Itasca Community College MN	Pine Technical College MN
Kennebec Valley Community College ME	Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College MI
San Juan College NM	Sisseton-Wahpeton Community College SD

Table 4b. University of Alaska Type B Community Campus Peer Group – Continued

Sitting Bull College ND	Vermillion Community College MN
Southwestern Community College IA	West Shore Community College MI
Stone Child College MT	Western Wyoming Community College WY
University of Arkansas Community College Hope AR	York County Community College ME
University of New Mexico-Los Alamos Campus NM	

Additional Peer Comparison Groups

Additionally, UA Institutional Research, Planning and Analysis uses unique peer groups for specific studies. These include the following:

- Western States comparison – Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming. These states face some of the same challenges that Alaska does in terms of distance, rural access, and economy. UA’s breadth of degree offerings has been compared to those of all public institutions with these states.
- National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS) Peers- based on the NCHEMS Institutional Classification. These peer groups are mainly used to compare institutional financial ratios and characteristics. They are listed below:

UAA	UAF	UAS
Austin Peay State University	Clemson University	Cheyney University of Pennsylvania
Boise State University	Montana State University	Coppin State University
CUNY College of Staten Island	New Mexico State University- Main Campus	Georgia Southwestern State University
Eastern Kentucky University	North Dakota State University-Main Campus	Johnson State College
Indiana State University	University of Arkansas	Northern State University
Indiana University-Fort Wayne	University of Idaho	Sul Ross State University
McNeese State University	University of Maine	Texas A & M University- Texarkana
Northwestern State University Of Louisiana	University of New Hampshire-Main Campus	University of Houston- Victoria
Purdue University-Calumet Campus	University of Wyoming	Western New Mexico University
Troy University	Utah State University	
University of Alaska Anchorage		
University of North Florida		
University of Southern Maine		
Wichita State University		