

UAS Program Review

FISCAL YEAR 2025

UA Board of Regents – November 2024

Mission: The University of Alaska Southeast is a student-centered university that provides instruction in liberal arts, professional, and technical fields. On the homelands of the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples, we serve the coastal environments, cultures, economies, and communities of Alaska, through interdisciplinary education, workforce development, and scholarship, research, and creative activity.

Program Review and Annual Assessment at the University of Alaska Southeast

The University of Alaska Southeast (UAS) upholds a mission of academic excellence and accountability, guided by its vision and values. Central to this mission is the rigorous practice of program reviews, mandated by the Board of Regents' policy. These reviews ensure we meet our institutional goals and consistently improve our programs and student outcomes.

Program Reviews

Program reviews at UAS are comprehensive evaluations focusing on data-informed evidence and are conducted at least every five years, exceeding the Board of Regents' minimum requirement of seven years (BOR P10.06.010 [B]--Academic Program Review). These reviews are crucial for assessing various aspects of our academic programs, including:

- Quality of Teaching and Learning: Evaluating the effectiveness and quality of instruction.
- Graduation Effectiveness: Measuring how well programs support students in completing their degrees.
- Post-Graduation Success: Tracking graduates' success in securing employment or advancing their education.
- Community Engagement: Assessing how well programs engage with and serve the community.
- Resource Adequacy: Ensuring programs have the necessary resources to operate effectively.
- Alignment: Coordinating with related programs within UAS and across the University of Alaska system.
- Improvement Needs: Identifying areas needing enhancement or restructuring.

Reviews offer an opportunity to celebrate successful programs and to identify ways to build on that success. Reviews also offer an opportunity to look critically at program needs, challenges, and weaknesses— to suggest changes, to reallocate resources internally, or to propose eliminating a program altogether.

The review process involves contributions from program faculty and staff, students, the Faculty Senate, administrators, discipline experts, and industry/community representatives. It concludes with a final decision by the UAS Provost, with concurrence from the UAS Chancellor. As determined by university leadership, special reviews can be conducted outside the normal cycle. The [schedule for these reviews](#) is available on the UAS Provost website.

Annual Program Assessment

Annual program assessments are distinct from the five-year reviews and serve as an ongoing process to monitor and improve student learning outcomes. This continuous assessment ensures that our curriculum fosters the desired learning, using empirical data to guide improvements. Key points of the annual assessment include:

- Defining Learning Outcomes: Faculty explicitly state the PLO's and SLO's for students.
- Curriculum Verification: Ensuring the curriculum supports these student learning outcomes.
- Data Collection: Gathering data to measure the extent of student learning.
- Program Improvement: Using the collected data to enhance the program.

Faculty Senate-approved modifications to the annual program assessment report template are designed to streamline this process. The template, available on the Provost's website, now includes:

1. A brief program summary.
2. Clarifications regarding enrollment data.
3. Prompts for confirming that Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs) are accurately listed in the course catalog.

Annual assessments are mandatory for all certificate, associate, bachelor, and master's degree programs. Faculty must update their assessment plans by October 5 and submit annual reports by March 1. While only some PLOs need to be assessed each year, all PLOs must be reviewed within the five-year cycle. Programs up for a five-year review may have reduced annual reporting requirements if all PLOs have been assessed since the last review.

To support continuous improvement in assessment practices, UAS faculty participated in a summer 2024 initiative with Dr. Natasha Jankowski, a national assessment expert. This initiative introduced new assessment materials and guided faculty through the book, *Student Focused Learning and Assessment*.

Conclusion

Through rigorous program reviews and annual assessments, UAS demonstrates its commitment to continuous self-reflection and improvement. These processes are integral to our mission, fostering a culture of assessment that informs decision-making institution-wide. By adhering to NWCCU standards of accreditation, we ensure that our assessment practices contribute to student retention and overall academic excellence. The Board of Regents can be confident that UAS is dedicated to maintaining high standards in its educational offerings and continuously seeking ways to enhance student outcomes.

UAS Academic Program Reviews Conducted in AY 2023-2024

In AY 23-24, UAS conducted five Academic Program Reviews. The programs and results are listed below.

Academic Program Reviews	Decision
Biology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - BA Biology - BS Biology - BS Marine Biology - BS Fisheries Science & Ocean Sciences 	Continue Continue Continue Continue
Construction Technology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - AAS Construction Technology - Certificate Drafting Technology - Residential/Light Construction Endorsement - Computer Aided Drafting Technician Endorsement 	Continue Continue Continue Continue
Special Education Undergraduate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - BA Special Education 	Continue
Special Education Graduate Programs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MAT Special Education - MED Special Education - Special Education Graduate Certificate 	Continue Continue Continue
Reading Specialist Graduate Programs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MED Reading Specialist - Reading Specialist Graduate Certificate 	Continue Continue

UAS Program Review Planned in the Next 5 Years

Academic Year	Program Reviews
2024-25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - AA General Program - BS Mathematics - BA Social Science
2025-26	8
2026-27	6
2027-28	7
2028-29	4

Academic Program Changes not Requiring Board of Regents Approval

The table below summarizes the minors, graduate certificates, and occupational endorsements approved in FY24, and approval for these program types is delegated to the Chancellors. It also provides the status of suspended degree or certificate programs. UAS had one endorsement addition and one program suspension. The MPA program was suspended to revise the curriculum to include post-baccalaureate certificates that lead to an MPA degree with UAS. Curriculum revisions were completed by experts in their field with the input of the MPA Advisory board and an external consultant. The program has begun accepting applications for Fall 2025.

School	Program	Level	Action
School of Arts & Sciences	Business Foundations	Occupational Endorsement	Added
School of Arts & Sciences	Public Administration	Masters	Suspended for FY25, accepting applications for Fall 2025