

University of Alaska Southeast

Report on Academic Program Reviews – AY 20-21

UA Board of Regents – September 2020

Academic Program Reviews at UAS

The University of Alaska Southeast’s mission, values, and core themes emphasize the importance of both academic excellence and accountability. Program reviews, required by Board of Regents policy, are an integral part of our practice to ensure that we meet that mission.

Program reviews focus on data-informed evidence of quality teaching and learning, graduation effectiveness, success of graduates in securing employment or advancing their educational goals, community engagement, adequacy of available resources, alignment with related programs at UAS and across UA, and program elements requiring improvement. 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.

Regents’ policy calls for such reviews at least every seven years and more frequently as the need arises (BOR P10.06.010 [B]--Academic Program Review). At UAS our practice continues to be completing such reviews at least every five years. The current schedule for reviews is found at http://www.uas.alaska.edu/provost/program_review.html.

The review process includes participation from program faculty and staff, students, 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. Special reviews outside of the normal cycle may be conducted as determined by university leadership.

UAS Academic Program Reviews Scheduled in AY 19-20

In AY 19-20, UAS was scheduled to conduct six Academic Program Reviews. (*Also, see special Expedited Program Reviews at end of document.*) The programs and results are listed below.

Academic Program Reviews	Decision
Medical Assisting: Certificate	Granted one-year extension.
Social Science: Bachelor of Arts	<i>Continuation</i>
Health Information Management: Certificate and Associate of Applied Science	Granted one-year extension.
Mathematics Education: Graduate Programs	See section on special Expedited Program Reviews.
Secondary Education: Graduate Programs	Granted one-year extension.
Associate of Arts	<i>The IRC recommends enhancement and continued review of the program.</i>

Reviews Planned in Next Five Years

Academic Year	Reviews Scheduled
AY 20-21	9
AY 21-22	6
AY 22-23	6
AY 23-24	5
AY 24-25	2
Total	28

UAS Specialized Program Accreditation

- **Teacher Education:** National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) consolidated into the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) in July of 2013.
- **Health Information Management:** Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management Education (CAHIIM)
- **Medical Assisting:** Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) upon the recommendation of the Medical Assisting Education Review Board (MAERB).
- **Business Programs:** ACBCP, the Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs.

UA Academic Program Review Definitions and Format

Academic Program

Degree or Certificate Program: UAS programs include Occupational Endorsements, Undergraduate Certificates, Associate degrees, Baccalaureate degrees, and Master's degrees. Academic Program Review decisions are listed relative to each academic program. For example, deleting a track within a program would be considered a revision of the program. In some cases, stand-alone minors and academic departments that are not degree-granting undergo Academic Program Review at the discretion of the Provost and Dean.

Decision Types

Enhancement: Program will be enhanced with additional resources. (Areas for enhancements might include, for example, faculty or staff, curriculum, program delivery, student success initiatives, outreach and/or partnerships with the community or industry, program promotion and marketing, and facilities.)

Continuation: Program is successfully serving its students and meeting its mission and goals. No immediate changes necessary, other than regular, ongoing program improvements.

Revision: Program will be revised using existing resources, which might entail a reallocation of resources within the program. (Areas for revision might include, for example, faculty or staff workloads and assignments, curriculum, program delivery, student success initiatives, outreach and/or partnerships with the community or industry, program promotion and marketing, and facilities.)

Continued Review: Program is required to address specific issues and to undergo another review within the next two academic years.

Suspension: While decisions relative to the program are made, admissions to the program are suspended. There are a variety of reasons for suspension. These may include, among others, temporary circumstances (e.g., insufficient faculty to meet substantial enrollment increases), planned major revisions to the program (e.g., deleting a track or changing the degree level), or potential program deletion.

Deletion: Program is scheduled for deletion, a teach-out process will be developed and communicated to majors, and the program will remain in the catalog until the teach-out process is complete.

Actions

Action on results of program review: This column allows for details relative to decisions regarding the particular program.

Special Expedited Program Reviews Completed in AY 19-20

To address our FY21 budget challenge, the Board of Regents asked each university in Fall 2019 to undertake a review of both academic and administrative programs and costs. In keeping with that request, Provost Carey asked in that faculty complete expedited program reviews for the following degrees, certificates, and endorsements:

Alaska College of Education Programs

- M.Ed. Reading: *After preliminary enrollment review, no action will be taken on the program this year.*
- M.Ed. Special Education: *After preliminary enrollment review, no action will be taken on the program this year.*
- M.Ed. Mathematics Education (*UA Board of Regents approved elimination at its February 2020 meeting*) | Mathematics Education, K-5 Graduate Certificate (*UA Board of Regents approved elimination at its February 2020 meeting*) | Mathematics Education, K-8 Graduate Certificate (*UA Board of Regents approved elimination at its February 2020 meeting*)
- Educational Technology Graduate Certificate | Endorsement in Distance Teaching and eLearning

School of Arts and Sciences Programs

- BS Mathematics
- BA Geography, Environmental & Outdoor Studies | BS Geography and Environmental Resources | BS Environmental Science | BLA Outdoor and Adventure Studies (*The Board of Regents approved elimination of the BS in Geography and Environmental Resources at the June 2020 Board meeting, which will become part of a broader BS in Environmental Resources. Similarly, the BA in Geography, Environmental, and Outdoor Studies was approved for elimination by the Board of Regents at the June 2020 Board meeting as part of a redesigned and streamlined Environmental Studies degree.*)
- Biology pre-major
- BA English
- BA Social Science Concentrations: Economics and Anthropology
- OEC Financial Institutions | OEC Small Business Management

Alaska College of Education: Based on expedited reviews in Education and recommendations from Executive Dean Steve Atwater in the Alaska College of Education, UAS has already suspended admissions for the M.Ed. in Mathematics Education, the Mathematics Education graduate certificates, as well as the Educational Technology Graduate Certificate and the Endorsement in Distance Teaching and eLearning. Moreover, at its February meeting, the Board of Regents approved elimination of the M.Ed. in Mathematics Education.

School of Arts and Sciences: In the School of Arts and Sciences,

At this time, we do not anticipate other proposals to eliminate UAS degrees, certificates, or OECs. However, reductions in academic and academic support areas are under consideration where faculty positions have become vacant or restructured.