

University of Alaska Southeast

Institutional and Programmatic Accreditation

Academic Program Review

UA Board of Regents – September 2021

Institutional Accreditation (Regents Policy 10.02.070A)

The University of Alaska Southeast has been accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) since 1983. This accreditation includes the Juneau, Ketchikan, and Sitka campuses. At UAS, the Provost serves as the Accreditation Liaison Officer and is the primary point of contact for information regarding accreditation.

Institutional accreditation is regularly reviewed and reaffirmed by the NWCCU. UAS's accreditation was reaffirmed in July 2019. That reaffirmation focused on a process of continuous improvement. Such improvements aligned with standards occurs through regular reports and site visits conducted by peer evaluators. In addition to these reports and visits, the institution also communicates regularly with the NWCCU about substantive program changes including additions, suspensions, and deletions as well as about changes to institutional leaders and organizational structure.

The University of Alaska Southeast is scheduled for a Mid-Cycle Self-Evaluation Report in Spring 2022. An NWCCU evaluation committee will conduct the onsite visit April 14-15, 2022. The chair of the evaluation committee will be from a peer institution located outside the state of Alaska.

Specialized Program Accreditation (Regents Policy 10.02.070B)

There are 12 degree and certificate programs that hold specialized programmatic accreditation at UAS.

Teacher Education

The UAS School of Education received its accreditation by the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP). This accreditation covers initial and advanced teacher preparation programs. CAEP is recognized by the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development, the U.S. Department of Education and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation to accredit programs for the preparation of teachers and other professional school personnel. The following UAS programs are accredited:

- Elementary Education BA
- Elementary Education MAT
- Reading, MA
- School Administration (Educational Leadership), Principal K-12, Master's
- Secondary Education MAT
- Special Education BA
- Special Education MAT
- Special Education MED

Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs

The following UAS Department of Business and Public Administration undergraduate programs are accredited by the Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP):

- Associate of Applied Science, Accounting
- Associate of Applied Science, General
- Bachelor of Business Administration, Accounting
- Bachelor of Business Administration, Human Resources
- Bachelor of Business Administration, Management
- Bachelor of Business Administration, Management Information Systems

Health Information Management

The Health Information Management Associate Degree (A.A.S.) is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management Education (CAHIIM). The Health Information Management (HIM) program provides a course of study, using primarily e-Learning methodology, which prepares entry-level health information professionals. Graduates are eligible to write the national examination; successful completion of the examination leads to the professional credential of Registered Health Information Technician (R.H.I.T.).

Medical Assisting Certificate

The UAS Medical Assisting program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) upon the recommendation of the Medical Assisting Education Review Board (MAERB). Medical assistants are multi-skilled health professionals specifically educated to work primarily in ambulatory care settings, such as physician's offices, clinics and outpatient care centers under the direct supervision of physicians, nurse practitioners or physician assistants. Medical assistants perform both administrative and clinical duties.

Report on Academic Program Reviews AY 2020-2021

Academic Program Reviews at UAS

The University of Alaska Southeast's mission, vision, and values 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 did not conduct any expedited program reviews during AY 20-21.

UAS Academic Program Reviews Conducted in AY 2020-2021

In AY 20-21, UAS conducted nine Academic Program Reviews. The programs and results are listed below.

| Academic Program Reviews | Decision |
|---|---------------------|
| Medical Assisting: Certificate | <i>Continuation</i> |
| Health Information Management: Certificate and Associate of Applied Science | <i>Continuation</i> |
| Power Technology | <i>Continuation</i> |
| Fisheries Technology | <i>Continuation</i> |
| Marine Transportation | <i>Continuation</i> |
| Elementary Education: Graduate Programs | <i>Continuation</i> |
| Secondary Education: Graduate Programs | <i>Continuation</i> |
| Bachelor of Arts: English | <i>Continuation</i> |
| Outdoor Studies Program | <i>Continuation</i> |

Reviews Planned in Next Five Years

| Academic Year | Reviews Scheduled |
|---------------|-------------------|
| AY 21-22 | 3 |
| AY 22-23 | 7 |
| AY 23-24 | 5 |
| AY 24-25 | 2 |
| AY 25-26 | 8 |
| Total | 25 |

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.