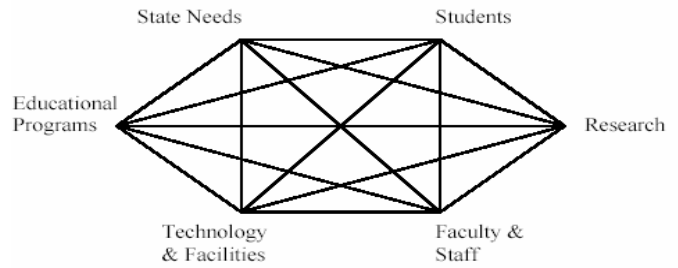


**University of Alaska Board of Regents**  
**Program Approval Summary Form**

**MAU:** University of Alaska Anchorage  
Title: Graduate Certificate in Adult Education  
Target admission date: Summer 2008



How does the program relate to the **Education** mission of the University of Alaska and the MAU?

Graduate certificates in Adult Education are designed to enhance the skills and available tools for working professionals. The certificate programs require at least twelve (12) credits for completion. Courses applied to the certificate may also be applied to the M.Ed. in Adult Education.

The Adult Education Graduate Certificate with an e-Learning concentration aligns with the UA Mission statement "...inspires learning, and advances and disseminates knowledge through teaching ...emphasizing the North and its diverse peoples." (Regents' Policy 10.01.01), and the College of Education vision: "Preparing Educators to Transform Lives." Through participation in this distance-delivered e-Learning program, graduates will be able to effectively use information and communication technologies to advance learning, disseminate knowledge, and transform lives in their respective adult-learning work environments.

UAA currently offers no other e-Learning Graduate Certificates. The College of Education (COE) has two existing technology courses, but those courses, taken alone, do not lead to any recognition by UAA. The Graduate Certificate will provide that recognition for students and provide an opportunity for financial aid.

Since this is a Graduate Certificate, it will not impact GERs.

What development process was followed (inside and outside UAA)?

The faculty developer conducted an extensive review of the literature and consulted a number of UAA, University of Georgia, Board of Regents for the University System of Georgia and Kennesaw State University colleagues who provided formative feedback on the conceptualization of the certificate program.

What **State Needs** are met by this program?

Currently there are no programs in e-Learning within Alaska. In a state with a large geographical area, much of which is not on the road system, education and professional training must be provided via technology. In this era of technology and information, many people in higher education or in professions that train adults do not have the knowledge and skills to use technology effectively for higher education learning or professional development. According to the Sloan Foundation (2005) e-learning programs should focus on the quality of the online delivery, interaction,

instructional design, and overall course development (*Growing by Degrees* <http://www.sloan-c.org/publications/survey/survey05.asp> ) There are increasingly growing demands by students in the national market willing to take online courses. According to a survey by Eduventures (June 2006), 84% of the prospective students surveyed were willing to consider participating in wholly online programs.

Providing greater access to Alaskans through the promotion of quality online learning opportunities helps bridge the gap of the systemic Digital Divides.

What are the **Student** opportunities and outcomes? Enrollment projections?

A startup enrollment of 10 students is projected. Students completing the intensive e-Learning program will be knowledgeable about the construction of e-learning modules, digital learning objects and the effective facilitation of learning with technology. Students will be able to design e-learning for higher education programs and for professional development training in the private sector.

Describe **Research** opportunities:

This is a Graduate Certificate program and research is not a program requirement. However, students' assignments are research-based, and the design and delivery principles taught are based on successful practices that have been evaluated and reported in research projects. Students working in current courses (i.e., EDAE A637 Design of e-Learning and EDAE A638 Facilitation of Learning with Technology) have had papers accepted at national and state technology/education conferences. Therefore, the potential for graduate students to present their course and learning objects at conferences and for publication is high.

Describe Fiscal Plan for development and implementation:

Three of the four required courses are currently developed and offered through the College of Education. The fourth course is offered through the UAA College of Business and Public Policy. It is an elective in the existing BBA in Management Information Systems. Current faculty will teach all courses. The proposed program is offered 100% at a distance, the College of Education and the College of Business and Public Policy both have the appropriate distance technology equipment in both locations to successfully provide this program. However, technology for faculty (hardware and software) will need to be upgraded periodically. More information on this is detailed in the budget.