System Highlights

- Three separately accredited universities
- 12 Community campuses
- 30,496 students
- 4,600 graduates in 2016
- Alaska’s #1 higher education institution
- World’s #1 research university on the Arctic

UA Mission Statement

The University of Alaska inspires learning, and advances and disseminates knowledge through teaching, research, and public service, emphasizing the North and its diverse peoples.

University of Alaska System Profile

Alaska was still a territory in 1915 when the United States Congress set aside federal lands near Fairbanks for a landgrant college. In 1917, Alaska’s territorial legislature approved a statute establishing the Alaska Agricultural College and School of Mines, which opened in 1922. In 1935, the institution was renamed the University of Alaska.

The University of Alaska (UA) system, which covers an area one-fifth the size of the contiguous United States, is governed by an 11-member Board of Regents, appointed by the governor and confirmed by the legislature. All but the student regent, who serves a two-year term, serve eight-year staggered terms. The board reviews and approves educational policy, degree programs, campus development, and budget requests. The board appoints the president, who is responsible for the administration of the system and serves as executive officer of the Board of Regents. The president’s immediate staff consists of a vice president for academic affairs and research, a vice president for university relations and chief strategy, planning and budget officer, a president of the UA Foundation, a vice president for finance, a chief technology officer, a chief human resources officer, a chief risk officer and a general counsel. The system office is located in Fairbanks, with additional offices in Anchorage and Juneau.

Three regional university centers make up the UA system: UA Anchorage, UA Fairbanks and UA Southeast, each with extended community campus sites across the state. A chancellor who reports to the president heads each university center. All three university centers deliver extensive e-Learning instruction across the UA system. These three regional universities, along with UA Statewide, make up the four major administrative units of the UA system.

UA Statewide

UA Statewide provides system-wide support for all university operations and helps enable each regional university center to meet the mission of the University of Alaska and the institutional mission. In addition to providing system leadership, governance, and strategic vision, Statewide functions include compliance, accountability, coordination, service, management of external relationships, and stewardship of shared strategic resources.
The University of Alaska is a land-, sea- and space-grant system. UA acquired land through acts of Congress in 1915 and 1929 and through land settlements with the State of Alaska in the 1980s. In addition to the annual federal appropriations land-grant institutions receive for research and extension work, UA develops, leases and sells land, the proceeds of which are used for numerous natural resources-related research and academic projects, including the UA Scholars scholarship program.

UA Anchorage

Located in Southcentral Alaska, the University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA) is committed to serving the higher education needs of the state, its communities and its diverse peoples. UAA is an open access university with academic programs leading to occupational endorsements, undergraduate and graduate certificates, and associate, baccalaureate, and Master’s degrees, as well as two doctoral degrees, one in Clinical-Community Psychology and one in Nursing Science. In addition to the largest campus, in Anchorage, the campuses of Kenai Peninsula College, Kodiak College, Matanuska-Susitna College and Prince William Sound College are integral parts of UAA. Instruction is also delivered in numerous other sites in Southcentral Alaska. UAA has exchange and cooperative agreements with Australia, Britain, China, Japan, Norway and Russia, and students have additional opportunities for education abroad through agreements with third-party providers.

UAA has many institutes and centers that sponsor research, training, public service and other activities related to northern populations, including the Institute of Social and Economic Research (ISER), the Center for Alaska Education Policy and Research (CAEPR), the Environment and Natural Resources Institute (ENRI), the Institute for Circumpolar Health Studies (ICHS), the Center for Behavioral Health Research and Services (CBHRS) and the Justice Center.

The Anchorage Campus, located in the heart of Alaska’s largest city, consists of the urban Anchorage campus, the Chugiak/Eagle River Campus, and the Military Education Center at Joint Base Elmendorf/Richardson. It is home to six colleges: Arts and Sciences, Business and Public Policy, Education, Engineering, Health, and the Community and Technical College, and ten research institutes and centers. The Anchorage campus delivers the full range of academic programs, from certificates to doctoral degrees.

Kenai Peninsula College (KPC) is comprised of four sites: Kenai River Campus in Soldotna; Kachemak Bay Campus in Homer; Resurrection Bay Extension Site in Seward; and the Anchorage Extension Site at the University Center. KPC delivers associate of arts and associate of applied science degree programs, and a number of career and technical credentials to meet workforce needs. Programs unique to KPC include certificates in corrections and in oil industry technology fields. In fall 2013 the college opened its first on-campus residence facility at the Kenai River Campus. KPC’s Kachemak Bay Campus is well-known for its annual Kachemak Bay Writers’ Conference.

Kodiak College (KOC) is located 250 air miles south of Anchorage and serves the population of Kodiak Island, the second largest island in the United States. Kodiak is also home to the largest U.S. Coast Guard Base in the nation. KOC delivers credit courses leading to associate degrees, and occupational endorsement
and undergraduate certificates, including an occupational endorsement certificate in Alutiiq Language specific to the college. Kodiak also delivers specialized courses and workshops in cooperation with the U.S. Coast Guard and other local agencies, plus short-term intensive non-credit workforce development programs leading to industry recognized credentials.

Matanuska-Susitna College (MSC) is located on a 950 acre campus in the Matanuska-Susitna Valley between the communities of Palmer and Wasilla. MSC delivers associate of arts and associate of applied science degree programs, undergraduate certificates, and occupational endorsement certificates. Programs unique to Mat-Su College include refrigeration and heating technology and veterinary assisting. The newly opened 508-seat Glenn Massey Theater now provides a venue for both campus and community events. The annual Machetanz Arts Festival has been hosted by Mat-Su College since 2011.

Prince William Sound College (PWSC) has a main campus in Valdez with extensions in Cordova and the Copper Basin, a geographic area of more than 44,000 square miles. PWSC delivers associate of arts and associate of applied science degree programs, as well as a number of undergraduate and occupational endorsement certificates. Millwright and disability services programs are unique to Prince William Sound. The campus offers student housing and also includes a community museum and fitness center. The annual Last Frontier Theatre Conference has been held at the college since 1993.

**UA Fairbanks**

The University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF), Alaska’s original university campus, was founded as a land-grant institution in 1917. UAF became the host of the Alaska Sea Grant College Program in 1980, and was designated a space grant institution in 1991, making it one of only a handful of land-, sea- and space-grant institutions nationwide.

UAF students can choose from a wide variety of programs, ranging from occupational endorsements to doctoral degrees. UAF rural campuses span the state and reflect the rich traditions and cultures of Alaska’s Native communities. With more than 20 research centers and institutes that focus on the Arctic, UAF is looked to as a leader in Arctic studies and related education by research and academic institutions around the world.

The Fairbanks Campus of the University of Alaska Fairbanks, established in 1917 as a mining and agricultural school, is the oldest campus in the UA system. The campus offers undergraduate degrees ranging from accounting to Yup’ik Language and Culture. The Fairbanks campus is the primary doctoral degree-granting institution in the UA system, offering graduate degrees in a wide range of academic fields. The Fairbanks campus is the principal research center for the statewide university system, housing some of the world’s top research scientists who pursue knowledge that directly benefits the people of Alaska and the Arctic. The Fairbanks campus provides community outreach and technical assistance for the entire state through units such as the Cooperative Extension Service, the Marine Advisory Program, KUAC-FM, and the UA Museum of the North.

Research at the Fairbanks campus is conducted at various centers and institutes, including the Geophysical Institute (GI), the Institute of Arctic Biology (IAB),
the Institute of Northern Engineering (INE), the International Arctic Research Center (IARC), the Alaska Native Language Center (ANLC), the Alaska Center for Unmanned Aircraft Systems Integration – Research, Development, Test and Evaluation (ACUASI-RDT&E), the Alaska Quaternary Center (AQC), the Alaska Center for Climate Assessment and Policy (ACCAP), the Mineral Industry Research Laboratory (MIRL), the Alaska Center for Energy and Power (ACEP), the Alaska University Transportation Center (AUTC), the Petroleum Development Laboratory (PDL), the Alaska Climate Research Center (ACRC), the Alaska Climate Science Center, the Alaska Earthquake Information Center (AEIC), the Alaska Geobotany Center, the Alaska Volcano Observatory (AVO), the Center for Alaska Native Health Research (CANHR), the Center for Arctic Policy Studies (CAPS), the Center for Global Change and Arctic System Research, the Center for the Study of Security, Hazards, Response and Preparedness (C-SSHRP), the Cooperative Institute for Arctic Research, the Geographic Information Network of Alaska (GINA), the Institute of Marine Science (IMS), the Ocean Acidification Research Center, the Scenarios Network for Alaska Planning (SNAP), and the Water and Environmental Research Center (WERC).

Additional research facilities located outside of Fairbanks include the Poker Flat Research Range located approximately 30 miles north of Fairbanks, and the Toolik Field Station located in Toolik Lake, Alaska. UAF’s School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences (SFOS) is home to additional research units including the Juneau Center (Fisheries Research), the Kodiak Seafood and Marine Science Center, and the R/V Sikuliaq. The R/V Sikuliaq is a 261-foot oceanographic research ship capable of bringing scientists to the ice-choked waters of Alaska and the polar regions with the ability to break ice up to 2.5 feet thick. One of the most advanced university research vessels in the world, this advanced platform allows scientists and students to conduct multi-disciplinary studies and facilitates broadband real-time virtual participation of classroom students in expeditions, including remotely operated underwater vehicles. The Sikuliaq's home port is at UAF’s Seward Marine Center in Seward, Alaska.

Academic units of the Fairbanks campus include the College of Engineering and Mines, College of Liberal Arts, College of Natural Science and Mathematics, College of Rural and Community Development, School of Natural Resources and Extension, School of Education, School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences, and School of Management.

UAF’s extended sites are overseen by the College of Rural and Community Development (CRCD) and include:

The Bristol Bay Campus, located in Dillingham on the northern coast of Bristol Bay, the world's largest producer of sockeye salmon. The campus serves 32 villages through e-Learning, correspondence, itinerant instructors, and traditional methods. The campus offers certificate programs, as well as associate and baccalaureate degree programs.

The Chukchi Campus, located in Kotzebue, 26 miles north of the Arctic Circle. Chukchi offers associate of arts and associate of applied science degrees, as well as courses leading to baccalaureate degrees in education, rural development and social work. The Chukchi campus serves a region of more than 36,000 square miles, offering courses by local instructors through the College of Rural and Community Development via an audio conferencing system.
The Interior Alaska Campus is located in Fairbanks and administers rural centers in Fort Yukon, Galena, Tok and Nenana. Offerings include the associate of arts degree and several vocationally oriented associate of applied science and associate of science degrees, as well as skill-building and community interest classes. Courses are offered via e-Learning, as well as on-site by local or itinerant instructors.

The Kuskokwim Campus, located in Bethel, which is situated on the banks of the Kuskokwim River, 80 miles inland from the Bering Sea. The campus offers an associate of arts degree and associate of applied science degrees, as well as baccalaureate degrees in education, rural development and Yup'ik language and culture. Programs and courses are provided throughout the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta. Housing is available at Sackett Hall on the campus.

The Northwest Campus, located in Nome, where gold was found in abundance on area beaches in 1899. Northwest Campus offers educational services to the 15 Alaska Native Inuit villages in the Bering Strait region. This campus offers associate and baccalaureate degree programs.

The Community and Technical College (CTC) of UAF is located at 604 Barnette Street, the Downtown Center, the Hutchison Center, the University Park Center, Bunnell House, the Aviation Maintenance Hangar and Fairbanks Pipeline Training Center. CTC provides general education at the certificate and associate degree levels, as well as vocational technical training programs focused on business, computers, office professions, health, and industrial/technical areas.

**UA Southeast**

The University of Alaska Southeast (UAS) is one accredited university with three campuses: Juneau, Ketchikan, and Sitka. UAS's mission is student learning enhanced by faculty scholarship, undergraduate research and creative activities, community engagement, and the cultures and environment of Southeast Alaska. Faculty and staff place a special emphasis on supporting student success by providing personalized services, proactive advising, and student support services. Academic units include the School of Education, School of Management, School of Arts & Sciences and School of Career Education.

UAS is a key part of Juneau's economy, which is based upon government, mining, fishing, tourism, and services. Prominent UAS programs include marine biology, environmental sciences, teacher education, liberal arts, business administration, career education, and outdoor leadership. Master's degree programs offered include teacher education and public administration. UAS programs are offered in Southeast Alaska and across the state through face-to-face instruction, e-Learning, and hybrid/blended courses. A number of UAS programs are available completely online. Faculty in Ketchikan teach courses that are central to the popular Bachelor of Liberal Arts, available completely online.

The Auke Lake Campus in Juneau is situated on a spectacular lakeside site with stunning views of mountains and glaciers. It has both a freshman dormitory and student apartments. Another location in Juneau is the UAS Technical Education Center, which provides career education programs to meet the short-term training needs and long-term vocational, technical, and occupational needs of the residents of Southeast Alaska.
The Ketchikan Campus is located on Revillagigedo Island, near the southernmost boundary of Alaska. Maritime industries are the predominant economic drivers in Ketchikan. The campus offers both face-to-face and e-Learning courses, leading to certificate, associate and baccalaureate degrees. UAS Ketchikan is a leader in the state in e-Learning course work and is the only campus providing an e-Learning interdisciplinary Bachelor of Liberal Arts and Bachelor of Arts, Social Science. The campus serves the maritime industries at the Ketchikan Regional Maritime and Career Center with an Associate of Applied Science in Marine Transportation, a Qualified Member of the Engine Department (QMED) program and a robust welding program. UAS Ketchikan partners with the Alaska Marine Highway System, Vigor Alaska, Southeast Alaska Pilots’ Association among other maritime companies to place UAS Ketchikan students into internships and permanent jobs in the maritime industry.

The Sitka Campus is a leader in online education and student services as well as meeting community needs. It partners with nearby schools such as Mount Edgecumbe High School, and with community partners such as the Sitka Sound Science Center, Alaska Law Enforcement Training Academy, the Sitka Fine Arts Camp, and local hospitals. Its faculty specializes in the delivery of online courses in health sciences, math and science, fisheries technology and general education. The campus is an integral part of Sitka’s community and economic development, which is based upon tourism, fishing, healthcare and public services.

**Enrollment**

In fall 2015, 30,496 students enrolled for credit at the University of Alaska, a 13 percent decrease from fall 2011. About 72 percent of students enrolled as degree seeking students in fall 2015, compared with 70 percent in fall 2011. Correspondingly, the proportion of non-degree seeking students decreased by 2 percentage points, from 30 percent to 28 percent during the same timeframe.

The majority of students attended UA part-time in fall 2015, accounting for 59 percent of the total student population.

**Graduation**

In FY15, students earned 4,678 degrees, certificates, and endorsements across the UA System, a 17 percent increase from the 3,983 earned in FY11. Of the 4,678 degrees, certificates, and endorsements awarded in FY15, 39 percent were bachelor’s degrees, 28 percent were associate degrees, 19 percent were graduate degrees and licensures, and the remaining 14 percent were certificates and occupational endorsements. UA Anchorage awarded 2,561 degrees, certificates, and occupational endorsements, accounting for 55 percent of the system total, while UA Fairbanks awarded 1,526 (33 percent) and UA Southeast awarded 591 (12 percent).