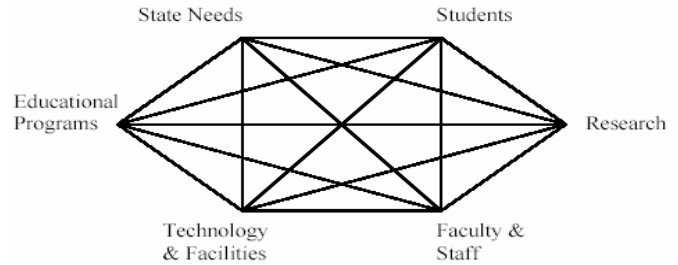


**I. REGENTS GUIDELINES****University of Alaska Board of Regents**Program Approval Summary Form

MAU: UAF

Title: Associate of Science

Target admission date: Fall 2008

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

The Associate of Science Program was created by the Interior-Aleutians Campus, in cooperation with employers and educators, and is focused on preparing students for entry into science-related employment and continued baccalaureate science-related education. This program is focused on preparing students for immediate jobs and for subsequent education.

The Associate of Science degree program provides students with quality academic instruction needed for baccalaureate and other advanced degrees in the sciences while providing an articulated pathway for certificate students to progress to the Baccalaureate of Science as well as to qualify program graduates for employment in science-related fields.

## a) Objectives

- To contribute to an educated Alaskan workforce by providing coursework relevant to student science-focused degree goals.
- To reach out to and recruit prospective students and listen to rural and urban communities and employers, linking learning with real life.
- To prepare students for baccalaureate or other course work in the sciences.

This program relates to and supports the goals of the UAF 2005 Strategic Plan by:

- Serving as the premiere higher educational center for Alaska Natives by both increasing the number of Alaska Native students at UAF and by increasing the proportion of degrees awarded to Alaska native students
- Providing high quality undergraduate education for traditional and non-traditional students by increasing the numbers of students who enroll in and successfully complete their 100-level and above coursework and degrees
- Forming active collaborations with communities, organizations, businesses and government to meet identified state, national and global needs through increased numbers of students graduating with degrees in science related fields

**What State Needs met by this program.**

Immediate employment market needs relate to those concentration areas which students choose. Responses to the Veterinarian Technicians Program survey, for example, show the potential for 36-42 jobs in the 39 villages surveyed. These jobs include veterinary technician, tribal resource management, wildlife disease inspection, fish and game

personnel and public health. In addition, outside employment (non- village) is readily available for licensed veterinary technicians, medical illustrators, or public health workers

State statistics

State statistics from the Department of Labor substantiate workforce and skill development needs in rural Alaska. Figures provided by the Department of Labor Website (<http://almis.labor.state.ak.us>) project, by 2012, a 12.1% increase in jobs in Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services, a 50% increase in jobs in Waste Management and Remediation, a 32.2% increase in jobs in Health and Social Services, and a 57.1% increase in jobs in the Mining industry. The Associate of Science degree and its associated concentration area will either prepare the student to directly enter this work force or will prepare the student for the baccalaureate degree which will provide entry to these jobs.

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

The Associate of Science degree will provide the student the opportunity to develop the skills and training necessary either for immediate employment in a variety of science-related fields or for entry into a science-related baccalaureate discipline.

Enrollment Estimates University-wide:

Year	Headcount*
08-09	25
09-10	40
10-11	65
11-12	90
12-13	110

\*Includes both full and part time

Describe **Research** opportunities:

While research is not a primary focus of this program, it is a unique model which will be documented and shared throughout the academic community. This program will produce a wealth of information in student outcomes assessments, changes in academic programs and teaching style, and other information relating to workforce and skill development in rural Alaska. This Associate of Science program will allow for increased scientific inquiry and research opportunities on a local basis. Stronger collaboration between the scientific community and local entities should result from this program.

Describe Fiscal Plan for development and implementation:

\*Indirect costs to other units (e.g. GERs)

Program development is supported by the United States Department of Agriculture Alaska Native/Native Hawaiian (AN/NH) Serving Institutions Education Grants program. This project addresses the USDA goal of increasing the number of AN/NHs engaged in USDA careers. These careers include, among others, increasing the number of students entering Associates of Sciences programs that articulate into Bachelor and Masters of Science degrees.

Because USDA's interest is, ultimately, in bringing more AN/NHs into USDA careers at the bachelors and masters level, the grant will fund the current effort until at least 2010. USDA support currently stands at one half-time science faculty member plus funding for

a total of 12 Alaska Native students to complete the Associate of Science program within approximately three years. One fund 1 faculty member developed the Associate of Science degree contributing a total of \$10,747 in fund 1 dollars. Another \$42,650 in salaries and benefits will come from the grant for support staff (program assistant, web technician and media technician).

While the Interior-Aleutians Campus has developed this new program, other fund 1 faculty and staff from all campuses, both urban and rural, will potentially be involved with this program. The program will generate \$62,700 per year with a minimum of 15 full-time students. As student participation increases, tuition income will increase, gradually replacing grant funding.

The primary faculty are already employees of the University, current faculty of the College of Rural and Community Development as well as Fairbanks-based UAF faculty. Fairbanks based classes will show a slight increase in student registrations.

Office and classroom space will be provided by existing University urban and rural campuses throughout Alaska. Some of the rural communities with available facilities include Galena, Fort Yukon, Tok, Nenana, McGrath, Unalaska, Dillingham, Bethel, Nome, Kotzebue, Barrow, and Sitka. In villages without a University facility, training space can be found in the private sector and reasonably supported by tuition fees. No new facilities or space will be required.