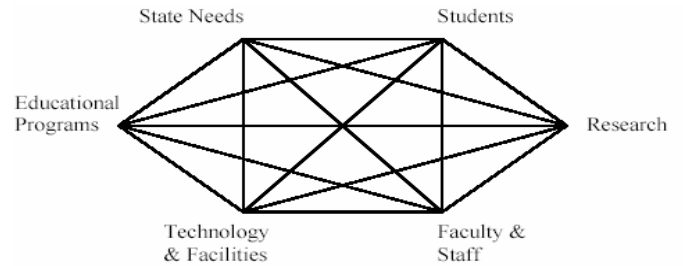


**University of Alaska Board of Regents**  
**Program Approval Summary Form**

MAU: UAF  
Title: Veterinary Science Program  
Target admission date: Fall 2007



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

This program arose from the surveyed interests of villages served by the I-AC and Chukchi Campus. This survey demonstrated a high need and interest for veterinary science training to deal with issues related to animal care, public health, wildlife diseases, bison, reindeer and musk ox husbandry. Its implementation has been promoted by several veterinarians who serve rural Alaska and are familiar with its immediate needs.

This program was developed with consultation of the American Veterinary Medical Association(AVMA), area veterinarians, tribal governments, rural dog mushers, rural bison producers, and pet owners.

This program will encourage rural students to enter science higher education. Veterinary science is an area of high interest and one that has immediate applicability. This will provide a learning path for rural, primarily Native students who are interested in science. The program will also encourage students who wish to pursue pre-veterinary undergraduate work

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

This program will meet state needs in both rural and urban Alaska, although current delivery is focused on rural Alaska.

Rural employment is not the focus of the Certificate program, although the program will be applicable to some rural job opportunities. Rural Alaska has an almost nonexistent level of veterinary care. This program would provide trained individuals who could deal with animal health issues in rural Alaska.

Alaska is one of only eight states that does not have a veterinary science/ technology program. There also is a shortage of state licensed vet techs (108 total), especially in rural areas (4% of total).

Veterinary science also has applications in public health (rabies and other zoonotic diseases, wildlife diseases and large animal husbandry). All of these areas are in dire need of educated staff people working for local and tribal governments to deal with related issues.

This program may be expanded to urban Alaska through agreements with urban branches of the UA system. After 2010 the state will require that a vet tech graduate from an

AVMA certified school. The VTS program will meet AVMA standards whether delivered in a rural or an urban setting.

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

Graduating students could find employment as a veterinary technician, tribal resource manager, wildlife disease technician or researcher, public health worker or in large animal husbandry (including bison, reindeer or musk ox). Some students will go on into further education in veterinary medicine or related areas.

There will be an initial enrollment cap of 30 full-time equivalent students per year. The high interest in this as shown by survey of 39 villages suggest there may be an excess of applying students vs. spots. Nationwide this excess also exists.

	Full-time		Part-time	
	Grant funded	Other	Grant funded	Other
Year 1	3	0	17	6
Year 2	6	1	34	12
Full Implementation	6	1	34	12

Describe **Research** opportunities:

Although research experience is not a required part of the program, Veterinary Science students may participate in research projects focused on wildlife diseases, zoonotic diseases, sled dog issues, bison, reindeer and musk ox projects and public health research.

Describe Fiscal Plan for development and implementation:

Initially, the program is funded by a USDA grant through 2008. It is expected that this funding will continue through at least 2010 based on previous experience with USDA. This grant provides staff costs for program development and piloting for 20 students from the I-AC and Chukchi College. The remaining 10 students would pay undergraduate UAF tuition. Tuition, facility and travel costs are also provided by this grant.

The Interior-Aleutians and Chukchi Campuses are committed to funding the program should grant funds cease unexpectedly. It is anticipated that full enrollment and course development will be completed within five years. Sufficient tuition income to support a full time licensed veterinarian and veterinary technician would be supplied by a combination of the USDA grant, I-AC and tuition. An administrative assistant will also be sufficiently funded. Adjuncts will be financially available as well. Facilities will be located in rural areas as necessary. These areas are already located and have been offered at no cost.