National accreditation (NCATE) in 2005 for first time
Joint Speech and Language Pathology graduate program in cooperation with East Carolina University 2004 implementation. SLP leveling courses and internships offered by COE in Alaska
COE Speech-Language program receives approval from the American Speech and Hearing Association as an official satellite of East Carolina University
AEIN Grant 2004. Largest grant ever awarded to UAA. $9.3 million. 9 partner districts, impacts over 50% of Alaska’s k-12 students
100% of all students who intern in MatSu were hired by that district
100% of program completers from the Department of Teaching and Learning (Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education) who were seeking employment were hired by Alaska districts
All teachers and instructional aides in the Pribilofs are taking a 500-level course on Culturally Responsive Practices, a course sponsored by AEIN
New teacher leadership program option for the M.Ed. in Educational Leadership
New proposed programs including occupational endorsement certificates in School-age Care for practitioners and administrators; Adult Education Graduate Certificate in E-learning; and Language Education Graduate Certificate in secondary ESOL
New alternative certification options for Special Education and Secondary Education
Implementation of trimesters, Spring 2008
Forty-nine percent of COE courses are offered via distance delivery Fall 2007
Active collaboration with CAS for the content preparation of teachers
Partnerships with KPS and KCC to deliver 4-year Education degrees that can be completed locally
Two-week rural experience option for interns in the Elementary and Secondary Education programs. Students work in schools in rural AK
Selected cohorts in Mat-Su for Educational Leadership: Principal Option and in Anchorage School District for Special Education Graduate Certificate
Early Childhood Special Education program received WICHE WRGP status in 2006
The College of Education  
University of Alaska Anchorage

The College of Education (COE) is in its sixth year as a stand-alone college, having separated from the College of Health, Education and Social Welfare in 2002.

As one of UAA’s academic units, COE enrolls approximately 11.7 % of UAA’s student headcount, with 1,738 distinct individuals enrolled in COE courses in spring 2007.

COE offers 16 education programs, which are housed in three different departments. The largest department is the Department of Teaching and Learning (DTL). DTL programs include the Associate of Applied Science (AAS) in Early Childhood Development; Bachelor of Arts (BAEC) and Post-Bacc in Early Childhood Education; Bachelor of Arts (BAEL) and Post-Bacc in Elementary Education; Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT); and two proposed Occupational Endorsement Certificates in School-Age Care for practitioners and administrators.

The Department of Educational Leadership (EDL) offers graduate-level programs in the following options: Principal, Superintendent, and Teacher Leadership. The Teacher Leadership option is being initiated Spring 2008 in response to community and state demand. An M. Ed. in Adult Education is also offered.

The Department of Counseling and Special Education (CASE) offers graduate-level programs in Special Education; Early Childhood Special Education; Counselor Education; and leveling courses for the affiliated M. S. in Speech, Language and Auditory Pathology via a UAA-MOA with East Carolina University.

COE attracts a diverse and non-traditional student population and accommodates a high demand locally, state-wide, and nationally for qualified professionals in education and related services.

The typical COE student is a 35 year old white female. Eighty percent of Spring 2007 enrolled COE students are white and 80% are female. College-wide, 24% of COE students are under 25. Fifty-four percent of enrolled COE undergraduate students are under 25, while only 16% of professional (500 level) are.

Only a quarter of Alaska’s teacher and administrator vacancies are filled by new graduates of Alaska universities. Nearly 80% of vacancies go to job seekers from Outside. One-third of Alaska’s teachers and administrators, many of whom are baby boomers, will be eligible to retire between now and 2010. (Source: UAA ISER Alaska Teacher Supply and Demand Study) Recruitment efforts are critical to fill state-wide teacher vacancies.

For the past two years, COE has made a concerted effort to improve the quality and quantity of its distance-delivered courses. COE went from having 19% of its courses offered via distance in Spring 2006, to 32% in Spring 2007. College-wide, 49% of our
courses are offered via distance Fall 2007. This increase in distance delivery was intentionally designed to meet the needs of non-traditional students and those living outside of the Anchorage area.

In an effort to expand COE’s outreach to rural schools in Alaska, the college is following a distributed model of teacher preparation aided by partnerships with UAA’s community campuses (particularly KPC and KCC). COE plans to eventually offer the entire BAEL at the community campuses. The first two years will focus on General Education coursework at the community campus, and the remaining two years will be provided through a combination of distance-delivered coursework, site-arranged practica, upper-level courses taught by community campus faculty, and collaboration between COE/community campuses, and area schools.

In 2005, COE sought, and received initial national accreditation from the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE). Progress has been made in hiring doctorally-prepared faculty who join the college with successful teaching and research experience at other institutions. Programs have been charged with scrutinizing their admission and exit requirements to ensure equity and fairness. Additionally, virtually every program in the college has experienced major changes that have been made with an eye toward student recruitment, improved quality, and currency.

For the past three years, COE has hosted Future Teachers of Alaska. Members are middle and high school students from rural areas. This initiative, supported with UA Statewide funding, provides students from small, outlying districts with airfare and lodging so they can visit campus, meet with COE faculty and students, check out student housing, the bookstore, Native Student Services, etc. The College generally hosts between 60-100 students/year, most of whom are Alaska Native.

COE is actively pursuing agreements with universities in South Korea and China that would provide for faculty and student exchanges. The international institutions being considered have teacher preparation as their sole focus. While the College is exploring cultural exchanges and international internships for its students, the major benefit would be having Asian students attend COE classes to increase diversity and expand knowledge of international educational issues.

The Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT), which prepares middle and high school teachers, has broadened the scope of its offerings to include an alternative route to teacher certification that allows students to be in the classroom as certificated teachers while taking required coursework. The MAT is also working with the military (especially Fort Richardson and Elmendorf) through its alternative route to certification, as the program is offered completely online and provides an attractive option to military personnel who are separating from the service and considering a second career in education. The College has been a presence on the two bases for the past 18 months, providing programmatic information and advising.
It is difficult to gauge the impact our various initiatives have had on student enrollments, as the College has made many changes in the past four years. However, it is safe to say that recruitment efforts are paying off, as evidenced by the increase in student enrollments and number of student credit hours generated.

Chart 1

UAA COE Student Credit Hours by Academic Year (Excluding PACE)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Academic Year</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>8,893</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>9,528</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>9,208</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>10,275</td>
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In recent years COE has developed several new programs to meet stakeholder needs and to update curriculum and types of credentials offered. The Special Education program now has a Graduate Certificate in addition to the M. Ed. In September 2007, the Alaska State Board of Education and Early Development approved CASE’s proposal to allow initial certification in special education for completers of this graduate certificate program. The Anchorage School District will support student enrollment by providing stipends to qualified students. ASD and CASE have identified two primary pools for recruitment: a) regular teachers working in special education support roles, and b) special education paraprofessionals. To date, there are 70 interested individuals. This alternate route to special education certification is in direct response to the local, state, and national shortage of special educators.

The Teacher Leadership option in the M. Ed. in EDL was developed in response to high demand from districts and teachers. Many teachers are natural leaders in their schools in areas such as curriculum but professional preparation and development is desired. Students in this program are not necessarily interested in becoming school administrators but are interested in developing their leadership skills.

Two Occupational Endorsement Certificates in School-Age Care are awaiting approval by UA Statewide. These program offer preparation for providers and administrators of school-age care programs. The development of these programs is in direct response to the community’s need to provide quality before- and after-school care for children.
An Adult Education Graduate Certificate in e-Learning has been proposed to meet the requirements of professionals who need additional skills in delivering education and training via distance modes. There is strong interest in this program across the UAA campus. Students are taking courses as electives for other programs and for professional development in anticipation of the Graduate Certificate program’s approval.

The Alternative Routes to state teacher certification include outreach to military personnel, post-baccalaureate programs, and the MAT. The MAT and post-baccalaureate programs can be completed in as little as 1-1/2 years. In addition, we are exploring a partnership with other institutions through WICHE ICE to share courses in secondary science and mathematics.

The Educational Leadership program Principal Option prepares most of Alaska’s pool of candidates for school district administrative positions. Partnerships with the North Star (Fairbanks) and the Mat-Su Borough School Districts led to the creation of special cohorts with candidates selected by their districts. The cohorts receive a personally designed schedule.

UAA has taken the initiative to create new programs to meet state needs and collaborated with EED to pave the way for efficient and expanded state certification.

COE faculty has met frequently over the past several months to determine what we need to do to become “A College of Distinction”. We are working with our school and community partners in order to improve the quality of our engagement and deepen the college’s impact on Alaska’s children and learning communities. As educators, we learn for and from all of Alaska’s people and places.