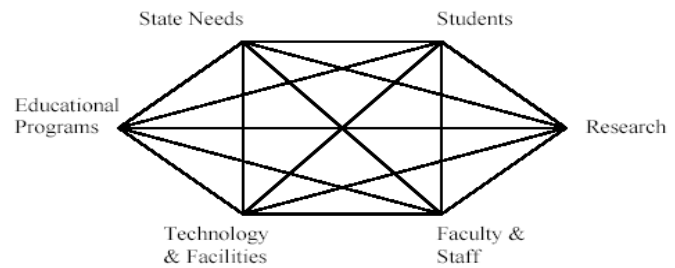


University of Alaska Board of Regents
Program Approval Summary Form

MAU: **University of Alaska Fairbanks**
Title: **Certificate in**
Allied Health:Pre-Nursing Qualifications
Target admission date: **Fall, 2009**



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

This program is proposed by the Division of Allied Health in the College of Rural and Community Development. It is supported by the University of Alaska Anchorage and by the Allied Health Alliance as a mechanism for identifying and advising students who are preparing for admission to the UAA AAS program in nursing. The Certificate is similar to one at UAS.

Data at UAF was used to determine the number of students seeking admission to the UAA AAS in nursing. That data includes admission to the Allied Health No Major status, the number of applicants to the program and advising information from nursing advisors and others. UAA school of nursing representatives reviewed the proposed certificate and suggested slight modifications to it. The Certificate was modeled after the UAS Certificate in Pre-Nursing Qualifications.

No impact is expected at programs across UAA since this is primarily a mechanism for identifying and advising a group of students who intend to apply to the UAA school of nursing for the AAS degree.

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

The need for nurses within the state is well-documented. According to the Alaska Department of Labor Statistics, there will be a 31.2% increase in the number of registered nurses employed between 2004 and 2014. That statistic means that an additional 1530 nurses will be needed.

In response to that need, Statewide UA and UAA collaborated to develop the distance delivered AAS in nursing. The success of that program has resulted in doubling the number of nurses trained in Alaska within the past 5 years. However, for students attending UAF while completing their general education and prerequisite courses, the career pathway has not been very clear. Problems with financial aid and advising remain frustrating for students. To date, students have selected several options: self-advisement, enrollment in degrees they do not intend to pursue, or enrolling as AHNM majors. Many obtain excellent advising through the nursing advisors at TVC; others flounder. Some enroll as UAA students, and then find that they are unable to enroll at UAF to complete their prerequisites or that their financial aid has been sent to Anchorage. We believe that the creation of the pre-nursing certificate will help direct students more seamlessly into the nursing career path and ensure that they receive excellent advising. The certificate will make it easier for students to apply for and receive financial aid. Lastly, the certificate will allow UAF to clearly identify and track the students who are pursuing nursing, and document the significant role UAF plays in their education.

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

The ultimate goal of this certificate is not actually the certificate in pre-nursing qualifications: no market for a pre-nursing certificate exists. However, there is substantial need for nurses in our state and in the nation. According to the Alaska Department of Labor (DOL) Statistics, there will be a 31.2% increase in the number of registered nurses employed between 2004 and 2014. That statistic means that an additional 1530 nurses will be needed. Students who complete the pre-nursing qualifications certificate and are not admitted to the UAA AAS nursing program will be able to work immediately as nurse aides (or other clinical practitioners, depending on course selection). The Alaska DOL estimates that between 2002 and 2012 there will be a 26% increase in the number of CNAs needed to accommodate aging of the current staff and growth of new staff. In addition, DOL projects a 42% increase in the number of Personal Care Attendants needed in the workplace. Locally, Denali Center and Pioneer Home are the largest employers of CNAs. Denali Center hires approximately 50 CNAs annually.

Describe **Research** opportunities:

Not applicable to this certificate program.

Describe Fiscal Plan for development and implementation:

We do not seek any additional funding in order to develop, implement or maintain this program. All courses currently exist and are taught on a routine basis. Those faculty are supported by general fund revenue. An administrative assistant provides support to the nursing program and to the nurse aide program. The technology, classroom, labs, and offices are available.