



**Board of Regents Program Action Request**  
**University of Alaska**  
Proposal to Add, Change, or Delete a Program of Study

1a. Major Academic Unit (choose one) UAA	1b. School or College School of Allied Health/College of Health	1c. Department Medical Imaging Science																																								
2. Complete Program Title Associate of Applied Science, Diagnostic Medical Sonography																																										
3. Type of Program <input type="checkbox"/> Undergraduate Certificate <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AA/AAS <input type="checkbox"/> Baccalaureate <input type="checkbox"/> Post-Baccalaureate Certificate <input type="checkbox"/> Master's <input type="checkbox"/> Graduate Certificate <input type="checkbox"/> Doctorate																																										
4. Type of Action <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Add <input type="checkbox"/> Change <input type="checkbox"/> Delete		5. Implementation date (semester, year) Fall, 2012																																								
6. Projected Revenue and Expenditure Summary. Not Required if the requested action is deletion. (Provide information for the 3 <sup>rd</sup> year after program approval if associate degree program. If information is provided for another year, specify and explain in the program summary attached). Note that Revenues and Expenditures are not always entirely new; some may be current (see 7d.)																																										
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Page # of attached summary where the budget is discussed, including initial phase-in: 3																																										
7. Budget Status. Items a., b., and c. indicate the source(s) of the General Fund revenue specified in item 6. If any grants or contracts will supply revenue needed by the program, indicate amount anticipated and expiration date, if applicable.																																										
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8. Facilities: New or substantially (>\$25,000 cost) renovated facilities will be required. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No																																										

<sup>1</sup>Sometimes the courses required by a new degree or certificate program are already being taught by an MAU, e.g., as a minor requirement. Similarly, other program needs like equipment may already be owned. 100% of the value is indicated even though the course or other resource may be shared.

9. Projected enrollments (headcount of majors). If this is a program deletion request, project the teach out enrollments.

Year 1: 10	Year 2: 10	Year 3: 10	Year 4: 10
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Page number of attached summary where demand for this program is discussed: 1

10. Number\* of new TA or faculty hires anticipated (or number of positions eliminated if a program deletion):

Graduate TA	0
Adjunct	1
Term	1
Tenure track	0

11. Number\* of TAs or faculty to be reassigned:

Graduate TA	0
Adjunct	0
Term	0
Tenure track	0

Former assignment of any reassigned faculty: n/a  
For more information see page 2 of the attached summary.

12. Other programs affected by the proposed action, including those at other MAUs (please list):

Program Affected	Anticipated Effect	Program Affected	Anticipated Effect
None		None	

Page number of attached summary where effects on other programs are discussed: 1

13. Specialized accreditation or other external program certification needed or anticipated. List all that apply or 'none':  
Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP)

14. Aligns with University or campus mission, goals, core themes, and objectives (list): 1. Provide educational opportunity; 2. Prepares health care professionals for workforce, in a high-demand career area; 3. Develop new and relevant programs; 4. Meet Alaska's current and projected workforce needs.  
Page in attached summary where alignment is discussed: 1

15. State needs met by this program (list): The 2009 Alaska Health Workforce Vacancy Study conducted by the Alaska Center for Rural Health (ACRH) and the Institute of Social and Economic Research (ISER) reported a 20% vacancy rate in the field of Diagnostic Medical Sonography.

Page in the attached summary where the state needs to be met are discussed: 1

16. Program is initially planned to be: (check all that apply)

- Available to students attending classes at Anchorage campus(es).
- Available to students via e-learning.
- Partially available students via e-learning.

Page # in attached summary where e-learning is discussed: 1

Submitted by the University of Alaska Anchorage with the concurrence of its Faculty Senate.

  
Provost

12/24/12  
Date

  
Chancellor

127 Feb 2012  
Date

- Recommend Approval
- Recommend Disapproval

\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_  
UA Vice President for Academic Affairs on behalf of the Statewide Academic Council Date

- Recommend Approval
- Recommend Disapproval

\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair, Academic and Student Affairs Committee Date

- Recommend Approval
- Recommend Disapproval

\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_  
UA President Date

- Approved
- Disapproved

\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair, Board of Regents Date

\*Net FTE (full-time equivalents). For example, if a faculty member will be reassigned from another program, but his/her original program will hire a replacement, there is one net new faculty member. Use fractions if appropriate. Graduate TAs are normally 0.5 FTE. The numbers should be consistent with the revenue/expenditure information provided.

Attachments:  Summary of Degree or Certificate Program Proposal

Other (optional)

This is a summary of a full prospectus. The full prospectus is available upon request.

**1. Relationship of the proposed program relative to the Educational mission of the University of Alaska and the MAU.**

The Diagnostic Medical Sonography (DMS) AAS degree program, also known as Ultrasound, directly aligns with UAA's 2017 strategic plan, specifically the goals in Strategic Priority A which relate to educational quality and responsiveness to state needs, by preparing health care workers in a high-demand area. The DMS program contributes to the overall goal of the university to "grow its own" health care workforce, and to provide continuing education for currently employed healthcare workers.

**2. History of the development of the proposed program.**

This DMS program was created to address workforce needs, in response to requests from health care industry partners. The Radiologic Technology Advisory Board and the Alaska State Hospital and Nursing Home Association have requested a DMS program for the past six years. Additionally, inquiries regarding the availability of a sonography (ultrasound) program within UA are common, from prospective students as well as health care industry partners. Currently, students must attend a school outside of Alaska to receive an education in the field of sonography.

The academic program, objectives, learning outcomes, and assessment plan were developed following the standards and guidelines for academic DMS programs, established by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP). The program will operate under a cohort model with new cohorts of ten students starting every two years. The first year will consist of didactic and laboratory instruction, and the second clinical practicums.

**3. Impact of the proposed program on existing UA programs, including the GER.**

The impact on other academic units should be minimal since the program is not projecting significant numbers of new students enrolling, using existing available course capacity; it is anticipated that many of the students will have completed the general university courses and pre-requisite courses while enrolled in other majors.

**4. State needs met by the proposed program.**

The health care industry is the fastest growing industry in the state and this is projected to continue through the next ten years. In 2009, the *Alaska Healthcare Workforce Vacancy*

*Study* reported a vacancy rate for medical sonographers of approximately 20 percent, and over 50 percent of current sonographers were age 45 or older. Vacancies that go unfilled for an extended period of time are often deleted, which strains staff and accelerates burnout.

## **5. Student opportunities, outcomes, and enrollment projections.**

Graduates of the DMS program will be prepared to work in a variety of health care settings from doctor's offices to medical centers. Student learning outcomes, developed using the above-referenced CAAHEP standards and guidelines, will include entry-level knowledge of physics, anatomy, physiology, and pathophysiology related to sonography. Students will be competent in the performance of general sonography procedures, patient care activities, communication in a healthcare setting, and professional and ethical judgment.

Because of the hands-on nature of the program and the need to coordinate clinical training with medical facilities around the state, the program will operate under a cohort model with a new cohort of ten students beginning every two years. In the fifth year, the program expects to have enrolled a total of 30 students, including two completed cohorts of ten and an additional new cohort of ten actively enrolled in the program.

## **6. Faculty and staff workload implications.**

The program requires one full-time faculty, Ryan Parnell, who is currently serving in a 9-month bipartite position during program development. Mr. Parnell is a registered diagnostic medical sonographer who has 16 years' experience in the field, as well as teaching experience. This position will change to a full-time teaching assignment beginning Fall 2012 when the first students are enrolled. Adjunct faculty will be hired during the first year to teach one didactic class, one laboratory course, and a summer practicum course.

## **7. Fiscal Plan for the proposed program.**

Financial projections are based on the need for one full-time faculty and a small budget for commodities and contractual. The faculty will be required to travel to clinical rotation sites, some of which will be outside of Anchorage, for initial assessment of the site and for evaluation of students.

Tuition revenue will be generated and lab fees will be collected for consumables. Table ES7.1 reflects this projected revenue for tuition and fees based on the expected program enrollments. After revenue generated through tuition and fees, the balance of program expenses will be paid through other revenue sources. Alaska Technical Vocational Education Program (TVEP) funds in the amount of \$94,370 were received for FY12, and an application for FY 13 TVEP funds has been submitted. The College of Health will submit a request through UAA's budget process for additional General Funds (GF) for FY14. The School of Allied Health is committed to funding any expenses for this program not covered by tuition and fees through reallocation of current appropriations if TVEP funding or new GF funding is not secured.