

Peer comparisons are useful in establishing how well the University of Alaska (UA) or its campuses compare on given measures to institutions of like size, mission, and organization. Peer comparisons are also useful in targeting best practices. UA Data Analysis and Institutional Research prepares and utilizes several peer groups for comparison studies. Choosing an appropriate peer group should take into account the particular study and information requested. Peer analyses are intended to allow for uniform and consistent comparisons among institutions. However, definitional and reporting differences often exist between universities. As a result, the analyses are most useful for examining aggregate relationships, averages, or trends in the data rather than distinct and specific values in any one category.

Group 1 – Student Enrollment/Resource Allocation Peers

The Student Enrollment/Resource Allocation Peer group is used compare the UA System to other public university systems, covering a broad mission spectrum of community college through Ph.D. instruction to include significant research. Peer financial information can be found through the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) using definitions consistent with annual financial statement presentation for all universities with students receiving federal financial aid. From this information, UA can be compared to other public university systems in several common expenditure and revenue categories. However, in any one category definitional or reporting differences may exist among peer institutions. This group of peer institutions is further subdivided by student enrollment: student FTE under 30,000 between 30,000 and 60,000, and student FTE over 60,000. UA has a student FTE of approximately 16,000.

Student FTE Under 30,000

Montana University System
Southern Illinois University System
University of Maine System

Student FTE Between 30,000 and 60,000

Idaho State Board of Education
University of Colorado
University of Hawai'i System
University of Houston System
University of Iowa
University of Massachusetts System
University of Missouri System
University of Nebraska

Student FTE Over 60,000

Florida Board of Governors
Oregon University System
University of Louisiana System
University and Community College System of Nevada
University of North Carolina
University of Texas System
University of Wisconsin System
University System of Maryland
Utah System of Higher Education

Group 2 – University-Selected Peer Comparison Group

Just as the UA system peer group allows for comparisons with other systems, university-selected peer comparison groups are used to offer informational inquiry at the university and main campus levels. For example, when investigating how UAF faculty and staff levels compare to their peers, the peer group listed above for the UA system would not provide a reasonable comparison. As a result, each university has a set of self-selected peer institutions that are of similar size, mission, Carnegie classification, and program breadth. Community characteristics such as population and urbanization are also considered. Depending on the analyses some peers may be excluded because of lack of data. Also, for narrowing or expediting a given analysis, a subset of the university-selected peer groups may be

University of Alaska Peer Institution Groups

chosen. The University-Selected Peer Comparison Groups are reviewed and updated annually by each university's designated Keyholder via the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS). Below is the list of peer institutions self-identified by UAA, UAF and UAS as of August 2023.

University of Alaska Anchorage

Arizona State University Digital Immersion
Arkansas State University
Arkansas Tech University
College of Staten Island CUNY
Colorado Mesa University
Eastern New Mexico University-
Main Campus
Idaho State University
Lamar University
New Mexico Highlands University
Southeastern Oklahoma State University
Texas A & M University-
Commerce
Texas Woman's University
The University of West Florida
University of Alabama at Birmingham
University of North Georgia
Utah Tech University
Utah Valley University
Weber State University

University of Alaska Fairbanks*

Clemson University (Research)
Kansas State University (Research)
Mississippi State University (Research)
Montana State University - Bozeman (Research, Academic)
Oregon State University (Research, Academic)
University of Delaware (Research)
University of Idaho (Research, Academic)
University of New Hampshire-
Main Campus (Research)
University of Rhode Island (Research)
University of Vermont (Research)
Utah State University (Research, Academic)
Idaho State University (Academic)
New Mexico State University-
Main Campus (Academic)
North Dakota State University-
Main Campus (Academic)
Oklahoma State University-
Main Campus (Academic)
The University of Montana (Academic)
University of Maine (Academic)
University of Nevada-Reno (Academic)
University of Wyoming (Academic)

University of Alaska Southeast

Cameron University
Louisiana State University-
Alexandria
Mayville State University
Montana State University Billings
New Mexico Highlands University
Northern New Mexico College
Rogers State University
University of Maine at Augusta
University of Maine at Fort Kent
Western New Mexico University

*UAF designates two sets of peer institutions - Academic and Research

Group 3 – Competitive Peers

Another peer group includes states and universities viewed as competitors to the University of Alaska. Alaska has one of the highest negative net migration rates in the nation, i.e., net number of students leaving the state to pursue post-secondary training, behind only the District of Columbia and Hawaii (US Census Bureau, Census 2000 Special Reports). Alaska continues to be one of the highest exporters of recent high school graduates. Increasing the number of Alaska high school graduates who choose to remain in Alaska and obtain their higher education from the University of Alaska has historically been UA’s goal. The seven institutions that were identified as having historically attracted the most Alaska high school graduates comprise UA’s competitive peers.

- University of Idaho
- Eastern Washington University
- University of Nevada-Reno
- University of Nevada-Las Vegas
- Montana State University-Bozeman
- Colorado State University
- University of Oregon

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Group 4 – Community Campus Peers

Peer comparisons are also useful in establishing how well individual University of Alaska Community Campuses compare on given measures to institutions of like size, mission, and organization. Based on an analysis of significant demographic, economic, and institutional variables the following taxonomy was agreed upon for use in community campus peer comparisons. The same taxonomy was used for developing the University of Alaska Community Campuses peer institutions lists.

| <u>Type A</u> | <u>Type B</u> |
|---------------|------------------------------|
| Kenai/Homer | Kodiak |
| Mat Su | Prince William Sound College |
| UAF CTC | Ketchikan |
| | Northwest |
| | Sitka |
| | Bristol Bay |
| | Chukchi |
| | Interior |
| | Kuskokwim |

Kenai/Homer, Mat Su, and UAF CTC comprise the Type A University of Alaska Community Campuses. They are in urban areas with populations of less than 60,000. The Type A campuses have headcounts ranging from 1,500 to 4,000. There are 34 institutions in the UA Type A community campus peer group. The Institutions in the Type A peer group represent public or private non-profit 2-year institutions that are found in urban areas with similar-size populations below and with a student enrollment (FTE) of 1,300 to 4,000 (See table 4a).

The remaining community campuses, all much smaller than Type A campuses, comprise the Type B University of Alaska community campuses. They are found in small isolated areas with populations of less than 12,000. The Type B campuses have headcounts ranging from 200 to 1,000. There are 51 institutions in the UA Type B community campus peer group. The institutions in the Type B peer group represent public or private non-profit 2-year institutions that are found in small urban areas with populations of less than 12,000, with a student enrollment (FTE) of 600 to 1,700, or rural areas near Native American or Alaska Native population concentrations with a student enrollment (FTE) of 800 or less (See table 4b).

Table 4a. University of Alaska Type A Community Campus Peer Group

| | |
|---|---|
| Alexandria Technical College MN | Mid Plains Community College NE |
| Bay De Noc Community College MI | Morgan Community College CO |
| Big Bend Community College WA | North Central Missouri College MO |
| Blue Mountain Community College OR | North Dakota State College of Science ND |
| Cascadia Community College WA | Northwest Community College WY |
| Central Lakes College-Brainerd MN | Northwestern Connecticut Community College CT |
| Central Maine Community College ME | Pierce College at Puyallup WA |
| Central Ohio Technical College OH | Sheridan College WY |
| Clatsop Community College OR | Snow College UT |
| Dine College AZ | Southern Maine Community College ME |
| Eastern Wyoming College WY | Southwest Kansas Technical School KS |
| Gogebic Community College MI | Southwest Wisconsin Technical College WI |
| Hibbing Community College MN | Southwestern Community College IA |
| Kennebec Valley Community College ME | Trinidad State Junior College CO |
| Lake Washington Technical College WA | West Shore Community College MI |
| Luna Community College NM | Western Nebraska Community College NE |
| Mesabi Range Community & Technical College MN | Western Wyoming Community College WY |

Table 4b. University of Alaska Type B Community Campus Peer Group

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|---|---|
| Bay Mills Community College MI | Kent State University-Geauga Campus OH |
| Blackfeet Community College MT | Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa Community College WI |
| Cankdeska Cikana Community College ND | Lamar Community College CO |
| Chief Dull Knife College MT | Leech Lake Tribal College MN |
| Clarendon College TX | Linn State Technical College MO |
| College of Menominee Nation WI | Little Big Horn College MT |
| Columbia Gorge Community College OR | Little Priest Tribal College NE |
| Crownpoint Institute of Technology NM | Mesabi Range Community & Technical College MN |
| DIN-E College AZ | Minot State University-Bottineau Campus ND |
| Eastern New Mexico University-Ruidoso NM | Nebraska Indian Community College NE |
| Eastern Wyoming College WY | New Mexico State University-Grants NM |
| Fond Du Lac Tribal and Community College MN | North Central Missouri College MO |
| Fort Belknap College MT | York County Community College ME |

Table 4b. University of Alaska Type B Community Campus Peer Group – Continued

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|--|---|
| Fort Berthold Community College ND | Northland Pioneer College AZ |
| Fort Peck Community College MT | Northwest Community College WY |
| Gogebic Community College MI | Northwest Iowa Community College IA |
| Independence Community College KS | Northwestern Connecticut Community College CT |
| Itasca Community College MN | Pine Technical College MN |
| Kennebec Valley Community College ME | Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College MI |
| San Juan College NM | Sisseton-Wahpeton Community College SD |
| Sitting Bull College ND | Vermillion Community College MN |
| Southwestern Community College IA | West Shore Community College MI |
| Stone Child College MT | Western Wyoming Community College WY |
| University of Arkansas Community College Hope AR | York County Community College ME |
| University of New Mexico-Los Alamos Campus NM | |

Additional Peer Comparison Groups

Additionally, other unique peer groups are useful for topic studies. These include the following:

- Western States comparison – Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming. These states face some of the same challenges that Alaska does in terms of distance, rural access, and economy. UA’s breadth of degree offerings has been compared to those of all public institutions with these states.
- National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS) Peers- based on the NCHEMS Institutional Classification. These peer groups are mainly used to compare institutional financial ratios and characteristics. They are listed below:

| UAA | UAF | UAS |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Austin Peay State University | Clemson University | Cheyney University of |
| Boise State University | Montana State University | Pennsylvania |
| CUNY College of Staten Island | New Mexico State University- | Coppin State University |
| Eastern Kentucky University | Main Campus | Georgia Southwestern State |
| Indiana State University | North Dakota State | University |
| Indiana University-Fort Wayne | University-Main Campus | Johnson State College |
| McNeese State University | University of Arkansas | Northern State University |
| Northwestern State University | University of Idaho | Sul Ross State University |
| Of Louisiana | University of Maine | Texas A & M University- |
| Purdue University-Calumet | University of New | Texarkana |
| Campus | Hampshire-Main Campus | University of Houston- |
| Troy University | University of Wyoming | Victoria |
| University of Alaska Anchorage | Utah State University | Western New Mexico |
| University of North Florida | | University |
| University of Southern Maine | | |
| Wichita State University | | |