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 Strategy & IR 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 Student FTE Over 60,000

Montana University System Florida Board of Governors

Southern Illinois University System Oregon University System

University of Maine System University of Louisiana System

University and Community College System of Nevada

Student FTE Between 30,000 and 60,000 University of North Carolina

Idaho State Board of Education University of Texas System

University of Colorado University of Wisconsin System

University of Hawai’i System University System of Maryland

University of Houston System Utah System of Higher Education

University of Iowa

University of Massachusetts System

University of Missouri System

University of Nebraska

**Group 2 – University-Selected Peers**

Just as the UA system peer group allows for comparisons with other systems, university-selected peer 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 chosen.

The University-Selected Peer Groups are reviewed and updated annually by each university’s Institutional Research Officer. The table below lists self-selected peer institutions for UAA, UAF and UAS as of March 2020.

University of Alaska Anchorage

Arizona State University-Skysong

Arkansas State University-Main Campus

Arkansas Tech University

California University of Pennsylvania

College of Staten Island CUNY

Colorado Mesa University

Dixie State 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 Valley University

Weber State University

University of Alaska Fairbanks\*

*Research Peers-*

Clemson University

Kansas State University

Mississippi State University

Montana State University-

Bozeman

New Mexico State University-

Main Campus

Oregon State University

University of Delaware

University of Idaho

University of New Hampshire

University of Rhode Island

University of Vermont

Utah State University

*Academic Peers-*

Idaho State University

Montana State University-

Bozeman

New Mexico State University-

Main Campus

North Dakota State University-

Main Campus

Oregon State University

The University of Montana

University of Idaho

University of Maine

University of Nevada-Reno

University of Wyoming

Utah State University

University of Alaska Southeast

Adams State University

Colorado Mesa University

Dakota State University

Eastern Oregon University

Great Basin College

Northern New Mexico College

Oglala Lakota College

Sul Ross State University

The University of Texas of

the Permian Basin

University of Hawai’i - Hilo

\*Note – UAF peer list consists of ‘Research’ and ‘Academic’ peer groups

**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

**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.

Type A Type B

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 1).

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**

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 Country Community College ME

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

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

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, UA Data Strategy & IR uses unique peer groups for specific 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