

**Accreditation Report to the Summit Team**  
**Paul Layer, Vice President for Academics, Students & Research**  
**March 14, 2019**

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UAS, UAF and UAA have provided updates to their intuitional (NWCCU) and specialized accreditations. This is an update to the annual report presented to the Board of Regents at their September meeting.

**University of Alaska Southeast**  
**Karen Carey, Provost**

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**Update on Institutional Accreditation (NWCCU):**

UAS will undergo an accreditation site visit on April 24, 25, and 26, 2019. The nine-member evaluation team has received the self-study and the site visit itinerary is in development. On February 26 Karen Carey, the Accreditation Liaison Officer, received an email from Mac Powell as the NWCCU requesting additional follow-up from information submitted to IPEDS.

Specifically the Commission is asking UAS to respond to the following:

- What are the key challenges of the institution related to the institution's graduation rate and other data provided?
- What is the institution doing to improve graduation rates?
- What initiatives appear to be effective in improving graduation rates?
- What might accreditors do to assist institutions to improve graduation rates?

The Institutional Effectiveness Director at UAS is currently reviewing the information provided to IPEDS and UAS should have a response to the Commission no later than March 15.

**Updates on specialized or programmatic accreditations at UAS:**

UAS will be submitting the self-study for CAEP on March 4, 2019 with a site visit to occur in November 2019. A consultant was hired to assist UAS with the process.

The Health Information Management Program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management Education (CAHIIM) will be due for accreditation review in 2020/2021.

The Medical Assisting program was accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs in May 2017 with the next accreditation to occur in 2022.

**Update on Institutional Accreditation (NWCCU):**

UAF will undergo an accreditation site visit on September 23-25, 2019.

A 35-member team has been working on the Mission Fulfillment Report since the fall. The team has produced rough drafts of the five sections of the report and will be working over the next weeks to bring together a completed draft.

On March 4 Chancellor White, Provost Prakash, and five members of UAF's accreditation steering committee attended a training with the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities to help us refine our comprehensive self-study report. Provost Prakash and Accreditation Liaison Officer Fitts attended an additional training that introduced the upcoming revised standards for accreditation.

**Updates on specialized or programmatic accreditations at UAF:**

*School of Management (AACSB Accreditation)*

UAF has the highest level of business accreditation from AACSB International. The School of Management (SOM) has both the business programs accredited and has the specialized accounting accreditation (the only school in Alaska that has the AACSB specialized accounting accreditation). Just 187 schools worldwide have this dual AACSB accreditation (1.5%).

The accreditation is on a five-year cycle and there are 14 business standards, and an additional 6 accounting standards, that must be met. The SOM next review is Sept 29 to Oct 1, 2019 when a site visit by two business school deans and two accounting directors will take place. SOM has been in contact with the team for several months, has filed a draft of the school report and has nearly completed a draft of the accounting report, all well ahead of schedule.

So far, all is going well. The only area of concern that the school has pertains to Business and Accounting Standard 3, which deals with financial sustainability. Given the uncertainty of the budget climate, it is difficult to address this question in great detail. The final accreditation reports are due in June so we are hoping to have more clarity by that point.

There are no other significant accreditation activities to report.

**Update on Institutional Accreditation (NWCCU):**

**UAA Regional Accreditation Reaffirmed:** At its meeting on January 9-11, 2019 the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) reaffirmed UAA's regional accreditation.

**Previous Recommendations:** There were two previous recommendations. Both of these were fulfilled and no further actions are required.

**The Commission commended UAA for:**

1. An inclusive planning process for UAA 2020, which brought the campuses together in an unprecedented joint effort focused on Student Success.
2. Its culture of diversity and inclusivity, especially in relationship to Alaska Native communities.
3. Its commitment to community engagement and the Public Square.
4. Its extensive assessment efforts related to student learning. Faculty exhibit robust ownership and leadership in assessing academic programs, and also engage proactively in the multifaceted assessment of General Education.

**The Commission recommended that UAA:**

1. Expand efforts around institutional planning of graduate programs to demonstrate their academic quality and role in mission fulfillment. (Standard 2.C.12)
2. Continue the focus on collaborative Student Success efforts to raise low graduation and retention rates and support Mission Fulfillment. (Standard 5.B.1)

**Future Evaluations:**

- Spring 2020: Mission and Core Themes Report with an addendum to address Recommendations 1 and 2 of the Fall 2018 Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability Peer-Evaluation Report.
- Fall 2021: Mid-Cycle Evaluation and visit.
- Fall 2025: Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability Evaluation and visit.

**UAA has taken the following steps to address the NWCCU recommendations:**

*Recommendation 1: Expand efforts around institutional planning of graduate programs to demonstrate their academic quality and role in mission fulfillment. (Standard 2.C.12)*

**Fall 2018:** Engaged the Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) to consult on the development of graduate programs; Separated the role of the Dean of Graduate Studies from the Vice Provost for Research.

**Spring 2019:** CGS consultative site visit (March 4-6); Working group will be established to act on the recommendations that emerge from the visit.

*Recommendation 2: Continue the focus on collaborative Student Success efforts to raise low graduation and retention rates and support Mission Fulfillment. (Standard 5.B.1)*

**Fall 2018:**

Implemented **EAB Navigate Advising Platform** and student facing mobile app **Seawolf Tracks**; launched **First Year Student Advising and Success** office and programming; designed mandatory orientation, advising, and registration event for new degree-seeking students; enhanced programming for financially vulnerable students; developing Academic Pathways to streamline the first year experience; Vice Provost for Student Success outreach and communication effort.

**Spring 2018:**

Expanded upon the utilization of **Seawolf Tracks** (EAB Navigate) tools, including piloting faculty progress reports and early alerts, piloting academic advising appointment campaigns, and training community campus advising units, UAA residence life and student support offices. Since the Fall 2018 launch of our EAB tools, **Seawolf Tracks**, advisor adoption has increased by 58% with over 9,000 appointment reports logged, now securing nearly 100% professional advisor adoption; over 1500 first year students downloaded the mobile app, and Spring 2019 promotional plans to highlight the advising appointment scheduling will seek to increase app downloads among first year and returning students.

Developed an **Academic Advising Steering Committee** to provide strategic direction, policy recommendations, and implementation strategies that support student success through consistent and comprehensive advising across UAA.

The UAA **Academic Pathways Steering Committee** developed **first year course maps and advisor resources** for 10 baccalaureate pathways. These course maps are customized for each student based on interest area (e.g., Business, Engineering), and preparation for writing and math. The course maps have all first year students seeking a bachelor's degree aiming to complete their Tier 1 (quantitative, written communication and oral communication skills) requirements in their first 30 credits. Held six open forums with faculty and staff (primarily academic advisors) to disseminate information about the implementation of Academic Pathways in January and February 2019. First Year Advisors will start using the pathways In April 2019 to advise incoming degree-seeking freshman.

The Chancellor charged an **Alaska Native Student Success Task Force** to make recommendations on the structure, function, activities, and programs to support Alaska Native student success through a reimagined Native Student Services program. The Task Force recommendations are due to the Chancellor by April 30, 2019.

**Ongoing:**

**SAVVY SEAWOLF-** The nationally recognized financial literacy program in UAA's Office of Financial Assistance tackles the foundational challenges students face on a daily basis regarding fiscal planning and responsible borrowing. Teaching vulnerable students how to manage their financial resources more effectively helps alleviate the burden of uncertainty when it comes to the balance of paying for school, managing transportation needs, food insecurity and all of those holistic necessities students must consider for an academic/life balance.

**Financial Aid Counseling-** targeted outreach to UAA's more vulnerable student populations to help remove barriers to successful matriculation and perseverance, helping them overcome the challenges often associated with navigating the financial aid process. This initiative offers targeted outreach to students who are at risk of homelessness, first generation students, and those who come from vulnerable socio-economic backgrounds as defined by the FAFSA need methodology. In spring 2019 additional coordination with accounting services was implemented to assist those students who are finding difficulties paying their bill; in person assistance in our Native Student Services and Multi-cultural Center areas each week contributes to meet the needs of potential financially vulnerable populations as well.

**Financial Aid Leveraging:** using institutional aid to funnel resources toward our typically vulnerable populations based on need methodology and self-reported documented circumstances. Focusing aid toward narrowing the gap between traditional need-based aid sources offered to our most vulnerable students and their direct costs, allowing them to meet those direct costs and still have non-need based resources available for the indirect costs of education such as housing, food, and maintenance.

**Updates on specialized or programmatic accreditations at UAA:**

See attached table.

**UA System Specialized Accreditation  
UAA Update for Paul Layer 3-7-2019**

University	unit: school or college	department	programs	accrediting body	date of initial accreditation	next review/ review cycle	current status	comments	Pre-Self Study meetings with OAA (dates and comments)	Issues/Concerns	Leads
UAA	CBPP	Accounting & Finance; Economics & Public Policy; Information Systems & Decision Sciences; Management & Marketing	Accounting BBA; Economics BA, BBA; Finance BBA; General Management MBA; Global Logistics and Supply Chain Management BBA; Global Supply Chain Management MS; Management BBA; Management Information Systems BBA; Marketing BBA	Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business – International (AACSB)	1995	2020	Ongoing	No current recommendations requiring response before next regular review; Self-study due 1/1/20 for 3/1/20-3/3/20 site visit.	2-14-2019 OAA meeting with the dean and associate dean; CBPP confirmed the timeline for the self-study report and site visit; the data is compiled and being analyzed; work is progressing and on track; AACSB concerns related to assurance of learning and the MBA, the BA ECON and the MS Global Supply Chain were addressed in an interim report from January 2017 and will be addressed in the self-study; Current CBPP concerns center on resource issues as they relate to the balance of faculty expertise, professional focus and workloads as defined by AACSB. There will need to be strategic hires following several upcoming retirements. The Continuous Improvement Review (CIR) Peer Review Team Chair will conduct a pre-visit on September 20th, 2019 with the CBPP.	Resources -- As part of the AACSB continuous improvement review (CIR) the Peer Review Team (PRT) will review financial strategies and allocation of resources of the CBPP; Faculty Classification -- The CBPP currently meets the AACSB classification ratios, but upcoming retirements must be addressed strategically to maintain these classification being met; Assurance of Learning (AoL) -- The CBPP has developed and incorporated a strategic AoL process, but will still need to demonstrate faculty active participation	CBPP Dean Karen Markel; Associate Dean Christina McDowell
UAA	CAS	Psychology	Clinical-Community Psychology PhD	American Psychological Association (APA)	2011	2019	Awaiting findings from AY19 review	APA does not allow publication or discussion of details.			CAS Dean John Petraitis; Psychology Director Eric Murphy; Professor Vivian Gonzalez
UAA	CoEng	Computer Science & Engineering	Computer Science BS	Computing Accreditation Commission of ABET	2011	2019	Awaiting findings from AY19 review	ABET does not allow publication or discussion of details.			CoEng Dean Kenrick Mock; Professor Frank Moore
UAA	COH	Justice Center	Legal Studies BA, Minor; Legal Nurse Consultant Paralegal UC; Paralegal Studies AAS, PBCT	American Bar Association (ABA)	1992	2022	Ongoing	"Approval" rather than accreditation. No current recommendations requiring response before next regular review; Regularly scheduled Interim Report due 9/1/19.	Meeting with OAA being scheduled. There are no current recommendations resulting from the previous self-study.		COH Dean Jeff Jessee; Associate Dean Andre Rosay; Justice Center Director Brad Myrstor; Professor Kristin Knudsen
UAA	COH	School of Nursing	Nursing Practice, DNP	Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE)	2017	2022	Ongoing	No current recommendations requiring response before next regular review; Regularly-scheduled Continuous Improvement Progress Report due 12/1/19.	Meeting with OAA being scheduled. There are no current recommendations resulting from the previous self-study.		COH Dean Jeff Jessee; Associate Dean Andre Rosay; School of Nursing Director Marianne Murray; Professor Pam Grogan
UAA	COH/MSC	Matanuska-Susitna College	Paramedical Technology AAS delivered at UAA's Matanuska-Susitna College	Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) upon the recommendation of the Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the Emergency Medical Services Professions (CoAEMSP)	2015	2020	Awaiting findings from AY19 review	No issues noted by evaluators.		Received conflicting guidance from CoAEMSP on requirement to publish annual outcomes (Policy IV.D.). Program is seeking clarification to ensure full compliance at both MSC and KPC locations.	COH Dean Jeff Jessee; Associate Dean Andre Rosay; MSC Director Talis Colberg; Professor Dane Wallace
UAA	COH/KPC	Kenai Peninsula College	Paramedical Technology AAS delivered at UAA's Kenai Peninsula College	Commission on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the Emergency Medical Services Professions (CoAEMSP)	Seeking initial accreditation	2019	3/6/18 CoAEMSP Letter of Review signifying that a program seeking initial accreditation has demonstrated sufficient compliance with the accreditation standards	Self-study for initial accreditation due 4/1/19 with site visit to follow (dates TBD)	1-31-2019 OAA meeting with associate dean, assistant community campus director and faculty lead. Draft self-study has been submitted to the College of Health. College of Health has provided detailed feedback on the self-study, and the program is in the process of incorporating the feedback.	The 2016-17 cohort failed to meet the 70% student retention threshold set by CoAEMSP. Only 40% of students graduated.	COH Dean Jeff Jessee; Associate Dean Andre Rosay; KPC Director Gary Turner; Professor Paul Perry
UAA	COH	School of Allied Health	Physical Therapist Assistant AAS	Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE)	2014	2020	Ongoing	No current recommendations requiring response before next regular review; Self-Study due 2/26/20 for 4/26/20 - 4/29/20 site visit.	2-26-2019 OAA meeting with the COH associate dean, school of allied health director, and the faculty lead. Self-study scheduled to be drafted in summer. There are no current recommendations resulting from the previous self-study.		COH Dean Jeff Jessee; Associate Dean Andre Rosay; School of Allied Health Director LeeAnne Carrothers; Professor Leah Wilsey