



Academic Affairs  
UNIVERSITY of ALASKA ANCHORAGE

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Date: December 20, 2019

To: Paul Layer, Vice President for Academics, Students, and Research

From: John Stalvey, Interim Provost, University of Alaska Anchorage

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John R. Stalvey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped 'J' and 'S'.

Subject: Proposed Associate of Arts in Alaska Native Studies

In response to student demand and to better support the success of Alaska Native students, the College of Arts and Sciences is proposing an Associate of Arts in Alaska Native Studies (AA in AKNS). The Alaska Native Studies AA program prepares students for entry-level positions with Alaska organizations requiring general knowledge of Alaska Native cultures, languages, arts, histories, and politics. It provides students with a critical and dynamic perspective on Alaska Native cultures, histories, politics, and organizations. The AA provides a valuable opportunity for students interested in exploring their options in higher education and/or employment with an Alaska Native organization. By completing the General Education Requirements, the AA in AKNS also provides a foundation for a baccalaureate degree in the arts, humanities, and social sciences.

Existing funding is sufficient for this program, which is supported by current faculty and coursework already in place for the Alaska Native Studies minor.

The program proposal has been approved by the faculty, dean, and appropriate UAA curriculum committees and Faculty Senate.

*Attachments: BOR Program Action Request; Prospectus*



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

1a. UA University UAA	1b. School or College CAS	1c. Department or Program Alaska Native Studies																																								
2. Complete Program Title: Associate of Arts in Alaska Native Studies																																										
3. Type of Program <input type="checkbox"/> Undergraduate Certificate <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Associate <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"/> Discontinue	5. Implementation date (semester, year) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fall <input type="checkbox"/> Spring <input type="checkbox"/> Summer    Year 2020																																									
6. Projected Revenue and Expenditure Summary (not required if the requested action is discontinuation). Provide information for the 5 <sup>th</sup> year after program change approval if a baccalaureate or doctoral degree program; for the 3 <sup>rd</sup> year after program approval if a master's or associate degree program; or for the 2 <sup>nd</sup> year after program approval if a graduate or undergraduate certificate. If information is provided for another year, specify (1st) and explain in the program summary attached. Note that revenues and expenditures are not always entirely new; some may be current (see 7d.)																																										
<table border="1" style="width:100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2" style="text-align: left;">Projected Annual Revenues in FY 24</th> <th colspan="2" style="text-align: left;">Projected Annual Expenditures in FY 24</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td colspan="2"><b>Unrestricted</b></td> <td>Salaries &amp; benefits (faculty and staff)</td> <td>\$464,277</td> </tr> <tr> <td>General Fund</td> <td>\$</td> <td>Other (commodities, services, etc.)</td> <td>\$ 8,326</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Student Tuition &amp; Fees</td> <td>\$275,368</td> <td><b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b></td> <td>\$472,603</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Indirect Cost Recovery</td> <td>\$n/a</td> <td>One-time Expenditures to Initiate Program (if &gt;\$250,000)</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>TVEP or Other (specify):</td> <td>\$n/a</td> <td>(These are costs in addition to the annual costs, above.)</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"><b>Restricted</b></td> <td>Year 1</td> <td>\$n/a</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Federal Receipts</td> <td>\$n/a</td> <td>Year 2</td> <td>\$ n/a</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TVEP or Other (specify):</td> <td>\$n/a</td> <td>Year 3</td> <td>\$ n/a</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>TOTAL REVENUES</b></td> <td>\$n/a</td> <td>Year 4</td> <td>\$ n/a</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Projected Annual Revenues in FY 24		Projected Annual Expenditures in FY 24		<b>Unrestricted</b>		Salaries & benefits (faculty and staff)	\$464,277	General Fund	\$	Other (commodities, services, etc.)	\$ 8,326	Student Tuition & Fees	\$275,368	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	\$472,603	Indirect Cost Recovery	\$n/a	One-time Expenditures to Initiate Program (if >\$250,000)		TVEP or Other (specify):	\$n/a	(These are costs in addition to the annual costs, above.)		<b>Restricted</b>		Year 1	\$n/a	Federal Receipts	\$n/a	Year 2	\$ n/a	TVEP or Other (specify):	\$n/a	Year 3	\$ n/a	<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	\$n/a	Year 4	\$ n/a
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Page # of attached summary where the budget is discussed, including initial phase-in: 3																																										
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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 If yes, discuss the extent, probable cost, and anticipated funding source(s), in addition to those listed in sections 6 and 7 above.																																										
9. Projected Enrollments (headcount of majors). If this is a program discontinuation request, project the teach-out enrollments.																																										
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Page number of attached summary where demand for this program is discussed: 2																																										

<sup>1</sup>Sometimes the courses required by a new degree or certificate program are already being taught by a UA university, 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.

10. Number<sup>2</sup> of new TA or faculty hires anticipated (or number of positions eliminated if a program discontinuation):

Graduate TA	
Adjunct	
Term	
Tenure track	

11. Number<sup>2</sup> of TAs or faculty to be reassigned:

Graduate TA	
Adjunct	
Term	
Tenure track	

Former assignment of any reassigned faculty: n/a  
For more information see page 4-5 of the attached summary.

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

Program Affected	Anticipated Effect
Kenai Peninsula College	Potential enrollment increases in AKNS A101/102F (Dena'ina) and/or AKNS A101/102H (Ahtna)
Kodiak College	Potential enrollment increases in AKNS A101/102H (Alutiiq) and 109D (Alutiiq Orthography); AKNS A181, A182, A184, and A185 (Alutiiq Occupational Endorsement Certificate)

Page number of attached summary where effects on other programs are discussed: 3

13. Specialized accreditation or other external program certification needed or anticipated. List all that apply or 'none': None

14. Aligns with University or campus mission, goals, core themes, and objectives (list): UAA core values of affordable access, high quality, and student success; and service to Alaska Native students, a population that is currently under-represented in terms of graduation rates. UA Academic Plan: Informed and responsible citizens; incorporating knowledge and wisdom of Alaska Native elders in curricular and co-curricular activities; enriching Alaska society, such as arts, culture, and language; contributing to the preservation and perpetuation of Alaska Native cultures, languages and values; and supporting new programs of study in Alaska Native languages, cultures, and communities.

Page in attached summary where alignment is discussed: 2-3

15. Aligns with Shaping Alaska's Future themes: Shaping Alaska's Future emphasizes the recruitment, retention, and success of Alaska Natives and other underrepresented populations. The degree also contributes to the preservation and perpetuation of Alaska Native cultures, languages, and values, also referenced in Shaping Alaska's Future.

Page in attached summary where alignment is discussed: 2

16. State needs met by this program (list): Entry-level positions requiring two years of education beyond high school; Alaska Native organization projects centering on language and cultural revitalization

Page in the attached summary where the state needs to be met are discussed: 2

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

- Available to students attending classes at UAA main campus, Kenai Peninsula and Kodiak College campuses.
- Available to students via e-Learning
- Partially available to students via e-Learning

Page # in attached summary where e-Learning is discussed: 4

17. Yes or No (circle one) If this program is an addition, would program be eligible for State's Eligible Training Provider List program? ([Click here for more information](#))

Submitted by the University of Alaska Anchorage.

John R. Stalvey / 12/19/2019 / John R. Stalvey / 12/19/2019  
Provost / Date / Chancellor / Date

Consensus support of AC

Not supported by AC

Recommend approval by VPASR

Recommend disapproval by VPASR

*Faul W. Lays*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
UA Vice President for Academics, Students & Research

*1/8/2020*

Date

<sup>2</sup>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)

Revised: 12/12/2017

## **Associate of Arts in Alaska Native Studies Prospectus**

### **Program Overview**

The Alaska Native Studies AA program prepares students for entry-level positions with Alaska organizations requiring general knowledge of Alaska Native cultures, languages, arts, histories, and politics. It provides students with a critical and dynamic perspective on Alaska Native cultures, histories, politics, and organizations. The AA provides a valuable opportunity for students interested in exploring their options in higher education and/or employment with an Alaska Native organization. By completing the GenEd, the AA in AKNS also provides a foundation for a baccalaureate degree in the arts, humanities, and social sciences.

The Alaska Native Studies program began in 1993 and the minor was created in 1997. An average of 344 students per year enrolled in Alaska Native Studies coursework between 2002 and 2017. On average, the program has graduated 4-5 minors per year since 2002, with the largest group of minors (9) graduating in AY 17-18.

Current roles and responsibilities would not change. The program is coordinating this initiative with Ahtna and Dena'ina language instructor Sondra Shaginoff-Stuart (also Rural & Native Student Services Coordinator) at Kenai Peninsula College, and Libby Eufemio, assistant professor of Alutiiq Studies at Kodiak College.

### **Mission and Strategic Alignment**

UAA's mission statement reads:

*The mission of the University of Alaska Anchorage is to discover and disseminate knowledge through teaching, research, engagement, and creative expression. Located in Anchorage and on community campuses in Southcentral Alaska, UAA is committed to serving the higher education needs of the state, its communities, and its diverse peoples. The University of Alaska Anchorage is an open access university with academic programs leading to occupational endorsements; undergraduate and graduate certificates; and associate, baccalaureate, and graduate degrees in a rich, diverse, and inclusive environment.*

The proposed AA in Alaska Native Studies directly addresses the UAA Mission meet “the higher education needs of the state and its diverse peoples.” The proposed AA primarily serves Alaska Native students, an under-served population that is currently under-represented in terms of graduation rates. It also incorporates the core values of UAA 2020 and addresses UA's Shaping Alaska's Future. The AA in AKNS attends to UAA 2020's core values of student success, access, excellence, and affordability. Both the UAA Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan and UA Shaping Alaska's Future emphasize recruitment, retention, and success of Alaska Natives and other underrepresented student groups, and the AA in AKNS directly addresses each of these priorities.

The AA in AKNS also directly addresses the goals of the statewide UA Academic Plan. First, it provides opportunities for students “to become informed and responsible citizens” (Goal 1) as the required coursework includes in-depth perspectives on Alaska Native cultures, languages, politics, and the Alaska Native corporations/businesses (the primary private employers in Alaska). Second, the degree offers significant opportunities to engage first-hand with Native Elders, faculty, and business leaders thereby addressing Objective 4 goals of incorporating “the knowledge and wisdom of Alaska Native elders in curricular and co-curricular activities.” Third, the degree also engages with Goal 2, Objective 4 around

enriching “Alaska society, such as arts, culture and language” and Objective 5 in contributing “to the preservation and perpetuation of Alaska Native cultures, languages, and values” also referenced in SAF. Finally, the AA in AKNS addresses Goal 4, Objective 1 to “support new programs of study of Alaska Native languages, cultures, and communities.” The AA degree builds upon the AKNS minor, including courses cross-listed with Music and Political Science, and we propose that students take at least one semesters of an Alaska Native language as well as AKNS A201: Alaska Native Perspectives to complete their degree. Additionally, UAA’s Alaska Native-Themed (AKNT) GenEd initiative is likely to draw additional students to the AA degree as well as provide AA in AKNS students a more efficient path to graduation.

**Student Demand and State Needs**

An Alaska Native Studies AA degree provides a valuable option for students interested in exploring their options in higher education, but who are yet unable or unwilling to commit to a four-year program. Data from our program indicate that many students leave UAA after having completed some or all of the AKNS minor requirements. A recent Banner search reveals that since 2000, there have been over 275 students who have completed three or more AKNS courses. These numbers indicate an interest in Alaska Native Studies beyond the two required courses; however, as of Spring 2018 these students are not enrolled at UAA and have not earned a degree or certificate. Many entry level jobs, particularly in Alaska Native corporations, may be available for students with an AA that includes required coursework in an Alaska Native language, the broad exposure of AKNS A201: Alaska Native Perspectives, and additional coursework art, business, culture, literature, and global studies in Indigenous Knowledges and education.

Many current initiatives are increasingly directed toward Alaska Native language and cultural revitalization, most of which are funded through the Alaska Native corporations and their non-profit foundations (the largest private employers in the State) and school districts. An applicant with experience learning an Alaska Native language, knowledge of the diversity of Alaska Native cultures, and an understanding of Alaska Native organizations would be a valuable asset in any entry level position with one of these organizations.

Future career opportunities for students who complete the proposed AA degree include entry-level positions in Alaska Native organizations including Southcentral Foundation, First Alaskans Institute, and the Alaska Native corporations with offices in the southcentral area and beyond. A search of job openings reveals a number of entry-level administrative positions and research associate internships that require two years of education beyond a GED or high school diploma.

**Enrollment Projections**

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Enrollment Headcount	10	20	30	40	50

**Student Opportunities and Student Success**

Student services are available through the UAA First Year Advising, the Humanities Hub advisors, and the faculty of the Alaska Native Studies Program. These services include academic and career advising, information technology support; as well institutional services include admissions, financial aid, housing,

student organizations, and governance. Projected increases in participation in this program are not expected to impact the availability or quality of those services.

The AKNS program has been hosting an AKNS Undergraduate Research Symposium for the past six years. The Symposium features presentations by students enrolled in the AKNS program or students in the minor. The presentations range from Alaska Native languages, the arts, politics, history, and education and are required to include elements of research (citations, interviews, sources, etc.). AKNS also has an Internship course number, since many of the students are interns at their respective tribal or Alaska Native corporate (profit and non-profit) enterprises.

### **Current Capacity and Quality**

There will not be impacts to existing technology and facilities. All UAA students have access to the full suite of library services, [many of which are available online](#).

### **Resource Implications**

Additional funding is not needed as faculty and coursework are already in place through the Alaska Native Studies Minor Program.

### **Affected Programs**

Building upon the AKNS minor offered at Kodiak, KPC, and Anchorage, the AA in Alaska Native Studies will be offered cooperatively across all five UAA campuses (Anchorage, Mat-Su, KPC, Kodiak, and Prince William Sound) with a combination of face to face and online courses accessible to all students. There may be increased demand for Alaska Native languages, including the following. KPC's language coursework includes AKNS A101/102A (Elementary Yup'ik Language I & II), AKNS A101/102F (Elementary Dena'ina Language I & II), and AKNS A101/102H: Elementary Ahtna Language I & II. In addition to coursework toward the AKNS minor, Kodiak offers an Occupational Endorsement Certificate (OEC) in Alutiiq Language. Kodiak language coursework includes AKNS A101/102E (Elementary Alutiiq Language I & II) and AKNS A109D (Alutiiq Orthography), as well as the courses in the Alutiiq OEC: AKNS A181 (Community Project Planning), AKNS A182 (Grant Writing for Alaska Native Communities), AKNS A184 (Indigenous Leadership and Civic Engagement), and AKNS A185 (Event Planning and Meeting Facilitation). GenEd courses can be taken across multiple campuses, in addition to required courses, students will be able to choose electives from AKNS courses offered at KPC and Kodiak College to fulfill the AA requirements. Finally, the initiative is being coordinated with Ahtna and Dena'ina language instructor Sondra Shaginoff-Stuart (also Rural & Native Student Services Coordinator) at Kenai Peninsula College, and Libby Eufemio, assistant professor of Alutiiq Studies at Kodiak College.

### **Program Student Learning Outcomes and Plan for Assessment**

Student Learning Outcome	Plan for Assessment
Gain elementary-level proficiency in one Alaska Native language.	Final papers, exams, demonstration of skills, internship paper or AKNS Undergraduate

## Student Learning Outcome

## Plan for Assessment

Research Symposium presentation, and/or exit interview

Demonstrate a broad understanding of Alaska Native cultures, histories, and contemporary politics.

Final papers, exams, demonstration of skills

Identify and analyze contemporary Alaska Native challenges within global Indigenous contexts.

Final papers, exams, demonstration of skills

## Schedule for Implementation of the Program

### Critical Milestone

### Date

Admissions to program open; instruction commences

Fall 2020

First graduates

Spring 2022

## E-learning Options

- GenEd courses required for the degree are offered online across all UAA campuses.
- AKNS A101E, A102E (Elementary Alutiiq Language), A101F, A102F (Elementary Dena'ina Language), A101H, and A102H (Elementary Ahtna Language), and AKNS A201 (Alaska Native Perspectives) are currently offered face-to-face and online.
- AKNS A290: Indigenous Well-Being, and AKNS A290: Indigenous Sciences are offered face-to-face and via synchronous videoconference.

## Faculty and Staff

In addition to the faculty identified above, the required courses for AA in AKNS will be taught by the following faculty:

### AKNS A101 & A102: Alaska Native Languages

- Yup'ik: Marie Meade
- Tlingit: Shirley Kendall
- Iñupiaq: Melissa Heflin
- Ahtna & Dena'ina: Sondra Shaginoff-Stuart
- Alutiiq: Libby Eufemio

### AKNS A201: Alaska Native Perspectives

- Maria Williams, Professor of Alaska Native Studies & Music
- Heidi Senungetuk, Multicultural Postdoctoral Fellow
- Beth Leonard, Professor of Alaska Native Studies

### AKNS A215: Music of Alaska Natives

- Heidi Senungetuk, Multicultural Postdoctoral Fellow

### AKNS A216: World Indigenous Music

- Maria Williams, Professor of Alaska Native Studies & Music



**AKNS A290: Selected Topic-Indigenous Well-Being**

- Beth Leonard, Professor of Alaska Native Studies

**AKNS A290: Selected Topic-Indigenous Sciences**

- Beth Leonard, Professor of Alaska Native Studies

**AKNS A290: Alaska Native Tribes, Climate Change, and Environmental Policy**

- Paul Ongtooguk, Director of Alaska Native Studies

**AKNS A261: Alaska Native Art History**

- Adjunct

**ART A270: Beginning Alaska Native Art**

- Alvin Amason, Term Associate Professor of Alaska Native Art

**AKNS/PS A313: Tribes, Nations & Peoples**


- Paul Ongtooguk, Director of Alaska Native Studies



**Office of the Chancellor**  
UNIVERSITY of ALASKA ANCHORAGE

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uaa\_chancellor@alaska.edu

December 16, 2019

**TO:** Jim Johnsen, UA President  
**FROM:** Cathy Sandeen, Chancellor   
**RE:** Delegation of Authority for December 17, 2019- January 1, 2020

**I hereby delegate to Provost John Stalvey the authority to act as chancellor in my absence while I am away from the office December 17, 2019 returning January 2, 2020. This includes all powers of the office, including but not limited to signing documents, authorizing actions and other legal and administrative functions.**

**Should Provost Stalvey become unavailable, this authority would transfer to Vice Chancellor for University Advancement Megan Olson.**



Jan. 1, 2020

Paul Ongtooguk, Director  
Alaska Native Studies  
University of Alaska Anchorage  
Anchorage, Alaska

Re: Alaska Native Studies Program

Dear Mr Ongtooguk,

I'm writing to express my full support for an Alaska Native Studies AA program at the University of Alaska Anchorage.

The program would provide an avenue for students to learn important topics, such as Alaska Native history, Indigenous languages, and Indigenous pedagogy—areas of interest that have been largely underrepresented in many of our educational institutions.

The addition of an AA program in this field would also help students who can't earn a four-year degree achieve success in the workplace. Graduates with such a degree would be most welcome for positions such as tour guides and greeters at Sealaska Heritage Institute's exhibit space for the public. Such a degree would also give Native applicants an edge when seeking positions at Native corporations and other institutions.

The program would also strengthen the fiber of the University.

In the interest of Alaska Native education, students and the Native community, I am respectfully requesting that the AA program be supported and come to fruition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rosita Worl".

Rosita Kaahani Worl, Ph.D.  
President

CC:

Dr. John Stalvey, Interim Provost, UAA  
Cathy Sandeen, Chancellor, UAA