



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

1a. UA University (choose one) UAA	1b. School or College College of Health	1c. Department or Program Surgical Technology
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2. Complete Program Title AAS, Surgical Technology

3. Type of Program

Undergraduate Certificate
 Associate
 Baccalaureate
 Post-Baccalaureate Certificate
 Master's
 Graduate Certificate
 Doctorate

4. Type of Action <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Add <input type="checkbox"/> Change <input type="checkbox"/> Delete	5. Implementation date (semester, year) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fall <input type="checkbox"/> Spring <input type="checkbox"/> Summer Year 2017
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6. Projected Revenue and Expenditure Summary. Not Required if the requested action is deletion. (Provide information for the 5th year after program or program change approval if a baccalaureate or doctoral degree program; for the 3rd year after program approval if a master's or associate degree program; and for the 2nd 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.)

Projected Annual Revenues to the University in FY 18		Projected Annual Expenditures in FY 18	
Unrestricted		Salaries & benefits (faculty and staff)	\$172,000
General Fund	\$0	Other (commodities, services, etc.)	\$22,000
Student Tuition & Fees	\$44,000	TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$194,000
Indirect Cost Recovery	\$0	One-time Expenditures to Initiate Program (if >\$250,000)	
TVEP or Other (specify): ASHNHA	\$150,000	(These are costs in addition to the annual costs, above.)	
Restricted		Year 1	\$90,000
Federal Receipts	\$0	Year 2	\$0
TVEP or Other (specify):	\$0	Year 3	\$0
TOTAL REVENUES	\$194,000	Year 4	\$0

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.

Revenue source	Continuing	One-time
a. In current legislative budget request	\$	\$
b. Additional appropriation required	\$	\$
c. Funded through new internal UA university redistribution	\$	\$
d. Funds already committed to the program by the UA university ¹	\$	\$
e. Funded all or in part by external funds, expiration date	\$150,000	\$90,000
f. Other funding source Specify Type: Student tuition and fees	\$44,000	\$

8. Facilities: New or substantially (>\$25,000 cost) renovated facilities will be required. Yes 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 deletion request, project the teach out enrollments.

Year 1: 10	Year 2: 12	Year 3: 12	Year 4: 12
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Page number of attached summary where demand for this program is discussed: 2

¹Sometimes 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* of new TA or faculty hires anticipated (or number of positions eliminated if a program deletion):

Graduate TA	0
Adjunct	.5
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:
For more information see page 5 of the attached summary.

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

Program Affected	Anticipated Effect
None	

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': Commission on Accreditation for Allied Health Program (CAAHEP)

14. Aligns with University or campus mission, goals, core themes, and objectives (list): Prepares students for a high-demand career while collaborating closely with industry partners to serve the needs of the state

Page in attached summary where alignment is discussed: 1

15. Aligns with Shaping Alaska's Future themes:

Page in attached summary where alignment is discussed: Provides a student-centered, outcomes-based program which builds on strategic partnerships to meet state needs, p. 1-2

16. Aligns with Academic Master Plan goals:

Page in attached summary where alignment is discussed: Program developed in response to need expressed by healthcare community partners, p. 1

17. State needs met by this program (list): Workforce development for surgical technologists, a field with high demand and high vacancy rates; responds to a need identified by Providence Alaska Medical Center and the Alaska State and Hospital and Nursing Home Association

Page in the attached summary where the state needs to be met are discussed: 1-2

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

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

Page # in attached summary where e-learning is discussed: 5

Submitted by the University of Alaska Anchorage.

[Signature]
(choose one above)

Provost

11/2/2017
Date

T. Case
Chancellor

11/6/2017
Date

Consensus Support of SAC

Not Supported by SAC

Recommend Approval by VPAAR

Recommend Disapproval by VPAAR

[Signature]
UA Vice President for Academic Affairs

2/17/17
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)

Revised: 04/20/2015



Academic Affairs
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Date: December 21, 2016
To: Statewide Academic Council
From: Samuel Gingerich, Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
Through: Thomas Case, Chancellor
Subject: Proposed AAS Surgical Technology

In response to the request from Providence Alaska Medical Center and other members of the Alaska State Hospital and Nursing Home Association (ASHNHA), the College of Health is proposing an AAS in Surgical Technology. Surgical technicians assist with the preparation of the operating room and the surgical patient, assist the physician during surgery, and prepare the operating room for the next procedure. Surgical technicians have one of the highest vacancy rates reported in the Allied Health occupations in Alaska, and there are no university-delivered Surgical Technology programs currently delivered in the state. The goal is to gain approval by the BOR and NWCCU in time to accept students for fall 2017.

Programs must be accredited by the Commission on Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP). The AAS is designed to align with CAAHEP's requirements, and accreditation will be sought during the first year of implementation. Graduates of the accredited program will be eligible to sit for the Certified Surgical Technician (CST) exam, which is required for work as entry-level surgical technicians.

In December 2015 Providence Hospital donated \$90,000 for start-up funds, and the CEO of ASHNHA is working with UAA Advancement and the College of Health to raise funds to support the program moving forward. At full capacity, tuition will partially cover program expenses, with community support pledged to cover the remaining portion. As of this date, the target of \$150,000.00 already has been met for 2018.

The program proposal has been approved by the faculty, dean, and appropriate UAA curriculum committees and Faculty Senate. Communication with other UA campuses has been through the regular meetings of the UA Allied Health Alliance over the past eighteen months.

Associate of Applied Science in Surgical Technology Prospectus

Program Overview

The School of Allied Health within the College of Health proposes a new AAS degree program in Surgical Technology. This proposal is initiated in response to a request from healthcare industry partners, including members of the Alaska State Hospital and Nursing Home Association (ASHNHA), to develop a Surgical Technology program at the university. Currently there are no university-delivered Surgical Technology programs available in the state of Alaska.

Surgical technologists assist with the preparation of the operating room and the surgical patient prior to surgery, assist the physician during surgery, and prepare the operating room for the next procedure. They are employed in hospital operating rooms, central sterile processing departments, outpatient surgical units, medical companies, or in private physician's practices.

Physicians at Providence Hospital initially contacted Bill Hogan, Dean of the College of Health, and Jan Harris, Director of the Center for Rural Health and Health Workforce, to determine the feasibility of developing a program to prepare entry-level surgical technicians, who upon completion of coursework would be eligible to sit for the Certified Surgical Technician exam. Dean Hogan and Dr. Harris worked with leaders in the healthcare industry, through ASHNHA and other advisory groups, and determined that there is a significant ongoing need in the state of Alaska for a Surgical Technology program, and that the program should be housed within the School of Allied Health in the College of Health.

The program will include a clinical practicum placement in a surgical suite/operating room of approximately 600 hours for each student. Clinical practicums will be provided in partnership with hospitals and free-standing surgery centers through the establishment of Memorandum of Agreements with those healthcare facilities. Clinical instructors and preceptors will be identified for each site and an advisory board will be established with representation from healthcare partners, students, and community surgical technologists.

Mission and Strategic Alignment

The AAS degree in Surgical Technology is designed to provide education and training for workforce development in a high demand healthcare career, aligning with UAA's mission to serve the higher education needs of the State of Alaska. It specifically addresses UAA 2017 Strategic Plan Priority A: Strengthen and Develop the Total UAA Instructional Program, preparing students for a high-demand career while collaborating closely with industry partners. Accreditation through the Commission on Accreditation for Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) will allow graduates to sit for the Certified Surgical Technician (CST) exam.

This program meets UA's Academic Master Plan Goal 1, *Educate students to become informed and responsible citizens*, and Master Plan Goal 5, *Develop and enhance programs to respond to state needs*. Currently, hospitals are forced to hire travelers who are here for short assignments and have roots outside of Alaska; this contributes to a high employee turnover rate. The healthcare community partners have identified the need for this program and have committed to monetary donations, as well as providing clinical sites for practicum experiences.

This program meets the goals of Shaping Alaska's Future, by providing a student-centered higher education option for students, strengthening UA's culture of promoting excellence and innovation. The program is outcomes based, established to meet competencies set by the professional association and the Commission of Accreditation for Allied Health Education Programs. The Surgical Technology program

specifically aligns with *Theme 3: Productive Partnerships with Public Entities and Private Industries*. It is an excellent example of the university working proactively via partnerships that are strategic, mutually beneficial and address the needs of the state.

Student Demand and State Needs

This program is developed in response to a need identified by Providence Alaska Medical Center, and other members of the Alaska State and Hospital and Nursing Home Association (ASHNHA). Members of ASHNHA report that because there are no surgical technology programs currently delivered in Alaska, hospitals are faced with a high employee turnover rate which leads to a high vacancy rate. The *Alaska's Health Workforce Vacancy Study 2012* reports a 15% vacancy rate for Surgical Technicians and Technologists in urban Alaska and an overall 13% vacancy rate statewide. This is one of the highest vacancy rates reported in the Allied Health occupations.

In an employer survey conducted by the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development in 2015, 93% of employers who had recruited for surgical technicians and technologists in the prior year reported difficulty recruiting. Of all health occupations and professions, this was the *fifth most difficult to recruit* per the survey.

The US Bureau of Labor projects growth in Surgical Technology at 15% from 2014 to 2024, much faster than the average for all occupations. The Alaska DOL projects that health care support is the occupational area to grow the most. Surgical Technologist new positions are expected to grow at 55% with 45% replacement, compared to 20% growth and 80% replacement in all occupations.

Enrollment Projections

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
FTE Enrollment	10	12	12	12	12
Graduates	0	10	12	12	12

Student Opportunities and Student Success

The Surgical Technology program is designed to serve students who are interested in pursuing a degree that prepares them for employment in a healthcare field, specifically surgical technology. Prospective students include both traditional students who are transitioning from high school to UA, as well as nontraditional students. Nontraditional students include individuals who are currently working in healthcare and wish to expand their skills, individuals who want to change careers, or individuals who have not previously enrolled in college courses and have decided to attend UA later in life.

Pre-requisites for the program are available on the UAA, UAF and UAS campuses, as well as by distance; thus students are able to complete the pre-requisite coursework in their home communities. Academic advising is available through the UAA School of Allied Health for both on-campus students and students at a distance. The UAA School of Allied Health works closely with advisors on the UAA community campuses, UAF academic advisors, and the UAS campus advisors.

The practicum component during the last semester of the program will provide an opportunity for experiential learning, with students working in a real-world setting of an operating room or an outpatient surgery center. During this capstone experience, students will integrate and apply what they have learned in the classroom on campus into the workplace setting.

Current Capacity and Quality

The UAA Consortium Library houses the Alaska Medical Library, which includes books, health journals, health reference books, health-related DVDs, and online resources such as ebooks, AnatomyTV, and health websites. The Consortium Librarian assigned to Allied Health has been contacted by the School of Allied Health Director and adequate library resources are available for the Surgical Technology program.

This program will require equipment for laboratory courses in order to set up simulated operating room suites. Providence Alaska Medical Center has donated start-up funds (\$90,000) which will be used for the purchase of the required equipment. Community partners will also be contacted for potential donations of equipment.

Specialized space is not required for the program. Lectures classes will be delivered in a standard classroom. One large open classroom will be needed for a simulated operating suite. The College of Health is working with UAA Facilities to identify a classroom that can be used for the simulated operating room laboratory.

Resource Implications

The program will be funded by donations from members of the Alaska State Hospital and Nursing Home Association (ASHNHA) and other healthcare organizations. The ASHNHA CEO has taken on the responsibility for raising funds for the program ongoing. Providence Hospital donated \$90,000 for start-up funds in December 2015, and other industry members have made additional donations and commitments since December.

Expenses for the personnel and instructional costs for this program are estimated at approximately \$194,000 annually, with tuition revenue generation from courses estimated at \$44,000; additional funding required is projected to be \$150,000, the targeted annual amount for the fund-raising effort. This target has been met for fiscal year 2018.

Affected Programs

The chairs of the UAA departments that offer required pre-requisite courses for this program were contacted during the curriculum review process; they responded that the number of anticipated students should not have a significant impact on their departments and course offerings.

There are no similar programs in other UA units; however, other allied health programs have been informed about plans for the AAS degree in Surgical Technology through the statewide UA Allied Health Alliance (AHA), most recently at the October 28, 2016, AHA meeting.

Robin Wahto, Director of the School of Allied Health has worked with Dr. Jan Harris of the Office of Health Workforce and College of Health Dean William Hogan throughout the development phase of this program. Through reporting at the UA Allied Health Alliance meetings over the past 18 months, faculty, deans and directors at UAF, UAS, and community campuses are aware of the proposed program.

Once the degree offering is approved by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities, information will be emailed to members of the UA Allied Health Alliance and UA academic advisors at UAA, UAF, and UAS. Informational sessions via videoconferencing have been utilized by the UAA School of Allied Health in the past and can be used to deliver program information to the University of Alaska students who are interested in learning more about the program.

Program Accreditation and Special Certifications

Accreditation from the Commission on Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) is required in order for graduates to sit for the Certified Surgical Technologist (CST) exam. The program will seek CAAHEP accreditation during the first year that the program is offered.

The CAAHEP requirements have been taken into account during program development. The CAAHEP Standards and Guidelines for the Accreditation of Education Programs in Surgical Technology have been utilized. The College of Health has two other health programs that are accredited through CAAHEP, so the school is familiar with CAAHEP requirements.

The Surgical Technology Standards Interpretive Guide, published by the Accreditation Review Council on Education in Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (ARC/STSA), along with the Core Curriculum for Surgical Technology, published by the Association of Surgical Technologists, were used as guidelines for the development of the SURG courses.

The UAA Assessment Plan developed for the program aligns with the outcome thresholds required by the accreditation review council, ARC/STSA. The CAAHEP requirements have been reviewed, the School of Allied Health Director attended an accreditation workshop in August 2016, and the timeline for program accreditation has been determined. A site visit will be completed in the latter half of the first cohort's last semester of the program, with a self-study due 4 – 6 months prior to the site visit.

Program Student Learning Outcomes and Plan for Assessment

Student Learning Outcome	Plan for Assessment
Apply knowledge and skills of biological sciences in the perioperative setting	Outcomes Assessment Exam, Practicum Evaluation, Employer Survey, CST Exam
Communicate effectively with surgical team members, patients and their families	Skills Evaluation in Lab Classes, Practicum Evaluation, Employer Survey
Apply the principles of aseptic techniques in the perioperative setting	Skills Evaluation in Lab Classes, Outcomes Assessment Exam, Practicum Evaluation, Employer Survey, CST Exam
Organize routine instrumentation and supplies within the perioperative environment	Skills Evaluation in Lab Classes, Practicum Evaluation, Employer Exam
Demonstrate knowledge of pharmacology and math calculation principles related to the surgical environment	Skills Evaluation in Lab Classes, Practicum Evaluation, Employer Survey
Collaborate with members of the surgical team to deliver quality patient care with consideration of the unique psychological and social needs of each patient	Skills Evaluation in Lab Classes, Practicum Evaluation, Employer Survey
Demonstrate skills and behaviors necessary to function as a member of a surgical team	Skills Evaluation in Lab Classes, Practicum Evaluation, Employer Survey

Schedule for Implementation of the Program

Critical Milestone	Date
Presentation to the Board of Regents	March 2017
Submission to the NWCCU	March/April 2017
Admission to the program open	July 2017
Selection of first cohort of students for SURG courses	August 2017
Instruction commences for SURG courses	August 2017
Self-study submitted to Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP)	February 2018
Site visit for CAAHEP	July 2018
First graduates	August 2018

E-learning Options

The pre-requisite courses are available via distance delivery. Although pre-requisite courses can be completed at a distance, the program is designed so students will need to be located in Anchorage for one-year (3 semesters) to complete the Surgical Technology courses.

Faculty and Staff

CAAHEP accreditation requires a full-time faculty who serves as Program Director of the accredited program. The faculty must be a certified surgical technologist; have a minimum of five years' experience in the operating room or teaching or both, within the past ten years; possess a minimum of an Associate's degree; and possess proficiency in instructional methodology, curriculum planning, and program planning. CAAHEP also requires a faculty to be identified as Clinical Coordinator; the Program Director may serve as the Clinical Coordinator. Adjunct faculty must also be certified and have a minimum of two years of experience. The program will be housed within the School of Allied Health which has administrative staff that can support the program and faculty.

During the development of the program, several individuals have contacted the School of Allied Health inquiring about faculty positions that will be associated with the new program. We do not anticipate difficulty in the recruitment of a Faculty/Program Director for this program.