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Date: April 5, 2021

To: Academic Council

From: Denise Runge, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

DocuSigned by:
Denise Runge
AE7EE55F615543D...

Through: Bruce Schultz, Interim Chancellor

Subject: Proposed Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Pre-Medical Studies

In response to student demand and to continue to meet state needs, the College of Health is proposing a Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Pre-Medical Studies. The certificate is designed to enable students who already hold a baccalaureate degree to meet their pre-requisite course work requirements for medical school admission and to prepare for the Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT). The certificate is part of the College of Health's larger strategy to create pipelines to the health professions in Alaska for students with a broad range of backgrounds and secondary and post-secondary preparation.

The attached prospectus discusses the state needs the certificate is designed to address, as well as the student interest in this certificate. The UAA process and the attached prospectus are guided by and respond to University Regulation R10.04.020 Degree and Certificate Program Approval, Section C. If approved, the certificate will be implemented in fall 2021.

The certificate is designed around national best practices. It uses existing courses and pre-medical advising structures that are already in place. It will be housed in the College of Health, and has the full support of the College of Arts and Sciences and UAA's community campuses, where many of the courses are offered.

Because the certificate is a re-packaging of existing courses, and because UAA has pre-medical advising structures already in place, there are no new costs associated with the certificate. In fact, because the pre-medical advisors have already been working with interested students on a case-by-case basis, implementing this structured but flexible curriculum is expected to increase efficiency for the students and the faculty.

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



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

1a. UA University UAA	1b. School or College College of Health	1c. Department or Program WWAMI School of Med. Ed.
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2. Complete Program Title: Post-baccalaureate Certificate in Pre-Medical Studies

3. Type of Program:

Undergraduate Certificate	<input type="checkbox"/>	Associate	<input type="checkbox"/>	Baccalaureate	<input type="checkbox"/>
Master's	<input type="checkbox"/>	Doctorate	<input type="checkbox"/>	Post-Baccalaureate Certificate	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

4. Type of Action: Add Change
 Implementation Semester: Fall Year: 2021

6. Projected Revenue and Expenditure Summary:
 Provide information for the 5th year after 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; or for the 2nd year after program approval if a graduate or undergraduate certificate. If information is provided for another year, specify () 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 in FY		Projected Annual Expenditures in FY	
Unrestricted		Salaries & benefits (faculty and staff)	N/A
General Fund		Other (commodities, services, etc.)	N/A
Student Tuition & Fees	\$132,490	TOTAL EXPENDITURES:	N/A
Indirect Cost Recovery		One-time Expenditures to Initiate Program (if >\$250,000)	
TVEP or Other (specify):		(These are costs in addition to the annual costs, above.)	
Restricted		Year 1	N/A
Federal Receipts		Year 2	N/A
TVEP or Other (specify):		Year 3	N/A
TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 132,490.00	Year 4	N/A
Page # of attached summary where the budget is discussed, including initial phase-in:		Page 6	

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	N/A	N/A
b. Additional appropriation required	N/A	N/A
c. Funded through new internal UA university redistribution	N/A	N/A
d. Funds currently committed to the program[1]	N/A	N/A
e. Funded all or in part by external funds, expiration date	N/A	N/A
f. Other funding source (specify type):	N/A	N/A

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 discontinuation request, project the teach-out enrollments.

Year 1: Year 2: Year 3: Year 4:

Page number of attached summary where demand for this program is discussed: Page 6

10. Number² of new TA or faculty hires anticipated (or number of positions eliminated if a program discontinuation): <table border="1" style="width:100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td>Graduate TA</td><td style="text-align: center;">N/A</td></tr> <tr><td>Adjunct</td><td style="text-align: center;">N/A</td></tr> <tr><td>Term</td><td style="text-align: center;">N/A</td></tr> <tr><td>Tenure track</td><td style="text-align: center;">N/A</td></tr> </table>		Graduate TA	N/A	Adjunct	N/A	Term	N/A	Tenure track	N/A	11. Number² of TAs or faculty to be reassigned: <table border="1" style="width:100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td>Graduate TA</td><td style="text-align: center;">N/A</td></tr> <tr><td>Adjunct</td><td style="text-align: center;">N/A</td></tr> <tr><td>Term</td><td style="text-align: center;">N/A</td></tr> <tr><td>Tenure track</td><td style="text-align: center;">N/A</td></tr> <tr><td>Former assignment of any reassigned faculty:</td><td style="text-align: center;">N/A</td></tr> <tr><td>For more information see attached summary page:</td><td style="text-align: center;">N/A</td></tr> </table>		Graduate TA	N/A	Adjunct	N/A	Term	N/A	Tenure track	N/A	Former assignment of any reassigned faculty:	N/A	For more information see attached summary page:	N/A
Graduate TA	N/A																						
Adjunct	N/A																						
Term	N/A																						
Tenure track	N/A																						
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Adjunct	N/A																						
Term	N/A																						
Tenure track	N/A																						
Former assignment of any reassigned faculty:	N/A																						
For more information see attached summary page:	N/A																						
12. Other programs affected by the proposed action, including those at other campuses (please list):																							
Program Affected		Anticipated Effect																					
College of Arts and Sciences	increased enrollment in select courses however the numbers are small and there is typically available seats																						
College of Health	as above plus advising, however this advising is already happening on an informal level so minimal impact on time requirements																						
Page number of attached summary where effects on other programs are discussed: <u>Page 4</u>																							
13. Specialized accreditation or other external program certification needed or anticipated. List all that apply or <div style="text-align: center; font-size: 24px;">N/A</div>		14. Aligns with University or campus mission, goals, core themes, and objectives (list): UAA 2025: We put students first; We create a culture of equity and inclusion by embracing our diversity; We embrace our role as a trusted and respected community partner; We positively impact communities and the world through innovation UA System Goals: #2 Provide Alaska's skilled workforce; #4 Increase degree attainment Page # in attached summary where alignment is discussed: Pages 2-3																					
15. State needs met by this program (list): Preparation of Alaskan students for successful applications to medical school 		16. Program is initially planned to be: (check all that apply) <table border="1" style="width:100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width:80%;">Available to students attending classes at campuses</td> <td style="width:20%; text-align: center;">X</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Available to students via e-Learning</td> <td style="text-align: center;">X</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Partially available to students via e-Learning</td> <td style="text-align: center;">N/A</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Page # in attached summary where e-Learning is discussed:</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Page 4</td> </tr> </table>		Available to students attending classes at campuses	X	Available to students via e-Learning	X	Partially available to students via e-Learning	N/A	Page # in attached summary where e-Learning is discussed:	Page 4												
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Partially available to students via e-Learning	N/A																						
Page # in attached summary where e-Learning is discussed:	Page 4																						
17. If this program is an addition, would program be eligible for State's Eligible Training Provider List program? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (Click here for more information)																							
Submitted by:		April 5, 2021																					
 DocuSigned by: Denise Funge Chancellor/Provost		Date:																					
Consensus support of AC <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Not supported by AC <input type="checkbox"/>																					
Recommend approval by VPASR 		Date: 4/8/21																					
Recommend disapproval by VPASR		Date:																					

²Net 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): Memo from provost.

Updated January 2020

[\[1\] 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.](#)



NEW PROGRAM

After review and approval by the program faculty, college, dean, and Faculty Senate Undergraduate Academic Board, the following program curriculum was approved on the consent agenda of the February 5, 2021 Faculty Senate meeting. The faculty-approved curriculum is attached.

Post-Baccalaureate Certificate, Pre-Medical Studies

Faculty Senate President	DocuSigned by: <i>Kelly Smith</i>	April 27, 2021
	1AE503E62B394B4... Kelly Smith, Faculty Senate President	Date

Provost Approved Disapproved

Comments: The program utilizes existing courses and resources to provide a clear pathway to medical education for non-science majors.

DocuSigned by: <i>Denise Runge</i>	April 27, 2021
AE7EE55F615543D... Denise Runge, Provost	Date

Chancellor Approved Disapproved

Comments:

DocuSigned by: <i>Bruce Schultz</i>	April 27, 2021
59712FF95AAA497... Bruce Schultz, Interim Chancellor	Date

Note

Occupational Endorsement Certificates and Graduate Certificates are effective upon chancellor approval. Certificates eligible for Title IV funding require NWCCU acknowledgement prior to implementation.

Undergraduate Certificates, Associate degrees, Bachelor's degrees, Post-Baccalaureate Certificates, Master's degrees, and Doctoral degrees require Board of Regents approval. These certificates and degrees require NWCCU acknowledgement, prior to implementation.

Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Pre-Medical Studies Catalog Copy

The Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Pre-Medical Studies prepares students for medical school (MD, DO, DPM and equivalent degree programs).

Admission Requirements

- Complete the Admission Requirements for Post-Baccalaureate Certificates.
- Complete a baccalaureate degree with a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.75.

Special Considerations

- Post-Baccalaureate certificates are subject to specific restrictions on the use of transfer credits. See Post-Baccalaureate Policies for details.
- Students who have not completed the necessary prerequisites for courses listed in the certificate requirements as part of their earlier baccalaureate degree program or other studies will need to complete those prerequisite courses in order to take the relevant courses listed in the certificate requirements.
- Students interested in the Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Pre-Medical Studies should consult with a faculty member of the Alaska WWAMI School of Medical Education's Pre-Medical Advising Committee before enrolling in this program.

Graduation Requirements

- Complete the General University Requirements for Post-Baccalaureate Certificates.
- Complete the following major requirements with a minimum grade of C:

Course	Title	Credits
Core Courses		
BIOL A242	Fundamentals of Cell Biology ¹	3
or BIOL A252	Principles of Genetics	
CHEM A321	Organic Chemistry I	3
CHEM A441	Principles of Biochemistry I	3
Electives		
Complete 15 credits of electives from the following:		15
AKNS A201	Alaska Native Perspectives	
ANTH A202	Cultural Anthropology	
BIOL A108	Principles and Methods in Biology	
BIOL A242	Fundamentals of Cell Biology	
BIOL A243	Experiential Learning: Cell Biology and Genetics	
BIOL A252	Principles of Genetics	
BIOL A310	Principles of Animal Physiology	
BIOL A412	Behavioral Endocrinology	

Course	Title	Credits
BIOL A413	Neurophysiology	
BIOL A452	Human Genome	
BIOL A471	Immunology	
BIOL A498	Individual Research ²	
BIOM A418	Human Gross Anatomy	
BIOM A696	Graduate Research Techniques	
CHEM A105	General Chemistry I	
CHEM A105L	General Chemistry I Laboratory	
CHEM A106	General Chemistry II	
CHEM A106L	General Chemistry II Laboratory	
CHEM A322	Organic Chemistry II	
CHEM A323L	Organic Chemistry Laboratory	
CHEM A442	Principles of Biochemistry II	
CHEM A498	Individual Research ²	
DN A475	Advanced Nutrition	
HS A370	Medical Sociology	
HS A433	Health Education: Theory and Practice	
JUST A310	Forensic Science and Criminal Justice	
JUST A366	Substance Use and Crime	
MATH A151	College Algebra for Calculus	
MATH A251	Calculus I	
MATH A252	Calculus II	
MATH A314	Linear Algebra	
MBIO A340	Microbial Biology	
MBIO A342	Experiential Learning: Microbial Biology	
MBIO A410	Microbial Physiology	
MBIO A420	Pathogenic Microbiology	
MBIO A421	Experiential Learning: Pathogenic Microbiology	
MBIO A452	Microbial Genetics	
MBIO A462	Virology	
PHIL A302	Biomedical Ethics	
PHYS A123	College Physics I	
PHYS A124	College Physics II	
PSY A111	Introduction to Psychology Edited Course	
PSY A150	Lifespan Development Edited Course	
PSY A345	Abnormal Psychology	
PSY A370	Behavioral Neuroscience	
PSY A498	Individual Research ²	
SOC A101	Introduction to Sociology	
SOC A363	Social Stratification	
SOC A377	Sociology of Gender	
SOC A408	Sociology of Race and Ethnicity	
STAT A253	Applied Statistics for the Sciences	
SWK A342	Human Behavior in the Social Environment	

Course	Title	Credits
SWK A409	Introduction to Child Welfare	
WS A200	Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies	
Total		24

¹BIOL A242 and BIOL A252 can only count towards the credit requirement in one area. They cannot be counted towards both the core requirement and the elective credit requirement.

² In combined total, no more than 6 credits of BIOL A498, CHEM A498, PSY A498, can count toward the 24 credits required for graduation; however, more can be taken.

A minimum of 24 credits is required for the certificate, of which 15 credits must be upper-division.



POST-BACCALAUREATE CERTIFICATE IN PRE-MEDICAL STUDIES

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

United States medical schools require, at a minimum, the successful completion of a baccalaureate degree, a suite of pre-requisite courses, and the Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT). Acceptance to medical school does not require a specific baccalaureate degree. In fact, students who have earned a degree outside the usual Biology or Natural Sciences degrees can stand out in the applicant pool.

The aim of the Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Pre-Medical Studies is to enable students who already hold a baccalaureate degree to meet their pre-requisite coursework requirements for medical school admission and to prepare for the MCAT exam. At present, UAA supports individual students to meet these goals on an *ad hoc* basis. The faculty, director and Faculty Pre-Medical Advising Committee of the WWAMI School of Medical Education, as well as faculty and advisors in the College of Arts and Sciences, including the director of the Department of Biological Sciences, have concluded that it is time to formalize a program of study for these students. This will result in greater equity, as more students will know about this opportunity. It will also result in greater access to financial support, as many forms of support are only available to certificate or degree-seeking students. It will also result in greater consistency in advising and mentoring, and more efficient use of scarce resources.

The program is intentionally designed to use current resources, to align with national best practices, and to provide maximum flexibility. The curriculum consists of existing UAA courses, repackaging the courses for this particular cohort of students. The program is highly flexible, so students who have already completed a sub-set of the course requirements can adjust the program to best fit their needs. The curriculum is based on the admissions requirements of the University of Washington School of Medicine, of which the UAA WWAMI School of Medical Education is a part. These admissions requirements align with those adopted by medical schools across the United States. Moreover, the approach and structure of the program reflect those used by similar post-baccalaureate programs offered at other sites within the WWAMI system, most notably that of Montana State University.

The certificate was developed by faculty in Biological Sciences and in WWAMI, in consultation with the Faculty Pre-Medical Advising Committee. National models were considered, and there was direct consultation with the coordinator of the post-baccalaureate program at Montana State University.

The program as designed will be housed in the College of Health and administered by the Alaska WWAMI School of Medical Education.

MISSION AND STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

University of Alaska Anchorage Mission

The updated UAA Mission statement approved this March, 2021 by the University of Alaska Board of Regents states: *“The University of Alaska Anchorage transforms lives through teaching, research, community engagement and creative expression in a diverse and inclusive environment. Serving students, the state, and the communities of Southcentral Alaska, UAA is a comprehensive, open access, public university established on the ancestral lands of the Dena’ina, Ahtna Dene, Alutiiq/Sugpiaq, Chugachmiut, and Eyak peoples.”*

The Pre-Medical Studies Post-Baccalaureate Certificate will serve students, the state, and the communities of Southcentral Alaska by:

- Providing students who have earned a range of baccalaureate degrees a guided transition from college into medical school.
- Enabling Alaskan students to meet their pre-medical course requirements in a straightforward, timely, and affordable manner and without having to leave the state to do so. Such students are more likely to remain in Alaska for medical school and for their subsequent medical careers.
- Growing our own and expanding the pipeline into Alaska’s only medical program: Alaska WWAMI (AK WWAMI). Alaska, in general, and rural Alaska, in particular, suffers from an ongoing shortage of physicians. AK WWAMI is Alaska’s only medical program and the state’s primary means of addressing this shortage (WWAMI is the *alma mater* of 1 in 8 physicians currently practicing in Alaska). Increasing the strength and diversity of AK WWAMI’s applicant pool will help to ensure that places in this program are given to talented Alaskan students from a wide variety of backgrounds who have both the ability to succeed in medical school and the desire to remain in Alaska to serve as physicians in their communities.

University of Alaska Anchorage Strategic Plan - UAA 2025

The Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Pre-Medical Studies aligns with the following four UAA 2025 aspirations:

1. *We put students first* - The post-baccalaureate certificate is proposed in direct response to student demand and need.
2. *We create a culture of equity and inclusion by embracing our diversity* - A published, guided pathway to meeting the requirements of medical school admissions and preparing for the MCAT provides opportunity and access to students who might not have thought this career option was attainable.
3. *We embrace our role as a trusted and respected community partner* - The post-baccalaureate certificate deepens our partnership with our communities, with the ultimate goal of more physicians remaining in or returning to Alaska to live and work.

4. *We positively impact communities and the world through innovation* - While not new to other states, this would be the first post-baccalaureate of its kind in Alaska.

By providing a natural transition from a bachelor's degree to medical school, the proposed certificate provides students with a realistic pathway to advanced graduate study (MD) and a high-demand career as physicians. In doing so it will attract and retain high quality in-state students, encourage the return of talented Alaskan students who left the state to pursue their undergraduate education, and bring talented non-resident pre-medical students to Alaska. The certificate will achieve this, in large part, because it will greatly increase the efficiency of their educational progress from entry into the program to completion.

University of Alaska System Goals and Measures

Goal 2 (provide Alaska's skilled workforce) - The proposed certificate directly addresses Goal 2 of UA Goals and Measures. Goal 2 identifies *"health programs"* as a *"critical area"*. This certificate provides Alaskan students with the opportunity to obtain the educational qualifications they need to successfully compete for a place in a top-tier US medical school and to progress on to a high-paying career as a physician. In doing so, it directly addresses Alaska's shortage of physicians by providing an in-state medical school pathway for Alaskans and also by bringing talented pre-medical students, including returning Alaskans, to Alaska for this transitional stage of their medical studies.

Goal 4 (increase degree attainment) - The post-baccalaureate certificate also directly addresses Goal 4 of UA Goals and Measures. This goal states that *"the educational success of students attending the University of Alaska is among its highest priorities. The university is committed to preparing Alaskans to become educated members of our state's workforce and to meet the state's workforce needs."*

The proposed certificate achieves this by providing Alaskan students with a flexible pathway that facilitates their transition from their undergraduate degree to medical school in a timely, affordable, and straightforward manner. Students will no longer be forced to leave the state or enroll as non-degree seeking students in order register for the needed pre-medical coursework pre-requisites.

By providing students with a cohesive pre-medical certificate course, students will be able to complete the courses they need in a straightforward and efficient manner. They will also be able to ensure their enrollment in the courses that they need. As certificate-seeking students, students will be able to enroll in these courses earlier in the registration process. Students will also be better able to finance their studies as the proposed certificate will enable them to use GI bill scholarships, financial aid and other similar funding sources to cover tuition as the courses they wish to cover with these funds will be part of a program in which they are enrolled.

E-LEARNING OPTIONS

E-learning is already available for many of the courses within the program, including all four of the core courses. In consequence, students may complete 100% of this post-baccalaureate program online, if they so choose. Students who choose to access all or most of the program via distance will have access to all of the standard online support facilities available to UAA students, and they will also be able to schedule regular telephonic or online meetings with faculty pre-medical advisors using the "schedule once" system already used by these advisors to facilitate meetings with their advisees.

AFFECTED PROGRAMS

The courses included in the certificate program are existing courses offered either by UAA's College of Arts and Sciences or UAA's College of Health. The required courses are science courses that are offered on a regular basis, both online and in person on the Anchorage campus, and can accommodate additional students.

Many of the lower-division courses included in this certificate are offered on a regular basis at UAA's community campuses. In consequence, rural students may complete 100% of this post-baccalaureate program within their home community through a combination of in-person and e-learning instruction, if they so choose.

The proposed certificate enjoys the support of the deans of the College of Health and the College of Arts and Sciences and the directors of UAA's community campuses.

STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES AND STUDENT SUCCESS

The flexibility inherent in the program design will enable a wide variety of prospective students to achieve their goal of becoming qualified and competitive medical school applicants. The intended student population includes both students who have completed degrees with non-science majors and who, accordingly, need to complete all or almost all of the pre-medical coursework pre-requisites, as well as students who have already completed many of these pre-requisites and who are looking to complete the remaining pre-requisites and make themselves stronger applicants at the same time. The proposed certificate serves both types of students.

The relatively small number of explicitly required courses is limited to three courses that are not only course pre-requisites but that are also courses that will directly benefit any incoming medical student: genetics, cell biology and biochemistry. The remaining courses are grouped into sets of electives that incorporate all of the standard pre-medical requirements (college physics, organic chemistry) while also providing the opportunity for students who have already completed these requirements to choose from electives that will help them to prepare for other areas of the MCAT exam (e.g. general psychology), prepare for medical school directly (e.g. immunology, molecular biology of cancer, microbial physiology), broaden their cultural awareness (e.g. Alaska Native perspectives, introduction to women's and gender studies) and/or strengthen their applications by participating directly in relevant research projects (BIOL, CHEM, PSY A498 Individual Research in Biological Sciences, Chemistry and Psychology respectively). The certificate program will thereby provide admitted students with the opportunity for mentored research for academic credit in a relevant field.

The program as a whole is structured so that successful students will graduate with a certificate whose transcript clearly shows programmatic rigor and relevance to medical school, while at the same time completing the courses they require in order to be eligible to apply.

Students taking part in the program will be eligible for both academic advising from the College of Health and pre-medical advising from the members of the Alaska WWAMI Faculty Pre-Medical Advising Committee. Medical school applicants must demonstrate a history of volunteer service as part of their application. The pre-medical advising support provided to students taking part in this program will include helping students to identify and encouraging students to actively participate in local opportunities for community engagement.

Students taking part in this program will also be eligible for the various student support programs available on campus. For example, Anchorage students enrolled in BIOL A111 & A112, will be able to access the tutoring services provided by the Recruitment and Retention of Alaska Natives into Nursing (RRANN) program. Alaska Native students will benefit from the tutoring and support programs offered by Alaska Native Student Services and students from a variety of backgrounds will benefit from the similar programs offered by the AHAINA (African American, Hispanic, Asian, International, and Native American) student programs.

The Certificate will further enhance UAA's support of a medical pipeline for Alaskan students. It also provides a solution for students seeking financial assistance, which often requires admission to a certificate or degree.

STUDENT DEMAND AND STATE NEEDS

The Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, in its Alaska Occupational Forecast 2018-2018, projects a state need of 43 new physicians per year. The American Association of Medical Colleges (AAMC), projects a substantial (55,000 to 140,000) shortage of physicians across the United States by 2033, and that Alaska will have to compete for physicians with the rest of the country.

AAMC data from 2018 shows that >31% Alaskan physicians are older than 60 years. There are currently about 1,950 active Alaskan licensed physicians with "in state" addresses. (2021 data from the Alaska State Medical Board). If Alaska has to replace 31% of its physicians over the next 10 years – this would suggest we will need closer to 60 physicians per year just to maintain the current level of physician availability.

WWAMI is Alaska's medical school. Every year it provides 20 Alaskans with the opportunity to set out on their MD degrees. However, to be eligible for WWAMI, students must first meet the various pre-medical requirements and to gain admission they must do so in a way that makes them competitive with respect to the other applicants. At present, those students who attended universities within the UA system and completed degrees that are not traditionally associated with medicine find themselves at a disadvantage. In order to complete their pre-requisite requirements, these students must either try to get into popular classes from the back of the queue as "non-degree seeking students," or leave the state. This program will

appropriately increase access to WWAMI to a much wider pool of Alaskan students and help Alaska to retain the very best of its own students as future physicians.

The UAA WWAMI School of Medical Education's Faculty Pre-Medical Advising Committee and the College of Arts and Sciences' Science Advisors are aware of at least 30 students who are currently attempting to complete the equivalent of this certificate on an *ad hoc* basis at UAA. The UAA WWAMI School of Medical Education's Pre-Medical Coordinator and the members of the Faculty Pre-Medical Advising Committee also collectively receive at least 50 additional enquiries per year from students who are looking for a program of this nature. These students typically either abandon their pursuit of medicine or leave the state to seek opportunities when they discover there is not such a program in Alaska.

The projections in the following chart are based on the above numbers.

Enrollment Projections

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
Headcount	15	20	25	30

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Because the program draws on existing courses, the overall impact on current and future resources will be minimal. The compulsory courses that serve as medical school pre-requisites, i.e., the elective courses that are likely to be in high demand, are offered on a regular basis, either every semester or yearly.

FACULTY AND STAFF

No additional faculty or staff are required. The courses offered are already in existence and student advising will happen within the current advising structure, which includes the College of Health professional academic advising staff and faculty pre-medical advisors. Both the staff and faculty advisors are already working with students seeking this opportunity. The addition of a formalized program of study will streamline this process for the students and the advisors.

ADEQUACY OF FACILITIES, EQUIPMENT, LIBRARY AND OTHER RESOURCES

The current facilities, including library, technical support, and academic support services are adequate to support this program.

Attachments:

Post-Baccalaureate Pre-Medical Sciences Catalog Copy