

Debunking the myths about UAA



UAA is Anchorage's modern, urban metropolitan university. UAA grew up with Anchorage and is designed to serve this community. In addition, UAA has become an important resource for Alaska.

UAA is a university of place — this place. Together, we are Anchorage.

Like any long-standing institution, past misconceptions persist. We're sharing some of the most commonly held myths about UAA, as well as the realities.



UAA is no longer accredited.

FACT: UAA has been accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) since 1974. NWCCU reaffirmed our accreditation in January 2019 specifying four commendations. The university holds accreditation from 26 specialized accrediting organizations; 61 of our degrees and certificates have specialized accreditation.



UAA is just a glorified community college.

FACT: UAA is an open access, modern metropolitan university. We are similar to many other state university systems that were previously commuter and safety schools. Like UAA, they are now growing and dynamic schools of choice drawing great students, faculty and staff.

Close comparisons: Portland State, University of Illinois at Chicago, University of Texas San Antonio



UAA is disconnected from the real world.

FACT: UAA is a major driver of Alaska's economy and woven into the fabric of Anchorage. Our role in the community and state is recognized, and we have recently received significant community and statewide support for our work from partners including Premier Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alaska and the Atwood Foundation.



UAA is only about teaching, not research.

FACT: UAA has rigorous undergraduate and graduate research programs, and our applied research works to solve the state's most pressing problems. UAA is home to several key Alaska centers and institutes devoted to special concerns and opportunities associated with northern populations as well as the national and international community.



UAA students are like any other college students in the U.S.

FACT: Many UAA students are first-generation college students; many are working full time while they go to school, taking care of family members and children. Many are veterans or current military and commuting. These are all normally considered "risk factors" for degree completion. To us, this just

means these students need additional supports, and we have implemented those. Our students work so hard, and they inspire us every day.



UAA is not without its challenges.

Events and uncertainty over this last summer affected enrollment and public perception. We're so grateful for the support of our community as we continue to grow stronger every day.



AMAZING STORIES BEING WRITTEN EVERY DAY.



UNIVERSITY of ALASKA
ANCHORAGE™