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**ACADEMIC PROGRAM REVIEW  
INTERIM PROGRESS REPORT FORM**

This form is composed of three parts: the Program Section, the Dean Section, and the Provost Section. Guidance for submission is provided in each section.

**Using the Form:** The form is pre-loaded with information specific to each program and posted on the [Program Review website](#). The program should download and save their form to begin using it. The form is locked, so instructions are viewable and the only sections of the document that can be edited are the form fields.

The form uses narrative, text, and drop-down boxes. Narrative boxes have a character limit, which includes spaces. When using text and drop-down boxes, if you want to undo an answer, press "Control-Z" or "Command-Z."

Responses are to be narrative only, and must be ADA and FERPA compliant. Do not embed any links, including to webpages or other documents. To be FERPA compliant, do not include the names of any current or former students. Rather, use statements such as, "In AY21 four program graduates were accepted to graduate programs in the field." Programs with specialized accreditation or other external recognitions must comply with restrictions regarding what can be published, as per the accreditor or external organization. Do not include appendices. Appendices to this form will not be accepted.

**Assistance:** For technical assistance with this form, email Academic Affairs ([uaa.oaa@alaska.edu](mailto:uaa.oaa@alaska.edu)).

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**Submission Date:** 3/1/2021

**Name and title of person(s) submitting the report:** Ruben Foster, Adjunct Faculty

**Program(s) in the report:** OEC/UC Corrections

**Specialized Accrediting Agency (if applicable):** N/A

**Campuses where program is delivered:**  Anchorage  KOD  KPC  MSC  PWSC

**Year of last review:** AY2020

**Final decision from last review:** Revision

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**PROGRAM SECTION**

*After completing the Program Section, the program should email this form to the dean, and copy [uaa.oaa@alaska.edu](mailto:uaa.oaa@alaska.edu) for posting. If the program is delivered on a community campus, copy the appropriate community campus director(s) as well.*

**For each current recommendation listed below, provide a timeline for addressing the recommendation, an indication of how you will know when the recommendation has been successfully achieved, a brief description of actions taken to date, and any evidence that the actions have been successful. Programs can access current data on the [IR-Reports Program Review site](#).**

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***Recommendation 1: Serious consideration should be given to moving the program to the College of Health to connect it with the Justice and/or Human Services programs.***

***Timeline (2000 characters or less)***

It is anticipated that the Corrections Occupational Endorsement and Undergraduate Certificate (OEC/UC) will move under the College of Health at UAA by the fall semester 2021.

***How will you know the recommendation has been successfully achieved? Include description of data or metrics used and method used to determine success. (2000 characters or less)***

This recommendation will be successfully achieved upon the finalization of the move to the College of Health at UAA.

***Actions taken to date and evidence of success to date. (2000 characters or less)***

On February 12, 2021, a meeting was held with Dr. Andre Rosay, Associate Dean, College of Health; Dr. Brad Myrstol, Associate Professor and Director of the UAA Justice Center; Dr. Cheryl Siemers, Assistant Director for Academic Affairs at Kenai Peninsula College; Henry Haney, Co-Chair Business and Industry at Kenai Peninsula College; and Ruben Foster, Adjunct Faculty, Corrections OEC/UC. Within this meeting, recommendation #1 was discussed and all parties agreed that the Corrections OEC/UC would be better served under the College of Health, with coordination and collaboration offered through the UAA Justice Center. Dr. Rosay advised that the position of the program within the College of Health would remain with the Dean's Office. Dr. Myrstol and Dr. Siemers supported this move and encouraged future program coordination with the UAA Justice Center. Support for this move was also provided by KPC Director Gary Turner.

***Future actions to take, if applicable. (2000 characters or less)***

The Corrections OEC/UC will be moved from the Career and Technical College at UAA to the College of Health.

***Recommendation 2: Continue discussions with the Alaska Department of Corrections to understand its hiring plans and what level of educational attainment it will expect of its new hires.***

***Timeline (2000 characters or less)***

The Kenai Peninsula College Corrections Coordinator will continue conversations with the Alaska Department of Corrections to understand its hiring plans and to help ensure that Corrections programming and curriculum meet workforce needs going forward. This work was part of the original intention of the Corrections OEC/UC and will continue to be a focus for future program revision and development. It is anticipated that through collaboration with the UAA Justice Center the Corrections OEC/UC will review and improve coordination with the Alaska Department of Corrections and its employment needs along with any needed program improvements and revisions, implementing identified changes in the cycle leading up to the next review in spring semester 2024. Some of the anticipated changes will take time to implement if proven necessary. Efforts to coordinate with DOC will be consistent and ongoing as the program moves forward.

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**How will you know the recommendation has been successfully achieved? Include description of data or metrics used and method used to determine success. (2000 characters or less)**

Needs and requirements as explained by the Alaska Department of Corrections should be considered when revising program outcomes, student learning objectives, and future career and educational pathways. This information should be incorporated into regular assessment processes, and stakeholder feedback considered.

Kenai Peninsula College Corrections faculty collect data for specific program outcomes and student learning objectives on a 3-year rotation. The designated assessment program coordinator for Corrections coordinates course-level assessment and other assessment activities as needed. The assessment coordinator works with staff and faculty to assemble the data, compile required reports, and forward needed materials to the KPC Director and Dean of the Career and Technical College as required (soon to be the College of Health). The final report is reviewed by the program faculty before submitting it to UAA.

The faculty of the Corrections program meet at least once a year, along with the Assessment Coordinator or Assistant Director for Academic Affairs, to review the data collected using the assessment tools. This results in recommendations for program changes that are designed to enhance performance relative to the program's objectives and outcomes. The results of the data collection, an interpretation of the results, and the recommended programmatic changes are forwarded in a formal report to the appropriate reporting channels by October 15 of each year. The proposed programmatic changes may be any action or change in policy that the faculty deems as being necessary to improve performance relative to program objectives and outcomes. Recommended changes should also consider workload (faculty, staff, and students), budgetary, facilities, and other relevant constraints. These efforts will be made through coordination with the UAA Justice Center as deemed appropriate.

This annual assessment process will assess graduate preparedness for workforce placement.

**Actions taken to date and evidence of success to date. (2000 characters or less)**

The opening of the Palmer Correctional Center has created in excess of 103 positions needed to fill in 2021, not counting current positions to recruit in both institutions and field Pretrial, Probation, & Parole. Pretrial has created numerous positions as well in and of itself.

On February 3, 2021, a meeting was held with management in the Division of Pretrial, Probation, & Parole (DP3) in the Alaska Department of Corrections (DOC) through adjunct Ruben Foster. Earlier attendance was recommended by Director Jennifer Winkleman as to the question posed via email, "What are DOC's plans for hiring and recruitment in 2021?" Contact was made with Jessica Monkeliën who is an administrative officer in charge of recruitment and outreach for the Alaska DOC. She provided plans for 2021 recruitment and outreach, noting that the difficult-to-fill positions are among the probation officer, nurse, and correctional officer ranks at present. It was noted that the OEC/UC meets recruitment goals for Correctional Officers and Criminal Justice Technicians regarding needed experience and/or education; however, the Probation Officer series provides a stricter standard that typically is met through a bachelor and/or associate degree level and experience. Ms. Monkeliën mentioned that there is a strong need to work with local universities to assist in closing the gap in

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recruitment for DOC and that this is recognized. DP3 Director Jennifer Winkleman encouraged coordination with the university system.

On February 12, 2021, a meeting was held between UAA College of Health, UAA Justice Center, and KPC. Discussion surrounded how the OEC/UC holds great value regarding both occupational attainment and educational progression. Adjunct Ruben Foster provided many examples of successful OEC/UC graduates who work within the Alaska DOC. It was noted that coordination between DOC and the university system is essential for successful recruitment and retention in Alaska.

**Future actions to take, if applicable. (2000 characters or less)**

The topic of program name was raised as a possible solution to assist in increased enrollment. Criminal Justice is made up of the Police, Courts, and Corrections. It is a three-tiered system working hand in hand together to bring justice to victims, provide reintegration, and to protect society. Although Corrections is essential in both isolation, rehabilitation, and reintegration, it by itself narrowly focuses graduates to this specific area within a broader system. It is believed that a generalized program name could allow for increased future viability.

Given national civil unrest and racial inequality issues, use of excessive force, lack of sufficient applicants in hiring, and many ethical considerations, there is a dire need to address and refocus the program on important issues of the day needed to perform and excel in criminal justice. Redrafting the OEC/UC curriculum to fit the needs at a broader level would provide valuable and needed skillsets to graduates. Dr. Myrstol noted that there are several options available that could assist this endeavor that UAA already offers regarding justice curriculum. Also, that creation of course work that specifically addresses industry needs may be part of program revision.

Offering an associate degree could specialize or align the program to better serve the population and to meet the needs for higher ranking positions within the criminal justice system. It was noted that the Department of Corrections currently provides incentives for education within the Correctional Officer ranks and provides hiring bonuses of up to \$5,000. Creating strong pathways from the undergraduate certificate to relevant two and four-year programs is vitally important. An associates degree could greatly fill the gap that Alaska has for older students and those entering the workforce for the first time.

**DEAN SECTION**

*After completing the Dean Section and signing it, the dean should email this form to the program, and copy [uaa.oaa@alaska.edu](mailto:uaa.oaa@alaska.edu) for posting. If the program is delivered on a community campus, copy the appropriate community campus director(s) as well.*

**For each recommendation, comment on the progress to date and provide commendations and guidance as appropriate. (2000 characters or less for each recommendation)**

***Recommendation 1: Serious consideration should be given to moving the program to the College of Health to connect it with the Justice and/or Human Services programs.***

This was accomplished in Fall 2020, the program will now reside within the College of Health.

***Recommendation 2: Continue discussions with the Alaska Department of Corrections to understand***

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***its hiring plans and what level of educational attainment it will expect of its new hires.***

Process to verify that coordination with Alaska Department of Corrections now appear well mapped out and clear. DoC's initial meeting with the group occurred on Feb. 3rd, 2020 was clearly described above. Future needs were discussed, and the program appears viable.

**Dean's overall recommendation to the provost:** Follow-up Program Review in AY25.

**If recommending Suspension with Follow-up Program Review, that review will need to be in AY2022 or AY2023. Please indicate which year:** Select Academic Year.

Dean's signature:



Date: 3/8/2021

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**PROVOST SECTION**

*After completion and signature, the Provost will email the final decision to the program and dean, with a copy to [uaa.aaa@alaska.edu](mailto:uaa.aaa@alaska.edu) for posting. If the program is delivered on a community campus, copy the appropriate community campus director(s) as well.*

**Provost's commendations, additional or adjusted recommendations, if any, and other general comments (3000 characters or less):**

The program has made progress on the recommendations. Moving forward, I especially encourage a focus on the success of the program's students.

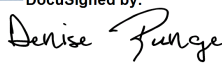
Recommendation 1) The college is in the formal process of requesting the transfer of the program from the Community and Technical College to the College of Health, to connect it with the Justice and Human Services programs.

Recommendation 2) The program initiated discussion with the Alaska Department of Corrections and plans for greater coordination.

Decision: Follow-up Program Review in AY25.

**Final decision:** Agree with the dean's overall recommendation.

Provost's signature:

DocuSigned by:  
  
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Date: July 12, 2021