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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).

Submission Date: 3/9/2021

Name and title of person(s) submitting the report: Bridgett Mayorga, Program Director DMS

Program(s) in the report: AAS Diagnostic Medical Sonography

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

PROGRAM SECTION

After completing the Program Section, the program should email this form to the dean, and copy 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

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can access current data on the [IR-Reports Program Review site](#).

Recommendation 1: Decrease the credits of the AAS to be closer to 60, or move to a BS. The revision should be completed in AY21 for implementation in fall 2021.

Timeline (2000 characters or less)

The DMS program began the revision process with a review of the new 2021 Joint Review Committee on Education in Diagnostic Medical Sonography (JRCEDMS) and Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) standards and curriculum to ensure any changes were in alignment with current accreditation standards. The initial intention was to develop a BS degree in Diagnostic Medical Sonography. The curriculum and courses were designed over the summer and the pre-prospectus written. In the process of development, several key issues came to light that caused the program to pause and reevaluate the direction of the program moving forward.

Issues:

- The current Clinical Coordinator does not possess a Bachelor's degree and would thus be unable to continue as the clinical coordinator or teach upper division courses in the new BS degree. As the majority of the DMS courses in the new degree would shift to 300/400 level courses, this would result in a significant faculty void. The program director would be the only faculty member with the needed credentials. This would require two to three new faculty hires prior to starting the BS degree.
- Equipment and Lab space. The program currently has two ultrasound machines. The development of the BS degree and expansion of the program would require the purchase of two to three additional machines at an average cost of \$75,000 each.
- Communities of interest, while excited for the BS option, expressed concern over eliminating the AAS degree which is the industry standard for sonography.

In discussions with the Director of the School of Allied Health and the Associate Dean of Clinical Health Sciences, the BS degree-creation process was paused, and the program began looking at alternative ways to meet the university's recommendations. Using the JRCEDMS standards and curriculum, the program was able to identify a way to reorganize existing courses and eliminate several prerequisite courses to bring the prog

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)

The success of the curricular reorganization will be demonstrated in the reduced credits per degree for DMS AAS graduates

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

- Review of accreditation standards for DMS degree programs.
- Development of a course sequence for a BS degree in DMS. As described above, through this development, barriers were identified that triggered further exploration of an alternate pathway.

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- Discussion with the Director of the SAH and Associate Dean of Clinical Health Sciences regarding changes in direction of the program review recommendations
- Course revision and re-organization of to retain the AAS has begun pending approval of the new program direction. No new courses would have to be developed, simply restructuring and reassignment of credits and SLO's would be needed.

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

- The DMS would like to continue with the AAS revisions to put through the full curriculum process in the Fall of 2021.
- The DMS program would like to begin exploration and development of a broader BS degree in Imaging Sciences. This degree could be developed to allow both Sonography and Radiologic Technology students the ability to obtain an advanced degree, thus, serving a larger pool of students. This new degree would act as a career ladder for interested students as well as bring back alumni and other practicing imaging professionals interested in career advancement. The new degree could be designed to add training in multiple advanced/specialty imaging areas such as Cardiac ultrasound, Vascular ultrasound, MRI, CT and Mammography in upper division coursework with each discipline. These new topic areas could also be offered as certificate options within the degree, allowing for even more participation from alumni and community members seeking to advance their careers and allow UAA to fill a vital role in imaging education needed in Alaska. A secondary benefit to these changes for community stakeholders could be decreased time and costs associated with on-the-job training or sending employees to courses outside of Alaska to obtain advanced certification or degree completion.

Recommendation 2: Develop a plan and proposal to apply for external accreditation.

Timeline (2000 characters or less)

The DMS program began the initial process for program accreditation in the spring of 2020. However, with the expedited program review recommendations, seeking external accreditation was paused until a decision could be made on the direction of the program curriculum. The revision to the AAS degree described in the section above meets the JRCDS standards and curriculum design necessary to proceed with external accreditation, while also reducing the number of credits required for the degree. The program has a partially completed self-study; once a curriculum decision is approved, it can be completed and submitted thus beginning the review process.

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)

Successful submission of the completed pre-accreditation JRCDS/CAAHEP self-study to the subsequent scheduling of the site visit, and ultimately being awarded programmatic accreditation.

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

Work has begun on the AAS curriculum revision. Once completed and implemented, a new application for accreditation will need to be completed with the CAAHEP and signed off by administration. This is an electronic submission. The new application will then allow the program to

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access the current self-study documents which can be edited and submitted.

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

Successful completion of the self-study, review and scheduling of a site visit during AY 21-22

DEAN SECTION

After completing the Dean Section and signing it, the dean should email this form to the program, and copy uaa.ooo@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: Decrease the credits of the AAS to be closer to 60, or move to a BS. The revision should be completed in AY21 for implementation in fall 2021.

The Diagnostic Medical Sonography program has carefully evaluated the strengths and limitations of the options to reduce credits in the AAS or modify the curriculum to move toward a BS. Each option provides its own strengths and limitations. Upon careful consideration and discussion with the dean's office, the option to reduce the credits in the AAS in order to retain that degree has been determined to provide the best option with the least potential negative impact. Considerations was given to student interest, student time to completion, faculty resources, and industry demand.

The program does face challenges in the number of clinical hours and the quantity of exposure to specific conditions that is required for this type of program. Because of this requirement, it would not be feasible to reduce the credits in the AAS to 60, but it is feasible, and recommended, that the program modify the curriculum such that it is under the 75 credit maximum allowed by BOR policy (P10.04.030). The curriculum revision will not be in place for fall 2021, but the recommendation is to submit the curriculum through the curriculum approval process in the fall of 2021 such that it can be implemented in fall 2022.

It is recommended that the program continue to explore development of a BS in imaging sciences (or similar) that would provide options for career laddering, inclusion of the speciality areas needed in the state, and a fiscally sustainable program.

Recommendation 2: Develop a plan and proposal to apply for external accreditation.

The program is recommended to continue to use the accreditation standards as a basis for revision of the AAS curriculum. It is recommended that the program work, in collaboration with the COH Dean's office, to initiate the process for accreditation with a timeline for completion of a self-study and site visit. The goal would be to have a self-study submitted by the end of AY22 for a site visit by early AY23.

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Dean's overall recommendation to the provost: Follow-up Program Review in AY24.

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



Dean's signature: _____

Date: 4/5/2021

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 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) I agree with the program and the dean that the best option at this time is to maintain the AAS. The program should reduce the credits below the BOR maximum to be as close to the 60 credit minimum as feasible. It is understood that Alaska requires a more generalist training. For models of associate's degrees nearer the 60 credit minimum, the program should look at degrees in other large, rural states with small populations. The relevant course and program revisions should be submitted to the Undergraduate Academic Board no later than December 1, 2021, for implementation in fall 2022.

Recommendation 2) The program should develop a plan and proposal to apply for external accreditation, following established UAA guidelines. After review and approval by the dean, the proposal should be submitted no later than December 1, 2021 to the provost for review and consideration. If approved, the program will work with the college and OAA to move forward with the pre-accreditation self-study.

Decision: An Interim Progress Report on all recommendations is due to the dean by March 1, 2022. The dean will submit a review along with the program's Interim Progress Report to the provost by April 1, 2022. Unless otherwise noted at that time, a Follow-up Program Review will be conducted in AY24.

Final decision: Agree with the dean's overall recommendation with the additional guidance and adjustments as per the above comments.

Provost's signature:  AE7EE55F615543D...

Date: July 12, 2021