



Date: February 21, 2020
To: John Stalvey, Interim Provost
From: Karen Markel, Dean, College of Business and Public Policy
Cc: Deidre Berberich, Associate Professor, Mat-Su
Stasia Straley, Professor, UAA
Talis Colberg, Mat-Su Director
Re: AY20 Expedited Program Review Findings

Program/s in this review:

AAS Accounting

Specialized accrediting agency (if applicable):

N/A

Campuses where the program is delivered:

UAA, Mat-Su

Members of the program review committee:

- Deidre Berberich, Associate Professor, Mat-Su
- Stasia Straley, Professor, UAA

1. Centrality of Program Mission and Supporting Role

The AAS Accounting degree program serves the local Anchorage business community by meeting workforce demands. Program faculty maintain close relationships with employers and accounting practitioners to stay current with the job market demands.

2. Program Demand (including service to other programs), Efficiency, and Productivity

There is a shortage of qualified bookkeepers in Alaska and nationwide and faculty frequently receive requests from employers needing to fill bookkeeping positions. The AAS Accounting degree program helps meet this workforce demand. Additionally, students who earn an AAS degree can be motivated to continue on to a BBA

degree program. The AAS Accounting degree program is designed so that students can easily transition into the 4-year BBA Accounting major.

3. Program Quality, Improvement and Student Success

The AAS Accounting degree program is designed to ensure that students have a strong foundation in understanding the operating cycle of a business. The Mat-Su campus has adopted Quality Matters for all online offering. The AAS Accounting degree program serves a distinct career interests and often students continue on to the BBA in Accounting program.

4. Program Duplication / Distinctiveness

The AAS in Accounting is also offered at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. An analysis should be completed to determine distinctiveness from other AAS Accounting degree programs in Alaska.

5. Commendations and Recommendations

The recommendation for the AAS Accounting degree programs to work together to develop and implement a coordinated schedule to provide a more efficient pathway for student success. This should include coordination of course caps, mode of delivery and schedule of courses, especially because the campuses offering the programs are geographically close. Measures of efficiency for both campus programs should be improved through this coordination. Current measures indicate that the program revenue does not cover the instructional costs for both campuses. Also, does the AAS Accounting degree program make sense to have in the College of Business and Public Policy or is it better suited for the Community and Technical College whose focus is on the associate degrees and technical training? Faculty focused solely on teaching and workforce development could better serve the students.

6. Decision

Continued Review: Program is required to address specific issues and to undergo another review within the next two academic years.