



Date: February 24, 2020  
To: John Stalvey, Interim Provost  
From: Karen Markel, Dean, College of Business and Public Policy  
Cc: Bogdan Hoanca, Department Chair and Professor of Management Information Systems  
Re: AY20 Expedited Program Review Findings

**Program/s in this review:**

AAS Business Computer Information Systems (BCIS)

**Specialized accrediting agency (if applicable):**

N/A

**Campuses where the program is delivered:**

UAA

**Members of the program review committee:**

- Bogdan Hoanca, Department Chair and Professor of Management Information Systems, UAA

**1. Centrality of Program Mission and Supporting Role**

The AAS BCIS program prepares students for general entry-level positions in Information Technology (IT) fields and is also an entry point for students who would like to explore a management career in the field. Employers in Alaska value the versatility of AAS BCIS students. The AAS BCIS program is based entirely on courses that are part of the BBA MIS program and attempts serves the local Anchorage business community by meeting workforce demands. As noted by the program review committee employers value the versatility of AAS BCIS students and are a better fit for a wider range of IT-related jobs than the graduates of other more technology-focused AAS programs in the state.

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

There is a shortage of qualified IT professionals in Alaska and nationwide and faculty frequently receive requests from employers needing to fill positions. The AAS BCIS degree program efficiency and productivity needs improvement. While the workforce demand is high, students seeking the degree often drop out because they receive fulltime job offers in the industry.

### 3. Program Quality, Improvement and Student Success

The AAS BCIS degree program is designed to ensure that students have a strong foundation in understanding the IT field. The AAS BCIS degree program serves a distinct career interests; however, student retention is a challenge. The AAS BCIS degree program needs to become more efficient, increasing enrollment and retaining students.

### 4. Program Duplication / Distinctiveness

There is no similar program at UAA or in Alaska. Programs at UAS and UAF with a technology tend to rely on online courses. The AAS BCIS degree program is about technology; however, there is also an incorporation of hand-on experience in a face to face class.

### 5. Commendations and Recommendations

Although this is the only program of its kind in the state, there are currently insufficient resources and enrollment is in declined. As noted by the program review, students often get hired before program completion which may be an indication that this degree may not be necessary for career success in the field. The current structure of the program forces course offerings with very few students making continued support challenging given current staffing and resources available in the college. The program should work to improve efficiency measures to through course caps and streamlined scheduling of courses required for the program. The recommendation is to develop a more detailed timeline of when actions/tasks will occur in order to conduct an AAS BCIS program needs assessment to identify recruiting and retention efforts as well as ways to meet industry demand. Opportunities could include developing 100- and 200- level courses more commonly included in AAS degree programs. New outreach activities should be developed, implemented and assessed to determine what new resources are needed to grow enrollment. Based on the program review submitted in Spring, 2019 there does not appear to be much progress on the action items that include new recruitment efforts and curriculum review. Lastly, does the AAS BCIS 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. With thoughtful consideration this program has the potential to grow and serve a much needed Alaska skill set, however, the program needs to be reviewed with resource allocation and community input in mind.

### 6. Decision

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