



Date: February 21, 2020

To: John Stalvey, Interim Provost

From: John Petraitis, Interim Dean, College of Arts and Sciences

Cc: Patricia Sandberg, Professor  
Eric Murphy, Professor; Director, Department of Psychology

Re: AY20 Expedited Program Review Findings

**Program/s in this review:** Children's Mental Health Graduate Certificate (CMH GCRT)

**Specialized accrediting agency (if applicable):** None

**Campuses where the program is delivered:** Anchorage

**Members of the program review committee:**

Patricia Sandberg, Professor  
Eric Murphy, Professor and Director

### **Centrality of Program Mission and Supporting Role**

UAA's mission is to discover and disseminate knowledge through teaching, research, engagement and creative expression. UAA is committed to serving the higher education needs of the state, its communities and its diverse peoples. It is also committed to instruction at multiple academic levels, success of all students regardless of their higher education goals, and service to the diverse peoples and communities of the state. UAA's core themes are (1) Teaching and Learning, (2) Research, Scholarship and Creative Activity, (3) Student Success, (4) UAA Community, and (5) Public Square. UAA values international and intercultural education, diversity of experiences and perspectives, and the diversity of our unique location in Southcentral Alaska that comes from the Alaska Native peoples of this area.

The College of Arts and Sciences contributes to UAA's mission with a suite of programs that provide, among other things,

1. general education courses for undergraduates in CAS and other Colleges,
2. opportunities for undergraduates to pursue majors in the humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, and the arts, and

3. opportunities for faculty and students to pursue research and creative activities in CAS's academic disciplines,
4. graduate programs for advanced studies.

Given decreased enrollments across UAA and significant budget cuts to CAS, the challenge is to serve UAA's and CAS's missions with only 75% of the funds it had in 2018-2019. CAS's shrinking budget is especially challenging for programs that rely on state financial appropriations through CAS because the programs have a gap between (a) the total costs of everything the program does and needs, and (b) the tuition CAS receives to cover those costs. This describes most programs in CAS: most rely on state appropriates and CAS has 30% less than it had two years ago.

The Children's Mental Health Graduate Certificate (CMH GCRT) contributes to CAS's and UAA's mission by addressing a gap in mental-health delivery programs. By addressing mental-health assessment and treatment among children, the 13-credit interdisciplinary program builds on 9 credits of coursework in other existing graduate programs at UAA in Psychology, Special Education, and Social Work, adding 4 credits of program-specific course work, namely PSY/EDSE/SWK A677 and PSY/EDSE/SWK A691.

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

Although the program is designed to add only four additional credits onto nine credits in other programs, the demand is very small with an average of only four majors per year and only two awards per year. Additionally, the two program-specific courses (A677 and A691) are not required for the masters degrees in Psychology, Special Education, or Social Work. As such, these program-specific courses are being taught separately from those other masters program, not as required parts of it.

### **Program Quality, Improvement and Student Success**

The program was innovative in relying primarily on existing courses in Psychology, Special Education and Social work, and it remained innovative by recently moving to online delivery for A691. The program keeps its curriculum current with state needs and the evolving nature of the field.

### **Program Duplication / Distinctiveness**

The program is unique.

### **Commendations and Recommendations**

Program faculty are commended for an interdisciplinary approach to a gap in mental-health training. The faculty should also be commended for the hard work they put into their expedited program review submission.

### **Decision**

Revision. When it was designed, this program was a good idea, but it never took off. Now, at a time when CAS faces steeper budget cuts than UAA's other colleges and faculty ranks have been stretched thin, it is hard to justify spreading the key faculty member in this program as far as we do when then program attracts only 4 students per year and graduates only 2 per year. I recommend that responsibility for the instruction and administration of this program be shifted to the College of Health. The primary instructor in this program should then be reassigned to other programs within the Psychology Department. If that college is not willing to accept it, I recommend that it be deleted. Although unfortunate, deletion would impact relatively few students. The program should report on its progress by Spring 2021.