



Date: February 21, 2020

To: John Stalvey, Interim Provost

From: Jeff Jessee, Dean of the College of Health and Vice Provost of Health Programs

Cc: Maryann Hoke, Committee Chair & Assistant Professor of Health and Fitness Education  
T.J. Miller, Director, Department of Health, Physical Education & Recreation  
Jean Marcey, Term Assistant Professor of Health and Fitness Education  
Carl Arts, Term Assistant Professor of Health and Fitness Education

Re: AY20 Expedited Program Review Findings

**Program/s in this review:** Physical Education BS

**Specialized accrediting agency (if applicable):** N/A

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

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

The Department of Health, Physical Education & Recreation's mission is to lead the state of Alaska in cultivating confident and competent health, fitness and recreation professionals who enhance the health and well-being of people and communities. The Physical Education BS prepares students for leadership roles in health, physical education and recreation fields. Starting in AY21, the Physical Education BS will have a new title (BS in Kinesiology). This degree will prepare students for professional positions in the rapidly growing healthcare, fitness, recreation and rehabilitation fields or for graduate studies. The program is recognized by the National Strength and Conditioning Association. It is also recognized by the American College of Sports Medicine as an Exercise is Medicine® On Campus program (this is a global health initiative that encourages primary care physicians and health care providers to include physical activity in treatment plans and to refer patients to evidence-based exercise programs and qualified exercise professionals). The program is central to the College of Health mission to improve the health and wellbeing of people and communities. The program also prepares students for advanced study in high demand fields (including exercise physiology, occupational therapy, physical therapy, athletic training, recreational therapy, and teaching). These types of careers are growing "faster than average" or "much faster than average" according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Alaska Department of Labor.

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

Program demand has been stable. During this review period, an average of 16 students per year have graduated from the program. The number of majors averaged 113 per year. Program demand is expected to increase with the new BS in Kinesiology. Tuition revenues have persistently exceeded the

instructional costs. On average, full tuition revenues have been 18% higher than instructional costs. The Department also generates external funding through its Human Performance Lab.

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

The program recently proposed a major curriculum revision, transitioning the degree from a BS in Physical Education to a BS in Kinesiology (this change will be implemented in the next academic year). Kinesiology, the study of human movement and functionality, is a more accurate description for the degree. High impact teaching practices are embedded throughout the curriculum. The program has a strong focus on experiential learning and community engagement. In particular, the Human Performance Lab provides unique opportunities for students to apply knowledge and skills. Students have been successful in obtaining professional licenses and certifications. Overall, the program maintains a strong focus on student success. Unfortunately, the program struggles with academic assessment. It will need to develop and implement a new Assessment Plan for the Kinesiology BS. Faculty need to allocate more effort on assessment activities.

**Program Duplication / Distinctiveness:**

The Physical Education / Kinesiology program is unique within the University of Alaska system. There are several programs that prepare students for graduate studies in health-related fields. However, this program is unique in preparing students for professional positions in the rapidly growing healthcare, fitness, recreation, and rehabilitation fields.

**Commendations and Recommendations:**

The Physical Education BS has a unique role in improving the health and wellbeing of people and communities. It is therefore an essential program for the College of Health. Program demand has been stable, but is expected to grow once the curriculum revisions are implemented. The program was recently enhanced with one additional faculty position. This should allow the program to grow, while maintaining a positive return on investment.

**Decision:**

Continuation.