



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: Bridgett Mayorga, Committee Chair & Term Assistant Professor of Diagnostic Medical Sonography  
Kathryn Slagle, Term Assistant Professor of Medical Imaging Science

Re: AY20 Expedited Program Review Findings

**Program/s in this review:** Limited Radiography OEC & Diagnostic Medical Sonography AAS & Radiologic Technology AAS

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

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

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

The Limited Radiography OEC is designed to teach non-imaging health care professionals to take radiologic images. It does not lead to the Radiologic Technology AAS. Limited radiographers perform X-ray examinations within a limited scope and work under the direct supervision of a registered radiologic technologist, physician and physician's assistant. The Radiologic Technology AAS trains students to provide diagnostic images of the structure and function of anatomy to assist the physician in the treatment of injury or disease. Students completing the Radiologic Technology AAS are eligible to apply for certification with the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT). The Diagnostic Medical Sonography AAS teaches students anatomy, physics, equipment operation and scanning techniques to image a variety of body organs and tissues using high-frequency sound waves. Graduates are prepared to sit for a national certification exam in diagnostic medical sonography. Employment opportunities for radiologic technologists are expected to grow by 23.0% (+34 job openings annually). For diagnostic medical sonographers, employment opportunities are expected to grow by 23.6% (+10 job openings annually). These medical imaging professions are critical to the provision of healthcare services. The programs make an important contribution to the College of Health goals to advance the health and wellbeing of people and communities. The programs maintain strong relationships with the other universities and community campuses within the University of Alaska system and with industry partners.

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

Demand for the Limited Radiography OEC has been low. The program has few majors. Student credit hour production is low. On average, the Limited Radiography OEC only produced 2.6 graduates per year (from a low of zero to a high of 10 back in FY2013). By comparison, the Radiologic Technology AAS and

Diagnostic Medical Sonography AAS demonstrate higher demand, despite having limited capacity and few options for clinical placements. The number of majors averaged 40.7 per year, and the number of graduates averaged 21.7 per year. However, demand is significantly higher for the Radiologic Technology AAS than for the Diagnostic Medical Sonography AAS. Overall, full tuition revenues cover 61% of the instructional costs for these programs, but the Diagnostic Medical Sonography AAS is significantly more expensive than the Radiologic Technology AAS. While the full tuition revenue from the Radiologic Technology courses covers 74% of the instructional costs, the full tuition revenue from the Diagnostic Medical Sonography courses only covers 36% of the instructional costs. The Diagnostic Medical Sonography AAS currently requires 83 credits for the degree. Faculty must revise the curriculum to reduce the number of credits required and to improve program demand.

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

The medical imaging programs do not have specialized accreditations, but the competency-based curriculum is aligned with external accreditation and certification standards. Students are closely supervised and regularly participate in direct experiential learning opportunities. Student outcomes are positive. Students successfully pass their certification examinations, and employment rates after graduation are high.

**Program Duplication / Distinctiveness:**

The Radiologic Technology AAS is available statewide, and maintains a very strong relationship with the University of Alaska Fairbanks. There are no other medical imaging programs within the University of Alaska system.

**Commendations and Recommendations:**

The medical imaging programs at UAA are successful in preparing competent, caring professionals to meet Alaska's medical imaging needs while promoting excellence in the imaging professions through advocacy, education, and community partnerships. However, the Limited Radiography OEC has very low demand and would be better offered as continuing education. Admissions should be suspended and the program should be restructured as a continuing education option. The Diagnostic Medical Sonography AAS must be revised to reduce the number of credits required. Alternatively, it must be transformed into a baccalaureate degree. Both options are likely to increase demand for the program. The program's advisory board has persistently emphasized the importance of having the program externally accredited. This would provide a clear benefit to the students because they would be able to sit for the American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonography certification examination prior to graduation (and without having to take another certification examination first). The program currently has too many impediments to student success. For these reasons, the Diagnostic Medical Sonography AAS must be revised. At this time, the Radiologic Technology AAS should be continued. It should also continue to explore options for enhancement. The program has promising options for extending its reach and broadening its curriculum. The College of Health is particularly supportive of efforts to combine duplicate courses across programs. This will provide additional support for future enhancements.

**Decision:**

Limited Radiography OEC – Suspension.  
Diagnostic Medical Sonography AAS – Revision.  
Radiologic Technology AAS – Continuation.