

Teaching Online

Policy Category: Academic Policies
Responsible Office: Office of Academic Affairs
Related Law & Policy: [34 CFR 600.2](#); [“Distance Education” and other related policies from the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities](#); [UAA Policy – Blackboard Use Policy](#); UAA Policy – Regular and Substantive Interaction; UAA Policy – Accessibility of Instructional Materials

I. Scope

This policy applies to University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA) employees and units developing, offering, and engaging in online programs, courses, and activities, specifically courses marked “O” for Online delivery of for-credit undergraduate and graduate students taught asynchronously.

II. Policy Overview

This policy identifies expectations for all UAA instructional faculty, including all of its campuses and sites, to be compliant with relevant federal and accreditation policies.

III. Policy Statement

To ensure high-quality instructional practices aligned with the expectations of “regular and substantive” interactions (RSI) in online courses, UAA will ensure instructors assigned to teach online courses are qualified to teach (prior experience, training, etc.) in the course modality. Programs may further create internal policies that require additional expectations for faculty preparing to teach in an online or blended environment.

IV. Roles/Responsibilities

Office of Faculty Success:

- Will support faculty by researching quality online instructional methods and strategies.
- Will provide [instruction and support for faculty, graduate teaching assistants, post-doctoral fellows, and instructional staff](#) teaching in online course modalities.

Faculty, Graduate Teaching Assistants, Post-Doctoral Fellows, and Instructional Staff teaching online:

- Will complete institutionally approved training in online instructional practices with documented completion every five years, or

- Will demonstrate expertise in online instructional practices through documented strategies available in course syllabi and as supported by course evaluations from the previous five years, or
- Will provide documented evidence of prior training in online pedagogies and tools completed within the past five/ten years.

Department Heads/Chairs, School Directors, or Community Campus designee

- Will ensure that only faculty who meet the requirements of this policy are assigned to teach an online course.
- Will verify that faculty assigned to an online course modality have met the requirements of this policy.

Deans and Community Campus Directors, or Designee:

- Will verify documentation of requirements as necessary.

V. Reason for Policy

UAA values and supports quality instruction in all of its educational programs and courses. For those courses offered fully online (which we define to mean delivery through the Learning Management System, with no assigned campus or classroom and no set meeting time), UAA expects and ensures that all courses and programs meet or exceed UAA's expectations for providing high-quality instruction.

VI. Approval

DocuSigned by:
Sean Parnell

Chancellor Approval

January 17, 2024

Date