

**2021 ANNUAL ACADEMIC ASSESSMENT REPORT FORM  
(Due October 15 to the dean)**

The Faculty Senate Academic Assessment Committee (AAC) is committed to a vision of assessment that leads to continuous program improvements and benefits students. Annual assessment reporting informs decision making and resource allocation aimed at improving student learning and success. It also enables the AAC to analyze assessment across the institution and to respond to UA System, Board of Regents, legislative, and Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) requests. We thank you for your continued support of and participation in this annual activity.

Starting in Spring 2021, UAA is moving to one academic assessment reporting mechanism. The below form merges and streamlines the former Annual Academic Assessment Survey and the Annual Academic Assessment Report. It also incorporates questions about how academic programs contribute to student achievement of institutional core competencies and to student success.

**This annual report will be due to the dean on October 15. Programs with suspended admissions and new programs in the first year of implementation are not required to complete this form.**

These reports are public documents and will be posted on the assessment website. Responses are to be narrative only, and must be ADA and FERPA compliant. Do not embed any links, including to webpages or other documents. To be FERPA compliant, do not include the names of any current or former students. Rather, use statements such as, "In AY21 four program graduates were accepted to graduate programs in the field." Programs with specialized accreditation or other external recognitions must comply with restrictions regarding what can be published, as per the accreditor or external organization. Do not include appendices. Appendices to this form will not be accepted.

The form uses narrative, text, and drop-down boxes. Narrative boxes have a character limit, which includes spaces. When using text and drop-down boxes, if you want to undo an answer, press "Control-Z" or "Command-Z."

For technical assistance with this form, email Academic Affairs ([uaa.oaa@alaska.edu](mailto:uaa.oaa@alaska.edu)).

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**PROGRAM SECTION (Due to the dean on October 15)**

*After completing the Program Section, the program should email this form to the dean, with a copy to the appropriate community campus director(s) if the program is delivered on a community campus.*

**Submission date:** 10/18/2021

**Submitted by:** Jill Janke PhD Graduate Program Chair

**Program(s) covered in this report:** Nursing Practice DNP

*(Programs with suspended admissions and new programs in the first year of implementation are not required to complete this form.)*

If you selected "Other" above, please identify. *(100 characters or less)*

**College:** College of Health

**Campuses where the program(s) is delivered:**  Anchorage  KOD  KPC  MSC  PWSC

**Specialized accrediting agency (if applicable):** Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing

**If explanation is necessary, such as only some of the certificates and degrees are covered by the specialized accreditation, briefly describe:**

### **INSTITUTIONAL STUDENT LEARNING CORE COMPETENCIES**

In 2020, UAA launched a consensus-based, deliberative process to identify the key skillsets that help students achieve academic and post-graduation success. After a year-long process that included students, faculty, staff, administrators, alumni, and employers, the UAA community identified four "core competencies" at the heart of a quality UAA education. Students develop mastery of these competencies through curricular (e.g., courses), co-curricular (e.g., internships, conferences), and extra-curricular (e.g., student clubs) learning experiences.

After the stakeholder-based process in AY20, UAA conducted a pilot project focusing on the core competency of Personal, Professional, and Community Responsibility (PPCR). This decision was based on input from the 2020 Annual Academic Assessment Retreat.

Question #1 below is designed to engage program faculty in thinking about how they can or already do promote student learning in this core competency.

**1. Personal, Professional, and Community Responsibility: The knowledge and skills necessary to promote personal flourishing, professional excellence, and community engagement.**

- **What would you hope a student would say if asked where in your program or support service they had the opportunity to develop proficiency in this Core Competency? (500 characters or less)**

Curriculum is developed from the DNP core essentials that incorporate professional, personal, and community responsibility. These core DNP concepts are interwoven into DNP courses and DNP assignments and cummulate in their DNP project. The DNP

project solidifies and exemplifies all the personal growth, professional growth, and community impact the student makes during their time in the program.

- **Do you have an example that could be a model for the university of an intentionally designed course, assignment, or activity that showcases the student learning in this core competency?** Yes No

**If yes, please briefly describe. (500 characters or less)**

In NSG A684 Clinical Concentration, the students have to look at organization culture, identify barriers, facilitators/champions within their project to promote successful project completion. Project completion means they have effectively promoted either an evidence-based practice change or policy improvement within an organization or local community.

- **Do you have any ideas about where your program or the university might develop other intentionally designed opportunities for students to develop proficiency in this core competency?** Yes No

**If yes, please briefly describe. (500 characters or less)**

We are working on more community participation with our students, clearer personal goals, and having students develop eportfolios to highlight their professional growth during this program.

## PROGRAM STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

2. **Please list the Program Student Learning Outcomes your program assessed in AY21. For each outcome, indicate one of the following: Exceeded faculty expectations, Met faculty expectations, or Did not meet faculty expectations.**

***Example: Communicate effectively in a variety of contexts and formats – Exceeded faculty expectations.***

1. Demonstrate enhanced professional skills in advanced practice nursing using an ethical, evidence-based approach to promote healthy communities (exceeded faculty expectations)
2. Apply clinical inquiry using a culturally sensitive, evidence-based approach to adapt practice and change health outcomes (exceeded faculty expectations)
3. Act in expanded leadership roles to influence local, statewide and national health care policy and delivery systems serving unique, diverse and underserved pop (exceeded faculty expectations).

3. **Describe your assessment process in AY21 for these program student learning outcomes, including the collection of data, analysis of data, and faculty (and other, e.g., advisory board) conversations around the findings. (750 characters or less)**

In AY 21 we evaluated DNP PSLOs 1-3 using the Exit Survey and the External Review of the DNP Project. We also sent the Alumni Survey out to the AY 20 graduate cohort. Results were reviewed as part of the DNP re-accreditation self-study that took place 9-2021.

**4. What are the findings and what do they tell the faculty about student learning in your program? (750 characters or less)**

The benchmarks we reviewed were exceeded. All four of the AY 21 DNP graduates passed the final clinical course NSG A684 with a 3.0 or higher. Four project defenses were conducted in AY 21; the average overall score from the external reviewers was 4.71 (SD = .58) (five-point scale). The Exit Survey was completed by 75% of the students (3 of 4). Their self-rating (five-point scale) of PSLO achievement was 5.0 (SD .00).

The Alumni Survey was sent to 4 graduates (100% return rate). All four students were employed, and provided examples of how their DNP education changed the way the practice as APRNs. They provided examples of post-graduation engagement in: scholarly activities, leadership, and integration of evidence into practice.

**5. Based on the findings, did the faculty make any recommendations for changes to improve student achievement of the program student learning outcomes? Please describe the recommended action, what improvement in student learning the program hopes to see with this change, the proposed timeline, and how the program will know if the change has worked. If no recommendations for changes were made, please explain that decision. (750 Characters or less)**

While the benchmarks were exceeded there was subjective data from students on ways we can improve the program. We also plan on updating the DNP curriculum to address the new AACN Essentials that were published recently. A specific time-line has not been established but this work will begin spring 2022.

### PROGRAM IMPROVEMENTS AND ASSESSING IMPACT ON STUDENT LEARNING

**6. In the past academic year, how did your program use the results of previous assessment cycles to make changes intended to improve student achievement of the program student learning outcomes? Please check all that apply.**

- Course curriculum changes
- Course prerequisite changes
- Changes in teaching methods
- Changes in advising
- Degree requirement changes
- Degree course sequencing
- Course enrollment changes (e.g., course capacity, grading structure [pass/fail, A-F])
- Changes in program policies/procedures
- Changes to Program Student Learning Outcomes (PSLOs)
- College-wide initiatives (e.g., High Impact Practices)
- Faculty, staff, student development

- Other  
 No changes were implemented in AY21.

If you checked "Other" above, please describe. (100 characters or less)

7. Do you have any information about how well these or other past improvements are working? Are they achieving their intended goals? Please include any data or assessment results that help you demonstrate this. (750 characters or less)

Nothing at this time. The changes were just implemented this fall semester.

### STUDENT SUCCESS AND THE CLOSING OF EQUITY GAPS

Programs are not required to respond to question #8 below for their report due on October 15, 2021. Question #8 will be required for the next round and moving forward.

8. Respond to at least one of the following metrics. Student success depends on many aspects of a student's experience. On the academic program level, it can relate to correct placement, course sequencing, standardized pre-requisites, the intentional use of high impact practices, proactive advising, course scheduling practices, etc. UAA is using the following two metrics in its cyclical Program Review process, as well as in its reaffirmation of accreditation process. These data are included in the most recent IR-Reports Program Review dashboard. Please review these data for your program, note any equity gaps, and describe steps you are taking or plan to take to close those gaps.

Metric	Definition	Rationale
JUNIOR GRADUATION RATE - BACCALAUREATE	The percentage of students who graduate with a bachelor's degree within four years of first reaching junior class status (60 credits). <i>Data source: RPTP end-of-term freeze files. Disaggregate as per accreditation.</i>	Junior graduation rate (after 60 credits) can reflect a department's success in helping students complete their degrees. Within their first 60 credits, students typically focus on completing GERs and often switch majors. Tracking how long it takes students to complete their degrees after 60 credits, when many students have likely committed to a specific major, can provide actionable information for departments.
COURSE PASS RATES BY COURSE LEVEL (Undergraduate lower-division, undergraduate)	The percentage of students who receive a passing grade (A, B, C, P) for all undergraduate students and (A, B, P) for graduate students in a course offered by a program	Low pass rates are one critical way to identify courses that are barriers to student success and degree completion. Failing key courses correlates with low retention and

Metric	Definition	Rationale
upper-division, and graduate).	compared to the same rate calculated for all courses at that level. Based on a 5-year trend. Included in the denominator for undergraduate courses are the grades D, F, W, I, NP, NB. Included in the denominator for graduate level are the grades C, D, F, W, I, NP, NB. Discipline acts as a proxy for a program. <i>Data source: RPTP end-of-term freeze files. Disaggregate as per accreditation.</i>	more major switching. Mitigation strategies can be internal or external to the course itself, including, among other things, the use of high-impact pedagogical practices, appropriate placement, course sequencing, tutoring, and other means to ensure student success within a particular course. This metric and the disaggregation of the data can inform planning, decision making, and the allocation of resources to programs and services designed to mitigate gaps in achievement and equity.

9. **Do you have any examples of post-graduate success you want to highlight? For example, major scholarships, the percent of students who pass licensure examinations, the percent of students accepted to graduate programs, the percent in post-graduation employment in the field or a related field. (750 characters or less)**

The program has currently undergone its first re-accreditation process through CCNE and passed without any compliance issues. Since the start of the program, all but two of our graduates have continued to practice in Alaska and continue to pursue changes within their work environment and communities, beyond graduation. As an example graduate stated on the Alumni Survey "The DNP program has completely altered my way of thinking about how I can use evidence-based practice to improve patient care. My mindset has shifted through both the courses and the DNP project and I am much more comfortable translating evidence into practice now. I feel confident mentoring others in the DNP process as well".

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**DEAN SECTION (Due to the program on January 15)**

*After completing the Dean Section and signing it, the dean should email this form to the program, and copy [uaa\\_ooo@alaska.edu](mailto:uaa_ooo@alaska.edu) for posting. If the program is delivered on one or more community campus, the dean should consult with the appropriate community campus director(s) on the response and copy the appropriate community campus director(s) when emailing the response to the program.*

1. **Based on the program's responses above, what guidance and support do you have for the program moving forward? Is there a particular area the program should focus on? (750 characters or less)**

The program went through a full external accreditation review this year which provided a very positive assessment of the program. The program is commended for this accomplishment. As noted,

there are now new DNP Essentials that the program will need to incorporate into their curriculum and assessment plan; this will be a priority in the upcoming year. Additionally, the program has self-identified the need to assess the viability of multiple pathways into the DNP (such as BS-to-DNP) and they are encouraged to continue that effort within the context of a continuum of nursing education that meets diverse state workforce needs. Sustainability of programs will be an important consideration.

- 2. Is there something the program is doing particularly well in terms of its processes for the assessment and improvement of student learning, including the closing of equity gaps, that might serve as a model for other programs? If yes, please explain. You may skip this question. (750 characters or less)**

Dean's signature:

  
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Date: 1/14/2022