



University of Alaska Anchorage  
 Report on Institutional and Programmatic Accreditation  
*Report to the UA Board of Regents—September 2015*

**Institutional Accreditation at UAA (Regents Policy 10.02.070A)**

The University of Alaska Anchorage has been accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) since 1974. The NWCCU reviews and reaffirms institutional accreditation on a seven-year cycle, and UAA is up for reaffirmation of accreditation in the fall of 2017. Following the successful Mid-Cycle Report and visit this past year, UAA has begun to prepare for the reaffirmation process. The process entails a comprehensive evaluation of mission fulfillment as defined through UAA’s Core Themes: Teaching and Learning; Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity; Student Success; UAA Community; and Public Square.

Milestone	Date	Notes
Last Reaffirmation	February 2012	None
Mid-Cycle Report and Visit	Fall 2014	In response to NWCCU, in January 2015 the Chancellor’s Cabinet approved a revised approach to the definition of mission fulfillment, as well as a refined set of indicators of achievement
PWSCC Substantive Change Proposal	June 2015	Approved to bring PWSC into UAA’s institutional accreditation
Year Seven Evaluation Report and Visit	Fall 2017	Concludes UAA’s 2011-2017 accreditation cycle

**Prince William Sound College**

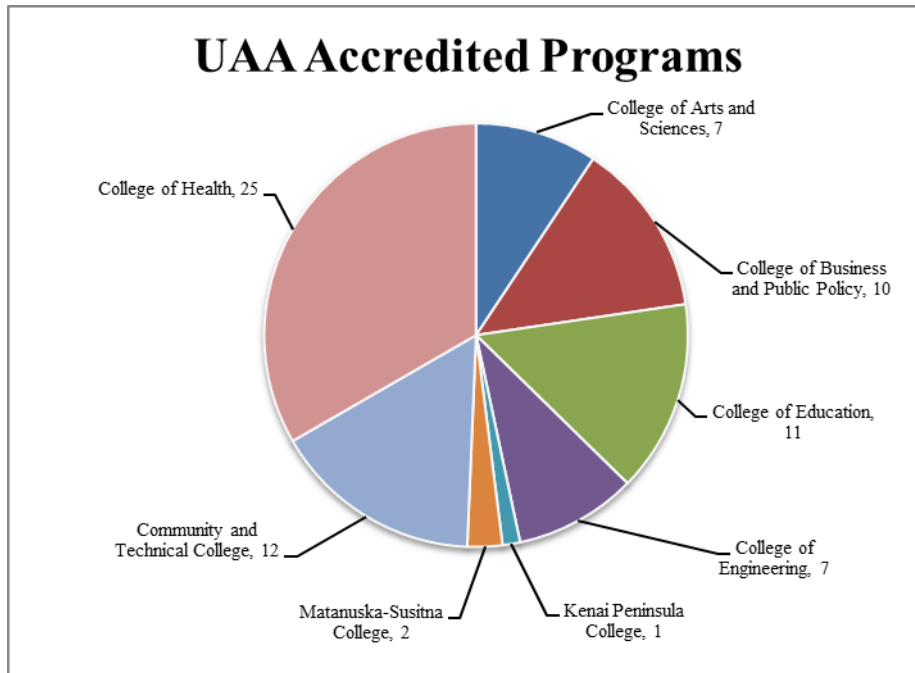
In June 2015, the NWCCU approved the substantive change proposal to bring Prince William Sound Community College into UAA’s institutional accreditation. This was prompted by Board of Regents action in June 2014. Having received this approval, PWSCC will join the other UAA community campuses as Prince William Sound College. UAA and Prince William Sound College will work together to implement this change.

**Websites**

UAA Accreditation: <http://www.uaa.alaska.edu/undergraduate-academic-affairs/Accreditation/index.cfm>  
 Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities: <http://www.nwccu.org/>

## Specialized Program Accreditation at UAA (Regents Policy 10.02.070B)

More than 70 UAA degree and certificate programs hold specialized accreditation or approval by external agencies. Many of these programs are in disciplines with professional certification or registration requirements, such as health programs, engineering, and education. The figure below shows the relative distribution of programs with specialized accreditation delivered by the institution's colleges and campuses.



The chart includes only academic programs which have received candidacy or accreditation from an external agency. Programs which are developing candidacy materials or awaiting approval for candidacy are excluded, as are collaborative programs where the partner holds the accreditation (such as the WWAMI biomedical program). The table at the end of this report provides a more complete status update of programs with special approval or accreditation, including those programs excluded in the chart above.

Proposals to seek new program accreditation are evaluated based on criteria including the agency, eligibility requirements, benefits to the institution and students, and available resources and capacity to maintain ongoing accreditation. The Office of Academic Affairs assists programs in preparing self-studies and other accreditation communication to external agencies.

### Website:

UAA Program Accreditation: <http://www.uaa.alaska.edu/undergraduate-academic-affairs/program-accreditation.cfm>

UAA Program Accreditation Catalog Copy:

<http://catalog.uaa.alaska.edu/policies/aboutuniversity/institutionalaccreditation/#programaccreditationtext>

## **UA Accreditation Definitions & Format**

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**Institutional Accreditation:** The status of public recognition that a recognized accrediting agency grants to an institution or educational program that meets its qualifying requirements and accreditation criteria. The process involves initial and periodic self-evaluation followed by an evaluation by peers.

**Types of Accreditation:** Each type of accreditation is awarded by a non-governmental agency recognized by the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education. The essential purpose of the accreditation agency is to provide a professional judgment regarding the quality of the educational institution or program offered and to encourage continual institutional improvement.

**Regional:** Accreditation of an institution as a whole for institutions within a prescribed geographic region of the United States.

**National:** Accreditation of an institution as a whole for institutions that are single purpose in nature, such as business or information technology institutes, or that have a clear thematic mission, such as faith-based institutions or liberal arts colleges.

**Program/Specialized:** Accreditation of a unit or educational program within an institution with regard to program-specific standards. The unit may be a school, department, program, or curriculum.

## University of Alaska Anchorage Specialized Program Accreditation Status 2015

The following programs have accreditation and/or approval from agencies external to UAA. Programs which have not begun the candidacy process are excluded.

**Programs which completed reports or site visits in AY15 are marked in bold text.**

Program	Accrediting Agency	Last Review	Next Scheduled	Accreditation Status	Summary of Significant Findings
<b>Accounting BBA; Economics BA, BBA; Finance BBA; General Management MBA; Global Logistics and Supply Chain Management BBA; Global Supply Chain Management MS; Management BBA; Management Information Systems BBA; Marketing BBA</b>	<b>Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business - International</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>Ongoing, renewed based on report and visit in AY15</b>	<b>No current recommendations requiring response before next regular review</b>
Art BA, BFA	National Association of Schools of Art and Design	2008	2017	Ongoing	No current recommendations requiring response before next regular review
Automotive Technology AAS, UC; Heavy Duty Transportation and Equipment AAS, UC	National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation	2011	2016	Ongoing, report and visit in AY16	No current recommendations requiring response before next regular review
Aviation - Flight School Professional Piloting: AAS & Aviation Technology BS emphasis	Federal Aviation Administration	2013	2015	Ongoing, applies to flight school rather than specific programs	Format does not include recommendations
Aviation - Maintenance School Aviation Maintenance Technology - AAS & two UCs	Federal Aviation Administration	1993	Continuous	Ongoing, applies to aviation maintenance school rather than specific programs	Format does not include recommendations
Civil Engineering BS	Engineering Accreditation Commission of ABET	2013	Not published*	Ongoing	No current recommendations requiring response before next regular review
Clinical-Community Psychology PhD	American Psychological Association	2011	2018	Ongoing, jointly held with UAF, mid-cycle review in AY16	See status
<b>Computer Science BS</b>	<b>Computing Accreditation Commission of ABET</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>Not published*</b>	<b>Ongoing, renewed based on AY15 interim report</b>	<b>No current recommendations requiring response before next regular review</b>
Computer Science Engineering BS	Engineering Accreditation Commission of ABET	2013	Not published*	Ongoing	No current recommendations requiring response before next regular review
<b>Construction Management AAS, BS</b>	<b>American Council for Construction Education</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>Ongoing, progress report accepted in AY15</b>	<b>No current recommendations requiring response before next regular review</b>

Program	Accrediting Agency	Last Review	Next Scheduled	Accreditation Status	Summary of Significant Findings
Culinary Arts AAS	American Culinary Federation Education Foundation	2014	2017	Granted initial accreditation based on AY15 report and visit	No current recommendations requiring response before next regular review
Dental Assisting AAS, UC; Dental Hygiene AAS	Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association	2015	2021	Ongoing, renewed based on report and visit in AY15	No current recommendations requiring response before next regular review
Dietetics BS, Dietetics Internship GC	Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics	2015	2022	Ongoing, renewed based on report and visit in AY15	No current recommendations requiring response before next regular review
Early Childhood BA, PBC	National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education	2010	2017	Ongoing, report planned in AY16	Revised report planned in 2015 to disaggregate data for BA/PBC and revise assessments
Early Childhood Special Education MEd, Minor	National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education	2010	2017	Ongoing, report planned in AY16	Response to report planned by 2016 to clarify rubrics and revise assessments
Education MAT, Secondary (English/Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies)	National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education	2010	2017	Ongoing, report planned in AY16	Revised report planned by 2016 to modify rubrics and revise assessments
Educational Leadership (Principal) GC	National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education	2010	2017	Ongoing	No current recommendations requiring response before next regular review
Educational Leadership (Principal) MEd	National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education	2010	2017	Ongoing	No current recommendations requiring response before next regular review
Educational Leadership (Superintendent) GC <i>(Suspended)</i>	National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education	See notes	See notes	Program suspended in 2014 due to loss of program accreditation. Undertaking revisions to align with standards. Current students grandfathered in for state certification.	Aligning assessments and curriculum to provide evidence of meeting standards
Electrical Engineering BS	Engineering Accreditation Commission of ABET	2013	Not published*	Ongoing	No current recommendations requiring response before next regular review
Elementary Education BA, PBC	National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education	2010	2017	Ongoing, report planned in AY16	Revised report planned by 2016 to disaggregate data for BA/PBC and revise assessments

<b>Program</b>	<b>Accrediting Agency</b>	<b>Last Review</b>	<b>Next Scheduled</b>	<b>Accreditation Status</b>	<b>Summary of Significant Findings</b>
Geomatics BS	Applied Science Accreditation Commission of ABET	2013	Not published*	Ongoing	No current recommendations requiring response before next regular review
<b>Human Services AAS, BHS</b>	<b>Council for Standards in Human Services Education</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>Ongoing, renewed based on report and visit in AY15</b>	<b>No current recommendations requiring response before next regular review</b>
Journalism and Public Communications BA	Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communication	2014	AY16	Ongoing, provisional reaccreditation for issues which can be corrected within 2 years	Revisit in AY16 to address student services and assessment of learning outcomes
Legal Studies BA; Legal Nurse Consultant UC; Paralegal Studies AAS, PBC; Paralegal Studies UC	American Bar Association	2011	2016	Ongoing approval (only law programs are accredited), report and visit in AY16	No current recommendations requiring response before next regular review
Mechanical Engineering BS	Engineering Accreditation Commission of ABET	2013	Not published*	Ongoing	No current recommendations requiring response before next regular review
Medical Assisting AAS	AAMA Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs	2008	2016	Ongoing, report and visit in AY16	No current recommendations requiring response before next regular review
<b>Medical Laboratory Technology AAS; Medical Laboratory Science BS</b>	<b>National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>AY21</b>	<b>Ongoing, renewed based on report and visit in AY15</b>	<b>No current recommendations requiring response before next regular review</b>
Music BA; Music Education BM; Music Performance BM	National Association of Schools of Music	2013	AY22	Ongoing	No current recommendations requiring response before next regular review
Nursing: Family Nurse Practitioner GC; Nursing AAS; Nursing Education GC; Nursing Science BS, MS; Psychiatric and Mental Health Nurse Practitioner GC	Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing	2009	2017	Ongoing	No current recommendations requiring response before next regular review
<b>Paramedical Technology AAS</b>	<b>Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the EMS Professions</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>Granted initial accreditation based on AY15 report and visit</b>	<b>No current recommendations requiring response before next regular review</b>
<b>Physical Therapist Assistant AAS (candidacy)</b>	<b>Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>Candidacy granted in AY15, report and visit for full accreditation in Summer 2015</b>	<b>Awaiting results of 2015 evaluation</b>

<b>Program</b>	<b>Accrediting Agency</b>	<b>Last Review</b>	<b>Next Scheduled</b>	<b>Accreditation Status</b>	<b>Summary of Significant Findings</b>
Project Management MS	Project Management Institute Global Accreditation Center for Project Management Education Programs	2015	2021	Ongoing, renewed based on report and visit in AY15	No current recommendations requiring response before next regular review
Public Health Practice MPH	Council on Education for Public Health	2015	2022	Ongoing, renewed based on report and visit in AY15	No current recommendations requiring response before next regular review
Social Work BSW & MSW	Council on Social Work Education	2010	2018	Ongoing	No current recommendations requiring response before next regular review
Special Education MEd, GC	National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education	2010	2017	Ongoing, report planned in AY16	Revised report planned in 2015 to modify rubrics and revise assessments

#### **Notes on the Specialized Program Accreditation Table**

- ABET, which accredits most of UAA's engineering programs, prohibits public disclosure of the length of the period of accreditation.
- The following programs are collaborative programs for which the partner institution holds the accreditation:
  - Health Sciences BS, Physician Assistant Track (held by University of Washington)
  - Occupational Therapy OTD (held by Creighton University)
  - WWAMI Biomedical MD (held by University of Washington)
- The following programs have received national recognition or endorsements which are similar to accreditation:
  - Fire and Emergency Services Technology AAS (Recognition from the United States Fire Administration)
  - Industrial Technology AAS, Millwright Emphasis (National Center for Construction Education and Research accreditation training sponsor is Alyeska Pipeline)
  - Process Technology AAS (Endorsement from the North American Process Technology Alliance)
  - Small Business Development Center (accredited by the Association of Small Business Development Centers [not an academic program])