

University of Alaska Anchorage  
Report on Institutional and Programmatic Accreditation  
*Report to the UA Board of Regents – August 12, 2019*

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

**Accreditation Status:** The University of Alaska Anchorage has been accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) since 1974. This single accreditation status applies to all UAA campuses, including Anchorage, Kenai Peninsula College, Kodiak College, Matanuska-Susitna College, and Prince William Sound College.

**Accreditation Cycle:** Institutional accreditation is regularly reviewed and reaffirmed by the NWCCU. This occurs through regular reports and site visits on a seven-year cycle. In addition to these reports and visits, the institution also communicates regularly with the NWCCU about new and discontinued programs and changes to institutional leaders and organizational structure.

**Reaffirmation of Accreditation:** UAA's institutional accreditation was reaffirmed in January 2019, based on a comprehensive Year Seven Self-Evaluation Report and site visit. This reaffirmation began a new accreditation cycle that runs through Fall 2025.

**The Commission commended UAA for:**

1. An inclusive planning process for UAA 2020, which brought the campuses together in an unprecedented joint effort focused on Student Success.
2. Its culture of diversity and inclusivity, especially in relationship to Alaska Native communities.
3. Its commitment to community engagement and the Public Square.
4. Its extensive assessment efforts related to student learning. Faculty exhibit robust ownership and leadership in assessing academic programs, and also engage proactively in the multifaceted assessment of General Education.

**The Commission recommended that UAA:**

1. Expand efforts around institutional planning of graduate programs to demonstrate their academic quality and role in mission fulfillment. (Standard 2.C.12)
2. Continue the focus on collaborative Student Success efforts to raise low graduation and retention rates and support Mission Fulfillment. (Standard 5.B.1)

**New NWCCU Standards:** In August 2019, member institutions are voting on a new set of NWCCU Standards and Eligibility Requirements. The revised Standards focus on meeting the educational mission of the institution, with an emphasis on student learning and student achievement (Student Success).

**Steps Taken Since Reaffirmation:** UAA is tracking progress as it builds on NWCCU's commendations and addresses NWCCU's recommendations and other suggestions from the evaluators' report. An Accreditation Metrics Team worked over the spring and summer on pre-planning in order to launch a broad and inclusive process to select core competencies and student

achievement metrics, key to NWCCU’s revised standards. Finally, two UAA faculty applied for and were selected to participate in NWCCU’s Mission Fulfillment Fellowship program, and UAA applied for and was selected to participate in NWCCU’s Retention, Persistence, and Student Success Academy.

**Student Success – Graduation Rate:** UAA’s collaborative Student Success efforts are resulting in improved graduation rates. Over the past 15 years, UAA's 6-year graduation rates have risen steadily for first-time, full-time students seeking a Bachelor's degree; 21.4% of students who entered the university in 1998 graduated in 6 years compared to 31.4% of students who entered in 2012. Our newest data suggest that we will see an increase in graduation rates again this year. ***For NWCCU purposes, UAA has seen a rise in graduation rate of nearly 7 percentage points in the past two years.***

Milestone	Date	Description	Synopsis of Commendations and Recommendations
Comprehensive Peer Evaluation, Reaffirmation	January 2019	Based on Year Seven Self-Evaluation Report and site visit	Expand institutional planning of Graduate programs; Continue collaborative Student Success efforts.
Mission and Core Themes report	Spring 2020	Addresses Standard One and Eligibility Requirements 2 & 3, with an addendum on the Year Seven recommendations	Due Spring 2020
Mid-Cycle Evaluation report and visit	Fall 2021	Reviews institutional readiness to demonstrate mission fulfillment and sustainability	Due Fall 2021
Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability Evaluation report and visit	Fall 2025	Addresses all Eligibility Requirements and Standards in a summative evaluation of mission fulfillment	Due Fall 2025

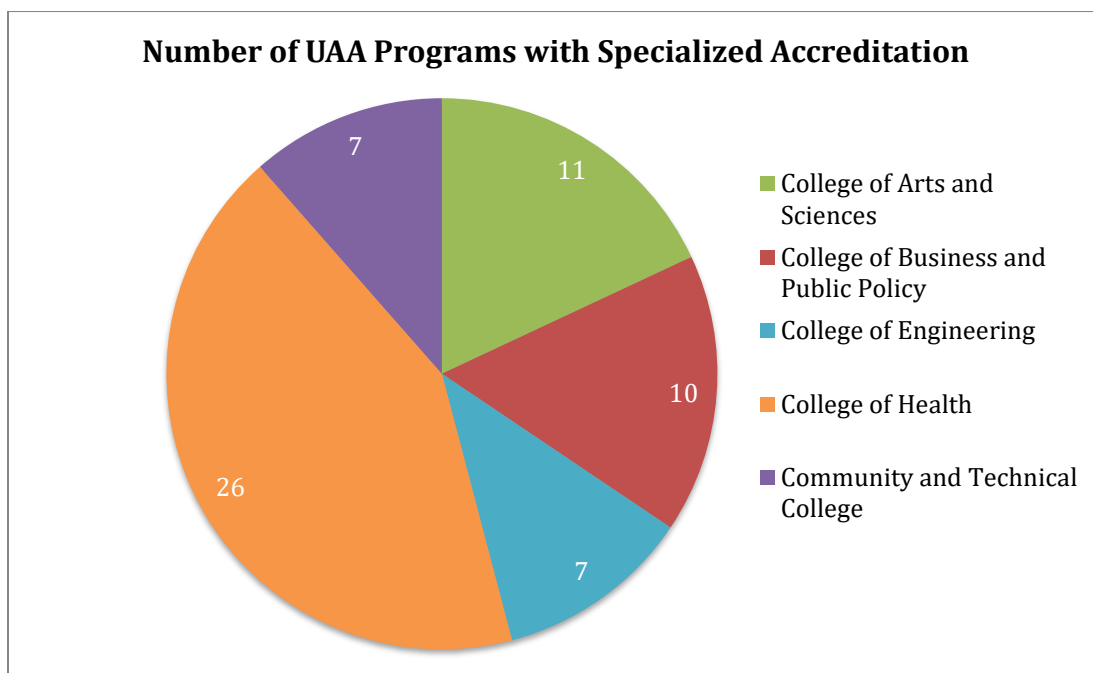
**Websites:**

- [UAA Institutional and Specialized Accreditation](#)
- [Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities](#)

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

Sixty-one UAA degree and certificate programs hold specialized accreditation or approval by external agencies. Many of these programs lead to professional certification or registration, such as in health or engineering. The figure below shows the relative distribution of programs with specialized accreditation. Accredited programs, including those delivered at community campuses, are located in the academic colleges.

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 partners with the deans to coordinate specialized accreditation efforts.



The chart includes academic programs which have received candidacy or accreditation from an external agency. It does not include programs still developing candidacy materials or awaiting approval for candidacy. It also does not include collaborative programs where the partner institution holds the accreditation (such as the WWAMI School of Medical Education).

### Websites:

[UAA Programs with Specialized Accreditation \(UAA Catalog\)](#)

## UA Accreditation Definitions & Format

**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.

UAA's specialized accreditations are summarized in the table on the following pages. The table does not include other external reviews for recognition or endorsement, such as the Federal Aviation Administration, United States Fire Administration, or the North America Process Technology Alliance.

Specialized accrediting bodies use varying terminology. In some cases, a "recommendation" is a significant deficiency and requires correction. In some cases, it might be simply a suggestion for improvement. Some agencies note "commendations" or "strengths," while for others, simply not receiving any recommendations is the highest possible evaluation.

## University of Alaska Anchorage Specialized Program Accreditation Status 2019

Unit	Program	Accrediting Agency	Last Review	Next Scheduled	Notes	Summary of Significant Findings
CAS	Art BA, BFA	National Association of Schools of Art and Design (NASAD)	2018	2027		Accreditation renewed in November 2018 with no recommendations.
CAS	Clinical-Community Psychology PhD*	American Psychological Association (APA)	2011	2019	Supplemental information compiled and reviewed. Ready for submission (8/9/19)	APA requested supplemental information due September 1, 2019.
CAS	Early Childhood Development AAS	National Association for the Education of Young Children Commission on the Accreditation of Early Childhood Higher Education Programs (NAEYC)	2018	2025		Initial accreditation granted in March 2018 with no recommendations.
CAS	Early Childhood Education BA, PBCT; Early Childhood Special Education MEd(initial licensure track); Education MAT; Elementary Education BA, PBCT; Special Education MEd/GC (initial licensure tracks)	National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE)/ Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP)	2010	N/A		Accreditation revoked for initial licensure programs in January 2019. The UA Board of Regents approved discontinuation effective September 1, 2019.
CAS	Early Childhood Special Education MEd(advanced preparation track)	National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE)/ Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP)	2010	2022	Program preparing for Self-Study Report; preparations include working with a national consultant. Nationally recognized by the Council for Exceptional Children.	Accreditation continued for the College of Education in November 2010 with no recommendations. Because of the phase-in of CAEP's 2016 Advanced Standards, the UAA EPP is scheduled to submit a Self-Study Report for advanced programs in January 2021.
CAS	Educational Leadership (Principal) MEd, GC	National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE)/ Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP)	2010	2022	Programs preparing for Self-Study Report; preparations include working with a national consultant. Nationally recognized by the Educational Leadership Council.	Accreditation continued for the College of Education in November 2010 with no recommendations. Because of the phase-in of CAEP's 2016 Advanced Standards, the UAA EPP is scheduled to submit a Self-Study Report for advanced programs in January 2021.

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CAS	Language Education, GC	National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE)/ Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP)	N/A	2022	Program approved after the last visit. Specialized Professional Association report in preparation for Spring 2020 submission.	Accreditation continued for the College of Education in November 2010 with no recommendations. Because of the phase-in of CAEP's 2016 Advanced Standards, the UAA EPP is scheduled to submit a Self-Study Report for advanced programs in January 2021.
CAS	Journalism and Public Communications BA	Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communications (ACEJMC)	2016	N/A		UAA voluntarily withdrew from specialized accreditation in AY19.
CAS	Music BA, BM	National Association of Schools of Music (NASM)	2013	2022		Accreditation continued in July 2013 with no recommendations.
CAS	Special Education MEd, GC (advanced preparation tracks)	National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE)/ Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP)	2010	2022	Programs preparing for Self-Study Report; preparations include working with a national consultant. Nationally recognized by the Council for Exceptional Children.	Accreditation continued for the College of Education in November 2010 with no recommendations. Because of the phase-in of CAEP's 2016 Advanced Standards, the UAA EPP is scheduled to submit a Self-Study Report for advanced programs in January 2021.
CBPP	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	Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business – International (AACSB)	2015	2020	On track for self-study and site visit. The AACSB team will review financial strategies and allocation of resources; CBPP currently meets AACSB faculty classification ratios, changes in staffing must be addressed strategically to maintain compliance; CBPP has developed and incorporated a strategic Assurance of Learning process, and must demonstrate active faculty participation.	Accreditation extended in January 2015. Concerns to address in the next review: Develop a thorough, documented Assurance of Learning process for the MBA. Create a fully evolved Assurance of Learning plan for the BA Economics and the MS Global Supply Chain Management.

Unit	Program	Accrediting Agency	Last Review	Next Scheduled	Notes	Summary of Significant Findings
CoEng	Civil Engineering BS*	Engineering Accreditation Commission of ABET	2017	*Not published		Site visit was conducted in 2016, and notice of reaccreditation has been received.
CoEng	Computer Science BS*	Computing Accreditation Commission of ABET	2015	*Not published		Site visit was conducted in 2018; awaiting notice of final action.
CoEng	Computer Systems Engineering BS*	Engineering Accreditation Commission of ABET	2017	*Not published		Site visit was conducted in 2016, and notice of reaccreditation has been received.
CoEng	Electrical Engineering BS*	Engineering Accreditation Commission of ABET	2017	*Not published		Site visit was conducted in 2016, and notice of reaccreditation has been received.
CoEng	Geomatics BS*	Applied Science Accreditation Commission of ABET	2017	*Not published		Site visit was conducted in 2016, and notice of reaccreditation has been received.
CoEng	Mechanical Engineering BS*	Engineering Accreditation Commission of ABET	2017	*Not published		Site visit was conducted in 2016, and notice of reaccreditation has been received.
CoEng	Project Management MS	Project Management Institute Global Accreditation Center for Project Management Education Programs (PMI-GAC)	2014	2022	August 9, 2019 letter from PMI-GAC noting the program as an exemplar preparing students to meet current and anticipated needs in the field; concern regarding financial exigency and possible impacts on student success and achievement.	Accreditation status conferred in August 2015 (backdated to 2014) with no recommendations.
COH	Dental Assisting UC	Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association (CODA)	2015	2021	Report describing the impact of financial exigency on the dental assisting and dental hygiene programs due 8/26/19.	Accreditation approved in February 2015 with no recommendations.

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COH	Dental Hygiene BS	Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association (CODA)	2015	2021	Report describing the impact of financial exigency on the dental assisting and dental hygiene programs due 8/26/19.	Accreditation approved in February 2015 with no recommendations.  Proposal to transition accreditation from AAS to BS approved in spring 2018.
COH	Dietetics BS; Dietetics Internship GC	Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND)	2015	2022	All recommendations addressed and incorporated into program materials and documents.	Accreditation continued in July 2015 for GC and granted in July 2015 for BS. Recommendations: Update assessment plans with goals and aligned objectives; include program management in program director's position description; update website and manuals with ACEND's new name. BS: Ensure consistent goals and objectives in program materials; update handbook to include required computer equipment in estimated expenses, and a revised four-year plan. GC: Update graduate employment objective; keep a chronological record of student complaints; include criminal background checks and drug testing in estimated costs.
COH	Human Services AAS, BHS	Council for Standards in Human Services Education (CSHSE)	2019	2023	On track for next reaccreditation in 2023. Faculty will meet in AY20 to decide on wording of a definitive philosophical statement that reflects the conceptual framework for the curriculum.	Reaccredited in October 2018. Recommendation: Develop and provide a succinct general and distinctive philosophical orientation which provides the conceptual framework for the curriculum.
COH	Legal Studies BA, Minor; Legal Nurse Consultant Paralegal UC; Paralegal Studies AAS, PBCT	American Bar Association (ABA)	2017	2022	ABA uses "approval" rather than "accreditation." Regularly scheduled Interim Report due September 15, 2019.	Reapproval granted in February 2018 (backdated to 2016) with no recommendations.



Unit	Program	Accrediting Agency	Last Review	Next Scheduled	Notes	Summary of Significant Findings
COH	Medical Assisting AAS	Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs upon the recommendation of the Medical Assisting Education Review Board (CAAHEP)	2016	2024		Accreditation maintained in May 2017 with no recommendations.
COH	Medical Laboratory Technology AAS; Medical Laboratory Science BS	National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences (NAACLS)	2014	2021		Accreditation continued in October 2014 with no recommendations.
COH	Nursing Practice, DNP	Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE)	2017	2022	Regularly scheduled Continuous Improvement Progress Report due December 1, 2019.	Initial accreditation granted in May 2017 with no recommendations.
COH	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 (ACEN)	2017	2025	Program has enhanced public information on the School of Nursing website, developed and implemented a retention and remediation program, encouraged students to meet with advisors prior to completing their admission application, revised handbooks to provide accurate policy information, incorporated practice standards essentials, and updated curriculum. Program continues to make improvements to address significant findings.	Accreditation granted in August 2017. Areas needing development: Accessible public information (AAS, BS, MS/GCs); student services commensurate with student needs related to program admission application (AAS) and student advisement (AAS/BS). MS/GCs: Consistent application of policies; clear, consistent, and timely communication of policy, procedure, and program changes to students; curriculum congruence with master's/post-master's standards, including accurate documentation of clinical hours for certification; regular curriculum review for integrity, rigor, and currency; ensure end-of-program student learning outcomes direct learning activities, and evaluation methodologies measure their achievement.

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COH	Paramedical Technology AAS delivered at UAA's Kenai Peninsula College	Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) upon the recommendation of the Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the Emergency Medical Services Professions (CoAEMSP)	N/A	2020	Self-study submitted in April 2019, site visit September 30 - October 1, 2019.	CoAEMSP Letter of Review issued in March 2018 to begin the process of seeking initial accreditation.
COH	Paramedical Technology AAS delivered at UAA's Matanuska-Susitna College	Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) upon the recommendation of the Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the Emergency Medical Services Professions (CoAEMSP)	2019	2024		Accreditation continued in July 2019 with no recommendations.
COH	Physical Therapist Assistant AAS	Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE)	2015	2020	On track for self-study and site visit.	Accreditation continued in November 2017 with no recommendations.
COH	Public Health Practice MPH	Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH)	2015	2022	Program is addressing new standards adopted by CEPH in 2016.	Accreditation continued in June 2015 with no recommendations.
COH	Social Work BSW & MSW	Council on Social Work Education (CSWE)	2018	2026		Accreditation reaffirmed in July 2018 with no recommendations.
COH	Surgical Technology AAS	Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs upon the recommendation of the Accreditation Review Council on Education in Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (CAAHEP)	2019	2024		Initial accreditation awarded in January 2019 with no recommendations.
CTC	Automotive Technology AAS, UC; Diesel Power Technology AAS, UC	ASE Education Foundation	2016	2021		Accreditation renewed in 2016 with no recommendations.
CTC	Construction Management AAS, BS*	American Council for Construction Education (ACCE)	2017	*Not published		Site visit was conducted in 2016, and notice of reaccreditation has been received.

Unit	Program	Accrediting Agency	Last Review	Next Scheduled	Notes	Summary of Significant Findings
CTC	Culinary Arts AAS	American Culinary Federation Education Foundation Accrediting Commission (ACFEFCAC)	2018	2023		Accreditation approved in February 2018 with no recommendations.

Abbreviations: CAS = College of Arts and Sciences; CBPP = College of Business and Public Policy; CoEng = College of Engineering; COH = College of Health; CTC = Community and Technical College

\*ABET, ACCE, and APA prohibit public disclosure of the findings. ABET and ACCE prohibit public disclosure of the length of period of accreditation.

Several programs have received recognition or endorsements similar to specialized accreditation: Aviation Maintenance Technology AAS/UCs, Aviation Technology BS, Professional Piloting AAS, Fire and Emergency Services Technology AAS, and Process Technology AAS.

Partner institutions hold the accreditation for several collaborative programs: Master of Clinical Health Science (University of Washington), Occupational Therapy OTD (Creighton University), Pharmacy PharmD (Idaho State University), WWAMI (University of Washington).