

University of Alaska Anchorage
Report on Institutional and Programmatic Accreditation
Report to the UA Board of Regents – July 20, 2022

Institutional Accreditation at UAA (Regents Policy 10.02.070A)

NWCCU 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.

UAA 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.

Current UAA Cycle: UAA's institutional accreditation was last reaffirmed in January 2019, based on a comprehensive *Year Seven Self-Evaluation Report* and site visit. UAA received 4 commendations and 2 recommendations. An *Ad Hoc Report* submitted in March 2020 fulfilled all recommendations. The reaffirmation in 2019 began a new accreditation cycle that runs through Fall 2025. The below outlines the completed and upcoming milestones in the current seven-year cycle.

ACCREDITATION CYCLE: REPORTS, REVIEWS, VISITS

Milestone	Date	Description	Synopsis of Commendations and Recommendations
Comprehensive Peer Evaluation, Reaffirmation	January 2019	Based on Year Seven Self-Evaluation and site visit	Commended for: inclusive planning, particularly around Student Success; diversity and inclusion; community engagement; and the assessment of student learning. Recommended to expand institutional planning of graduate programs and continue collaborative Student Success efforts.
Ad Hoc Report	March 2020	Detailed UAA's progress on the two recommendations	NWCCU accepted the Ad Hoc report at its June 24-26, 2020 meeting and notified UAA that both recommendations from the Comprehensive Peer Evaluation were fulfilled.
Mid-Cycle Evaluation (Year Three, Report and Visit)	Fall 2021	Reviews institutional readiness to demonstrate mission fulfillment	NWCCU accepted UAA's Mid-Cycle Self Evaluation Report at its January 18-20, 2022 meeting.

Milestone	Date	Description	Synopsis of Commendations and Recommendations
Policies, Regulations, and Financial Review (PRFR – Year Six, Report and Review)	Fall 2024	Reviews compliance in the areas of policies, regulations, and financial sustainability	Due Fall 2024
Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness (EIE – Year Seven, Report and Visit)	Fall 2025	Comprehensive self-evaluation on all Standards; Attestation to continued compliance with NWCCU Eligibility Requirements	Due Fall 2025

Websites:

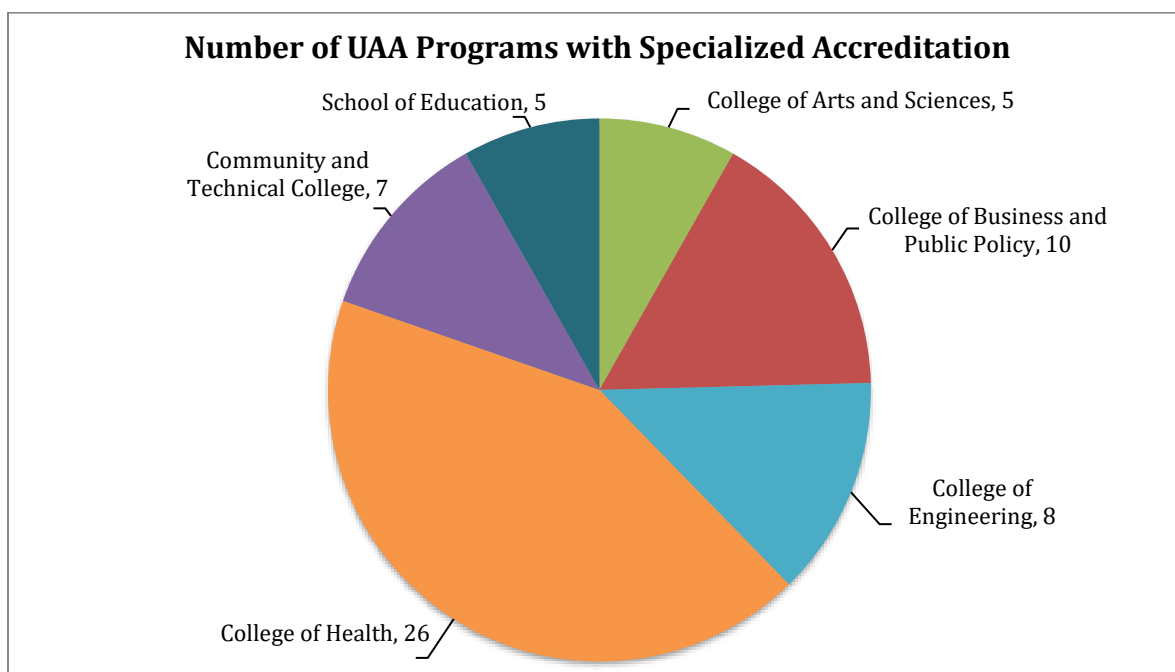
[UAA Institutional Accreditation](#)

[Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities](#)

Specialized Program Accreditation at UAA (Regents Policy 10.02.070B)

Sixty-one UAA degrees, certificates, and minors 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 in the institution's academic units. Accredited programs, including those delivered at community campuses, are located in the academic colleges. The table that follows provides a complete list of programs with special approval or accreditation.

Proposals to seek new specialized 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 and monitor 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

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. [NWCCU was considered a regional accreditor until a 2020 change in Department of Education policies.]

Institutional: In 2020, the U.S. Department of Education revised its guidance on accreditation such that formerly regional accreditors are now considered institutional accreditors, and may accredit any higher education institution regardless of geographic region or country. [UAA is institutionally accredited by NWCCU.]

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. [Does not apply to UA.]

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. Note that the various organizations conducting these reviews use varying terminology. In some cases, a "recommendation" is a significant deficiency in the program's performance relative to an accreditation standard, and requires correction to maintain program accreditation. In other cases, a recommendation is simply a suggestion for improvement. Some reviews use "weakness", "deficiency", or "citation" to indicate deficiencies in performance relative to an accreditation standard. In the table, the original language in the review is used for the most part.

University of Alaska Anchorage Specialized Program Accreditation Status 2022

The following programs have approval and/or accreditation from agencies external to UAA. The “Status” column may indicate where departments are in the process of obtaining initial accreditation, and other clarifying details.

Unit	Program	Accrediting Agency	Date of Initial Accred.	Date of Most Recent Reaffirm.	Date of Next Review	Status, including commendations and recommendations	Efforts to address outstanding recommendations
CAS	Art BA, BFA	National Association of Schools of Art and Design (NASAD)	1992	2018	2026	Accredited. No recommendations.	
CAS	Clinical-Community Psychology PhD	American Psychological Association (APA)	2011	2019	2028	Accredited. Areas requiring additional attention: Provide evidence that all profession-wide competency elements are reflected in program evaluation tools such that students are evaluated and receive element-level feedback; publish APA contact information on all program sites.	All reporting requirements fulfilled by a Follow-up Report submitted on September 5, 2020.
CAS	Music BA, BM	National Association of Schools of Music (NASM)	1996	2013	2023	Accredited. No recommendations.	
CBPP	Accounting BBA; Economics BA, BBA; Finance BBA; General Management MBA; Global Logistics &	Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business – International (AACSB)	1995	2021	2024	Accredited. No recommendations. Address during the coming review cycle: Continue to refine the new strategic plan as conditions change;	The new cycle was initiated with the Continuous Improvement Application submitted on June 20, 2022. The

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	Supply Chain Management BBA; Global Supply Chain Management MS; Management BBA; Management Information Systems BBA; Marketing BBA					continue to closely monitor faculty qualification ratios.	application includes updates regarding the strategic plan and faculty qualification ratios.
CoEng	Civil Engineering BS	Engineering Accreditation Commission of ABET	1984	2017	2022	Accredited. ABET prohibits public disclosure of findings.	Self-study submitted on July 1, 2022.
CoEng	Computer Science BS	Computing Accreditation Commission of ABET	2011	2019	2022	Accredited. ABET prohibits public disclosure of findings. ABET accepted request to align cycle with other programs.	Self-study submitted on July 1, 2022.
CoEng	Computer Systems Engineering BS	Engineering Accreditation Commission of ABET	2007	2017	2022	Accredited. ABET prohibits public disclosure of findings.	Self-study submitted on July 1, 2022.
CoEng	Electrical Engineering BS	Engineering Accreditation Commission of ABET	2007	2017	2022	Accredited. ABET prohibits public disclosure of findings.	Self-study submitted on July 1, 2022.
CoEng	Geomatics BS	Applied Science Accreditation Commission of ABET	1995	2017	2022	Accredited. ABET prohibits public disclosure of findings.	Self-study submitted on July 1, 2022.

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CoEng	Mechanical Engineering BS	Engineering Accreditation Commission of ABET	2007	2017	2022	Accredited. ABET prohibits public disclosure of findings.	Self-study submitted on July 1, 2022.
CoEng	Project Management MS, GC	Project Management Institute Global Accreditation Center for Project Management Education Programs (PMI-GAC)	2007 (MS), 2022 (GC)	2021 (MS), 2022 (GC)	2026	Accredited. No binding opportunities requiring further reporting. Initial accreditation granted for GC.	UAA was one of the first programs to apply for the opportunity to include graduate certificates, which were not formerly covered by the accreditor.
COH	Dental Assisting UC	Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association (CODA)	1974	2015	TBD (awaiting findings)	Accredited. No recommendations. Awaiting findings from March 2022 site visit.	
COH	Dental Hygiene BS	Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association (CODA)	2018	2018	TBD (awaiting findings)	Accredited. Awaiting findings from March 2022 site visit.	Progress on recommendations cited in the preliminary draft site visit report was outlined in a response on June 21, 2022.
COH	Dietetics & Nutrition MS	Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND)	2020	2020	2023	Accredited. Approved in December 2020 to be categorized as a demonstration program accredited under the Future Education Model (FEM) Accreditation Standards for	

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						Graduate Degree Programs and categorized as a reorganization of an existing ACEND-accredited nutrition and Dietetics Internship (DI) program.	
COH	Dietetics BS	Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND)	2010	2015	2022	Accredited. Recommendations: Update assessment plan with goals and aligned objectives; include program management in program director's position description; update website and manuals with ACEND's new name. Ensure consistent goals and objectives in program materials; update handbook to include required computer equipment in estimated expenses, revise four-year plan.	Recommendations were addressed in the self-study and its appendices submitted in July 2022.
COH	Dietetics Internship GC	Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND)	2006	2015	See notes	Accredited. The GC was replaced by the Dietetics & Nutrition MS and is being taught out. It will continue to be accredited until the teach out is complete by December 2022.	

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COH	Human Services AAS	Council for Standards in Human Service Education (CSHSE)	2003	2018	2023	Accredited. Requirement for next accreditation: Develop and provide a succinct general and distinctive philosophical orientation which provides the conceptual framework for the curriculum.	The program developed a succinct and compelling philosophical statement and conceptual framework for the Human Services curriculum that is relevant across the diverse campuses of UAA. The revised philosophical statement will be shared with prospective students on the Department of Human Services website, and with current students in the program handbook. It will be included in the next self-study report, due in 2023.
COH	Human Services BHS	Council for Standards in Human Service Education (CSHSE)	2003	2018	2023	Accredited. Requirement for next accreditation: Develop and provide a succinct general and distinctive philosophical orientation which provides	See Human Services AAS above.

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						the conceptual framework for the curriculum.	
COH	Legal Studies BA; Paralegal Studies AAS, PBCT	American Bar Association (ABA)	1992	2016	2022	Approved. No recommendations. ABA accepted UAA request to voluntarily withdraw the Legal Studies minor from approval on May 11, 2022.	
COH	Medical Assisting course of study	Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs upon the recommendation of the Medical Assisting Education Review Board (CAAHEP)	1991	2016	2024	Accredited. Citations: Document adjunct faculty qualifications in educational theory; syllabi with relevant MAERB Core Curriculum cognitive objectives; and assessment of students on protocol for reporting illegal/unsafe activities and behaviors.	All citations were resolved by a Progress Report submitted in January 2017.
COH	Medical Laboratory Science BS	National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences (NAACLS)	2003	2021	2030	Accredited. No recommendations.	
COH	Medical Laboratory Technology AAS	National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences (NAACLS)	1976	2021	2030	Accredited. No recommendations.	
COH	Nursing AAS	Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN)	1977	2017	2025	Accredited. Areas needing development: Accessible public	The School of Nursing (SON) and College of Health (COH)

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						information; student services commensurate with student needs related to program admission application and student advisement.	<p>Communication team are collaborating to confirm that Handbooks, Policies, and any information related to potential or future students is accurate, complete, and accurately posted on the UAA SON web pages and the UAA website.</p> <p>SON and the COH Student Success Center are working closely together in advisement of the application and admission policies, and timelines; they are ensuring detailed identification and review of student progression, with increased involvement of faculty and administration in reaching out to students at risk and in providing support</p>

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							measures through tutoring and faculty engagement.
COH	Nursing BS	Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN)	1978	2017	2025	Accredited. Areas needing development: Accessible public information; student services commensurate with student needs related to student advisement.	See Nursing AAS above.
COH	Nursing Science MS, Family Nurse Practitioner GC; Nursing Education GC; Psychiatric & Mental Health Nurse Practitioner GC	Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN)	1986 (MS), 2003 (FNP & PMHNP GCs), 2005 (NE GC)	2017	2025	Accredited. Areas needing development: Accessible public information; 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.	See Nursing AAS above. In addition: Full curriculum review in process for all graduate programs. Currently working with external expert nursing consultant to support revision of the Nursing Education GC to meet all accreditation standards. The MS Nursing Science Family Nurse Practitioner and Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner programs have

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							gained membership with National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties (NONPF). This allows UAA access to external professional resources as needed to adjust curriculum to maintain alignment with national standards.
COH	Nursing Practice DNP	Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE)	2016	2022	2031	Accredited. No compliance concerns.	
COH	Paramedical Technology AAS	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)	2020	2020	2025	Accredited. No citations. UAA requested to consolidate the two accreditations separately held by KPC and Mat-Su. This was approved. KPC is now the main administrative location for the accreditation, and Mat-Su is an alternate location.	

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COH	Physical Therapist Assistant AAS	Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE)	2014	2021	2030	<p>Accredited.</p> <p>Elements to bring into compliance by 2023: Collective core faculty sufficiency; with new faculty expected to begin in May 2021, effective blend of individuals and evidence of contemporary expertise; evidence that each student has experience with clinical education experience with patients across the lifespan, in settings representative of those in which physical therapy is commonly practiced, in interprofessional practice, as a member of the PT and PTA team, and other experiences that lead to achievement of the program's student outcomes; and that clinical education agreements clearly address the objectives, rights and responsibilities, provide a copy of revisions with highlighted changes, and provide a plan and timeline for updating current agreements to reflect changes.</p>	<p>All but two elements were resolved by a Compliance Report submitted in August 2021.</p> <p>Compliance Report on the two outstanding elements submitted in March 2022, and a follow-up Compliance Report is due in September 2022.</p> <p>Outstanding elements: Evidence that each student has clinical education experience: 1) with patients in an interprofessional practice (IPP) setting; and, 2) as a member of the PT and PTA team.</p> <p>For #1, the program has created enhanced tracking of involvement in IPP and is</p>

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							<p>incorporating simulation-based learning which provides consistent/predictable learning experiences for each student in the area of IPP. For #2, the program has revised mechanisms to collect and track the PT/PTA interaction in clinical experiences and monitor these such that the learning experiences can be modified if needed midway through as necessary.</p> <p>These new data will be included in the Sept 2022 report.</p>
COH	Public Health Practice MPH	Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH)	2009	2015	2023	Accredited. No recommendations.	
COH	Social Work BSW	Council on Social Work Education (CSWE)	1978	2018	2026	Accredited. No recommendations.	

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COH	Social Work MSW	Council on Social Work Education (CSWE)	1997	2018	2026	Accredited. 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	2019	2024	Accredited. No citations.	
CTC	Automotive Technology AAS, UC; Diesel Power Technology AAS, UC	ASE Education Foundation	1993	2016	TBD (awaiting findings)	Accredited. No recommendations. Awaiting findings from May 2022 site visit.	
CTC	Construction Management AAS, BS	American Council for Construction Education (ACCE)	2012	2017	*Not published	Accredited. Awaiting findings from April 2022 site visit. ACCE prohibits public disclosure of findings.	
CTC	Culinary Arts AAS	American Culinary Federation Education Foundation Accrediting Commission (ACFEFCAC)	2014	2018	2022	Accredited. No recommendations.	

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SOE	Early Childhood Development AAS	National Association for the Education of Young Children Commission on the Accreditation of Early Childhood Higher Education Programs (NAEYC)	2018	2018	2024	Accredited. No recommendations.	
SOE	Educational Leadership (Principal) MEd, GC	Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP)	2005	2021	2028	Accredited at the advanced-level. No areas for improvement or stipulations. Nationally recognized by the Educational Leadership Council.	
SOE	Language & Literacy Education GC	Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP)	2021	2021	2028	Accredited at the advanced-level. No areas for improvement or stipulations. Nationally recognized by the Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages.	
SOE	Special Education GC	Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP)	2005	2021	2028	Accredited at the advanced-level. No areas for improvement or stipulations. Nationally recognized by the Council for Exceptional Children.	

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; SOE = School of Education

Several programs have received recognition or endorsements similar to specialized accreditation: Aviation Maintenance Technology AAS/UCs, Aviation Technology BS, and Professional Piloting AAS (Federal Aviation Administration); Fire and Emergency Services Technology AAS (United States Fire Administration/Fire and Emergency Services Higher Education); and Process Technology AAS (North American Process Technology Alliance).

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