



UAA REPORT ON POST-GRADUATE SUCCESS MEASURES FALL 2024

Purpose and Use: UAA's post-graduate success measures help frame student performance after graduation using two key areas: licensure exam pass rates and continued education. These measures, alongside ongoing core competency development and overall student achievement metrics, help assess institutional progress toward mission fulfillment. With an emphasis on "putting students first," these metrics provide valuable insights into the readiness of UAA graduates for professional practice and progression towards further academic pursuits. This information also supports the university's efforts to continuously improve educational outcomes. As measures of post-graduate success, these data accompany other student achievement data and are shared with UAA governance and leadership groups to support ongoing improvement and inform planning, decision-making, and resource allocation.

Professional Licensure Pass Rates

Definition: Professional Licensure Pass Rates represent the percentage of UAA students passing certification exams required for professional practice, as collected and reported for specialized accreditation purposes. Not all UAA programs that lead to certification or licensure have access to these data.

Rationale: Licensure pass rates serve as a direct measure of post-graduate outcomes and are used to understand a unique aspect of overall academic preparation of select UAA students in their chosen professional fields. While licensure exam pass rates are not widely available due to agency restrictions and privacy, the overall pass rates collected by UAA programs frame how well UAA students are prepared to enter their chosen fields.

Data Source: Individual programs

Summary Trend Table

Overall Pass Rates by Program (across 17 different professional licensure exams)

Program	Calendar Year 2019	Calendar Year 2020	Calendar Year 2021	Calendar Year 2022	Calendar Year 2023
Average Annual Pass Rate	88%	83%	90%	84%	86%

Note: There is typically a delay in when and how programs receive licensure pass rates from agencies administering the exams. This delay can result in programs not having access to pass rates for some time after the exam itself. Also, not all agencies provide the data in the same format to all programs.

Continued Education

Definition: Continued Education represents the proportion of UAA students who, after completing a credential, pursue further studies either at UAA or at other institutions. Data is gathered by graduation cohort and includes multiple credentials if awarded in a single year.

Rationale: Continued Education is an indirect measure of post-graduate outcomes used to understand patterns and preparation for students who seek to continue their education after earning a UAA degree or certificate. As a proxy for overall preparation, continuing education demonstrates that graduates are prepared to continue their academic studies. The portion of students who continue their studies at UAA also acts as a proxy for overall student satisfaction and ability of UAA to meet demand in various stacked programs.

Data Source: National Student Clearinghouse and internal UAA graduation data

Summary Trend Table

Graduation Year	Total Graduates	Number (and percentage) of graduates who did not continue their studies	Number (and percentage) of graduates who continued their education anywhere (including UAA)	Number (and percentage) of graduates who continued their education at UAA
FY 2017	2,389	36 (1.5%)	1,565 (65.5%)	788 (33.0%)
FY 2018	2,366	119 (5.0%)	1,490 (63.0%)	757 (32.0%)
FY 2019	2,250	216 (9.6%)	1,393 (61.9%)	641 (28.5%)
FY 2020	2,269	294 (13.0%)	1,320 (58.2%)	655 (28.9%)
FY 2021	2,005	396 (19.8%)	1,122 (56.0%)	487 (24.3%)
FY 2022	1,812	459 (25.3%)	909 (50.2%)	444 (24.5%)
FY 2023	1,625	566 (34.8%)	756 (46.5%)	303 (18.6%)

Note: Student enrollment at other institutions has a 1-year delay due to processing and reporting from the National Student Clearinghouse (NSC). Reporting is based on graduating class behavior at any time during the reporting period and is accurate as of the date of this report.

Findings and Discussion

Together, licensure pass rates and graduate continuation data offer insights about one aspect of UAA's contributions to workforce development, academic preparation, and program demand.

Licensure pass rates have remained consistently high, reflecting UAA's effectiveness in preparing students for professional and technical careers. Programs such as the Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner, Family Nurse Practitioner, Physical Therapist Assistant, and Aviation Maintenance Technology (Airframe) reported 100% pass rates across all measured years. Although the number of test-takers is relatively small, the overall pass rate across the 17 reporting programs remained stable from 2019 to 2023. These outcomes highlight UAA's alignment with industry expectations and reinforce its role in meeting Alaska's workforce needs for the future.

While overall data on continuing education is limited and often delayed from national sources, available figures do show a shift in post-graduation behavior among UAA students. Between 2017 and 2023, the percentage of UAA graduates who continued their education at UAA declined from 33% to 18.6%, even as the total number of graduates remained steady, averaging approximately 2000 students annually. In absolute terms, this reflects a drop from approximately 660 graduates



continuing at UAA in 2017 to just over 400 in 2023. Contextually there is a significant lag in the time it takes for continuation data to become available at the national level and should be considered when reviewing this data.

Even accounting for the delay in data availability, the shift in continuing education coincides with broader national trends of declining graduate school enrollment. These declines are attributed to factors such as rising tuition costs, increasing skepticism about the return on investment, and a robust labor market all having an impact. According to National Student Clearinghouse Research Center, graduate enrollment nationally declined by 4.7% between spring 2021 and spring 2023.

Further impacting this trend are local economic incentives which may also influence decisions. High-paying, in-demand jobs that require only a bachelor's degree or lower are drawing graduates directly into the workforce. According to the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, occupations such as petroleum engineers, software developers, construction managers, and financial managers have median annual wages exceeding \$100,000 and do not require a graduate degree (Alaska Occupation Forecast).

Together these trends suggest opportunities for UAA to reimagine its graduate and continuing education strategies. Enhancing internal pathways through stackable credentials, targeted graduate certificates, and accelerated master's programs could increase retention of UAA alumni and better meet evolving workforce demands. Alignment of academic offerings with student interests and labor market needs will be critical in reversing these patterns and supporting lifelong learning. While the exact reasons for these shifts are not fully known, the broad data suggests opportunities to enhance internal pathways for continued learning. Continuing UAA's efforts to expand stackable credentials, graduate certificates, and accelerated master's programs could help retain more UAA alumni and support their ongoing development. These trends underscore the importance of UAA's ongoing efforts to align offerings with student interests and workforce demands.