



NWCCU Reaffirms UAA's Regional Accreditation!

Congratulations! And thank you for your role in earning UAA's reaffirmation of accreditation.

[The NWCCU Reaffirmation Letter is posted on the Self-Study website.](#)

What's next?

NWCCU is revising its standards and eligibility requirements. These will be finalized in January 2020, and UAA will be expected to incorporate them into its March 2020 report.

The report in March 2020 will set forth the project for the seven-year cycle. It will include a plan to demonstrate:

INSTITUTIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

The institution demonstrates a continuous process of assessing institutional effectiveness, including the assessment of student learning and other support services to facilitate student learning and achievement. The institution uses that ongoing and systematic evaluation and planning to inform and refine its key processes, assign resources, and improve student learning.

ACADEMIC QUALITY

Student Learning – On the course, program, and institutional level.

Core Competencies – These are cross-cutting competencies such as effective communication, scientific and quantitative reasoning, critical analysis and logical thinking, problem solving, and information literacy across all programs. Out of a set of options UAA will need to address which ones we have chosen and why, how we are measuring them, whether or not students are achieving them, and what we are doing if students are not achieving them. NWCCU will want to know the best practices we have chosen to guide these processes and our rationale for the particular best practice, e.g. using the VALUE rubrics to assess student achievement.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT/STUDENT SUCCESS

Examples are course completion, experiential learning, program completion, degree completion, retention, and job placement. NWCCU will mandate some, e.g. retention and graduation rates, and UAA can opt to include others. UAA will need to identify peer and aspirational institutions, against which to measure achievement. We need to tell NWCCU where we want to be in 7 years relative to our current retention and graduation rates and any other ways we choose to measure student success.

Regional Accreditation, cont.

NEXT STEPS:

- Chancellor Sandeen charged an [Exploratory Group on Strategic Planning](#) to define potential processes by which UAA will conduct a broad based strategic planning process. This group is not asked to develop the strategic plan, but rather to help think about various ways UAA can go about its next cycle of planning and how the strategic plan, core themes for accreditation, and campaign themes might align and support each other.
- A small advisory group is being formed to help kick off the next accreditation cycle.
- NWCCU selected UAA Faculty Senators Jennifer Brock and Rachel Graham to be [NWCCU Mission Fulfillment Fellows!](#)

The Fellowship prepares higher education leaders to advance institutional mission fulfillment and quality initiatives through assessment, reflection, and planning. The Fellowship is designed to introduce aspiring leaders to regional and national leaders in assessment, accreditation, data analysis, quality assurance, educational innovation, and educational effectiveness – and Fellows are expected to work in pairs of institutional partners to produce a final project advancing their institution’s practices quality improvement activities.

The proposed project is to develop a community survey to help UAA arrive at core competencies that align with local needs as well as national best practices.

Program Student Learning Outcomes Assessment

[Academic Assessment Homepage](#)

[IR-Reports Academic Assessment Repository](#)

The deans and community campus directors have provided input to the programs. The college and program assessment coordinators have been asked to review that feedback, meet with the dean/community campus director to discuss any questions/concerns/requests, and use the feedback moving forward.

General Education

Maria Williams and Dan Kline presented at the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U) “Creating a 21-st Century General Education: Responding to Seismic Shifts” on February 16, 2019 in San Francisco.

Their session focused on the Alaska Native Themed requirement.

Using the UAA multi-campus experience as a case study, Maria Williams and Dan Kline discussed how developing shared high-level student learning outcomes allowed UAA to break from a course-compliance model and move toward an outcomes-driven collaborative process that allows students to meet the AKNT initiative in the majors and programs as well as in multiple general education categories. Participants identified an equity-focused curricular area, drafted initial high-level SLOs, and identified a slate of “close enough” courses. The session closed by identifying tips, tools, and strategies for initiating an equity-based discussion of how—paradoxically—general education advances institutional distinctiveness and student identity.

General Education Workshop Series

Date	Location	Time	Title	Register
Fri 3/22	LIB 302A	10:00-11:30	GER Assessment Charrette 2: Critical Thinking	Register
		11:30-12:30	GER Open Forum 2: Looking Ahead to Gen Ed Revision – What makes a Gen Ed course?	
Fri 4/19	LIB 302A	10:00-11:30	GER Assessment Charrette 3: Oral Communication	Register
		11:30-12:30	GER Open Forum 3: Looking Ahead to Gen Ed Revision – Potential Structures & Processes?	
Mon 5/6 - Tues 5/7	LIB 307	9:00-2:00	GER/AA/AAS Assessment Soiree	Register

BOR Mandated Cyclical Academic Program Review

The programs up for review in AY19 and supporting materials are posted on the [Academic Program Review website](#) and in the AY2019 folder on [IR-Reports](#). Program review templates were due to deans on February 1, 2019. Deans' findings are due to Academic Affairs with a copy to programs on March 1, 2019. Interim reports from past reviews are due to deans on March 1, 2019. Dean's findings for interim reports are due to Academic Affairs with a copy to programs on April 1, 2019. Programs have two weeks after being copied on the dean's findings to send an optional memo to the provost responding to the deans' recommendations. These should be submitted to OAA at uaa.oaa@alaska.edu.

International and Intercultural Affairs

Faculty-Led Programming

UAA's Dr. Dorn Van Dommelen is leading a faculty-led program to Dakar, Senegal this summer with the help of CIEE, offering a class on International Development. Please contact Dorn with questions. All qualified students are welcome to apply!!!