April 1, 2020

Dear Secondary Education Students,

As you know, the situation with the COVID-19 virus and public education continues to evolve. We recently learned that there will be no on campus classes at UAA this summer. UAS is in the process of cancelling on campus courses as well. For this reason, we will offer the four secondary education courses online this summer. I will be meeting with faculty over the next several days to discuss options for online delivery. I will communicate about the new delivery model as it becomes clear. We will deliver the four courses this summer, so that you will be eligible to complete the program in spring of 2021. The faculty are experienced with online teaching. The summer session will be engaging and worthwhile for you. Your patience is appreciated. Below are updates related to the secondary program.

Applications, Admission and Praxis
Please work hard to submit all of the requirements for the application before April 15th. We understand that test centers are closed, and at this time, it is uncertain when they will reopen. If you submit all of your materials, except Praxis test scores by April 15th, you will be provisionally admitted. This will allow you to register for courses and participate in the summer program. Applicants are encouraged to schedule Praxis tests as soon as possible when the test centers reopen.

Student Teaching Authorizations
Today, the Alaska Dept. of Education and Early Development confirmed they will temporarily waive the Praxis Core testing requirement for student teaching authorization applications. We will have more information next week. However, as soon as you are admitted, you need to complete the student teaching authorization application process:
http://www.uas.alaska.edu/education/programs/mat-secondary.html

Student Teaching Placements
Typically, we work with school districts in the spring to arrange for placements. At this time, districts are overwhelmed with the shift from in-school to online and distance learning. We have positive working relationships with districts across the state. We are confident that all secondary students will have placements before the school year begins in the fall. We’re asking everyone to be patient during this challenging time.

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