

UAS Revised Mission, Version 2

Executive Cabinet & Institutional Effectiveness, October 2020

Provide Mission Feedback Here: <https://forms.gle/9RGrTwANDz5wZmh99>

Proposed Mission –Version 2

UAS is a student-centered university that provides quality instruction in liberal arts, professional, and technical fields. We belong to, and serve, the coastal environments, cultures, economies, and communities of Alaska through scholarship and creative activity, interdisciplinary education, and workforce development.

Summary of Feedback from Originally Proposed Mission

Originally Proposed Mission

UAS is a student centered, regional university where students learn, grow and define their future through high quality instruction and individualized student support. Located in Southeast Alaska with campuses in Juneau, Sitka and Ketchikan, UAS is uniquely positioned to offer marine and maritime, coastal rainforest, and indigenous studies in addition to an array of liberal arts, education, business, and workforce development programs.

Feedback

Mission: Forty-one employees responded to the mission and goals feedback form, in addition to several others who e-mailed feedback. About half of the respondents provided re-wording suggestions to the proposed mission, 1 in 5 responses recommended keeping the current mission, and close to 1 in 5 responses recommended research and creative activity to the proposed mission. Overall, about half of the responses were positive toward the proposed mission and about half were negative. The suggestions within the feedback were utilized for the edited version provided above.

Goals: Overall, feedback regarding the goals was positive, with focus on adding to the goals. Through these recommendations, the Executive Cabinet strived to modify the newly proposed mission so that it connects with most of the areas recommended in the feedback for goals, including adding scholarship/creative activity to the mission.

Description of Proposed Mission V2

Proposed Mission V2

UAS is a student-centered university that provides quality instruction in liberal arts, professional, and technical fields. We belong to, and serve, the coastal environments, cultures, economies, and communities of Alaska through scholarship and creative activity, interdisciplinary education, and workforce development.

Details of mission

This mission places students at the center and recognizes UAS's academic excellence through mention of quality instruction and scholarship /creative activities.

This mission provides a broad overview of all program offered by UAS, without specifically naming programs.

- Liberal Arts fields: Dept. of Humanities, Dept. of Natural Sciences, Dept. of Social Science
- Professional fields: Dept. of Business & Public Administration, College of Education
- Technical fields: School of Career Education

The mission recognizes UAS's location within Alaska and our dedication to belonging and serving our communities in a multitude of ways.

Metrics

NWCCU requires universities demonstrate mission fulfillment through measuring various metrics. Metrics should be easily measured, transparent, and succinct. UAS is striving to have 5 – 7 metrics to demonstrate mission fulfillment. Other metrics, however, can be utilized throughout the report.

NWCCU Standard One: Student Success & Institutional Mission & Effectiveness

The institution articulates its commitment to student success, primarily measured through student learning and achievement, for all students, with a focus on equity and closure of achievement gaps, and establishes a mission statement, acceptable thresholds, and benchmarks for effectiveness with meaningful indicators. The institution's programs are consistent with its mission and culminate in identified student outcomes leading to degrees, certificates, credentials, employment, or transfer to other higher education institutions or programs. Programs are systematically assessed using meaningful indicators to assure currency, improve teaching and learning strategies, and achieve stated student learning outcomes for all students, including underrepresented students and first-generation college students

Originally, we proposed goals that would have metrics assigned to measure those goals. With the new proposed mission, we believe the mission succinctly explains UAS and metrics can be directly connected to the mission, without an added layer of overarching goals. However, it is required by NWCCU that each metric has an identified goal to reach. These goals will be developed through reviewing peer data, historical UAS data, and connecting these metrics with UAS strategic planning.

The following areas are under consideration to demonstrate mission fulfillment:

UAS is a student-centered university that provides quality instruction in liberal arts, professional, and technical fields.

- High quality education / academic excellence
- Student-centered support

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- Diversity, Access & Equity
- Research / Creative Expression / Scholarship
- Community / Location

The following lists possible metrics for each area of focus

High quality education / academic excellence

- Learning outcome from GELOs or combined PLOs
- External survey, (ex. NSSE or HERI surveys) which ask questions related to students learning
- UAS developed survey, or use of student course ratings

Student-centered support

- Retention, completion, and transfer rates (already required to be tracked by NWCCU)
- Student services utilization

Diversity, Access & Equity

- Student Demographics: ex. % AK Native, % adult learners, % from rural areas, % dual enrolled
- Faculty & Staff Demographics: examples: % AK Native, % Female
- Financial Aid such as grants & scholarships

Research / Creative Expression / Scholarship

- Deans & Directors to work with faculty on how to measure this

Community / Location

- Employment outcomes: % of graduates working in Alaska (available through DoL) (already required to be tracked by NWCCU)
- Dual Enrollment
- Community Partnerships & Engagement