

University of Alaska Southeast Report on Academic Program Reviews—AY13-14

UA Board of Regents—September 2014

Academic Program Reviews at UAS

The University of Alaska Southeast’s mission, values, and core themes emphasize the importance of both academic excellence and accountability. Program reviews, required by Board of Regents policy, are an integral part of our practice to ensure that we meet that mission and also align with *Shaping Alaska’s Future* themes and effects.

Program reviews focus on the program’s centrality to the UAS mission and to Shaping Alaska’s Future themes. Reviews focus on data-informed evidence of quality teaching and learning, graduation effectiveness, success of graduates in securing employment or advancing their educational goals, community engagement, adequacy of available resources, alignment with related programs at UAS and across UA, and program elements requiring improvement. Reviews offer an opportunity to celebrate successful programs and to identify ways to build on that success. Reviews also offer an opportunity to look critically at program needs, challenges, and weaknesses—to suggest changes, to reallocate resources internally, or to propose eliminating a program altogether.

Regents’ policy calls for such reviews at least every seven years and more frequently as the need arises (BOR P10.06.010 [B]-- Academic Program Review). At UAS our practice continues to be completing such reviews at least every five years. The current schedule for reviews is found at <http://www.uas.alaska.edu/provost/docs/program-review/programreviewtable.pdf>

The review process includes participation from program faculty and staff, students, Faculty Senate, administrators, discipline experts, and industry/community representatives. It concludes with a final decision by the UAS Provost, with concurrence from the UAS Chancellor. Special reviews outside of the normal cycle may be conducted as determined by university leadership.

Academic Program Reviews Completed in AY13-14

In line with its published schedule, UAS conducted ten Program Reviews in academic year 13-14. Two reviews previously scheduled for AY13-14 have been postponed to AY14-15 due to faculty workload commitments.

Academic Program	Decision
Certificate in Pre-Engineering	Admissions suspended due to persistent low enrollments: Notification to NWCCU of intention to ‘teach-out’ over 12 months with subsequent request to BOR that Pre-Engineering at UAS be eliminated
Certificate in Drafting Technology	Continue program with technology updates
Certificate of Construction Technology	Continue with changes: Make curricular changes including stacked classes, add ‘Math for the Trades’ offering for Certificate and AAS students
Certificate in Residential Building Science	Admissions suspended due to reduced demand. Notification to NWCCU of intention to ‘teach-out’ over 12 months with subsequent request to BOR that program be eliminated.
Associate of Applied Science in Construction Technology	Continue with changes: Make curricular changes including stacked classes, add ‘Math for the Trades’ offering for Certificate and AAS students
Associate of Arts	Continue with changes: Continue regional coordination for both face-to-face and online options; expand marketing to reach adults seeking to complete their AA degree; ensure clarity about lead program responsibility and annual assessment reporting; modify curriculum as needed to align GERS
Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science	Continue with changes: Engagement with faculty about strengthening curriculum and developing discrete concentrations; expanding field course offerings during May-mester and for first-year students

Bachelor of Science in Biology	Program enhancement; decision to explore joint offering of BA/BS in Fisheries in concert with UAF; inclusion of FY16 budget request for Assistant Professor of Biology/Fisheries
Bachelor of Science in Marine Biology	Program continuation; continued focus on Marine Biology as a distinct UAS asset; strategies proposed to increase student numbers, retention, and marketing
Bachelor of Science in Mathematics	Program continuation; expectations for aligning GERs with UAA and UAF; commendation for overall contribution to general and developmental education; encouragement to test technology-enhanced and intensive teaching and learning strategies

Reviews Planned in Next Five Years

Summary		
Academic Year	Reviews Scheduled	Percent of All Programs
AY14-15	12	27%
AY15-16	8	18%
AY16-17	5	11%
AY17-18	9	21%
Total	44	100%

UA Academic Program Review Definitions and Format

Academic Program

Degree or Certificate Program: UAS programs include Occupational Endorsements, Undergraduate Certificates, Associate degrees, Baccalaureate degrees, and Master’s degrees. Academic Program Review decisions are listed relative to each academic program. For example, deleting a track within a program would be considered a revision of the program. In some cases, stand-alone minors and academic departments that are not degree-granting undergo Academic Program Review at the discretion of the Provost and Dean.

Decision Types

Enhancement: Program will be enhanced with additional resources. (Areas for enhancements might include, for example, faculty or staff, curriculum, program delivery, student success initiatives, outreach and/or partnerships with the community or industry, program promotion and marketing, and facilities.)

Continuation: Program is successfully serving its students and meeting its mission and goals. No immediate changes necessary, other than regular, ongoing program improvements.

Revision: Program will be revised using existing resources, which might entail a reallocation of resources within the program. (Areas for revision might include, for example, faculty or staff workloads and assignments, curriculum, program delivery, student success initiatives, outreach and/or partnerships with the community or industry, program promotion and marketing, and facilities.)

Continued Review: Program is required to address specific issues and to undergo another review within the next two academic years.

Suspension: While decisions relative to the program are made, admissions to the program are suspended. There are a variety of reasons for suspension. These may include, among others, temporary circumstances (e.g., insufficient faculty to meet substantial enrollment increases), planned major revisions to the program (e.g., deleting a track or changing the degree level), or potential program deletion.

Deletion: Program is scheduled for deletion, a teach-out process will be developed and communicated to majors, and the program will remain in the catalog until the teach-out process is complete.

Actions

Action on results of program review: This column allows for details relative to decisions regarding the particular program.