



University of Alaska Southeast
Report on Institutional and Programmatic Accreditation
Report to the UA Board of Regents—September 2014

Institutional Accreditation at UAS (Regents Policy 10.02.070A)

The University of Alaska Southeast has been accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) since 1983. This accreditation includes the Juneau, Ketchikan, and Sitka campuses.

Institutional accreditation is regularly reviewed and reaffirmed by the NWCCU. This reaffirmation focuses on a process of continuous improvement. Such improvement aligned with standards occurs through regular reports and site visits conducted by peer evaluators. In addition to these reports and visits, the institution also communicates regularly with the NWCCU about substantive program changes including additions, suspensions, and deletions as well as about changes to institutional leaders and organizational structure.

NWCCU Findings: Commendation and Recommendation

UAS's institutional accreditation was last reaffirmed in early 2014 through submittal of a Year Three report focusing on Resources and Capacity. That report led to a favorable finding by the NWCCU (letter to Chancellor Pugh of February 4, 2014). The Commission offered commendation to UAS *“for the effective integration of its core themes throughout the institution.”* It provided one recommendation: *“The evaluators recommend that UAS focus on data points and data analysis. Some indicators for the core theme objectives need to be more specific, and the assessment data-gathering and analysis procedures need to be more specifically delineated (Standards 1.A.2 and 2.C.5).”*

Timeline:

The next regular report in this cycle—the Year Seven report on Mission Fulfillment—will be due in 2017.

Milestone	Date	Description
Last Reaffirmation	February 2014	Based on Year Three Self-Evaluation Report
Next Regular Report and Site Visit	Expected Fall 2017	Year Seven Report-Mission Fulfillment

Websites:

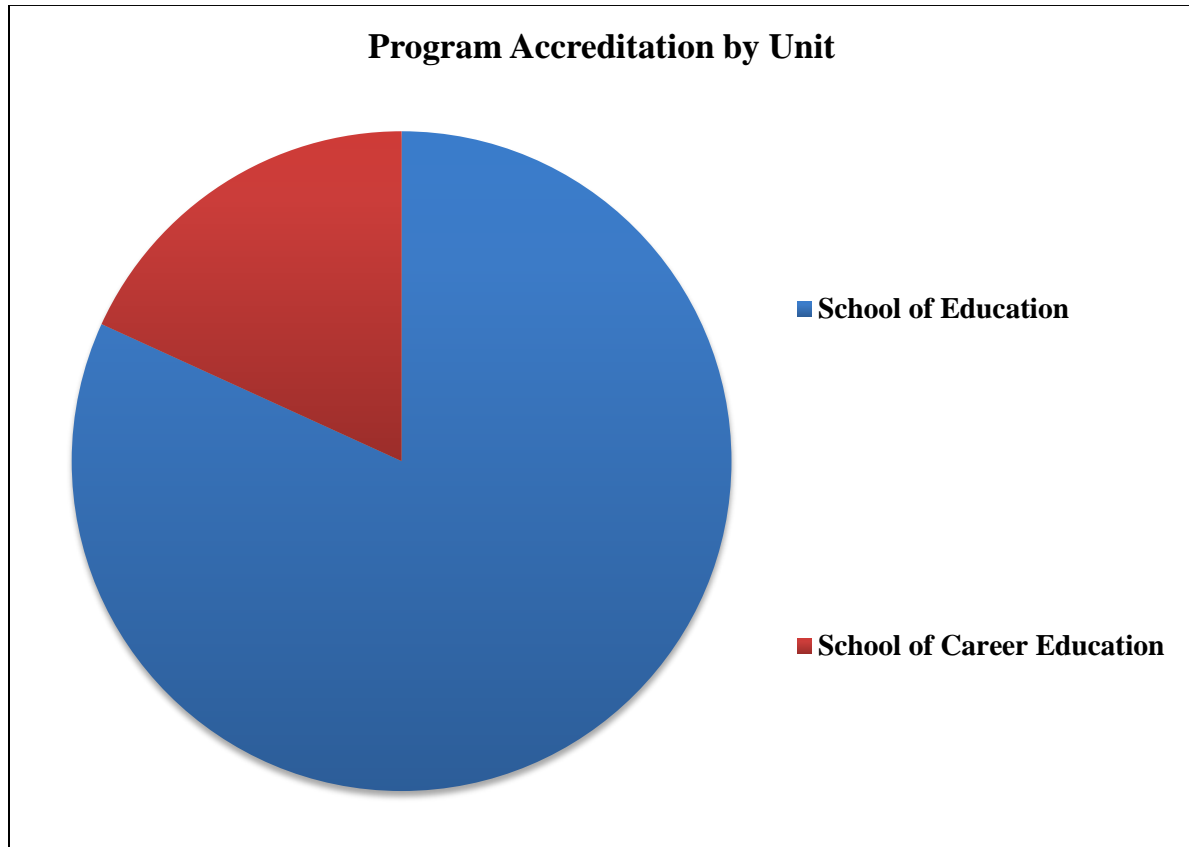
UAS Institutional Accreditation: <http://www.uas.alaska.edu/provost/accreditation.html>

Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities: <http://www.nwccu.org/>

Program Accreditation at UAS (Regents Policy 10.02.070B)

Two UAS degree and certificate programs hold specialized accreditation or approval by external agencies. These are in Teacher Education and Health Information Management.

These programs are in disciplines with professional certification or registration requirements. The figure below shows the relative distribution of accredited programs in the institution's academic units. The table at the end of this report provides a complete list of programs with special approval or accreditation.



Proposals to seek new program accreditation are evaluated based on criteria including the agency, eligibility requirements, benefits to the institution and students, and available resources and capacity to maintain ongoing accreditation. The Provost's Office assists programs in preparing self-studies and other accreditation communication to external agencies.

Website:

UAS Program Accreditation: <http://www.uas.alaska.edu/provost/accreditation.html>

UA Accreditation Definitions & Format

Institutional Accreditation: The status of public recognition that a recognized accrediting agency grants to an institution or educational program that meets its qualifying requirements and accreditation criteria. The process involves initial and periodic self-evaluation followed by an evaluation by peers.

Types of Accreditation: Each type of accreditation is awarded by a non-governmental agency recognized by the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education. The essential purpose of the accreditation agency is to provide a professional judgment regarding the quality of the educational institution or program offered and to encourage continual institutional improvement.

Regional: Accreditation of an institution as a whole for institutions within a prescribed geographic region of the United States.

National: Accreditation of an institution as a whole for institutions that are single purpose in nature, such as business or information technology institutes, or that have a clear thematic mission, such as faith-based institutions or liberal arts colleges.

Program/Specialized: Accreditation of a unit or educational program within an institution with regard to program-specific standards. The unit may be a school, department, program, or curriculum.

University of Alaska Southeast Program Accreditation

The following programs have approval and/or accreditation from agencies external to UAS.

The “Notes” column indicates where departments are in the process of obtaining initial accreditation, or where the accreditation is held by a partner institution.

Unit	Program	Accrediting Agency
School of Education	School of Education Initial and Advanced Programs	Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP—formerly NCATE) AK Department of Education and Early Development
SOE	Elementary Education BA, MA in Teaching, graduate certificate	Association of Childhood Education International (ACEI) Nationally recognized
SOE	Educational Leadership Med	Educational Leadership Constituent Council (ELCC) Nationally recognized with conditions
SOE	Educational Technology MEd and graduate certificate	International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) Nationally recognized
SOE	Reading Med and graduate certificate	International Reading Association (IRA) Nationally recognized
SOE	Special Education BA, MEd, graduate certificate	Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) Nationally recognized
School of Career Ed	Health Information Management AAS	Commission on Accreditation of Informatics and Information Management Education (CAHIIM)

Specialized Accreditation Findings—Teacher Education:

The Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) formerly NCATE, is a non-governmental agency devoted to advancing excellence in educator preparation through evidence-based accreditation that assures quality and supports continuous improvement to strengthen P-12 student learning.

At its April, 2012 meeting the NCATE Accreditation Board of the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) considered the request for accreditation of the School of Education at the University of Alaska Southeast. They commended us for the level of cooperation received from the faculty, staff, and administration and granted the School of Education full accreditation for both initial teacher preparation and advanced preparation levels. UAS was commended for:

- Attention to the needs of the regional communities. They noted that candidates and alumni were most enthusiastic about their diverse experiences in both the field and the interactive distance delivery of courses.

- The University of Alaska Southeast has demonstrated an exceptionally strong commitment to educator preparation programs through allocation of resources to support faculty in their efforts to support candidates in remote settings. The high cost of travel is born by the institution with the enormous time and responsibility born by the faculty members.
- The university, at the urging of the unit has advocated for faculty positions to address the needs of the unique type of programs supported by the institution. Interim and continued funding in support of the programs and positions is exemplary.
- Notable program strength is the supervision of field experience and clinical practice of initial and advanced candidates. Committed to maintaining a strong program with well-trained teachers throughout the state, field supervisors use various means to support and evaluate candidates. Field supervisors travel for days by plane spending time in villages with no commercial accommodations in order to support and evaluate candidates. Many candidates, especially indigenous people of Alaska, would not be able to complete the program without this service.

Specialized Accreditation Findings—Health Information Management:

The Commission on Accreditation of Informatics and Information Management Education (CAHIIM) provides specialized accreditation for the UAS Associate of Applied Science in Health Information Management. CAHIIM's most recent quality review letter states that the UAS program is in compliance and that there were no accreditation issues evident. CAHIIM did provide one recommendation: "Publish the HIM program mission and goals on program website. The program's mission and goals must be outcomes-focused." UAS faculty have addressed these issues.