

ACCREDITATION 2019

What is accreditation?

Accreditation is a voluntary process of self-regulation and peer review adopted by the higher education community. It is an affirmation that a college provides a quality of education that the general public has the right to expect and that the educational community recognizes.

Fun Fact: UAF has been accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities, or NWCCU, since 1934.

What does accreditation have to do with me?

Students: Your financial aid, if it comes from federal sources, may be dependent upon the fact that you are attending an accredited institution. Accreditation can also help make the transfer of college credit between UAF and other institutions a smoother process, although many factors affect the transfer of credit. When you graduate, employers may value degrees from an accredited university more highly compared to one from a non-accredited institution, since accreditation gives some assurance of the quality of your education.

Staff and faculty: State and federal government grant-funding agencies often require the accreditation of an institution as an eligibility standard. The process of accreditation, which is cyclical and reviewed periodically, encourages the institution toward continual self-study and improvement, making it a place you can be proud to work.

Isn't the renewal of our accreditation automatic?

Accreditation takes a lot of work to attain, and a lot of continued effort to maintain. Many people take part in the work of continually assessing our programs and services to look for areas of improvement. And this fall (**Sept. 23-25**), when the evaluation team comes to UAF for a site visit, everyone will play an important role in welcoming them.

UAF's Mission and Core Themes for Accreditation

The University of Alaska Fairbanks is a Land, Sea and Space Grant university and an international center for research, education, and the arts, emphasizing the circumpolar North and its diverse peoples. UAF integrates teaching, research, and public service as it educates students for active citizenship and prepares them for lifelong learning and careers.

EDUCATE: Undergraduate and Graduate Students and Lifelong Learners

RESEARCH: To Create and Disseminate New Knowledge, Insight, Technology, Artistic and Scholarly Works

PREPARE: Alaska's Career, Technical, and Professional Workforce

CONNECT: Alaska Native, Rural, and Urban Communities by Sharing Knowledge and Ways of Knowing

ENGAGE: Alaskans through Outreach for Continuing Education and Community and Economic Development.