

### Achieving R1 Status at UAF

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The Carnegie Classification is a national framework for categorizing universities in the United States. UAF has consistently been classified as an R2 university, a distinction held by about 7% of universities nationally. Reviews are conducted every three years. UAF's upcoming opportunities to achieve R1 status are 2027, based on our FY24-FY26 performance, and 2030, based on our FY27-FY29 performance.

Since our Fall update, UAF has continued to distribute funding to support PhD completion, facilitated a R1 Strategy workshop, and developed additional outreach materials, including nine R1 Working Group reports.

### Why does R1 matter?

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R1 status has the potential to transform Alaska's economy and support local businesses, attract top-tier talent to live and work in Alaska and grow research on Alaska relevant problems, and increase UAF student enrollment to help UAF attract the next generation of Alaska's workforce to meet our state's needs.

In an analysis of five public universities in the three years before and after they transitioned to R1 status, all outperformed state and/or national averages after achieving R1 status with respect to enrollment, research expenditures and economic growth.\* Based on these findings, we expect UAF achieving R1 status will result in:

- A 7-9% growth in total UAF student enrollment
- Maintaining or growing UAF's strong research expenditures
- The creation of ~800-1000 new jobs
- Contributions of \$50-\$100M to the Alaska economy

### How do we get to R1?

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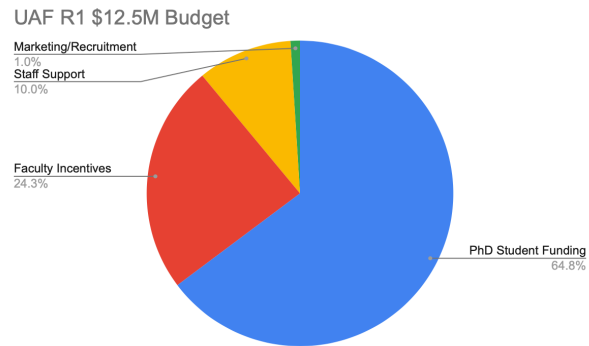
In order to reach R1 status, UAF must:

- Have at least \$50 million in annual research activity. UAF already exceeds Carnegie's R1 research expenditures threshold by nearly \$150 million.
- Award an average of 70 doctorates each year or 210 over a 3 year period. Achieving this requires UAF to double our average PhD graduate numbers.

## R1 Investments

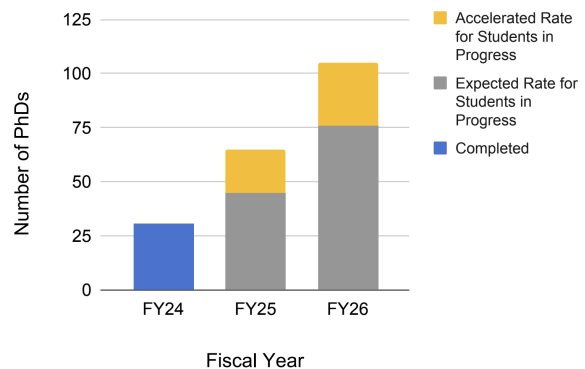
UAF received \$12.5 million from the state in FY25 to help increase the number of incoming PhD students and boost the number of annual graduates. These funds, which must be spent within 3 years, are being put to work to support recruitment, retention, financial support, and mentorship of graduate students, and to strengthen doctoral programs to ensure UAF can reach and sustain R1 status.

UAF has awarded \$5.8M to 107 PhD students so far in FY25, with intent to award an additional \$2.1M this spring. \$625k has been reserved for staff support to increase capacity in support of R1. UAF has also awarded \$400k this past Fall, and plans to award an additional \$1M this Spring, to help support faculty mentorship of PhD students.



## PhD Graduate Projections

UAF has 321 currently enrolled PhD students in Spring 2025, up 14.6% from Spring 2024. In order to achieve R1 status by 2027, UAF will need to graduate 179 of the currently enrolled PhD students. This will require helping 121 PhD students meet their expected degree completion date, and helping an additional 58 PhD students accelerate their completion timeline by 1-2 years.



## R1 Working Groups - Next Steps

Nine UAF R1 Working Groups comprised of ~80 faculty, staff and student members have worked over the past year to identify and reduce barriers to PhD degree completion, increase student support and mentorship, improve efficiency and transparency in graduate student tracking and degree progress, and allocate financial support to help best support UAF PhD students and mentors to achieve these goals. The outcomes of this work can be found [here](#) under *resources* → *R1 Working Group Reports*. In the coming months UAF Vice Chancellors, Deans and Directors will work with the R1 Steering Committee to start implementing identified strategies to help UAF achieve R1 status. Achieving R1 status by 2027 is an ambitious goal. It will take everyone at UAF to make this happen.