

Strategic Plan, University of Alaska Fairbanks

Goal 6: Revitalize key academic programs, from occupational endorsements to Ph.D.s

Our vision for UAF

- All of UAF's academic programs are connected to community, educational and industry partners. They are responsive to workforce development demands and needs across the state of Alaska and to national and international economic climates.
- A culture of belonging, integration and access exists, from occupational endorsements to doctoral degree programs. It spans the UAF Community and Technical College, the rural campuses and the Troth Yeddha' campus.
- Students in all degree levels engage in interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary research and creative scholarship to generate new knowledge and outputs throughout UAF's campuses.
- UAF is known for its professional investment in and support of faculty and staff. As a result, there is a sense of belonging and community and a high level of morale among those employed at UAF.
- UAF students at all campuses have easy access to advising, mentoring, support services, and research and creative scholarship opportunities through engagement with faculty, staff and their fellow students.
- The university provides robust outreach, engagement and promotion for all programs within and outside of UAF.

How do we get there?

Research, creative scholarship and experiential learning

- Students at all degree levels have access to student-focused research, creative scholarship opportunities and experiential learning, regardless of discipline or UAF location.
- The UAF Office of Undergraduate Research and Scholarly Activity is the hub of interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary experiential learning at all degree levels and UAF campuses by providing opportunities for the generation of new knowledge and ways of knowing and through mentoring.
- Additional discipline-specific and interdisciplinary undergraduate and graduate opportunities to generate new knowledge exist with programs such as the Biomedical Learning and Student Training, the Alaska IDeA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence, the Alaska Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research's Fire and Ice program and the Tamamta graduate traineeship program.
- Promote diversity and access to experiential learning opportunities by increasing the inclusion and engagement of Alaska Native, active duty military and veteran, and other underrepresented student populations at UAF.

Pathways between programs

- Form task forces to determine viable pathways that promote scaffolding between degree programs at all levels.
- Develop articulation agreements between programs/degrees to promote scaffolded pathways between degrees with clear benchmarked credentials (e.g., occupational endorsements, certifications, etc.).
- Provide comprehensive advisor training for staff and faculty regarding degree pathway opportunities, and leverage Nanook Navigator to establish advising communications regarding these degree pathways.
- Actively market degree pathways to students to promote an understanding of workforce needs and opportunities, and directly engage high school guidance counselors and homeschool programs to increase awareness and understanding of these pathways.
- Provide flexible degree programming to accommodate the diverse needs of student learners.

Faculty and staff development and support

- Provide support for an active teaching and learning center offering and incentivizing professional development opportunities on site.
- Sustain efforts supporting and growing the faculty accelerator website to promote faculty support and professional development at UAF.
- Support adjunct faculty attendance at professional development opportunities with financial incentives.
- Prioritize faculty and staff retention through professional development opportunities to offer healthy and thriving programs and by creating a sense of integrated belonging and community based on respect, listening, understanding and sincere actions.
- Provide faculty training in progressive teaching pedagogies in support of online, distance education priorities.

Advising

- Increase leveraging of Nanook Navigator to track student progress, collect data and enhance communication between and among advisors and students and advising units.
- Develop comprehensive, incentivized advisor training.

Innovative and adaptable credential-based education models

- Subscription model.
- Microcredentialing.
- Build our non-credit credential portfolio.