

Undergraduate Programs

To meet Alaska's higher education needs and to serve all Alaskans, from first-time college students to working professionals, UAA's undergraduate programs range from short-term certificates to traditional two-year and four-year degrees. UAA's academic programs are designed to assist students in achieving their goals, including developing the skills and understanding necessary to succeed in future employment, to perform responsibly and ethically as a leader, and to serve as a contributing member of society.

Occupational Endorsements and Undergraduate Certificates

The university offers two types of certificates at the undergraduate level:

- Occupational endorsement certificates (OECs) are certificates requiring 29 or fewer credits to complete. These certificates provide the specialized knowledge and skills needed in specific employment sectors. General University Requirements for OECs. (<http://catalog.uaa.alaska.edu/undergraduateprograms/ocrequirements/>)
- Undergraduate certificates of 30-60 credits offer focused instruction in a concentrated area. These certificates provide knowledge and skill development in broad enough areas to prepare students for entry into a variety of career fields. They are particularly appropriate in scientific or technical areas such as health care, computer systems, transportation or industrial technology. General University Requirements for undergraduate certificates. (<http://catalog.uaa.alaska.edu/undergraduateprograms/certificate requirements/>)

Both of these certificate types are noted on transcripts. Coursework used to complete each type may also apply to associate and baccalaureate degrees that the student may pursue.

Associate Degrees

UAA offers two types of associate degrees, both of which require the completion of 60 credits or more:

- The Associate of Arts (AA) degree combines broad studies in written communication, oral communication, humanities, mathematics, natural sciences and social sciences, with elective coursework selected by the student. The degree provides broad exposure to systems of thought and inquiry, allows exploration of a variety of disciplines and learning experiences, and provides a solid foundation for further study at the baccalaureate level. The AA degree is administered by the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS). The complete program description is found under the CAS section (<http://catalog.uaa.alaska.edu/undergraduateprograms/cas/>).
- Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degrees provide applied or specialized studies that are used to satisfy a student's specific educational needs. Many AAS programs prepare students for work

in a particular field of employment. Some AAS programs are designed to provide a foundation for a specific related baccalaureate degree. Students in AAS programs build knowledge and skills needed to carry out specific tasks while they develop abilities in the essential elements of communications, computation and human relations.

Baccalaureate Degrees

Baccalaureate, or bachelor's, degrees consist of a minimum of 120 credits and comprise three interrelated parts:

- *General Education Requirements*, which provide students a broad overview of the liberal arts and sciences and create the foundation for further study in the major or program, lifelong learning and workplace preparedness. GERs are best taken early in a student's academic career.
- *Major Requirements*, which afford students intensive study in a specialized subject, program or professional area. The major prepares a student for employment and/or graduate-level course work.
- *Elective Credits*, which are the body of work to complete the 120 credits. These credits may be limited, as in the case of many professional programs, or open for the student's choice, allowing for students to investigate other areas of interest. Students may choose to declare a Minor (generally 18-24 credits from within the Elective credits) to pursue an additional area of study or qualification. A well-selected minor can strongly complement a student's major area of study.

UAA offers a number of Baccalaureate degrees, depending upon the field of study. The two primary types are as follows:

1. The Bachelor of Arts (BA) degrees generally require additional course work in the liberal arts, humanities, and social sciences and offer greater flexibility in elective credits, with a focus upon broad-based achievement in preparation for graduate school, the corporate or business worlds, or education.
2. The Bachelor of Science (BS) degrees generally require additional course work in math and the natural sciences (with labs), with a focus upon discipline-specific technical classes pertaining to particular professions or preparation for advanced study.

If a program offers both a BS and a BA degree, the programs need to be distinct by a minimum of 12 credits.

UAA also offers the Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA), the Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA), the Bachelor of Human Services (BHS), the Bachelor of Music (BM), and the Bachelor of Social Work (BSW).

Baccalaureate degrees may also have specialized application and entrance requirements as well as specialized completion requirements. Students are strongly advised to speak with an advisor before declaring a major and signing up for classes.

Post-Baccalaureate Certificates

Post-baccalaureate certificate programs present a cohesive sequence of related courses designed to provide continuing education past the baccalaureate level. Upon completion of a certificate, students will have acquired an area of specialization or an interdisciplinary perspective, or will have completed requirements for professional certifications awarded by agencies outside the university. Post-baccalaureate certificates are designed with a majority of undergraduate coursework.

Minors

A minor is a component of a baccalaureate degree. A minor may only be issued simultaneously with a baccalaureate degree. A minor from UAA consists of a minimum of 18 credits, at least 6 of which must be upper division. Students must earn at least 3 credits in residence in each minor field. They must also earn a UAA cumulative grade point average (GPA) of at least 2.00 (C) in the minor. Students must follow minor requirements from the same catalog used for the baccalaureate program. Refer to each discipline for specific requirements. Students must declare minors no later than the deadline to submit an Application for Graduation.