

UAF-UAA Joint Ph.D. Program in Clinical-Community Psychology



Mission Statement

The PhD Program in Clinical-Community Psychology is designed to create scientist-practitioners who join theory, practice, and research to meet the behavioral health needs and to improve the wellbeing of Alaskan, rural, circumpolar, and culturally diverse peoples and communities. The program integrates clinical and community psychology and focuses on applications of rural, indigenous, and cultural psychology for the benefit of all people.

History – Needs in Alaska

The need for doctorally-trained mental health professionals exists has been documented for Alaska:

- ❖ Suicide rates are the highest in the nation
- ❖ Injuries and alcohol-related death are some of the highest causes of death
- ❖ Alcohol dependence and abuse rates rank 5th highest in nation
- ❖ Rates of mental illness are 7th highest in the nation
- ❖ Leading causes of death (i.e., cancer, heart disease) have strong behavioral links, such as smoking, alcohol, diet and physical activity

History – Demand for Psychologists

The supply of doctorally-trained psychologists is extremely low, as document via careful needs assessments in the early 2000s:

- ❖ Few psychologist are trained to work in rural areas of any state
- ❖ Few psychologist are trained to work with any indigenous peoples
- ❖ Few psychologist relocate to rural areas
 - ❖ US Rural areas: approximately 1 psychologist per 10,000 people
 - ❖ US Rural areas: 85% of federally designated mental health professional shortage areas
- ❖ Few current psychologists currently are Alaska Native or American Indian

History – Approval Process to Date

The program was approved by the Board of Regents in June 2005; major milestones are as follows:

- ❖ Fall 2004: College-level curriculum board approvals at UAF and UAA
- ❖ January 2005: Graduate-school-level approvals at UAF and UAA
- ❖ March 2005: UAF and UAA faculty senate approvals
- ❖ June 22, 2005: BoR approval of the program for joint award by UAF and UAA
- ❖ February 2006: Initial NWCCU submission; denied joint diploma
- ❖ April 2006: Revised NWCCU submission deleted joint award and was approved
- ❖ March 2006: Planning begins for UAA action to realize a joint degree award through the relevant campus-level NWCCU processes
- ❖ April 2011: Joint award of the degree is provided for by the Academic Master Plan approved by the BoR

Program Design – Need-Based

Alaska needed a psychology PhD program that:

- ❖ joins the resources and skills of UAA and UAF
- ❖ prepares doctorally-trained psychologists to address and meet the key areas of need:
 - ❖ rural/indigenous issues
 - ❖ community-clinical combination to address intervention and prevention
 - ❖ applied research skills to support local agencies striving to meet the requirements of funding agencies
- ❖ addresses external influences on curriculum
 - ❖ APA accreditation
 - ❖ State licensing requirements

Program Design – Joint Nature

The Psychology PhD program joins forces, resources, and skills of UAA and UAF through:

- Creation of a third entity, the program, that supersedes the UAF and UAA Departments of Psychology
- Co-leadership and joint administration at all levels
- Joint programmatic and policy decision-making by the UAA and UAF core faculty
- Equal representation of UAA and UAF on all program committees
- Joint appointment of program core faculty at both campuses
- Single, unified student body regardless of residences
- Full-time residence of students either at UAF or UAA
- Joint award of degree

Major Milestones to Date

- ❖ Fall 2006 to present: Successful core faculty recruitments have been completed at both campuses
- ❖ Fall 2006 to present: Complete student cohorts have been admitted yearly (4 students per year at UAA and up to 4 at UAF)
- ❖ FY2007: Legislature provides \$268K operating budget per campus and \$3.75M (UAA) and \$1M (UAF) in capital funds to support the program.
- ❖ August 2010: The first student graduated from the program
- ❖ August 2011: The second student graduated from the program
- ❖ February 2011: A self-study was submitted to the American Psychological Association in application for professional program accreditation
- ❖ August 2011: APA approved the program for an accreditation site visit in fall 2011

Major Accomplishments – Summary

- ❖ The program has won local and national recognition
- ❖ The program has successfully recruited six diverse cohorts of students
- ❖ Students in the program have made major contributions to the university and community
- ❖ Faculty in the program have made significant contributions to the university, profession, and research literature

Major Accomplishments – Program Recognition

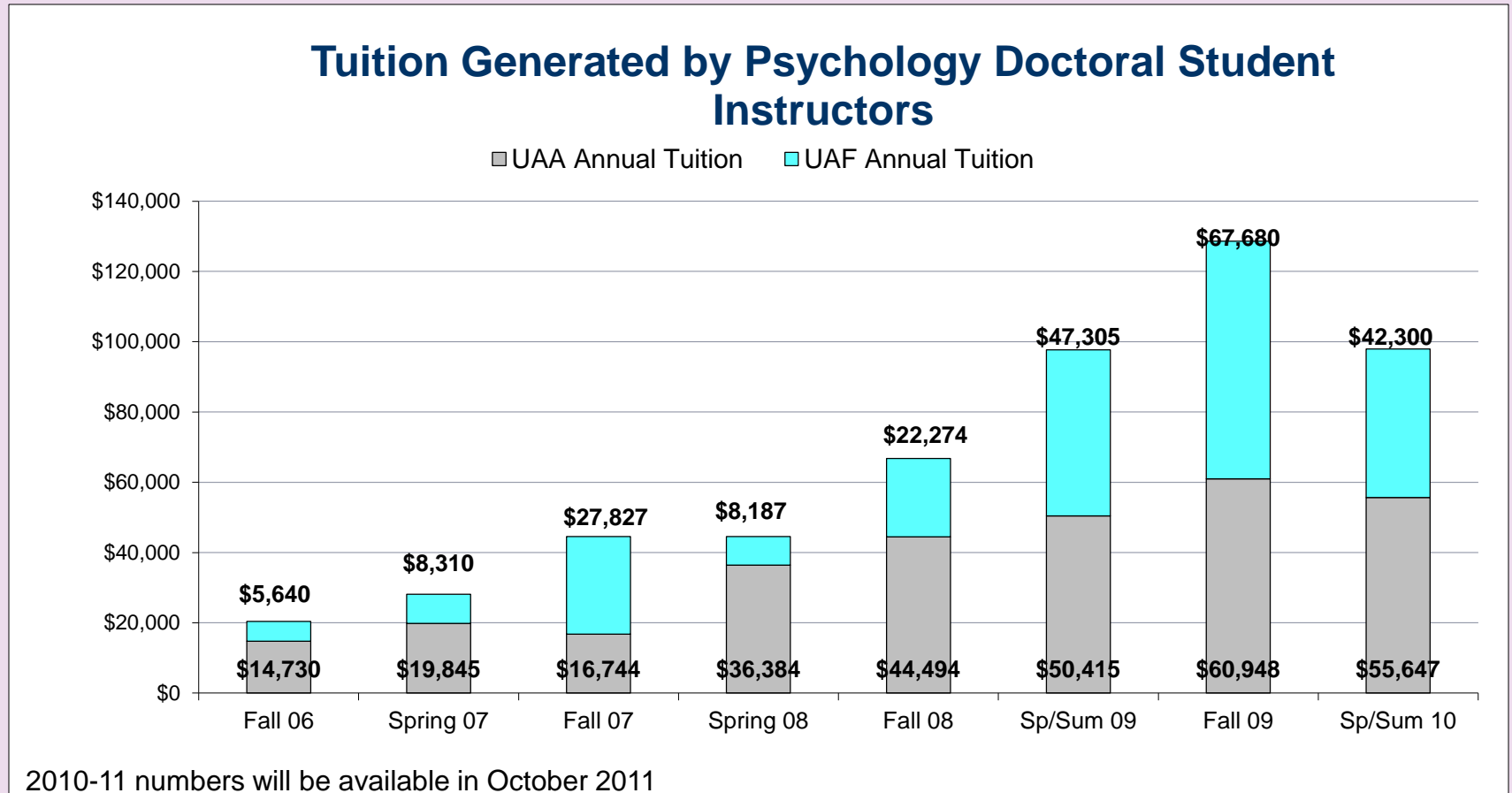
Despite its newness the program has been recognized locally and nationally:

- ❖ Accepted by WICHE as a *Western Regional Graduate Program*
- ❖ Award as an innovative and exceptional rural workforce program by the *Annapolis Coalition on the Behavioral Health Workforce*
- ❖ Recognition of the founding Program Directors by the *Alaska Psychological Association* for the development of the PhD Program in Clinical-Community Psychology

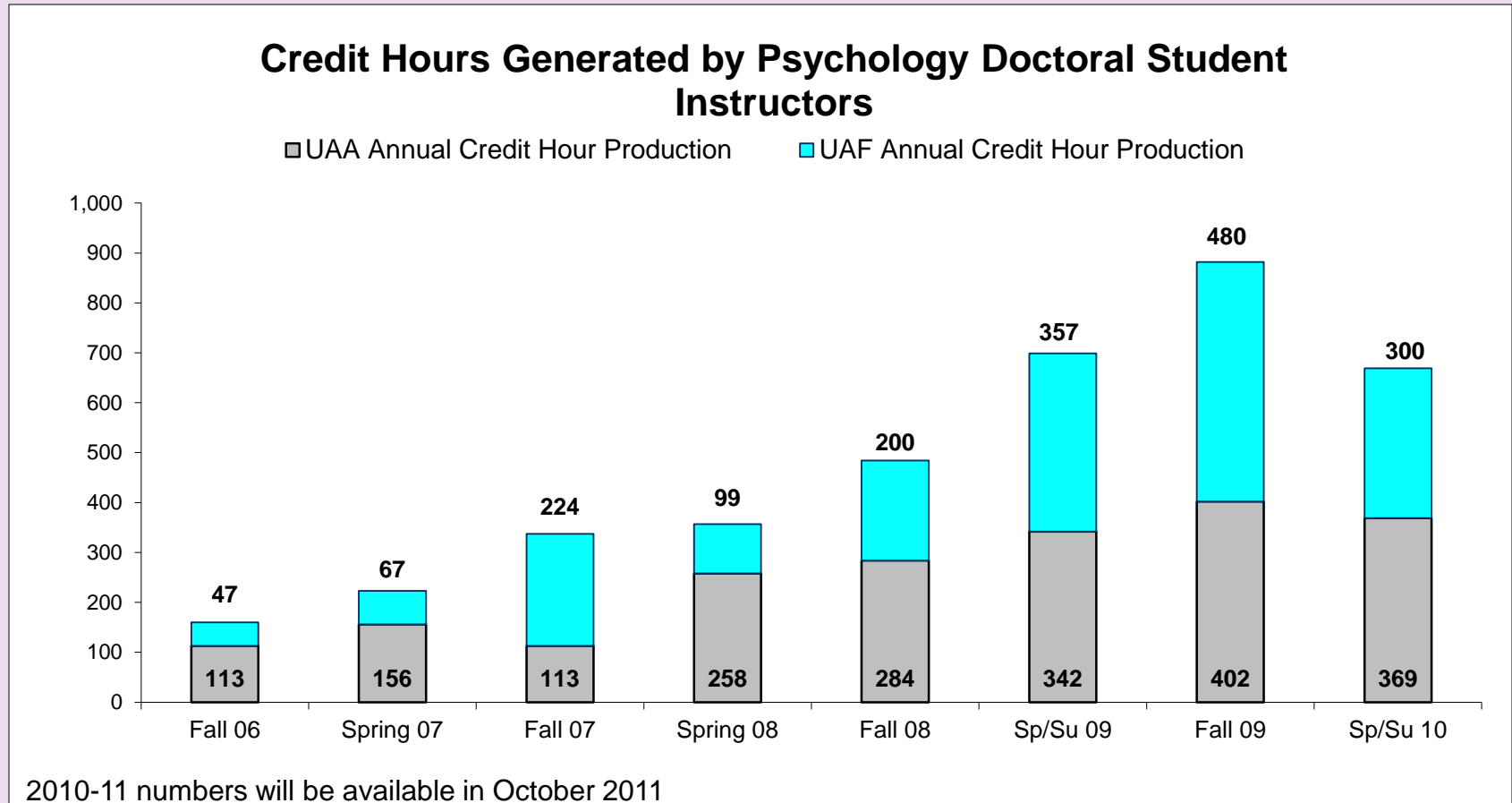
Major Accomplishments – Student Recruitment

Gender	<i>n</i>	<i>%</i>
<i>Female</i>	42	75%
<i>Male</i>	14	25%
Race/Ethnicity		
African American	1	3%
Alaska Native / Native American	9	19%
Caucasian – no other special class	29	52%
Caucasian – special class (e.g., LGBTQ, foreign national)	7	12%
Hispanic / Latino	5	9%
Multiethnic	5	9%
Previous Education		
Undergraduate	38	68%
Graduate Degree	18	32%
Residency		
Alaska Resident	44	79%
Non-Alaska Resident	12	21%
Overall	56	100%

Major Accomplishments – Student Contributions

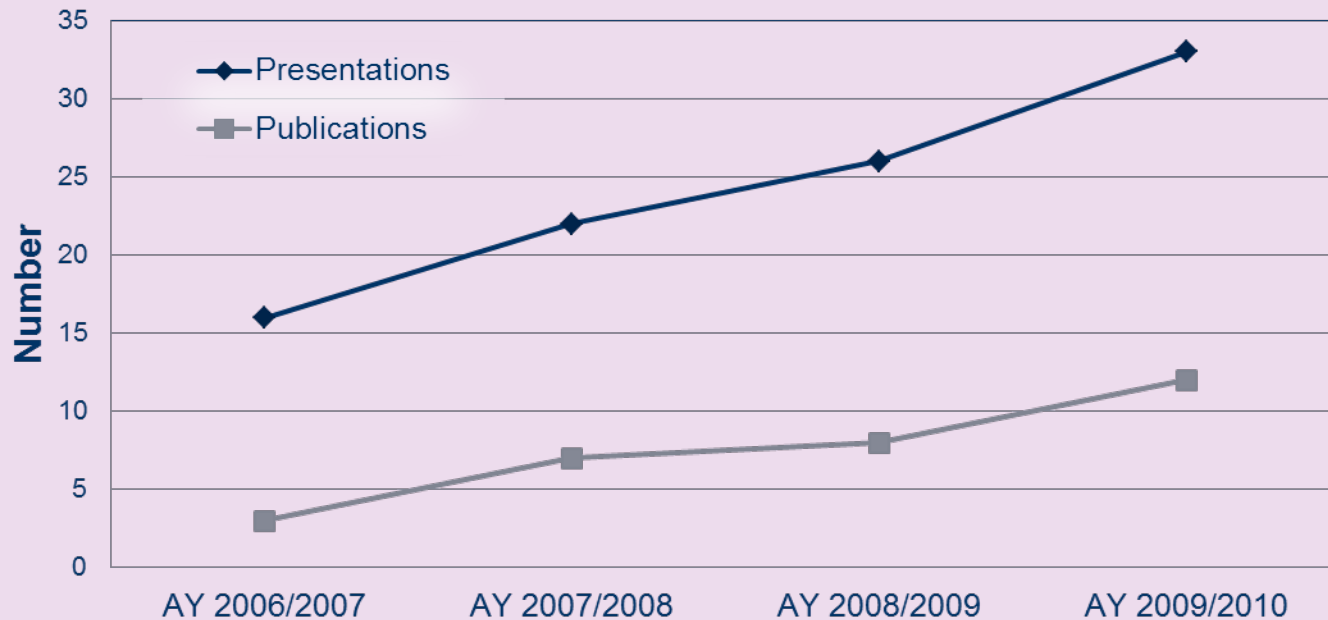


Major Accomplishments – Student Contributions



Major Accomplishments – Student Contributions

Publications and Presentations by Psychology Doctoral Students



2010-11 numbers will be available in October 2011

Major Accomplishments – Faculty Contributions

Faculty contributions have been extraordinary in several realms:

- ❖ High publication productivity
- ❖ Excellent success in securing extramural funding
- ❖ Outstanding involvement in professional service
- ❖ Strong commitment to student success and mentoring
- ❖ Receipt of national awards and recognition
- ❖ Strong teaching and clinical supervision record

The Future

- ❖ Seeking APA Accreditation
- ❖ Seeking degree-granting status for UAA
- ❖ Contributing to the state of Alaska through internship and job placements of students
- ❖ Producing more grants that bring visibility to the University of Alaska campuses in Fairbanks and Anchorage
- ❖ Meeting the behavioral health needs of Alaska

Contact Information

- ❖ Joint Website: <http://psyphd.alaska.edu>
- ❖ Program Director for Accreditation: Christiane Brems, Ph.D., ABPP
- ❖ UAA PD: James Fitterling, Ph.D. (as of July 1, 2011)
- ❖ UAF PD: Jason Whipple, Ph.D. (as of July 1, 2011)
- ❖ UAA Program Coordinator: Anissa Hauser
- ❖ UAF Program Coordinator: Cathy Morgan
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