



March 24, 2008

To: Dr. Dan Julius, Vice President Academic Affairs and Research
UA Systemwide Academic Council

From: Robbie Stell, UAS Provost

Subject: New UAS Programs

The UAS Schools of Education and Arts & Sciences have developed two new programs provided for your review.

The M.Ed. in Educational Leadership, offered by the School of Education, will enable UAS to continue to serve school districts in Southeast Alaska and in rural and remote regions of the state. This program was developed in response to requests from the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development (DEED), and school districts for a program with this emphasis, and is the result of a collaborative effort by the School of Education, School of Management, DEED, and Alaska school districts.

The Certificate in Pre-Engineering, offered by the School of Arts & Sciences, will provide opportunities for UAS students to prepare academically for successful transfer to the UAA BSE engineering program; additional transfer agreements are being developed to provide transfer opportunities to each of the engineering programs at UAA and UAF. This certificate directly supports the UA system goal of doubling the number of BS Engineering graduates within the state.

These programs have been approved through the normal UAS governance process. We are now asking for SAC review. UAS proposes that these proposals be submitted to the Board of Regents for consideration at the April 2008 meeting.

**University of Alaska Board of Regents
Program Approval Summary Form**

Requirements:

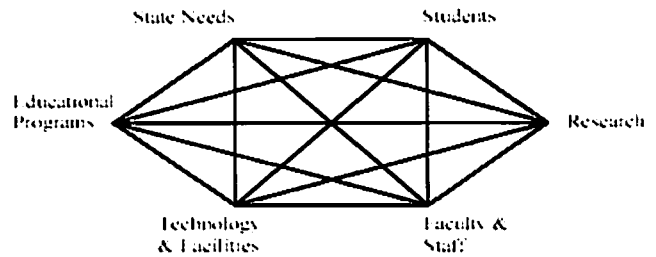
1. 2 pages or less
2. Must be a stand-alone document

MAU: University of Alaska Southeast

Title: Master of Education (MEd)
emphasis in Educational Leadership

Target admission date: Summer 2008

(May be adjusted to Summer 2009)



How does the program relate to the Education mission of the University of Alaska and the MAU?

The proposed emphasis within the MEd will enable UAS to continue to serve school districts in Southeast Alaska and in the rural and remote regions of the state. One of the core values of UAS is the “forging of dynamic partnerships with other academic institutions, governmental agencies, and private industry.” The Educational Leadership program is a direct result of this value. Further, the Mission for UAS states that “UAS serves its state, its region and its communities by offering services and programs in education.” A need exists to prepare more professional educators at all levels for Alaska schools. The universities in Alaska currently do not prepare enough educators to fill the annual needs of Alaska schools.

This proposed emphasis was developed based on requests from school districts and the Department of Education and Early Development. The development was a collaborative effort by the School of Education, the School of Management, the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development (DEED), and school districts in Alaska. The stakeholders developed this program through a review of the current literature related to Educational Leadership, discussions of the needs of building level administrators in an era of increased accountability, and the formulation of an action plan to meet the needs of Alaska schools. The proposed emphasis was then approved by the UAS Graduate Committee and the Faculty Senate.

The target audiences for this program are those teachers who are working the rural and remote schools in Alaska. Each year a cohort of 20 teachers will be selected for participation. The emphasis of the program will be on the knowledge and skills necessary for being an instructional and curriculum leader in the rural schools in Alaska. This program will provide a unique option for teachers to become certified as school leaders.

This program is designed as a combination of on-site and distance delivery. The student cohorts will spend approximately five weeks each summer session in residence on the Juneau campus. During this experience they will learn and develop the knowledge and skills for becoming educational leaders. During the school year, they will be in their home school district and enrolled in both a practicum experience and a single course delivered through technological means. They will also have on-site support from faculty from the program.

As an emphasis within the distance delivered MEd, this program will add an additional option for teachers. There will be no impact on GERs.

What State Needs met by this program.

Alaska has a well documented shortage of educators at all levels. In an effort to assist school districts in having highly qualified leaders at building levels, this program is being proposed. The current program at UAA can only serve a limited number of candidates. The

approval of this program will enable the state to prepare additional persons who can assume the role of building principal and earn a Type B certificate from DEED. The emphasis in Educational Leadership will provide an opportunity for potential students to make choices regarding the time frame and the methodology for delivery. This program is also being developed using a model similar to our highly successful MAT programs for preparing classroom teachers. The program will use a cohort model and provide the instruction and preparation in one year. This will enable those persons already in leadership roles to complete the requirements for a Type B certificate while they remain in their schools. It will also provide another option for teachers who desire to complete the requirements for a Type B certificate.

What are the Student opportunities and outcomes? Enrollment projections?

Candidates for this program will be selected in consultation with the local school district. The cohort will begin its study of the current issues and trends during the first summer session with an on-campus experience at UAS. This experience will allow students to explore the recent literature on educational leadership, consider the issues and trends associated with education, develop an understanding of data-based decision making, learn skills and techniques for effective assessment and accountability, understand how to support and supervise teachers, realize the importance of school law, and understand that the education of children is a moral imperative. At the conclusion of the summer experience the candidates will return to their schools. During the fall and spring semesters, candidates will participate in weekly audio and web-based conferences related to the topics covered during the summer session. In addition, each candidate will complete at least 640 hours of practicum experiences in Educational Leadership. The candidates will return to the campus during the second summer session to continue to enhance their learning regarding educational leadership. They will also be responsible for presenting a case study related to school improvement activities undertaken during the practicum experiences.

The proposed MEd emphasis in Educational Leadership will enroll a cohort of 20 students in the summer session of each academic year. Each cohort will complete its program in one calendar year. A new cohort will begin in July each year. As this is a cohort based program, it can be reasonably assumed that the graduates and the student credit hours will remain constant.

Describe Research opportunities:

The faculty member(s) in the program will have the opportunity to engage in research related to school improvement models and best practice in educational leadership. Candidates will be required to complete a research project concerning school improvement. This research project will be presented in a formal setting to the current cohort and to the future cohort.

Describe Fiscal Plan for development and implementation:

The fiscal plan includes both general fund support and tuition revenue. At present, \$70,000 has been allocated through initiative funding. This will support the first faculty member's salary and benefits. The School of Education is anticipating the generation of at least \$150,000 of tuition and fees for the support of this program with each cohort. These sources of revenue will be used to support the hiring of tenure track faculty, adjunct faculty, guest lecturers, travel, contractual services, commodities, and other expenses.



Program or certificate title: **M.Ed in Education Leadership**

New degree certificate *OR*

Program deletion *OR* Major revision *OR* To offer existing program outside the state of Alaska

Approval Signatures:

Initiated by Dean Larry Harris
Initiating Faculty Member, _____ Date _____

N/A
Chair of Faculty Group, _____ Date _____

Larry Harris
Dean, Larry Harris _____ Date 1-28-08

Cathy L. Connor
Faculty Senate President, Cathy Connor _____ Date 1-29-05

Mary Claire Tarlow
Curriculum or Graduate Committee Chair, Mary Claire Tarlow _____ Date 1/25/08

Barbara Hegel
Registrar, Barbara Hegel _____ Date 1/25/08

Robbie Stell
Provost, Robbie Stell _____ Date 1-31-08