



UNIVERSITY  
of ALASKA  
*Many Traditions One Alaska*

## Coalition of Student Leaders

### Resolution 2015-02 UA Scholars

**Whereas**, the purpose of the UA Scholars Program is to provide an incentive for Alaska's middle and high school students to achieve academic excellence, to nourish efforts of schools to provide high quality education, and to encourage the top high school graduates from every community in Alaska to attend the University of Alaska; and,

**Whereas**, students from every community in Alaska have not only diverse backgrounds, but diverse goals and pathways to success through higher education, requiring sufficient flexibility in the system to ensure accomplishment of these goals; and,

**Whereas**, UA Scholars are required to maintain full-time enrollment status (minimum of 12 credits) as defined both on their website and in federal definitions referenced by Alaska Statutes defining higher education in Alaska; and,

**Whereas**, the UA Scholars Program was changed to increase in the required minimum number of credits completed annually to ensure that UA Scholars are set up to stay on track for timely degree completion (120+ credits in four years); and,

**Whereas**, the expectation is set to an annual completion of 30 credits per actual year; and,

**Whereas**, completion of 30 credits per year toward a Bachelor's Degree in 4 years can be accomplished in a multitude of ways, including traditional length and intensive courses; and,

**Whereas**, intensive courses are considered full-time per federal regulations (34 CFR 668.2) with the credit hour requirement proportional to course-length<sup>1</sup> allowing students to maintain full-time enrollment taking for example one 4-credit, 5 week class; and,

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<sup>1</sup> 34 CFR 668.2 as updated 7/1/14 bases full-time status on a calculation of the number of weeks of instructional time in the term by the number of weeks in an academic year and multiplying the fraction determined by the number of credit hours in an academic year:  
5 weeks/30 weeks= 1/6 and (1/6)\*24 credit hours= 4 credits, or (1/6)\*30 credit hours= 5 credits

**Whereas**, the University of Alaska system demonstrates its efforts to provide high quality education with summer and other short intensive course offerings; and,

**Whereas**, students attending the University of Alaska system often take courses over the summer or during other short intensive terms to complete degree requirements in a timely fashion; and,

**Whereas**, students attending the University of Alaska system may take courses over the summer or during other short intensive terms to provide a work/school/life balance during regular length semesters that favors academic excellence year-round; and,

**Whereas**, students attending the University of Alaska system can take courses over the summer or during other short intensive terms to increase their participation in para-educational opportunities, gaining valuable experience toward life and career goals; and,

**Whereas**, the interpretation of the 30 credits per year by the UA Scholars Program has been to set requirements of “12 credits during the first and second semesters and 15 credits each semester following until the Award has concluded” in which semester does not refer only to fall and spring standard-length semesters, but also includes shorter summer semesters; and,

**Whereas**, enrolling in 15 credits for a summer semester term represents a tripling (3x) of what the UA Scholars Program otherwise considers full-time (15 credits over 15 weeks); and,

**Whereas**, students must seek an override form when attempting to enroll in 1.5x the number of credits required for full-time status to encourage academic excellence; and,

**Whereas**, students are not allowed to take 2x the number of credits required for full-time status or more to protect academic excellence; and,

**Whereas**, this interpretation effectively disallows students to take advantage of the many courses the University of Alaska offers over the summer due to requiring that students utilizing an intensive term take an impossible number of credits to maintain eligibility; and,

**Whereas**, this decrease in flexibility of academic program completion choices and para-educational opportunities for UA Scholars makes the University of Alaska less attractive to these students; and,

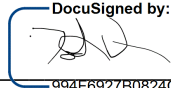
**Whereas**, discouraging high school graduates from attending the University of Alaska is counter to the purpose of the UA Scholars Program.

**Therefore be it resolved**, that the Coalition of Student Leaders supports the ability of students of the University of Alaska to complete a Bachelor’s Degree in a timely fashion utilizing both traditional length and intensive terms; and,

**Therefore be it further resolved,** that the Coalition of Student Leaders agrees with the statement of purpose behind the UA Scholars Program; and,

**Therefore be it further resolved,** that the Coalition of Student Leaders urges the UA Scholars Program to reconsider its interpretation of how to require 30 credit hours are completed annually to allow UA Scholars to take advantage of the full range of educational opportunities offered by the University of Alaska system, including summer and other short intensive terms.

**Adopted by Coalition of Student Leaders the 2<sup>nd</sup> DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2015**

DocuSigned by:  


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Toby Wark, Chair

Voting members' results as attested by LaNora Tolman, Executive Officer:  
Unanimously passed with 7 members present and 4 members absent.