Alaska’s Postsecondary Completion Crisis

- 29.7% of Alaskans have Some College No Degree
- 12.7% of Alaskans have a Certificate (any kind)
- 37% of Alaskans have a Degree (any kind)

Median EARNINGS:
- Some College: $52,314
- Degree: $75,000
- Certificate: $52,314
- No Degree: $40,639

Median DEBT:
- Some College: $4,767
- Degree: $11,000
- Certificate: $11,000
- No Degree: $9,300

DEBT ratio*:
- Some College: 9%
- Degree: 15%
- Certificate: 23%
- No Degree: 23%

By 2020, 22,139 shortfall of Educated Workers

Lack of education & training will prevent Alaskans from filling top Alaska jobs

Problem:
College Stopouts

1 in 4 Alaska Students completes a degree within 6 years

What’s Working:

17% higher retention rate with Student Support Services (comprehensive advising and scheduled tutoring) at UAF

Let’s Do More:

Reduce dropouts:
- Promote community-wide awareness of key factors such as full-time enrollment
- Promote timely selection of a major
- Mandate academic advising

Med. Earnings: $75,000 Med. DEBT: $11,000 DEBT ratio*: 15%

*Note: Education debt-to-income ratios are derived from multiple sources and/or methodologies, as available.

Sources:
Academic Preparation

1/2 of UA first-time freshmen require remedial courses

of those…
- 74% who require any remediation and
- 84% who require significant remediation

Do Not Graduate

What's Working:

4 in 5 students who complete a rigorous APS-qualifying curriculum do not require remedial courses

10x more students in other states using new experimental remedial math pathways earn college credit within a year

Let's Do More:

Improve academic preparation:
- Direct high school students to APS-qualifying courses as the first-choice curriculum
- Implement accelerated remediation methods

Problem:

Attending Part-Time

28% are exclusively part-time

Alaska Students

11% are exclusively full-time

Cumulative gains:
- Each additional 3-credit class per year raises a student’s probability of graduation by 8%

Let's Do More:

Increase full-time enrollment:
- Provide financial aid incentives
- Encourage year-round attendance

Problem:

Do Not Graduate within 6 years

28% are exclusively part-time

50% have a degree within 6 years


Prepared by the college access and success planning team of the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education and the University of Alaska. (907) 465-6740