

X. Regents Guidelines

University of Alaska Board of Regents Program Approval Summary Form

MAU: University of Alaska Fairbanks

Title and Brief Description:

Post-Baccalaureate Certificate For School Counselor Licensure

Create a new, Regents awarded, university certificate for students who already hold a master's degree.

Target date: Spring 2006

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

There is substantial evidence that indicates a chronic shortage of fully-certified professional school counselors in Alaska, and throughout the United States. The Post-Baccalaureate Certificate For School Counselor Licensure allows students throughout the state, including those in rural areas, to complete the necessary professional training to become certificated as elementary and/or secondary school counselors. The proposed certificate program with its well-defined set of courses will allow the university to recognize the professional training students have completed to receive this certification. It will be useful for job applicants, those seeking professional advancement, and for employers who will have better documentation of the capabilities of their potential employees. In addition, the School of Education, UAF, and UA statewide will be able to gather and analyze data on post-master's licensure candidates in a far more accurate manner than is currently possible.

As a public institution the University of Alaska responds to the interests and needs of the people of Alaska. Close working relationships between the K-12 public education system and the states higher education system are essential for the social and economic well being of our state. The Post-Baccalaureate Certificate For School Counselor Licensure is a direct response to the stated mission of the University of Alaska, which is to "address the needs of the North and its diverse peoples". There most certainly is a need in Alaska for professional school counselors and for school counselor preparation programs that prepare people to professionally and respectfully work in our unique Northern context with Alaska's diverse peoples. We would serve as a model to demonstrate how gender, racial and cultural diversity can strengthen a university and society.

In addition to supporting the Mission of the University of Alaska, the Post-Baccalaureate Certificate For School Counselor Licensure at UAF directly supports many of the primary goals of the University of Alaska Fairbanks Strategic Plan. This is accomplished through the following: providing high quality graduate education for traditional and non-traditional students; forming active collaborations with school districts and communities throughout the state by requiring on-going fieldwork in those

arenas; actively recruiting Alaska Native students; and providing professional development opportunities for practicing school counselors in rural and urban areas.

What state needs met by this program:

At the recent Behavioral Health Symposium (BHS) held in Anchorage, Alaska seventy-two percent of the individuals polled noted the need to maintain or increase the number of professional school counselors in the state. Participants at the BHS included: state commissioners and other officials, university personnel, and practicing clinicians representing both urban and rural communities. University training programs were identified as the primary source for meeting this work force demand.

- The University of Alaska has a responsibility to be part the solution
- Growing our Own
 - Quantity
 - Quality
- Research
- Increasing supply from certificate to doctoral
- Improving course and program articulation
- More distance and flexible learning
- Curriculum reflects new practice trends

(Behavioral Health Summit, September 2005)

The proposed certification program for school counselors helps to meet each of the above noted topics. In addition, anecdotal evidence from the UAF masters' program in school counseling supports the chronic shortage of certificated K-12 school counselors in the state. Supporting data is also available from each of the 54 Alaska School Districts, the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development, and the Alaska Teacher Placement Service's annual comprehensive report Statewide Educator Supply and Demand.

What are the student opportunities and outcomes? Enrollment projections?

One hundred percent of last year's graduates from the UAF Guidance and Counseling program are working either in the field of education as school counselors or in closely related positions. This employment statistic has remained constant for the past five years. The exceptions are those graduates who are place bound and must wait a year or two for a position opening to occur. As long as there are sufficient numbers of faculty and field site placements, the program can accommodate anticipated enrollments.

Describe research opportunities:

The Post-Baccalaureate Certificate For School Counselor Licensure assures the ongoing involvement of the UAF counseling faculty in K-12 education throughout the state. The full-year internship is dependent upon the continuing close working partnerships with schools, districts, and communities.

Describe Fiscal Plan for development and implementation:

The Post-Baccalaureate Certificate For School Counselor Licensure anticipates no need for additional funding for adding the proposed certificate of completion.