

University of Alaska Constitutional and Statutory Provisions

Constitutional

AK Const. Art. 7, § 2 State University

The University of Alaska is hereby established as the state university and constituted a body corporate. It shall have title to all real and personal property now or hereafter set aside for or conveyed to it. Its property shall be administered and disposed of according to law.

AK Const. Art. 7, § 3 Board of Regents

The University of Alaska shall be governed by a board of regents. The regents shall be appointed by the governor, subject to confirmation by a majority of the members of the legislature in joint session. The board shall, in accordance with law, formulate policy and appoint the president of the university. He shall be the executive officer of the board.

There is a constitutional mandate that requires the University of Alaska; that mandate does not break the university down into individual components.

The Alaska Supreme Court has held that this section is “the expression of the will of the people of this state that there shall be an institution of higher learning within the scope of the constitutional mandate providing for public education” and that the university “must be considered to be an integral part of the state educational system mandated by the constitution. In its constitutional status it stands as the single governmental entity which was specifically created by the people to meet the statewide need for a public institution of higher education.” *University of Alaska v. National Aircraft Leasing, Ltd.*, 536 P.2d 121 (Alaska 1975).

Legislative

The University of Alaska is governed by Title 14 Chapter 40 in Alaska State Statutes. These statutes either require or authorize the University of Alaska to provide particular programs or areas of study. With one exception (Component #3, Office of Information Technology = Center for Information Technology authorized by AS 14.40.095), the component list is not directly equivalent to the specific legislative mandates. Instead, the individual legislative mandates form portions of one or more components. For example, the Institute for Circumpolar Health Studies mandated by AS 14.40.088 is a part of Component #5, Anchorage Campus. Another example is the Educational Expansion Program mandated by AS 14.40.055, which has been implemented in many of the 23 components.

Programs or areas of study that are mandated or authorized by statute are listed on the following page.

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Program	Established	Discretion	Location	Statute
Alaska Earthquake and Volcanic Hazards Assessment Project	1987	“shall”	None specified	AS 14.40.075
Institute of Marine Sciences	1960	“may”	One or more sites determined by Regents	AS 14.40.080
Program	Established as of	Discretion	Location	Statute
Unmanned aircraft system training	2014	“may”	None specified	AS 14.40.082
Alaska State Climate Center	1981	“shall”	None specified	AS 14.40.085
Institute for Circumpolar Health Studies	1988	“shall”	Anchorage campus	AS 14.40.088
Center for Information Technology	1990	“may”	UAA, with components at UAF and UAS	AS 14.40.095
Business, Economics and Public Administration Research Program	1961	“may”	None specified	AS 14.40.110
Mineral Industry Research Program	1963	“shall”	None specified	AS 14.40.115
Alaska Native Language Center	1972	“shall”	None specified	AS 14.40.117
Educational expansion program	1951	“shall”	None specified	AS 14.40.055
Continuing education program on energy conservation	1980	“shall”	None specified	AS 14.40.055(7)
College of Agriculture, Dep’t of Agriculture experiment station, Dep’t of Agriculture extension	1949	“consists of”; also agriculture is a “leading object”	None specified	AS 14.40.010 AS 14.40.060
School of Mines	1949	“consists of”	None specified	AS 14.40.010
Anthropology, archaeology, ethnology, museum, natural history, paleontology	1949	“may be established”	None specified	AS 14.40.010
Mechanic arts	1949	“leading objects shall be”	None specified	AS 14.40.060
Household economics	1949	“leading objects shall be”	None specified	AS 14.40.060
Fossil collection	1949	“may”	None specified	AS 14.40.070
Office of Public Safety	1992	“may”	None specified	AS 14.40.043