



# ***UAA School of Education Accreditation***

University of Alaska  
Senate Education Committee

February 5, 2019



# Agenda

- The Situation
- Our Commitment
- Accreditation Background
- Specific Findings
- Impacts
- Our Response
- Next Steps
- Future Options



# The Situation

- On January 11, 2019, accreditation was revoked for seven teacher education programs at UAA's School of Education (SoEd)
- Only "initial licensure" programs are impacted
- Program approval by the Alaska State Board of Education is required for licensure.
- Graduates must be licensed by DEED to teach in Alaska
- The process to gain reaccreditation would take approximately three years



# Our Commitment

- Our students' needs are the highest priority
- High quality academics - our most important responsibility
- To address the serious failure and breach of student trust
- Regents, Chancellor Sandeen, and President will rectify
- UAA students have full access to UAF/UAS accredited programs
- Students held harmless from transfer fees and costs
- Tailored options that best suit individual students
- Work with Department of Education and Early Development to secure state license approval for all affected students

# Higher Education Accreditation

**Institutional** or “regional” – covers each university

- Recognizes quality, effectiveness, and sustainability in meeting whole institution’s mission
- UA’s three universities – UAF, UAA, UAS – individually accredited by the Northwest Commission of Colleges and Universities (NWCCU)
  - ✓ UAA accredited since 1974
  - ✓ UAA just re-accredited, with commendations, by NWCCU in January

**Programmatic** or “specialized” – specific to certain departments, programs, or schools within a university

- Only certain programs require programmatic accreditation
- Programs are evaluated based on discipline or profession-based standards
- Education programs accredited through Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP)
  - ✓ UAF reaccredited on Nov 2018 thru 2024
  - ✓ UAS currently preparing for CAEP accreditation cycle
  - ✓ UAA initial licensure programs revoked on Jan 11, 2019

# What is CAEP?

- Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP)
- Sole national accrediting body for educator preparation recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation
- Relatively new accreditor; their standards and performance measures were not fully implemented until 2016
- Created through the consolidation of the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) and the Teacher Education Accreditation Council (TEAC)
- 35 states and 850+ educator preparation providers in the CAEP Accreditation system

# Accreditation Process/Cycle

- Accreditation is quality assurance through external peer review
- Dual function of assuring quality and promoting improvement
- Evidence-based process for evaluating how we collect common data, analyze trends, and self-assess in order to continually improve our programs and outcomes
- Cycle involves a self-study, formative review, 2-3 day site visit, panel reviews, council review, and final action/decision
- This was UAA's first program accreditation cycle with CAEP; previously accredited through CAEP's predecessor, NCATE



## UAA Accreditation Timeline

- Aug 2017 – UAA submits Self-Study Report to CAEP
- Dec 2017 – CAEP provides formative review to UAA
- Apr 2018 – CAEP 3-Day site visit to UAA
- Jun 2018 – Site visit report available to UAA
- Nov 2018 – UAA notified to expect final decision in December
- Jan 2019 – CAEP accreditation revocation received



## Specific Findings

The CAEP Accreditation Council found that UAA's initial licensure programs failed to meet 4 of 5 accreditation standards:

<b>Standard 1:</b>	<b>Content and Pedagogical Knowledge</b>	<b>Not Met</b>
	<i>Lack of program design to national, state, and SPA standards prohibits the Education Preparation Provider's (UAA) ability to develop candidates' understanding of professional concepts and principles of the education profession.</i>	
<b>Standard 2:</b>	<b>Clinical Partnerships and Practice</b>	<b>Met</b>
<b>Standard 3:</b>	<b>Candidate Quality, Recruitment, and Selectivity</b>	<b>Not Met</b>
	<i>All components of the standard are not met by the evidence provided.</i>	
<b>Standard 4:</b>	<b>Program Impact</b>	<b>Not Met</b>
	<i>All components of the standard are not met by the evidence provided.</i>	
<b>Standard 5:</b>	<b>Quality Assurance &amp; Continuous Improvement</b>	<b>Not Met</b>
	<i>The Education Preparation Provider lacks a viable Quality Assurance System with data-driven continuous improvement.</i>	

## Board of Education's Role

- Alaska State Board of Education approval for UAA's programs continued through December 2018 and CAEP did not reaccredit as of Jan 11, 2019
- On February 4<sup>th</sup>, the Board approved UAA's initial licensure programs through August 2019



## Impact: Programs

Only UAA “initial licensure” education programs impacted:

- Elementary Bachelor of Arts (K-8)
- Elementary Post-Baccalaureate Certification (K-8)
- Master of Arts in Teaching Certification (7-12)
- Early Childhood Bachelor of Arts (pre K-3)
- Early Childhood Post-Baccalaureate Certification (pre K-3)
- Special Education Initial Certification
- Early Childhood Special Education Licensure



## Impact: Programs

- Decision **DOES NOT** impact UA's three NWCCU institutional accreditations; all are in good standing
- Decision **DOES NOT** impact UAF and UAS programmatic accreditations of their education programs
- Many UAA education programs are also **unaffected**:
  - Early Childhood Associate of Applied Science
  - Educational Leadership, Masters of Education & Graduate Certification
  - Master of Education in Teaching & Learning
  - Language Education Graduate Certification
  - Speech-Language Pathology Programs
  - Special Education, Masters of Education, and Graduate Certification
  - Early Childhood Special Education, Masters of Education
  - PACE 500 level courses

# UA Education Program Enrollment

*(initial licensure programs)*

UAA Not CAEP accredited		UAF CAEP accredited		UAS Beginning CAEP review cycle	
<i>Programs</i>	<i># Students</i>	<i>Programs</i>	<i># Students</i>	<i>Programs</i>	<i># Students</i>
Elementary Education Bachelor of Arts in Education	252	Elementary Education Bachelor of Arts in Education	132	Elementary Education Bachelor of Arts in Education	71
Elementary Post-baccalaureate program (K-8)	16	Elementary Education Post-baccalaureate program (K-8)	6		
Secondary Education Masters of Arts in Teaching (7-12)	25	Can transfer to secondary post-baccalaureate degree w/Secondary M.Ed.	19	Secondary Education Masters of Arts in Teaching (7-12)	21
Early Childhood Bachelor of Arts (pre K-3)	114	All credits will transfer to Elementary Education Bachelor of Arts in Education. (K-8)	-		
Early Childhood Post-baccalaureate program (pre K-3)	4	All credits will transfer to Elementary Education post-baccalaureate program (K-8)	-		
Special Education initial licensure	2*	Special education initial licensure	12	Education certificate in Special Education	8
Early Childhood Special Education licensure	2*	All credits will transfer to special education initial licensure (K-12)	-	Early Childhood Special Education licensure	

# Students: Fall 2018 enrolled majors (IPEDS) minus Fall 2018 UAA graduates

\* Students in these licensure programs impacted by the CAEP decision (numbers from UAA SOE)

# UAA Education Program Enrollment

*(initial licensure programs)*

Programs	Fall 2018 Enrolled majors (IPEDS data)	Fall 2018 UAA graduates	Degrees per year (5-year average)	Estimated #Students graduating this spring & summer	Estimated #Students NOT graduating this spring & summer
Elementary Education Bachelor of Arts in Education	267	15	27	<b>18</b>	234
Elementary Post-baccalaureate program (K-8)	16	0	2	<b>2</b>	14
Secondary Education Masters of Arts in Teaching (7-12)	36	11	23	<b>25</b>	0
Early Childhood Bachelor of Arts (preK-3)	117	3	27	<b>15</b>	99
Early Childhood Post-baccalaureate program (preK-3)	4	0	3	<b>2</b>	2
Special Education initial licensure	2*	0	1	<b>1</b>	1
Early Childhood Special Education licensure	2*	0	1	<b>1</b>	1

\* Students in these licensure programs who are impacted by the CAEP decision (numbers from UAA SOE)



# Internal Program Improvements

- Since the August 2017 Self-Assessment Study was submitted, significant progress has been made to comply with the CAEP standards
- UAA has adopted edTPA – the widely used performance-based, assessment and support system developed at Stanford University
- All licensure programs are using nationally-recognized assessments and adopting case-study methodology to assess the impact our graduates have in the classroom
- UAA is allocating resources to data collection, analysis, reporting, and will use as basis for continuous program improvement
- Working with DEED to provide new graduates support through programs like Alaska School Development Network, K-12 Outreach and mentoring programs



## Impact: Students

- Seniors scheduled to graduate this Spring or Summer from impacted initial licensure programs, approximately 60:
  - Students will be provided a path to licensure either through UAA, or through virtual transfer to accredited UAF or UAS programs, with no additional time needed to complete their degree
  - UA will fully support them in their choice and hold them harmless on transfer costs
  - DEED Commissioner Michael Johnson has agreed to support UAA's licensure recommendations for Spring and Summer graduates of UAA's impacted programs
  - DEED/UA will seek Board of Education approval to grant those UAA graduates an Alaska teaching certificate at their February 4<sup>th</sup> meeting
- Non-Seniors currently enrolled in impacted programs, approximately 350:
  - The Board of Regents (BOR) and UA Administration are considering mid- and long-term options in light of student input during a BOR Town Hall to be held on 2/12 and BOR discussion on 2/21 and 2/28.
  - UA is facilitating virtual transfers into accredited UAF and UAS programs, holding students harmless on transfer costs.



# Impact: Students

## Licensure Reciprocity by Other States

- Interstate reciprocity is complex
- Each state is free to adopt and interpret its own standards
- Some states offer no reciprocity
- Some states have specific training, testing, or experience requirements
- UA will work to reduce any student impacts



## Student-Centric Response

- Jan 11 – UAA receives revocation notification
- Jan 11 – Students, faculty, BOR, DEED informed
- Jan 13 – Chancellor Sandeen hosts student town hall
- Jan 15 – DEED Commissioner announces licensure support for Spring and Summer 2019 graduates
- Jan 18 – BOR meets to discuss situation
- Jan 22 – UA and DEED leadership meeting
- Jan 23 – UAF/UAS reps meet with impacted UAA MAT students
- Feb 1 – Chancellor Sandeen meets with UA Student Government
- Feb 4 – Board of Education acts on near-term graduate licensures
- Feb 12- Board of Regents Town Hall with students



## Next Steps

- Feb 7 – UAF and UAS advisors additional meeting with impacted UAA students to discuss academic transfers
- Feb 12 – BOR Town Hall with students
- Feb 19 – BOR public testimony
- Feb 21 – BOR Academic and Student Affairs Committee meeting to discuss options
- Feb 28 – BOR meeting to discuss options



## Future Options

- UAA must wait one full year – January 11, 2020, to begin CAEP reaccreditation process
- The process to regain accreditation will take at least three years
- Reaccreditation will take a significant commitment of time and resources
- Regents and university leadership are considering mid- and long-term options informed by student input received Feb 12 and BOR discussions Feb 21 and Feb 28



# Thank You

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