

YOUR JOURNEY. YOUR COMMUNITY. YOUR IMPACT.



UAA College of Health  
UNIVERSITY of ALASKA ANCHORAGE

# UAA Health Programs

The University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA) is the state's flagship university for health. Designated by the Board of Regents, UAA provides statewide health education and clinical programs in communities across Alaska. A competent skilled workforce is indispensable to support the health of Alaskans and our communities. At a time when Alaska continues to face significant workforce shortages, UAA is actively engaged in preparing the state's next generation health workforce.



## Health Workforce Solutions for Alaska

UAA's health programs empower students through providing affordable, high-quality education. Our university offers more than 50 degree and certificate programs to prepare students for high-demand health jobs across the state. These opportunities range from short-term certificates to professional Ph.D. programs. Our programs include advanced medicine, mental

health, nursing, dental hygiene, and numerous other professional tracks. UAA focuses on educating Alaskans to enter the health workforce in our own state. UAA's health mission also includes several academic units and research centers which advance solutions to substance abuse, crime and homelessness. UAA is the primary engine of the health care workforce in Alaska and graduates nearly 1,000 students each year in health fields.



Some UAA health programs utilize partnerships with other institutions to offer advanced health degree programs at a lower cost to Alaskans, including the:

- WWAMI School of Medical Education with University of Washington
- MEDEX Physician Assistant with University of Washington
- Occupational Therapy Doctorate with Creighton University
- Pharmacology Doctorate with Idaho State University
- Speech and Language Pathology Masters with East Carolina University

UAA also partners with healthcare providers, nonprofits and businesses across the state to help support our programs at all levels. Our university works collaboratively on clinical placement opportunities and student support. Partners include Providence, Mat-Su Health Foundation, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority, Alaska Hospital and Healthcare Association, Alaska Psychiatric Institute, Rasmuson Foundation and many others.

## Student Dual Enrollment Pathways

Health education training doesn't have to wait for college. UAA's dual enrollment programs create pathways for health careers for K-12 students. The Alaska Health Education Center (AHEC) brings Alaskan students into the health workforce pipeline. AHEC inspires youth to learn about health careers through summer camps and intensives in partnerships with schools. The Della Keats Health Sciences Program encourages high school students from rural Alaska to enter health careers. The intensive summer program is administered by the University of Alaska Anchorage WWAMI School of Medical Education. Named for a prominent Inupiaq traditional healer who loved to teach, the Della Keats Program has a 16-year history of proven success.

## Addressing Youth Mental Health

Mental health issues are increasingly impactful amongst young Alaskans. Challenges surrounding youth mental health



in Alaska have persisted for years and were greatly exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. UAA's proposed Alaska Mental Health K-12 Student Initiative will grow our state's health workforce, and advance mental health services available to young Alaskans. The initiative will create a graduate program in School Psychology, preparing mental health professionals here in Alaska to serve Alaskan students in need.

## UAA Health Workforce Expansion & Diversity Project

The UAA Health Workforce Expansion & Diversity Project seeks to double graduates in key allied health careers in Alaska. The project involves renovating existing facilities on the UAA campus to create a state-of-the-art simulation and skills-based training facility. Hands-on clinical experiences or internships are a required component of medical and behavioral health care educational programs. This project will expand student education in Anchorage and the Mat-Su Valley, as well as distance and remote teaching across Alaska.

## Partnerships to Combat Substance Abuse

Alaska has high rates of substance abuse, suicide, domestic violence, as well as developmental disabilities and autism spectrum disorder. This project will increase access to behavioral health care by dramatically increasing the number of graduates in the School of Social Work. Over a five-year period of funding, the UAA School of Social Work will expand the capacity of its Master of Social Work (MSW) program. UAA will increase its capacity from a current enrollment of approximately 35 MSW students 85 students admitted annually.