

Alaska Native Languages

College of Indigenous Studies

Alaska Native Language Center (<https://www.uaf.edu/anlc/>)
907-474-7874

Alaska Native Languages Program

A.A.S., Certificate, Native Language Education

The Native language education program trains teachers of Native language and culture, providing coursework in Athabascan, Inupiaq or Yup'ik. The certificate and degree are recognized by some Alaska school districts and serve as steps toward a four-year degree. Candidates for the Yup'ik option must score advanced oral proficiency on an oral proficiency exam before being admitted into the program.

Minimum Requirements for Native Language Education Certificate: 30 credits; for A.A.S. Degree: 60 credits

A.A.S., Certificate, Yup'ik Language Proficiency

The Yup'ik language proficiency program is designed to provide students with the opportunity to pursue the structured study of Yup'ik in order to develop intermediate-level speaking and listening skills, as well as basic reading and writing abilities in the language. The certificate may serve as a step on the way to a two-year or four-year degree.

Minimum Requirements for Yup'ik Language Proficiency Certificate: 30 credits; for Yup'ik Language Proficiency A.A.S. Degree: 60 credits

B.A., Alaska Native Language

Alaska Native languages are spoken by far northern people from the northeastern tip of Siberia, across Alaska and Canada, to East Greenland. Alaska Native languages include the Yupik, Inupiaq and Athabascan languages of Alaska that also extends to Siberia Canada and Greenland. In terms of population and number of speakers, Alaska Yup'ik is by far the largest Alaska Native language; Inupiaq is the second largest. The Athabascan culture is at the forefront of the interior region with 11 distinct languages.

Students who obtain a B.A. in Alaska Native Language may be employed as Native language instructors or language specialists for school districts or Native organizations, which could include social services in various capacities. No other university in the United States offers a B.A. in Alaska Native Languages.

Students in linguistics or anthropology may want to complete a minor in Alaska Native Language to add a distinctly Alaska emphasis to their education.

Minimum Requirements for Alaska Native Language Bachelor's Degrees: 120 credits

B.A., Yup'ik Language and Culture

The Yup'ik language and culture program strives to reinforce a Yup'ik identity that is centrally dependent on the language and culture, prepares the student for success in the world, and leads to acceptance at home. The program is based on the philosophy that a strong command of the Yup'ik language leads to a complete understanding of the Yup'ik way of life, the world around us, and our place in it.

Depending on interest, students in the program are encouraged to complete a minor in education or Alaska Native and rural development. This program is only available at Kuskokwim Campus.

Minimum Requirements for Yup'ik Language and Culture Bachelor's Degree: 120 credits

Learn more about the bachelor's degree in Yup'ik language and culture (<https://uaf.edu/academics/programs/bachelors/yupik-language-culture.php>), including an overview of the program, career opportunities and more.

Occupational Endorsement, Yup'ik Language Competency

The Yup'ik language competency occupational endorsement recognizes that the acquisition of Yup'ik language competency in listening, speaking, reading, writing, grammar, composition, translating and transcribing are workforce skills needed by organizations throughout the Yukon-Kuskokwim region.

The courses chosen and testing criteria for the proposed Yup'ik language competency occupational endorsement were discussed with input from Walkie Charles, UAF associate professor of Alaska Native languages; Sally Samson, assistant professor of Yup'ik language and culture, UAF Kuskokwim Campus; Catherine Moses and Rosalie Lincoln, UAF Kuskokwim Campus Yup'ik adjunct instructors in Toksook Bay, Alaska; and Sheila Wallace, Lower Kuskokwim School District Yup'ik distance delivery instructor and Kuskokwim Campus adjunct instructor. Adjunct instructor Wallace approached Kuskokwim Campus to offer Yup'ik courses as high school dual-language credit and requested the University of Alaska to establish an occupational endorsement certificate in Yup'ik language competency to create a career pathway for fluent high school Yugtun speakers. These courses will provide students with a pathway for a Yup'ik language proficiency certificate, an A.A.S. degree in Yup'ik language proficiency, and/or a B.A. in Yup'ik language and culture. The rigor in the courses helps prepare students to meet the requirements for the State of Alaska's Seal of Biliteracy, as well as the Alaska Performance Scholarship.

Minimum Requirements for Yup'ik Language Competency Occupational Endorsement: 9 credits

Programs Degrees

- A.A.S., Native Language Education (<https://catalog.uaf.edu/associates/native-language-education/>)
- A.A.S., Yup'ik Language Proficiency (<https://catalog.uaf.edu/associates/yupik-language-proficiency/>)
- B.A., Alaska Native Languages (<https://catalog.uaf.edu/bachelors/alaska-native-languages/>)

- B.A., Yup'ik Language and Culture (<https://catalog.uaf.edu/bachelors/yupik-language-culture-ba/>)

Occupational Endorsement

- O.E.C., Yup'ik Language Competency (<https://catalog.uaf.edu/endorsements/yupik-language-competency/>)

Certificates

- Certificate, Native Language Education (<https://catalog.uaf.edu/certificates/native-language-education/>)
- Certificate, Yup'ik Language Proficiency (<https://catalog.uaf.edu/certificates/yupik-language-proficiency/>)

Minor

- Minor, Alaska Native Languages (<https://catalog.uaf.edu/minors/alaska-native-languages/>)