In 1970 the university was designated a federal Sea Grant institution for marine research. Alaska Sea Grant develops and supports research, education, and outreach programs and partnerships to help sustain economic development, traditional cultural uses, and conservation of Alaska’s marine, estuarine and coastal watershed resources. Stations in Kodiak and Juneau are also actively involved in marine and fisheries research.

In 1972 the Alaska Legislature established the Alaska Native Language Center and provided operating funds. Since then the university has supported research, documentation and teaching of the state’s 20 Native languages.

To meet the need for expanding services for all Alaskans, the University of Alaska statewide system was created in 1975. Campuses in Anchorage and Juneau were assigned their own chancellors and central staffs, with the statewide administration and overall university president remaining in Fairbanks.

Meanwhile, the campus in Fairbanks continued to expand. The University of Alaska Museum of the North, one of the state’s most popular visitor attractions, moved into the Otto Geist Building in 1980. An expansion completed in 2006 nearly doubled the museum’s size and added a research center, learning center and Alaska art gallery. The museum’s unique collection offers the public a view of the rich and varied cultures of the North.

In 1981, UAF enrollment topped 5,000 students for the first time. The university also began to emphasize its shared scholarship and global education efforts in a series of agreements with schools in Japan, Denmark, Canada, India, People’s Republic of China, Russia and other countries. The institution branched out to include campuses in Bethel, Dillingham, Kotzebue, Nome and the Interior. Learning centers in other communities such as Fort Yukon, Galena, McGrath, Nenana, Tok and Unalaska provide additional education services to rural Alaskans.

UAF’s public service role is filled in part by the statewide Cooperative Extension Service with its 13 district offices. Public broadcasting stations KUA FM and TV, the first public stations in the state, are headquartered at UAF.

In 1991 NASA named UAF a Space Grant institution for aerospace research, making it a Land, Sea and Space Grant institution, one of only a handful of triple-crown universities in the country.

In 2017, UAF celebrated 100 years of making important contributions to Alaska, helping find solutions to the state’s unique challenges in areas like Arctic engineering, wildlife biology, health care and education. UAF helps power Alaska’s economy by turning students into professionals for Alaska’s workforce.

Students

Individualism and diversity are Alaska traditions. At UAF, students find not only a broad mix of cultures and ages, but also a climate of respect for individual rights and preferences. A student from a rural Alaska village
can share knowledge and insights with others from places as distant as Tallahassee or Tokyo. UAF’s enrollment in fall 2018 was 8,336 students. Of those, 60 percent are female and 39 percent male; 88 percent are undergraduate and 12 percent are graduate students. UAF students hail from all 50 states and 38 foreign countries.

Many UAF students are nontraditional. They study at night or after work, and balance schoolwork with family responsibilities. The university offers a wide variety of evening and weekend classes. UAF students can attend classes through distance delivery from remote areas of Alaska or from anywhere in the world. Using computers, telephones and the Internet, students can take courses or work toward their degrees without leaving home.

Many students take advantage of UAF’s exchange programs to study at colleges and universities around the world, or through the National Student Exchange program, which offers studies at universities throughout the United States. There are more than 100 different student organizations on campus, with that number going up all the time. Students produce the weekly Sun Star online news site, run KSUA, the campus radio station, and participate in scores of special interest groups.

Faculty

At UAF you find faculty members who are among the best in the country, and because of the low 11:1 student-faculty ratio, you receive more personal attention here than you would at almost any other public university in the nation. Once you have chosen a major, you will be assigned a faculty advisor from your academic department. Your advisor will help you choose classes each semester and will explain programs and requirements. You will get to know the faculty not just as professors, but as friends, advisors and mentors. Education is an individual process, different for each person. At UAF, you are an individual, not just a face in the crowd.

UAF’s Mission

The University of Alaska Fairbanks is a Land, Sea, and Space Grant university and an international center for research, education, and the arts, emphasizing the circumpolar North and its diverse peoples. UAF integrates teaching, research, and public service as it educates students for active citizenship and prepares them for lifelong learning and careers.

CORE THEMES

• **Educate**: Undergraduate and graduate students and lifelong learners
• **Research**: Create and disseminate new knowledge, insight, technology, artistic and scholarly works
• **Prepare**: Alaska’s career, technical and professional workforce
• **Connect**: Alaska Native, rural and urban communities by sharing knowledge and ways of knowing
• **Engage**: Alaskans through outreach for continuing education and community and economic development

Commitment to Quality

UAF has been accredited since 1934 by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities. UAF acts continually to assess and improve the educational experience for its students. Students evaluate their teachers at the end of each semester; those student opinion reports are available at https://asuaf.com/archives/teacher-and-course-evaluations/. Faculty and administrators evaluate courses in the core curriculum every year. Each degree program and certificate is assessed at least every five years. Results are used to change and improve the education provided by UAF. The learning outcomes expected for each degree program can be viewed at http://www.uaf.edu/provost/assessment-review/assessment/.