

ALASKA NATIVE STUDIES AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

B.A., M.A. Degrees, Graduate Certificate, Minors

College of Rural and Community Development

Department of Alaska Native Studies and Rural Development (<https://www.uaf.edu/dansrd/>)

907-474-6528 or toll-free 1-866-478-2721

B.A., ALASKA NATIVE STUDIES

Alaska Native Studies is a social science program that explores current and historical Alaska and broader circumpolar issues from the indigenous perspective. The curriculum grounds students in tribal histories and cultures, governmental policies and local Indigenous affairs. The program incorporates Native traditional knowledge, wisdom and experience into contemporary issues and studies. Graduates are prepared to make leadership contributions throughout communities of the circumpolar North. They may also continue to higher education in fields such as law, policymaking and Indigenous studies.

Students will complete a concentration in one of the following areas:

- Indigenous Rights and Advocacy
- Cultural Revitalization
- Community Resiliency
- Multidisciplinary

Graduates may find employment in many different areas including government, health and social services, performance arts, justice and cultural programs. They may also serve as cultural ambassadors to promote cross-cultural communications across the North. The B.A. degree can be earned on the Fairbanks campus or through distance delivery. The department welcomes students pursuing a second major or a minor.

Students applying for acceptance into the Alaska Native Studies program need to complete a department-specific written questionnaire in addition to general university admission requirements. Findings from this process will be used to support the department advising process and assist students in connecting with faculty and mentors.

Special application requirements and deadlines apply for distance B.A. programs.

Learn more about the bachelor's degree in Alaska Native studies (<https://uaf.edu/academics/programs/bachelors/alaska-native-studies.php>), including an overview of the program, career opportunities and more.

Minimum Requirements for Alaska Native Studies Bachelor's Degree: 120 credits

B.A., RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Rural development is an interdisciplinary field that teaches the history, theory and skills needed for human, social and economic development in rural communities. Rural development degree programs are designed to educate a new generation of community leaders for rural Alaska. The B.A. degree can be earned either on the Fairbanks campus or through

distance delivery. Special application requirements and deadlines apply for distance B.A. degree programs. Students applying for acceptance into the Rural Development program need to complete a department-specific written questionnaire in addition to general university admission requirements. Findings from this questionnaire will be used to support the department advising process and assist students in connecting with faculty and mentors.

Students in the rural development program gain a broad understanding of Alaska's relationship to the global economy and an appreciation for sustainable development strategies. Students also learn specific tools essential for community leadership, including business plan and grant proposal writing, community visioning and planning processes, community-based research techniques, computer business applications, project management, and evaluation techniques. Graduates typically take positions with tribal and municipal governments, fisheries, tourism and other private businesses, Native corporations, regional health corporations or nonprofits and state/federal agencies.

Within the B.A. degree program, students will select and develop a concentration in one of five areas:

- The human and social development concentration is for students interested in social services, social justice, community wellness and cultural development. Graduates may find employment with tribal governments, health consortia, clinics and schools.
- The tribal and municipal governance concentration is for students interested in tribal governance and rural municipal and borough government (home rule). Students develop an understanding of the history and constitutional basis for tribal governance, various home rule governance structures, basics of federal Indian law, principles and practices of self-determination, and the mandates of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. They develop skills in planning, budgeting and human resources management. Students can pursue a special interest, such as management of health programs, tribal governance programs or Alaska Native corporations, and tailor the concentration to these specifications through the choice of related courses and electives. Graduates may find employment with tribal and municipal governments and organizations, ANCSA corporations, and state and federal agencies.
- The integrated resource management concentration is designed for students interested in land use, subsistence, cultural resources and co-management. Students learn about traditional ecological knowledge, principles of natural resources management and policy, adaptive management, conservation and ecotourism, and skills for effective public/private/tribal collaboration in resource management. Management strategies for addressing climate change are explored. Graduates may find employment with ANCSA corporations, regional and tribal entities, or state and federal agencies.
- The entrepreneurship and economic development concentration is for students interested in creating sustainable economies in rural and indigenous communities, with a focus on small business development. Students learn to develop business and marketing plans, economic development planning, and basic principles of financial and human resources management for rural enterprises. Graduates find employment in ANCSA corporations, regional development organizations, economic development agencies and as local entrepreneurs.
- The multidisciplinary concentration is intended for students who wish to combine two or more rural development concentrations

or combine a rural development concentration with another discipline. Students will work closely with their advisors to select the appropriate courses for the concentration.

Minimum Requirements for Rural Development Bachelor's Degree: 120 credits

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

M.A., RURAL DEVELOPMENT

The Department of Alaska Native Studies and Rural Development M.A. program is designed to educate leaders who understand the dynamic relationship of rural Alaska with the global economy and who have professional skills in areas of leadership, business development, administration and conflict management. Graduates typically take positions with tribal and municipal governments, fisheries, tourism, Native corporations, regional health corporations or non-profits, state/federal agencies, or other private businesses.

Graduate degree students gain a broader theoretical understanding of development processes in Alaska and the circumpolar North. Graduate students complete a thesis or applied community development project, and have opportunities for international study and research.

Students can earn the M.A. degree either on the Fairbanks campus or through distance delivery. Special application requirements and deadlines apply for distance M.A. degree programs. For more information contact the Department of Alaska Native Studies and Rural Development (<https://www.uaf.edu/dansrd/>) toll-free 1-866-478-2721.

Minimum Requirements for Rural Development Master's Degree: 30 credits

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT

The graduate certificate in rural development is intended for community development practitioners, agency and industry professionals, and current graduate students working with tribal and municipal governments, Native corporations, regional health corporations or nonprofits, state and federal agencies, or private businesses conducting work in rural areas who wish to obtain a foundation in the theory and practice of development processes in Alaska and the circumpolar North. The certificate will prepare students to conduct work related to human and economic development in rural communities with a particular focus on sustainable development strategies, community-based development, and Indigenous perspectives on development.

Minimum Requirements for Rural Development Graduate Certificate: 12 credits

Programs Degrees

- B.A., Alaska Native Studies (<https://catalog.uaf.edu/bachelors/alaska-native-studies-ba/>)
- B.A., Rural Development (<https://catalog.uaf.edu/bachelors/rural-development-ba/>)

- M.A., Rural Development (<https://catalog.uaf.edu/masters/rural-development/>)

Graduate Certificate

- Graduate Certificate, Rural Development (<https://catalog.uaf.edu/graduate-certificates/rural-development/>)

Minor

- Minor, Alaska Native Studies (<https://catalog.uaf.edu/minors/alaska-native-studies/>)
- Minor, Rural Development (<https://catalog.uaf.edu/minors/rural-development/>)