



# STRATEGIC USE OF NATIONALLY REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIPS FOR EDUCATORS (SUNRAE)

## DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM

Shape your future in early childhood education with UAA's streamlined degree pathways, ranging from an Occupational Endorsement Certificate in Infant & Toddler Development to an Associate of Applied Science, a Bachelor's with PK-3 licensure, and post-baccalaureate options. Our dynamic program blends coursework with hands-on experience in diverse settings like licensed childcare facilities, Head Start programs, and public schools. With a focus on community, belonging, and literacy development, you'll gain the skills to make a lasting impact on Alaska's youngest learners while addressing the growing demand for qualified early childhood educators.

## PROGRAMS

- Occupational Endorsement Certificate
- Associate of Applied Science
- Bachelor of Arts
- Post-Baccalaureate Certificate

## TYPES OF CERTIFICATION/LICENSURE AREAS

UAA's Bachelor of Arts in Early Childhood Education supports two career pathways for apprentices:

**PROFESSIONAL PATHWAY** | Roles in Head Start, childcare facilities, or child development centers

**LICENSURE PATHWAY** | Leading to a Type A Initial teaching license with a PK-3 endorsement for public school classrooms

## COURSE DELIVERY MODEL

- Synchronous/Asynchronous Online Classes
- 8-Week Accelerated Courses
- Brief weekly meetings after school hours to accommodate working professionals
- Apprenticeship course schedules are planned to respect subsistence and cultural activities, including strategic summer offerings
- A dedicated apprenticeship coordinator helps apprentices navigate program expectations, serving as their primary point of contact

## UNIQUE FEATURES/ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

UAA's SUNRAE program uniquely combines stacked credentials, certified credit experiences, extensive field experiences, and culturally responsive practices to prepare educators for Alaska's diverse communities. Our student-centered approach features fully remote classes at convenient times, 8-week accelerated courses, and a dedicated apprenticeship coordinator who provides personalized support with registration, books, and program navigation. Through our registered apprenticeship model and partnerships with Head Start, school districts, and childcare facilities, students can earn while they learn and seamlessly progress from certificate to Bachelor's degree, with flexible pathways accommodating both new students and working professionals.

## ADDITIONAL INFO/RESOURCES

### Personalized Support

- Dedicated support team including an apprenticeship coordinator, student success coordinator, and placement coordinator who regularly meet with UAA faculty and apprentice sponsors to ensure apprentice success and provide wrap-around support through coordinated referrals to UAA's Learning Commons, NSS, and other resources
- Proactive outreach to apprentices to address concerns before they become barriers
- Financial Aid coaching to support apprentices in their completion of the FAFSA, UA Scholarship Application, and other funding opportunities

### Program Navigation & Communication

- Comprehensive step-by-step guides for navigating UAA's enrollment, registration, and academic systems
- Timely email communications with upcoming deadlines, required documentation, and important academic activities
- Engaging monthly newsletters highlighting apprentice achievements, sponsor partnerships, resources, and program milestones
- Interactive monthly webinars featuring guest speakers on topics of interest

### Academic Monitoring & Progress

- Customized Response to Intervention (RTI) plans tailored to each apprentice's unique learning needs, schedule, prior credits, and career goals
- Data-rich, personalized dashboards for sponsors and apprentices displaying real-time course progress and upcoming tasks
- Bi-weekly meetings with sponsors to review apprentice progress, address challenges, and align needs



## ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

### UAA OEC & Associate of Applied Science

- High School Diploma/GED

### UAA Bachelor of Arts

- High School Diploma/GED with:
  - Min. 2.5 GPA or 2.0 GPA w/ 24+ college credits\*

*\*Transfer students who do not meet the GPA requirement can begin with an Associate's Degree, paving the way for future success in the bachelor's program.*

### To Graduate/Be Recommended for Licensure:

- Apprentices must maintain a min. 3.0 GPA
- Achieve satisfactory rating on final disposition assessment
- No scores lower than 2 on final Skills of Teaching Observation (STOT) Form

## COST PER CREDIT

- Lower Division Courses | \$234
- Upper Division Courses | \$282
- Mandatory Fees | \$59.16/Credit

## FINANCIAL AID/SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

- Federal funding via FAFSA
- Local funding via the UA Foundation and the State of Alaska
- Collaborate with school districts to leverage education benefits outlined in Collective Bargaining Agreements
- UAA partners with Alaska Native corporations/foundations, industry leaders, and other stakeholders to pursue state and federal grants to strengthen financial support for apprentices and their communities

## ANTICIPATED TIME TO COMPLETION

The time to complete the program varies based on full-time or part-time status. We create personalized plans that account for transfer credits and recognize industry-specific certificates, ensuring every student can advance in a way that aligns with their goals and commitments.

### Full-time Students

With no prior college credits or industry certificates can complete the bachelor's degree in four years by taking 15–18 credits/semester

### Part-time Students

Benefit from the flexibility to progress at their own pace.

## SUPPORTS FOR APPRENTICES

UAA's apprenticeship program offers a wide range of personalized resources and support to ensure student success. We have a dedicated Student Success Coordinator, Field Experience Coordinator, and Teacher Apprentice Coordinator who work closely to guide students throughout their journey. Each student receives one-on-one academic advising, and the Teacher Apprentice Coordinator prepares individualized learning plans tailored to each apprentice's unique needs. Additionally, our Learning Commons offers academic tutoring and coaching, helping students thrive academically. With these comprehensive resources in place, our program is designed to set you up for success every step of the way.

## SUPPORTS FOR MENTORS

The SUNRAE program is dedicated to supporting our partner districts and tribal organizations in delivering high-quality, culturally responsive mentorship and assessment programs. Our approach honors the vital relationship between mentor teachers and preservice teachers, a practice seamlessly extended to our apprenticeship program. Handouts are available to help mentors understand the expectations of apprentices, including courses with field experiences, observation forms and surveys, and the teaching portfolio. When an apprentice engages in a practicum or internship field experience, UAA hires the mentor as an adjunct faculty member, providing adjunct pay, longevity benefits, and valuable experience to enhance their resume. We also maintain regular communication with mentors, offering support and holding meetings as needed to ensure their success. By partnering with UAA, mentors not only shape the future of education but also gain professional growth and recognition.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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