

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION FOR PARALEGAL STUDIES

STRENGTHS:

- Nationally recognized program through the American Bar Association.
- The program is increasing Student Credit Hours production due to focus on distance delivery.
- Has potential to become 100% distance education due to a recent decision to allow this by the American Bar Association, making it the only one in the state.
- Strong community and industry partnerships, including the Advisory Board.
- Private law offices, local and tribal government agencies, state government agencies, University of Alaska departments, federal agencies and non-profit agencies have served as internship placements and/or employers of paralegal students.

WEAKNESSES:

- Students start the program but do not finish as they find employment before graduation. This leads to a low number of degree completions.
- Low enrollment and a long time to complete the degree (related to the fact that most students are returning and part-time).

OPPORTUNITIES:

- Work with UAA to provide online courses for their students.
- Increase collaboration with Justice to be a feeder program into BA degree.
- Increase partnerships with secondary education to provide courses and program offerings in high schools.
- Provide professional development for the State, such as developing the Child In Need of Aid training for online delivery into an online non-credit professional development training

THREATS:

- Total tuition of the program is higher than the national average for comparable programs.

CENTRALITY TO MISSION:

- The program meets the mission and Core Theme Prepare by providing a career, technical and professional workforce

INDICATORS OF QUALITY:

- Continued national recognition within the American Bar Association.
- Students within the program are sought after and employed often before degree completion.

COST-EFFECTIVENESS:

- Program has increased revenue while decreasing expenditures since 2015.
- Currently operating with 1 full time faculty and 5 adjuncts.

	MAJORS	DEGREES
Paralegal Studies AAS	FY15: 39/ FY19: 43	FY15: 6/ FY19: 2

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Paralegal Studies AAS:

RECOMMENDATION:	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:	DATE FOR FOLLOW-UP:
Continuation (6 votes, 1 abstention)	Continue with existing plan to develop program online. Revisit to see if enrollment and graduation increase.	Two years