

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION FOR
College of Community & Rural Development
Associate of Science**

STRENGTHS:

- Available entirely online, including labs (which are done via kits and virtual lab simulations)
- Increase in majors demonstrates interest
- The AS program is focused on meeting the science educational need of students from rural Alaska
- Provides a pathway to students for whom the BS is not the best option, and also provides a pathway for students to continue to a BS
- Faculty in the program are mostly grant funded

WEAKNESSES:

- The program cites a dependence on CNSM for course offerings.
- According to the SWOT analysis, tracking of students is “impossible.”
- There can be a lack of communication between faculty and students (because it is entirely online).
- Do not have the capacity to increase student numbers with existing staffing

OPPORTUNITIES:

- Increasing demand for science education
- Promotion of the AS as a second degree for students in programs like Allied Health
- Exploring new grant sources

THREATS:

- “Uncoordinated” offerings of science GERs by CRCD, CTC, and CNSM
- Competition with a similar degree at UAA
- Increasing competition from other online science offerings

CENTRALITY TO MISSION:

The program is central to UAF’s mission to Educate, particularly rural students.

INDICATORS OF QUALITY:

- High enrollment shows interest from students.
- Program is responsive to the needs of rural students interested in pursuing science education or careers

COST-EFFECTIVENESS:

The college has faculty located at the rural campuses that teach various science courses that contribute to the Associate of Science degree. These faculty also teach science courses for other programs within the college through both distance and face to face methods. According

to the dean, the program brings in substantial tuition revenue (expenses are unclear, aside from full-time advisor).

Majors

Metric	Detail	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20
Majors	AS Associate of Science	108	127	154	134	127

Degrees

Metric	Detail	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20
Degrees	AS Associate of Science	13	14	23	25	15

Associate of Science AS

RECOMMENDATION:	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:	DATE FOR FOLLOW-UP:
Continuation w/ improvement plan: 6 votes	Improve tracking of students, better recording of students articulating into BS degrees or other majors.	Report in one year.
Reduction: 1 vote		
Abstain: 1 vote		