



# School of Nursing—Fact Sheet

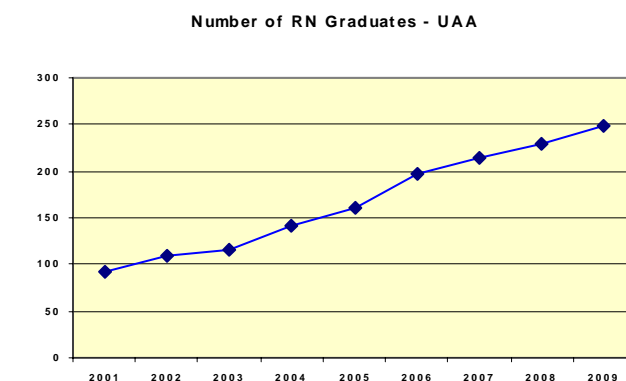
## Enrollment Doubling Has Been Accomplished And Expansion Efforts Are Continuing !

**Preliminary data shows that 93% of senior students plan to stay in Alaska for their first jobs.**

In 2002, the University/ Industry Nursing Education Task Force established the goal of doubling the number of basic nursing graduates (AAS and BS programs) from the UAA School of Nursing by 2006. The capacity of the School has been doubled—from 96 admission slots in 2002 to 215 slots in this academic year.

This was accomplished in several ways. The BS program went to a trimester system, admitting and graduating three times per year. It also increased the number of students admitted in each cohort from 32 to 40.

The AAS program expanded by establishing program sites across the State of Alaska. The program uses a blended delivery model with on-line and videoconferenced didactic and on-site clinical instruction. As of January



- The UAA SON has doubled enrollments since 2002.
- Applicant interest is high.
- Industry contributions have been essential.
- The nursing shortage has barely begun.
- Further expansion potential is limited but some additional development is feasible.
- Continued and increased funding is critical.
- Faculty recruitment is improving though costly.

2007, there will be 11 sites up and running.

Once fully expanded, there will be about 240-250 graduates per year, which is the number of new graduates that the Alaska health care industry has indicated it can absorb on an annual basis.

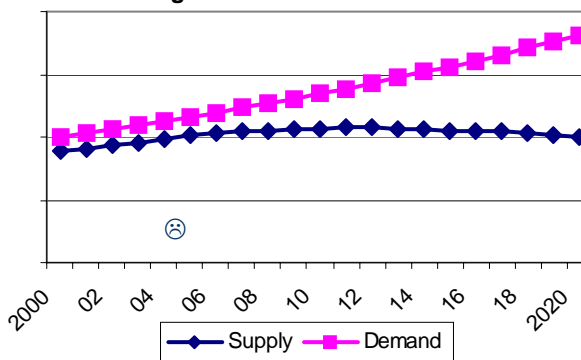
Accomplishing this expansion has been difficult and several challenges remain:

- Maintaining the gains
- Ensuring good patient care and learning environments at clinical sites
- Faculty recruitment
- On-going adequate funding
- Distribution of graduates

## But We've Only Just Begun...

As far as we've come, we are only at the beginning of the nursing shortage. Coming retirements will greatly increase the need for nurses in the country and in Alaska. In the state the vacancy rate for nurses has stayed about the same in each of the past three years, even with additional new graduates.

National Supply and Demand Projections for FTE Registered Nurses: 2000 to 2020



**AHEC**  
The UAA School of Nursing has been awarded the first Basic AHEC Program in the country to be housed in a school of nursing.

**UAA SON Programs**

Practical Nursing  
 Basic RN Programs -  
 AAS in Nursing  
 BS in Nursing Science  
 RN->BSN Completion  
 Graduate Programs:  
 Family Nurse Practitioner  
 Psychiatric-Mental Health NP  
 Administration  
 Community Health  
 Education

Year	AAS Program Outreach Sites	# of Sites
AY00	Anchorage	1
AY01	Fairbanks, Kodiak	3
AY04	Bethel, Juneau, Ketchikan	6
AY05	Kenai, Sitka	8
AY06	Homer, Mat-Su, Kotzebue	11
TBD	Petersburg Barrow, Nome, Dillingham, Valdez	16

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*There have been 52 Alaska Native and American Indian nurse graduates from UAA in the past seven years.*

**Industry Partner Contributions Essential**

Without the financial donations of Alaska health care industry partners, and the in-kind contributions of literally hundreds of clinical sites, the School of Nursing would have been unable to expand its programs to better meet industry needs now and in the future.

In 2006-7 there are ten primary financial partners, including some providing substantial in-kind donations:

- Alaska Regional Hospital
- Bartlett Regional Hospital
- Central Peninsula General Hospital
- Fairbanks Memorial Hospital
- Ketchikan General Hospital
- Maniilaq Association
- Mat-Su Medical Center
- Providence Health System in Alaska
- South Peninsula Hospital
- Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation

These industry partners participate in twice yearly meetings with School of Nursing and other University of Alaska campus representatives to provide guidance and oversight to the expansion efforts as the Nursing Education Advisory Council..



**Faculty Shortage Challenging**

One of the most difficult challenges the School of Nursing has faced in the past four years is the significant shortage of nursing faculty available throughout the country; particularly experienced and doctorally-prepared faculty. The expansion required the School to grow quickly from 25 to 43 faculty. Also, 15 additional faculty had to be recruited to fill vacancies, for a total of 33 positions recruited. The

BSN program has recently lost 4 key faculty through retirement and resignation, so further recruitment efforts are now needed.

The initial challenge was addressed in two ways. An executive search firm aided the School for the past two years in an intense recruitment effort for senior faculty. This process has resulted in hiring a few key faculty.

The second new approach has been to establish a Mas-

ters in Nursing track in Education in conjunction with the School of Education. This is a fully distance delivered program and it is expected that over time it will help UAA meet the goal of "Growing Our Own" faculty.

Diligent traditional recruiting has also been successful.

This will be an ongoing challenge.

**Recruitment and Retention of Alaska Natives Into Nursing**

Alaska Native and American Indians interested in enrolling at UAA and seeking a degree in nursing are eligible to receive college preparation counseling from RRANN. RRANN can help prospective students plan for admission to UAA and provide information regarding the different degree programs and course requirements. RRANN also offers

mentoring and tutoring services, financial assistance and on-campus housing opportunities for eligible students.

Since the program began in 1999 there have been 52 Alaska Native and American Indian nurse graduates from the Anchorage campus. About 80 students are presently in their pre-clinical years, preparing to apply for the program. There are also about 10 RRANN students in Southeast

Alaska. There are plans to expand the program to Bethel and other areas of the state.

Funding for the continuation of RRANN is coming from several federal grants as well as Robert Wood Johnson and Rasmuson Foundations. The business community also supports students through scholarships.