The Associate of Arts degree gives students a competitive edge in the job market. Students gain valuable knowledge and skills as they fulfill general education requirements. Graduates have a solid foundation for advancing their careers or pursuing a baccalaureate degree in the future. Start earning your degree today!

### Educational Pathway Options

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Recommended Preparation</th>
<th>Associate of Arts (AA)</th>
<th>Baccalaureate Degrees*</th>
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<tr>
<td>High School</td>
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<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>Students planning to pursue a baccalaureate degree are encouraged to use 9-12 credits of the AA degree's general electives to fulfill requirements of their elected major.</td>
<td>Bachelor of Arts (BA)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Communications</td>
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<td>Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA)</td>
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<td>Social Studies</td>
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<td>Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA)</td>
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<td>Algebra</td>
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<td>Bachelor of Human Services (BHS)</td>
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<td>Natural Sciences</td>
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<td>Bachelor of Liberal Studies (BLS)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Visual Art or Music</td>
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<td>Bachelor of Music (BM)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2-3 Years</td>
<td>Bachelor of Science (BS)</td>
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<td>Bachelor of Social Work (BSW)</td>
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<td>4-5 Years</td>
<td>*Offered at UAA main campus</td>
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### Career Connections
- Hospitality & Tourism
- Law, Government, & Public Safety
- Business, Management, & Administration
- Transportation, Distribution, & Logistics
- Health Sciences
APPLICATION PROCESS

1. Apply for admission at www.matsu.alaska.edu/students/admissions.
2. Review admission requirements for your student type.
3. Submit required documents to Matanuska-Susitna College Student Services, PO Box 2889, Palmer, AK 99645.
4. Take the placement test for English and math course placement. Call the Learning Center at 907.745.9713 for testing information.
5. Make an appointment for academic advising at 907.745.9762 and meet regularly with an advisor.
6. Access the Student Checklist online at www.matsu.alaska.edu/students/prospectivestudents/studentchecklist.htm to stay on track.
7. When registering for courses, be sure to select the proper campus.

Matanuska-Susitna College is a community campus of the University of Alaska Anchorage and has been continuously accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities since 1974. This brochure is for information purposes only and does not constitute a contract. UAA is an EO/AA employer and educational institution.

This information is based on the 2010-2011 UAA Course Catalog. Please refer to the current catalog for complete information.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

• **Job Promotion and Earning Benefits** – Many employers use the AA degree as a standard to determine promotions and increases in employee earnings.

• **Self Discovery** – A general studies curriculum creates opportunities to explore interests and abilities which aid in targeting compatible careers.

• **Writing** – Competent writing skills are essential for most employment opportunities in order to write letters to customers, develop reports, compose office memorandums, and produce general business communications.

• **Oral Communication** – This is a vital skill needed for a wide range of activities in customer service, sales, marketing, and human relations. You will improve your ability to speak clearly and effectively.

• **Mathematics** – The ability to understand numbers and computation is a primary skill most employers expect. This is particularly true in the banking industry and in those organizations needing administrative staff with multiple skills. Learning these computational skills will increase your familiarity with numbers, calculators, and mathematical analysis.

• **Critical Thinking** – A liberal arts education develops students’ critical thinking skills, which in turn enhance the ability to think creatively, and make good evaluations and judgments. The study of the arts, humanities, and social sciences requires review, evaluation, and critiques of different points of view. The ability to solve problems and use good judgment is a skill all employers value.

• **Opportunity for Growth** – The AA degree provides a solid course foundation for future pursuit of a baccalaureate degree.

ASSOCIATE OF ARTS (AA)

Students are strongly encouraged to consult an advisor prior to course selection.

**REVIEW IMPORTANT REQUIREMENTS**

• Completion of a minimum of 60 credits at the 100 level and above is required, of which 20 credits must be at the 200 level or higher.

• Complete fifteen (15) credits in residence at Mat-Su College.

• Maintain a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 or higher.

• If a baccalaureate degree is a future goal, see an advisor regarding compatible course selections.

• All degree requirements must be met within five years of formal admission or the student must re-apply for admission and meet catalog year requirements currently in effect.

**COMPLETE GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS (33 credits)**

The GERs provide a breadth of exposure to traditional academic disciplines and help students to understand and respond to evolving local and international issues. Students take courses in the areas listed below. See an advisor for important information on course selection.

**Oral Communication Skills (3)**

Choose: COMM 111, COMM 235, COMM 237, or COMM 241

**Written Communication Skills (6)**

ENGL 111

Choose: CIOS 260A, ENGL 211, ENGL 212, ENGL 213, or ENGL 214

**Humanities and Fine Arts (9)**

Choose three courses, at least one each from Humanities* and Fine Arts*

**Mathematical and Natural Sciences (9)**

MATH 105 or one course in Quantitative Skills*

Choose two courses in Natural Sciences*

**Social Sciences (6)**

Choose two courses (from two different disciplines) from Social Sciences*

* See the GER Classification List for courses.

**COMPLETE GENERAL ELECTIVES (27 credits)**

General electives can be used to select courses to widen your knowledge for specific job-related fields such as human services, government, computer technology, and business.

In addition, students who are considering pursuing a baccalaureate degree as a future goal can investigate courses of interest which can aid in declaring a major.

A total of 60 credits is required for this degree.