

U of A credits can be transferred

Students attending any unit of the University of Alaska will now be able to take a common core of general education requirements that can be transferred to any baccalaureate degree program in the University system.

Dr. George West, vice president for academic affairs and institutional planning, made the announcement of this new approach at a recent meeting of standing committees of the Board of Regents.

West said that community college students enrolling in any of the University's centers may now be assured that 34 credits taken as a part of an Associate of Arts (A.A.) transfer degree program will fulfill 34 credits of core education requirements for any baccalaureate degree at the University's four-year campuses in Anchorage, Fairbanks and Juneau.

The common core consists of:

- 6 credits in written communication skills;

- 3 credits of oral communication skills;

- 15 credits of humanities and social sciences including at least 3 credits in the arts, 3 in humanities and 6 credits in two different social science fields; and 10 credits in quantitative skills and natural sciences, including at least 3 credits in mathematics and 4 in a natural science that includes a laboratory.

"Definitions of each category of core requirements have been agreed upon," West said. "Each University center and community college is preparing a menu of courses that meets these definitions. By July 31, all acceptable courses should be identified."

Dr. George Melican, chancellor of the Community Colleges, Rural Education & Extension division, praised the committee "for reaching consensus on this issue of vital concern to students throughout the state." He stated that he believed such an agreement of a common core acceptable to all baccalaureate degrees was unique in the United States.