

Task Force on Class Sizes

Report Outline

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Charge Summary

Task Force on Class Sizes -

What are the optimum class sizes at different levels and fields at UAF and how do we achieve those results while improving the student experience?

How do we achieve an average class size that is closer to our peers, possibly through larger GERs to account for smaller upper division and graduate classes?

Findings:

The Student/Teacher average ratio for our Peers is approximately 17/1 and the UAF average is 11/1.

Class duplication - The Task Force reviewed the Spring 2019 semester General Education Requirements (GERs) course offerings to identify if there were duplicate courses being offered on the same days and times. The results showed that there were, in fact, some duplication of courses, but not at a substantial level. It appears that departments are working across the campus to ensure that there are a variety of time and day options for students and minimizing duplication. Where there is duplication, the data showed that the courses were either filled or close to filling, requiring the additional courses in most cases.

The Task Force also identified that enrollment caps for different sections of the same course were not always consistent and often depended on the campus and delivery method. For example, a WRTG 111 course offered in a lecture format may have more seats available for students than the same WRTG 111 course offered through eCampus.

Online courses and complete programs that are online are showing an increase in enrollment when compared to other modalities and offerings. UAF has an outstanding

large lecture by a single faculty and then split into many lab sections with different CRNs. Enrollments would likely be more accurately reflected when multiple lab sections are counted as one course. Additionally, honors sections are often listed as a different

classes. Possibilities include flipped or otherwise non-traditional methods to

Accessibility- technology, and availability of offerings for resident, distance, and rural students.

Does class size impact the student experience? Surveys are needed.