



# Achieving R1 Research Status at UAF December 2023 Update

## What is R1 Research Status?

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The Carnegie Classification is a national ranking system for universities. R1 is the highest ranking of doctoral granting research universities in the U.S. UAF currently ranks as an R2, one of the top 10% of U.S. universities in the Carnegie Classification. UAF is one of the top 4% of U.S. universities with respect to research and have wide ranging positive economic impacts.

## Why R1 in Alaska?

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Achieving R1 status at UAF will provide an opportunity to not only increase research revenues in the university, but more importantly attract and retain top research talent. Achieving R1 status at UAF will attract top research talent. This prestigious ranking will provide global recognition for UAF and Alaska.

Some impacts seen in other R1 universities include, but are not limited to:

In 2019, University of Colorado Boulder estimated their R1 research activities alone produced [\\$1.2 billion in economic activity](#) for the state.

[Old Dominion University](#)



**Appendix - UAF REVISED Budget Summary Details (December 2023):**

*Graduate Student Stipends (Research Fellowships/Assistantships)* are envisioned as one or two years of funded graduate student support, to help graduate students achieve a PhD degree. This support may include tuition, fees and a cost-of-living stipend and will be complemented by external grants and/or teaching or research assistantships to financially support graduate students for the duration of degree completion. This commitment to long-term financial stability for graduate students will help UAF better recruit competitive graduate students, will reduce the financial burden for advisors, and will facilitate degree progression and completion. This support will provide at least 37 stipends per year, or a total of up to approximately 185 stipends over the 5-year period. Through this effort, UAF aims to facilitate completion of an average of 70 PhDs per year for the 2027 Carnegie evaluation, and a total of 350 PhDs during the funding period. Previous analysis has suggested that limited financial support is one of the main barriers to faculty accepting new PhD students and achieving degree completion. Graduate student research assistantships are a key mechanism to help UAF support and facilitate degree completion by existing and new PhD students.

Faculty play a critical role in mentoring doctoral students and postdoctoral research fellows, therefore *Faculty Support Incentives* are a critical component to increasing research productivity and advancing UAF to R1 status. Examples of faculty incentives may include, but are not limited to: buying-out faculty teaching time to provide capacity to conduct research and mentor graduate equipment and/or explore new research topics, and travel support for faculty to conduct field work or attend international research-related conferences. Based on estimated award amounts ranging from \$5K to 30K, this investment will support up to 600 individual faculty grants or support incentives. While a relatively modest portion of the overall budget, this investment will be critical for keeping faculty engaged and motivated to help UAF achieve R1 status.

*Graduate School, Technology Tools, and Staff Support* will allow the Graduate School and related departments to increase efficiency related to tracking graduate student admissions, retention, graduation, and job placement and other support services for graduate student success. This support can help build capacity and improve efficiency of relevant departments to ensure that the needs associated with a higher volume and faster degree completion rates of PhD students can be met.

*Recruitment, Graduate Student Visits, Enrollment Outreach and Marketing* efforts are necessary and long-term commitment to graduate students. An organized prospective graduate student visitation weekend will help bring competitive prospective graduate students to UAF to learn and see first-hand the opportunities and environment they will be working in. These visits are a great opportunity to draw research talent to Alaska and is a common recruitment strategy used by R1 universities, coupled with strategic enrollment marketing communications. Depending on travel costs and cost-sharing opportunities, these awards will support up to 200 individual UAF student visits, and help reach prospective students in-state, out-of-state, or internationally and increase overall graduate student enrollment.