

Bridging the Gap: Deferrals, Leaves, and Skipped Cohorts

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UAA

1000 faculty

14,000+ undergraduates

600+ graduate students

~36% identify as non-white

~8% Alaska Native

Primarily commuters

Military Friendly School



ANCHORAGE

Largest city in Alaska

Home to 40% of all
Alaskans

Highly diverse population

Location of state's largest
university-UAA



UAA GRADUATE SCHOOL

22 master's programs
10 master's certificates
2 doctoral programs
4 collaborative degrees
75% part-time students



The Context: ALASKA

663.000,000 sq. miles

Pop. 733, 391

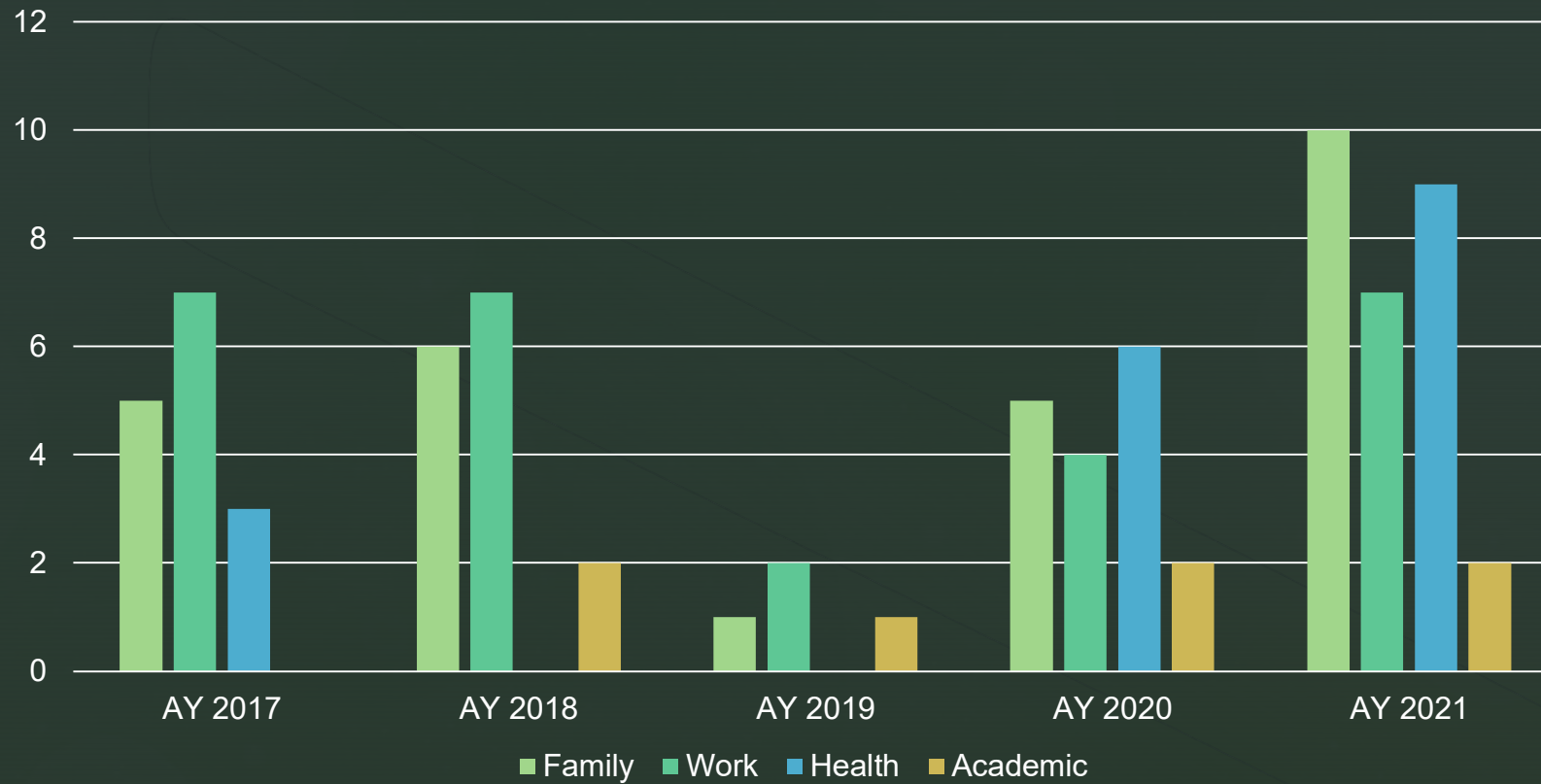
Three major cities

More than 200 remote
villages

High wage jobs requiring
minimal formal education



Trends in Leaves of Absence AY 2017-2021



How is UAA Accommodating Leaves of Absence?

- Reassuring faculty/administrators that enrollment disruptions are temporary
- Offering workshops on teaching
- Hosting Graduate Education Learning Community addressing admission standards, scholarly projects, and advancing graduate education
- Exploring approaches to incentivize enrollment and support persistence including:
 - Incremental credentialing
 - Dual degrees offering greater scope of preparation

How Will Accommodations Shape Future Cohorts?



Increasing Leaves of Absence negatively impact semesters-to-degree metric

Students resuming their degree affect expected faculty workload

Conversations planned to appropriately revise success metric

Student workshops held addressing motivation, work-life balance, and skills needed for degree resumption

Would We Make the Same Decision Again?

Granting a Leave of Absence is essential to evoking student agency

Eliminating Continuous Registration Fee may reduce Leaves of Absence

Removing system for tracking student progress may lower persistence



Thank You

