

What is R1 status?

The Carnegie Classification is a national framework for categorizing universities in the United States. Under the Carnegie Classification system, doctoral-degree-granting research universities fall into one of three categories:

- Very high research activity (R1)
- High research activity (R2)
- Doctoral/professional universities (R3)

UAF today is classified as an R2 university, a distinction held by about 7% of universities nationally. Currently, only 4% of universities in the United States have R1 status. UAF's is aiming to achieve R1 status by 2027.

Why does R1 matter?

R1 status has the potential to transform Alaska's economy and support local businesses by attracting top tier talent to live and work in Alaska. This investment will help UAF attract the next generation of Alaska's workforce to meet our state's needs.

Some examples of the impacts of R1 on other universities include:

- 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 tripled research expenditures in the process of pursuing R1.
- University of Maine saw all-time highs in both enrollment and research expenditures in the year it transitioned to R1.

Increased research activity spurred by R1 efforts will advance knowledge in priority areas for Alaska, such as:

- Climate resilience
- Mitigating natural hazards
- Retaining and advancing Alaska Native Languages and Indigenous ways of knowing
- Improving the health of Alaskans and our environment
- Developing sustainable energy sources and infrastructure

R1 status will enhance UAF's competitiveness for external funding and attract top-tier faculty, staff and students. By pursuing R1, UAF is committed to advancing our capacity as Alaska's research flagship university, recruiting and retaining top tier faculty, advancing multi-disciplinary research, providing competitive funding for UAF students, and more.

How do we get to R1?

In order to reach R1 status, UAF must:

- Have at least \$50 million in annual research activity
UAF already exceeds Carnegie's R1 research expenditures threshold by nearly \$150 million.
- Award an average of 70 doctorates each year
UAF will need to approximately double our annual Ph.D. graduates in order to meet this threshold

UAF has requested \$20 million from the Alaska Legislature to help increase the number of incoming Ph.D. candidates and boost the number of annual graduates. These funds will be used to support recruitment, retention and mentorship of graduate students, and to strengthen doctoral programs to ensure UAF can sustain its R1 status in the future.

Further quantifying the economic return on investment for the \$20 million invested into UAF's R1 initiative is a priority. UAF plans to work with economic analysts in early 2024 to further refine.