

Dr. Ken Warden
Commissioner

Dr. Jim Carr
AHECB Chair

ARKANSAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD

REGULAR QUARTERLY MEETING

APRIL 24, 2026



Arkansas Division of Higher Education

4 Capitol Mall, Box 21 | Little Rock, AR 72201 | (501) 371-2000

ARKANSAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD

REGULAR QUARTERLY MEETING

**Ozarka College
Student Service Center
Dawe and Centennial Community Rooms
218 College Drive
Melbourne, AR 72556**

SCHEDULE

Friday, April 24, 2026

Call to Order at 9:00 a.m.

Convene Coordinating Board Meeting

ARKANSAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD REGULAR QUARTERLY MEETING

Friday, April 24, 2026

Ozarka College

AGENDA

1. Welcome by Dr. Josh Wilson
- *2. Approve Minutes of January 23, 2026, Regular Meeting (Chair Jim Carr)
3. Commissioner's Report (Dr. Ken Warden)

REPORTS/POLICIES

4. Annual Report on Student Retention and Graduation (Mrs. Sonia Hazelwood)
5. Annual Report on Student-Athlete Retention and Graduation (Mrs. Hazelwood)
- *6. Rules Governing Residency Classification for State-funded Scholarships at State Supported Institutions of Higher Education (Mrs. Alisha Lewis)
- *7. Rules Governing the Arkansas Workforce Challenge Scholarship Program (Mrs. Lewis)
- *8. Rules Governing the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program (Mrs. Lewis)
- *9. Rules Governing Arkansas Access to Acceleration Scholarship Program (Mrs. Lewis)
- *10. Rules Governing Uniform Course Credit for Institutions of Higher Education (Mrs. Lewis)
- *11. Rules Governing the Teacher Opportunity Program (Mrs. Lewis)
- *12. Rules Governing the Arkansas Teacher Academy Scholarship Program (Mrs. Lewis)
- *13. Policy Regarding the Arkansas Workforce Challenge Scholarship Program (Dr. Tina Moore)
- *14. General Education Policy (Mr. Mason Campbell)
15. Certificate of General Studies (Mr. Campbell)

FINANCE

- *16. Distribution of Mineral Lease Funds (Mr. Nick Fuller)
- *17. Economic Feasibility of Bond Issue by University of Arkansas, Fayetteville (Mr. Fuller)

ACADEMICS

- *18. New Program: Associate of Applied Science in Artificial Intelligence
Northwest Arkansas Community College (Mr. Campbell)
- *19. New Program: Associate of Applied Science in Nursing
South Arkansas College (Mr. Campbell)
- *20. New Program: Master of Library and Information Studies in Library and Information
Studies by University of Arkansas Fayetteville (Mr. Campbell)
- *21. New Program: Master of Science in Outdoor Recreation and Sport Tourism
University of Arkansas Fayetteville (Mr. Campbell)
- *22. New Program: Bachelor of Science in Artificial Intelligence
University of Arkansas Little Rock (Mr. Campbell)
- *23. New Program: Master of Science in Cybersecurity
University of Arkansas Little Rock (Mr. Campbell)
- *24. Cyber Learning Network Consortium: Certificate of Proficiency in Artificial
Intelligence, Technical Certificate in Artificial Intelligence, Certificate of Proficiency in
Software Engineering, Technical Certificate in Software Engineering, Certificate of
proficiency in Cyber-Informed Engineering (Mr. Campbell)
- 25. Arkansas Public Institutions Letters of Notification (Mrs. Tracy Harrell)
- 26. Arkansas Public Institutions Letters of Intent (Mrs. Harrell)
- *27. Out-of-State and Arkansas Private Institutions (Mrs. Colburn)
- 28. Out-of-State and Arkansas Private Institutions Letters of Notification (Mrs. Colburn)
- 29. Out-of-State and Arkansas Private Institutions Letters of Intent (Mrs. Colburn)

Agenda Item No. 1
Higher Education Coordinating Board
April 24, 2026

Welcome

Dr. Josh Wilson, president of Ozarka College, will provide a welcome.

ARKANSAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD
Regular Quarterly Meeting
January 23, 2026

Minutes of Meeting

The January 23, 2026, regular meeting of the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) was held at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. Chair Jim Carr called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m., with a quorum present.

Coordinating Board present:

Dr. Jim Carr, Chair
Lucas Pointer, Vice Chair
Dr. Katherine Dudley, Secretary
Graycen Bigger

Coordinating Board absent:

Dr. Jerry Cash
Heather Maxey
Carolyn Rhinehart

Presidents, chancellors, institutional representatives, members of the press, ADHE staff and guests were also present.

Agenda Item No. 1
Welcome

Chair Carr began by calling on Chancellor Christina Drale for a welcome. Dr. Drale welcomed Coordinating Board members, ADHE staff, and presidents and chancellors to the UALR campus, highlighting the institution's numerous facility upgrades and announcing the February launch of the Cyberspace Operations, Research, and Education (CORE) Center.

Next, Chair Carr introduced Arkansas' Secretary of Education Jacob Oliva and ADE's Press Secretary Kaelin Clay.

Agenda Item No. 2
Approval of Minutes

Graycen Bigger moved to approve Agenda Item No. 2. Lucas Pointer seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 3
Report of Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee (Lucas Pointer, Dr. Katherine Dudley and Carolyn Rhinehart) recommended the following slate of Board officers for 2026-2027.

Chair – Dr. Jim Carr
Vice Chair – Lucas Pointer
Secretary/Treasurer – Dr. Katherine Dudley

Graycen Bigger moved to accept the 2026-2027 nominations. Dr. Katherine Dudley seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 4
Reimbursement of Expenses for
Members of the AHECB and ICAC

Although members of the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board and its Institutional Certification Advisory Committee (ICAC) by law serve without compensation, they may receive expense reimbursement for performing official board duties after following certain procedures set out by Act 1211 of 1995 (A.C.A. §25-16-901 et seq.).

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board, by a majority vote of its total membership, authorizes expense reimbursement for each board member and member of the ICAC for performing official board duties.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the expense reimbursement shall not exceed the rate established for state employees by state travel regulations.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Coordinating Board instructs the Director of the Division of Higher Education to send a copy of this resolution to the Department of Finance and Administration to notify that agency of compliance with Act 1211 of 1995.

Lucas Pointer moved to approve Agenda Item No. 4. Dr. Katherine Dudley seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 5
Commissioner's Report

Institutional Changes

Dr. Ricky Tompkins has been named the next chancellor of the University of Arkansas Hope-Texarkana (UAHT), beginning on February 1.

Tompkins currently serves as vice president for technical education and workforce development at North Arkansas College. He has worked with multiple institutions and has brought decades of experience in higher education leadership across Arkansas.

Staff Changes

Jason Kunau joined ADHE as our new Finance Controller. He began on January 20th. Jason previously served as the CFO for Arkansas PBS.

Tony Williams Update

Tony Williams, Director of the Arkansas Student Loan Authority (ASLA), provided an update on student loan programs, including recent developments, borrower trends, and ongoing efforts to support student access and affordability across the state.

Agenda Item No. 6
University of Arkansas System Update

The University of Arkansas System President Jay Silveria presented an update on the UA System. President Silveria began by thanking the AHECB and Secretary Oliva for all they do for education in Arkansas. He then explained that the UA System manages a total systemwide budget of more than \$4.2 billion and employs nearly 27,000 Arkansans. Its benefits plan covers more than 35,000 individuals, and the system enrolls nearly 70,000 students. Over the past five years, its institutions have awarded more than 100,000 degrees and certificates, helping to ensure better futures for Arkansans and their communities.

Agenda Item No. 7
Annual Report on Institutional Certification

Alana Colburn presented an update on the number of Arkansas residents pursuing academic degrees offered by out-of-state or private institutions certified to operate in Arkansas under Arkansas Code Annotated §6-61-301.

Boles reported that in 2024-25, 8 Arkansas campuses, 36 institutions with programs delivered only through distance technology, 5 institutions offering programs both on Arkansas campuses and through distance technology and 3 institutions offering programs only on an Arkansas campus, were certified under ICAC rules.

There were no questions.

Agenda Item No. 8
Report on Academic Program Viability

Mason Campbell presented a summary report on academic programs reviewed by the institutions for program viability purposes. ADHE staff annually identify existing certificate and degree programs that do not meet AHECB program viability standards. New certificates and associate degrees will be identified for program viability standards after three years, and bachelor's degrees and above will be identified after five years.

Graycen Bigger thanked ADHE staff for their work on the program, emphasizing the importance of maintaining a strong focus on students and ensuring programs provide clear, viable pathways.

Agenda Item No. 9
Annual Enrollment Report

Sonia Hazelwood reported that the total unduplicated headcount for the fall 2025 term in all sectors of Arkansas higher education, including public 4-year universities, public 2-

year colleges, private and independent colleges and universities, two nursing schools, and one technical institute was 160,453 students.

Arkansas higher education reported its highest ever fall term headcount in fall 2011 of 173,887 unduplicated students, likely in response to the recession of 2008. After that, headcount started a ten-year downward trend where the last two years of that ten-year period were impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. Headcount fell to 145,683 in fall 2021, which is comparable to headcount reported in fall terms of 2007 and 2008. The fall 2025 statewide headcount of 160,453, finally surpassed the pre-pandemic fall 2019 headcount of 156,064.

Chair Carr inquired whether Arkansas is experiencing the enrollment cliff, and Sonia Hazelwood indicated that the state has not yet seen its impact.

Agenda Item No. 10 Report on College-Going Rate

Sonia Hazelwood reported that of the 35,057 public high school students graduating from an Arkansas public high school in 2025, 14,762 enrolled at an Arkansas public or private/independent institution in fall 2025 immediately following their high school graduation. This represents a College-Going Rate of 42.1%, which is consistent with the 42% reported since the fall 2021 term.

There were no questions.

Agenda Item No. 11 Annual Higher Education Financial Condition Report

Nick Fuller presented the Annual Higher Education Financial Condition Report. The purpose of this report is to describe the financial condition as well as the difficulties and challenges experienced by Arkansas's Public Institutions of Higher Education. It is recommended that ADHE continue to work with institutions to monitor and refine the Productivity Funding Model policies to ensure adequate funding is available to meet student needs, innovation is encouraged, and that the policies continue to respond to attainment goals and priorities of the state. AHECB, ADHE and institutions of higher education work with the legislature toward alignment of institutional funding policies, state financial aid policies, and tuition policies in a way that prioritizes higher education affordability.

There were no questions.

Agenda Item No. 12 Maintenance Report

The AHECB policy for maintenance of new facilities passed October 29, 2010, states that a report on the amount transferred to plant funds would be presented annually at the October Board meeting. This policy was proposed to ensure that in the future, all newly constructed or purchased facilities will have a source of funding for maintenance of the new facility. Institutions seeking approval of a loan or a bond issue for the

construction or purchase of a new facility must provide for the maintenance of that facility by transferring annually to plant funds an amount as recommended by the Association of Physical Plant Administrators of Universities and Colleges (APPA). This is currently \$2.50 per gross square foot for an educational and general facility or \$1.25 per gross square foot for an auxiliary facility. A lower rate per gross square foot for a specific building/facility can be approved with appropriate justification.

There were no questions.

Agenda Item No. 13
Recommendations or Educational and General Operations
State-Supported Institutions of Higher Education

A.C.A. §6-61-234 (Act 148 of 2017) directs the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) to adopt policies developed by the Arkansas Division of Higher Education (ADHE) necessary to implement a productivity-based funding model for state-supported institutions of higher education.

For the universities, a net 2.00% change in funding is recommended for a total change in university funding of \$8,801,648.

For the two-year colleges, a net 2.000% change in funding is recommended for a total change in two-year college funding of \$2,933,138.

For the non-formula entities, the recommendation is for a 3.4% increase based on the HEPI index and a recommendation of full funding of Operations and Program Enhancement requests which combined would require an additional \$28.08 million, of which \$3.4 million would be for the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS).

There were no questions.

Dr. Katherine Dudley moved to approve Agenda Item No. 13. Lucas Pointer seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 14
Personal Services Recommendations

A.C.A. §6-61-209 requires the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board to present a consolidated budget request from the state-supported colleges and universities to the General Assembly and the Governor prior to each regular session of the General Assembly. As part of this process, the quantity of positions, titles, and line-item maximum salaries for all non-classified administrative, academic, and auxiliary positions at each Arkansas public institution of higher education have been reviewed, and changes are recommended.

Institutions of higher education, apart from UAMS, have 27,144 positions currently authorized. For the 2026-27 Fiscal Year, institutions requested an increase of 49 positions and the deletion of 32 positions, for a net new request of 17 positions. ADHE staff recommends this net increase of 17 positions, for a total recommendation of 27,161 positions (a 0.1 percent increase). UAMS currently has 12,874 authorized positions and did not request any changes. ADHE staff recommends the current level of 12,874 positions.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board adopts the recommended number of positions, titles, and maximum salaries for non-classified positions in academic, administrative, and auxiliary positions for the 2026-27 fiscal year as recommended by staff.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Commissioner of the Arkansas Division of Higher Education is authorized to make technical corrections consistent with Coordinating Board action.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Coordinating Board requests the Commissioner to transmit the Personal Services recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly for consideration for the 2026-27 fiscal year.

There were no questions.

Graycen Bigger moved to approve Agenda Item No. 14. Dr. Katherine Dudley seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 15
Economic Feasibility of Debt Issue
Southern Arkansas University

Southern Arkansas University Magnolia (SAUM) requests approval of the economic feasibility of plans to secure auxiliary refunding bonds not to exceed \$23.775 million with a term of thirty (30) years at an estimated annual interest rate of 4.85 percent. Proceeds from the bond issue will be used for auxiliary purposes. The Southern Arkansas University Board of Trustees approved this financing at its meeting on October 8, 2025.

The auxiliary bond issue will be approximately \$23.775 million with an annual debt service of \$5,389,981 and a term of thirty (30) years. Proceeds will be used to refund the 2015, 2016 and the 2018A series bonds, with no new funds issued. These bonds were secured through a privatized housing agreement with SAUM's Alumni Association. The existing obligation and the related assets will be transferred to the University.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board considers the economically feasible plans for Southern Arkansas University Magnolia (SAUM) to secure auxiliary refunding bonds in an amount not to

exceed \$23.775 million with a term of thirty (30) years at an estimated annual interest rate of 4.85 percent. Proceeds will be used to refund the 2015, 2016 and the 2018A series bonds, with no new funds issued.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Commissioner of the Arkansas Division of Higher Education is authorized to notify the President and the Chair of the Board of Trustees of Southern Arkansas University System and Southern Arkansas University Magnolia (SAUM) of the Coordinating Board's resolution.

There were no questions.

Lucas Pointer moved to approve Agenda Item No. 15. Dr. Katherine Dudley seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 16
Economic Feasibility of Loan Issue
Arkansas State University-Jonesboro

Arkansas State University-Jonesboro (ASUJ) requests approval of the economic feasibility of plans to secure a loan from the College Savings Bond Revolving Loan Fund (CSBRLF) not to exceed \$2.5M with a term of ten (10) years with an annual interest rate not to exceed 0.2 percent. Proceeds from the loan will be used for educational and general purposes (E&G). The Board of Trustees of Arkansas State University-System approved this financing at its meeting on December 12, 2025.

The E&G CSBRLF loan issue will not exceed \$2.5M with an estimated annual debt service of \$251,094 and a term of ten (10) years. Proceeds from the loan will be used for the construction of an Equine Barn and a Bovine Barn, and for the replacement of the Dean B. Ellis Library Chiller at ASUJ. Coordinating Board policy regarding debt service for E&G projects provides that a maximum of 25 percent of net tuition and fee revenue may be pledged to E&G debt service.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board considers economically feasible plans for Arkansas State University-Jonesboro (ASUJ) to obtain a loan from the College Savings Bond Revolving Loan Fund (CSBRLF) not to exceed \$2.5M million with a term of up to ten (10) years at an estimated annual interest rate of 0.2 percent to construct an Equine Barn and a Bovine Barn, and for the replacement of the Dean B. Ellis Library Chiller at ASUJ.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Commissioner of the Arkansas Division of Higher Education is authorized to notify the President and the Chair of the Board of Trustees of Arkansas State University-System (ASU-SYS) and the Chancellor of Arkansas State University-Jonesboro (ASUJ) of the Coordinating Board's resolution.

There were no questions.

Dr. Katherine Dudley moved to approve Agenda Item No. 16. Lucas Pointer seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 17
Economic Feasibility of Bond Issue
Arkansas State University-Jonesboro

Arkansas State University-Jonesboro (ASU) requests approval of the economic feasibility of plans to issue bonds not to exceed \$16 million with a term of fifteen (15) years at an estimated annual interest rate of 4.5 percent. Proceeds from the bond issue will be used for auxiliary purposes. The Arkansas State University System Board of Trustees approved this financing at its meeting on December 12, 2025.

The auxiliary issue will be up to \$16 million with a total maximum annual debt service of \$1,489,821 and a term of fifteen (15) years. Proceeds from the bond issue will be used to renovate Kays Hall.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board considers economically feasible plans for Arkansas State University-Jonesboro (ASUJ) to issue bonds not to exceed \$16 million with a term of fifteen (15) years at an estimated annual interest rate of 4.5 percent to renovate Kays Hall.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Commissioner of the Arkansas Division of Higher Education is authorized to notify the President and the Chair of the Board of Trustees of Arkansas State University-System and the Chancellor of Arkansas State University-Jonesboro of the Coordinating Board's resolution.

There were no questions.

Dr. Katherine Dudley moved to approve Agenda Item No. 17. Lucas Pointer seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 18
Technical Certificate in Precision Agriculture
Certificate of Proficiency in Precision Agriculture
Arkansas State University – Beebe

The administration of Arkansas State University Beebe (ASUB) and Board of Trustees of the Arkansas State University System request approval to offer the Technical Certificate in Precision Agriculture and Certificate of Proficiency in Precision Agriculture, effective Spring 2026.

The proposed Precision Agriculture program consists of a 31-credit-hour Technical Certificate and a 9-credit-hour Certificate of Proficiency both designed to meet growing

industry needs in technology-driven farming and agri-technology. This program's curriculum integrates plant and soil science, geospatial technologies, and agricultural systems with specialized training in GPS-guided equipment, unmanned aerial vehicles, control systems, and livestock monitoring tools. This blend of coursework and application will prepare students for entry-level employment in precision agriculture operations or for continued study in related degree programs.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the offering of the Technical Certificate in Precision Agriculture (CIP 01.0000) and Certificate of Proficiency in Precision Agriculture (CIP 01.0000) at Arkansas State University Beebe, effective Spring 2026.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Coordinating Board instructs the Commissioner of the Arkansas Division of Higher Education to inform the Chancellor of Arkansas State University Beebe and Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Arkansas State University System of the approval.

Dr. Blake Perkins, Chief Academic Officer, presented additional background information.

Graycen Bigger noted the letters of support from area high schools and asked whether the program would be primarily geared toward concurrent credit. Dr. Perkins responded that the focus is not primarily on current students, but rather on the introductory course.

Bigger observed that the farming industry has changed since 2023 and asked whether ASU-Beebe has discussed the future of agriculture, including hiring needs and wage projections for 2026–27. Dr. Perkins acknowledged the uncertainty but noted that the institution has maintained ongoing contact with local partners and is working to integrate this information into their program planning.

Bigger recommended that ASUB clearly market this program to their students.

Lucas Pointer moved to approve Agenda Item No. 18. Dr. Katherine Dudley seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 19

Associate of Applied Science in Farm and Ranch Management
Technical Certificate in Precision Agriculture
Certificate of Proficiency in Agriculture Drone Technology
University of Arkansas Community College Batesville

The administration of the University of Arkansas Community College Batesville (UACCB) and Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas System request approval to offer the Associate of Applied Science in Farm and Ranch Management (CIP 01.0104), Technical Certificate in Precision Agriculture (CIP 01.0000), and the Certificate of Proficiency in Agriculture Drone Technology (CIP 49.0109), effective Fall 2026.

The proposed Farm and Ranch Management program will provide students with stackable credentials that integrate applied learning with essential technical and business competencies, preparing graduates to successfully operate or support modern farm and ranch enterprises. The 60-credit-hour Associate of Applied Science in Farm and Ranch Management, a primarily hands-on program, will prepare students to manage crop or livestock production by integrating best practices of agriculture operation with practical tools to start or manage a small-scale farm business. The 30-credit-hour Technical Certificate in Precision Agriculture will provide students with foundational knowledge in safety principles and practices, equipment operation, maintenance, and repair, resource management, efficiency, and sustainability. The 12-credit-hour Certificate of Proficiency in Agriculture Drone Technology offers essential training in agricultural drone operations and precision agriculture tools. Together, these credentials will prepare graduates for entry-level employment in precision agriculture, farm operations, and related fields, while supporting a skilled workforce capable of meeting the technological demands of modern agriculture.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the offering of the Associate of Applied Science in Farm and Ranch Management (CIP 01.0104), Technical Certificate in Precision Agriculture (CIP 01.0000), and Certificate of Proficiency in Agriculture Drone Technology (CIP 49.0109) at the University of Arkansas Community College Batesville, effective Fall 2026.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Coordinating Board instructs the Commissioner of the Arkansas Division of Higher Education to inform the Chancellor of the University of Arkansas Community College Batesville and Chair of the Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas System of the approval.

Dr. Zach Perrine and Dr. Brian Shonk presented additional background information.

Dr. Katherine Dudley inquired about UACCB's strategy for recruiting students. Dr. Perrine responded that the college has already begun collaborating with local agriculture programs to identify students who may be interested in this program.

Graycen Bigger asked what portion of the poultry industry is involved in the program. Dr. Shonk explained that the farmland and poultry operations are connected.

Graycen Bigger moved to approve Agenda Item No. 19. Dr. Katherine Dudley seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Items No. 20 & 21
Arkansas Public Institutions
Letters of Notification and Letters of Intent

The Commissioner of the Arkansas Division of Higher Education approved institutional requests for new programs not requiring Board action unless further review is requested by the Board. During this period, the Institutional Certification Advisory Committee received notice of requests from Arkansas public institutions to offer degree programs. The program notice lists appear in the Arkansas Public Institutions Letters of Notification on pages 20-1 through 20-24 and in the Arkansas public institutions Letters of Intent on pages 21-1 of the agenda book.

There were no questions.

Agenda Item No. 22
Out-of-State and Arkansas Private Institutions

RESOLVED, That pursuant to A.C.A. §6-61-301, the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board grants initial certification to the institutions listed on pages 1 - 2 to offer the specified degree programs to Arkansas residents for a period of three years through December 31, 2029.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Commissioner of the Arkansas Division of Higher Education is authorized to notify the administration of said institutions that the certification of the degree programs requires the institution to notify the Arkansas Division of Higher Education whenever any of the following occurs: (1) major reorganization of the controlling body; (2) changes in the charter or incorporation documents of the institution; or (3) changes in the method of operation of the institution's programs in Arkansas.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Coordinating Board instructs the Commissioner to notify the administration of said institutions that any advertisement or published materials using the name of the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board or the Arkansas Division of Higher Education must contain the following statement:

Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board certification does not constitute an endorsement of any institution or program. Such certification merely indicates that certain criteria have been met as required under the rules and regulations implementing institutional and program certification as defined in A.C.A. §6-61-301.

Initial Program Certifications – Distance Technology

Evangel University, Springfield, Missouri
San Jose State University, San Jose, California
Walden University, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Initial Program Certifications – Arkansas Campus

Arkansas Colleges of Health Education, Fort Smith, Arkansas

Initial Program Certification – New Institution – Distance Technology

Community Christian College, Quartzsite, Arizona

Dr. Katherine Dudley moved to approve Agenda Item No. 22. Graycen Bigger seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Items No. 23 & 24
Out-of-State and Arkansas Private Institutions
Letters of Notification and Letters of Intent

The Commissioner of the Arkansas Division of Higher Education approved institutional requests for new programs not requiring Board action unless further review is requested by the Board. During this period, the Institutional Certification Advisory Committee received notice of requests from out-of-state and Arkansas private institutions to offer degree programs to Arkansas residents. The program notice lists appear in the Letters of Notification on pages 23-1 through 23-9 and in the Letters of Intent on page 24-1 of the agenda book.

There were no questions.

Remarks by Presidents/Chancellors and Guest

The next quarterly meeting will be held on April 24, 2026, at Ozarka College in Melbourne at 9:00 a.m.

With no further comments, the meeting was adjourned at 11:21 a.m.

SUBMITTED BY:

Nichole Abernathy

APPROVED:

Dr. Katherine Dudley, Secretary

REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER

CTE Day at the Capitol



On Tuesday, February 3, 2026, the Arkansas Department of Education's Division of Career and Technical Education (CTE) hosted CTE Day at the Capitol, showcasing a wide range of CTE programs. The event featured Career and Technical Student Organization (CTSO) state officers alongside dedicated CTE educators, highlighting the impact and importance of career-focused education across the state.

BRTC & WBU Partnership

On February 17, Black River Technical College (BRTC) and Williams Baptist University (WBU) formalized a partnership by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) aimed at strengthening workforce development in the region. Through this collaboration, both institutions will work together to develop shared degree programs and educational pathways, expand shared instruction and facilities, and enhance workforce support services.



Arkansas 250 Historical Marker

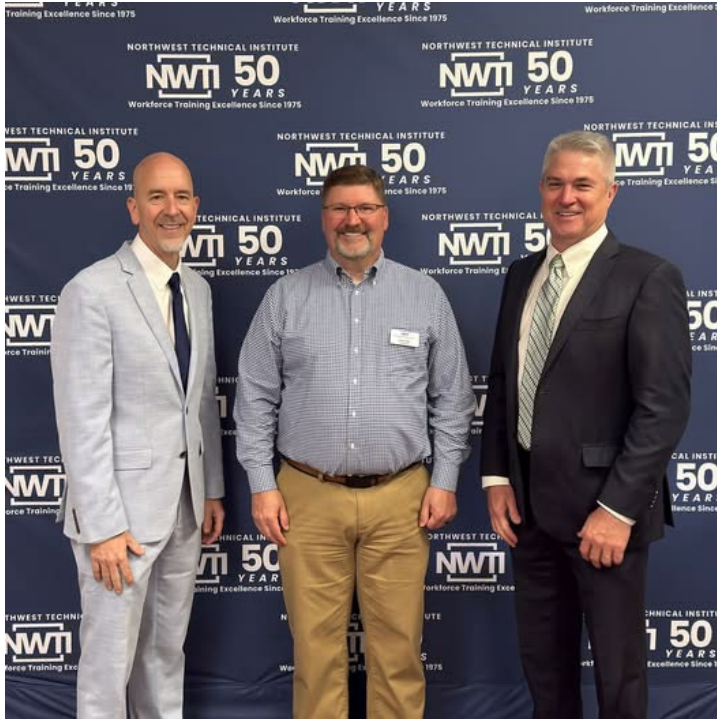
On March 6, the Arkansas250 Commission was proud to unveil the fourth Arkansas 250 historical marker at Arkansas Post Museum State Park. Arkansas Post stands as one of the oldest settlements in the Arkansas Grand Prairie and the first territorial capital of Arkansas. For generations, this place has been a crossroads of cultures, commerce, and conflict, shaping the story of our state and the nation. With the unveiling of this marker, we honor the enduring legacy of Arkansas Post and the role it played in the early foundations of Arkansas.



Veterans Training and Education

During the FY25 contract year, ADHE's State Approving Agency received the highest rating available for its successful completion of all contract requirements, reflecting a strong commitment to quality service and compliance. On October 1, 2025, an updated system—Enrollment Manager—was launched to enhance the experience for veterans. This system provides an improved platform for veterans to access information about school options and available benefits, helping them make more informed decisions. The agency has continued this high level of performance into the current contract year and has met all required benchmarks to date.

Northwest Technical Institute Visit



On March 11, Arkansas Secretary of Education Jacob Oliva and Arkansas Department of Higher Education Commissioner Ken Warden met with David Patty, President of Northwest Technical Institute, for a tour of the institution's new Ammonia Refrigeration facility. During the visit, they observed hands-on training environments designed to prepare students for high-demand careers in industrial refrigeration and discussed the program's role in supporting workforce development across the region. The tour highlighted the facility's state-of-the-art equipment, industry-aligned curriculum, and strong partnerships with employers, all of which

contribute to creating a skilled talent pipeline for Arkansas's growing technical workforce.

CPI/Perkins Updates

Class XII of the Facilitating Career Development program was completed in March. This program prepares high school career coaches, college career advisors, Arkansas Career Pathways Initiative (CPI) staff, and other college personnel to effectively guide students in making informed college and career decisions, while also preparing participants for professional certification. A total of thirty-eight individuals completed the program this year, bringing overall participation to 325 since its inception in 2015. The program is funded through the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act and the Arkansas Career Pathways Initiative.

CPI staff and supervisors will convene in Little Rock on April 14–15 for the annual CPI Workshop. Key topics will include workforce development partnerships, student success strategies, artificial intelligence, and mental health. The workshop will feature a keynote presentation on adaptive leadership by Dr. Jeff Aulgur of Arkansas Tech University.

CPI stakeholder meetings will be held in April with Southeast Arkansas College, National Park College, and ASU Three Rivers. These meetings will focus on identifying referral partners, expanding available resources for CPI students, and strengthening collaboration to better serve participants and support workforce outcomes.

HBCU Summit

On March 12, 2026, Arkansas leaders, including Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders and Commissioner Ken Warden attended Representative French Hill's HBCU summit at Arkansas Baptist College in North Little Rock to discuss opportunities and challenges facing historically Black colleges and universities in the state.



Engage Arkansas Update

Engage Arkansas continues to expand capacity and advance several strategic initiatives. They are currently awaiting a grant award decision from Education Design Lab for the *Advancing Workforce Mobility for STARs (Skilled Through Alternative Routes)* initiative, which would allow Engage Arkansas to assess and validate durable skills developed through AmeriCorps service in partnership with AR LAUNCH, America's Service Commissions, and three additional states. They are also awaiting implementation funding decisions for the Youth Mental Health Corps (funded by the Schultz Family Foundation and Pinterest), focused on improving youth behavioral health, and are working with Apprenticely and Arkansas Children's Hospital to develop a pathway that would allow YMHC service to function as a pre-apprenticeship leading into a registered apprenticeship after service.

EnageAR is actively administering the 2026–2027 AmeriCorps program grant competition, with eight organizations expressing interest in implementation grants and eight in planning grants to develop new programs. Later this spring, Engage Arkansas will apply for federal Volunteer Generation Funds for the first time, which will strengthen nonprofit volunteer capacity statewide, with an emphasis on disaster preparedness and response, including expanding active Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) in schools and on higher education campuses. All State AmeriCorps members recently completed the Stop the Bleed training, and the Arkansas Red Cross has expressed interest in partnering to train local members in disaster shelter management. The Red Cross may also pursue a planning grant to advance its partnership with AmeriCorps.

Finally, EngageAR is working with Arkansas Department of Higher Education leadership and ADE's CTE Pre-Educator Pathway Coordinator to design a State Service Corps focused on improving third grade reading outcomes. These efforts reflect continued momentum in aligning national service with Arkansas priorities in workforce development, education, youth behavioral health, and community resilience.

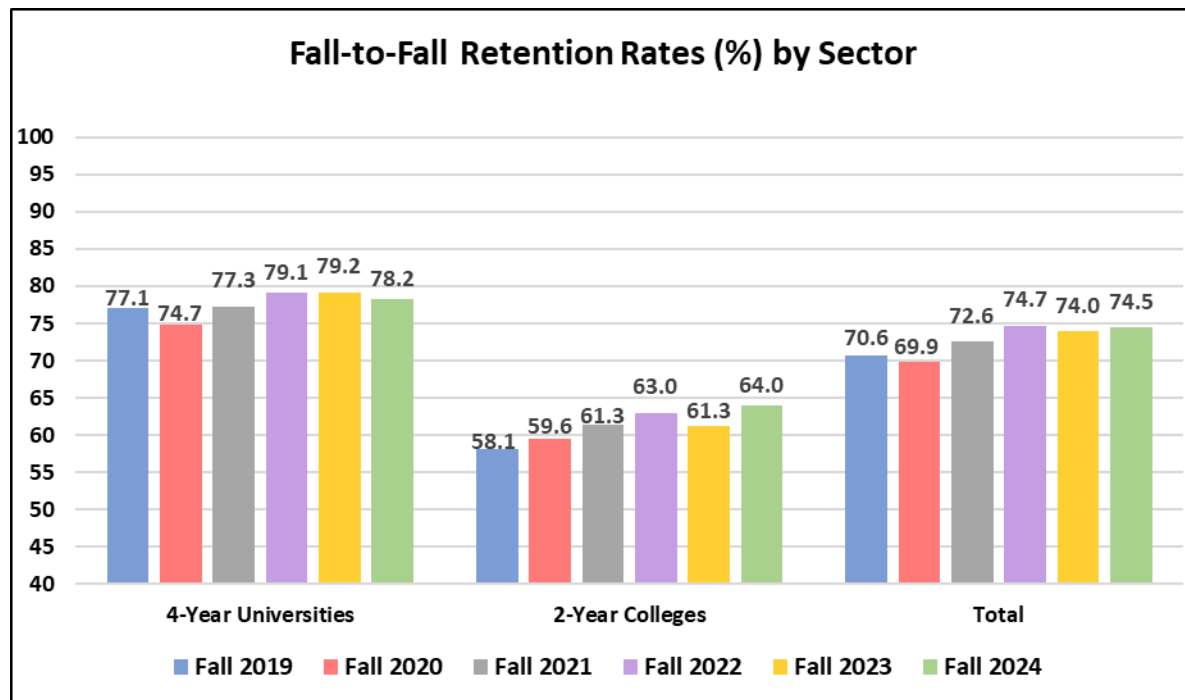
ANNUAL REPORT ON STUDENT RETENTION AND GRADUATION FOR ARKANSAS HIGHER EDUCATION

Statewide student retention and graduation rates for students entering Arkansas higher education institutions are presented in this report for both public 4-Year and 2-Year institutions, and private/independent institutions. The Arkansas Higher Education Information System (AHEIS) enables multi-year student retention and graduation tracking in compliance with Student-Right-to-Know legislation and Act 267 of 1989.

Statewide Retention

The retention calculations for the 4-year institutions are based on students in a fall term cohort of first-time in college, full-time, bachelor-seeking students who returned the fall term of the next academic year. For 2-year colleges, students who returned the next fall, as well as those who completed a credential by the next fall are included as part of the retention rate. The methodology used for this report closely aligns with IPEDS reporting.

The following chart represents the overall retention rate for the six most recent cohorts for the public institutions. The 4-year institutions reported a 1% decline in their retention rate, while the 2-year colleges showed an almost 3% increase in their retention rate. Statewide retention rates have remained steady at 74% for the past three years.

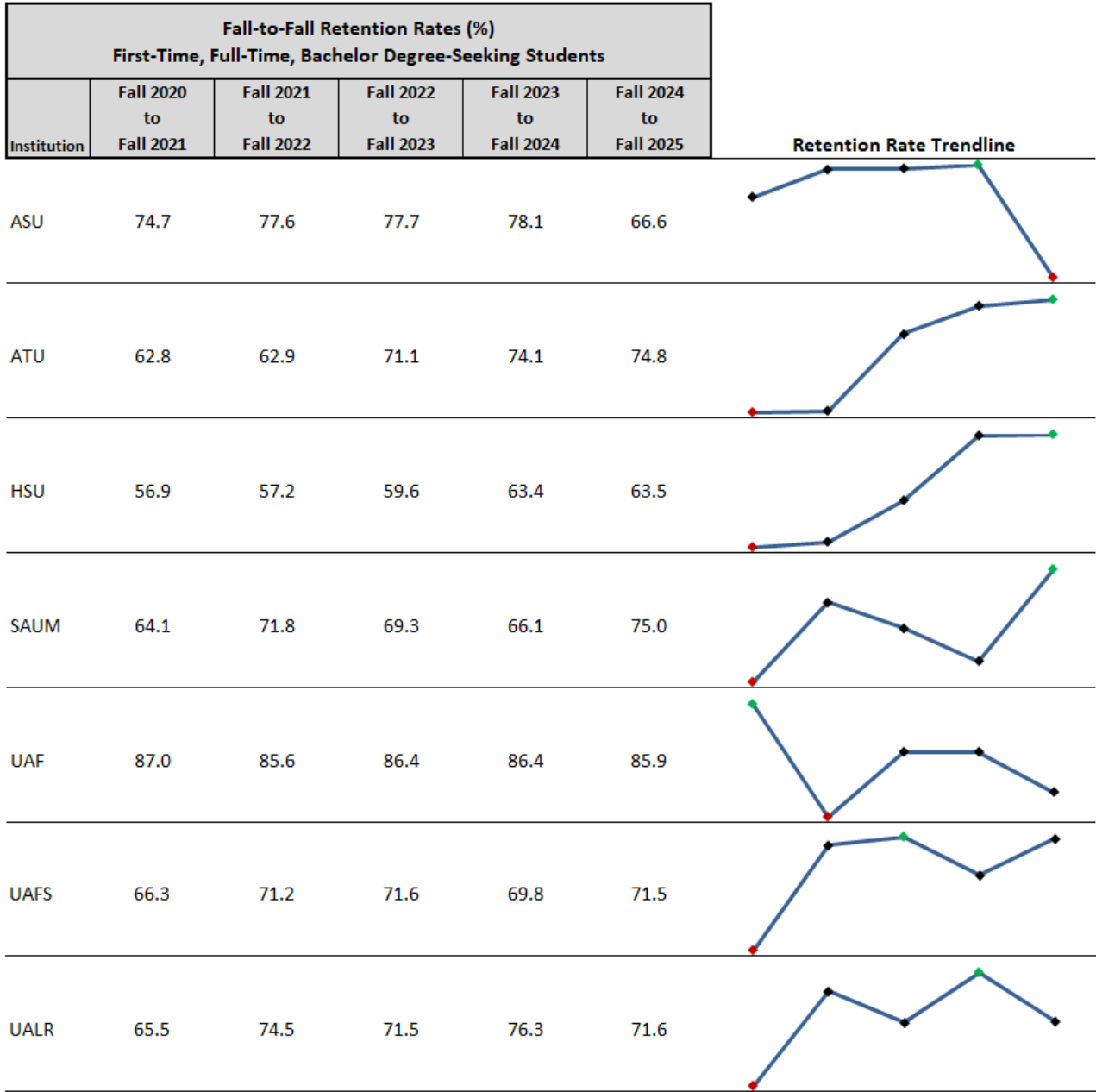


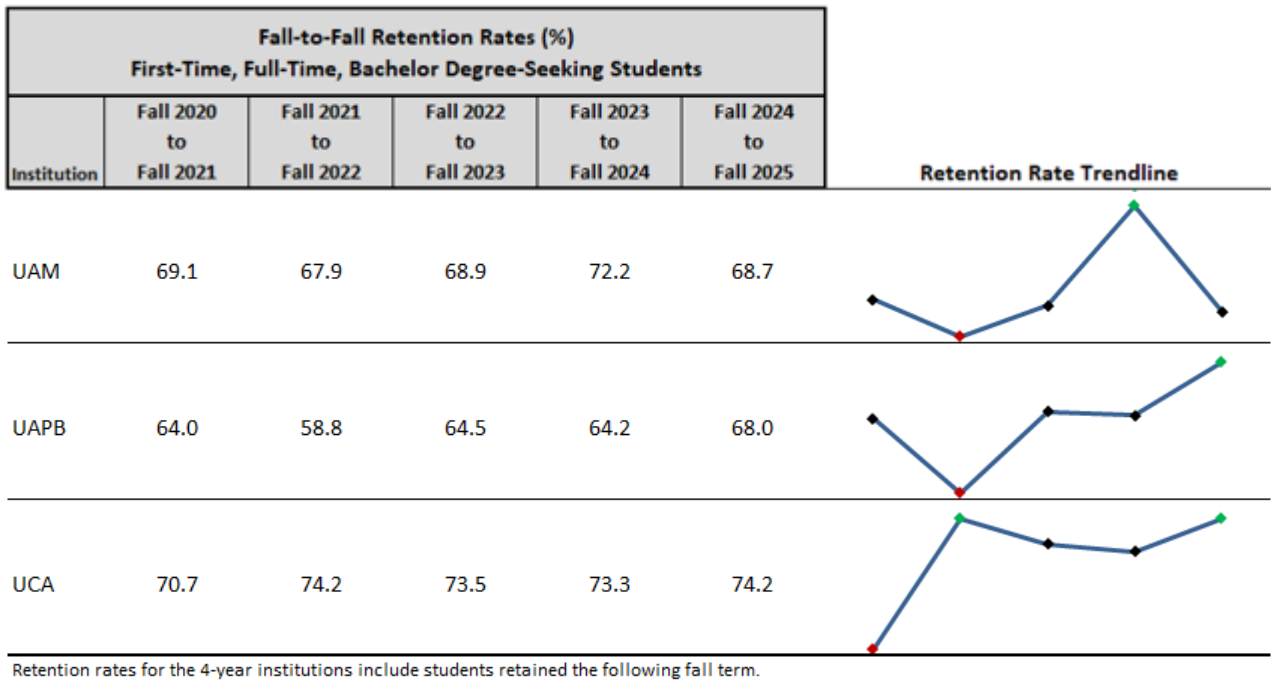
Retention Rates by University

Six 4-year universities reported an increase in the fall-to-fall retention rate when comparing the Fall 2023 cohort to the Fall 2024 cohort. Southern Arkansas University reported the largest increase of almost 9% and UA Pine Bluff reported a percentage change increase of almost 4% over last year.

Arkansas State University experienced an unusual 11.5% decline in their retention rate, which is specifically related to the uncertainties the international student population is experiencing nationwide.

4-Year Public Universities





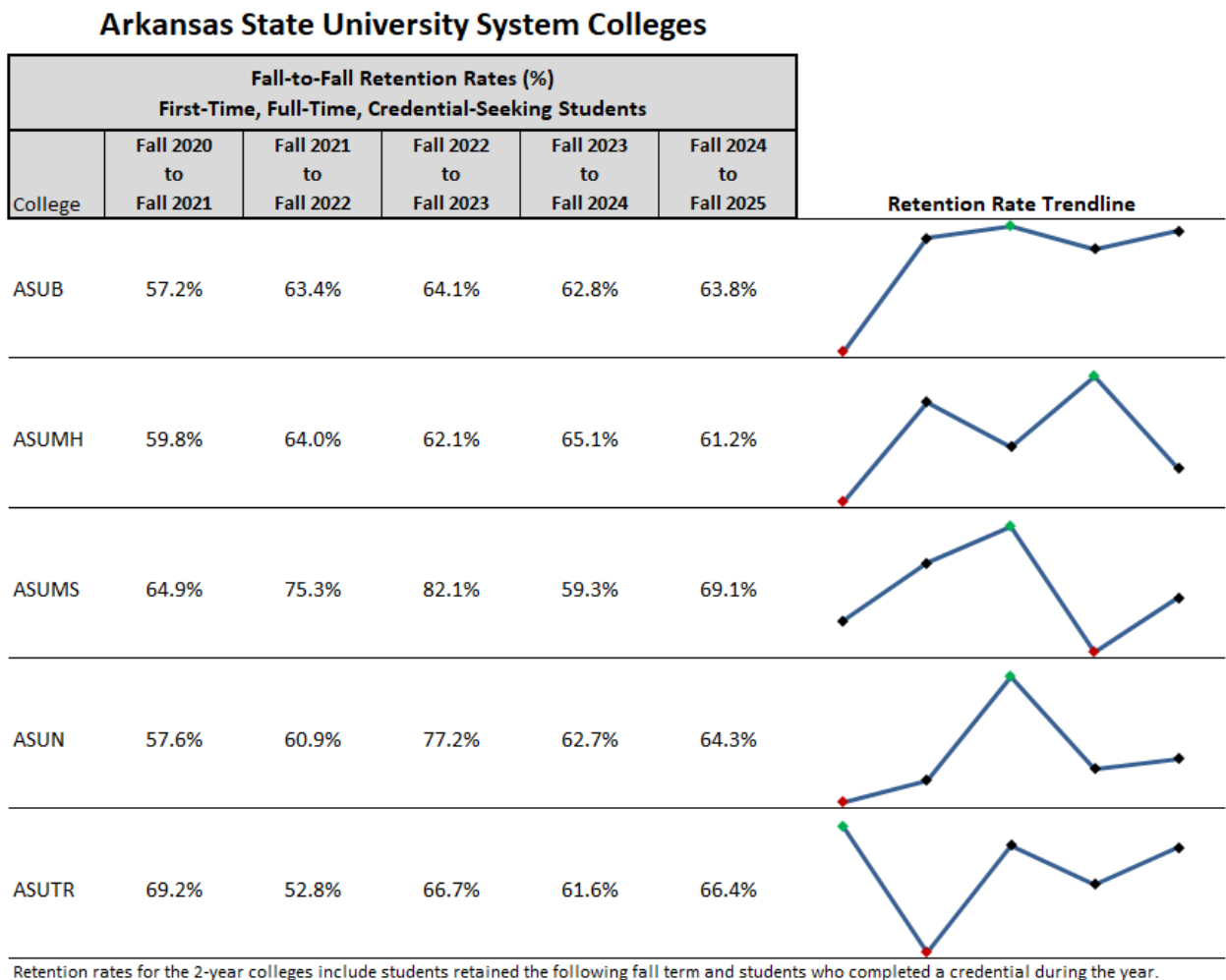
Retention Rates by College

Sixteen of the twenty-two 2-year colleges reported an increase in the fall-to-fall retention rate when comparing the Fall 2023 cohort to the Fall 2024 cohort. For 2-year colleges, students who returned the next fall, as well as those who completed a credential by the next fall are included as part of the retention rate.

For the Arkansas State University System, four of five colleges reported a higher retention rate for the most recent cohort, including ASU-Mid-South which showed an almost 10% increase in their retention rate.

Four of eight of the University of Arkansas System colleges reported retention rate increases including a 15% increase for UA Cossatot. UA Hope-Texarkana showed a 5.6% increase in their retention rate.

For the other nine non-system colleges, eight reported an increase in retention rates including double-digit increases for Ozarka College at 15%, South Arkansas College at 13.8% and Arkansas Northeastern College at 12.8%.



University of Arkansas System Colleges



Non-System Colleges

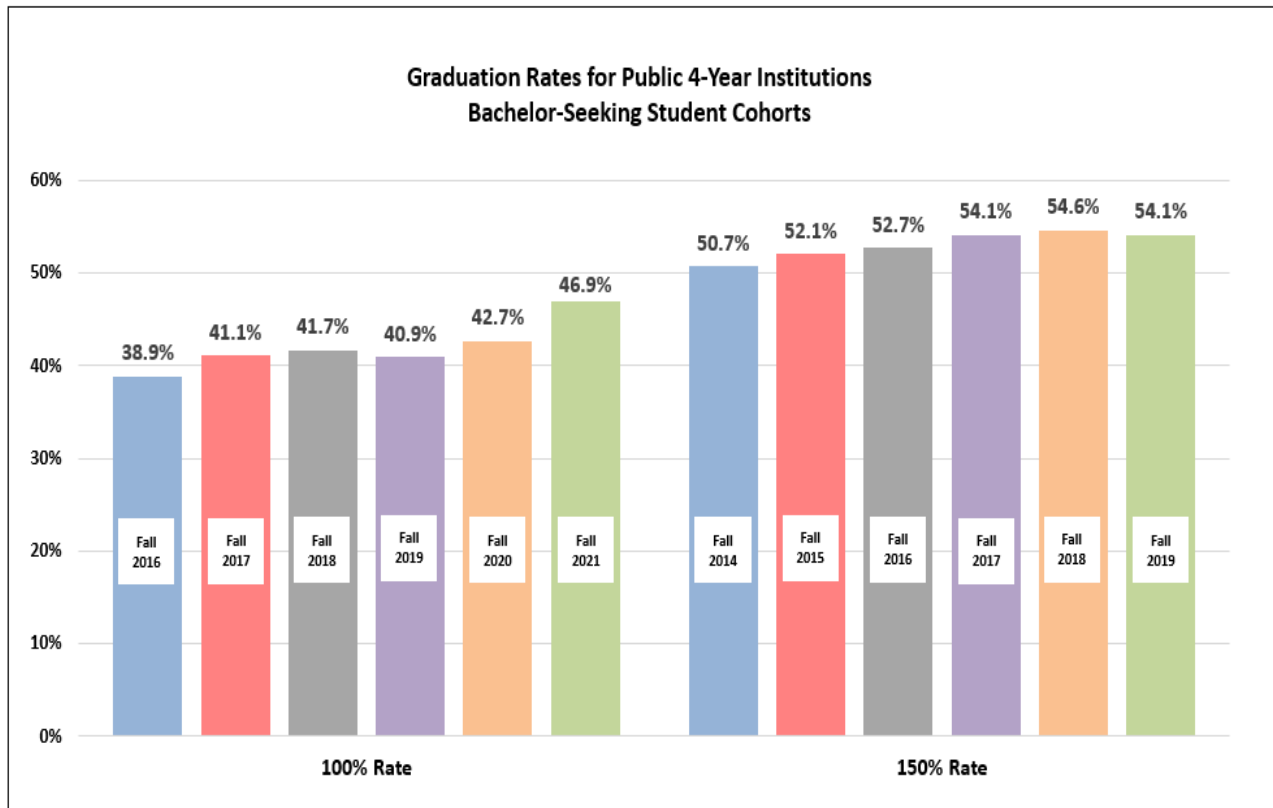


Retention rates for the 2-year colleges include students retained the following fall term and students who completed a credential during the year.

Statewide Graduation Rates

Graduation rates for our 4-year public and private/independent universities presented here are based on first-time in college, full-time, bachelor-seeking students. The following charts provide graduation rates for both students graduating in four years which is considered on-time (100% rate) and those graduating in six years (150% rate).

The 100% on-time graduation rate improved more than 4% for the Fall 2021 entering student cohort and is the highest reported 100% graduation rate. The 150% graduation rate of 54.1% is slightly lower than last year, but has consistently remained at 54% the past three cohorts.

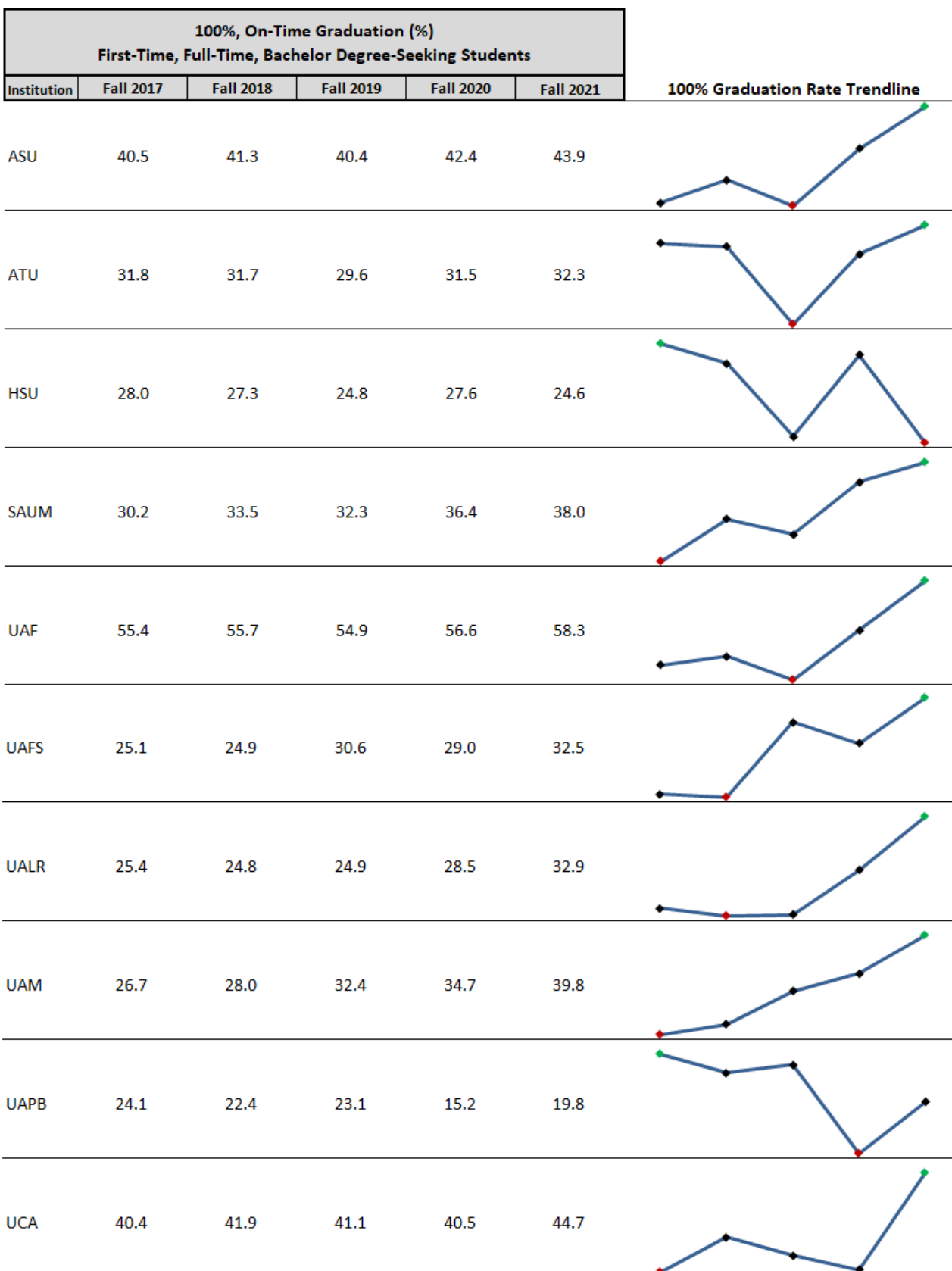


Graduation Rates by University

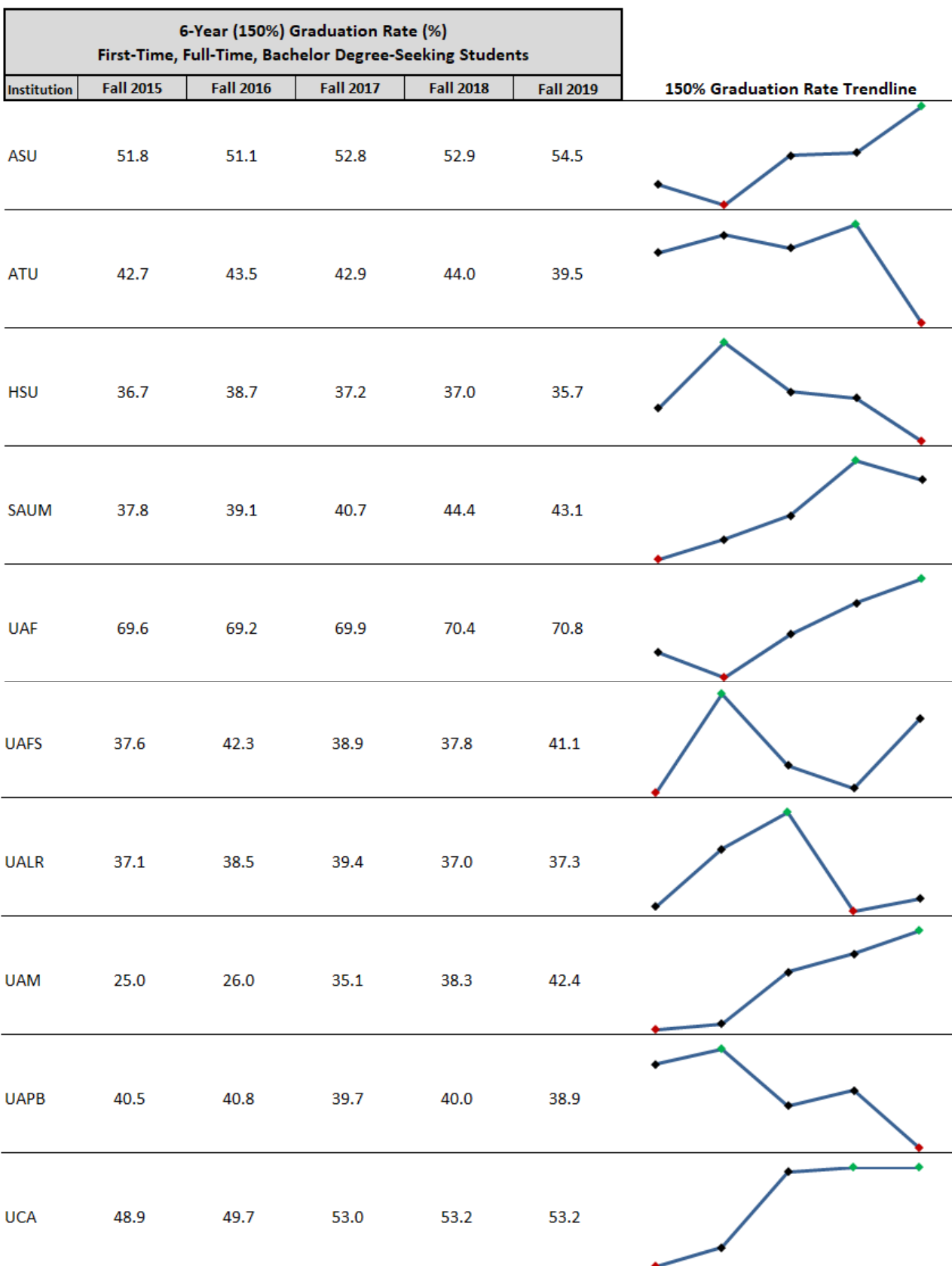
Nine of ten universities reported an increase in the 100% on-time graduation rate. Those increases ranged from 0.8 to 5.1% reported by the University of Arkansas at Monticello. Henderson State University reported the only 4-year institution decline in graduation rate of 3%.

Five of ten of the universities reported an increase in the 150% graduation rate ranging between 0.3% and 4.1%.

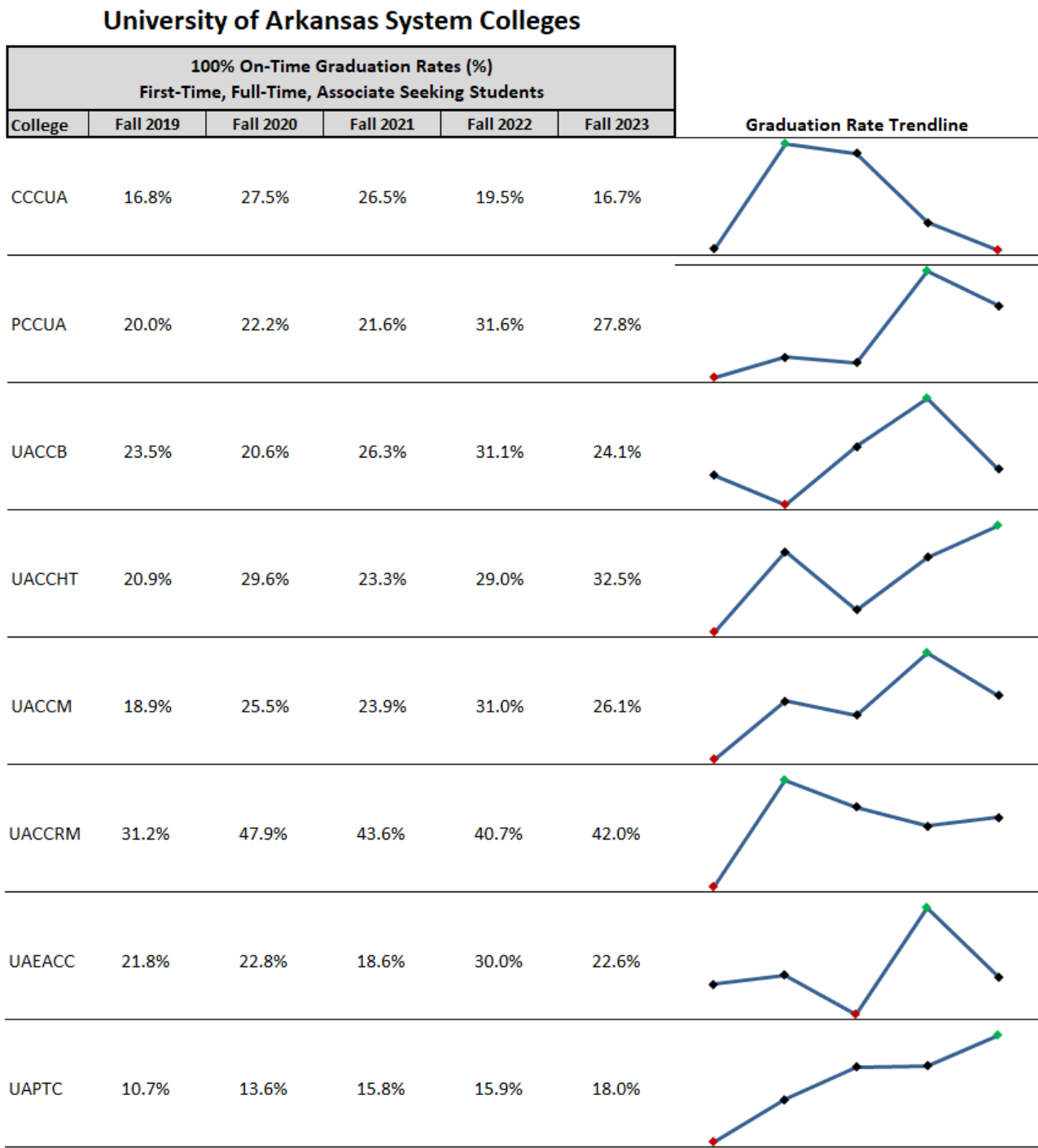
4-Year Public Universities



4-Year Public Universities



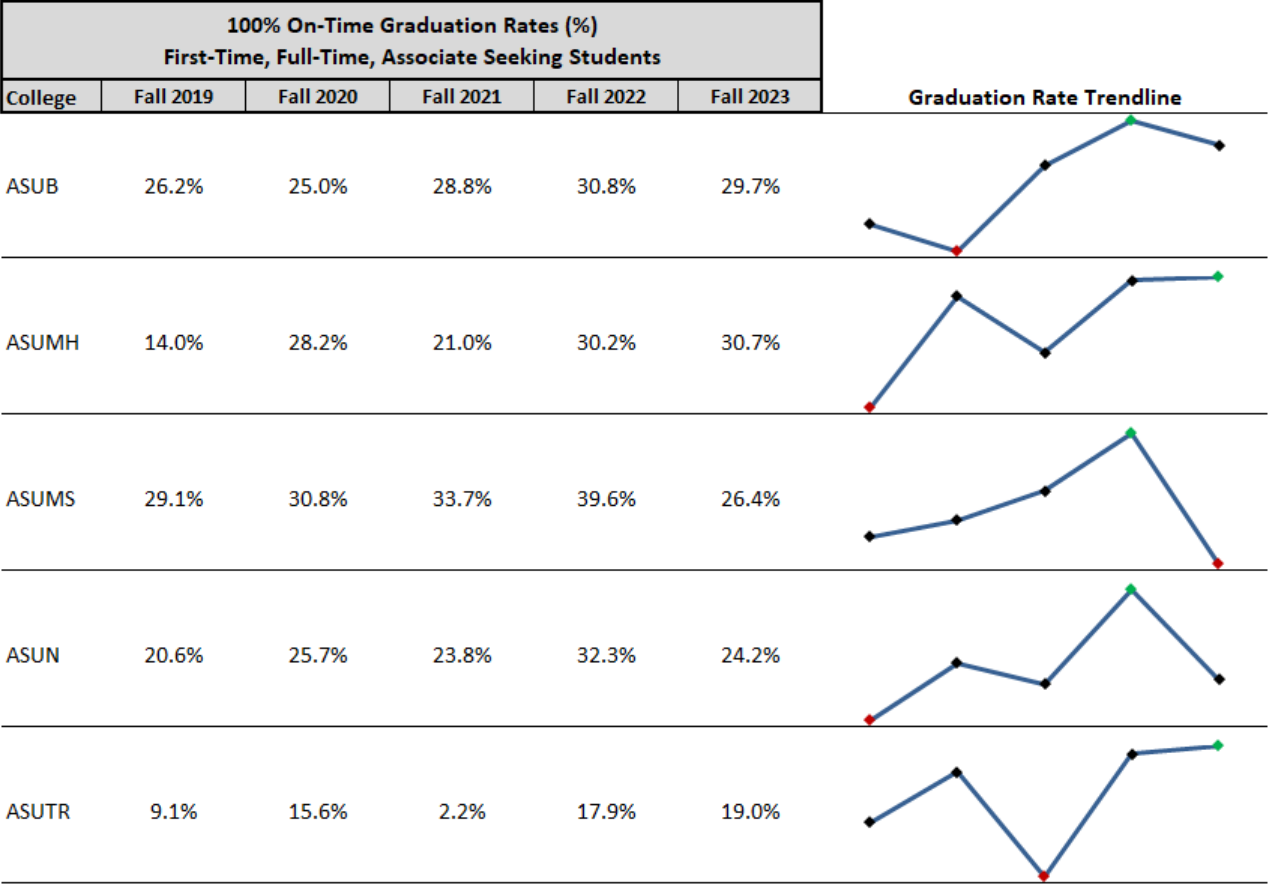
Nine 2-year colleges reported an increase in the 100% graduation rate, while 14 reported improvement in the 150% graduation rate.



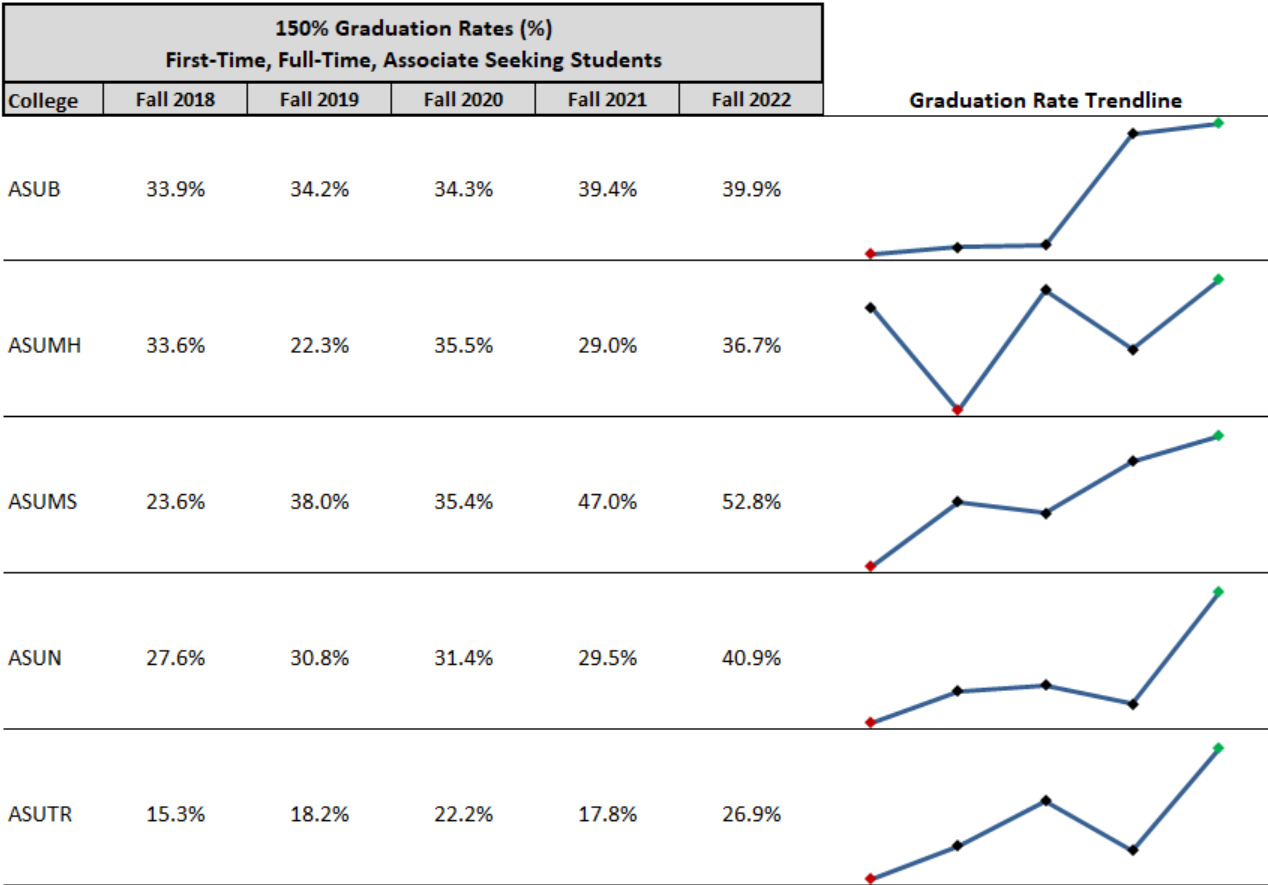
University of Arkansas System Colleges



Arkansas State University System Colleges



Arkansas State University System Colleges



Non-System Colleges



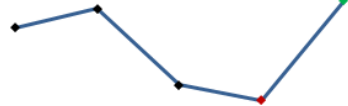
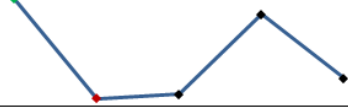
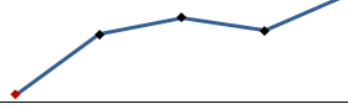
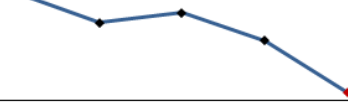
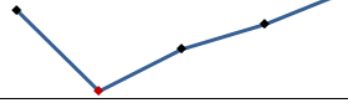
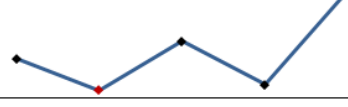
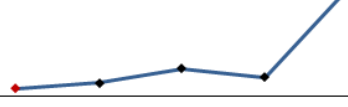
Non-System Colleges

150% Graduation Rates (%)					
First-Time, Full-Time, Associate Seeking Students					
College	Fall 2018	Fall 2019	Fall 2020	Fall 2021	Fall 2022



The next two tables provide graduation rate information for the private institutions.

4-Year Private Universities

100%, On-Time Graduation (%)						100% Graduation Rate Trendline
First-Time, Full-Time, Bachelor Degree-Seeking Students						
Institution	Fall 2017	Fall 2018	Fall 2019	Fall 2020	Fall 2021	
CBC	34.3	23.4	29.7	20.5	33.0	
CCC	-	17.6	7.7	22.2	10.0	
CRC	0.0	18.5	11.5	0.0	25.0	
EC	20.7	25.0	6.1	19.0	25.0	
HC	62.8	65.0	56.0	54.2	66.0	
HU	53.2	50.7	50.8	52.8	51.2	
JBU	54.6	61.8	63.8	62.3	66.7	
LC	42.6	37.6	39.2	34.6	26.1	
OBU	61.8	55.6	58.8	60.7	63.3	
PSU	21.3	19.0	22.6	19.4	26.4	
UO	31.1	31.9	34.1	32.8	46.6	
WBU	26.1	19.1	33.1	33.9	35.6	

4-Year Private Universities



ANNUAL REPORT ON PARTICIPATION, RETENTION AND GRADUATION OF STUDENT-ATHLETES

This report complies with Act 267 of 1989 that requires reporting of retention and graduation rates for first-time in college students who participate in Arkansas intercollegiate athletics. This information is collected through institutional data submissions to the Arkansas Higher Education Information System (AHEIS) from all public colleges and universities with athletic programs. In addition to retention and graduation rates, this report provides data on all athletic participation by sport and scholarship status. The NCAA transfer portal has impacted the retention and graduation rates contained in this report and it is recommended that official NCAA reports be used for research and policy decisions.

Methodology

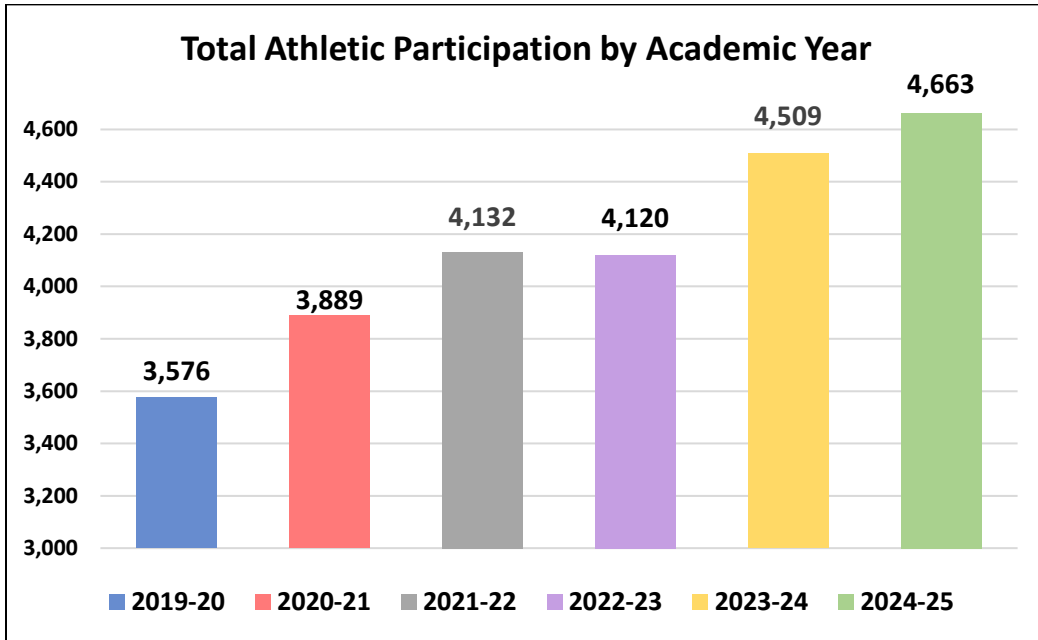
The retention calculations are based on fall-to-fall comparisons of the student-athletes in the cohort of first-time in college, full-time, and credential-seeking students from the fall term only. A student is considered retained if they returned to the same institution in the fall term of the next academic year.

Graduation rate calculations use the same cohort of first-time in college, full-time, credential-seeking student-athletes from the fall term. The graduation rates presented here include a 100% rate representing those graduating 'on time', and a 150% graduation rate. Graduation rates for all institutions are based on the highest credential the student-athlete received and the amount of time it takes to receive that credential up to 150%.

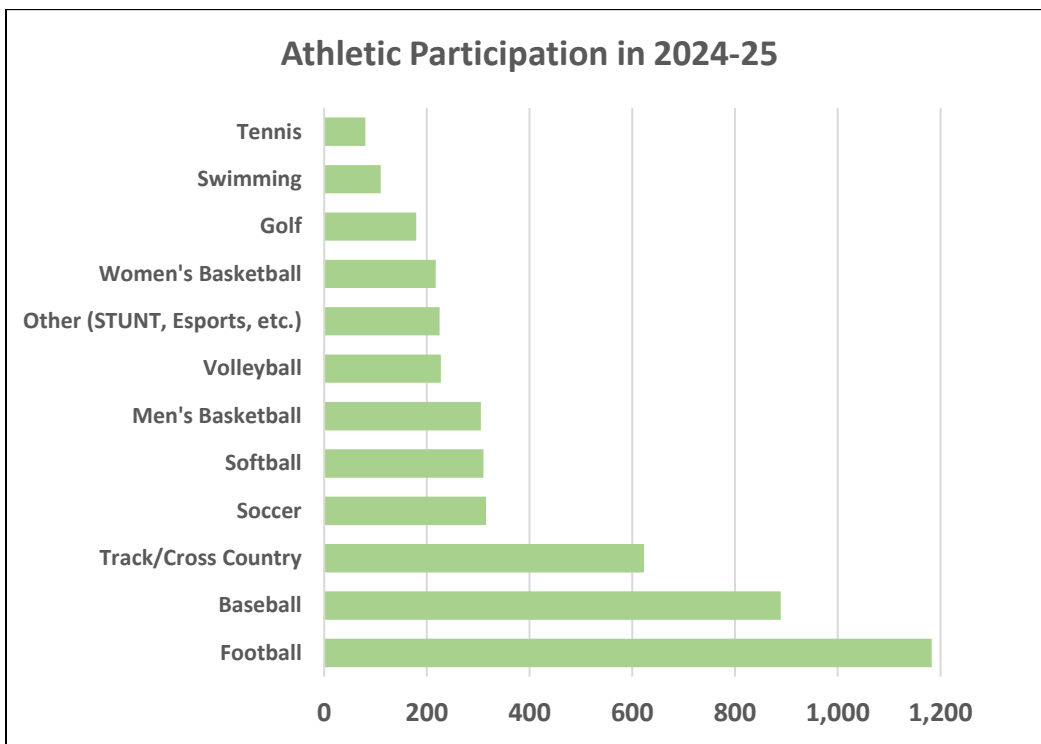
The methodology used herein is not meant to and does not correspond with the NCAA GSR (Graduation Success Rate) methodology each institution is required to report to the NCAA.

Participation Overview

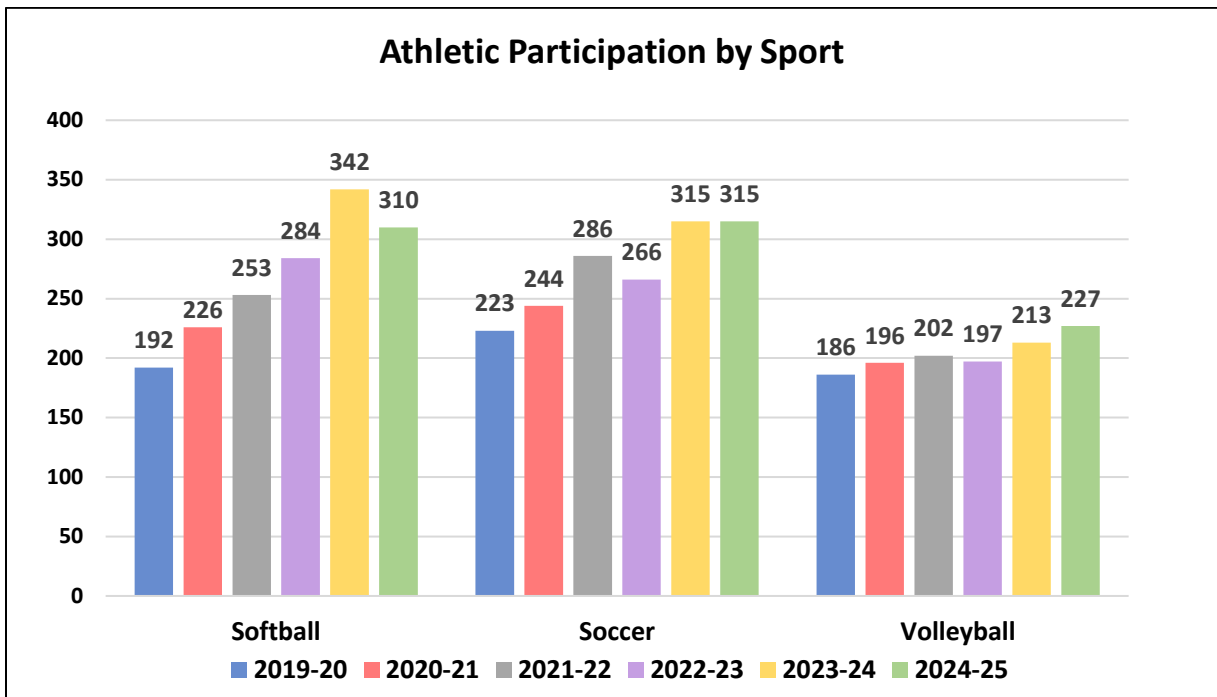
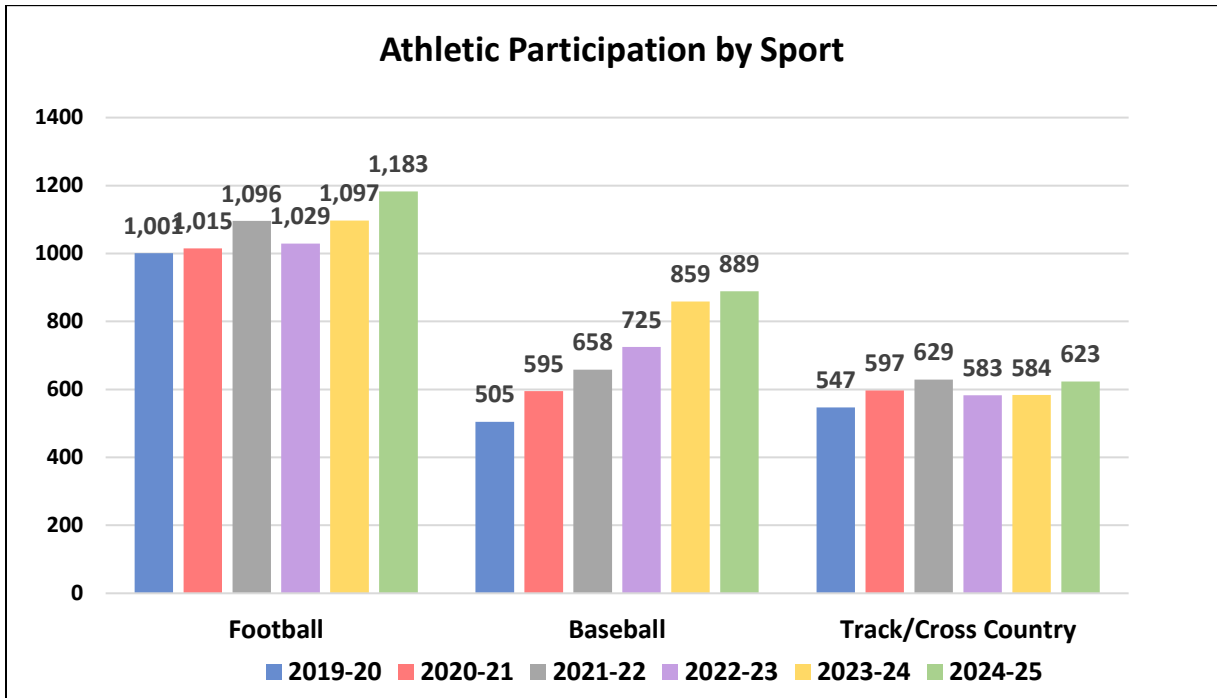
In Academic Year 2024-25, 4,663 students participated in athletics at ten universities and thirteen 2-year colleges, which is up from twelve who reported last year. This is the most student-athletes ever reported for an academic year. The increase was due to seventeen institutions reporting more student-athletes in 2025-26.

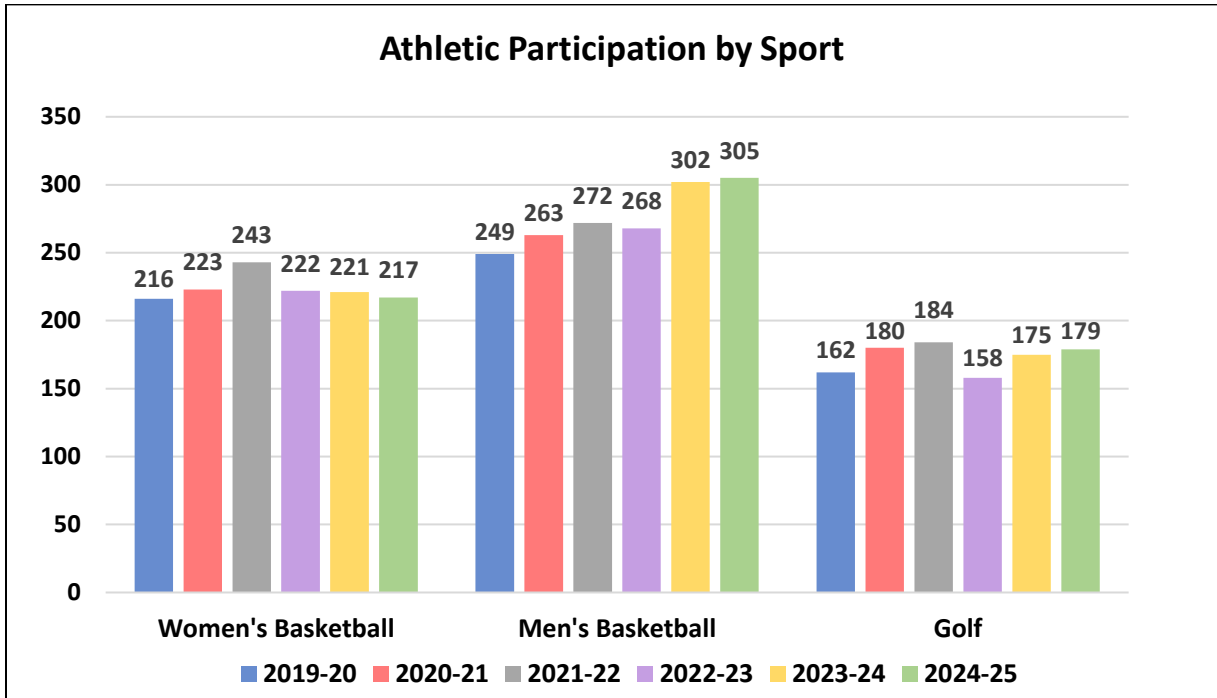


Sports included in student-athlete reporting are Football, Men's Basketball, Women's Basketball, Baseball, Track/Cross Country, Golf, Swimming, Tennis, Volleyball, Soccer, Softball, and an Other Sports category.

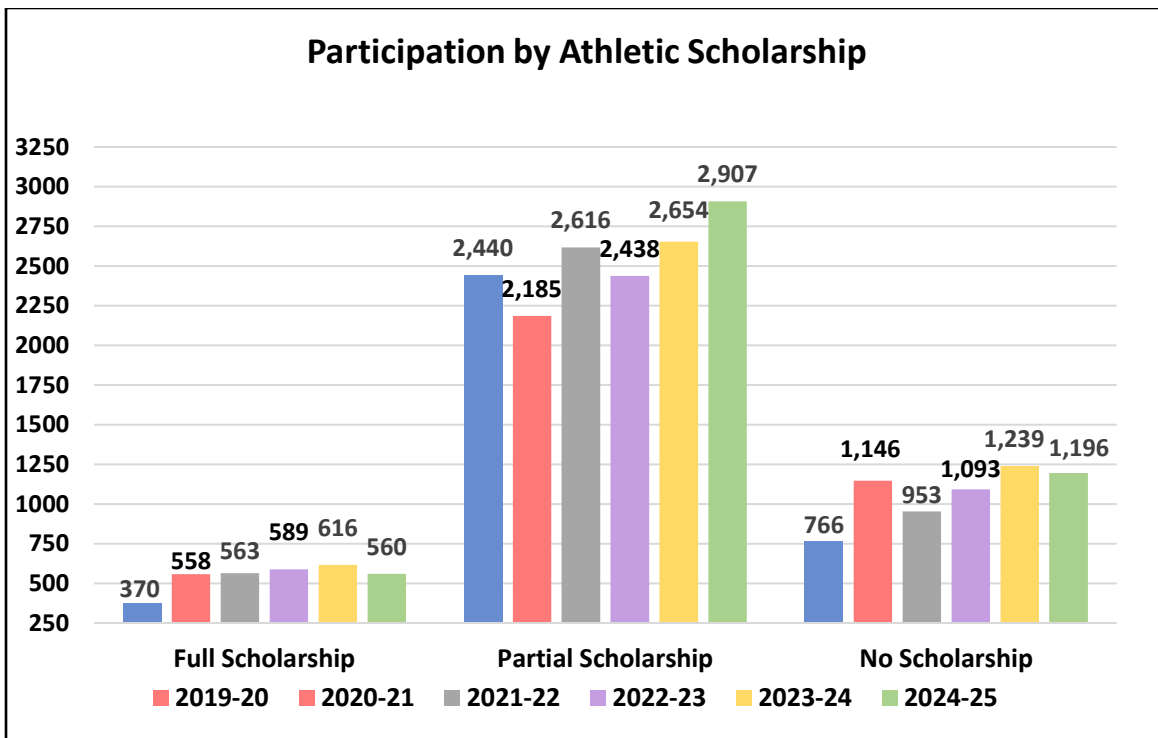


The number of student-athletes participating in football leads the way with 1,183 reported for the 2024-25 academic year.





Many students receive scholarships to participate in athletics. The following graph illustrates most students receive a partial scholarship, 2907 of 4,663 student-athletes (62.3%), while only 560 (12.0%) received a full scholarship during 2024-25.





**ADHE Calculated Retention Rates
for Student-Athletes**

Institution	% Fall Term Cohort Returning Next Fall Term									
	2021	2022	2023	2024		College	2021	2022	2023	2024
ASU	75.7%	70.1%	77.5%	59.6%		ASUMH	71.4%	65.0%	73.1%	50.0%
ATU	64.6%	68.8%	78.0%	63.3%		ASUMS	N/A	75.0%	40.0%	62.5%
HSU	68.8%	73.0%	79.2%	76.7%		ASUN	N/A	N/A	70.0%	50.0%
SAUM	62.8%	73.3%	76.5%	77.0%		ASUTR	N/A	N/A	46.9%	60.6%
UAF	85.0%	83.5%	79.8%	71.7%		CCCUA	63.6%	50.0%	42.5%	75.0%
UAFS	83.3%	77.1%	71.4%	71.4%		NAC	65.1%	71.7%	32.7%	55.3%
UALR	78.6%	74.2%	86.4%	72.0%		NPC	53.3%	52.5%	53.5%	66.3%
UAM	62.7%	71.2%	64.6%	64.1%		NWACC	77.8%	80.0%	100.0%	75.0%
UAPB	66.1%	78.2%	64.8%	66.0%		PCCUA	-	-	-	47.4%
UCA	78.9%	78.5%	71.8%	77.8%		SAC	55.9%	47.9%	56.4%	63.9%
						SAUT	63.6%	47.7%	61.3%	51.4%
						UACCRM	56.4%	41.7%	50.6%	52.1%



**ADHE Calculated On-Time (100%)
Graduation Rates for Student-Athletes**

Institution	Fall Term Cohort - On-Time (100%) Graduation Rates									
	2018	2019	2020	2021		College	2020	2021	2022	2023
ASU	40.0%	26.5%	37.7%	37.8%		ASUMH	-	-	45.0%	53.8%
ATU	31.0%	29.2%	39.7%	43.0%		ASUMS	42.9%	57.1%	50.0%	40.0%
HSU	30.2%	42.3%	39.6%	39.0%		ASUN	-	-	-	50.0%
SAUM	33.8%	29.3%	35.2%	31.4%		ASUTR	-	-	-	21.9%
UAF	41.5%	41.8%	30.4%	48.0%		CCCUA	16.7%	18.2%	11.1%	27.5%
UAFS	33.3%	41.0%	41.2%	40.0%		NAC	20.7%	41.9%	43.4%	20.4%
UALR	45.9%	26.1%	39.2%	44.6%		NPC	26.2%	18.7%	17.5%	15.5%
UAM	29.0%	30.6%	33.8%	34.3%		SAC	6.3%	32.2%	33.3%	46.2%
UAPB	30.5%	22.5%	20.3%	22.6%		SAUT	46.2%	54.5%	38.6%	48.4%
UCA	52.1%	41.7%	34.3%	40.4%		UACCRM	66.0%	53.8%	63.3%	41.8%



**ADHE Calculated 150%
Graduation Rates for Student-Athletes**

University	Fall Term Cohort - 150% Graduation Rates									
	2016	2017	2018	2019		College	2019	2020	2021	2022
ASU	67.7%	58.5%	53.0%	44.1%		ASUMH	-	-	-	60.0%
ATU	50.8%	56.9%	51.7%	38.9%		ASUMS	60.0%	42.9%	57.1%	50.0%
HSU	42.0%	40.2%	45.0%	55.0%		CCCUA	11.8%	16.7%	36.4%	22.2%
SAUM	43.6%	43.1%	53.2%	44.3%		NAC	56.1%	34.5%	53.5%	52.8%
UAF	60.5%	60.2%	50.0%	50.9%		NPC	21.6%	26.2%	29.3%	22.5%
UAFS	45.7%	48.1%	57.2%	48.7%		SAC	31.6%	25.0%	39.0%	43.8%
UALR	53.7%	52.9%	59.5%	46.7%		SAUT	31.3%	69.2%	63.6%	43.2%
UAM	48.5%	40.7%	43.5%	38.7%		UACCRM	36.8%	67.0%	59.0%	65.0%
UAPB	58.2%	49.0%	42.4%	36.3%						
UCA	66.4%	50.5%	63.6%	52.8%						

**RULES GOVERNING RESIDENCY CLASSIFICATION FOR STATE-FUNDED
SCHOLARSHIPS AT STATE-SUPPORTED INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER
EDUCATION**

In compliance with the Arkansas ACCESS Act of 2025 (Act 341 Section 63), the Arkansas Division of Higher Education Rules Governing Residency Classification for State-Funded Scholarships at State-Supported Institutions of Higher Education is presented to the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) for final approval.

The following resolution is offered for the Board's consideration:

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board reviews the rule presented in this agenda item for the Residency Classification for State-Funded Scholarships at State-Supported Institutions of Higher Education to be administered by the Arkansas Division of Higher Education.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Commissioner of the Arkansas Division of Higher Education or his designee is authorized to make technical changes and corrections, when necessary, in the rule for the Residency Classification for State-Funded Scholarships at State-Supported Institutions of Higher Education.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Residency Classification for State-Funded Scholarships at State-Supported Institutions of Higher Education rule be approved for final approval.

**DIVISION OF HIGHER EDUCATION RULES GOVERNING
RESIDENCY CLASSIFICATION FOR STATE-FUNDED
SCHOLARSHIPS AT STATE-SUPPORTED INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER
EDUCATION**

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND RESPONSES

Commenter Name:

Comments: No public comments received.

Division Response: No substantive or non-substantive changes made.

Proposed Rulemaking

Title

Promulgated by:

Division of Higher Education

Title 6. Education

Chapter IV. Division of Higher Education, Department of Education

Subchapter B. Scholarships and Grants

Part 408 Rules Governing Residency Classification for State-funded Scholarships at State-Supported Institutions of Higher Education

Subpart 1. Generally

6 CAR § 408.101. Creation.

(a) This part shall be known as the Division of Higher Education's Rules Governing
Residency Classification for State-funded Scholarships at State-Supported Institutions of
Higher Education.

6 CAR § 408.102. Definitions.

As used in this part:

(1) "Legal resident of Arkansas" means someone that:

(A) Will graduate or has graduated from an Arkansas public school,
private school, or home school within nine (9) months of enrolling in the state-
supported institution of higher education; or

(B) Resided in Arkansas at least six (6) continuous months prior to
applying with the intent to remain.

(i) Mere physical presence in Arkansas is not sufficient to establish
residency or demonstrate future intent to remain.

DRAFT

(2) “State-supported institution of higher education” means a public postsecondary institution or a department in a public postsecondary institution that:

(A) Provides:

(i) An eligible program of training to prepare students for gainful employment in a recognized occupation; or

(ii) A program leading to a baccalaureate degree or a graduate degree; and

(B) Is accredited by a recognized accrediting agency or association and has continuously held the accreditation for the number of years required by the Division of Higher Education;

6 CAR § 408.103. Residency classification for state-funded scholarships administered by Division of Higher Education.

(a)(1) In making decisions about the residency classification or reclassification of a student for state-funded scholarship purposes, unless otherwise specified by statute, a student shall be classified as an in-state resident for state-funded scholarship purposes only if the student meets the requirements in this part.

(2) A student who claims in-state residency for purposes of state-funded scholarship eligibility but receives Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) verification that he or she is not an in-state resident shall have his or her state-funded scholarship amount reduced or rescinded to reflect the change in residency status.

(3) A member of the United States Armed Forces who is stationed in Arkansas under military orders, along with his or her dependents, is entitled to classification as an in-state resident for state-funded scholarship purposes.

6 CAR § 408.104. Duties and responsibilities of students.

(a)(1) It is the responsibility of each student, at the time of registration, to seek the proper residency classification for state-funded scholarship purposes.

(2) A participating state-supported institution of higher education shall have a process for a student to appeal a residency classification for state-funded scholarship purposes.

(b)(1) A student who knowingly gives false information to establish residency classification for state-funded scholarship purposes shall be subject to dismissal by the state-supported institution of higher education.

(2) An initial classification as an out-of-state student shall not limit the right of a student to be reclassified later as a resident of Arkansas for state-funded scholarship purposes provided that the student can establish proof of legal residence in Arkansas.

State of Arkansas *As Engrossed: H3/6/25 H3/12/25*

95th General Assembly

A Bill

Regular Session, 2025

HOUSE BILL 1512

By: Representatives M. Shepherd, *Evans, Beaty Jr., Brooks, Eubanks, Wardlaw, Barker, K. Brown, M. Brown, John Carr, Cavanaugh, Crawford, Gramlich, Hawk, McAlindon, McClure, S. Meeks, Nazarenko, Rose, Torres, Wing, Achor, Beck, Eaves, Unger, Andrews*
By: Senator J. Dismang

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS ACCESS ACT; TO AMEND
VARIOUS PROVISIONS OF THE ARKANSAS CODE AS THEY
RELATE TO EDUCATION IN THE STATE OF ARKANSAS; AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS ACCESS ACT; AND
TO AMEND VARIOUS PROVISIONS OF THE
ARKANSAS CODE AS THEY RELATE TO
EDUCATION IN THE STATE OF ARKANSAS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Title.

This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Arkansas ACCESS Act".

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-1-404(a), concerning the membership of
the School Leadership Coordinating Council, is amended to read as follows:

(a) The School Leadership Coordinating Council consists of ~~seventeen~~
~~(17)~~ the following members ~~as follows~~:

~~(1) The Chair of the Arkansas Association of Colleges for
Teacher Education Council of Deans;~~

~~(2)~~ The Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education;

~~(3) The Director of the Arkansas Leadership Academy;~~

~~(4)~~ (2) The Commissioner of the Division of Higher Education;



1 (2) Subsection (a) of this section does not apply to
2 institutional assistance programs.

3
4 SECTION 63. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 80, is amended to add an
5 additional subchapter to read as follows:

6 Subchapter 2 – Residency Classification for State-funded Scholarships at
7 State-Supported Institutions of Higher Education

8
9 6-80-201. Title.

10 This subchapter shall be known and may be cited as the “Residency
11 Classification for State-funded Scholarships at State-Supported Institutions
12 of Higher Education”.

13
14 6-80-202. Residency classification for state-funded scholarships
15 administered by Division of Higher Education.

16 (a)(1) In making decisions about the residency classification or
17 reclassification of a student for state-funded scholarship purposes, unless
18 otherwise specified by statute, a student shall be classified as an in-state
19 resident for state-funded scholarship purposes only if the student:

20 (A) Will graduate or has graduated from an Arkansas public
21 school, private school, or home school within nine (9) months of enrolling in
22 the state-supported institution of higher education; or

23 (B) Established legal residency in Arkansas by:

24 (i) Meeting the requirements of rules promulgated by the
25 Division of Higher Education; and

26 (ii) Being physically present in Arkansas for at least six
27 (6) continuous months with the intent to remain in Arkansas.

28 (2) Mere physical presence in Arkansas is not sufficient to
29 establish residency or demonstrate future intent under subdivision (a)(1)(B)
30 of this section.

31 (3) A student who claims in-state residency for purposes of
32 state-funded scholarship eligibility but receives Free Application for
33 Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) verification that he or she is not an in-state
34 resident shall have his or her state-funded scholarship amount reduced or
35 rescinded to reflect the change in residency status.

36 (b) A member of the United States Armed Forces who is stationed in

1 Arkansas under military orders, along with his or her dependents, is entitled
2 to classification as an in-state resident for state-funded scholarship
3 purposes.

4
5 6-80-203. Duties and responsibilities of students.

6 (a)(1) It is the responsibility of each student, at the time of
7 registration, to seek the proper residency classification for state-funded
8 scholarship purposes.

9 (2) A participating state-supported institution of higher
10 education shall have a process for a student to appeal a residency
11 classification for state-funded scholarship purposes.

12 (b)(1) A student who knowingly gives false information to establish
13 residency classification for state-funded scholarship purposes shall be
14 subject to dismissal by the state-supported institution of higher education.

15 (2) An initial classification as an out-of-state student shall
16 not limit the right of a student to be reclassified later as a resident of
17 Arkansas for state-funded scholarship purposes provided that the student can
18 establish proof of legal residence in Arkansas.

19
20 SECTION 64. Arkansas Code § 6-81-604(6), concerning the grade point
21 average required for grant recipients under the Teacher Opportunity Program,
22 is amended to read as follows:

23 (6) Grant recipients shall maintain a cumulative grade point
24 average in their college work of no less than 2.5 on a 4.0 scale or maintain
25 an appropriate equivalent as determined by the Division of Higher Education.

26
27 SECTION 65. Arkansas Code § 6-81-605 is amended to read as follows:

28 6-81-605. Grants – Priority.

29 (a)(1) The first priority for the award of funds under the Teacher
30 Opportunity Program is the award ~~of reimbursements~~ for additional education
31 in:

32 (A) Science, technology, engineering, or mathematics
33 fields;

34 (B) Computer science;

35 (C) Literacy or reading;

36 (D) Prekindergarten education; or

**RULES GOVERNING THE ARKANSAS WORKFORCE CHALLENGE
SCHOLARSHIP**

In compliance with the Arkansas ACCESS Act of 2025 (Act 341 Sections 84-87) and Act 429 of 2025, the Arkansas Division of Higher Education Rules Governing the Arkansas Workforce Challenge Scholarship are presented to the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) for final approval.

The following resolution is offered for the Board's consideration:

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board reviews the rules presented in this agenda item for the Arkansas Workforce Challenge Scholarship to be administered by the Arkansas Division of Higher Education.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Commissioner of the Arkansas Division of Higher Education or his designee is authorized to make technical changes and corrections, when necessary, in the program rules for the Arkansas Workforce Challenge Scholarship.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Workforce Challenge Scholarship rules be approved for final approval.

**DIVISION OF HIGHER EDUCATION RULES GOVERNING THE ARKANSAS
WORKFORCE CHALLENGE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND RESPONSES

Commenter Name:

Comments: No public comments received.

Division Response: No substantive changes made. Non-substantive changes were made for clarity.

Proposed Rulemaking

Title

Promulgated by:
Division of Higher Education

Title 6. Education

Chapter IV. Division of Higher Education, Department of Education

Subchapter B. Scholarships and Grants

Part 403. Rules Governing the Arkansas Workforce Challenge Scholarship Program

Subpart 1. Generally

6 CAR § 403-101. ~~Policy statement~~Purpose.

(a) This part shall be known as the Division of Higher Education's "Rules Governing the Arkansas Workforce Challenge Scholarship Program".

(b) This part addresses the student eligibility criteria, method for recipient selection, continuing eligibility requirements, procedures for making payments to an approved institution of higher education, and other administrative procedures necessary for operation of the program.

~~6 CAR § 403-102. Applicability.~~

~~This part is applicable to students who are eligible for a scholarship under the Arkansas Workforce Challenge Scholarship Program.~~

6 CAR § 403-103. Definitions.

As used in this part:

(1) ~~(A)~~ "Academic year" means a measure of the academic work to be

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accomplished ~~by the recipient~~ by a student through the fall, spring, and summer semesters, or the equivalent of the fall, spring, and summer semesters, in that order.

~~(B) The academic year is defined as fall, spring, and summer semesters, in that order;~~

(2) "Approved institution of higher education" means an institution of higher education approved by the Division of Higher Education to participate in the Arkansas Workforce Challenge Scholarship Program ~~and~~ that is a:

(A) State-supported two-year or four-year ~~college or university~~ institution of higher education; ~~or~~

(B) Private, nonprofit two-year or four-year ~~college or university~~ institution of higher education with its primary headquarters located in Arkansas that is eligible to receive Title IV federal student aid funds; ~~and~~

~~(C) A public or private vocational-technical school with its primary headquarters located in Arkansas that is:~~

~~(i) Included on the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act eligible training provider list;~~

~~(ii) Qualified to receive approval for veterans' education benefits from the United States Department of Veteran Affairs; or~~

~~(iii) Included on the Private Career Education list; and~~

(3)(A) "Certificate program" means a program that is offered or made available to a student by an approved institution of higher education that leads to the ~~obtainment~~ attainment of a certification or license, including without limitation a program operated or sponsored by a third party.

~~(B) Certificate programs include without limitation the following:~~

~~(i) Advanced manufacturing;~~

~~(ii) Health care;~~

~~(iii) Information technology;~~

~~(iv) Construction trades; or~~

~~(v) Logistics and distribution.~~

~~(B)(C)~~ The credit hours or contact hours awarded for a certificate program

may include credit hours or contact hours that are not creditable toward an associate or a baccalaureate degree.

6 CAR § 403-104. Funding.

(a) For an academic year, the following shall be used to fund Arkansas Workforce Challenge Scholarships under this part:

(1) Excess funding returned to the Office of the Arkansas Lottery under Arkansas Code § 6-85-212(d)(2)(B)(i) from the previous academic year; and

(2) Net proceeds remaining from the previous academic year after the Office of the Arkansas Lottery:

~~———(A) Transfers transfers~~ the funds requested by the Division of Higher Education under Arkansas Code § 23-115-801(c)(2); ~~and~~

~~———(B) Deposits the amount necessary to maintain the Scholarship Shortfall Reserve Trust Account under Arkansas Code § 23-115-802 in an amount equal to twenty million dollars (\$20,000,000).~~

(b)(1) A scholarship under this part shall not be awarded for an academic year if:

(A) Less than two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) is available under subsection (a) of this section; or

(B) The division received a loan from the Scholarship Shortfall Reserve Trust Account under Arkansas Code § 23-115-802 for the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program, Arkansas Code § 6-85-201 et seq., for the previous academic year.

(2) Any funds under subsection (a) of this section that are not disbursed for scholarships under this part shall be carried over to the next academic year to be used for scholarships under this part.

Subpart 2. Procedures

6 CAR § 403-201. Eligibility requirements.

(a) A student is eligible to receive an Arkansas Workforce Challenge Scholarship for

an academic year if the student applies to ~~the Division of Higher Education~~ an approved institution of higher education by a date determined by the Division of Higher Education preceding the academic year and:

(1) Is ~~an~~ a legal Arkansas resident or, if the student is less than twenty-one (21) years of age, either a parent of the student or the student is ~~an~~ a legal Arkansas resident;

(2) Meets either of the following requirements:

(A) Graduated from a:

(i) Public high school in Arkansas or another state;

(ii) Private high school in Arkansas or another state;

(iii) Home school as recognized under Arkansas Code § 6-15-501 et seq. or recognized by another state; or

(B) Received a high school equivalency diploma approved by the Division of Workforce Services or another state;

(3) Is not receiving a scholarship under the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program, Arkansas Code § 6-85-201 et seq.; and

(4) Is accepted for admission in a program of study at an approved institution of higher education that leads to an associate degree or a certificate program in one (1) of the ~~following~~ high-demand fields: described in § 403-103(3) of this part.

~~(A) Industry;~~

~~———— (B) Health care; and~~

~~———— (C) Information technology; and~~

~~(5)(A) Whose program of study or certificate program will result in the student's being qualified to work in an occupation identified by the Division of Workforce Services under subdivision (a)(5)(B)(i) of this section.~~

~~———— (B)(i) The Division of Workforce Services shall provide annually to the Division of Higher Education by March 1 a list that identifies the five (5) most in-demand occupations in this state in each high-demand field under subdivision (a)(4) of this section that require the completion of a program of study that leads to an associate degree or a certificate program.~~

~~(ii) The Division of Workforce Services shall publish on its website the list under subdivision (a)(5)(B)(i) of this section and data supporting the list.~~

(b)(1) A student who received a scholarship under this part and successfully completed a program of study or certificate program that meets the requirements under subdivision (a)(4) of this section is eligible to reapply for a scholarship under this part if the student is accepted for admission in a different program of study or certificate program that meets the requirements under subdivision (a)(4) of this section.

(2) A student who received a scholarship under this part and does not successfully complete the program of study or certificate program is eligible to reapply for and receive a scholarship one (1) time only.

(c)(1) The program eligibility of institutions of higher education under § 403-103(2) of this part shall be determined by the division in collaboration with the Office of Skills Development.

(2) The division shall post the program eligibility policies on its website.

(3) An approved Workforce Challenge Program list shall be posted on the division's website.

6 CAR § 403-202. Distribution – Award amounts.

(a)(1) If funds are available, the Division of Higher Education shall distribute Arkansas Workforce Challenge Scholarships to all students who meet the scholarship eligibility requirements and attend an institution of higher education described in § 403-103(2)(A) and (B).

(2) Subject to the availability of funds, up to five million dollars (\$5,000,000) for scholarships shall be distributed to students who attend a certificate program described in § 403-103(2)(C).

~~(b)(1) The division shall distribute scholarships from the funds available in an equal amount to every student eligible to receive a scholarship.~~

~~(2) Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, the~~ The maximum scholarship award a student may receive in an academic year shall be the lesser of: the program of study or certificate program costs, or three thousand dollars (\$3,000).

~~—— (A) Eight hundred dollars (\$800); or~~
~~—— (B)(i) The cost of the certificate program or program of study.~~
~~—— (ii) The cost of a certificate program or program of study shall be limited to:~~
~~—— (a) Tuition, fees, or other charges;~~
~~—— (b) Textbooks or other course materials; and~~
~~—— (c) Equipment needed for a course.~~
~~—— (3)(2) The scholarship awards may be used only for expenses included in the cost of the certificate program or program of study.~~

~~(4)(3) A scholarship under this section shall be only for the academic year for which it is awarded, which includes the fall, spring, and summer semesters.~~

~~(c) Pursuant to § 403-201(a) of this part, the Department of Commerce, Division of Workforce Connections shall:~~

~~(1) Determine eligibility of students; and~~

~~(2) Provide the necessary eligibility information to the Division of Higher Education to enable it to distribute scholarship awards on behalf of an eligible student directly to the approved institution of higher education.~~

~~—— (c)(1) If the division has funds remaining after making the distributions under subsection (b) of this section, the division shall distribute scholarships to students for the summer term of the academic year.~~

~~—— (2) If funds are available under subdivision (c)(1) of this section, a student shall apply for a scholarship for a summer term by a date determined by the division preceding the summer term.~~

~~—— (3)(A) The division shall distribute scholarships for a summer term in the same manner as under subsection (b) of this section.~~

~~—— (B) Scholarships for a summer term may be used in the same manner as under subsection (b) of this section.~~

~~—— (4) A student who received a scholarship under subsection (b) of this section may also receive a scholarship for a summer term.~~

~~(d)(d) The ~~division~~ Division of Higher Education shall disburse all scholarship awards~~

on behalf of an eligible student directly to the approved institution of higher education.

**6 CAR § 403-203. Institutional responsibilities —~~College and university~~
Institutions of higher education responsibilities.**

(a) Administrative agreement.

(1) The chief executive officer of ~~an approved~~~~the eligible~~ institution of higher education ~~is responsible for appointing~~ shall appoint one (1) representative from the financial aid office to act as administrator of the Arkansas Workforce Challenge Scholarship and to receive all communications, ~~forms, etc.~~

(2) This representative is responsible for verification, data, and compliance with all program rules.

(3) The institution must comply with all rules in order to maintain ~~continued~~ approved eligibility status.

(b) Disbursement records. The institution shall maintain information on the student indicating disbursement of scholarship funds.

(c) Institutional verification.

(1) The institution shall provide certification of enrollment in an eligible program of study and enrollment in courses that will meet satisfactory academic progress standards, as of the eleventh day of classes, by completing a verification roster each semester after registration.

(2) The verification roster is an alphabetical listing by institution of all persons receiving the award for a given academic ~~term~~ semester or its equivalent.

(3) The certifying official is responsible for completing the verification rosters each semester or trimester.

(4) The Division of Higher Education shall provide electronic verification rosters to the financial aid administrator for each semester or trimester as needed.

(5) The electronic verification rosters shall be returned to the division by November 1 for the fall ~~term~~ semester, and and by March 15 for the spring ~~term~~ semester, and at the date specified by the division for the summer semester.

(6) The division shall also provide electronic continuing eligibility rosters to the

financial aid administrator before the end of the fall, ~~and~~ spring, and summer termsemesters.

(7) The continuing eligibility rosters shall be returned to the division no later than January 15 based on the fall semester, ~~and~~ June 1 based on the spring semester, and at the date specified by the division for summer semesters to ensure that adequate time is provided to notify students of their status in the program.

(d) Deadlines for disbursement of funds.

(1) The deadline for disbursement of funds by the eligible institution is no later than ten (10) days after receipt of funds.

(2) Any outstanding funds not disbursed by these dates must be returned to the division.

(3) For those students whose applications are received by the division too late to allow disbursement by these dates, disbursement will be made within ten (10) working days of receipt of the verification roster and electronic transfer of funds.

(e) Due diligence.

(1) The institution will exercise due diligence in providing complete, accurate, and timely information as requested by the division on any Arkansas Workforce Challenge Scholarship recipient or former recipient.

(2) In addition, the institution will exercise due diligence in complying with all the rules of the Arkansas Workforce Challenge Scholarship.

(3) The division shall periodically review the institution's records concerning this program in an effort to exercise its due diligence requirements as a steward of state funds.

(f) Agreements between institutions. An approved institution of higher education may enter into agreements with other institutions of higher education, including without limitation technical institutes, to allow students enrolled in the approved institution of higher education under this part to take courses at the other institutions of higher education.

(g) Reporting requirements.

(1) An approved institution of higher education accepting funds under § 403-

103(2)(A) and (B) of this part shall submit an annual report to the Division of Higher Education that includes without limitation the following:

(A) Individual student program completer information as identified by the division; and

(B) The following student information required pursuant to Arkansas Code § 6-85-216:

(i) The criteria for determining eligibility for scholarships;

(ii) Demographic student data; and

(iii) Disaggregated data on remedial courses.

(2) An approved institution of higher education accepting funds under § 403-103(2)(C) but not § 403-103(2)(A) or § 403-103(2)(B) of this part shall submit an annual report to the Office of Skills Development and the Department of Commerce, Division of Workforce Connections, that includes without limitation the following:

(A) Individual student program completer information as defined by the division; and

(B) Student information required to be provided to the Division of Higher Education in accordance with the requirements defined in Arkansas Code § 6-85-216.

(3) Approved institutions of higher education accepting funds under § 403-103(2)(C)(iii) of this part shall submit to the Division of Higher Education evidence of compliance with all required financial reporting requirements of the Division of Higher Education Rules Governing Private Career Education, 6 CAR pt. 364.

State of Arkansas *As Engrossed: H3/6/25 H3/12/25*

95th General Assembly

A Bill

Regular Session, 2025

HOUSE BILL 1512

By: Representatives M. Shepherd, *Evans, Beaty Jr., Brooks, Eubanks, Wardlaw, Barker, K. Brown, M. Brown, John Carr, Cavanaugh, Crawford, Gramlich, Hawk, McAlindon, McClure, S. Meeks, Nazarenko, Rose, Torres, Wing, Achor, Beck, Eaves, Unger, Andrews*
By: Senator J. Dismang

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS ACCESS ACT; TO AMEND
VARIOUS PROVISIONS OF THE ARKANSAS CODE AS THEY
RELATE TO EDUCATION IN THE STATE OF ARKANSAS; AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS ACCESS ACT; AND
TO AMEND VARIOUS PROVISIONS OF THE
ARKANSAS CODE AS THEY RELATE TO
EDUCATION IN THE STATE OF ARKANSAS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Title.

This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Arkansas ACCESS Act".

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-1-404(a), concerning the membership of
the School Leadership Coordinating Council, is amended to read as follows:

(a) The School Leadership Coordinating Council consists of ~~seventeen~~
~~(17)~~ the following members ~~as follows~~:

~~(1) The Chair of the Arkansas Association of Colleges for
Teacher Education Council of Deans;~~

~~(2)~~ The Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education;

~~(3) The Director of the Arkansas Leadership Academy;~~

~~(4)~~ (2) The Commissioner of the Division of Higher Education;



(B) A branch campus of a four-year approved institution of higher education; or

(C) An approved school of nursing.

SECTION 84. Arkansas Code § 6-85-302 is amended to read as follows:

6-85-302. Definitions.

As used in this subchapter:

(1) "Academic year" means a measure of the academic work to be accomplished by a student through the fall, spring, and summer semesters, or the equivalent of the fall, spring, and summer semesters, in that order;

(2) "Approved institution of higher education" means an institution of higher education approved by the Division of Higher Education to participate in the Arkansas Workforce Challenge Scholarship Program and that is:

(A) A state-supported two-year or four-year ~~college or university~~ institution of higher education; or

(B) A private, nonprofit two-year or four-year college or university with its primary headquarters located in Arkansas that is eligible to receive Title IV federal student aid funds; or

(C) A public or private vocational-technical school that is:

(i) Included on the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act eligible training provider list;

(ii) Qualified to receive approval for veterans' education benefits from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs; or

(iii) Included on the State Board of Private Career Education list; and

~~(2)(A)(3)(A)~~ "Certificate program" means a program that is offered or made available to a student by an approved institution of higher education that leads to the obtainment of a certification or license, including without limitation a program operated or sponsored by a third party.

(B) "Certificate program" is determined by the division and includes without limitation the following:

(i) Advanced manufacturing;

(ii) Health care;

1 (iii) Information technology;

2 (iv) Construction trades; or

3 (v) Logistics and distribution.

4 (C) The credit hours or contact hours awarded for a
5 certificate program may include credit hours or contact hours that are not
6 creditable toward an associate or a baccalaureate degree.

7
8 SECTION 85. Arkansas Code § 6-85-304(a), concerning student
9 eligibility under the Arkansas Workforce Challenge Scholarship Program, is
10 amended to read as follows:

11 (a) A student is eligible to receive an Arkansas Workforce Challenge
12 Scholarship for an academic year if the student applies to ~~the Division of~~
13 ~~Higher Education~~ an approved institution of higher education by a date
14 determined by the Division of Higher Education preceding the academic year
15 and:

16 (1) Is ~~an~~ a legal Arkansas resident or, if the student is less
17 than twenty-one (21) years of age, either the student or one (1) parent of
18 the student is ~~an~~ a legal Arkansas resident;

19 (2) Meets either of the following requirements:

20 (A) Graduated from a:

21 (i) Public high school in Arkansas or another state;

22 (ii) Private high school in Arkansas or another
23 state; or

24 (iii) Home school under § 6-15-501 et seq. or
25 recognized by another state; or

26 (B) Received a high school equivalency diploma approved by
27 the Adult Education Section or another state;

28 (3) Is not receiving a scholarship under the Arkansas Academic
29 Challenge Scholarship Program, § 6-85-201 et seq.; and

30 (4) Is accepted for admission in a program of study at an
31 approved institution of higher education that leads to an associate degree or
32 a certificate program in one (1) of the ~~following~~ high-demand fields+
33 described in § 6-85-302.

34 ~~(A) Industry;~~

35 ~~(B) Health care; and~~

36 ~~(C) Information technology; and~~

~~(5)(A) Whose program of study or certificate program will result in the student's being qualified to work in an occupation identified by the Division of Workforce Services under subdivision (a)(5)(B)(i) of this section.~~

~~(B)(i) The Division of Workforce Services shall provide annually to the Division of Higher Education by March 1 a list that identifies the five (5) most in demand occupations in this state in each high demand field under subdivision (a)(4) of this section that require the completion of a program of study that leads to an associate degree or a certificate program.~~

~~(ii) The Division of Workforce Services shall publish on its website the list under subdivision (a)(5)(B)(i) of this section and data supporting the list.~~

SECTION 86. Arkansas Code § 6-85-305 is amended to read as follows:

6-85-305. Distribution – Award amounts.

(a)(1) If funds are available, the Division of Higher Education shall distribute Arkansas Workforce Challenge Scholarships to all students who meet the requirements under § ~~6-85-304~~ 6-85-302(2).

(2) Up to five million dollars (\$5,000,000) shall be allocated for students eligible under § 6-85-302(2)(C).

~~(b)(1) The division shall distribute scholarships from the funds available in an equal amount to every student eligible to receive a scholarship under this subchapter.~~

~~(2) Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, the~~
The maximum scholarship award a student may receive in an academic year shall be the lesser of: program costs or three thousand dollars (\$3,000).

~~(A) Eight hundred dollars (\$800); or~~

~~(B)(i) The cost of the certificate program or program of study.~~

~~(ii) The cost of a certificate program or program of study shall include:~~

~~(a) Tuition, fees, or other charges;~~

~~(b) Textbooks or other course materials; and~~

~~(c) Equipment needed for a course.~~

~~(3)(2) The scholarship awards may be used for expenses included~~

1 in the cost of the certificate program or program of study.

2 ~~(4)(3)~~ A scholarship under this section shall be only for the
3 academic year for which it is awarded.

4 (4)(A) The division shall collaborate with the Office of Skills
5 Development to establish the criteria to be used to determine the eligibility
6 of students under § 6-85-302(1)(C), which shall be included in rules
7 promulgated by the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

8 (B) The office shall:

9 (i) Use the criteria established under subdivision
10 (b)(4)(A) of this section to determine the eligibility of students under § 6-
11 85-302(1)(C); and

12 (ii) Provide the necessary information regarding
13 eligible students to the division to enable the division to distribute
14 scholarship awards on behalf of an eligible student directly to the approved
15 institution of higher education.

16 ~~(c)(1) If the division has funds remaining after making the~~
17 ~~distributions under subsection (b) of this section, the division shall~~
18 ~~distribute scholarships to students for the summer term of the academic year.~~

19 ~~(2) If funds are available under subdivision (c)(1) of this~~
20 ~~section, a student shall apply for a scholarship for a summer term by a date~~
21 ~~determined by the division preceding the summer term.~~

22 ~~(3)(A) The division shall distribute scholarships for a summer~~
23 ~~term in the same manner as under subsection (b) of this section.~~

24 ~~(B) Scholarships for a summer term may be used in the same~~
25 ~~manner as under subsection (b) of this section.~~

26 ~~(4) A student who received a scholarship under subsection (b) of~~
27 ~~this section may also receive a scholarship for a summer term.~~

28 ~~(d)(c)~~ The division shall disburse all scholarship awards on behalf of
29 an eligible student directly to the approved institution of higher education.

30
31 SECTION 87. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 85, Subchapter 3, is
32 amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

33 6-85-308. Reporting requirements.

34 (a) An approved institution of higher education accepting funds under
35 this subchapter shall submit an annual report to the Division of Higher
36 Education that includes without limitation the following:

1 (1) Individual student program completer information as defined
2 by the division; and

3 (2) Student information required to be provided to the division
4 under § 6-85-216.

5 (b) An approved institution of higher education accepting funds under
6 this subchapter shall submit an annual report to the Office of Skills
7 Development that includes without limitation the following:

8 (1) Individual student program completer information as defined
9 by the division; and

10 (2) Student information required to be provided to the division
11 under § 6-85-216.

12
13 SECTION 88. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 85, Subchapter 4 is
14 repealed.

15 ~~Subchapter 4 — Arkansas Concurrent Challenge Scholarship Program~~

16
17 ~~6-85-401. Creation.~~

18 ~~There is created the Arkansas Concurrent Challenge Scholarship Program.~~

19
20 ~~6-85-402. Definitions.~~

21 ~~As used in this subchapter:~~

22 ~~(1) “Approved institution of higher education” means an~~
23 ~~institution of higher education that:~~

24 ~~(A) Is approved by the Division of Higher Education to~~
25 ~~participate in the Arkansas Concurrent Challenge Scholarship Program;~~

26 ~~(B) Offers at least a fifty percent discount on the~~
27 ~~tuition and mandatory fees of an endorsed concurrent enrollment course or~~
28 ~~certificate program to a student who is enrolled in an endorsed concurrent~~
29 ~~enrollment course or certificate program, unless other opportunities are~~
30 ~~provided that lower the tuition and mandatory fees below fifty percent (50%);~~
31 ~~and~~

32 ~~(C) Is a:~~

33 ~~(i) State-supported two-year or four-year college or~~
34 ~~university; or~~

35 ~~(ii) Private, nonprofit two-year or four-year college~~
36 ~~or university that has its primary headquarters located in Arkansas and that~~

State of Arkansas *As Engrossed: S2/25/25 S3/11/25 S3/18/25*
95th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2025

A Bill

SENATE BILL 232

By: Senator Hickey
By: Representative Cozart

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND THE ARKANSAS SCHOLARSHIP LOTTERY ACT;
TO AMEND THE DEFINITION OF "LOTTERY PROCEEDS"; TO
AMEND THE DEFINITION OF "NET PROCEEDS"; TO AMEND THE
CONTENTS OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT; TO PROVIDE THAT THE
COSTS OF ADMINISTERING SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS ARE
EXPENSES OF THE DIVISION OF HIGHER EDUCATION THAT
WILL CONTINUE TO BE REIMBURSED BY THE OFFICE OF THE
ARKANSAS LOTTERY USING LOTTERY NET PROCEEDS; TO
ELIMINATE THE SCHOLARSHIP SHORTFALL RESERVE TRUST
ACCOUNT; TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO AMEND VARIOUS PROVISIONS OF THE
ARKANSAS SCHOLARSHIP LOTTERY ACT; AND TO
DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-85-303(a), concerning funding for the
Arkansas Workforce Challenge Scholarship Program, is amended to read as
follows:

(a) For an academic year, the following shall be used to fund Arkansas
Workforce Challenge Scholarships under this subchapter:

(1) Excess funding returned to the Office of the Arkansas
Lottery under § 6-85-212(d)(2)(B)(i) from the previous academic year; and

(2) Net proceeds remaining from the previous academic year after



1 the office+

2 ~~(A) Transfers~~ transfers the funds requested by the
3 Division of Higher Education under § 23-115-801(c)(2), ~~and~~

4 ~~(B) Deposits the amount necessary to maintain the~~
5 ~~Scholarship Shortfall Reserve Trust Account under § 23-115-802 in an amount~~
6 ~~equal to twenty million dollars (\$20,000,000).~~

7
8 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-85-404(b)(1), concerning funding for the
9 Arkansas Concurrent Challenge Scholarship, is amended to read as follows:

10 (b)(1) A scholarship under this subchapter shall not be awarded for an
11 academic year if+

12 ~~(A) Less~~ less than two hundred fifty thousand dollars
13 (\$250,000) is available under subsection (a) of this section, ~~or~~

14 ~~(B) The division received a loan from the Scholarship~~
15 ~~Shortfall Reserve Trust Account under § 23-115-802 for the Arkansas Academic~~
16 ~~Challenge Scholarship Program, § 6-85-201 et seq., for the previous academic~~
17 ~~year.~~

18
19 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-85-603(b)(1), concerning funding for the
20 Arkansas Challenge Plus Scholarship, is amended to read as follows:

21 (b)(1) Arkansas Challenge Plus Scholarships under this subchapter
22 shall be funded by available net proceeds remaining from the previous
23 academic year after the Office of the Arkansas Lottery+

24 ~~(A) Transfers~~ transfers the funds requested by the
25 division under § 23-115-801(c)(2), ~~and~~

26 ~~(B) Deposits the amount necessary to maintain the~~
27 ~~Scholarship Shortfall Reserve Trust Account under § 23-115-802 in an amount~~
28 ~~equal to twenty million dollars (\$20,000,000).~~

29
30 SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 23-115-103(14), concerning the definition
31 of "lottery proceeds" under the Arkansas Scholarship Lottery Act, is amended
32 to read as follows:

33 (14) "Lottery proceeds" means all revenue derived from the sale
34 of tickets or shares and all other moneys derived from or in connection with
35 the operation of a lottery, including without limitation fees, offsets,
36 reimbursements, interest, insurance proceeds, damages, and liquidated damages

1 collected or imposed by the office under this chapter;

2
3 SECTION 5. Arkansas Code § 23-115-103(21), concerning the definition of
4 "net proceeds" under the Arkansas Scholarship Lottery Act, is amended to read
5 as follows:

6 (21)(A) "Net proceeds" means lottery proceeds less:

7 ~~(A)(i)~~ Operating expenses;

8 ~~(B)(ii)~~ The amount of fidelity fund revenue under § 23-115-603
9 that ~~exceeds~~ is required to increase the fidelity fund to five hundred
10 thousand dollars (\$500,000);

11 ~~(C)(iii)~~ The ~~undepreciated amount of capital assets; and amount~~
12 ~~of any adjustments required for Multi-State Lottery Association reserves to~~
13 ~~meet the Multi-State Lottery Association reserve requirements; and~~

14 (iv) The amount of any accrual or other accounting
15 adjustment that will result in a debit or credit balance in the Office of the
16 Arkansas Lottery's Unrestricted Net Position account, except for any
17 restricted net position account.

18 ~~(D) Accruals that will not result in a cash outflow;~~

19 (B) "Net proceeds" includes fidelity fund revenue that
20 exceeds a fidelity fund balance of five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000).

21 (C) "Net proceeds" shall be based on generally accepted
22 accounting principles in accordance with § 23-115-206(a)(6);

23
24 SECTION 6. Arkansas Code § 23-115-103(23)(I), concerning payments to
25 the Division of Higher Education as a cost under the definition of "operating
26 expenses" under the Arkansas Scholarship Lottery Act, is repealed.

27 ~~(I) Payments to the Division of Higher Education to:~~

28 ~~(i) Reimburse the division for the costs of~~
29 ~~administering scholarship awards funded with net proceeds; and~~

30 ~~(ii) Replenish nonlottery state educational~~
31 ~~resources expended by the division on scholarship awards otherwise funded~~
32 ~~with net proceeds;~~

33
34 SECTION 7. Arkansas Code § 23-115-206(a)(8)(D)(v), concerning the
35 statement of revenue, expenses, and changes in net assets portion of the
36 Office of the Arkansas Lottery's annual comprehensive financial report to the

1 Governor and the Legislative Council, is amended to read as follows:

2 (v) A statement of revenue, expenses, and changes in
3 net assets for each fiscal year ~~since inception~~ for the last ten (10) fiscal
4 years of the Arkansas Scholarship Lottery;

5
6 SECTION 8. Arkansas Code § 23-115-206(a)(8)(D)(vii), concerning the
7 contents of the fiscal year-end report, is amended to read as follows:

8 (vii) A fiscal year-end report on any information
9 required to be reported by the office on a monthly basis, including without
10 limitation:

11 (a) Unclaimed lottery prize money under § 23-
12 115-403; and

13 (b) ~~The Scholarship Shortfall Reserve Trust~~
14 ~~Account under § 23-115-802; and~~

15 ~~(c)~~ Minority-owned business and female-owned
16 business participation under § 23-115-401;

17
18 SECTION 9. Arkansas Code § 23-115-302(b)(9), concerning contents of
19 the report by the Director of the Office of the Arkansas Lottery to the
20 Legislative Council, is amended to read as follows:

21 (9) Annually by November 15, report to the Legislative Council
22 the following:

23 (A) For the immediately preceding fiscal year+

24 ~~(i) The~~ the total amount of net proceeds from the
25 state lottery; and

26 ~~(ii) The amounts deposited into and disbursed from~~
27 ~~the Scholarship Shortfall Reserve Trust Account under § 23-115-802; and~~

28 (B) The office's projection for net proceeds from the
29 state lottery for the current fiscal year; and

30
31 SECTION 10. Arkansas Code § 23-115-801(b)(1)(B), concerning the
32 establishment of the Lottery Scholarship Trust Account, is amended to read as
33 follows:

34 (B)(i) The office shall establish the Lottery Scholarship
35 Trust Account as required under subdivision (b)(1)(A) of this section to fund
36 the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program, § 6-85-201 et seq., the

1 Arkansas Workforce Challenge Scholarship Program, § 6-85-301 et seq., the
2 Arkansas Concurrent Challenge Scholarship Program, § 6-85-401 et seq., and
3 any other scholarship funded with net proceeds from the state lottery in a
4 financial institution into which the office shall transfer:

5 (a) Excess funding returned to the office
6 under § 6-85-212(d)(2)(B)(i) from the previous academic year; and

7 (b) Net proceeds remaining in the Lottery
8 Scholarship Trust Account from the previous academic year after the office+

9 ~~(1) Transfers~~ transfers under
10 subdivision (c)(2) of this section the funds requested by the Division of
11 Higher Education; and

12 ~~(2) Deposits the amount necessary into~~
13 ~~the Scholarship Shortfall Reserve Trust Account under § 23-115-802 to~~
14 ~~maintain an amount equal to twenty million dollars (\$20,000,000).~~

15
16 SECTION 11. Arkansas Code § 23-115-801(d)(1), concerning findings of
17 the General Assembly related to lottery proceeds under the Arkansas
18 Scholarship Lottery Act, is amended to read as follows:

19 (d)(1) The General Assembly finds that+

20 ~~(A) The administration of scholarships with proceeds from~~
21 ~~the lottery are expenses of the office; and~~

22 ~~(B) Because~~ because the division has the expertise and
23 experienced staff needed to efficiently and appropriately administer the
24 scholarships, the office shall use the services of the division to administer
25 *scholarships funded with net proceeds from the lottery.*

26
27 SECTION 12. Arkansas Code § 23-115-801(d)(3)(C), concerning
28 reimbursement to the Division of Higher Education by the Office of the
29 Arkansas Lottery, is amended to add an additional subdivision to read as
30 follows:

31 (iii) Reimbursement under this subdivision (d)(3)(C)
32 shall be made from the Lottery Scholarship Trust Account.

33
34 SECTION 13. Arkansas Code § 23-115-802 is repealed.

35 ~~23-115-802. Scholarship Shortfall Reserve Trust Account.~~

36 ~~(a) The Office of the Arkansas Lottery shall maintain a Scholarship~~

1 ~~Shortfall Reserve Trust Account.~~

2 ~~(b)(1) An amount equal to four percent (4%) of the total amount of net~~
3 ~~proceeds disbursed during the preceding fiscal year in the form of~~
4 ~~scholarships and grants for higher education shall be deposited from lottery~~
5 ~~proceeds each year until the amount in the Scholarship Shortfall Reserve~~
6 ~~Trust Account equals twenty million dollars (\$20,000,000).~~

7 ~~(2) Thereafter, only the amount necessary to maintain the~~
8 ~~Scholarship Shortfall Reserve Trust Account in an amount equal to twenty~~
9 ~~million dollars (\$20,000,000) shall be deposited into the Scholarship~~
10 ~~Shortfall Reserve Trust Account.~~

11 ~~(3) Any amount in the Scholarship Shortfall Reserve Trust~~
12 ~~Account exceeding twenty million dollars (\$20,000,000) shall be considered~~
13 ~~net proceeds and shall be deposited annually into one (1) or more trust~~
14 ~~accounts at one (1) or more financial institutions by July 1 of each year.~~

15 ~~(c)(1)(A) Except as provided in subdivision (c)(2) of this section, if~~
16 ~~net proceeds in any year are not sufficient to meet the amount allocated for~~
17 ~~scholarships under the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program, § 6-~~
18 ~~85-201 et seq., the Scholarship Shortfall Reserve Trust Account may be drawn~~
19 ~~upon to meet the deficiency according to the procedural requirements~~
20 ~~established under subdivision (c)(3)(B) of this section.~~

21 ~~(B) In the event that the funding available in the~~
22 ~~Scholarship Shortfall Reserve Trust Account is not sufficient to meet the~~
23 ~~remaining amount allocated for scholarships funded with net proceeds from the~~
24 ~~state lottery, up to the first twenty million dollars (\$20,000,000) of funds~~
25 ~~allocated in the Higher Education Grants Fund Account may be drawn upon to~~
26 ~~meet the deficiency.~~

27 ~~(2) Except as provided in subdivision (c)(3)(B) of this section,~~
28 ~~the Scholarship Shortfall Reserve Trust Account shall not be drawn upon to~~
29 ~~fund Arkansas Workforce Challenge Scholarships under the Arkansas Workforce~~
30 ~~Challenge Scholarship Program, § 6-85-301 et seq., Arkansas Concurrent~~
31 ~~Challenge Scholarships under the Arkansas Concurrent Challenge Scholarship~~
32 ~~Program, § 6-85-401 et seq., or any other scholarship funded with net~~
33 ~~proceeds from the state lottery.~~

34 ~~(3)(A) Determining the maximum amount of loans from the~~
35 ~~Scholarship Shortfall Reserve Trust Account to the Arkansas Academic~~
36 ~~Challenge Scholarship Program, § 6-85-201 et seq., the Arkansas Workforce~~

1 ~~Challenge Scholarship Program, § 6-85-301 et seq., or the Arkansas Concurrent~~
2 ~~Challenge Scholarship Program, § 6-85-401 et seq., is the prerogative of the~~
3 ~~General Assembly. This is usually accomplished by the General Assembly's~~
4 ~~delineating such funding allocations for the various scholarship programs,~~
5 ~~with the approval of the Administrative Rules Subcommittee of the Legislative~~
6 ~~Council and through oversight as required by law by the Lottery Oversight~~
7 ~~Subcommittee of the Legislative Council. Further, the General Assembly~~
8 ~~determines that the Division of Higher Education may operate more efficiently~~
9 ~~with some flexibility, therefore it is both necessary and appropriate that~~
10 ~~the General Assembly maintain oversight by requiring prior approval of the~~
11 ~~Legislative Council or the Joint Budget Committee as provided by this~~
12 ~~section.~~

13 ~~(B) If the division determines it is necessary to borrow~~
14 ~~from the Scholarship Shortfall Reserve Trust Account to fund scholarships~~
15 ~~under the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program, § 6-85-201 et~~
16 ~~seq., the Arkansas Workforce Challenge Scholarship Program, § 6-85-301 et~~
17 ~~seq., or the Arkansas Concurrent Challenge Scholarship Program, § 6-85-401 et~~
18 ~~seq., the division shall first obtain review and approval from the~~
19 ~~Legislative Council or, if the General Assembly is in session, the Joint~~
20 ~~Budget Committee.~~

21
22 SECTION 14. DO NOT CODIFY. Transfer of funds.

23 (a) With the elimination of the Scholarship Shortfall Reserve Trust
24 Account, the twenty million dollars (\$20,000,000) currently in the account
25 shall be first transferred and applied to the Office of the Arkansas
26 Lottery's Unrestricted Net Position account to reduce the deficit to zero
27 dollars (\$0.00).

28 (b) Any funds remaining after the transfer under subsection (a) of
29 this section shall then be transferred to the Lottery Scholarship Trust
30 Account before December 31, 2025.

31 (c) The disbursement of funds under this section is a one-time
32 disbursement.

33
34 SECTION 15. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the
35 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that modifications to accounting
36 procedures for certain funds of the Office of the Arkansas Lottery are needed

1 to improve the function of the lottery; that improvements in efficiency for
2 the office are critical to ensure the success of the lottery in Arkansas; and
3 that this act should become effective at the beginning of the state's fiscal
4 year so that the office can implement these critical changes. Therefore, an
5 emergency is declared to exist, and this act being necessary for the
6 preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall become effective
7 on July 1, 2025.

8
9 /s/Hickey

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12 APPROVED: 4/3/25
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**RULES GOVERNING THE ARKANSAS ACADEMIC CHALLENGE
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

In compliance with Acts 386, 413, 539 of 2023, and the Arkansas ACCESS Act of 2025 (Act 341 Sections 80-83), the Arkansas Division of Higher Education Rules Governing the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship are presented to the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) for final approval.

The following resolution is offered for the Board's consideration:

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board reviews the rules presented in this agenda item for the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship to be administered by the Arkansas Division of Higher Education.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Commissioner of the Arkansas Division of Higher Education or his designee is authorized to make technical changes and corrections, when necessary, in the program rules for the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship rules be approved for final approval.

**DIVISION OF HIGHER EDUCATION RULES GOVERNING THE ARKANSAS
ACADEMIC CHALLENGE SCHOLARSHIP**

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Commenter Name and Organization (if applicable):

Comments: No public comments received.

Division Response: No substantive or non-substantive changes made.

Proposed Rulemaking

Title

Promulgated by:
Division of Higher Education

Title 6. Education

Chapter IV. Division of Higher Education, Department of Education

Subchapter B. Scholarships and Grants

Part 391. Rules Governing Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program

Subpart 1. Generally

6 CAR § 391-101. Policy statement.

(a) This part shall be known as the Division of Higher Education's "Rules Governing the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program".

(b) This part addresses the student eligibility criteria, method for recipient selection, continuing eligibility requirements, procedures for making payments to an approved institution of higher education, and other administrative procedures necessary for operation of the program.

6 CAR § 391-102. Definitions.

As used in this part:

(1) "Academic year" means a measure of the academic work to be accomplished by a student through the fall, spring, ~~first~~ and ~~second~~ summer semesters, or the equivalent of fall, spring, and summer semesters, in that order, ~~or as defined by the Division of Higher Education;~~

(2) "ACT" means the ACT administered by ACT, Inc.;

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(3) "ACT equivalent" means the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT), COMPASS, ACCUPLACER, Asset, or other nationally normed test that is correlated with the ACT and approved by the Division of Higher Education for use by institutions of higher education to assess a person's college readiness;

(4) ~~(A)~~ "Approved institution of higher education" means an institution of higher education approved by the Division of Higher Education to participate in the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program ~~and~~ that is:

~~(A)(i)~~ A state-supported two-year or four-year ~~college or university~~
institution of higher education;

~~(B)(ii)~~ A private, nonprofit two-year or four-year college or university with its primary headquarters located in Arkansas that is eligible to receive Title IV federal student aid funds; ~~or~~

~~(C)(iii)~~ An approved school of nursing, subject to the provisions of Arkansas Code § 6-85-213(c);

(5) "Approved school of nursing" means a school of nursing with its primary headquarter located in Arkansas that:

(A) Prepares students as registered nurses;

(B) Grants nursing diplomas;

(C) Is eligible to participate in the Higher Education Act of 1965, Title IV federal student aid programs;

(D) Is approved by the Arkansas State Board of Nursing;

(E) Has been approved by the Division of Higher Education as eligible to participate in the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program; and

(F) Is not a two-year or four-year college or university;

(6) "Arkansas resident" means a natural person who provides evidence deemed sufficient by the Division of Higher Education that:

(A) For the twelve-month period required under basic eligibility requirements the person:

(i) Maintained a permanent home in Arkansas where the person resides for an average of no less than four (4) days and nights per calendar week; and

(ii) Either:

(a) Is an Arkansas registered voter;

(b) Holds a valid Arkansas motor vehicle driver's license;

(c) Receives benefits under an Arkansas public assistance program;

(d) Uses an Arkansas residence address for federal or state tax purposes; or

(e) Claims Arkansas as a residence to hold public office or for judicial actions; or

(B) Before the deadline for filing a scholarship application under this part the applicant:

(i) Is on active military status;

(ii) Qualifies for in-state tuition and fees if the student is a:

(a) Veteran who was honorably discharged or released from a period of not less than ninety (90) days of active duty in the military, naval, or air service within three (3) years before the date of enrollment in a program of study;

(b) Dependent of a veteran under subdivision (6)(B)(ii)(a) of this section;

(c) Member of the armed forces; or

(d) Spouse of a member of the armed forces; and

(iii) Meets one (1) of the conditions under subdivision (6)(A)(ii) of this section;

(7) "Continuously enrolled" means:

(A) For a traditional student, he or she successfully completes at an approved institution of higher education twenty-seven (27) semester hours in the first academic year as a recipient and, except while the recipient is enrolled as a part-time student if the recipient is enrolled in the number of credit hours necessary to complete the recipient's degree program, successfully completes thirty (30) semester hours each academic year thereafter;

(B) For a full-time nontraditional student, he or she successfully completes

at an approved institution of higher education at least fifteen (15) semester hours of courses in consecutive semesters;

(C) For a part-time nontraditional student, he or she successfully completes at an approved institution of higher education at least six (6) semester hours of courses in consecutive semesters; and

(D) For a student who is enrolled in a degree plan that has a maximum number of semester hours in a semester that is less than the requirements of subdivisions (7)(A) – (C) of this section, he or she successfully completes at an approved institution of higher education the maximum number of hours required by the degree plan for the semester;

(8) "Cost of attendance" means the recognized cost of attendance of an institution of higher education calculated under rules established by the Division of Higher Education;

(9)(A) "Diploma with Merit" means a diploma that requires a student to complete a Success Ready Pathway and earn one of the following:

(i) An industry-recognized credential;

(ii) Twelve (12) hours of postsecondary education credit;

(iii) The Seal of Biliteracy;

(iv) An AP Scholar or Scholar with Honor designation;

(v) A score of thirty-one (31) or higher on the ASVAB;

(vi) Arkansas Certified Pre-Apprenticeship leading to a Registered

Apprenticeship;

(vii) Cambridge Scholar;

(viii) IB Career-related Programme Certificate; or

(ix) IB Scholar.

(B) A Success Ready Pathway includes a sequence of courses defined by the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education for each pathway.

~~(9)~~(10) "Full-time student" means a student enrolled in at least twenty-seven (27) semester hours the first academic year and thirty (30) semester hours per academic year thereafter or the equivalent, as described in this rule, or the equivalent

as defined by the Division of Higher Education;

~~(10)~~(11) "Enrolled" means that the approved institution of higher education where the student is attending class counts the student as enrolled for the hours claimed on the last day to add or drop a class at the approved institution of higher education;

~~(11)~~(12) "High school grade point average" means the numbered grade average on a student's high school transcript calculated:

(A) For a traditional student, using the first seven (7) of the last eight (8) semesters the student completed prior to graduating high school; or

(B) For a nontraditional student, using the last eight (8) semesters the student completed before graduating high school;

~~(12)~~(13) (A) "Incarcerated" means a person who has been convicted of a crime and is imprisoned for that crime or is being held in custody for trial or sentencing.

(B) Incarceration will result in applicant or recipient being ineligible for the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship;

~~(13)~~(14) "Lawful permanent resident" means a non-United States citizen who resides in the United States under a legally recognized and lawfully recorded permanent residence and who may receive state public benefits under 8 U.S.C. § 1622;

~~(14)~~(15) "Qualified certificate program" means a program:

(A) That is offered by an approved institution of higher education;

(B) For which credit hours are awarded that are creditable toward an associate degree or baccalaureate degree; and

(C) Recognized by the United States Department of Education for financial aid purposes;

~~(15)~~(16) "Recipient" means an applicant awarded a scholarship funded through the program;

~~(17)~~(16) "Semester" means one-half (1/2) of a traditional academic year at an institution of higher education, or an equivalent approved by the Division of Higher Education, in which a student enrolls for not less than:

(A) Fifteen (15) credit hours as a full-time student, except that in the first

semester as a first-time full-time freshman, a traditional student shall enroll in not less than twelve (12) credit hours; or

(B) Six (6) credit hours as a part-time student;

~~(17)~~(18) "State-supported student financial assistance" means a state-supported scholarship, grant, tuition waiver, or tuition reimbursement funded with state funds or net proceeds from the state lottery awarded by:

(A) The Division of Higher Education; or

(B) A scholarship or grant awarded by an institution of higher education in this state in whole or in part by state funds, including without limitation:

(i) Scholarships awarded on the basis of entrance exam scores or high school academic achievement;

(ii) Tuition waivers based on:

(a) Age;

(b) Military service;

(c) Occupation; or

(d) Other factors;

(iii) Out-of-state tuition waivers for undergraduate students from contiguous states in close proximity to a college or university;

(iv) Scholarships for transfers from two-year institutions;

(v) Performance scholarships for band, musical performing groups, arts, theater, forensics, and similar activities that are not awarded on the basis of entrance exam scores or high school academic achievement; and

(vi) Any other publicly-funded program under which students are not charged or are reimbursed by the institution of higher education for:

(a) Tuition;

(b) Fees;

(c) Books; or

(d) Other costs of attendance;

~~(18)~~(19) "Superscore" means the final composite score that is calculated according to a combination of the highest individual section scores across all of the ACT

tests taken by an individual;

~~(19)~~(20)(A) "Traditional student" means a student who:

(i) Will enter postsecondary education as a full-time first-time freshman on or before the fall semester of the academic year that begins immediately following:

(a) The student's graduation from high school; or

(b) The last day of the school year:

(1) That would have been the student's junior or senior year of high school; and

(2) In which the student completes the requirements for high school graduation and obtains a General Educational Development certificate instead of receiving a diploma; and

(ii) Remains continuously enrolled as a full-time student;

(B) "Traditional student" includes a student who otherwise meets this definition but delays entering postsecondary education under a scholarship hold approved by the Division of Higher Education.

Subpart 2. Procedures

6 CAR § 391-201. Basic eligibility requirements.

The basic requirements for an applicant to be eligible for an award from the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program are:

(1)(A) The applicant has been an Arkansas resident for at least the twelve (12) months immediately preceding the date the applicant will enroll in an approved institution of higher education.

(B) If the applicant is less than twenty-one (21) years of age, either the applicant or a parent or guardian of the applicant shall have maintained Arkansas residency for at least the twelve (12) months immediately preceding the date the applicant will enroll in an approved institution of higher education.

(C)(i) To be considered an Arkansas resident, an applicant shall

demonstrate residency by evidence deemed sufficient to the Division of Higher Education.

(ii) Evidence of residency may include without limitation information provided by the applicant on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid or a subsequent application required by the United States Department of Education for federal financial aid.

(D) During the twelve (12) months immediately preceding the date an applicant will enroll in an approved institution of higher education if the person for whom the twelve-month period is calculated under subdivision (1)(A) or (1)(B) of this section is deployed outside of Arkansas under military orders, the Division of Higher Education shall calculate the twelve (12) months by:

(i) Excluding months of military deployment outside of Arkansas that are within the twelve (12) months immediately preceding the date the applicant will enroll in an approved institution of higher education; and

(ii) Including months the person maintained Arkansas residency immediately preceding the military deployment outside of Arkansas;

(2) The applicant is a citizen of the United States or is a lawful permanent resident;

(3)(A) The applicant is accepted for admission as a full-time student or part-time student at an approved institution of higher education in a program of study that leads to or is creditable toward:

(i) A baccalaureate degree;

(ii) An associate degree;

(iii) A certificate from a qualified certificate program;

(iv) A graduate-level or professional degree; or

(v) An approved school of nursing in a program of study that leads to a nursing diploma under Arkansas Code § 6-85-213.

(B) A full-time student shall enroll in at least twenty-seven (27) semester hours the first academic year and thirty (30) semester hours per academic year thereafter or the equivalent, as described in this part, or the equivalent as defined by

the Division of Higher Education.

(C) A part-time student shall complete at least six (6) semester hours but less than the minimum number of semester hours for a full-time student, as defined by the Division of Higher Education;

(4) The applicant has not met the maximum continuing education eligibility requirements under Arkansas Code § 6-85-210;

(5) The applicant does not owe a refund on a federal or state student financial aid grant for higher education;

(6) The applicant is not in default on a state or federal student financial aid loan for higher education;

(7) The applicant has not borrowed, as determined by the approved institution of higher education to be attended, in excess of the annual loan limits under the Federal Family Educational Loan Program Systems, William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program, Income Contingent Loan Demonstration Program, Stafford Loan Program, Parent Loan for Undergraduate Students Program, or Supplemental Loan for Students Program in the same academic year for which the student has applied for assistance under this part;

(8) The applicant is not incarcerated at the time of the application for or during the time the applicant receives a scholarship under this part;

(9) The applicant has complied with United States Selective Service System requirements for registration;

(10) The applicant has completed and submitted to the United States Department of Education a Free Application for Federal Student Aid or a subsequent application required by the United States Department of Education for federal financial aid; and

(11) The applicant certifies that he or she is drug-free and pledges in writing on the application form to refrain from the use or abuse of illegal substances in order to become eligible and maintain eligibility for this program.

6 CAR § 391-202. Additional eligibility requirements for traditional

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students.

In addition to the basic eligibility requirements an applicant is eligible as a traditional student if the applicant either:

(1) (A) Graduated from an Arkansas public high school and has a minimum superscore of nineteen (19) on the ACT or the equivalent score on an ACT equivalent;
or

(B) Upon graduation from high school:

(i) Achieved a minimum grade point average of 3.0 during high school;

(ii) Completed at least one (1) college readiness assessment; and

(iii) Achieved a Diploma with Merit.

(a) Proof of attainment shall be submitted with the student's scholarship application.

(2) Has a disability identified under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. § 1400 et seq., as it existed on July 1, 2009, and graduated from an Arkansas public high school, and ~~either had:~~ meets the requirements defined in subdivision (1) of this section.

~~(A) A minimum superscore of nineteen (19) on the ACT; or~~

~~———— (B) The equivalent score on an ACT equivalent;~~

~~(3) Achieved a minimum superscore of nineteen (19) on the ACT or the equivalent score on an ACT equivalent and~~ A student shall also meet one (1) of the following eligibility requirements:

(A) ~~Graduated~~ Graduate from a private high school, an out-of-state high school, or a home school high school; ~~or~~

(B) In the year in which the student would have been a junior or senior in high school, completed the requirements for high school graduation and obtained a high school equivalency diploma approved by the Division of Workforce Services instead of receiving a diploma; or

(4) Meets one (1) of the following criteria:

(A) Was enrolled at an institution of higher education in the immediately

preceding academic year as a full-time, first-time freshman;

(B) Did not receive a scholarship under this part as a first-time, full-time freshman;

(C) Successfully completed with the equivalent of a minimum letter grade of “D” at least twenty-seven (27) semester hours of courses as a full-time, first-time freshman; ~~and~~ or

(D) Achieved a postsecondary grade point average of at least 2.5 on a 4.0 scale as a full-time, first-time freshman.

6 CAR § 391-203. Additional eligibility requirements for a nontraditional student.

In addition to the basic eligibility requirements an applicant is eligible as a nontraditional student if the applicant meets one (1) of the following requirements:

(1) If the applicant:

(A) Has not been enrolled in an approved institution of higher education;

(B) Has graduated from an Arkansas public high school, a private high school, an out-of-state high school, a home school high school, or obtained a high school equivalency diploma approved by the Division of Workforce Services; and

(C) Had a minimum superscore of nineteen (19) on the ACT or the equivalent score on an ACT equivalent; or

(2) If the applicant has been enrolled in an approved institution of higher education, has earned a postsecondary grade point average of at least 2.5 on a 4.0 scale.

6 CAR § 391-204. Continuing eligibility.

(a)(1)(A) A recipient who meets continuing eligibility criteria under this part shall receive a scholarship for one (1) academic year renewable annually until the recipient has earned one hundred twenty (120) semester credit hours.

(B) A recipient may continue to receive a scholarship after he or she has earned one hundred twenty (120) semester credit hours, but not more than one

hundred thirty (130) semester credit hours, if the student is enrolled in a baccalaureate degree program that requires more than one hundred twenty (120) semester credit hours as provided under Arkansas Code § 6-61-232.

(2) A semester in which a student withdraws or fails to complete the number of credit hours for which the student first enrolled is counted toward the maximum number of semesters for which the student may receive a scholarship award under this part.

(3) The maximums under this subsection apply to any degree program, regardless of whether or not the degree program requires additional semesters.

(4) A recipient may attend summer terms at the student's own expense to earn credit hours necessary to maintain eligibility for a scholarship under this part.

(5) For each eligible term, all required hours for continuing eligibility must be taken at one (1) approved institution.

(b) To maintain eligibility for an Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship under this part, a recipient shall:

(1) Continue to meet the relevant eligibility requirements of this part while a recipient of a scholarship under this part;

(2)(A) Meet the satisfactory academic progress standards required to receive other financial aid at the approved institution of higher education where the recipient is enrolled, as determined by the Division of Higher Education in conjunction with the institution of higher education where the recipient is enrolled.

(B)(i) A recipient who does not successfully complete any credit hours toward degree completion in a semester in which he or she received a scholarship under this part immediately forfeits the remainder of the scholarship award for that academic year.

(ii) The division shall notify the recipient of the loss of eligibility under this subdivision.

(C) By accepting scholarship funds under this part, the receiving institution certifies that students will be enrolled in courses that will meet satisfactory academic progress standards leading toward a certificate, an associate degree, a

nursing diploma, a baccalaureate degree, or a graduate-level or professional degree;

(3) If enrolling in one (1) or more remedial courses, complete all remedial courses required by the approved institution of higher education by the time the student completes the first thirty (30) semester hours attempted after receiving the scholarship;

(4) Earn a postsecondary grade point average of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale at an approved institution of higher education;

(5) Enroll in courses that lead toward a baccalaureate degree or graduate-level or professional degree after attempting the lesser of:

(A) Five (5) semesters; or

(B) The completion of an associate degree program; and

(6) Meet any other continuing eligibility criteria established by the division.

(c)(1) A traditional student recipient who loses eligibility for a scholarship may apply as a first-time nontraditional student.

(2) A recipient under subdivision (c)(1) of this section who loses eligibility for the nontraditional student scholarship is not eligible to apply for a scholarship under any eligibility provision of this part.

(d) If a recipient is subject to losing a scholarship under subsection (c) of this section due to a catastrophic event experienced by the recipient or a family member of the recipient, the division may waive the requirements of this section and determine the appropriate requirements for the recipient to either retain or regain the scholarship.

6 CAR § 391-205. Scholarship award amounts.

(a) The General Assembly may use net proceeds from the state lottery to fund the scholarships awarded under this part and to supplement the state-supported student financial assistance that the General Assembly determines is necessary to meet the state's objective for broadening and increasing access of Arkansas citizens to higher education.

(b) Net proceeds from the state lottery used to fund scholarships under this rule

shall:

(1) Be used exclusively for the purposes set out in Arkansas Constitution, Amendment 87, and this part; and

(2) Supplement and shall not supplant nonlottery state educational resources.

(c) The scholarships established under this part are subject to available funding and do not create for any student an entitlement to financial assistance to enable the student's attendance at an approved institution of higher education.

(d)(1)(A) Subject to the availability of net revenue, the scholarship award amount under this part for an academic year for a full-time recipient enrolled in a four-year approved institution of higher education is:

(i) ~~One~~Two thousand dollars ~~(\$1,000)~~ (\$2,000) for a recipient who has earned less than twenty-seven (27) semester credit hours;

(ii) Four thousand dollars (\$4,000) for a recipient who has earned at least twenty-seven (27) semester credit hours but less than fifty-seven (57) semester credit hours;

(iii) Four thousand dollars (\$4,000) for a recipient who has earned at least fifty-seven (57) semester credit hours but less than eighty-seven (87) semester credit hours; and

(iv) *(a)* Five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for a recipient who has earned at least eighty-seven (87) semester credit hours but no more than one hundred twenty (120) semester credit hours, unless the recipient is enrolled in a baccalaureate degree program that requires more than one hundred twenty (120) semester credit hours, but not more than one hundred thirty (130) semester credit hours, as provided under Arkansas Code § 6-61-232, then up to the number of credit hours required to complete the baccalaureate program.

(b) A recipient shall receive no more than one (1) year of the scholarship provided under subdivision (d)(1)(A)(iv) *(a)* of this section unless the recipient is enrolled in a baccalaureate degree program that requires more than one hundred twenty (120) semester credit hours as provided under Arkansas Code § 6-61-232.

(c)(1) A recipient who is eligible to receive the scholarship under subdivision (d)(1)(A)(iv)(a) of this section may receive the scholarship while enrolled in a semester as a part-time student.

(2) The scholarship amount for the semester in which a recipient is enrolled as a part-time student under subdivision (d)(1)(A)(iv)(c)(1) of this section ~~shall~~may be prorated by the number of credit hours in which the recipient is enrolled.

(B)(i) To determine the correct scholarship award amount based on credit hours, a first-time recipient shall submit a current college or university transcript if the first-time recipient has earned any semester credit hours to the Division of Higher Education no later than a date determined by the Division of Higher Education prior to the academic year for which the first-time recipient will receive an initial scholarship award.

(ii) A first-time recipient who does not submit a transcript to the Division of Higher Education on or before the date determined by the Division of Higher Education shall receive the award amount under subdivision (d)(1)(A)(i) of this section.

~~(C)(i) An applicant may elect for the earned semester credit hours under subdivision (d)(1)(A) of this section to be only those semester credit hours earned after graduating from high school or obtaining a high school equivalency diploma approved by the Division of Workforce Services.~~

~~—————(ii) If the applicant makes the election under subdivision (d)(1)(C)(i) of this section, any semester credit hours earned through concurrent credit or any other method before graduating high school or obtaining a high school equivalency diploma approved by the Division of Workforce Services shall not be counted as earned semester credit hours for the purposes of determining a recipient's scholarship award amount under subdivision (d)(1)(A) of this section.~~

(2)(A) The Division of Higher Education shall award an aggregate amount of scholarship awards to nontraditional students of up to fifteen million dollars (\$15,000,000).

(B)(i) The Division of Higher Education shall return to the Office of the

Arkansas Lottery the excess funding, if any, for scholarship awards the Division of Higher Education received under Arkansas Code § 23-115-801.

(ii) The office shall deposit any funds received from the Division of Higher Education under subdivision (d)(2)(B) into the Lottery Scholarship Trust Account established under Arkansas Code § 23-115-801(b).

(C) Priority for scholarships awarded to nontraditional students is based on:

(i) The applicant's level of progress toward completion of:

(a) A certificate;

(b) An associate degree;

(c) A nursing diploma;

(d) A baccalaureate degree; or

(e) A graduate-level or professional degree; or

(ii) Other criteria established by the Division of Higher Education.

(3) Subject to the availability of net revenue, the scholarship award for an academic year for a full-time student enrolled in one (1) of the following institutions of higher education is ~~one~~two thousand dollars ~~(\$1,000)~~ (\$2,000) for the first year and three thousand dollars (\$3,000) for the second year:

(A) A two-year approved institution of higher education;

(B) A branch campus of a four-year approved institution of higher education; or

(C) An approved school of nursing.

(4) Subject to the availability of net revenue, the scholarship award amount for a part-time student recipient shall be:

(A) One-half (1/2) of the award amount for a full-time student recipient, if the recipient is enrolled in at least six (6) semester hours but less than nine (9) semester hours; or

(B) Three-quarters (3/4) of the award amount for a full-time student recipient, if the recipient is enrolled in at least nine (9) semester hours but less than the number of hours required for a full-time student recipient.

(5) A current recipient who maintains eligibility for the scholarship under this part shall continue to receive the scholarship award amount first awarded to the recipient.

(6) The Division of Higher Education shall give priority for a scholarship award to a full-time or part-time student:

(A) Who meets the eligibility requirements under this part; and

(B) Whose parent, by birth or legal adoption:

(i) Was a resident of the State of Arkansas at the time that person entered the service of the United States Armed Forces or whose official residence is in Arkansas; and

(ii) Was a member of the United States Armed Forces who was killed while performing military duty:

(a) In a status identified under 32 U.S.C. § 101 et seq. or 10 U.S.C. § 101 et seq. as they existed on January 1, 2011; or

(b) In state active duty status.

(e) Annually by December 15, the Legislative Council shall provide to the General Assembly its recommendations for any changes to the:

(1) Award amounts;

(2) Number or type of scholarships; and

(3) Eligibility requirements.

(f) It is the intent of the General Assembly that in determining award amounts under this part, the General Assembly will consider whether sufficient funds will be available to pay for scholarship awards through the anticipated completion of the degree or certificate a recipient is seeking.

(g) All awards under this section are subject to the prohibition under Arkansas Code § 6-80-105 against using public funds in a student financial package in excess of the recognized cost of attendance at the institution where the student is enrolled.

(h)(1) If the Division of Higher Education has less than a sufficient amount from net proceeds from the state lottery to provide for the scholarship commitments under this part, the Division of Higher Education shall give priority for continued financial

support under this part to a student with continuing eligibility superior to first-time applicants.

(2) If the funding is insufficient to fully fund the scholarships for students with continuing eligibility created under this part, the Division of Higher Education shall award scholarships based upon the following criteria to students with continuing eligibility as follows:

(A) First, to students who have the highest level of progress toward completion of a certificate, an associate degree, a baccalaureate degree, or a graduate-level or professional degree, and who are enrolled in a program of study that is:

(i) In an area of critical workforce need as determined by the Division of Higher Education; or

(ii) In a science, technology, engineering, or mathematics field;

(B) Second, to students who have the highest level of progress toward completion of a certificate, an associate degree, a baccalaureate degree, or a graduate-level or professional degree, and who are enrolled in a program of study other than those listed in subdivision (h)(2)(A) of this section; and

(C) Last, in the event funding is insufficient to fully fund students under subdivision (h)(2)(A) or (h)(2)(B) of this section, to students who have the highest postsecondary grade point average.

(3)(A) If after funding all students with continuing eligibility under this section funding is insufficient to fund all qualified first-time applicants, the Division of Higher Education shall award scholarships to first-time applicants in order of priority based upon the applicants' ACT superscore or ACT equivalent superscore.

(B) If after prioritizing first-time applicants based upon the applicants' ACT or ACT equivalent scores funding is insufficient to fund all applicants with like ACT or ACT equivalent scores, the Division of Higher Education shall determine who receives an award by random drawing.

6 CAR § 391-206. Payments of scholarships.

(a)(1) The Division of Higher Education shall disburse scholarships to the approved

institution of the student's choice.

(2) The division shall send funds to the institution via electronic funds transfer or state warrant.

(3) After verification of full-time enrollment, the institution will disburse the scholarship to the student according to the institution's disbursement procedures.

(4) The scholarship payment will correspond to academic terms, semesters, quarters, or equivalent time periods at the eligible institution.

(5) In no instance may the entire amount of the scholarship disbursement for an educational year be paid to or on behalf of such student in advance.

(b) **Transfer of scholarships to another approved institution.** A recipient who has received an Academic Challenge Scholarship may transfer the scholarship to another approved Arkansas institution of higher education, provided that the student notifies the division of the change of status by October 1 for the fall term and by February 1 for the winter and/or spring terms by changing the college on the student's department YOUNiversal financial aid account.

(c) **Repayment of scholarships.**

(1) If the recipient of a scholarship withdraws, drops out, or is expelled on or after the first day of class of a payment period, the institution will determine whether the student received an overpayment of financial aid funds for noninstitutional expenses.

(2) Overpayment is the difference between the amount received as cash disbursements and the amount incurred for noninstitutional costs during the portion of the payment period that the student was actually enrolled.

(3) It is the institution's responsibility to contact students and recover overpayments.

(d) **Refunds.**

(1) The Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program is entitled to a refund of the scholarship or loan amount, for that semester, if the recipient of a scholarship or loan withdraws, drops out, or is expelled on or after his or her first day of class of the payment period and the situation falls under the refund policy of the

institution.

(2) The institution shall pay the refund to the division.

(e) **Overpayment.** If the award of an Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship results in an overpayment to the student according to the state law, Arkansas Code § 6-80-105, governing the stacking of scholarships, the institution shall follow the Department of Higher Education stacking policy in reducing the student's financial package to prevent the student from receiving funds above the federally recognized cost of attendance.

6 CAR § 391-207. Institutional responsibilities.

(a) College/university responsibilities.

(1) Administrative agreement.

(A) The chief executive officer of the eligible institution is responsible for appointing one (1) representative from the financial aid office to act as administrator of the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program and to receive all communications, forms, etc.

(B) This representative is responsible for verification, data, and compliance with all program rules.

(C) The institution must comply with all rules in order to maintain continued eligibility status.

(2) **Disbursement records.** The institution shall maintain information on the student indicating disbursement of scholarship funds.

(3) Institutional verification.

(A) The institution shall provide certification of full-time enrollment and enrollment in courses that will meet satisfactory academic progress standards, as of the eleventh day of classes, by completing a verification roster each semester after registration.

(B) The verification roster is an alphabetical listing by institution of all persons receiving the award for a given academic term.

(C) The certifying official is responsible for completing the verification

rosters each semester or trimester.

(D) The Division of Higher Education shall provide electronic verification roster to the financial aid administrator for each semester or trimester as needed.

(E) The electronic verification roster shall be returned to the division by November 1 for the fall term and by March 15 for the spring term.

(F) Students who are enrolled less than full-time in the current term shall not receive scholarship benefits in that term.

(G) The division shall also provide electronic continuing eligibility rosters to the Financial Aid Administrator before the end of the spring term.

(H) The continuing eligibility rosters shall be returned to the division no later than June 1 to ensure that adequate time is provided to notify students of their status in the program.

(4) Deadlines for disbursement of funds.

(A) The deadline for disbursement of funds is no later than ten (10) days after receipt of funds.

(B) Any outstanding funds not disbursed by these dates must be returned to the division.

(C) For those students whose applications are received by the division too late to allow disbursement by these dates, disbursement will be made within ten (10) working days of receipt of the verification roster and electronic transfer of funds.

(5) Due diligence.

(A) The institution will exercise due diligence in providing complete, accurate, and timely information as requested by the division on any Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship recipient or former recipient.

(B) In addition, the institution will exercise due diligence in complying with all the rules of the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program.

(C) The division shall periodically review the institution's records concerning this program in an effort to exercise its due diligence requirements as a steward of state funds.

(b) Recipient's responsibilities.

DRAFT

(1) It is the recipient's responsibility to notify the division of any change in status within twenty-one (21) days.

(2) This will include change in:

(A) Name;

(B) Address;

(C) Institution; and

(D) Full-time status (twelve (12) college credit hours for those students who are in their first fall semester following high school graduation, fifteen (15) college credit hours for those students who are beyond the first fall semester following high school graduation).

(3) Failure to notify the division of a change of status may affect future eligibility.

6 CAR § 391-208. Scholarship hold — Leave of absence.

(a) The Division of Higher Education may approve a scholarship hold or a leave of absence for a traditional student for a period of twenty-four (24) months or less.

(b) The reasons for a scholarship hold or a leave of absence may include without limitation:

(1) A medical condition of the student or a member of the student's immediate family that, on the basis of a physician's good-faith judgment, necessitates the student or the student's immediate family member to be hospitalized or receive outpatient or home-based medical care or to recuperate until released by the attending physician;

(2) A personal or family emergency that requires the student to:

(A) Attend the funeral of an immediate family member; or

(B) Visit a relative of the student if the relative has a medical condition in which death is possible or imminent;

(3) Military service under Arkansas Code § 6-61-112; or

(4)(A) A commitment of twelve (12) to twenty-four (24) months for service in a national or international humanitarian project sponsored by a nonprofit corporation organized with a charitable or educational purpose.

(B) The student's commitment shall be expressed in a written agreement with the nonprofit organization including the terms of completion for the student's service on the related project.

(C) The division shall release a scholarship hold or a leave of absence, whichever is applicable, if the division determines that the student did not complete the commitment under the written agreement.

State of Arkansas *As Engrossed: H3/6/25 H3/12/25*

95th General Assembly

A Bill

Regular Session, 2025

HOUSE BILL 1512

By: Representatives M. Shepherd, *Evans, Beaty Jr., Brooks, Eubanks, Wardlaw, Barker, K. Brown, M. Brown, John Carr, Cavanaugh, Crawford, Gramlich, Hawk, McAlindon, McClure, S. Meeks, Nazarenko, Rose, Torres, Wing, Achor, Beck, Eaves, Unger, Andrews*
By: Senator J. Dismang

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS ACCESS ACT; TO AMEND
VARIOUS PROVISIONS OF THE ARKANSAS CODE AS THEY
RELATE TO EDUCATION IN THE STATE OF ARKANSAS; AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS ACCESS ACT; AND
TO AMEND VARIOUS PROVISIONS OF THE
ARKANSAS CODE AS THEY RELATE TO
EDUCATION IN THE STATE OF ARKANSAS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Title.

This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Arkansas ACCESS Act".

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-1-404(a), concerning the membership of
the School Leadership Coordinating Council, is amended to read as follows:

(a) The School Leadership Coordinating Council consists of ~~seventeen~~
~~(17)~~ the following members ~~as follows~~:

~~(1) The Chair of the Arkansas Association of Colleges for
Teacher Education Council of Deans;~~

~~(2)~~ The Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education;

~~(3) The Director of the Arkansas Leadership Academy;~~

~~(4)~~ (2) The Commissioner of the Division of Higher Education;



1 (2) "Inclusive Higher Education Accreditation Council" means the
2 independent, nonprofit accreditation agency for postsecondary programs for
3 students with an intellectual disability; and

4 (3) "Qualifying program" means a postsecondary education program
5 for a student with an intellectual disability that is accredited by the
6 Inclusive Higher Education Accreditation Council.

7
8 6-82-2603. Creation – Eligibility.

9 (a) There is established the Governor's Higher Education Transition
10 Scholarship Program within the Division of Higher Education.

11 (b) An eligible student who receives a Governor's Higher Education
12 Transition Scholarship shall maintain eligibility for up to eight (8)
13 continuous semesters or until credentialing is obtained, whichever occurs
14 first.

15
16 6-82-2604. Scholarship awards.

17 (a) Scholarship awards under this subchapter are contingent upon
18 availability of funds.

19 (b)(1) Scholarship awards shall not exceed the institutional cost of
20 attendance.

21 (2) The maximum award amount per qualifying semester that a
22 student may receive is two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500).

23 (3) A scholarship award may be applied to tuition, mandatory
24 fees, programmatic fees, room and board, supplies, and extended support
25 services.

26
27 6-82-2605. Rules.

28 The Division of Higher Education may promulgate rules to govern
29 administration of the Governor's Higher Education Transition Scholarship
30 Program, including without limitation application forms and deadlines.

31
32 SECTION 80. Arkansas Code § 6-85-207 is amended to read as follows:

33 6-85-207. Additional eligibility requirements for traditional students.

34 In addition to the basic eligibility requirements of § 6-85-206, an
35 applicant is eligible as a traditional student if the applicant either:

36 (1)(A) Graduated from an Arkansas public high school and has a

1 minimum superscore of nineteen (19) on the ACT or the equivalent score on an
2 ACT equivalent; or

3 (B) Upon graduation from high school:

4 (i) Achieved a minimum grade point average of 3.0
5 during high school;

6 (ii) Completed at least one (1) college readiness
7 assessment; and

8 (iii)(a) Achieved a diploma of merit as defined in
9 rules promulgated by the State Board of Education.

10 (b) Proof of attainment of the diploma of
11 merit under subdivision (1)(B)(iii)(a) of this section shall be submitted
12 with the student's scholarship application; or

13 (2)(A) Has a disability identified under the Individuals with
14 Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. § 1400 et seq., as it existed on July
15 1, 2009, ~~and~~ graduated from an Arkansas public high school, and ~~either~~ meets
16 the requirements defined in subdivision (1) of this section.

17 ~~(A) Had a minimum composite score of nineteen (19) on the~~
18 ~~ACT or the equivalent score on an ACT equivalent; or~~

19 ~~(B) Scored proficient or higher on all state-mandated end-~~
20 ~~of-course assessments, including without limitation end-of-course assessments~~
21 ~~on;~~

22 ~~(i) Algebra I;~~

23 ~~(ii) Geometry;~~

24 ~~(iii) Biology; and~~

25 ~~(iv) Literacy;~~

26 ~~(3) Achieved a minimum superscore of nineteen (19) on the ACT or~~
27 ~~the equivalent score on an ACT equivalent and;~~

28 (B) A student shall also meet one (1) of the following
29 eligibility requirements:

30 ~~(A) Graduated~~ (i) Graduate from a private high school, an
31 out-of-state high school, or a home school high school; ~~or~~

32 ~~(B)(ii)~~ (ii) In the year in which the student would have been a
33 junior or senior in high school, completed the requirements for high school
34 graduation and obtained a high school equivalency diploma approved by the
35 Adult Education Section instead of receiving a diploma; or

36 ~~(4)(iii)~~ (iii) Meets one (1) of the following criteria:

1 ~~(A)~~(a) Was enrolled at an institution of higher education
2 in the immediately preceding academic year as a full-time, first-time
3 freshman;

4 ~~(B)~~(b) Did not receive a scholarship under this subchapter
5 as a full-time, first-time freshman;

6 ~~(C)~~(c) Successfully completed with the equivalent of a
7 minimum letter grade of "D" at least twenty-seven (27) semester hours of
8 courses as a full-time, first-time freshman; ~~and or~~

9 ~~(D)~~(d) Achieved a postsecondary grade point average of at
10 least 2.5 on a 4.0 scale as a full-time, first-time freshman.

11
12 SECTION 81. Arkansas Code § 6-85-212(d)(1)(A), concerning scholarship
13 award amounts under the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program, is
14 amended to read as follows:

15 (d)(1)(A) Subject to the availability of net revenue, the scholarship
16 award amount under this subchapter for an academic year for a full-time
17 recipient enrolled in a four-year approved institution of higher education
18 is:

19 (i) ~~One~~ Two thousand dollars ~~(\$1,000)~~ (\$2,000) for a
20 recipient who has earned less than twenty-seven (27) semester credit hours;

21 (ii) Four thousand dollars (\$4,000) for a recipient
22 who has earned at least twenty-seven (27) semester credit hours but less than
23 fifty-seven (57) semester credit hours;

24 (iii) Four thousand dollars (\$4,000) for a recipient
25 who has earned at least fifty-seven (57) semester credit hours but less than
26 eighty-seven (87) semester credit hours; and

27 (iv)(a) Five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for a
28 recipient who has earned at least eighty-seven (87) semester credit hours but
29 no more than one hundred twenty (120) semester credit hours unless the
30 recipient is enrolled in a baccalaureate degree program that requires more
31 than one hundred twenty (120) semester credit hours, but not more than one
32 hundred thirty (130) semester credit hours, as provided under § 6-61-232,
33 then up to the number of credit hours required to complete the baccalaureate
34 program.

35 (b) A recipient shall receive no more than one
36 (1) year of the scholarship provided under subdivision (d)(1)(A)(iv)(a) of

1 this section unless the recipient is enrolled in a baccalaureate degree
2 program that requires more than one hundred twenty (120) semester credit
3 hours as provided under § 6-61-232.

4 (c)(1) A recipient who is eligible to receive
5 the scholarship under subdivision (d)(1)(A)(iv)(a) of this section may
6 receive the scholarship while enrolled in a semester as a part-time student.

7 (2) The scholarship amount for the
8 semester in which a recipient is enrolled as a part-time student under
9 subdivision (d)(1)(A)(iv)(c)(1) of this section ~~shall~~ may be prorated by the
10 number of credit hours in which the recipient is enrolled.

11
12 SECTION 82. Arkansas Code § 6-85-212(d)(1)(C), concerning the
13 authorization for an applicant to elect for earned semester credit hours to
14 be only those earned after graduating from high school or obtaining a high
15 school equivalency diploma, is repealed.

16 ~~(G)(i) An applicant may elect for the earned semester~~
17 ~~credit hours under subdivision (d)(1)(A) of this section to be only those~~
18 ~~semester credit hours earned after graduating from high school or obtaining a~~
19 ~~high school equivalency diploma approved by the Adult Education Section.~~

20 ~~(ii) If an applicant makes the election under~~
21 ~~subdivision (d)(1)(G)(i) of this section, any semester credit hours earned~~
22 ~~through concurrent credit or any other method before graduating high school~~
23 ~~or obtaining a high school equivalency diploma approved by the Adult~~
24 ~~Education Section shall not be counted as earned semester credit hours for~~
25 ~~the purposes of determining a recipient's scholarship award amount under~~
26 ~~subdivision (d)(1)(A) of this section.~~

27
28 SECTION 83. Arkansas Code § 6-85-212(d)(3), concerning scholarship
29 award amounts for certain institutions of higher education under the Arkansas
30 Challenge Scholarship Program, is amended to read as follows:

31 (3) Subject to the availability of net revenue, the scholarship
32 award for an academic year for a full-time student enrolled in one (1) of the
33 following institutions of higher education is ~~one~~ two thousand dollars
34 ~~(\$1,000)~~ (\$2,000) for the first year and three thousand dollars (\$3,000) for
35 the second year:

36 (A) A two-year approved institution of higher education;

1 (B) A branch campus of a four-year approved institution of
2 higher education; or

3 (C) An approved school of nursing.
4

5 SECTION 84. Arkansas Code § 6-85-302 is amended to read as follows:

6 6-85-302. Definitions.

7 As used in this subchapter:

8 (1) "Academic year" means a measure of the academic work to be
9 accomplished by a student through the fall, spring, and summer semesters, or
10 the equivalent of the fall, spring, and summer semesters, in that order;

11 (2) "Approved institution of higher education" means an
12 institution of higher education approved by the Division of Higher Education
13 to participate in the Arkansas Workforce Challenge Scholarship Program and
14 that is:

15 (A) A state-supported two-year or four-year ~~college or~~
16 university institution of higher education; or

17 (B) A private, nonprofit two-year or four-year college or
18 university with its primary headquarters located in Arkansas that is eligible
19 to receive Title IV federal student aid funds; or

20 (C) A public or private vocational-technical school that
21 is:

22 (i) Included on the Workforce Innovation and
23 Opportunity Act eligible training provider list;

24 (ii) Qualified to receive approval for veterans'
25 education benefits from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs; or

26 (iii) Included on the State Board of Private Career
27 Education list; and

28 ~~(2)(A)(3)(A)~~ (A) "Certificate program" means a program that is
29 offered or made available to a student by an approved institution of higher
30 education that leads to the obtainment of a certification or license,
31 including without limitation a program operated or sponsored by a third
32 party.

33 (B) "Certificate program" is determined by the division
34 and includes without limitation the following:

35 (i) Advanced manufacturing;

36 (ii) Health care;

State of Arkansas
94th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2023

As Engrossed: H2/14/23

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1412

By: Representative J. Mayberry
By: Senator J. English

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT CONCERNING RULES PROMULGATED BY THE DIVISION
OF HIGHER EDUCATION; TO REQUIRE THE DIVISION OF
HIGHER EDUCATION TO PROMULGATE CERTAIN RULES
CONCERNING THE ADMINISTRATION OF SCHOLARSHIPS FUNDED
WITH STATE FUNDS AND LOTTERY PROCEEDS; TO DECLARE AN
EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO REQUIRE THE DIVISION OF HIGHER
EDUCATION TO PROMULGATE CERTAIN RULES
CONCERNING THE ADMINISTRATION OF
SCHOLARSHIPS FUNDED WITH STATE FUNDS AND
LOTTERY PROCEEDS; AND TO DECLARE AN
EMERGENCY.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 80, Subchapter 1, is amended
to add an additional section to read as follows:

6-80-109. Division of Higher Education – Rules.

(a) The Division of Higher Education shall promulgate or update
existing division rules to allow a student who is a recipient of a
scholarship to utilize scholarship funds to enroll in and attend courses
offered during a summer term at the postsecondary institution in which the
student is enrolled.

(b) Rules promulgated under this section shall include without



1 limitation requirements concerning:

2 (1) Student eligibility; and

3 (2) The disbursement and administration of scholarship funds
4 utilized by a student to enroll in and attend courses offered during a summer
5 term.

6 (c) As used in this section, "scholarship" shall include a scholarship
7 program that is:

8 (1) Funded with state funds or lottery proceeds; and

9 (2) Administered by the division.

10
11 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-85-204(14), concerning the definition of
12 "semester" under the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program, is
13 amended to read as follows:

14 (14)(A) "Semester" means one-half ($\frac{1}{2}$) of a traditional academic
15 year at an institution of higher education, or an equivalent approved by the
16 division, in which a student enrolls for not less than:

17 ~~(A)(i)~~ Fifteen (15) credit hours as a full-time student,
18 except that in the first semester as a first-time full-time freshman, a
19 traditional student shall enroll in not less than twelve (12) credit hours;
20 or

21 ~~(B)(ii)~~ Six (6) credit hours as a part-time student.

22 (B) For purposes of summer courses at an institution of
23 higher education, a "semester" shall mean the same as is defined by the
24 division, as required by § 6-80-109;

25
26 SECTION 3. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the
27 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that the Division of Higher
28 Education must make certain arrangements to facilitate the use of Arkansas
29 Academic Challenge Scholarship funds for upcoming summer courses; and that
30 many of these arrangements must occur in time for the 2023-2024 school year.
31 Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist, and this act being necessary
32 for the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall become
33 effective on July 1, 2023.

34
35 /s/J. Mayberry

36 **APPROVED: 3/30/23**

**RULES GOVERNING THE ARKANSAS ACCESS TO ACCELERATION
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

In compliance with the Arkansas ACCESS Act of 2025 (Act 341 Section 91), the Arkansas Division of Higher Education Rules Governing the Arkansas ACCESS to Acceleration Scholarship Program are presented to the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) for final approval.

The following resolution is offered for the Board's consideration:

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board reviews the rules presented in this agenda item for the Arkansas ACCESS to Acceleration Scholarship Program to be administered by the Arkansas Division of Higher Education.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Commissioner of the Arkansas Division of Higher Education or his designee is authorized to make technical changes and corrections, when necessary, in the program rules for the Arkansas ACCESS to Acceleration Scholarship Program.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Arkansas ACCESS to Acceleration Scholarship Program rules be approved for final approval.

**DIVISION OF HIGHER EDUCATION RULES GOVERNING THE ACCESS TO
ACCELERATION SCHOLARSHIP
PUBLIC COMMENTS AND RESPONSES**

Commenter Name:

Comments: No public comments received.

Division Response: No substantive changes made.

Proposed Rulemaking

Title

Promulgated by:

Division of Higher Education

Title 6. Education

Chapter IV. Division of Higher Education, Department of Education

Subchapter B. Scholarships and Grants

Part 408. Rules Governing Access to Acceleration Scholarship Program

Subpart 1. Generally

6 CAR § 408.101. Creation.

(a) This part shall be known as the Division of Higher Education's Rules Governing the Access to Acceleration Scholarship Program.

6 CAR § 408.102. Definitions.

As used in this part:

(1) "Academic year" means a measure of academic work to be accomplished by the recipient during the fall, spring, and summer semesters, in that order;

(2) "Approved institution of higher education" means an institution of higher education that:

(A) Is approved by the Division of Higher Education to participate in the Access to Acceleration Scholarship Program; and

(B) Is a:

(i) State-supported two-year or four-year institution of higher education; or

DRAFT

(ii) Private, nonprofit two-year or four-year institution of higher education that has its primary headquarters located in Arkansas and is eligible to receive Title IV federal student aid funds; and

(iii) Approved by the division to offer concurrent credit courses;

(3)(A) "Concurrent credit course" means a course as defined in § 6-16-1202.

(B) "Concurrent credit course" does not include a program that is operated or sponsored by a third party;

(4)(A) "Dual enrollment course" means an enrollment program allowing high school students to take college-level courses for college credit at approved institutions of higher education.

(B) High schools may give students course credit upon completion of the dual enrollment course;

(5) "Eligible student" means a student enrolled in grade nine (9), grade ten (10), grade eleven (11), or grade twelve (12) at a public high school or home school in Arkansas;

(6) "Third party" means a person or entity that does not receive disbursement directly from the division, including a subcontractor of the institution; and

(7) "Verification rosters" means an alphabetical listing by an approved institution of higher education of all students receiving the award for a given academic term that is completed by the certifying official at an eligible institution of higher education.

6 CAR § 408.103. Eligibility.

(a) A student is eligible to be awarded a scholarship under this part for an academic semester or academic year during which the student is enrolled in a concurrent credit course if, pursuant to Arkansas Code § 6-16-1204(a)(5), the student:

(1) Is admitted to an institution of higher education; and

(2) Meets all of the prerequisites for the course in which he or she is enrolled.

(b) Scholarship funds shall not be used for:

(1) Courses at a vocational center that are reimbursable under Arkansas Code § 6-51-305; or

(2) A concurrent credit course that may be funded under Arkansas Code § 6-18-2506.

(c)(1) Scholarship funds may be used for dual enrollment courses to the same extent as concurrent credit courses.

(2) Disbursement of funds for dual enrollment courses shall be governed by an agreement between the institution of higher education and the eligible student.

6 CAR § 408.104. Continuing eligibility.

(a) To maintain eligibility for an Access to Acceleration Scholarship under this part, a recipient shall:

(1) Continue to meet the relevant eligibility requirements of this part while a recipient of a scholarship under this part;

_____ (2)(A) Meet the satisfactory academic progress standards required to receive other financial aid at the approved institution of higher education where the recipient is enrolled, as determined by the Division of Higher Education in conjunction with the institution of higher education where the recipient is enrolled.

_____ (B)(i) A recipient who does not successfully complete any credit hours toward degree completion in a semester in which he or she received a scholarship under this part immediately forfeits the remainder of the scholarship award for that academic year.

_____ (ii) The division shall notify the recipient of the loss of eligibility under this subdivision.

_____ (C) By accepting scholarship funds under this part, the receiving institution certifies that students will be enrolled in courses that will meet satisfactory academic progress standards leading toward a certificate, an associate degree, a nursing diploma, a baccalaureate degree, or a graduate-level or professional degree;

_____ (3) Earn a postsecondary grade point average of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale at an approved institution of higher education;

(4) Enroll in courses that lead toward an associate degree or baccalaureate degree or graduate-level or professional degree; and

(5) Meet any other continuing eligibility criteria established by the division.

(b)(1) A student recipient who loses eligibility for a scholarship may apply to receive the scholarship for one course the next semester to meet continuing eligibility requirements.

(2) A recipient under subdivision (b)(1) of this section who fails to meet continuing eligibility requirements loses eligibility for the scholarship for one (1) semester before being able to reapply.

(c) If a recipient is subject to losing a scholarship under this section due to a catastrophic event experienced by the recipient or a family member of the recipient, the division may waive the requirements of this section and determine the appropriate requirements for the recipient to either retain or regain the scholarship.

6 CAR § 408.105. Distribution—Award Amounts.

(a) If funds are available, the Division of Higher Education shall award an Access to Acceleration Scholarship to all eligible students who meet the requirements under this part in the order in which the rosters are received.

(b)(1) The division shall distribute scholarships from the funds available in an equal amount to every approved institution of higher education that has enrolled a student eligible to receive a scholarship under this part.

(2) A scholarship awarded to a student who is eligible under this part shall be awarded in the amount of sixty-five dollars (\$65) per concurrent credit course hour in which the eligible student is enrolled, for a maximum of fifteen (15) concurrent credit course hours per semester.

(3) The maximum scholarship amount a student may be awarded in an academic year, including summer semesters, shall not exceed two thousand dollars (\$2,000).

(4)(A) Institutions of higher education and school districts shall not charge a public school student or the student's parent or guardian for tuition, fees, or materials for participation in concurrent credit courses, if the student is eligible under this part.

(B) If a student enrolls in more than the maximum fifteen (15) credits allowed under this section, pursuant to Arkansas Code § 6-16-1204 excess costs may be satisfied by one of the following:

(i) Funding from the school district where a student is enrolled;

(ii) Other consideration agreed to by the public school district or open-enrollment public charter school and institution of higher education; and

(iii) Any other available sources as determined by the division.

(C) A student or a student's parent or guardian shall not be responsible for tuition, fees, or materials for participation in a concurrent credit course.

(5) Institutions of higher education may charge students participating in dual enrollment courses.

(c)(1) A state-supported two-year or four-year institution of higher education may offer a reduced tuition rate for concurrent credit courses offered by the state-supported institution of higher education to eligible students under this part.

(2) The reduction in tuition under subdivision (c)(1) of this section shall not be considered an institutional scholarship.

6 CAR § 408.106. Responsibilities of Institutions of Higher Education.

(a)(1) The chief executive officer of an approved institution of higher education shall appoint one (1) representative from the financial aid office to act as administrator of the Access to Acceleration Scholarship Program and to receive all communications, forms, etc.

(2) This representative is responsible for verification, data, and compliance with this part.

(b) The approved institution of higher education shall maintain information on the student indicating disbursement of scholarship funds.

(c)(1) The approved institution of higher education shall provide certification of enrollment in courses that will meet satisfactory academic progress standards, as of the eleventh day of classes, by completing a verification roster each semester after registration.

(2) Verifications rosters must be submitted to the Division of Higher Education by October 1 each fall semester, March 1 each spring semester, and at the date specified by the division for the summer semester.

(d)(1) The deadline for the division to disburse funds shall be no later than ten (10) days after receipt of funds and any outstanding funds that are not disbursed by this deadline shall be returned to the division.

(2) For students whose applications are received by the division too late to allow disbursement by the deadline, disbursement will be made within ten (10) working days of receipt of the verification roster and electronic transfer of funds to the approved institution of higher education.

(e) Approved institutions of higher education shall exercise due diligence in providing complete, accurate, and timely information as requested by the division on any scholarship recipient or former scholarship recipient.

State of Arkansas *As Engrossed: H3/6/25 H3/12/25*

95th General Assembly

A Bill

Regular Session, 2025

HOUSE BILL 1512

By: Representatives M. Shepherd, *Evans, Beaty Jr., Brooks, Eubanks, Wardlaw, Barker, K. Brown, M. Brown, John Carr, Cavanaugh, Crawford, Gramlich, Hawk, McAlindon, McClure, S. Meeks, Nazarenko, Rose, Torres, Wing, Achor, Beck, Eaves, Unger, Andrews*
By: Senator J. Dismang

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS ACCESS ACT; TO AMEND
VARIOUS PROVISIONS OF THE ARKANSAS CODE AS THEY
RELATE TO EDUCATION IN THE STATE OF ARKANSAS; AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS ACCESS ACT; AND
TO AMEND VARIOUS PROVISIONS OF THE
ARKANSAS CODE AS THEY RELATE TO
EDUCATION IN THE STATE OF ARKANSAS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Title.

This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Arkansas ACCESS Act".

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-1-404(a), concerning the membership of
the School Leadership Coordinating Council, is amended to read as follows:

(a) The School Leadership Coordinating Council consists of ~~seventeen~~
~~(17)~~ the following members ~~as follows~~:

~~(1) The Chair of the Arkansas Association of Colleges for
Teacher Education Council of Deans;~~

~~(2)~~ The Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education;

~~(3) The Director of the Arkansas Leadership Academy;~~

~~(4)~~ (2) The Commissioner of the Division of Higher Education;



1 ~~6-85-406. Rules.~~

2 ~~The Division of Higher Education shall promulgate rules to implement~~
3 ~~this subchapter.~~

4
5 SECTION 89. Arkansas Code § 6-85-502(b)(5), concerning the amount of
6 net proceeds to fund scholarships under the Arkansas Concurrent Challenge
7 Scholarship Program used for the lottery fiscal impact statement, is amended
8 to read as follows:

9 (5) The amount of net proceeds that was necessary to fund scholarships
10 under the ~~Arkansas Concurrent Challenge Scholarship Program, § 6-85-401~~
11 ACCESS to Acceleration Scholarship Program, § 6-85-701 et seq., during each
12 of the last four (4) years immediately preceding the year in which the
13 proposed bill is being considered, listed separately;

14
15 SECTION 90. Arkansas Code § 6-85-502(b)(7)(C), concerning the
16 comparison of the year with the highest amount of net proceeds necessary to
17 fund scholarships under the Arkansas Concurrent Challenge Scholarship
18 Program, is amended to read as follows:

19 (C) The year with the highest amount of net proceeds
20 necessary to fund scholarships under the ~~Arkansas Concurrent Challenge~~
21 ~~Scholarship Program, § 6-85-401~~ ACCESS to Acceleration Scholarship Program, §
22 6-85-701 et seq., as determined under subdivision (b)(5) of this section; and

23
24 SECTION 91. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 85, is amended to add an
25 additional subchapter to read as follows:

26 Subchapter – 7 ACCESS to Acceleration Scholarship Program

27
28 6-85-701 Creation.

29 There is created the ACCESS to Acceleration Scholarship Program.

30
31 6-85-702. Definitions.

32 As used in this subchapter:

33 (1) “Approved institution of higher education” means an
34 institution of higher education that:

35 (A) Is approved by the Division of Higher Education to
36 participate in the ACCESS to Acceleration Scholarship Program; and

1 (B) Is a:

2 (i) State-supported two-year or four-year
3 institution of higher education; or

4 (ii) Private, nonprofit two-year or four-year
5 institution of higher education that has its primary headquarters located in
6 Arkansas and is eligible to receive Title IV federal student aid funds;

7 (2)(A) "Certificate program" means a program that is offered or
8 made available to a student by an approved institution of higher education
9 that leads to the obtainment of a certification or license.

10 (B) "Certificate program" does not include a program that
11 is operated or sponsored by a third party;

12 (3)(A) "Concurrent credit course" means a course as defined in
13 § 6-16-1202.

14 (B) "Concurrent credit course" does not include a program
15 that is operated or sponsored by a third party; and

16 (4) "Eligible student" means a student enrolled in grade ten
17 (10), grade eleven (11), or grade twelve (12) at a public high school in
18 Arkansas.

19
20 6-85-703. Eligibility.

21 (a) A student is eligible to be awarded a scholarship under this
22 subchapter for an academic semester or academic year during which the student
23 is enrolled in a concurrent credit course if the student is eligible to
24 enroll in the concurrent credit course under § 6-16-1204(a)(5).

25 (b) Scholarship funds shall not be used for courses at a vocational
26 center that are reimbursable under § 6-51-305.

27 (c) A student is not eligible for a scholarship under this subchapter
28 if the student is enrolled in a concurrent credit course that may be funded
29 under § 6-18-2506.

30
31 6-85-704. Funding.

32 (a) For an academic year, the following shall be used to fund
33 scholarships under this subchapter:

34 (1) Excess funding returned to the Office of the Arkansas
35 Lottery under § 6-85-212(d)(2)(B)(i) from the previous academic year; and

36 (2) Net proceeds remaining from the previous academic year after

1 the office transfers the funds requested by the Division of Higher Education
2 under § 23-115-801(c)(2).

3 (b)(1) A scholarship under this subchapter shall not be awarded for an
4 academic year if:

5 (A) Less than two hundred fifty thousand dollars
6 (\$250,000) is available under subsection (a) of this section; or

7 (B) The division received a loan from the Scholarship
8 Shortfall Reserve Trust Account under § 23-115-802 for the Arkansas Academic
9 Challenge Scholarship Program, § 6-85-201 et seq., for the previous academic
10 year.

11 (2) Any funds under subsection (a) of this section that are not
12 disbursed for scholarships under this subchapter shall be carried over to the
13 next academic year to be used for scholarships under this subchapter.

14
15 6-85-705. Distribution – Award Amounts.

16 (a) If funds are available, the Division of Higher Education shall
17 award an ACCESS to Acceleration Scholarship to all eligible students who meet
18 the requirements under this subchapter.

19 (b)(1) The division shall distribute scholarships from the funds
20 available in an equal amount to every approved institution of higher
21 education that has enrolled a student eligible to receive a scholarship under
22 this subchapter.

23 (2) A scholarship awarded to a student who is eligible under §
24 6-85-703 shall be awarded in the amount of sixty-five dollars (\$65) per
25 concurrent credit course hour in which the eligible student is enrolled, for
26 a maximum of fifteen (15) concurrent credit course hours per semester.

27 (3) The maximum scholarship amount a student may be awarded in
28 an academic year, including summer semesters, shall not exceed two thousand
29 dollars (\$2,000).

30 (c)(1) A state-supported two-year or four-year institution of higher
31 education may offer a reduced tuition rate for concurrent credit courses
32 offered by the state-supported institution of higher education to eligible
33 students under this subchapter.

34 (2) The reduction in tuition under subdivision (c)(1) of this
35 section shall not be considered an institutional scholarship.

1 6-85-706. Rules.

2 The Division of Higher Education may promulgate rules to implement this
3 subchapter.

4
5 SECTION 92. Arkansas Code § 20-7-133(b)(2), concerning members
6 appointed by the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education to the
7 Child Health Advisory Committee, is amended to read as follows:

8 (2) The Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education shall
9 appoint:

10 (A) One (1) member to represent the Division of Elementary
11 and Secondary Education;

12 (B) One (1) member to represent the ~~Arkansas School~~
13 ~~Nutrition Association~~ Child Nutrition Unit;

14 (C) One (1) ~~member to represent the Arkansas School Nurses~~
15 ~~Association~~ public school nurse;

16 (D) One (1) ~~member to represent the Arkansas Association~~
17 ~~of Educational Administrators~~ public school administrator;

18 (E) One (1) ~~member to represent the Arkansas PTA of a~~
19 public school district parent-teacher association;

20 (F) One (1) ~~member to represent the Arkansas School Boards~~
21 ~~Association~~ of a public school district board of directors;

22 (G) One (1) ~~member to represent the Arkansas Association~~
23 ~~of School Business Officials~~ public school district finance employee; and

24 (H) One (1) ~~member to represent the Arkansas Association~~
25 ~~for Supervision and Curriculum Development~~ Two (2) public school licensed
26 educators; and

27 ~~(I) One (1) member who is a classroom teacher.~~

28
29 SECTION 93. Arkansas Code § 21-5-703(c), concerning the award of
30 scholarship benefits by the Arkansas State Claims Commission during the claims
31 process for death benefits of public employees, is amended to read as
32 follows:

33 (c) Unless ~~§ 6-82-504(e)~~ § 6-82-2505(e) is applicable, the commission
34 shall award any scholarship benefit provided by the provisions of ~~§ 6-82-501~~
35 ~~et seq.~~ the Arkansas Heroes Scholarship Act, § 6-82-2501 et seq., at the same
36 time any death benefit or total and permanent disability benefit is awarded

**RULES GOVERNING THE UNIFORM COURSE CREDIT FOR INSTITUTIONS
OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

In compliance with the Arkansas ACCESS Act of 2025 (Act 341 Section 5) and The LEARNS Act of 2023 (Act 413 Section 54), the Arkansas Division of Higher Education Rules Governing Uniform Course Credit for Institutions of Higher Education are presented to the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) for final approval.

The following resolution is offered for the Board's consideration:

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board reviews the rules presented in this agenda item for the Uniform Course Credit for Institutions of Higher Education to be administered by the Arkansas Division of Higher Education.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Commissioner of the Arkansas Division of Higher Education or his designee is authorized to make technical changes and corrections, when necessary, in the program rules for the Uniform Course Credit for Institutions of Higher Education.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Uniform Course Credit for Institutions of Higher Education rules be approved for final approval.

**DIVISION OF HIGHER EDUCATION RULES GOVERNING UNIFORM COURSE
CREDIT FOR INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND RESPONSES

Commenter Name:

Comments: No public comments received.

Division Response: No substantive changes made.

Proposed Rulemaking

Title

Promulgated by:

Title 6. Education

Chapter IV. Division of Higher Education, Department of Education

Subchapter A. Generally

Part 374 Rules Governing Uniform Course Credit at Institutions of Higher Education

Subpart 1. Generally

6 CAR § 374.101. Purpose.

(a) This part shall be known as the Division of Higher Education's Rules Governing Uniform Course Credit at Institutions of Higher Education.

(b) The purpose of this part is to establish uniform course credit awarded upon achieving the required score on approved accelerated learning assessments, exams, or courses toward completing a post-secondary degree or certificate program.

6 CAR § 374.102. Definitions.

As used in this part:

(1) "Accelerated learning" means an organized method of learning that enables a student to meet individual academic goals and graduation requirements while pursuing higher levels of skill development, including without limitation the following coursework:

(A) A College Board pre-Advanced Placement and Advanced Placement course;

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(B) An International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme course;
(C) A Cambridge Advanced International Certificate of Education course;
(D) A concurrent credit course; and
(E) A substantively similar course or program approved by the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education;

(2) "Alignment" means equivalent expectations, for which a student seeks to receive college credit;

(3) "Cambridge Advanced International Certificate of Education course" means a program offered through a University of Cambridge approved school and administered by the International Education division of the Cambridge University Press and Assessment department of the University of Cambridge that:

(A) Consists of Cambridge International AS and A Level courses and standardized examinations;

(B) Is designed to prepare high school students for college or university study and employment;

(C) Allows students to receive high school credit as well as qualify for college or university level credit; and

(D) Can lead to an Advanced International Certificate of Education Diploma;

(4) "CLEP examination" means an examination administered through the College-Level Examination Program for which a student seeks to receive college credit;

(5) "College Board pre-Advanced Placement and Advanced Placement course" means a non-for-profit organization that develops and administers standardized tests and curricula used by the elementary, secondary, and postsecondary education institutions:

(A) To promote college readiness; and

(B) As part of the college admissions process;

(6) "Concurrent credit course" means a college-level course offered by an institution of higher education in this state that upon completion would qualify for academic credit in both the institution of higher education and a public high school;

(7) "International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme" means the curriculum and examinations leading to an International Baccalaureate Diploma awarded by the International Baccalaureate;

(8) "Institution of higher education" means a:

(A) State-supported two-year or four-year college or university; or

(B) Private, nonprofit two-year or four-year college or university with its primary headquarters located in Arkansas that is eligible to receive Title IV federal student aid funds;

(9) "Learning outcomes" mean measurable skills, abilities, knowledge, or values that students should be able to demonstrate as a result of successful course completion, for which a student seeks to receive college credit; and

(10) "Rigor" means an appropriate level of sophistication, difficulty, and challenge for which a student seeks to receive college credit.

6 CAR § 374.103. Faculty Committee Duties & Responsibilities.

(a) To determine whether a student has met the minimum criteria for award of course credit, the Division of Higher Education, in consultation with faculty committees, will determine post-secondary credit to ensure proper alignment and application of uniform credit awards across all institutions of higher education.

(b) Post-secondary credit will be awarded upon achieving the required score on approved accelerated learning assessments, exams, or courses.

(c) As determined by the division, post-secondary credit will also be awarded upon successful completion of, but not limited to:

(1) An accelerated learning course; or

(2) Industry based credentials.

(d) The number of faculty committees will be determined by the division, based on the disciplines being considered for uniform credit, and comprised of no less than seven (7) faculty from two-year and four-year institutions, system and non-system institutions, and representative of different state regions, each appointed by the Commissioner of the Division of Higher Education.

(e) Faculty committees shall be responsible for:

(1) The alignment of subject or discipline specific examinations with general education core courses from the Arkansas Course Transfer System (ACTS); and

(2) Ensuring appropriate rigor for credit awards by determining performance expectations based on assessment scores.

(f) Faculty committees may issue recommendations to align subject or discipline specific examinations for courses outside of the general education core courses and the Arkansas Course Transfer System (ACTS).

6 CAR § 374.104. Award of Uniform Credit.

(a) For students to receive an award of course credit, upon receiving the required assessment score on the approved accelerated learning assessments, exams, or courses, the knowledge and skills assessed must align with the ACTS student learning outcomes.

(b) In determining whether there is proper alignment, faculty committees will consider, without limitation, the following:

(1) Learning outcomes; and

(2) Rigor.

(c)(1) All institutions will have an opportunity to comment on the equivalency prior to the division adding the course equivalency to the Articulation Tables.

(2) It is presumed that all courses are aligned unless the committee determines otherwise.

(d) If the committee determines there are zero alignment issues found, then uniform credit for the course will be awarded.

(e)(1) Institutions may choose to award additional credit for those students who score higher than the minimum credit awards identified by the faculty committees.

(2) Institutions receiving transfer credit given from another institution beyond the minimum requirement are encouraged to honor additional credit given by the sending institution.

(f) All accelerated learning or CLEP examination to course equivalencies will be publicly available online in the Division of Higher Education Credit for Prior Learning Articulation Tables annually.

State of Arkansas *As Engrossed: H3/6/25 H3/12/25*

95th General Assembly

A Bill

Regular Session, 2025

HOUSE BILL 1512

By: Representatives M. Shepherd, *Evans, Beaty Jr., Brooks, Eubanks, Wardlaw, Barker, K. Brown, M. Brown, John Carr, Cavanaugh, Crawford, Gramlich, Hawk, McAlindon, McClure, S. Meeks, Nazarenko, Rose, Torres, Wing, Achor, Beck, Eaves, Unger, Andrews*
By: Senator J. Dismang

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS ACCESS ACT; TO AMEND
VARIOUS PROVISIONS OF THE ARKANSAS CODE AS THEY
RELATE TO EDUCATION IN THE STATE OF ARKANSAS; AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS ACCESS ACT; AND
TO AMEND VARIOUS PROVISIONS OF THE
ARKANSAS CODE AS THEY RELATE TO
EDUCATION IN THE STATE OF ARKANSAS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Title.

This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Arkansas ACCESS Act".

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-1-404(a), concerning the membership of
the School Leadership Coordinating Council, is amended to read as follows:

(a) The School Leadership Coordinating Council consists of ~~seventeen~~
~~(17)~~ the following members ~~as follows~~:

~~(1) The Chair of the Arkansas Association of Colleges for
Teacher Education Council of Deans;~~

~~(2)~~ The Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education;

~~(3) The Director of the Arkansas Leadership Academy;~~

~~(4)~~ (2) The Commissioner of the Division of Higher Education;



~~(A) Develop goals and action plans;~~
~~(B) Identify resources; and~~
~~(C) Determine expected outcomes to measure for each~~
~~strategy promoting college and career readiness and postsecondary completion.~~

~~6-5-1104. Reporting requirements.~~

~~(a) By June 30, 2014, the Council on Postsecondary Education and~~
~~Career Readiness shall:~~

~~(1) Develop a written plan to reduce remediation rates and~~
~~increase postsecondary graduation rates, including without limitation:~~

~~(A) Annual goals;~~
~~(B) Action strategies;~~
~~(C) Assigned responsibilities for implementing strategies;~~
~~(D) Timelines; and~~
~~(E) Reporting mechanisms;~~

~~(2) Provide the written plan to:~~

~~(A) The House Committee on Education and the Senate~~
~~Committee on Education;~~

~~(B) The board of directors of each school district and~~
~~open-enrollment charter school in this state; and~~

~~(C) The governing board of each state-supported~~
~~institution of higher education in this state; and~~

~~(3) Encourage each school district board of directors and the~~
~~governing board of each state-supported institution of higher education in~~
~~the state to participate in the council's plan and to work collaboratively to~~
~~reduce the remediation rates and further postsecondary graduation and~~
~~completion rates.~~

~~(b) By June 30, 2015, and annually thereafter, the council shall~~
~~report to the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on~~
~~Education:~~

~~(1) The progress of the council's work for the year; and~~

~~(2) Its recommendations, which may include without limitation~~
~~proposals for legislative action.~~

SECTION 5. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 5, Subchapter 12 is amended
to read as follows:

Subchapter 12 – ~~Advanced Placement Training and Incentive Program~~ Accelerated Learning

6-5-1201. ~~Established~~ Definition.

~~There is established the Advanced Placement Training and Incentive Program.~~

As used in this subchapter, “accelerated learning” means an organized method of learning that enables a student to meet individual academic goals and graduation requirements while pursuing higher levels of skill development, including without limitation the following coursework:

(1) A College Board pre-Advanced Placement and Advanced Placement course;

(2) An International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme course;

(3) A Cambridge Advanced International Certificate of Education course;

(4) A concurrent credit course; and

(5) A substantively similar course or program approved by the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education.

6-5-1202. Purpose of ~~Advanced Placement Training and Incentive Program~~ accelerated learning – Grant funding.

(a) The purpose of ~~the Advanced Placement Training and Incentive Program~~ accelerated learning is to:

(1) Prepare more students for:

(A) Success in higher education;

(B) Postsecondary training; and

(C) ~~Careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics~~ High-wage, high-demand careers;

(2) Increase the number of students who graduate from institutions of higher education; and

(3) Support and enhance ~~Advanced Placement~~ accelerated learning initiatives already operating in the state.

(b)(1) The Division of Elementary and Secondary Education shall provide grant funding to organizations that implement measures to achieve the goals of ~~the Advanced Placement Training and Incentive Program~~ accelerated learning as determined by the division.

1 (2) ~~An organization that receives grant funding to implement the~~
2 ~~Advanced Placement Training and Incentive Program under this subchapter~~
3 ~~shall:~~

4 ~~(A) Be affiliated with the National Math and Science~~
5 ~~Initiative; and~~

6 ~~(B) Have demonstrated success with an Advanced Placement~~
7 ~~Training and Incentive Program.~~

8 ~~(3)~~ An organization that receives grant funding to provide the
9 ~~Advanced Placement Training and Incentive Program~~ accelerated learning may
10 without limitation:

11 (A) Develop public-private partnerships to advance math
12 and science learning opportunities;

13 (B) Generate revenue from public or private sector
14 entities to support other opportunities; ~~or~~ and

15 (C) Accept grants, donations, gifts, or bequests.

16 (c) Grant funding provided by the division to an organization under
17 this subchapter shall be used to:

18 (1) Support and enhance ~~the Advanced Placement Training and~~
19 ~~Incentive Program~~ accelerated learning;

20 (2) Pay for personal services and operating expenses required to
21 carry out ~~the Advanced Placement Training and Incentive Program~~ accelerated
22 learning; and

23 (3) Pay for technology, materials, assessments, and other
24 resources used in ~~the Advanced Placement Training and Incentive Program~~
25 accelerated learning.

26
27 6-5-1203. Components and goals of ~~Advanced Placement Training and~~
28 ~~Incentive Program~~ accelerated learning.

29 (a) ~~The Advanced Placement Training and Incentive Program~~ Accelerated
30 learning shall:

31 (1) Provide ~~advanced placement~~ accelerated learning content
32 directors to work, mentor, and provide resources to ~~advanced placement and~~
33 ~~pre-advanced placement~~ accelerated learning teachers in the areas of:

34 (A) Mathematics;

35 (B) Science; and

36 (C) English;

1 (2) Provide nationally recognized professional development for
2 ~~advanced placement and pre-advanced placement~~ accelerated learning teachers
3 that will enhance the knowledge and pedagogical skills of the teachers; and

4 (3) Develop and provide materials and resources for ~~advanced~~
5 ~~placement and pre-advanced placement~~ accelerated learning teachers.

6 (b) The overall goal of the ~~Advanced Placement Training and Incentive~~
7 ~~Program~~ accelerated learning is to:

8 (1) Increase the number of students enrolled in ~~Advanced~~
9 ~~Placement~~ accelerated learning mathematics, science, and English;

10 (2) ~~Increase the number of students who score three (3) or more~~
11 ~~on Advanced Placement exams;~~

12 ~~(3) Reduce the participation gaps and performance gaps in~~
13 ~~Advanced Placement classes between African American, Hispanic, and Caucasian~~
14 ~~students;~~

15 ~~(4) Help public high schools~~ Ensure school districts develop
16 strong and successful ~~Advanced Placement programs~~ accelerated learning for
17 public high schools;

18 ~~(5)(3)~~ Enhance and augment ~~Advanced Placement~~ accelerated
19 learning policies and initiatives in Arkansas;

20 ~~(6)(4)~~ Provide the ~~Advanced Placement Training and Incentive~~
21 ~~Program~~ accelerated learning in every public high school ~~that elects to~~
22 ~~participate and strengthen its Advanced Placement program~~ accelerated
23 learning; and

24 ~~(7) (5)~~ Increase the number of students prepared to enter
25 science, technology, engineering, and mathematics fields in higher education
26 or related training and occupations.

27
28 6-5-1204. Participation in ~~Advanced Placement Training and Incentive~~
29 ~~Program~~ accelerated learning.

30 (a) An organization that receives grant funding to provide ~~the~~
31 ~~Advanced Placement Training and Incentive Program~~ accelerated learning shall
32 publish a list of program fees on or before June 1 each year.

33 (b) A public high school is eligible to participate in ~~the Advanced~~
34 ~~Placement Training and Incentive Program~~ accelerated learning.

35 (c)~~(1)~~ A public high school ~~that chooses to participate in the~~
36 ~~Advanced Placement Training and Incentive Program~~ school's accelerated

1 learning shall pay a ~~participation and~~ the required service fee determined by
2 the organization.

3 ~~(2) A public high school may choose either to participate fully~~
4 ~~in the Advanced Placement Training and Incentive Program or to participate on~~
5 ~~a limited basis, in which case the public high school shall pay a fee for~~
6 ~~each service the public high school elects to use.~~

7
8 6-5-1205. Funding for accelerated learning.

9 (a) Contingent upon legislative appropriations and based on criteria
10 established by the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education, a school
11 that is offering accelerated learning may be awarded a one-time equipment and
12 instructional materials grant for providing an accelerated learning course.

13 (b) Contingent upon legislative appropriation and the availability of
14 funding, the state may pay in full or on a pro rata basis the cost of the
15 accelerated learning test fees.

16 (c) The State Board of Education may promulgate rules to implement
17 this subchapter.

18
19 SECTION 6. Arkansas Code § 6-13-629(a)(3)-(5), concerning the training
20 and instruction regarding interpretation of audit reports that school board
21 of directors members must receive, is amended to read as follows:

22 (3)(A) The training and instruction required under this section
23 shall include:

24 (i) Topics relevant to school laws and school
25 operations;

26 (ii) The powers, duties, and responsibilities of the
27 members of ~~the~~ a board of directors, including without limitation:

28 (a) Legal requirements, including without
29 limitation:

30 (1) The items listed or required by the
31 Legislative Joint Auditing Committee under § 6-1-101; and

32 (2) Other financial laws, rules, or
33 federal regulations designated by the Division of Elementary and Secondary
34 Education;

35 (b) Role differentiation;

36 (c) Financial management, including without

State of Arkansas

As Engrossed: H2/27/23

94th General Assembly

A Bill

Regular Session, 2023

SENATE BILL 294

By: Senators B. Davis, Hester, Irvin, J. Dismang, J. English, G. Stubblefield, Flippo, B. Johnson, D.

Wallace, Hill, M. Johnson, K. Hammer, D. Sullivan, Gilmore, M. McKee, C. Penzo, J. Boyd, J. Petty, J.

Bryant, Crowell, Stone, Dees, J. Payton, J. Dotson, A. Clark

By: Representatives Brooks, M. Shepherd, McCollum, B. McKenzie, Pilkington, S. Meeks, Wardlaw,

Eubanks, Cozart, Womack, C. Fite, Lundstrum, Bentley, Gonzales, Beck, K. Brown, Richmond, Fortner,

Cavanaugh, Maddox, Barker, Rye, Hollowell, Watson, Lynch, Wing, Crawford, L. Johnson, C. Cooper,

Breaux, Evans, McGrew, Ray, Beaty Jr., McClure, Milligan, Haak, John Carr, Underwood, Furman, G.

Hodges, J. Moore, Achor, Burkes, Hawk, McAlindon, M. Brown, Rose, Puryear, Gramlich, Painter,

Duffield, Unger, R. Scott Richardson, Andrews

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO CREATE THE LEARNS ACT; TO AMEND VARIOUS
PROVISIONS OF THE ARKANSAS CODE AS THEY RELATE TO
EARLY CHILDHOOD THROUGH GRADE TWELVE (12) EDUCATION
IN THE STATE OF ARKANSAS; TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY;
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO CREATE THE LEARNS ACT; TO AMEND
VARIOUS PROVISIONS OF THE ARKANSAS CODE
AS THEY RELATE TO EARLY CHILDHOOD THROUGH
GRADE TWELVE EDUCATION IN THE STATE OF
ARKANSAS; AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Title.

This act shall be known and may be cited as the "LEARNS Act".

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-10-128(d)(1), concerning school resource



1 ~~subsections (a) and (b) of this section on a biennial basis, with the first~~
2 ~~report due on March 1, 2020.~~

3
4 SECTION 53. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 50, Subchapter 1, is
5 amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

6 6-50-105. Workforce reporting and information – Requirements.

7 (a) No later than January 31, 2024, the Department of Education, in
8 partnership with the Department of Commerce and the Division of Workforce
9 Services, shall develop, publish, and maintain a strategic workforce
10 dashboard and related resources that will provide, at a minimum, information
11 to job seekers on:

12 (1) State and regional labor market conditions;

13 (2) Supply and demand of workers;

14 (3) Workforce program outcomes; and

15 (4) Projected employment growth and declines.

16 (b)(1) No later than January 2025, the Department of Education, in
17 partnership with the Department of Commerce and the Division of Workforce
18 Services, shall develop a single mobile-phone-friendly application for the
19 state that enables every job seeker to view the following without limitation:

20 (A) Available jobs in the job seeker's region;

21 (B) Training required for all available jobs; and

22 (C) Where job seekers can obtain required training or
23 certifications that job seekers may not yet have.

24 (2) The application under this subsection may also include the
25 information reported under § 6-60-105.

26
27 SECTION 54. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 60, Subchapter 1, is
28 amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

29 6-60-119. High school course credit.

30 (a) As used in this section:

31 (1) "Advanced Placement examination" means an examination
32 administered through the Advanced Placement Program;

33 (2) "CLEP examination" means an examination administered through
34 the College-Level Examination Program; and

35 (3) "International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme" means the
36 curriculum and examinations leading to an International Baccalaureate Diploma

1 awarded by the International Baccalaureate.

2 (b) The Division of Higher Education:

3 (1) Shall establish uniform postsecondary criteria for awarding
4 credit to students who have successfully completed the International
5 Baccalaureate Diploma Programme or achieved required scores on one (1) or
6 more CLEP examinations; and

7 (2) May establish uniform postsecondary criteria for awarding
8 credit to students who attain other nationally recognized college-level
9 credentials, including without limitation those attained through:

10 (A) The Cambridge Advanced International Certificate of
11 Education; and

12 (B) Industry-based credentials.

13
14 SECTION 55. Arkansas Code § 6-61-217 is amended to read as follows:

15 6-61-217. Minimum core courses for college and career prep.

16 (a) In order to promote a coordinated system of higher education in
17 Arkansas and to ~~assure~~ ensure an orderly and effective development of each
18 state-supported institution of higher education, the Arkansas Higher
19 Education Coordinating Board, after consultation with the State Board of
20 Education, shall identify a minimum core of high school courses recommended
21 for preparation for college.

22 (b) The Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board, in consultation
23 with the State Board of Education, shall deem a career-ready pathway to a
24 diploma to be equivalent to a standard high school diploma.

25 ~~(b)(c)~~ (c) The Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board shall
26 communicate this information at least annually to public school
27 superintendents, who shall make copies available each year to public school
28 students enrolled in grades seven through twelve (7-12).

29 ~~(e)(d)~~ (d) The Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board may revise the
30 list of high school courses from time to time, as needed.

31
32 SECTION 56. Arkansas Code § 6-81-1606 is amended to read as follows:

33 6-81-1606. Duration – Amount.

34 (a)(1) The State Teacher Education Program shall be used to provide a
35 loan repayment for federal student loans in the amount of+

36 ~~(1) Three thousand dollars (\$3,000)~~ six thousand dollars

RULES GOVERNING THE TEACHER OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM

In compliance with the Arkansas ACCESS Act of 2025 (Act 341 Sections 64-68), the Arkansas Division of Higher Education Rules Governing the Teacher Opportunity Program are presented to the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) for final approval.

The following resolution is offered for the Board's consideration:

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board reviews the rules presented in this agenda item for the Teacher Opportunity Program to be administered by the Arkansas Division of Higher Education.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Commissioner of the Arkansas Division of Higher Education or his designee is authorized to make technical changes and corrections, when necessary, in the program rules for the Teacher Opportunity Program.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Teacher Opportunity Program rules be approved for final approval.

**DIVISION OF HIGHER EDUCATION RULES GOVERNING THE TEACHER
OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM**

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND RESPONSES

Commenter Name:

Comments: No public comments received.

Division Response: No substantive changes made.

Proposed Rulemaking

Title

Promulgated by:
Division of Higher Education

Title 6. Education

Chapter IV. Division of Higher Education, Department of Education

Subchapter B. Scholarships and Grants

Part 398. Rules Governing the Teacher Opportunity Program

Subpart 1. Generally

6 CAR § 398-101. Organization and structure.

(a)(1) The Division of Higher Education shall administer the Teacher Opportunity Program with the policies set by the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

(2) All formal communications shall be addressed to or signed by the Commissioner of the Division of Higher Education or the commissioner's designee.

~~(3) The Teacher Opportunity Program Advisory Council shall provide advice to the division regarding administration of the program.~~

~~(b) Teacher Opportunity Program Advisory Council.~~

~~—————(1)(A) The Teacher Opportunity Program Advisory Council shall consist of eight (8) members.~~

~~—————(B) The members will be appointed annually to serve a two-year staggered term by the commissioner.~~

~~—————(C) The members of this council will consist of representatives from:~~

~~—————(i) Public and private postsecondary institutions with teacher education programs;~~

~~—————(ii) Public and private elementary and secondary schools; and~~

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~~—————(iii) The teacher certification section of the division.~~
~~—————(2) The commissioner or the commissioner's designee shall:~~
~~—————(A) Serve as the presiding officer of the Teacher Opportunity Program~~
~~Advisory Council; and~~
~~—————(B) Ensure that staff services for the council are provided.~~
~~————(c) The final responsibility for selecting loan recipients shall rest with the division.~~
~~————(d) When functioning under Acts 1983, No. 109, Acts 1987, No. 331, and any~~
~~subsequent legislation, the division shall follow the provisions of the Arkansas~~
~~Administrative Procedure Act, Arkansas Code § 25-15-201 et seq.~~

6 CAR § 398-102. Program definitions.

The following definitions are used in the Teacher Opportunity Program:

(1)(A) “Academic year” means a measure of the academic work to be accomplished by the recipient.

(B) The academic year is defined as fall, spring, and summer semesters, in that order;

(2)(A) “Arkansas resident” means an applicant that has been an Arkansas resident for twelve (12) months prior to the application deadline for the financial aid program.

(B) Further, the recipient may be asked to provide evidence of a permanent connection with the State of Arkansas.

(C) The Division of Higher Education will determine residency through:

(i) A valid Arkansas driver's license;

(ii) Proof of payment for Arkansas personal and/or real taxes for the previous year;

(iii) Proof of Arkansas vehicle registration;

(iv) Proof of Arkansas voter registration; and

(v) Other forms of proof of Arkansas residency;

(3)(A) “Approved institution” means an Arkansas postsecondary public or private college, university, or school that is currently accredited by a nationally

recognized accrediting agency or association that has a teacher licensure program where those courses are directly creditable toward teacher licensure in a baccalaureate institution.

(B) The institution must not discriminate against applicants, or employees on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age, handicap, or national origin, consistent with the provisions of applicable state and federal laws;

~~—(4) “Award year” means the year:~~

~~—(A) Beginning on July 1 of one (1) calendar year; and~~

~~—(B) Extending to June 30 of the next calendar year;~~

(5) “Classroom teacher” means an individual who is required to hold a teaching license from the Division of Higher Education and who is:

(A) Engaged directly in instruction with students in a classroom setting for more than seventy percent (70%) of the individual’s contracted time;

(B) A media specialist or librarian;

(C) A guidance counselor; or

(D) An administrator;

(6) “Dual license” means licensure to teach in more than one (1) subject area;

(7) “Semester” means one-half (1/2) of a traditional academic year at an institution of higher education, or an equivalent approved by the Division of Higher Education, in which a student enrolls for not less than:

(A) Fifteen (15) credit hours as a full-time student, except that in the first semester as a first-time full-time freshman, a traditional student shall enroll in not less than twelve (12) credit hours; or

(B)(i) Six (6) credit hours as a part-time student.

(ii) For purposes of summer courses at an institution of higher education, “semester” means the same as is defined in this section;

(8) “Scholarship” means a program that is:

(A) Funded with state funds or lottery proceeds; and

(B) Administered by the Division of Higher Education; and

(9) “Student” means a classroom teacher who is attending an institution of higher education for additional education; and

(9)(10) “Teach on a full-time basis” means teaching the same number of hours required of teachers who have full-time contracts, as determined by the institution or agency in which an individual is teaching, for a minimum of one (1) academic term, as defined by the institution or agency in which an individual is teaching.

6 CAR § 398-103. Eligibility and continuing eligibility criteria.

(a) Applicants must be bona fide residents of the State of Arkansas, as defined by the Division of Higher Education, having lived in Arkansas continually for at least twelve (12) months prior to the application deadline.

(b)~~(1)~~ Applicant shall maintain a current teacher license with the division.

~~——(2) Only individuals with a provisional license or who are in the alternative licensure program are not considered certified for the purposes of the Dual Licensure Incentive Program.~~

~~(c) Recipients awarded under the Dual Licensure Incentive Program must:~~

~~——(1) Be currently employed as a classroom teacher, which includes librarian and media specialist, guidance counselor, and administrator, in a public school in Arkansas;~~

~~——(2) Have been employed as a classroom teacher for at least three (3) years immediately preceding application;~~

~~——(3) Be accepted for enrollment in a teacher education program that will lead to licensure in a subject area that is different than the teacher’s current licensure area and the subject area has either:~~

~~——(A) Been declared by the division as a subject area with a shortage of teachers; or~~

~~——(B) Is in the grade level and subject area for which the school district has requested a waiver under Arkansas Code § 6-17-309; and~~

~~——(4)(A) Earn at least a 2.5 cumulative grade point average in the courses required toward dual licensure.~~

~~—————(B) Recipients enrolled in dissertation coursework must receive a “Pass” for the course to receive reimbursement.~~

~~————(d)(1) The Non-Dual Licensure Program requires that the applicant must be:~~

(A) Currently employed as a classroom teacher, which includes librarian and media specialist, guidance counselor, and administrator, in Arkansas and declare an intention to continue such employment in Arkansas;

(B) Enrolled in an approved institution in Arkansas; and

(C) Enrolled in college-level courses, excluding correspondence courses, directly related to their employment as certified by the Commissioner of the Division of Higher Education, General Education section.

(2)(A) Recipients must maintain at least a cumulative 2.5 grade point average on a 4.0 scale, or an appropriate equivalent, in the courses funded by the Teacher Opportunity Program.

(B) Recipients funded for one (1) course must obtain at least a "B" for that course.

(C) Recipients funded for two (2) courses must obtain at least a "B" for one (1) course and a "C" for the other.

(D) Recipients enrolled in dissertation coursework must receive a “Pass” for the course to receive reimbursement.

(d) Failure to notify the division of a change in status may affect future eligibility or collection status.

6 CAR § 398-104. Application process.

(a) Solicitation of applicants.

(1) Applications will be available on the Division of Higher Education’s website.

~~(2) Applications will also be mailed to individuals upon request.~~

(b) Submission of application.

(1) Applications include personal information, as well as education and employment information.

(2) The division will review all applications to ensure that all requested information is included and will notify the applicant of the status of the application.

(3) If the application is incomplete, the division will notify the applicant of:

(A) This status;

(B) The information that is missing; and

(C) The deadline to submit the missing information.

(4) This deadline will be no less than two (2) weeks from the date of the notification letter.

(c) Application deadline.

(1) The application deadline will be set each year by the division.

(2) All applications must be submitted by the established deadline date.

(3) Applications received after the deadline date will not be considered for participation in the Teacher Opportunity Program.

(4) The division may establish alternate deadlines for applicants based on the start date of each term.

6 CAR § 398-105. Award process.

(a) Selection of recipients.

(1) The final responsibility for selecting recipients shall rest with the Commissioner of the Division of Higher Education.

(2)(A) Applications for additional education in the following areas will receive first priority for awards:

(i) Science, technology, engineering, or mathematics fields;

(ii) Computer science;

(iii) Literacy or reading;

(iv) Prekindergarten education; or

(v) Special education.

(B) If funds remain after awarding all eligible applicants in the areas listed above, applicants will be ranked according to criteria developed in conjunction with the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education, focusing on statewide needs.

(b) Notification of recipients.

(1) Selected recipients will receive an award notice stating their eligibility and approval information for the program.

~~—(2) The award notice will include, where applicable, the student's:~~

~~—(A) Name;~~

~~—(B) Social security number; and~~

~~—(C) Award amount.~~

(c) Awarding of recipients.

(1) The deadline for the division to disburse funds shall be no later than ten (10) days after receipt of funds and any outstanding funds that are not disbursed by this deadline shall be returned to the division

6 CAR § 398-106. ReimbursementAward amount.

~~(a)(1) Reimbursement for students in the Dual Licensure Incentive Program includes funding for the cost of student fees, books, and instructional supplies at a public institution of higher education in this state assessing the highest rate of student fees.~~

~~—(2) The reimbursement made to one (1) individual within one (1) fiscal year may not exceed the aforementioned costs associated with six (6) semester hours or the equivalent of six (6) semester credit hours, though not to exceed three thousand dollars (\$3,000) during the fiscal year. A teacher may receive an award if seeking dual licensure in an additional subject area different from the subject area in which the teacher is currently teaching, if he or she does not have a current license for the additional subject area.~~

(2) The amount of award and the number of recipients selected by the Division of Higher Education is contingent on the appropriation and availability of funding for that purpose.

~~—(b)(1) Non-Dual Licensure (b)(1) Program recipients may receive funds up to, but not in excess of, the cost of student fees, books, and instructional supplies at a public institution of higher education in this state assessing the highest rate of student fees an~~

award that shall not exceed the cost of tuition and fees required to complete six (6) semester credit hours per academic year.

~~(2) The reimbursement made to one (1) individual within one (1) fiscal year may not exceed the aforementioned costs associated with six (6) semester hours or the equivalent of six (6) semester credit hours.~~

(2) For purposes of award disbursement under this section, an academic year begins in the fall semester and runs through the summer semester.

(c)(1) Based on the availability of program funds, awards will be disbursed to the recipient pursuant to the reimbursement award limitations above and ranking status.

(2) Recipients must maintain an eligible status to receive funds.

~~6 CAR § 398-107. Reimbursement disbursement.~~

~~—(a) Teacher Opportunity Program is a reimbursement program.~~

~~—(b) A check made payable to the individual recipient is mailed to the student once he or she has:~~

~~———(1) Successfully completed the funded course with a satisfactory grade; and~~

~~———(2) Provided the Division of Higher Education with:~~

~~———(A) An original copy of the itemized paid receipt; and~~

~~———(B) A grade report or transcript for the funded course.~~

(a)

~~6 CAR § 398-108. Recipient responsibilities.~~

~~—(a) It is the recipient's responsibility to notify the Division of Higher Education in writing of any change in status within twenty-one (21) days.~~

~~—(b) This will include, but is not limited to changes in:~~

~~———(1) Name;~~

~~———(2) Address;~~

~~———(3) Institution;~~

~~———(4) Coursework to be funded;~~

~~———(5) Enrollment status;~~

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~~_____ (6) Employment; or~~

~~_____ (7) Licensure status.~~

~~_____ (c) Failure to notify the division of a change in status may affect future eligibility or collection status.~~

State of Arkansas *As Engrossed: H3/6/25 H3/12/25*

95th General Assembly

A Bill

Regular Session, 2025

HOUSE BILL 1512

By: Representatives M. Shepherd, *Evans, Beaty Jr., Brooks, Eubanks, Wardlaw, Barker, K. Brown, M. Brown, John Carr, Cavanaugh, Crawford, Gramlich, Hawk, McAlindon, McClure, S. Meeks, Nazarenko, Rose, Torres, Wing, Achor, Beck, Eaves, Unger, Andrews*
By: Senator J. Dismang

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS ACCESS ACT; TO AMEND
VARIOUS PROVISIONS OF THE ARKANSAS CODE AS THEY
RELATE TO EDUCATION IN THE STATE OF ARKANSAS; AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS ACCESS ACT; AND
TO AMEND VARIOUS PROVISIONS OF THE
ARKANSAS CODE AS THEY RELATE TO
EDUCATION IN THE STATE OF ARKANSAS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Title.

This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Arkansas ACCESS Act".

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-1-404(a), concerning the membership of
the School Leadership Coordinating Council, is amended to read as follows:

(a) The School Leadership Coordinating Council consists of ~~seventeen~~
~~(17)~~ the following members ~~as follows~~:

~~(1) The Chair of the Arkansas Association of Colleges for
Teacher Education Council of Deans;~~

~~(2)~~ The Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education;

~~(3) The Director of the Arkansas Leadership Academy;~~

~~(4)~~ (2) The Commissioner of the Division of Higher Education;



1 Arkansas under military orders, along with his or her dependents, is entitled
2 to classification as an in-state resident for state-funded scholarship
3 purposes.

4
5 6-80-203. Duties and responsibilities of students.

6 (a)(1) It is the responsibility of each student, at the time of
7 registration, to seek the proper residency classification for state-funded
8 scholarship purposes.

9 (2) A participating state-supported institution of higher
10 education shall have a process for a student to appeal a residency
11 classification for state-funded scholarship purposes.

12 (b)(1) A student who knowingly gives false information to establish
13 residency classification for state-funded scholarship purposes shall be
14 subject to dismissal by the state-supported institution of higher education.

15 (2) An initial classification as an out-of-state student shall
16 not limit the right of a student to be reclassified later as a resident of
17 Arkansas for state-funded scholarship purposes provided that the student can
18 establish proof of legal residence in Arkansas.

19
20 SECTION 64. Arkansas Code § 6-81-604(6), concerning the grade point
21 average required for grant recipients under the Teacher Opportunity Program,
22 is amended to read as follows:

23 (6) Grant recipients shall maintain a cumulative grade point
24 average in their college work of no less than 2.5 on a 4.0 scale or maintain
25 an appropriate equivalent as determined by the Division of Higher Education.

26
27 SECTION 65. Arkansas Code § 6-81-605 is amended to read as follows:

28 6-81-605. Grants – Priority.

29 (a)(1) The first priority for the award of funds under the Teacher
30 Opportunity Program is the award ~~of reimbursements~~ for additional education
31 in:

32 (A) Science, technology, engineering, or mathematics
33 fields;

34 (B) Computer science;

35 (C) Literacy or reading;

36 (D) Prekindergarten education; or

1 (E) Special education.

2 (2) If funds are available after all awards are made under
3 subdivision (a)(1) of this section, then additional ~~reimbursements~~ awards may
4 be made in accordance with the following:

5 (A)(i) A teacher may receive an award if seeking dual
6 licensure in an additional subject area different from the subject area in
7 which the teacher is currently teaching, if he or she does not have a current
8 license for the additional subject area.

9 (ii) The amount of the award and the number of
10 recipients selected by the Division of Higher Education is contingent on the
11 appropriation and availability of funding for that purpose;

12 (B)(i) A student may receive reimbursements up to but not
13 in excess of the cost of his or her student fees, books, and instructional
14 supplies at the public institution of higher education in this state
15 assessing the highest rate of student fees an award that shall not exceed the
16 cost of tuition and fees required to complete six (6) semester credit hours
17 per academic year.

18 (ii) For purposes of award disbursement under
19 subdivision (a)(2)(B)(i) of this section, an academic year begins in the fall
20 semester and runs through the summer semester;

21 ~~(B) The reimbursements made to one (1) student within one~~
22 ~~(1) fiscal year may not exceed the costs associated with six (6) semester~~
23 ~~credit hours or the equivalent of six (6) semester credit hours; and~~

24 (C) All other requirements established by the Division of
25 Higher Education are met.

26 (b)(1) The Division of Higher Education shall determine priorities for
27 ~~awarding reimbursements~~ awards if there are more applicants than funds
28 available.

29 (2) Priorities shall be determined in coordination with the
30 Division of Elementary and Secondary Education and shall be based on the
31 needs of the state.

32
33 SECTION 66. Arkansas Code § 6-81-607(3), concerning the definition of
34 "student" under the Teacher Opportunity Program, is amended to add an
35 additional subdivision to read as follows:

36 (F) Any other subject matter as determined by the

1 division.

2
3 SECTION 67. Arkansas Code §§ 6-81-608 and 6-81-609 are repealed.

4 ~~6-81-608. Dual Licensure Incentive Program.~~

5 ~~(a) There is created the Dual Licensure Incentive Program to encourage~~
6 ~~classroom teachers currently employed by school districts in the state to~~
7 ~~return to college to obtain licensure in one (1) or more additional subject~~
8 ~~areas.~~

9 ~~(b) The program shall be administered by the Division of Higher~~
10 ~~Education.~~

11 ~~(c)(1) A classroom teacher returning to college as a student may~~
12 ~~receive a reimbursement not to exceed the cost of student fees, books, and~~
13 ~~instructional supplies.~~

14 ~~(2) The student fee reimbursement amount shall be based on the~~
15 ~~student fees of the state-supported institution of higher education that~~
16 ~~assesses the highest rate of student fees in this state.~~

17 ~~(d) The reimbursement made to a classroom teacher returning to college~~
18 ~~as a student in one (1) fiscal year may not exceed the cost associated with~~
19 ~~six (6) semester credit hours or the equivalent of six (6) semester credit~~
20 ~~hours.~~

21
22 ~~6-81-609. Dual licensure funding.~~

23 ~~(a)(1)(A) A classroom teacher employed by a school district in the~~
24 ~~state may receive a reimbursement from the Dual Licensure Incentive Program~~
25 ~~if the classroom teacher returns to an approved institution of higher~~
26 ~~education to obtain licensure in an additional subject area.~~

27 ~~(i) Declared to be a shortage area by the Division~~
28 ~~of Elementary and Secondary Education;~~

29 ~~(ii) That the classroom teacher is currently teaching~~
30 ~~but for which he or she does not have a licensure; or~~

31 ~~(iii) And grade level in which the school district~~
32 ~~has requested a waiver under § 6-17-309.~~

33 ~~(B)(i) A reimbursement from the Dual Licensure Incentive~~
34 ~~Program shall include funding for the cost of tuition, books, and fees not to~~
35 ~~exceed three thousand dollars (\$3,000) each college year.~~

36 ~~(ii) The amount of the reimbursement and the number~~

1 ~~of reimbursement recipients selected by the Division of Higher Education is~~
2 ~~contingent on the appropriation and availability of funding for such a~~
3 ~~purpose.~~

4 ~~(2) To be eligible for a reimbursement under the Dual Licensure~~
5 ~~Incentive Program, the person shall be:~~

6 ~~(A) Employed as a classroom teacher for no less than three~~
7 ~~(3) years of teaching immediately preceding the application; and~~

8 ~~(B) Accepted for enrollment in a classroom teacher~~
9 ~~education program that will lead to a licensure to teach in a subject area~~
10 ~~that:~~

11 ~~(i) Is different from the classroom teacher's~~
12 ~~current area of licensure; and~~

13 ~~(ii) Either:~~

14 ~~(a) Has been identified as a subject area with~~
15 ~~a shortage of classroom teachers as declared by the Division of Elementary~~
16 ~~and Secondary Education; or~~

17 ~~(b) Is in the grade level and subject matter~~
18 ~~area for which the school district has requested a waiver under § 6-17-309.~~

19 ~~(b)(1) The Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board shall~~
20 ~~promulgate rules as necessary to implement the Dual Licensure Incentive~~
21 ~~Program.~~

22 ~~(2) The number of classroom teacher participants each year shall~~
23 ~~be determined by the amount of funding available for the Dual Licensure~~
24 ~~Incentive Program and the limitations set under this section.~~

25
26 SECTION 68. Arkansas Code § 6-82-108(e), concerning funding of the
27 Academic Support Scholarship with certain remaining funds, is amended to read
28 as follows:

29 (e) A scholarship under this section shall be funded with any funds
30 remaining after the division allocates sufficient funding to award Arkansas
31 *Academic Challenge Scholarships under § 6-85-201 et seq., Arkansas Workforce*
32 *Challenge Scholarships under § 6-85-301 et seq., and Arkansas Concurrent*
33 *Challenge Scholarships under § 6-85-401 et seq.* ACCESS to Acceleration
34 Scholarships under § 6-85-701 et seq.

35
36 SECTION 69. Arkansas Code § 6-82-302 is amended to read as follows:

**RULES GOVERNING THE ARKANSAS TEACHER ACADEMY
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

In compliance with the Arkansas ACCESS Act of 2025 (Act 341 Sections 77-78), the Arkansas Division of Higher Education Rules Governing the Arkansas Teacher Academy Scholarship Program are presented to the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) for final approval.

The following resolution is offered for the Board's consideration:

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board reviews the rules presented in this agenda item for the Arkansas Teacher Academy Scholarship Program to be administered by the Arkansas Division of Higher Education.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Commissioner of the Arkansas Division of Higher Education or his designee is authorized to make technical changes and corrections, when necessary, in the program rules for the Arkansas Teacher Academy Scholarship Program.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Teacher Academy Scholarship Program rules be approved for final approval.

**DIVISION OF HIGHER EDUCATION RULES GOVERNING THE ARKANSAS
TEACHER ACADEMY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND RESPONSES

Commenter Name:

Comments: No public comments received.

Division Response: No substantive changes made.

Proposed Rulemaking

Title

Promulgated by:
Division of Higher Education

Title 6. Education

Chapter IV. Division of Higher Education, Department of Education

Subchapter B. Scholarships and Grants

Part 406. Rules Governing the Arkansas Teacher Academy Scholarship Program

Subpart 1. Generally

6 CAR § 406-101. Definitions.

As used in this part:

(1) “Academy attendee” means an individual who is enrolled in an Arkansas Teacher Academy at an eligible postsecondary institution who is a:

(A) Current teacher;

(B) Teacher who has graduated from an Arkansas Teacher Academy at an eligible postsecondary institution; or

(C) Current student;

(2) “Eligible postsecondary institution” means a public or private two-year or four-year institution of higher education that:

(A) Offers a postbaccalaureate program that leads to teacher certification;
and

(B) Has entered into an agreement with the Division of Higher Education for purposes of the Arkansas Teacher Academy Scholarship Program; and

(3) “Tuition and fees” means any one (1) of the following that is charged by

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an eligible postsecondary institution, associated with a program of study as part of the Arkansas Teacher Academy Scholarship Program, that leads to teacher certification:

- (A) Tuition;
- (B) Mandatory fees; and
- (C) Program fees.

6 CAR § 406-102. Implementation of program — Purpose.

(a) An eligible postsecondary institution shall implement an Arkansas Teacher Academy to incentivize potential and enrolled academy attendees to:

- (1) Enter the teaching profession; and
- (2) Commit to teaching in:
 - (A) Arkansas public schools; or
 - (B) Critical shortage areas in Arkansas based on subject areas or geographical areas.

(b) The Division of Higher Education, in consultation with public and private postsecondary institutions, shall develop and implement a centralized administrative process for each Arkansas Teacher Academy, which shall include without limitation the following:

- (1) A marketing and promotion plan to recruit academy attendees for an Arkansas Teacher Academy;
- (2) Data collection and reporting;
- (3) Tracking of postgraduation service requirements;
- (4) Coordination of induction services;
- (5) Distribution of moneys in the Arkansas Teacher Academy Scholarship Program Fund between eligible postsecondary institutions;
- (6) Collection of reimbursements from individuals who fail to meet the service requirements under this part;
- (7) A process for assessing an academy attendee's ability to repay financial assistance received if the academy attendee who receives financial assistance is physically or mentally unable to fulfill the requirements of an Arkansas Teacher

Academy program; and

(8) A process for deferring service or repayment required by the Arkansas Teacher Academy Scholarship Program Act, Arkansas Code § 6-82-2201 et seq., based on factors adopted by the division.

6 CAR § 406-103. Eligible postsecondary institution duties.

(a) An Arkansas Teacher Academy may include without limitation a new or existing teacher preparation program that utilizes proven, research-based models of best practices that are already being implemented in similar program pathways.

(b) An eligible postsecondary institution may:

~~———(1) Develop develop a portfolio of teacher preparation programs to offer as part of its Arkansas Teacher Academy; and~~

~~———(2) Give priority to students in grades eleven (11) and twelve (12).~~

~~———(c)(1) An eligible postsecondary institution shall not:~~

~~———(A) Exclude students in grades nine (9) and ten (10) from its Arkansas Teacher Academy; and~~

~~———(B) Use scholarship funds that exceed the cost of tuition and fees at the eligible postsecondary institution to support its Arkansas Teacher Academy costs.~~

~~———(2) However, if the scholarship awarded does not fully cover the tuition and fees after all other financial gifts, aid, and grants are received, the academy attendee shall not be charged the remaining difference.~~

(d) An eligible postsecondary institution shall develop formal partnerships with Arkansas public schools to build commitments for teacher employment upon an academy attendee's completion of an Arkansas Teacher Academy program.

(e) The targeted deployment of academy attendees who are currently teachers who have completed an Arkansas Teacher Academy program shall be based on the:

(1) Needs of each public school system;

(2) Community that is being served; and

(3) Individual skills of each current teacher who has completed an Arkansas Teacher Academy program.

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(f) A program offered as part of an eligible postsecondary institution's Arkansas Teacher Academy shall include accelerated program models for the following, without limitation:

(1) Subject areas and geographical areas identified by the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education as experiencing a critical shortage of teachers;

(2) An individual seeking postbaccalaureate coursework that results in a professional certification; and

(3) A student in a noneducation program who seeks to complete one (1) or more teacher preparation courses leading to a teaching certification following graduation.

6 CAR § 406-104. Scholarship amounts — Academy attendee requirements.

(a) ~~Each~~Effective beginning the 2025-2026 academic year, each academy attendee that is accepted and enrolled in an Arkansas Teacher Academy program at an eligible postsecondary institution shall be awarded an annual scholarship, not to exceed the maximum award as determined by the Division of Higher Education each eligible semester, up to the actual cost of the:

(1) Eligible postsecondary institution's tuition and fees, for a maximum of:

(A) Two (2) academic years, ~~or~~ four (4) academic semesters, not to exceed sixty (60) academic hours, or completion of the program for ~~academy attendees who are~~ graduate students enrolled in a Teacher Academy at an eligible postsecondary institution;

(B) Four (4) academic years, ~~or~~ eight (8) academic semesters, not to exceed one hundred twenty (120) academic hours, or completion of the program for ~~academy attendees who are~~ undergraduate students enrolled in a Teacher Academy at an eligible postsecondary institution; and

(C)(i) Two (2) academic years, ~~or~~ four (4) academic semesters, not to exceed sixty (60) academic hours, or completion of the program for ~~academy attendees~~ community college students enrolled in a Teacher Academy Program at an eligible

community college postsecondary institution.

(ii) Academy attendees enrolled at a community college shall receive continued eligibility for two (2) additional academic years or four (4) additional academic semesters at an undergraduate institution; and

(2) Obtainment of a teaching license issued by the State Board of Education, including without limitation the actual cost of one (1) exam required by the state board.

(b)(1) A scholarship shall be distributed to academy attendees ~~only after all other financial gifts, aid, and grants have been received by an academy attendee in~~ accordance with the division's scholarship stacking policy under Arkansas Code § 6-80-105.

(2) ~~The total scholarship amount awarded to each academy attendee in compliance with the division's scholarship stacking policy, a student's total financial aid package, which can include multiple scholarships,~~ shall not exceed the ~~total~~ recognized cost of ~~tuition and fees attendance at any public a state supported~~ institution of higher education.

(c) Each academy attendee enrolled in an Arkansas Teacher Academy shall:

(1)(A) Agree to teach at least one (1) full school year in Arkansas at a public school, or a school that serves primarily public school students with disabilities, for each academic year the academy attendee successfully completes and receives a scholarship for all or part of his or her tuition and fees.

(B) For an academy attendee who teaches and receives the scholarship concurrently, the academy attendee's commitment period to teach in an Arkansas public school shall begin after graduation from an Arkansas Teacher Academy;

(2) Reimburse the Division of Higher Education:

(A) For the total amount of scholarship funds received for tuition and fees for an academic year the academy attendee does not successfully complete the academic year in good academic standing; and

(B) Proportional to the amount of the scholarship funds received by the academy attendee that corresponds to the number of school years the academy attendee agreed to teach, but did not teach; and

(3) Not include time enrolled in a summer term when calculating his or her commitment period required for teaching in an Arkansas public school.

(d) Academy attendees must apply for the Arkansas Teacher Academy scholarship during the open application period via the division's Scholarship Application Management System portal.

6 CAR § 406-105. Scholarship distribution duties — Reporting requirements.

(a) On or before March 1, ~~2024, and~~ each year ~~thereafter~~, the Division of Higher Education shall report to the Joint Budget Committee, or if the General Assembly is not in session, the Legislative Council and the Governor's office, the following information:

(1) The total number of academy attendees enrolled in each eligible postsecondary institution's Arkansas Teacher Academy in the current academic year; and

(2) The total number of Arkansas Teacher Academy graduates receiving induction services in the current academic year.

(b) On or before September 1, ~~2024, and~~ each year ~~thereafter~~, the division shall report to the Governor, President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and Speaker of the House of Representatives, with a copy submitted to the Secretary of State, the following information:

(1) The total number of academy attendees enrolled in each institution's Arkansas Teacher Academy by year of college enrollment;

(2) The percentage of academy attendees who complete each year of an institution's Arkansas Teacher Academy that plans to continue to the subsequent year, delineated by each teacher preparation program offered by each institution as part of the Arkansas Teacher Academy;

(3) The number of academy attendees who are currently teachers and who complete a program of study through an institution's Arkansas Teacher Academy;

(4) The number of academy attendees who are currently teaching in an Arkansas public school as part of an agreement for receiving a scholarship pursuant to

this part;

(5) The total number of Arkansas Teacher Academy graduates receiving induction services;

(6) The number of academy attendees who:

(A) Have defaulted on their obligations defined in this part; and

(B) Are in repayment agreements;

(7) The number of academy attendees who have deferred repayment agreements;

(8) The number of academy attendees who have completed repayment agreements;

(9) The methodology for distributing any moneys appropriated for Arkansas Teacher Academy scholarships and the amounts distributed to each institution; and

(10) The amount of any unused moneys in the fund from the previous fiscal year.

State of Arkansas *As Engrossed: H3/6/25 H3/12/25*

95th General Assembly

A Bill

Regular Session, 2025

HOUSE BILL 1512

By: Representatives M. Shepherd, *Evans, Beaty Jr., Brooks, Eubanks, Wardlaw, Barker, K. Brown, M. Brown, John Carr, Cavanaugh, Crawford, Gramlich, Hawk, McAlindon, McClure, S. Meeks, Nazarenko, Rose, Torres, Wing, Achor, Beck, Eaves, Unger, Andrews*
By: Senator J. Dismang

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS ACCESS ACT; TO AMEND
VARIOUS PROVISIONS OF THE ARKANSAS CODE AS THEY
RELATE TO EDUCATION IN THE STATE OF ARKANSAS; AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS ACCESS ACT; AND
TO AMEND VARIOUS PROVISIONS OF THE
ARKANSAS CODE AS THEY RELATE TO
EDUCATION IN THE STATE OF ARKANSAS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Title.

This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Arkansas ACCESS Act".

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-1-404(a), concerning the membership of
the School Leadership Coordinating Council, is amended to read as follows:

(a) The School Leadership Coordinating Council consists of ~~seventeen~~
~~(17)~~ the following members ~~as follows~~:

~~(1) The Chair of the Arkansas Association of Colleges for
Teacher Education Council of Deans;~~

~~(2)~~ The Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education;

~~(3) The Director of the Arkansas Leadership Academy;~~

~~(4)~~ (2) The Commissioner of the Division of Higher Education;



1 ~~(C) A student shall certify his or her community service~~
2 ~~to the approved institution of higher education by the last regular day of~~
3 ~~the semester the student received the grant; and~~

4 ~~(3)(A) Reside~~ reside in this state for ~~three (3) consecutive~~
5 ~~years~~ six (6) months and be employed beginning within six (6) months after
6 receiving an associate degree or a certification.

7 ~~(B)(2)~~ The Division of Higher Education may defer the
8 requirement under ~~subdivision (a)(3)(A)~~ subdivision (a)(1) of this section
9 if:

10 ~~(i)(A)~~ The Division of Higher Education, in
11 consultation with the Division of Workforce Services, determines that there
12 was no employment position available that would reasonably enable the student
13 to meet this requirement; or

14 ~~(ii)(B)~~ Special circumstances as determined by the
15 Division of Higher Education exist.

16 ~~(G)(3)~~ After the period of deferral, the student shall
17 begin or resume working in this state or become subject to repayment under
18 subsection (b) of this section.

19
20 SECTION 77. Arkansas Code § 6-82-2205(b), concerning the requirements
21 for an eligible postsecondary institution under the Arkansas Teacher Academy
22 Scholarship Program, is amended to read as follows:

23 (b) An eligible postsecondary institution may+

24 ~~(1) Develop~~ develop a portfolio of teacher preparation programs
25 to offer as part of its Arkansas Teacher Academy+;

26 ~~(2)(A) Give priority to students in grades eleven (11) and~~
27 ~~twelve (12).~~

28 ~~(B) However, an eligible postsecondary institution shall~~
29 ~~not exclude students in grades nine (9) and ten (10) from its Arkansas~~
30 ~~Teacher Academy; and~~

31 ~~(3)(A) Use scholarship funds that exceed the cost of tuition and~~
32 ~~fees at the eligible postsecondary institution to support its Arkansas~~
33 ~~Teacher Academy costs.~~

34 ~~(B) However, if a scholarship awarded to an academy~~
35 ~~attendee under this subchapter does not cover the eligible postsecondary~~
36 ~~institution's tuition and fees after an academy attendee receives all other~~

1 ~~financial gifts, financial aid, and grants, the eligible postsecondary~~
2 ~~institution shall not charge an academy attendee awarded a scholarship under~~
3 ~~this subchapter the remaining difference.~~
4

5 SECTION 78. Arkansas Code § 6-82-2206(a), concerning scholarships
6 under the Arkansas Teacher Academy Scholarship Program, is amended to read as
7 follows:

8 (a)(1) ~~An~~ Effective beginning the 2025-2026 academic year, an eligible
9 postsecondary institution shall provide to each academy attendee who is
10 accepted and enrolled in its Arkansas Teacher Academy program an annual
11 scholarship, not to exceed the maximum award as determined by the Division of
12 Higher Education each eligible semester, up to the actual cost of the:

13 (A) Eligible postsecondary institution's tuition and fees
14 for a maximum of:

15 (i) Two (2) academic years, ~~or~~ four (4) academic
16 semesters, not to exceed sixty (60) academic hours, or completion of the
17 program for an academy attendee who is a graduate student enrolled in the
18 Arkansas Teacher Academy at the eligible postsecondary institution;

19 (ii) Four (4) academic years, ~~or~~ eight (8) academic
20 semesters, not to exceed one hundred twenty (120) academic hours, or
21 completion of the program for an undergraduate student enrolled in the
22 Arkansas Teacher Academy at the eligible postsecondary institution; and

23 (iii)(a) Two (2) academic years, ~~or~~ four (4)
24 academic semesters, not to exceed sixty (60) academic hours, or completion of
25 the program for a community college student enrolled in the Arkansas Teacher
26 Academy at the eligible postsecondary institution.

27 (b) A student who qualifies under subdivision
28 (a)(1)(A)(iii)(a) of this section shall receive continued eligibility for two
29 (2) additional academic years or four (4) additional academic semesters at a
30 postsecondary institution that is an undergraduate institution; and

31 (B) Obtainment of a teaching license issued by the State
32 Board of Education, including without limitation the actual cost of one (1)
33 exam required for obtaining a teaching license issued by the state board.

34 (2) A scholarship distributed to an academy attendee under
35 subdivision (a)(1) of this section shall be distributed ~~only after all other~~
36 ~~financial gifts, financial aid, and grants have been received by an academy~~

1 ~~attendee enrolled in an Arkansas Teacher Academy at an eligible postsecondary~~
2 ~~institution in accordance with the division's scholarship stacking policy~~
3 ~~under § 6-80-105.~~

4 (3) In compliance with the division's scholarship stacking
5 policy, a student's total financial aid package, which can include multiple
6 scholarships, shall not exceed the recognized cost of attendance at a state-
7 supported institution of higher education.

8
9 SECTION 79. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 82 is amended to add
10 additional *subchapters* to read as follows:

11 Subchapter 25 – Arkansas Heroes Scholarship Act

12
13 6-82-2501. Title.

14 This subchapter shall be known and may be cited as the "Arkansas Heroes
15 Scholarship Act".

16
17 6-82-2502. Purpose.

18 The purpose of this subchapter is to create a scholarship to be known
19 as the "Arkansas Heroes Scholarship" that honors the heroic efforts of the
20 individuals who served as Arkansas's heroes and their families.

21
22 6-82-2503. Definitions.

23 (a) As used in this subchapter:

24 (1) "Arkansas hero" means:

25 (A) One (1) of the following who suffers a fatal injury or
26 wound or becomes permanently and totally disabled as a result of injuries or
27 wounds that occurred in the performance of a hazardous duty within the scope
28 of his or her employment or that occurred en route to or returning from a
29 location where a hazardous situation existed:

30 (i) A law enforcement officer;

31 (ii) A firefighter;

32 (iii) An emergency medical technician;

33 (iv) A state highway employee;

34 (v) A state correction employee;

35 (vi) A Division of Community Correction employee;

36 (vii) A state parks employee; or

AHECB POLICY – ARKANSAS WORKFORCE CHALLENGE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM POLICY

The Arkansas Workforce Challenge Scholarship Program was amended by the Arkansas ACCESS Act of 2025 (Act 341 Sections 84-87). The Arkansas Division of Higher Education (ADHE) Rules Governing the Arkansas Workforce Challenge Scholarship Program were presented to the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) for final approval on April 24, 2026. Per authority provided in the Arkansas ACCESS Act of 2025, ADHE in collaboration with the Office of Skills Development has determined additional policy to support implementation of the program, in adherence to the rules. The amended AHECB policy for the Arkansas Workforce Challenge Scholarship Program shall include the approved rules along with supporting details.

AHECB Resolutions

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) approves the policy amendment for the Arkansas Workforce Challenge Scholarship Program effective August 1, 2026. The Arkansas Workforce Challenge Scholarship Program policy outlines the guidelines for program implementation. While rules may not change without legislative action, policy may be amended by the AHECB in response to evolving state workforce needs.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That any Arkansas approved institution of higher education, as defined in the Arkansas ACCESS Act of 2025, that chooses to participate in the Arkansas Workforce Challenge Scholarship Program, shall implement and administer the scholarship program in accordance with the policies of the AHECB and the promulgated rules.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the AHECB instructs the Commissioner of the Arkansas Division of Higher Education to provide a copy of the amended policy to presidents and chancellors, chief academic affairs officers, students affairs officers, financial aid officers, and institutional research officers at Arkansas state-supported colleges and universities as well as representatives from other approved institutions of higher education, as defined in the Arkansas ACCESS Act of 2025, participating in the Arkansas Workforce Challenge Scholarship Program.

Arkansas Workforce Challenge Scholarship Program Policy

(Final approved Arkansas Division of Higher Education Rules Governing the Arkansas Workforce Challenge Scholarship Program to be inserted here.)

Definitions

Professional Skills Training: non-credit postsecondary courses that develop or enhance occupational, technical, and/or durable skills of individuals – whether employed, underemployed, or unemployed – to meet the needs of employers and/or increase individual opportunity in the labor market. Courses may include methods such as lecture, workshop, customized training, apprenticeship, etc. While these courses carry no institutional credit applicable toward a degree, diploma, or certificate, the competencies and skills attained through Professional Skills Training could apply toward a prior learning credit.

- I. Per *(Pending)* Rules: 6 CAR § 403-201. Eligibility requirements. (c)(1) The program eligibility of institutions of higher education under § 403-103(2) of this part shall be determined by the division in collaboration with the Office of Skills Development.

Program Minimum Requirements

- Professional Skills Training: 80 clock hours
- Credit: Certificate of Proficiency (6 credit hours)

Funding Award Amounts:

- Tiered Funding:
 - Up to \$1500 for professional skills training programs 80-179 clock hours
 - Up to \$3000 for professional skills training programs 180+ clock hours or credit programs CP (6 credit hours) and above (not to exceed the standard tuition rate and fee structure of the IHE providing the

instruction)

- Stackable programs with a combined duration of 179 clock hours or fewer will qualify for funding not to exceed \$1,500, unless otherwise authorized by the Division of Higher Education, subject to the application of exceptional qualifying criteria.

CIPs in High-Demand Fields:

- ADHE will approve Classification of Instructional Program (CIP) codes aligned with Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) codes in the high-demand fields specified in the Arkansas ACCESS Act of 2025 (Advanced manufacturing, Health care, Information technology, Construction trades, Logistics and distribution).

- II. Per (*Pending*) Rules 6 CAR § 403-203. Institutional responsibilities — Institutions of Higher Education responsibilities. (g) Reporting requirements.

Individual Student Completer Information Required to Report

- Student First Name
- Student Last Name
- Student SSN
- Student DOB
- Student Race
- Student Ethnicity
- Student Sex
- # Contact or Credit Hours Completed
- Academic Year
- Program or Degree Name
- Credential Completion Type(s) or Degree Level
- Program CIP Code
- Program SOC Code

- Program Start Date
- Program Completion Date
- # of Instructional Weeks

Failure to report student completer information may result in loss of program eligibility. The ADHE financial aid office reserves the right to require additional information, if required for the Arkansas Scholarship Lottery.

- III. Per *(Pending)* Rules 6 CAR § 403-203. Institutional responsibilities — Institutions of Higher Education responsibilities. (c) Institutional verification. (5) The electronic verification rosters shall be returned to the division by November 1 for the fall semester, by March 15 for the spring semester, and at the date specified by the division for the summer semester.

Electronic Verification Roster Due Dates

- Credit: November 1 for the fall semester, March 15 for the spring semester, and July 15 for the summer semester
- Professional Skills Training: March 31, June 30, Sept. 30 and Dec. 31.
- ADHE will pause adding new students to roster 30 days before deadline.

- IV. Per *(Pending)* Rules 6 CAR § 403-203. Institutional responsibilities — Institutions of Higher Education responsibilities. (c) Institutional verification. (6) The division shall also provide electronic continuing eligibility rosters to the financial aid administrator before the end of the fall, spring, and summer semesters.

Continuing Eligibility Rosters Provided to Financial Aid Administrators

Credit: The division shall also provide electronic continuing eligibility rosters to the financial aid administrator before the end of the fall, spring, and summer semesters.

Professional Skills Training: The division shall provide electronic continuing eligibility rosters to the financial aid administrator 30 days prior to the Continuing

Eligibility Roster Due Dates.

- V. Per *(Pending)* Rules 6 CAR § 403-203. Institutional responsibilities — Institutions of Higher Education responsibilities. (c) Institutional verification. (7) The continuing eligibility rosters shall be returned to the division no later than January 15 based on the fall semester, June 1 based on the spring semester, and at the date specified by the division for summer semesters to ensure that adequate time is provided to notify students of their status in the program.

Continuing Eligibility Roster Due Dates

- Credit: January 15 based on the fall semester, June 1 based on the spring semester, and August 15 for summer semesters.
- Professional Skills Training: March 31, June 30, Sept. 30 and Dec. 31.

**ARKANSAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD POLICY ON
STATE MINIMUM CORE FOR GENERAL EDUCATION**

This policy presents the State Minimum General Education Core for associate and baccalaureate degrees as adopted by the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board and includes general provisions necessary for implementation.

AHECB Resolutions

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) approves the policy effective Fall 2027. The Policy on State Minimum Core for General Education presents the State Minimum General Education Core for associate and baccalaureate degrees.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That all Arkansas state-supported colleges or universities shall implement the State Minimum Core for General Education in accordance with the policies of the AHECB and the rules of the Arkansas State Board of Education.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the AHECB instructs the Commissioner of the Arkansas Division of Higher Education to provide a copy of the policy to presidents and chancellors, chief academic affairs officers, students affairs officers at Arkansas state-supported colleges and universities.

ARKANSAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD POLICY ON STATE MINIMUM CORE FOR GENERAL EDUCATION

This policy presents the State Minimum General Education Core for associate and baccalaureate degrees as adopted by the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board and includes general provisions necessary for implementation.

I. Definitions

For the purposes of this policy, the following terms are defined:

Requisite Core: The mandatory 15-credit-hour foundation established by Act 566 of 2025, focused on the essential domains of Communication, Quantitative Reasoning, and American Civic Traditions.

Additional Breadth Requirements: The supplemental credit hours (totaling the remaining 20 hours of the 35-hour state minimum) that expose students to the Fine Arts, Humanities, and Social and Natural Sciences.

Survey Course: A foundational offering designed to provide a comprehensive overview of a field's primary theories, historical development, and methodologies, rather than specialized or technical applications.

Competency-Based Equivalency: The recognition of student mastery in a State Minimum General Education Core area through verified assessment or proficiency testing rather than traditional seat-time.

II. Purpose

The Requisite Core and State Minimum General Education Core serve as the intellectual cornerstone for every undergraduate degree granted within the State of Arkansas. Rather than a collection of introductory coursework, the State Minimum General Education Core represents a unified educational philosophy intended to transform students into versatile thinkers and engaged participants in a free society.

The primary intent of this curriculum is to equip students with a durable academic framework that transcends the boundaries of a specific major or vocation. In an era of rapid technological and social transition, the State of Arkansas recognizes that the most valuable asset a graduate can possess is the ability to synthesize information across disparate fields, communicate with precision, and apply rigorous logic to complex problems.

Furthermore, the State Minimum General Education Core is designed to foster a shared civic identity. By engaging with the historical narratives and governing structures of the United States and the State of Arkansas, students cultivate the self-reliance and ethical clarity necessary to uphold the responsibilities of citizenship. Ultimately, the State Minimum General Education Core ensures that regardless of their professional path, every graduate of an Arkansas institution shares a common standard of cultural literacy and intellectual maturity.

III. Operational Intent

1. Within the framework of the State Minimum General Education Core specified below, each state institution shall offer 35 semester credit hours from its institutional general education core. The total general educational degree requirements at each institution may exceed the State Minimum General Education Core requirements. This 35-credit hour State Minimum General Education Core must be included in all transferable associate degrees and bachelor's degrees. The Requisite Core must be included in all associate and bachelor's degrees.
2. Each state institution shall present its institutional general education core to the Division of Higher Education for recognition under this policy via a Letter of Notification. Institutions may present proposed changes in their institutional general education cores to the Division as necessary via a Letter of Notification.
3. Each state institution shall accept and apply credit toward requirements for any undergraduate degree such parts of any other state institution's general education core as shall be presented by transfer students. If a student transfers to an institution which has total general education degree requirements that exceed the State Minimum General Education Core, after recognizing all courses presented from the sending institution's general education core, the receiving institution may determine which additional general education courses are required to make up the difference between the State Minimum General Education Core courses presented and the institution's total general education degree requirements. Courses listed in Arkansas Course Transfer System are guaranteed for transfer and must be applied toward Core requirements for associate and bachelor's degrees.
4. Institutions are encouraged to develop and implement Competency-Based Equivalency pathways to satisfy requirements within the State Minimum General Education Core. Where a student demonstrates mastery of a State Minimum General Education Core area through verified assessment or proficiency testing -

as defined in Section I - the institution may award credit or a transcript notation satisfying that specific State Minimum General Education Core requirement.

5. In mathematics and science, higher-level courses than those required will be accepted for purposes of the State Minimum General Education Core.
6. A receiving institution may be more lenient in accepting credit at its own discretion. However, the policies regarding the State Minimum General Education Core do not obligate the receiving institution beyond the stated courses and provisions.

IV. State Requisite Core:

Requisite Core	Credit hours
English/Communication Oral or written communication designed to develop the ability to organize ideas and to communicate, with clarity, precision, and syntactical maturity.	6
Mathematics or Science Cultivates critical thinking, problem-solving, and logical reasoning skills.	3-4
United States History* Must include instruction in the essentials of the United States Constitution and the study of American institutions and ideals.	3
American Government* Must include instruction in the essentials of the United States Constitution and the study of American institutions and ideals.	3
Total Credit Hours:	15-16

**required; may not be substituted*

V. State Minimum General Education Core:

State Minimum General Education Core	Credit Hours
English Composition	6
Speech Communication	0-3
Mathematics* A comprehensive mathematics course such as College Algebra, Statistics, Quantitative Literacy/Mathematical Reasoning or any higher-level mathematics course.	3
Science † Courses must include laboratories.	8

Fine Arts/Humanities ‡ Must be broad survey courses.	6-9
American Government	3
United States History	3
Social Sciences ‡	3-6
Total Credit Hours:	35

**Institutions may require students majoring in mathematics, engineering, science, and business to take a higher-level mathematics course as part of the state minimum core.*

†Institutions may require students majoring in mathematics, engineering, science, education, and health professions to take higher-level or specific science courses.

‡Institutions may require students majoring in engineering to take either 6 hours of humanities and social sciences at the junior/senior level or substitute an additional 6 hours of higher-level mathematics and/or additional science courses.

POLICY FOR THE APPROVAL OR REVISION OF ACADEMIC PROGRAMS AND ORGANIZATIONAL UNITS

This Appendix B - Definitions update adjusts the prescribed curriculum for the state-wide Certificate of General Studies (CGS). The update will simultaneously align the credential with ACT 566 of 2025, which established a new 15-credit hour Requisite Core, and will bring the CGS into closer alignment with the State Minimum General Education Core.

Certificate of General Studies

The Certificate of General Studies is a specific set of general education core courses that will document a student's mastery of skills and competencies needed to be successful in the workforce and today's world. The range of credit hours is ~~31-38~~ 31-32 semester hours. Remedial/developmental education courses must be used for placement purposes only and cannot be used to fulfill certificate requirements. The courses required for the award are as follows:

Certificate of General Studies	Credit Hours
English Composition	6
Lab Science	4
College Algebra, Quantitative Literacy, or Statistics	3
U.S. History	3
American Government	3
Social Science Elective	3
Fine Arts or Humanities Elective	3
<i>Choose two of the following:</i>	6-7
Oral Communication or Speech (3 credit hours)	
Social Science Elective (3 credit hours)	
Fine Arts or Humanities Elective (3 credit hours)	
Lab Science (4 credit hours)	
Total Credit Hours:	31-32
CGS Approved: February 3, 2006, Agenda Item No. 3	
CGS Updated: <u>April 24, 2026, Agenda Item No. 15</u>	

DISTRIBUTION OF MINERAL LEASE FUNDS

According to the provisions of A.C.A. §6-61-801 through §6-61-808, there is established the Arkansas Research Development Program for providing Arkansas Research Development Program Grants to publicly-supported universities in Arkansas by the Division of Higher Education. Act 610 of 2025 provides that after the sum of \$13,200,000 has been deposited into the Higher Education Building Maintenance Fund, any additional deposits are to be transferred to the Research Development Fund to be used as provided by law.

In accordance with A.C.A. §6-61-803 and A.C.A. §6-61-807, “There is created a program to be known as the Arkansas Research Development program which shall be administered by the Director of the Division of Higher Education. Funds may be made available for administration of the Arkansas Development Research Program, for purchasing state-of-the-art equipment, for minor renovations of laboratory space, for publication of findings, for employing scientists or research assistants, and for providing any other assistance to scientists in order to develop a continuing research capacity in this state which is recognized as exemplary.”

The floor for the Research Development Fund was reached in September 2006, and statute requires that the funds be disbursed by the Director of the Division of Higher Education in accordance with the recommendation of the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board after review by Legislative Council.

Higher Education Research Development Fund:

The current balance in the Higher Education Research Development Fund is \$193,618. The fiscal 2026 appropriation of \$500,000 is adequate for the authorization of distribution of up to \$475,000 requested by the Arkansas Research and Education Optical Network (ARE-ON) board of directors.

Recommendation:

The ARE-ON represents an essential tool for research and development in the publicly supported universities of Arkansas. It is recommended that up to \$475,000 requested by the ARE-ON board of directors be distributed to the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville for continuing personal services and operating expenses related to ARE-ON.

The following resolution is presented for the board’s consideration:

RESOLVED, That after review by the Legislative Council, the Director of the Arkansas Division of Higher Education is authorized to distribute up to \$475,000 from the Higher Education Research Development Fund to the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville for continuing personal services and operating expenses related to ARE-ON.

UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS SYSTEM

Office of the President

April 2, 2026

Mr. Nick Fuller, Assistant Director of Finance
Arkansas Division of Higher Education
2 Capitol Mall
Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Mr. Fuller:

Please accept this letter as a request on behalf of the ARE-ON board of directors for a distribution of up to \$475,000 from the Research Development Fund to be approved at the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board meeting on April 24, 2026. This funding is necessary for continuing personal services and operating expenses.

The Department's continued support of ARE-ON is critical to the statewide expansion of higher education's research infrastructure and is very much appreciated.

Sincerely,



Jay B. Silveria
President
Charles E. Scharlau Presidential Leadership Chair

cc: Elon Turner
 Melissa Rust
 Tara Smith

2404 North University Avenue / Little Rock, Arkansas 72207-3608 / 501-686-2505

University of Arkansas, Fayetteville / University of Arkansas at Little Rock / University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff
University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences / University of Arkansas at Monticello/ Division of Agriculture / Criminal Justice Institute
Arkansas Archeological Survey/ Phillips Community College of the University of Arkansas / University of Arkansas Community College at Hope-Texarkana
University of Arkansas Community College at Batesville / Cossatot Community College of the University of Arkansas
University of Arkansas Community College at Morrilton / University of Arkansas at Fort Smith
University of Arkansas – Pulaski Technical College / University of Arkansas Community College at Rich Mountain
Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences and the Arts / University of Arkansas Clinton School of Public Service / University of Arkansas Grantham
University of Arkansas East Arkansas Community College

**ECONOMIC FEASIBILITY OF BOND ISSUES
UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS AT FAYETTEVILLE**

The University of Arkansas at Fayetteville (UAF) requests approval of the economic feasibility of plans to issue bonds not to exceed \$132 million with a term of no longer than thirty (30) years at an annual interest rate not to exceed 5.5 percent. Proceeds from the bond issue will be used for educational and general (E&G) and auxiliary purposes. The University of Arkansas Board of Trustees approved this financing at its meeting on April 16, 2026.

The educational and general issue will be up to \$25 million with a maximum annual debt service of \$1,527,125 and a term of thirty (30) years. Proceeds from this bond issue will be used for (a) the acquisition, construction, equipping, and expansion of district heating distribution material and equipment to serve the Maple Hill District and other related campus district heating capacity improvements and utility infrastructure upgrades (the "Utility Project"); and (b) the acquisition, construction, improvement, renovation, equipping and/or furnishing of other capital improvements and infrastructure and the acquisition of various equipment and/or real property for the Fayetteville Campus.

The debt service on the bond issue will be supported by tuition and fee revenue. Coordinating Board policy regarding debt service for educational and general projects provides that a maximum of 25 percent of tuition and fee revenue may be pledged to educational and general debt service.

Relevant data follows:

Budgeted 2026-27 Tuition and Fee Revenue (net)	\$349,894,000
Maximum Allowable Debt Service (\$349,894,000 x 25%)....	\$ 87,473,500
Existing Debt Service	\$ 30,589,538
Proposed New Debt Service	\$ 1,527,125
Amount Remaining for Additional Debt Service	\$ 55,356,837

The above data demonstrates that the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville has sufficient tuition and fee revenue to support an educational and general bond issue of up to \$25 million with a term of thirty (30) years at an estimated annual interest rate not to exceed 5.50 percent.

The auxiliary issue will be up to \$107 million with a maximum annual debt service of \$6,477,750 and a term of thirty (30) years. Proceeds from this bond issue will be used for (a) the acquisition, construction, furnishing, and equipping of the Maple Hill Central residence hall (the "Maple Hill Central Project"); and (b) the acquisition, construction, improvement, renovation, equipping and/or furnishing of

other capital improvements and infrastructure and the acquisition of various equipment and/or real property for the Fayetteville Campus.

The debt service on the bond issue will be supported by auxiliary revenues generated through the room rates and any other revenues generated by the new residence hall. Coordinating Board policy regarding debt service for auxiliary projects provides that annual net auxiliary revenues should be no less than 120 percent of total annual auxiliary debt service.

Relevant data follows:

Budgeted 2026-27 Auxiliary Revenue (net).....	\$124,224,000
Maximum Allowable Debt Service (\$124,224,000/120%)	\$103,520,000
Existing Debt Service	\$ 17,852,499
Proposed New Debt Service	\$ 6,477,750
Amount Remaining for Additional Debt Service	\$ 79,189,751

The above data demonstrates that the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville has sufficient revenue to support a bond issue of approximately \$107 million with a term of thirty (30) years at an estimated annual interest rate not to exceed 5.50 percent.

In accordance with board policy, The University of Arkansas at Fayetteville will sustain a building maintenance fund to be supported by tuition and fee revenue and by auxiliary revenues. These funds will be held in a separate account for the maintenance of the new facilities by transferring annually to plant funds based on the Association of Physical Plant Administrators (APPA) of Universities and Colleges recommendation.

The projects of the E&G issue provide no additional square footage to the campus. Therefore, there will be no additional transfer for the educational and general issue. The current APPA recommendation is \$1.25 for auxiliary facilities. Based on an estimated total of 195,700 square feet for auxiliary facilities, \$244,625 will be transferred annually.

ADHE Executive Staff recommend that the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approve the following resolution:

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board considers economically feasible plans for the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville (UAF) to issue bonds not to exceed \$132 million with a term not to exceed thirty (30) years at an annual interest rate not to exceed 5.50 percent for various E&G projects.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Commissioner of the Arkansas Division of Higher Education is authorized to notify the President and the Chair of the Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas System, and the Chancellor of the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville of the Coordinating Board's resolution.

**ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE IN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
NORTHWEST ARKANSAS COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

The following resolution is presented to the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board for consideration:

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the offering of the Associate of Applied Science in Artificial Intelligence (CIP 11.0102) at Northwest Arkansas Community College, effective Spring 2027.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Coordinating Board instructs the Commissioner of the Arkansas Division of Higher Education to inform the President and Chair of the Board of Trustees of Northwest Arkansas Community College of the approval.

ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE IN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE NORTHWEST ARKANSAS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

The administration and Board of Trustees of Northwest Arkansas Community College (NWACC) request approval to offer the Associate of Applied Science in Artificial Intelligence (CIP 11.0102), effective Spring 2027.

NWACC is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission, and the proposed program is within the role and scope established for the institution. The Northwest Arkansas Community College Board of Trustees approved the program on November 10, 2025.

Program Description

The proposed Associate of Applied Science in Artificial Intelligence is a workforce-focused academic program designed to prepare students for roles in which AI tools and systems are used to improve productivity, decision-making, automation, and service delivery across industries. The program is designed with a workforce-aligned, applied focus that emphasizes practical use of artificial intelligence tools, machine learning concepts, automation, data analytics, cloud computing, and responsible AI practices.

The 60-credit hour curriculum will prepare students to apply AI technologies in real-world business and industrial settings rather than emphasizing theoretical or research-based study. The program is intended to serve adult learners, working professionals, and recent high school graduates seeking an affordable, locally accessible pathway into AI-related careers.

The proposed program will utilize existing library and learning support resources as well as existing instructional classrooms, laboratories, and computing infrastructure. Up to four new faculty members will be hired over the first three years. Specialized instructional equipment and software will be required.

Program Need

Labor-market data provided by ADHE indicates a strong and sustained demand for AI-related occupations in northwest Arkansas, with 4,163 jobs in 2026 projected to increase to 4,494 jobs by 2031 (+8.0% growth), representing 331 net new jobs and approximately 283 annual openings. Median earnings for these occupations are \$46.73 per hour (\$97,200 annually). Key aligned occupations include Software Developers, Network and Computer Systems Administrators, Web and Digital Interface Designers, and Computer Occupations. From January 2025 through January 2026, the region recorded 2,617 unique job postings, with an average of 201 monthly postings and 150 monthly hires, reflecting ongoing recruitment pressure. Labor market data also reports zero regional completions and zero regional training providers for CIP 11.0102 (Artificial Intelligence), demonstrating a significant gap in educational supply.

Regional employers further report difficulty finding workers with AI-aligned and AI-enabled skill sets, particularly individuals who can apply AI tools in practical workplace

environments. Student and community demand is evidenced through strong participation in NWACC's non-credit "AI in the Workplace" workshops, crossover participation by current and prospective students, employer requests for credit-bearing AI training options, and a credit-bearing AI course currently offered at a local high school serving approximately 40 students annually. Collectively, these indicators demonstrate both immediate and future enrollment potential and support the need for NWACC's proposed Associate of Applied Science in Artificial Intelligence.

Program Expenditures and Funding

Up to four full-time faculty members will be hired over the first three years with a program coordinator and one full-time faculty hired as soon as Spring 2026. As enrollment increases, adjunct instructors will be used for specialized topics, flexible scheduling, and additional sections. The total estimated personnel cost over the first three years ranges from \$740,000 to \$866,000. The purchase of library resources, equipment, and specialized software will be necessary to support instruction in artificial intelligence, machine learning, cloud computing, data analytics, automation, and responsible AI practices. The total estimated resource and equipment cost over the first three years is \$70,000 to \$121,000. Additional estimated costs can be found in the full proposal.

Program funding will be generated primarily through student tuition and program fees. Projected enrollment is 20 students in Year 1, 50 students in Year 2, and 80 students in Year 3. Total projected tuition and fee revenue is \$114,300 in Year 1, \$285,000 in Year 2, and \$457,200 in Year 3, for a total of \$856,500 over the first three years of operation. NWACC reports no grants, reallocations, or external funding sources at this time; long-term sustainability is expected to be supported through tuition and fee revenue based on projected enrollment.

Program Duplication

There are no active associate degree programs similar to the proposed Associate of Applied Science in Artificial Intelligence.

Program Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion, a student will be able to:

1. Demonstrate the ability to use AI platforms, machine-learning models, cloud-based tools, and automation frameworks to address authentic business, industry, and community challenges.
2. Implement AI systems that follow responsible-use guidelines, including fairness, transparency, safety, bias mitigation, documentation, and alignment with frameworks such as the NIST AI Risk Management Framework.
3. Gather, prepare, analyze, and interpret data; write Python and API-based automations; and incorporate cloud AI services into end-to-end workflows supporting technical decision-making.

4. Interpret, analyze, and validate the performance of machine-learning and generative models using appropriate evaluation metrics, regulatory considerations, and domain-specific requirements.
5. Convey AI findings through clear written, oral, and visual communication tailored to diverse audiences, including technical teams, industry partners, and non-technical decision-makers.
6. Demonstrate readiness for the workplace through hands-on project work, adherence to professional standards, version control, documentation, and collaboration across interdisciplinary teams.

Program Enrollment and Graduation Projections

Academic Year	Projected Enrollment	Projected Graduates
2027 – 2028	20	
2028 – 2029	50	
2029 – 2030	80	15
2030 – 2031	110	35
2031 – 2032	135	35

Program Curriculum

General Education – 15 credit hours

ENGL 1013	Composition I
COMM 1003	Fundamentals of Speech OR
COMM 1303	Public Speaking
MATH 1203	College Algebra OR
MATH 1103	Contemporary Mathematics
HIST 2003	History of American People to 1877 OR
HIST 2013	History of American People since 1877
PLSC 2003	American National Government

Major Course Requirements – 45 credit hours

<i>WFAI 1003</i>	<i>Survey of Artificial Intelligence</i>
<i>WFAI 1303</i>	<i>Prompt Engineering and Generative AI</i>
<i>WFAI 1403</i>	<i>Data Literacy for Artificial Intelligence</i>
<i>WFAI 2103</i>	<i>Responsible and Trustworthy AI</i>
<i>WFAI 2203</i>	<i>Cloud AI Tools & Services</i>
<i>WFAI 2303</i>	<i>Machine Learning Fundamentals</i>
<i>WFAI 2403</i>	<i>Computer Vision and Natural Language Processing</i>
<i>WFAI 2503</i>	<i>Automation and AI Agents</i>
<i>WFAI 2603</i>	<i>Machine Learning Operations and AI Deployment</i>
<i>WFAI 2703</i>	<i>Applied Programming for AI (Python and APIs)</i>
<i>WFAI 2803</i>	<i>AI Capstone/Work-Based Learning</i>

Italics – New Course

**ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE IN NURSING (TRADITIONAL)
SOUTH ARKANSAS COLLEGE**

The following resolution is presented to the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board for consideration:

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the offering of the Associate of Applied Science in Nursing (Traditional) (CIP 51.3801) at South Arkansas College, effective Summer 2026.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Coordinating Board instructs the Commissioner of the Arkansas Division of Higher Education to inform the President and Chair of the Board of Trustees of South Arkansas College of the approval.

ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE IN NURSING (TRADITIONAL) SOUTH ARKANSAS COLLEGE

The administration and Board of Trustees of South Arkansas College (SAC) request approval to offer the Associate of Applied Science in Nursing (Traditional) (CIP 51.3801), effective Summer 2026.

SAC is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission, and the proposed program is within the role and scope established for the institution. The South Arkansas College Board of Trustees approved the program on January 20, 2026.

Program Description

The proposed Associate of Applied Science in Nursing (Traditional) program is designed to respond to critical and sustained registered nurse workforce shortages in southern Arkansas and surrounding areas. The program focuses on providing access to rural, underserved, and place bound students who are likely to remain employed in the region after graduation. Graduates will be prepared for the NCLEX and for immediate employment in acute care, long-term care, and community-based healthcare environments.

The program's curriculum requires completion of 68 total credit hours, comprised of 30 credit hours of general education prerequisites and, upon admission to the program, 38 credit hours of nursing coursework is completed over three semesters. Through classroom instruction, high-fidelity simulation, and supervised clinical experiences, the curriculum emphasizes patient-centered care, clinical judgment, safety and quality, evidence-based practice, professionalism, and leadership, ensuring graduates are well prepared for entry-level nursing practice and licensure.

The College will hire one program director, two faculty, and one simulation laboratory assistant to support the proposed program. Existing facilities will be utilized but will require renovations to accommodate simulation laboratory equipment requirements.

Program Need

Labor market data provided by ADHE demonstrate sustained and growing demand for Registered Nurses across southern Arkansas and surrounding counties. The region reports 4,679 registered nursing jobs in 2025, with continued growth projected through 2030 and approximately 270 annual openings. From January 2025 to November 2025, employers posted an average of 349 RN job postings per month, with 208 average monthly hires, indicating ongoing recruitment pressure and persistent workforce shortages. Registered Nursing is also a high-wage occupation in the region, with median earnings of \$36.77 per hour and 75th percentile wages exceeding \$42 per hour.

Although the educational supply has increased, it has not kept pace with the workforce demand. In 2024, the region produced 573 Registered Nursing completions across 11

institutions, reflecting 17% growth since 2020, with associate degrees representing the largest share of completions (55.5%). Despite this growth, sustained hiring activity, competitive posting intensity, and documented annual openings indicate a continued supply-demand gap, particularly in rural and underserved communities within South Arkansas College's service area.

The demand for Registered Nurses in southern Arkansas was confirmed through an employer needs survey distributed to local clinical partners, advisory committee members, and employers. All reported ongoing difficulty filling RN positions and projected continued hiring needs across acute care, long-term care, and community-based settings. Magnolia Regional Medical Center anticipates 10-15 RN vacancies annually. Employers also expressed strong support for the proposed program through clinical placements, advisory participation, tuition assistance, and recruitment partnerships, reinforcing both workforce need and commitment to graduate employment.

Program Expenditures and Funding

The proposed program will require the addition of a full-time Program Director who will be responsible for day-to-day activities, liaising with the partner healthcare facilities, developing the new RN curriculum, developing and implementing recruiting strategies with the college marketing department, procurement of necessary supplies, equipment, and training, and teaching in the program. In addition, two full-time nursing faculty, a simulation lab assistant, and adjunct clinical faculty will also be hired. Salary and fringe benefit details can be found in the full proposal. Simulation laboratory equipment, including a SimMan and SimNewborn, will be acquired at an estimated total cost of more than \$156,000.

Funding for the proposed program will come primarily from student tuition and fees based on the projected enrollment of 24 students per cohort. Tuition revenue projections are calculated using SAC's in-district, out-of-district, and out-of-state tuition rates, with conservative estimates based primarily on in-district enrollment patterns. SAC also received a Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in the amount of \$1,572,936 with the intent of supporting the program's salaries, fringe benefits, training, new equipment, participant costs, and supplies through 2029.

A private donation through the SAC Foundation will allow renovation of existing facilities to create a designated simulation laboratory and classroom for the program.

Program Duplication

Twenty-three Arkansas public institutions offer a similar Associate of Applied Science in Nursing program with a traditional/RN focus, a transitional/LPN-to-RN focus, or both.

South Arkansas College currently offers an approved Associate of Applied Science in Nursing program with an LPN-to-RN focus developed in partnership with Arkansas Rural Nursing Education Consortium (ARNEC).

Program Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion, a student will be able to:

1. Provide safe, compassionate, patient-centered nursing care to diverse individuals, families, and communities across the lifespan.
2. Apply clinical judgement and the nursing process to assess, plan, implement, and evaluate evidence-based nursing care.
3. Implement safe nursing practices and participate in quality improvement activities that minimize risk of harm and enhance patient outcomes.
4. Integrate best current evidence, clinical expertise, and patient preferences to guide nursing practice.
5. Use informatics and healthcare technologies to communicate, manage information, support clinical decision-making, and promote safe patient care.
6. Communicate and collaborate effectively with patients, families, and members of interprofessional healthcare teams to coordinate care and achieve optimal patient outcomes.
7. Demonstrate professional behaviors consistent with ethical principles, legal standards, and regulatory requirements of nursing practice.
8. Apply principles of leadership and delegation appropriate to the role of the associate degree nurse within structure healthcare environments.

Program Enrollment and Graduation Projections

Academic Year	Projected Enrollment	Projected Graduates
2026 – 2027	24	
2027 – 2028	48	24
2028 – 2029	48	24
2029 – 2030	48	24
2030 – 2031	48	24

Program Curriculum

General Education Prerequisites – 30 credit hours

SASC 1101	Campus Technology
ENGL 1113	Composition I
PSYC 2003	General Psychology
MATH 1083	Math for Health Professionals
BIOL 2064/L	Anatomy & Physiology I
PSCI 2003	American Government

ENGL 1123	Composition II
BIOL 2074/L	Anatomy & Physiology II
BIOL 2174/L	Microbiology
HIST 2013	History of the United States to 1876 OR
HIST 2023	History of the United States Since 1876
<u>Nursing Coursework</u> – 38 credit hours	
<i>HSCI 1201</i>	<i>Introduction to Professional Nursing</i>
<i>RNSG 2102</i>	<i>Pharmacology for Nursing Practice I: Foundations</i>
<i>RNSG 2106</i>	<i>Foundations of Nursing Care</i>
<i>RNSG 2103</i>	<i>Psychiatric-Mental Health Nursing</i>
<i>RNSG 2112</i>	<i>Practicum I</i>
<i>RNSG 2201</i>	<i>Pharmacology for Nursing Practice II: Across the Lifespan</i>
<i>RNSG 2205</i>	<i>Adult and Older Adult Medical-Surgical Nursing I</i>
<i>RNSG 2204</i>	<i>Family-Centered Nursing</i>
<i>RNSG 2212</i>	<i>Practicum II</i>
<i>RNSG 2301</i>	<i>Pharmacology III</i>
<i>RNSG 2305</i>	<i>Medical-Surgical Nursing II</i>
<i>RNSG 2302</i>	<i>Community & Leadership Nursing</i>
<i>RNSG 2322</i>	<i>NCLEX Preparation</i>
<i>RNSG 2 312</i>	<i>Practicum II</i>
<i>Italics – New Course</i>	

**MASTER OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION STUDIES IN
LIBRARY AND INFORMATION STUDIES
UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS FAYETTEVILLE**

The following resolution is presented to the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board for consideration:

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the offering of the Master of Library and Information Studies in Library and Information Studies (CIP 25.0101) at the University of Arkansas Fayetteville, effective Fall 2027.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Coordinating Board instructs the Commissioner of the Arkansas Division of Higher Education to inform the Chancellor of the University of Arkansas Fayetteville and Chair of the Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas System of the approval.

**MASTER OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION STUDIES IN
LIBRARY AND INFORMATION STUDIES
UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS FAYETTEVILLE**

The administration of the University of Arkansas Fayetteville (UAF) and Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas System request approval to offer the Master of Library and Information Studies in Library and Information Studies (CIP 25.0101), effective Fall 2027.

UAF is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission, and the proposed program is within the role and scope established for the institution. The University of Arkansas System Board of Trustees approved the program on March 9, 2026.

Program Description

The proposed 36-credit-hour Master of Library and Information Studies in Library and Information Studies program is designed to prepare students for professional roles in libraries, archives, museums, healthcare, government, higher education, and corporate and nonprofit organizations. The curriculum emphasizes information organization and retrieval, digital literacy, research methods, management and policy, and ethical and legal issues related to information access and stewardship. Graduates will be prepared for positions including librarians, archivists, curators, research analysts, and information professionals across a variety of sectors.

The program will be housed within the University Libraries, providing students with access to a working academic library environment and opportunities for applied, experiential learning. Instruction will be supported by newly hired full-time faculty, existing faculty librarians, and adjunct faculty as needed. The program is designed to meet American Library Association (ALA) accreditation standards, and UAF intends to seek this accreditation within the first three years of program implementation.

Program Need

Workforce analysis provided by ADHE indicates a sustained and growing demand for library and information professionals across the state. As of 2024, occupations linked to library and information science within Arkansas and immediately surrounding counties accounted for more than 25,700 positions, with nearly 5,000 jobs added over the past three years and an additional 14,800 workers projected to be needed over the next seven years.

Employer need surveys and letters of support from Arkansas public libraries, academic libraries, museums, healthcare organizations, and state agencies indicate that the Master of Library and Information Studies degree is frequently required for advancement into professional and leadership roles. Employers report anticipated retirements among long-serving librarians, expansion of digital services, and increased

demand for professionals with expertise in information organization, data management, digital literacy, and public service. Several employers noted difficulty recruiting qualified candidates within the state, resulting in reliance on out-of-state hiring.

The median wage for library and information professionals in Arkansas is approximately \$54,530, with higher salaries associated with advanced credentials and specialized responsibilities. Employer data indicate that positions requiring a master's degree offer increased earning potential and greater opportunities for advancement. Establishing an in-state master's-level program would expand access for Arkansas residents, strengthen the local talent pipeline, and support the long-term workforce needs of libraries, cultural institutions, healthcare systems, and public agencies throughout the state.

Program Expenditures and Funding

UAF will invest approximately \$145,000 annually over an initial three-year period to support faculty salaries and instructional costs. This investment will be shared between central university resources and the University Libraries. After three years, the program's funding will be evaluated again and, if sufficient enrollment exists, a permanent transfer of these funds will be considered to support the program.

The estimated total cost to students for completion of the 36-credit-hour program is \$19,423, based on current in-state tuition and fees. One new faculty member will be hired to serve as the department/program lead at an approximate salary of \$115,000 per year. The University Libraries will invest approximately \$30,000 in support of the proposed program for adjunct faculty and associated program costs.

Program Duplication

Three Arkansas public universities offer graduate degrees in library media studies or instructional technology.

- Arkansas Tech University – Master of Science in Library Media and Instructional Technology
- Southern Arkansas University Magnolia – Master of Education in Library Media and Information Specialist
- University of Central Arkansas – Master of Science in Library Media and Instructional Technologies

Program Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion, a student will be able to:

1. Demonstrate the ability to create and implement systems that promote access to information resources by a wide variety of community members that libraries serve.

2. Analyze and address barriers within library environments to create spaces that are welcoming, beneficial, and accessible.
3. Employ ethical practices to curate, organize, and provide access to a variety of information resources, supporting intellectual freedom and privacy.
4. Evaluate and apply methods to manage the lifecycle of information resources, from acquisition to long-term preservation, considering evolving technologies and community needs.
5. Design and deliver library programs and services that contribute to the public good by fostering education, literacy, and community empowerment.
6. Engage in effective outreach and partnerships to support informed, connected, and educated communities.
7. Assess and implement emerging technologies to enhance library services, ensuring solutions are sustainable and ethical.
8. Promote practices that balance environmental, economic, and social sustainability in library and resource management.
9. Pursue ongoing professional growth to adapt to the evolving needs of libraries and their communities, embracing lifelong learning as a core value.
10. Apply principles of active and engaged pedagogy and learning outcomes assessment to design and implement educational initiatives within information settings.
11. Conduct and apply research to inform library practices, using evidence-based approaches to address community needs and professional challenges.
12. Evaluate the ethical and cultural dimensions of research and scholarly communication in library studies.
13. Demonstrate effective leadership and management skills, including strategic planning, human resource development, and community collaboration.
14. Employ change management principles to innovate and adapt library services in response to societal and technological shifts.

Program Enrollment and Graduation Projections

Academic Year	Projected Enrollment	Projected Graduates
2027 – 2028	4	
2028 – 2029	12	4
2029 – 2030	20	8
2030 – 2031	28	12
2031 – 2032	36	16

Program Curriculum

ESRM 50103 Research Methods in Education
Library Studies Core – 15 credit hours

<i>LIBS 50003</i>	<i>Foundations of Libraries, Information & Society</i>
<i>LIBS 50103</i>	<i>Organization of Information, Access & Use</i>
<i>LIBS 50203</i>	<i>Management, Policy & Program Evaluation</i>
<i>LIBS 50303</i>	<i>Technology Fundamentals</i>
<i>LIBS 50403</i>	<i>Outreach & Service in Libraries</i>
<u>Electives</u> – 15 credit hours (12 credit hours for thesis option)	
<i>LIBS 52003</i>	<i>Information Literacy & Searching Techniques</i>
<i>LIBS 52103</i>	<i>Collection Development, Strategy & Analysis</i>
<i>LIBS 52203</i>	<i>Cataloging & Metadata Management</i>
<i>LIBS 52303</i>	<i>Pedagogies & Instructional Design</i>
<i>LIBS 52403</i>	<i>Special Topics in Libraries</i>
<i>LIBS 52503</i>	<i>Marketing, Outreach & Service in Libraries</i>
<i>LIBS 52603</i>	<i>Assessment & User Experience in Libraries</i>
<u>Thesis or Capstone</u>	
<i>LIBS 6000V</i>	<i>Thesis (6 credit hours) OR</i>
<i>LIBS 61003</i>	<i>Capstone</i>
<i>Italics – New Course</i>	

**MASTER OF SCIENCE IN OUTDOOR RECREATION AND SPORT TOURISM
UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS FAYETTEVILLE**

The following resolution is presented to the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board for consideration:

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the offering of the Master of Science in Outdoor Recreation and Sport Tourism (CIP 31.0301) at the University of Arkansas Fayetteville, effective Fall 2026.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Coordinating Board instructs the Commissioner of the Arkansas Division of Higher Education to inform the Chancellor of the University of Arkansas Fayetteville and Chair of the Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas System of the approval.

**MASTER OF SCIENCE IN OUTDOOR RECREATION AND SPORT TOURISM
UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS FAYETTEVILLE**

The administration of the University of Arkansas Fayetteville (UAF) and Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas System request approval to offer the Master of Science in Outdoor Recreation and Sport Tourism (CIP 31.0301), effective Fall 2026.

UAF is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission, and the proposed program is within the role and scope established for the institution. The University of Arkansas System Board of Trustees approved the program on March 9, 2026.

Program Description

The proposed 30-credit-hour, 100% online Master of Science in Outdoor Recreation and Sport Tourism is designed to prepare professionals for leadership roles in outdoor recreation tourism, outdoor adventure tourism, sport tourism, and sustainable destination management. The curriculum emphasizes applied learning and integrates coursework in tourism management, finance, data analysis, sustainability, consumer behavior, and strategic planning. Courses are designed without prerequisites, allowing working professionals to complete the program in any sequence. Graduates will be prepared to manage and expand recreation and sport tourism initiatives across public, private, and nonprofit sectors.

The program will be housed in the Department of Health, Human Performance, and Recreation within the College of Education and Health Professions and will be supported by existing faculty expertise and instructional infrastructure, including the University's Global Campus. One full-time faculty member will be hired, with additional part-time lecturers utilized as needed. No new facilities are required to implement the program.

Program Need

Outdoor recreation and sport tourism represent a significant and growing component of Arkansas's economy. According to the Arkansas Office of Outdoor Recreation, the sector contributes more than \$7.3 billion annually to the state's GDP and supports over 68,000 jobs. Workforce analysis provided by ADHE indicates that occupations linked to parks, recreation, and leisure facilities management added more than 10,000 jobs over the past three years and are projected to require approximately 54,500 newly trained workers over the next seven years.

Median wages for linked occupations are estimated at \$81,600, with entry-level wages beginning near \$65,900, significantly exceeding the statewide median wage. Employer survey results indicate strong demand for graduates with advanced training who can combine business, management, and analytical skills with industry-specific knowledge. These employers expressed a preference for an online program format to

accommodate working professionals and identified leadership development and advancement opportunities tied to graduate-level credentials.

Employer support for the proposed program includes participation from organizations such as Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, Arkansas Department of Parks, Heritage, and Tourism, Ozark Foundation, 37 North Expeditions, and municipal parks and recreation departments. These partners cited anticipated workforce needs, advancement opportunities for current employees, and the importance of specialized training aligned with the state's Natural State Initiative.

Program Expenditures and Funding

The proposed program will be supported through existing institutional resources, tuition revenue, and instructional capacity. The program is designed to be financially sustainable over the long term. The estimated total cost to students for completion of the 30-credit-hour program is \$15,380.

One new non-tenure track faculty member will be hired to implement the program, with an anticipated cost of approximately \$81,000 including salary and fringe benefits. No significant instructional, library, or research resources are required for implementation.

Program Duplication

No similar active master's-level programs in Outdoor Recreation and Sport Tourism are currently offered in Arkansas. Comparable programs in the region are limited and are offered outside the state.

Program Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion, a student will be able to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of marketing, economics, and financial management related to tourism in outdoor recreation and sport tourism.
2. Identify funding strategies, including application and administration of grants.
3. Demonstrate knowledge of trends and issues as well as sustainability in Outdoor Recreation and Sport as it pertains to tourism.
4. Apply critical thinking skills to problem identification, problem solving, and decision making within the context of outdoor recreation and sport tourism.
5. Adapt classroom knowledge of outdoor recreation and sport tourism and apply it in the field during an experiential learning opportunity.
6. Evaluate social and environmental aspects of consumer behavior in outdoor recreation and sport tourism.
7. Analyze recreation and sport tourism policies and business practices in the for-profit and non-profit sectors.

Program Enrollment and Graduation Projections

Academic Year	Projected Enrollment	Projected Graduates
2026 – 2027	10	
2027 – 2028	15	7
2028 – 2029	20	10
2029 – 2030	25	14
2030 – 2031	30	17

Program Curriculum

ORST 51003 *Trends in Outdoor Recreation and Sport Tourism Management*
 RESM 58903 Public and Private Finance in Recreation and Sport Management
 ORST 51203 *Applied Consumer Behavioral Analysis in Outdoor Recreation & Sport*
 ORST 51303 *Applied Data Analysis in Outdoor Recreation and Sport Tourism*
 ORST 51403 *Analysis of Recreation and Sport Tourism Industry Segments*
 ORST 51503 *Foundations of Sustainable Recreation and Sport Tourism*
 ORST 51603 *Organization & Administration of Outdoor Recreation & Sport Tourism*
 ORST 51703 *Capstone in Outdoor Recreation and Sport Tourism*
 ORST 5180V *Outdoor Recreation and Sport Tourism Field Experience*
Italics – New Course

**BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS LITTLE ROCK**

The following resolution is presented to the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board for consideration:

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the offering of the Bachelor of Science in Artificial Intelligence (CIP 11.0102) at the University of Arkansas Little Rock, effective Fall 2026.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Coordinating Board instructs the Commissioner of the Arkansas Division of Higher Education to inform the Chancellor of the University of Arkansas Little Rock and Chair of the Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas System of the approval.

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS LITTLE ROCK

The administration of the University of Arkansas Little Rock (UALR) and Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas System request approval to offer the Bachelor of Science in Artificial Intelligence (CIP 11.0102), effective Fall 2026.

UALR is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission, and the proposed program is within the role and scope established for the institution. The University of Arkansas System Board of Trustees approved the program on January 28-29, 2026.

Program Description

The proposed 120 credit-hour, 100% online Bachelor of Science in Artificial Intelligence degree is designed to provide students with a rigorous foundation in mathematics, computer science, and applied artificial intelligence. The curriculum integrates core computing principles with specialized coursework in machine learning, natural language processing, robotics, computer vision, reinforcement learning, intelligent agents, and AI governance.

Graduates will be prepared for employment in AI-enabled and advanced computing roles across sectors including technology, healthcare, finance, manufacturing, logistics, retail, government, and professional services. Career pathways include positions such as Software Developer, Artificial Intelligence Engineer, Machine Learning Engineer, Data Analyst, Computer Systems Analyst, and related computing occupations. The proposed program also provides a strong foundation for graduate study in artificial intelligence, computer science, data science, or related fields.

Existing faculty, state-of-the-art hybrid classrooms and laboratories, computing infrastructure, and resources will be leveraged by the proposed program.

Program Need

Labor market data provided by ADHE indicates a significant demand for occupations aligned with artificial intelligence and advanced computing across Arkansas. Target occupations are projected to support 7,909 jobs in 2026, increasing to 8,328 jobs by 2031, representing 5.3% growth and 419 net new jobs. Median earnings across these occupations are \$40.59 per hour, or \$84,400 annually, with approximately 509 annual openings. Key aligned occupations include Software Developers, Computer Systems Analysts, Computer Network Support Specialists, and Web Developers.

Hiring activity further demonstrates consistent employer demand. From January 2025 through January 2026, Arkansas recorded 12,622 total job postings (5,204 unique) for these occupations, posted by more than 550 companies, with an average of 400 monthly postings and 284 monthly hires. Educational supply remains limited as labor

market data indicates a substantial gap between workforce demand and in-state educational production.

Program Expenditures and Funding

No new full-time faculty positions are required initially. The program will utilize nine existing faculty made available through the reallocation of resources from low-enrollment programs currently under review. This reallocation ensures sufficient instructional capacity without requiring immediate new hires. Strong industry partnerships provide access to highly qualified adjunct instructors who can support rapid enrollment growth and specialized course offerings. Approximately \$18,000 per year will be spent on adjunct instructional costs. Existing facilities, equipment, and library resources will be used.

Program operations will be funded exclusively through student tuition and fees. Based on enrollment growth and a tuition rate of \$246 per credit hour, projected tuition and fee revenue totals \$147,600 in Year 1, \$407,376 in Year 2, and \$602,208 in Year 3, for a three-year total of \$1,157,184. In addition, UALR was awarded a HIRED grant through the Spring of 2027 for up to \$226,000 to support curriculum development, adjunct faculty, and AI licensing.

Program Duplication

There are no active bachelor degree programs similar to the proposed Bachelor of Science in Artificial Intelligence.

Program Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion, a student will be able to:

1. Apply core concepts of computer science, mathematics, and statistics to design and implement AI systems.
2. Develop and evaluate machine learning, deep learning, and natural language processing models for real-world applications.
3. Analyze complex problems and select appropriate AI tools and techniques to address them effectively.
4. Evaluate the ethical, societal, and governance implications of AI technologies in professional practice.
5. Communicate technical ideas, research findings, and project outcomes clearly to both technical and non-technical audiences.
6. Collaborate effectively in multidisciplinary teams to design, build, and deploy AI-driven solutions.

Program Enrollment and Graduation Projections

Academic Year	Projected Enrollment	Projected Graduates
2026 – 2027	25	
2027 – 2028	50 (69)	
2028 – 2029	50 (102)	
2029 – 2030	50 (126)	11
2030 – 2031	50 (137)	21

Values in parentheses indicate overall enrollment.

Program Curriculum

CPSI 10501 First Year Experience for Computing Majors

General Education Core Courses – 24 credit hours

Additional Mathematics and Science Courses - 25 credit hours

MATH 24004 Calculus I

MATH 25004 Calculus II

MATH 26103 Discrete Mathematics

MATH 31263 Linear Algebra

STAT 35203 Applied Statistics I

Complete the courses in one of the following science areas:

CHEM 10234 General Chemistry I AND

CHEM 14204 General Chemistry II

or

PHYS 20103 College Physics I (also PHYS 20101 College Physics I lab) AND

PHYS 20203 College Physics II (also PHYS 20201 College Physics II lab)

Computer Science Requirements – 19 credit hours

CPSI 17503 Programming I

CPSI 27603 Programming II

CPSI 28003 Algorithms

CPSI 28204 Computer Organization

CPSI 37503 Database Concepts

CPSI 38003 Operating Systems

Artificial Intelligence Requirements – 51 credit hours

AINT* 11003 AI Foundations

AINT* 12003 AI Operations

AINT* 21003 AI Governance

AINT* 22003 AI Tools and Techniques

AINT* 23003 AI Practicum

AINT* 31003 Machine Learning I

AINT* 35003 Machine Learning II

AINT* 32003 Search and Planning

AINT* 33003 Probabilistic Reasoning in AI

AINT* 36003 Natural Language Processing

AINT* 34003 Robotics

AINT* 43003 Perception and Computer Vision

AINT* 44003 Intelligent Agents

AINT 45003 Deep Learning*
AINT 46003 Reinforcement Learning*
AINT 41003 AI Capstone I*
AINT 42003 AI Capstone II*
AINT 47003 Bio-Inspired Technologies*

Additional Electives – 3 credit hours

Additional upper-level CPSI elective courses (30000–40000 level) may be chosen from the following ordered list of program codes: CPSI, IFSC, CSEC, PHYS, MATH, ECET, BINF, SYEN, and GEOL 42104.

Unrestricted General Electives

Remaining hours, if any, to reach 120 minimum total hours, 45 hours of upper-level courses (30000–40000 level), and/or 30 hours in residence.

Italics – New Course

**Course prefix subject to change*

**MASTER OF SCIENCE IN CYBERSECURITY
UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS LITTLE ROCK**

The following resolution is presented to the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board for consideration:

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the offering of the Master of Science in Cybersecurity (CIP 11.1003) at the University of Arkansas Little Rock, effective Fall 2026.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Coordinating Board instructs the Commissioner of the Arkansas Division of Higher Education to inform the Chancellor of the University of Arkansas Little Rock and Chair of the Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas System of the approval.

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN CYBERSECURITY UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS LITTLE ROCK

The administration of the University of Arkansas Little Rock (UALR) and Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas System request approval to offer the Master of Science in Cybersecurity (CIP 11.1003), effective Fall 2026.

UALR is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission, and the proposed program is within the role and scope established for the institution. The University of Arkansas System Board of Trustees approved the program on January 28-29, 2026.

Program Description

The proposed, 100% online Master of Science in Cybersecurity prepares advanced practitioners to secure complex digital and AI-enabled systems. The curriculum includes defensive and offensive cyber operations, post-quantum cryptography, advanced cloud security, critical infrastructure protection, and secure artificial intelligence. Graduates will be equipped to design resilient architectures, manage cyber risk across enterprise and AI environments, and communicate technical findings effectively to both technical and executive audiences.

The curriculum emphasizes applied learning through hands-on labs, real-world projects, service learning, and industry-aligned practicum experiences. Students may complete either a 30-credit-hour project option or a 33-credit-hour thesis option and select a concentration in Cyber Offensive Operations or Secure Artificial Intelligence. The program offers flexible delivery in online and in-person formats, along with transfer credit options, prior learning assessment for industry certifications, and an Early Entry pathway for qualified undergraduates. Accreditation through the NSA National Centers of Academic Excellence will be pursued following graduation of the program's first cohort.

The program leverages existing university resources, such as cybersecurity labs, online infrastructure, and practicum partnerships. The proposed program will transition one part-time faculty to full-time and hire 2 additional teaching assistants to support the program.

Program Need

Labor market data provided by ADHE shows continual demand for professionals in Computer and Information Systems Security/Auditing/Information Assurance. Regionally, approximately 14,755 jobs are projected in 2026, increasing to 15,465 by 2031, representing 4.8% growth and more than 700 net new positions. High-demand roles such as Information Security Analysts are projected to grow by approximately 11%, and Computer and Information Systems Managers by 8%, indicating strong expansion in both technical and leadership cybersecurity roles. Median regional

earnings across target occupations are approximately \$83,100 annually (\$39.93 per hour), with several advanced roles exceeding \$100,000 annually.

UALR conducted an employer survey to evaluate regional workforce demand for graduates in cybersecurity and information systems security. Data were collected through structured interviews, email correspondence, letters of support, and direct engagement with industry partners in Central and Northwest Arkansas. Employers reported ongoing difficulty recruiting and retaining qualified candidates, particularly in security analysis, systems administration, cloud security, risk management, compliance, and security operations. They emphasized the need for graduates with applied technical skills in cloud platforms, scripting (e.g., Python), security frameworks, auditing, and incident response, along with strong communication, project management, and problem-solving abilities. Several employers noted reliance on out-of-state or remote recruitment due to limited in-state talent, highlighting the need to strengthen Arkansas' cybersecurity workforce pipeline.

Program Expenditures and Funding

Implementation of the proposed Master of Science in Cybersecurity program will require modest incremental personnel support. Over the first three years, projected personnel costs total \$388,200 which include converting an existing part-time appointment to full-time status, at an annual cost of \$66,000, and the hiring of two teaching assistants at \$31,700 each annually. No additional administrative positions, faculty development funds, instructional or research equipment, library resources, or facility renovations are required. The program will utilize existing hybrid classrooms, cybersecurity laboratory space, cloud infrastructure, and the newly established Cyberspace Operations Research and Education (CORE) Center.

Program sustainability will be supported through student tuition revenue generated by projected enrollment growth. Over the first three years, the total projected tuition revenue is approximately \$1,158,300. The specific tuition rates, credit hours, and enrollment projections used for this approximation can be found in the full proposal. No additional grants, reallocations, special fees, or external funding sources are identified for program implementation. Tuition revenue exceeds projected personnel costs over the three-year period, supporting long-term financial sustainability.

Program Duplication

No similar active master's-level programs in Cybersecurity are currently offered in Arkansas.

Program Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion, a student will be able to:

1. Analyze and Mitigate Cyber Risks – Identify, assess, and reduce vulnerabilities across enterprise, cloud, and critical infrastructure systems.

2. Design Secure Architectures – Develop and implement secure, resilient systems using industry standards, layered defenses, and zero-trust principles.
3. Conduct and Defend Cyber Operations – Apply advanced offensive and defensive techniques to evaluate and enhance system security.
4. Demonstrate Ethical and Professional Competence – Apply ethical, legal, and policy considerations in the planning and execution of cybersecurity activities.
5. Communicate and Lead Effectively – Produce clear, actionable analyses and demonstrate leadership in cybersecurity strategy and governance.

Program Enrollment and Graduation Projections

Academic Year	Projected Enrollment	Projected Graduates
2026 – 2027	25	
2027 – 2028	50 (77)	22
2028 – 2029	50 (93)	43
2029 – 2030	50 (93)	43
2030 – 2031	50 (93)	43

Values in parentheses indicate overall enrollment.

Program Curriculum

Core Courses – 15 credit hours

CSEC 53003 *Cybersecurity Principles & Systems*
 CSEC 55003 *Defensive Cyber Operations*
 CSEC 73503 *Quantum-Resistant Cryptography*
 CSEC 75003 *Advanced Cloud Security*
 CSEC 79503 *Cybersecurity Practicum*

Choose one of the following concentrations – 12 credit hours

Cyber Offensive Operations Concentration

CSEC 73003 *Reverse Engineering*
 CSEC 73503 *Critical Infrastructure Security*
 CSEC 74003 *Offensive Cyber Operations*

Elective – 3 credit hour course

Secure Artificial Intelligence Concentration

CSEC 75503 *Adversarial AI*
 CSEC 76003 *Securing AI*

Choose two of the following elective courses:

CPSI 77503 *Machine Learning*
 CPSI 77303 *Artificial Intelligence*
 IFSC 72503 *Deep Learning Theory and Apps*

Choose one of the following options – 3-6 credit hours

Option 1 – Master's Thesis (6 credit hours)

Students pursuing the thesis option are required to only complete 3 credit hours of electives. They must also enroll in any combination of CSEC 79801, 79802, 79803, 79804, 79805, or 79806 over consecutive semesters to total 6 thesis credits. A thesis

requires an advising committee of three graduate faculty members (advisor plus two additional members).

Option 2 – Master's Project (3 credit hours)

Students complete a Graduate Project course, CSEC 79003. The project is completed in one course (i.e., no committee is required). Deliverables and evaluation follow the project course syllabus and the supervising instructor's guidance.

Italics – New Course

**CERTIFICATE OF PROFICIENCY IN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
TECHNICAL CERTIFICATE IN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
CERTIFICATE OF PROFICIENCY IN SOFTWARE ENGINEERING
TECHNICAL CERTIFICATE IN SOFTWARE ENGINEERING
CERTIFICATE OF PROFICIENCY IN CYBER-INFORMED ENGINEERING**

CYBER LEARNING NETWORK CONSORTIUM

The Cyber Learning Network (CLN) is a consortium among Arkansas member institutions to collaboratively expand and diversify cybersecurity education throughout Arkansas and beyond. The Cyber Learning Network's purpose is to provide a shared cyber curriculum and learning experience across member campuses, leveraging pooled resources and expertise to address the cybersecurity workforce and skills gap. As lead institution, the University of Arkansas Little Rock provides coordination and services on behalf of the consortium, including managing shared resources. The CLN is governed by a committee consisting of one representative from each member institution and collectively oversees the implementation of the shared curriculum and policies of the consortium. Through this collaborative model, students enroll at their home institution while benefiting from consistent curriculum, stackable credentials, and coordinated pathways into advanced degrees and the workforce.

As a part of this joint proposal, the following institutions seek AHECB approval to offer the proposed programs.

- Cossatot Community College of the University of Arkansas
- North Arkansas College
- Phillips Community College of the University of Arkansas
- University of Arkansas Community College Batesville
- University of Arkansas Community College Hope-Texarkana
- University of Arkansas Community College Morrilton
- University of Arkansas Fayetteville
- University of Arkansas Little Rock
- University of Arkansas Pine Bluff
- University of Arkansas Pulaski Technical College

The following resolution is presented to the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board for consideration:

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the offering of the Certificate of Proficiency in Artificial Intelligence (CIP 11.0102), Technical Certificate in Artificial Intelligence (CIP 11.0102), Certificate of Proficiency in Software Engineering (CIP 14.0903), Technical Certificate in Software Engineering (CIP

14.0903), and the Certificate of Proficiency of Cyber-Informed Engineering (CIP 14.2701) at Cossatot Community College of the University of Arkansas, effective Fall 2026.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the offering of the Certificate of Proficiency in Artificial Intelligence (CIP 11.0102), Technical Certificate in Artificial Intelligence (CIP 11.0102), Certificate of Proficiency in Software Engineering (CIP 14.0903), Technical Certificate in Software Engineering (CIP 14.0903), and the Certificate of Proficiency of Cyber-Informed Engineering (CIP 14.2701) at North Arkansas College, effective Fall 2026.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the offering of the Certificate of Proficiency in Artificial Intelligence (CIP 11.0102), Technical Certificate in Artificial Intelligence (CIP 11.0102), Certificate of Proficiency in Software Engineering (CIP 14.0903), Technical Certificate in Software Engineering (CIP 14.0903), and the Certificate of Proficiency of Cyber-Informed Engineering (CIP 14.2701) at Phillips Community College of the University of Arkansas, effective Fall 2026.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the offering of the Certificate of Proficiency in Artificial Intelligence (CIP 11.0102), Technical Certificate in Artificial Intelligence (CIP 11.0102), Certificate of Proficiency in Software Engineering (CIP 14.0903), Technical Certificate in Software Engineering (CIP 14.0903), and the Certificate of Proficiency of Cyber-Informed Engineering (CIP 14.2701) at University of Arkansas Community College Batesville, effective Fall 2026.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the offering of the Certificate of Proficiency in Artificial Intelligence (CIP 11.0102), Technical Certificate in Artificial Intelligence (CIP 11.0102), Certificate of Proficiency in Software Engineering (CIP 14.0903), Technical Certificate in Software Engineering (CIP 14.0903), and the Certificate of Proficiency of Cyber-Informed Engineering (CIP 14.2701) at University of Arkansas Community College Hope-Texarkana, effective Fall 2026.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the offering of the Certificate of Proficiency in Artificial Intelligence (CIP 11.0102), Technical Certificate in Artificial Intelligence (CIP 11.0102), Certificate of Proficiency in Software Engineering (CIP 14.0903), Technical Certificate in Software Engineering (CIP 14.0903), and the Certificate of Proficiency of Cyber-Informed Engineering (CIP 14.2701) at University of Arkansas Community College Morrilton, effective Fall 2026.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the offering of the Certificate of Proficiency in Artificial Intelligence (CIP 11.0102), Technical Certificate in Artificial Intelligence (CIP 11.0102), Certificate of

Proficiency in Software Engineering (CIP 14.0903), Technical Certificate in Software Engineering (CIP 14.0903), and the Certificate of Proficiency of Cyber-Informed Engineering (CIP 14.2701) at University of Arkansas Fayetteville, effective Fall 2026.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the offering of the Certificate of Proficiency in Artificial Intelligence (CIP 11.0102), Technical Certificate in Artificial Intelligence (CIP 11.0102), Certificate of Proficiency in Software Engineering (CIP 14.0903), and the Technical Certificate in Software Engineering (CIP 14.0903) at the University of Arkansas Little Rock, effective Fall 2026.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the offering of the Certificate of Proficiency in Artificial Intelligence (CIP 11.0102), Technical Certificate in Artificial Intelligence (CIP 11.0102), Certificate of Proficiency in Software Engineering (CIP 14.0903), Technical Certificate in Software Engineering (CIP 14.0903), and the Certificate of Proficiency of Cyber-Informed Engineering (CIP 14.2701) at University of Arkansas Pine Bluff, effective Fall 2026.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the offering of the Certificate of Proficiency in Artificial Intelligence (CIP 11.0102), Technical Certificate in Artificial Intelligence (CIP 11.0102), Certificate of Proficiency in Software Engineering (CIP 14.0903), Technical Certificate in Software Engineering (CIP 14.0903), and the Certificate of Proficiency of Cyber-Informed Engineering (CIP 14.2701) at University of Arkansas Pulaski Technical College, effective Fall 2026.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Coordinating Board instructs the Commissioner of the Arkansas Division of Higher Education to inform each institution's Chancellor or President and Chair of the Board of Trustees of the approval.

**CERTIFICATE OF PROFICIENCY IN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
TECHNICAL CERTIFICATE IN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
CERTIFICATE OF PROFICIENCY IN SOFTWARE ENGINEERING
TECHNICAL CERTIFICATE IN SOFTWARE ENGINEERING
CERTIFICATE OF PROFICIENCY IN CYBER-INFORMED ENGINEERING**

CYBER LEARNING NETWORK CONSORTIUM

The administration and Board of Trustees of the following institutions request approval to offer the Certificate of Proficiency in Artificial Intelligence (CIP 11.0102), Technical Certificate in Artificial Intelligence (CIP 11.0102), Certificate of Proficiency in Software Engineering (CIP 14.0903), Technical Certificate in Software Engineering (CIP 14.0903), and the Certificate of Proficiency of Cyber-Informed Engineering (CIP 14.2701), effective Fall 2026.

All institutions named in this proposal are accredited by the Higher Learning Commission, and the proposed certificates fall within each institution's established role and scope. Each institution has obtained approval from its respective Board of Trustees to offer the programs described herein.

- Cossatot Community College of the University of Arkansas
- North Arkansas College
- Phillips Community College of the University of Arkansas
- University of Arkansas Community College Batesville
- University of Arkansas Community College Hope-Texarkana
- University of Arkansas Community College Morrilton
- University of Arkansas Fayetteville
- University of Arkansas Little Rock
- University of Arkansas Pine Bluff
- University of Arkansas Pulaski Technical College

Program Description

The Cyber Learning Network (CLN) is a consortium of Arkansas institutions established to expand and diversify cybersecurity and related technology education statewide. Through a shared curriculum and coordinated delivery model, the CLN leverages pooled resources and faculty expertise to address workforce and skills gaps. The University of Arkansas Little Rock serves as the lead institution, providing coordination and shared services on behalf of the consortium. Students enroll at their home institution while benefiting from consistent curriculum, stackable credentials, and coordinated pathways into advanced degrees and the workforce.

The CLN proposes a set of five certificates, known as Cyberspace Foundations, that are designed to prepare students for high-demand roles in applied artificial intelligence, software development, and the protection of critical infrastructure systems.

The proposed Artificial Intelligence certificates introduce students to essential mathematics, programming concepts, and applied AI methods used across a range of industry and public-sector contexts. The 15-16 credit-hour Certificate of Proficiency in Artificial Intelligence provides a compact foundation in AI literacy and practical tools, while the 27-29 credit-hour Technical Certificate in Artificial Intelligence builds on this foundation through advanced coursework that develops deeper technical competencies. Students may complete these credentials as standalone workforce preparation or stack them toward a bachelor's degree in Artificial Intelligence or a related field.

The proposed Software Engineering certificates focus on modern software and web development practices. The 15 credit-hour Certificate of Proficiency in Software Engineering emphasizes front-end development, user-centered design, and JavaScript programming, while the 30 credit-hour Technical Certificate in Software Engineering builds on this foundation with server-side development, database integration, cybersecurity fundamentals, and Development, Security, Operations practices, culminating in a full-stack practicum. These stackable credentials prepare students for a range of software development roles and provide flexible pathways into related degree programs.

Lastly, the proposed 6 credit-hour Certificate of Proficiency in Cyber-Informed Engineering integrates cybersecurity principles into the systems engineering lifecycle, with an emphasis on securing industrial control and cyber-physical systems.

The proposed set of Cyberspace Foundations certificates will be supported through existing resources, faculty, equipment, instructional facilities, and technology. No new expenses are anticipated for program implementation.

Program Need

Labor market data provided by ADHE indicate continued corporate demand for applied computing, software, and systems-oriented skills aligned with Artificial Intelligence, Software Engineering, and Cyber-Informed Engineering. Employers across healthcare, finance, energy, manufacturing, logistics, government, and technology sectors report continued need for professionals who can develop software solutions, integrate emerging technologies, and support digital transformation and critical infrastructure protection. Employment projections for software development and systems-focused roles exceed statewide and national averages, and median wages are well above the statewide average. Educational supply is limited for short-term, stackable credentials in these fields, particularly in Artificial Intelligence and Cyber-Informed Engineering, creating a statewide gap that the proposed credentials are intended to address.

In addition, Cyber Learning Network program advisory members, which includes representatives from industry, government, and workforce partners across multiple sectors, provide direct feedback on hiring needs, emerging skill requirements, and desired technical competencies in artificial intelligence, software engineering, and cyber-informed engineering. This employer input helps ensure curriculum alignment with real-world workforce expectations and reinforces the documented need for these proposed certificates.

Program Expenditures and Funding

The proposed Cyberspace Foundations certificates will be implemented using existing full-time faculty across CLN partner institutions. No new administrative positions or new full-time faculty are required. Adjunct faculty may be utilized as enrollment grows, with Year 1 adjunct instructional costs supported through the ADHE HIRED grant. Faculty development will be supported through existing institutional and CLN grant-related professional development resources. No additional facility, equipment, library, or other capital expenditures are required, as the programs leverage existing classrooms, computer laboratories, cloud-based tools, software platforms, and library resources across participating institutions.

Program funding will be supported primarily through student tuition and fees retained by the institution of record for each enrolled student. Actual tuition rates and revenue will vary by institution. ADHE HIRED grant funds will offset adjunct instructional costs during program implementation, ensuring adequate instructional capacity without creating permanent start-up costs.

Program Duplication

Three Arkansas public institutions offer certificates in Artificial Intelligence, Black River Technical College, Northwest Arkansas Community College, and Arkansas Northeastern College, while no comparable certificates exist in Software Engineering. The Certificate of Proficiency in Cyber-Informed Engineering was developed by the CLN lead institution, the University of Arkansas Little Rock, in Fall 2025.

Program Learning Outcomes

Certificate of Proficiency in Artificial Intelligence

Upon successful completion, a student will be able to:

1. Apply foundational concepts of mathematics and computing to understand and use basic artificial intelligence methods.
2. Demonstrate introductory proficiency with AI tools and operational workflows through hands-on coursework.
3. Recognize and evaluate ethical, societal, and security considerations related to the use of AI in real-world contexts.
4. Communicate AI-related concepts and results clearly to technical and non-technical audiences.

Technical Certificate in Artificial Intelligence

Upon successful completion, a student will be able to:

1. Apply core concepts of mathematics, statistics, and computing to design and implement introductory AI systems.
2. Use a range of AI tools, techniques, and governance frameworks to analyze and address applied problems.
3. Evaluate ethical, societal, legal, and governance implications of AI in professional and organizational contexts.
4. Collaborate effectively in project-based and practicum settings to design, implement, and evaluate AI-driven solutions.
5. Communicate technical results, project outcomes, and ethical considerations effectively to diverse stakeholders.

Certificate of Proficiency in Software Engineering

1. Apply foundational knowledge of HTML, CSS, and JavaScript to build responsive and accessible front-end web applications.
2. Demonstrate competency in user interface (UI) and user experience (UX) design principles, including prototyping and usability testing.
3. Use version control tools to collaborate effectively on software development projects.

Technical Certificate in Software Engineering

1. Develop secure, data-driven applications using server-side programming and relational and non-relational databases.
2. Implement Development, Security, Operations practices, including automated testing, security scanning, and continuous integration and deployment pipelines.
3. Apply cybersecurity principles to the design, implementation, and evaluation of software systems.
4. Collaborate in agile, team-based environments to plan, build, and present full-stack software solutions that meet stakeholder requirements.

Certificate of Proficiency in Cyber-Informed Engineering

1. Identify and distinguish between digital and non-digital assets within engineered systems and describe their intended functions, capabilities, and criticality.
2. Analyze potential cyber-initiated events that could affect system operations and evaluate mitigation strategies within industrial control system environments.
3. Explain the role and importance of cybersecurity in engineering and operational technology contexts to technical and non-technical audiences.
4. Apply engineered controls, layered defenses, and basic active defense strategies to protect critical system functions.
5. Demonstrate appropriate handling of sensitive information, supply chain considerations, and operational constraints within critical infrastructure environments.

Program Enrollment and Graduation Projections

Certificate of Proficiency in Artificial Intelligence		
Academic Year	Projected Enrollment	Projected Graduates
2026 – 2027	10	
2027 – 2028	18	6
2028 – 2029	22	7
2029 – 2030	27	9
2030 – 2031	33	11

Technical Certificate in Artificial Intelligence		
Academic Year	Projected Enrollment	Projected Graduates
2026 – 2027	12	
2027 – 2028	21	7
2028 – 2029	26	11
2029 – 2030	32	17
2030 – 2031	39	19

Certificate of Proficiency in Software Engineering		
Academic Year	Projected Enrollment	Projected Graduates
2026 – 2027	10	
2027 – 2028	18	6
2028 – 2029	22	7
2029 – 2030	27	9
2030 – 2031	33	11

Technical Certificate in Software Engineering		
Academic Year	Projected Enrollment	Projected Graduates
2026 – 2027	12	
2027 – 2028	21	7
2028 – 2029	26	11
2029 – 2030	32	17
2030 – 2031	39	19

Certificate of Proficiency in Cyber-Informed Engineering		
Academic Year	Projected Enrollment	Projected Graduates
2026 – 2027	10	
2027 – 2028	18	6
2028 – 2029	22	7
2029 – 2030	27	9
2030 – 2031	33	11

Program Curriculum

Certificate of Proficiency in Artificial Intelligence – 15-16 credit hours

AINT* 11003 *AI Foundations*
 AINT* 12003 *AI Operations*
 MATH 11003 College Algebra or higher
 PHIL 23093 Ethics & Society
 Choose one of the following:
 CPSI 10003 Computing Essentials OR
 CPSI 17503 Programming I OR
 IFSC 11003 Web Technologies

Italics – New Course

**Course prefix subject to change*

Technical Certificate in Artificial Intelligence – 27-29 credit hours

PHIL 23093 Ethics & Society
 Choose one of the following:
 MATH 11003 College Algebra
 MATH 24004 Calculus I
 Choose one of the following:
 MATH 26103 Discrete Mathematics
 MATH 25004 Calculus II
 MATH 29003 Optimization and Graph Theory
 STAT 35203 Applied Statistics I
 Choose one of the following:
 CPSI 10003 Computing Essentials
 CPSI 17503 Programming I
 IFSC 11003 Web Technologies

AI Core Courses:

AINT* 11003 *AI Foundations*
 AINT* 12003 *AI Operations*
 AINT* 21003 *AI Governance*
 AINT* 22003 *AI Tools and Techniques*
 AINT* 23003 *AI Practicum*

Italics – New Course

**Course prefix subject to change*

Certificate of Proficiency in Software Engineering – 15 credit hours

MATH 11003 College Algebra or higher
 CPSI 10003 Computing Essentials OR
 CPSI 17503 Programming I
 CPSI 11003 *Web Technologies*
 CPSI 24003 *UI/UX Fundamentals*
 CPSI 2XXX3 *Web Development I*

Italics – New Course

Technical Certificate in Software Engineering – 30 credit hours

MATH 11003	College Algebra or higher
CPSI 10003	Computing Essentials OR
CPSI 17503	Programming I
<i>CPSI 11003</i>	<i>Web Technologies</i>
<i>CPSI 24003</i>	<i>UI/UX Fundamentals</i>
<i>CPSI 2XXX3</i>	<i>Web Development I</i>
<i>CPSI 2XXX3</i>	<i>Web Development II</i>
<i>CPSI 2XXX3</i>	<i>Server-Side Development Fundamentals</i>
<i>CPSI 2XXX3</i>	<i>DevSecOps Fundamentals</i>
<i>CPSI 2XXX3</i>	<i>Full Stack Practicum</i>
CSEC 11003	Cybersecurity I OR
CSEC 11004	Cybersecurity I with Lab
<i>Italics – New Course</i>	

Certificate of Proficiency in Cyber-Informed Engineering – 6 credit hours

CESC 33003	Industrial System Security
CSEC 34003	Industrial Cyber Defense

**ARKANSAS PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS
LETTERS OF NOTIFICATION**

The Commissioner of the Arkansas Division of Higher Education (ADHE) has approved the following program requests since the January 2026 AHECB meeting. According to AHECB policy, program actions approved by the ADHE Commissioner must be included on the AHECB meeting agenda prior to initiation and may require further review by the Coordinating Board.

Arkansas Northeastern College – Page 4

Curriculum Revision
New Off-Campus Location – Concurrent Education

Arkansas State University – Pages 4-6

Curriculum Revision
Deletion of Certificate or Degree Program
Deletion of Concentration or Minor
New Certificate or Degree Program
Reorganization of Organizational Unit

Arkansas State University Mountain Home – Pages 6-7

New Off-Campus Location – Concurrent Education

Arkansas State University Newport – Pages 7-8

Approved Programs List Correction
Curriculum Revision
New Certificate or Degree Program
New Off-Campus Location – Concurrent Education

Arkansas Tech University – Page 8

Deletion of Certificate or Degree Program

Arkansas Tech University Ozark – Pages 8-9

Deletion of Certificate or Degree Program
Existing Program Offered by Distance Education
New Certificate or Degree Program

Cossatot Community College of the University of Arkansas – Pages 9-11

Approved Programs List Corrections
CIP Code Change
Curriculum Revision
Curriculum Revision and Title Change

Henderson State University – Pages 11-14

Approved Programs List Corrections
Deletion of Certificate or Degree Program
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Title Change

National Park College – Pages 14-18

Deletion of a Concentration or Minor
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North Arkansas College – Page 18

New Off-Campus Location – Concurrent Education
Title Change

Northwest Arkansas Community College – Pages 18-19

Curriculum Revision

Ozarka College – Page 19

New Certificate or Degree Program

Phillips Community College of the University of Arkansas – Page 19

CIP Code Change and Title Change
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Southeast Arkansas College – Page 19

Deletion of Certificate or Degree Program

Southern Arkansas University Magnolia – Pages 19-24

Deletion of Certificate or Degree Program
Deletion of Concentration or Minor
New Certificate or Degree Program
New Concentration or Minor

University of Arkansas Community College Batesville – Page 24

New Off-Campus Location – Instruction Center

University of Arkansas Community College Hope-Texarkana – Pages 24-25

Curriculum Revision

University of Arkansas Community College Morrilton – Page 25

New Off-Campus Location – Concurrent Education

University of Arkansas Fayetteville – Pages 25-37

Curriculum Revision

Curriculum Revision, CIP Code Change, and Title Change
Curriculum Revision and Existing Program Offered by Distance Education
Curriculum Revision and Title Change
Deletion of Certificate or Degree Program
Deletion of Concentration or Minor
Deletion of Organizational Unit
Existing Program Offered by Distance Education
New Concentration or Minor
Reorganization of Organizational Unit
Title Change

University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences – Page 37

Deletion of Certificate or Degree Program

University of Arkansas Fort Smith – Page 37

New Certificate or Degree Program

University of Arkansas Little Rock – Pages 37-38

Deletion of Certificate or Degree Program
Inactivation of Certificate or Degree Program
New Certificate or Degree Program
New Off-Campus Location – Concurrent Education

University of Arkansas Monticello – Pages 38-39

New Off-Campus Location – Concurrent Education
New Off-Campus Location – Instruction Center
Reorganization of Organizational Unit
Title Change

University of Arkansas Pine Bluff – Pages 39-40

Deletion of Certificate or Degree Program
New Certificate or Degree Program

University of Central Arkansas – Pages 40-42

Deletion of Certificate or Degree Program
New Certificate or Degree Program

LETTER OF NOTIFICATION DESCRIPTIONS

Arkansas Northeastern College

Curriculum Revision

Certificate of Proficiency in Shielded Metal Arc Welding (SMAW) (CIP 48.0508; DC 4905; 16 credit hours) changed to Certificate of Proficiency in Shielded Metal Arc Welding (SMAW) (CIP 48.0508; DC 4905; 16 credit hours; Fall 2026)

Removed Courses

WE 17013	Blueprint Reading for Welders
WE 17034	Shielded Metal Arc Welding (SMAW) Pipe Welding

Added Courses

Welding Electives – 7 credit hours

New Off-Campus Location – Concurrent Education

Certificate of Proficiency in Construction Technology (CIP 46.0000; DC 4501; 14 credit hours), Certificate of Proficiency in General Aviation (CIP 47.0608; DC 4357; 15 credit hours), Certificate of Proficiency in Industrial Maintenance (CIP 47.0303; DC 1417; 12 credit hours), Certificate of Proficiency in Steel Industry Technology (CIP 15.0611; DC 1076; 15 credit hours; 50% online), Certificate of Proficiency in Patient Care Technology (CIP 51.3902; DC 0746; 7 credit hours), and Certificate of Proficiency in Healthcare Essentials (CIP 51.2699; DC 1614; 13 credit hours) offered at the following new off-campus location, effective Fall 2026.

Bentonville School District (Ignite Professional Studies)
1510 N. Walton Blvd., Bentonville, AR 72712

Arkansas State University

Curriculum Revision

Associate of Applied Science in Clinical Laboratory Science (CIP 51.1005; DC 0335; 72 credit hours) changed to Associate of Applied Science in Clinical Laboratory Science (CIP 51.1005; DC 0335; 68 credit hours; Fall 2026)

Removed Courses

CLS 2514	Clinical Practicum I
CLS 2524	Clinical Practicum II
CLS 3514	Clinical Practicum III
CLS 3524	Clinical Practicum IV

Added Courses

CLS 2613	Clinical Practicum I
CLS 2623	Clinical Practicum II
CLS 3633	Clinical Practicum III
CLS 3643	Clinical Practicum IV

Bachelor of Science in Clinical Laboratory Science (CIP 51.1005; DC 2890; 123 credit hours) changed to Bachelor of Science in Clinical Laboratory Science (CIP 51.1005; DC 2890; 121 credit hours; Fall 2026)

Removed Courses

CLS 4194	Clinical Practicum III
CLS 4204	Clinical Practicum IV
CLS 3343	Principles of Disease

Added Courses

CLS 4193	Clinical Practicum III
CLS 4203	Clinical Practicum IV
HP 3123	Introduction to Disease

Bachelor of Science in Education in Middle Level Education (CIP 13.1203; DC 3915; 125-131* credit hours) changed to Bachelor of Science in Education in Middle Level Education (CIP 13.1203; DC 3915; 120-125 credit hours; Fall 2026)

**Original credit-hour total listed incorrectly on Approved Programs List*

Removed Courses

MLED 4042	Theories and Strategies of Middle Grades Classroom Mgmt
MLED 4006	Teaching Internship I OR
MLED 4206	Residency Internship I Middle Level Education
MLED 4116	Teaching Internship II (<i>optional</i>)
GEOG 3723	Introduction to Physical Geography Weather and Climate
GSP 3203	Science for Teachers

Added Courses

MLED 4052	The Middle School Professional
MLED 4062	Middle School Content Specialization
MLED 4204	Middle Level Residency Internship
ENG 3613	Introduction to Folklore (<i>optional</i>)
ENG 3643	African American Folklore (<i>optional</i>)
ENG 3003	Advanced Composition (<i>optional</i>)
ENG 3223	British Literature to 1800 (<i>optional</i>)
ENG 3263	British Literature since 1800 (<i>optional</i>)
MATH 2143	Business Calculus (<i>optional</i>)
MATH 2183	Discrete Structures (<i>optional</i>)
BIOL 1063	People and the Environment (<i>optional</i>)
ECON 2323	Principles of Microeconomics (<i>optional</i>)
ECON 2313	Principles of Macroeconomics (<i>optional</i>)

9 credit hours from the Science specialty:

BIOL 1303	Biology of Animals OR
BIOL 1503	Biology of Plants OR
BIOL 2013	Biology of the Cell OR
BIOL 2103	Microbiology for Nursing and Allied Health OR
CHEM 1013	General Chemistry OR
NS 2203	Basic Nutrition

Bachelor of Science in Radiologic Sciences: Diagnostic Medical Sonography (CIP 51.0907; DC 3100; CC DIAGMEDSONOG; 120-134 credit hours; 100% online) changed to Bachelor of Science in Radiologic Sciences: Diagnostic Medical

Sonography (CIP 51.0907; DC 3100; CC DIAGMEDSONOG; 120-130 credit hours; 100% online; Fall 2026)

Removed Courses

RAD 3223	Sectional Anatomy
RAD 4123	Imaging Pathology
RAD 4141	Radiographic Procedures IV Lab
RAD 4213	Radiography Clinical IV
RSU 4422	Vascular Sonography Laboratory

Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Advanced Medical Imaging and Therapy: Diagnostic Medical Sonography (CIP 51.0907; DC 6075; CC DIAGMEDSONOG; 22-43* credit hours) changed to Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Advanced Medical Imaging and Therapy: Diagnostic Medical Sonography (CIP 51.0907; DC 6075; CC DIAGMEDSONOG; 23-41 credit hours; Fall 2026)

**Original credit-hour total listed incorrectly on Approved Programs List*

Removed Courses

RSU 4422	Vascular Sonography Laboratory
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Deletion of Certificate or Degree Program

Bachelor of Science in Creative Media Production (CIP 09.0799; DC 5907; 120 credit hours; 100% online; Spring 2027)

Deletion of Concentration or Minor

Minor in Engineering (Summer 2026)

Minor in Renewable Energy Technology (Summer 2026)

New Certificate or Degree Program

Certificate of Proficiency in Drone Applications (CIP 49.0109; DC 1576; 12 credit hours; 100% online; Fall 2026)

GIS 3503	Geospatial Data Systems
GIS 3543	Fundamentals of GIS/GPS
GIS 4511	Unmanned Aircraft Systems
GIS 4512	Drone Applications in Precision Agriculture
GIS 4773	Remote Sensing

Reorganization of Organizational Unit

Center for No Boundary Thinking (CNBT) (Department Code 0210) changed to A-State Artificial Intelligence Center of Excellence (AICE) (Department Code 0210; Summer 2026)

Arkansas State University Mountain Home

New Off-Campus Location – Concurrent Education

Certificate of Proficiency in Emergency Medical Technician – Basic (CIP 51.0904; DC 0186; 7 credit hours), Certificate of Proficiency in Phlebotomy (CIP 51.1009; DC 0246; 7 credit hours), Certificate of Proficiency in Mechatronics (CIP 15.0303; DC 0016; 16

credit hours), Certificate of General Studies in General Studies (CIP 24.0101; DC 0915; 32 credit hours), and the Associate of General Studies in General Studies (CIP 24.0102; DC 0060; 60 credit hours) offered at the following new off-campus location, effective Spring 2026.

Bakersfield High School 357 State Highway, Bakersfield, Missouri 65609

Certificate of Proficiency in Emergency Medical Technician – Basic (CIP 51.0904; DC 0186; 7 credit hours), Certificate of Proficiency in Phlebotomy (CIP 51.1009; DC 0246; 7 credit hours), Certificate of Proficiency in Mechatronics (CIP 15.0303; DC 0016; 16 credit hours), Certificate of General Studies in General Studies (CIP 24.0101; DC 0915; 32 credit hours), and the Associate of General Studies in General Studies (CIP 24.0102; DC 0060; 60 credit hours) offered at the following new off-campus location, effective Spring 2026.

Gainesville High School 422 Bull Dog Drive, Gainesville, Missouri 65655

Certificate of General Studies in General Studies (CIP 24.0101; DC 0915; 32 credit hours) and the Associate of General Studies in General Studies (CIP 24.0102; DC 0060; 60 credit hours) offered at the following new off-campus location, effective Spring 2026.

Marshall High School 950 US-65, Marshall, AR 72650

Arkansas State University Newport

Approved Programs List Correction

Associate of Applied Science in General Technology (CIP 30.9999; DC 0517; 60 credit hours; 10-38% online) changed to Associate of Applied Science in General Technology (CIP 30.9999; DC 0517; 60-61 credit hours; 10-38% online; Fall 2026)

Curriculum Revision

Technical Certificate in Diesel Technology (CIP 47.0605; DC 4460; 38 credit hours) changed to Technical Certificate in Diesel Technology (CIP 47.0605; DC 4460; 45 credit hours; Fall 2026)

Added Course

CDT 1107 Commercial Driver Training

New Certificate or Degree Program

Associate of Applied Science in Automation & Electrical Technology (CIP 15.0406; DC 0460; 60 credit hours; Fall 2026)

CNT 1403	Introduction to Networking
ENG 1003	Composition I
ENG 1203	Workplace Essentials (or higher)
MATH 1013	Mathematical Applications (or higher-level)
TECH 1003	Level and Flow Process Control
TECH 1013	Pressure Process Control
TECH 1103	Temperature Process Control
TECH 1133	Analytical Process Control
TECH 1153	Industrial Electricity I

TECH 1163	Industrial Robotics
TECH 1173	Programmable Logic Controls I
TECH 1183	Industrial Motor Control I
TECH 1253	Industrial Electricity II
TECH 2173	Programmable Logic Controls II
TECH 2183	Industrial Motor Control II
WELD 1603	Trade Skills

Elective – 3 credit hours from TECH or CNT prefixes

Elective – 3 credit hours from TECH prefix

Social Science – 3 credit hours from ECON, HIST, GEOG, SOC, POSC, PSY prefixes

Choose one of the following:

MIS 1033	Introduction to Computers
MIS 1443	Technical Computer Applications
MIS 1503	Microcomputer Applications

New Off-Campus Location – Concurrent Education

Associate of Arts in General Education (CIP 24.0101; DC 0110; 60 credit hours; 100% online) offered at the following new off-campus location, effective Spring 2026.

Buffalo Island Central High School 803 Drew Avenue, Monette, AR 72447

Associate of Science in Data Science-Data Analytics (CIP 30.7001; DC 3765; 68 credit hours; 100% online) and the Associate of Arts in General Education (CIP 24.0101; DC 0110; 60 credit hours; 100% online) offered at the following new off-campus location, effective Spring 2026.

Cedar Ridge High School 1500 N. Hill Street, Newark, AR 72562

Arkansas Tech University

Deletion of Certificate or Degree Program

Bachelor of Science in Coaching Athletics and Physical Activity (CIP 13.1314; DC 2680; 120-123 credit hours; Summer 2026)

Arkansas Tech University Ozark

Deletion of Certificate or Degree Program

Certificate of Proficiency in Mobile Applications (CIP 11.0401; DC 1185; 12 credit hours; Fall 2026)

Existing Program Offered by Distance Education

Associate of Applied Science in Health Information Technology (CIP 51.0716; DC 3729; 60 credit hours) changed to Associate of Applied Science in Health Information Technology (CIP 51.0716; DC 3729; 60 credit hours; 100% online; Spring 2026)

New Certificate or Degree Program

Certificate of Proficiency in Fundamentals of Cybersecurity (CIP 11.1003; DC 1335; 12 credit hours; Fall 2026)

CIS 1183 *Fundamentals of Cybersecurity*

CIS 1103 Programming I
 CIS 2133 Web Page Design
 Elective – 3 credit hours
Italics – New Course

Cossatot Community College of the University of Arkansas

Approved Programs List Corrections

Technical Certificate in Agriculture (CIP 01.0000; DC 2000; 28 credit hours) changed to Technical Certificate in Agriculture (CIP 01.0000; DC 2000; 27 credit hours; Spring 2026)

Technical Certificate in Accounting (CIP 52.0302; DC 4260; 27 credit hours; 100% online) changed to Technical Certificate in Accounting (CIP 52.0302; DC 4260; 26 credit hours; 100% online; Spring 2026)

Certificate of Proficiency in Accounting (CIP 52.0302; DC 4261; 12 credit hours) changed to Certificate of Proficiency in Accounting (CIP 52.0302; DC 4261; 11 credit hours; Spring 2026)

Technical Certificate in Business Management (CIP 52.0101; DC 0282; 24 credit hours) changed to Technical Certificate in Business Management (CIP 52.0101; DC 0282; 26 credit hours; Spring 2026)

Certificate of Proficiency in Business Management (CIP 52.0101; DC 0281; 12 credit hours) changed to Certificate of Proficiency in Business Management (CIP 52.0101; DC 0281; 11 credit hours; Spring 2026)

Technical Certificate in Digital Media & Marketing (CIP 52.1404; DC 2695; 27 credit hours) changed to Technical Certificate in Digital Media & Marketing (CIP 52.1404; DC 2695; 26 credit hours; Spring 2026)

Certificate of Proficiency in Digital Media & Marketing (CIP 52.1404; DC 1300; 12 credit hours) changed to Certificate of Proficiency in Digital Media & Marketing (CIP 52.1404; DC 1300; 11 credit hours; Spring 2026)

Technical Certificate in Automotive & Diesel Service Technology (CIP 47.0600; DC 2155; 31 credit hours) changed to Technical Certificate in Automotive & Diesel Service Technology (CIP 47.0600; DC 2155; 32 credit hours; Spring 2026)

CIP Code Change

Certificate of Proficiency in Crime Scene Investigation (CIP 43.0106; DC 0384; 15 credit hours) changed to Certificate of Proficiency in Crime Scene Investigation (CIP 43.0406; DC 0384; 15 credit hours; Spring 2026)

Curriculum Revision

Certificate of Proficiency in MIG Welding (CIP 48.0508; DC 1482; 11 credit hours) changed to Certificate of Proficiency in MIG Welding (CIP 48.0508; DC 1482; 9 credit hours; Spring 2026)

Removed Course

WELD 23667 Welding III

Added Course

WELD 23665 Welding III

Certificate of Proficiency in SMAW Welding (CIP 48.0508; DC 1481; 12* credit hours) changed to Certificate of Proficiency in SMAW Welding (CIP 48.0508; DC 1481; 10 credit hours; Spring 2026)

**Original credit-hour total listed incorrectly on Approved Programs List*

Removed Course

WELD 21067 Pipe Welding SMAW

Added Courses

WELD 21065 Pipe Welding SMAW

WELD 22165 Pipe Welding SMAW Stainless Steel

Certificate of Proficiency in Tungsten Inert Gas (TIG) Welding (CIP 48.0508; DC 4713; 11 credit hours) changed to Certificate of Proficiency in Tungsten Inert Gas (TIG) Welding (CIP 48.0508; DC 4713; 9 credit hours; Spring 2026)

Removed Course

WELD 23767 Welding IV

Added Course

WELD 23765 Welding IV

Technical Certificate in Pipe Welding (CIP 48.0508; DC 2481; 35* credit hours) changed to Technical Certificate in Pipe Welding (CIP 48.0508; DC 2481; 30 credit hours; Spring 2026)

**Original credit-hour total listed incorrectly on Approved Programs List*

Removed Courses

WELD 21067 Pipe Welding SMAW

WELD 22167 Pipe Welding SMAW Stainless

Added Courses

WELD 21065 Pipe Welding SMAW

WELD 22165 Pipe Welding SMAW Stainless

Technical Certificate in Welding (CIP 48.0508; DC 4900; 30 credit hours) changed to Technical Certificate in Welding (CIP 48.0508; DC 4900; 30 credit hours; Spring 2026)

Removed Courses

WELD 23667 Welding III MIG

WELD 23767 Welding IV TIG

Added Courses

WELD 23665 Welding III MIG

WELD 23765 Welding IV TIG

WELD XXXX4 Fitting
Italics – New Course

Curriculum Revision and Title Change

Certificate of Proficiency in Pipe Welding (SMAW-Stainless Steel) (CIP 48.0508; DC 0076; 8* credit hours) changed to Certificate of Proficiency in Structural and Pipe Welding (CIP 48.0508; DC 0076; 8 credit hours; Spring 2026)

**Original credit-hour total listed incorrectly on Approved Programs List*

Removed Course

WELD 22167 Pipe Welding SMAW Stainless Steel

Added Courses

WELD XXXX4 Fitting

TECH 12064 Technical Fundamentals

Italics – New Course

Henderson State University

Approved Programs List Corrections

Bachelor of Music in Music, Education K-12 (CIP 50.0903; DC 2115; 120 credit hours) changed to Bachelor of Music in Music, Education K-12 (CIP 50.0903; DC 2115; 125 credit hours; Fall 2026)

Bachelor of Science in Education in Health and Physical Education (CIP 13.1314; DC 3940; 127 credit hours) changed to Bachelor of Science in Education in Health and Physical Education (CIP 13.1314; DC 3940; 124 credit hours; Fall 2026)

Bachelor of Science in Education in Special Education K-12 (CIP 13.1001; DC 3210; 127 credit hours) changed to Bachelor of Science in Education in Special Education K-12 (CIP 13.1001; DC 3210; 120 credit hours; Fall 2026)

Deletion of Certificate or Degree Program

Bachelor of Science in Educational Studies Elementary (CIP 13.1202; DC 2470; 126 credit hours; Fall 2026)

Bachelor of Science in Educational Studies Middle Level (CIP 13.1202; DC 2915; 120 credit hours; Fall 2026)

Inactivation of Certificate or Degree Program

Bachelor of Business Administration in Business Administration (CIP 52.0101; DC 1920; 120 credit hours; Fall 2026)

New Certificate or Degree Program

Bachelor of Science in Education Studies (CIP 13.0101; DC 4205; 122 credit hours; 50% online; Fall 2026)

GEN 1031 Henderson Seminar

General Education Core – 35 credit hours

Principles of Learning & Teaching Courses - 12 credit hours

EDU 2000	Teacher Education Orientation
EDU 2043	Educational Technology
EDU 2423	Introduction to Education
EDU 3123	Educational Psychology
SPE 3013	Psych of the Exceptional Child

Capstone Courses – 15 credit hours

EDU 4483	Acquisition of English/2 nd Language
EDU 4533	Methods & Materials for Teaching
EDU 4603	Second Language Assessment
SPE 3503	Special Education Law
SPE 3513	Behavior Management

Directed Electives – complete 12 credit hours from the following

BTE 2133	Word Processing I
BTE 3143	Word Processing II
BTE 4163	Desktop Publishing
EDM 4273	STEM: Collaborative Inquiry
EDU 4293	Practicum in Early Childhood
EDU 4573	Early Childhood Curriculum
PSY 2263	Developmental Psychology

Elementary Concentration (CC EDUCELEMENTARY) – 47 credit hours

EDE 2063	Child Development
EDE 3242	Arts Integration in the Classroom
EDE 3472	Family & Community Relations
EDE 3053	Inclusive Education-Diverse Learners
EDE 3113	Literature for Elementary Students
ENG 3613	Writing for the Workspace

3 credit hours from HIS 2053, HIS 2063, or PSC 1013 not taken for General Ed Core

HIS 4263	Arkansas & Southwest History
EDU 4543	Exploring Perspectives/Diverse Learners
HPE 3502	Health & Fitness of Young Children
RDG 3092	Scientific Approaches to Reading
RDG 3103	Emergent and Developing Literacy
RDG 3203	Reading & Writing-Content Area
MTH 1053	Number Sense & Operations
MTH 2483	Geometry I for Elementary & Middle Grades
MTH 2543	Data Analysis, Statistics, and Probability
PHS 1053	Earth Systems and Environment

Middle Level Concentration (CC EDUCMIDDLE) – 47 credit hours

EDM 3113	Literature for Middle School Students
EDM 3143	Middle Level Philosophy & Organization
EDM 3153	Adolescent Development and Practicum
EDM 4273	STEM: Collaborative Inquiry/Learning
EDU 4543	Expl. Perspe. Div. Learners
ENG 3613	Writing in the Workspace
MTH 1053	Number Sense & Operations
MTH 2543	Data Analysis, Statistics, and Probability

RDG 3103	Emergent and Developing Literacy
RDG 3203	Reading & Writing in the Content Area
Middle Level Specialty Electives – Choose 17 credit hours from the following:	
BIO 2114	Zoology (or other BIO w/ lab)
ENG 2023	World Literature II
ENG 3043	Non-Western Literature
ENG 3163	Modern Grammar
HIS 4263	Arkansas & Southwest History
MTH 2483	Geometry for Elem & Middle Grades
MTH 2553	Survey of Calculus
MTH 3633	Advanced Math/Middle Grades
MTH 4563	Math Modeling/Applications Middle Grades
PHS 1053	Earth Systems and Environment
PHY 2034	General Physics/Lab
RDG 3092	Scientific Approaches to Reading

Any approved ENG course not taken for General Ed Core

Any approved ECO, GEO, HIS, or SOC course not taken for General Ed Core

Any approved CHM or PHS course not taken for General Ed Core

Certificate of Proficiency in Behavioral and Mental Health (CIP 42.0101; DC 1314; 12 credit hours; 25% online; Fall 2026)

Required Courses – 3-6 credit hours

PSY 2023	Abnormal Psychology
PSY 3403	Mental Health and Wellness

Elective Group A – 3-9 credit hours

PSY 2001-3/3001-3/4001-3	Special Topics courses
PSY 3053	Multicultural Mental Health
PSY 3093	Drugs & Behavior
PSY 4323	Applied Behavior Analysis
PSY 4383	Problems of Adolescence
PSY 4703	Directed Independent Study
PSY 4713	Practicum in Psychology
PSY 4743	Counseling Theories & Techniques
SOC 3343	Deviant Behavior

Elective Group B – 0-3 credit hours

HHP 3003	Sport Psychology in Health & Human Performance
HHP 3123	Health & Human Performance Administration
NSG 3594	Psychiatric and Mental Health Nursing
PSY 2023	Applied Psychology
PSY 3003	Motivation
PSY 3113	Personality
PSY 4293	Physiological Psychology
PSY 4433	Psychological Tests & Measurements
PSY 4693	Love & Sexual Behavior
SPE 4103	High Incidence Disabilities
SPE 4213	Introduction to Autism

Certificate of Proficiency in Managerial Accounting (CIP 52.0301; DC 0260; 18 credit hours; Fall 2026)

ACC 2303	Survey of Accounting
ACC 4XX3	<i>Managerial Accounting</i>
FIN 3043	Business Finance
GBU 3133	Descriptive Analytics
MGM 3113	Principles of Management
MGM 3293	Performance Management
<i>Italics – New Course</i>	

Certificate of Proficiency in Sports Media (CIP 09.0702; DC 1795; 15 credit hours; Fall 2026)

DMD 1143	Technical Skills for Media
DMD 3213	Sportscasting
DMD 3363	Sports Media
DMD 3503	Postproduction
Choose one of the following:	
DMD 2163	Podcasting
DMD 2343	Digital Photography
DMD 3653	Alternative Videography
DMD 4063	Online Feature Writing
DMD 4823	Motion Graphics

Title Change

Bachelor of Business Administration in Innovation and Entrepreneurship (CIP 52.0101; DC 1970; 120 credit hours; 50% online) changed to Bachelor of Business Administration in Business Administration (CIP 52.0101; DC 1970; 120 credit hours; 50% online; Fall 2026)

Master of Science in Developmental Therapy (CIP 42.2703; DC 7420; 30 credit hours; 100% online) changed to Master of Science in Early Intervention (CIP 42.2703; DC 7420; 30 credit hours; 100% online; Summer 2026)

National Park College

Deletion of a Concentration or Minor

Associate of Arts in General Education: Organizational Leadership (CIP 24.0102; DC 0050; CC ORGANIZLEADER; 60 credit hours; Fall 2026)

Associate of Applied Science in Business Management: Hospitality (CIP 52.0201; DC 0300; CC HOSPITALITYMGMT; 60 credit hours; Fall 2026)

Associate of Science in Liberal Arts and Sciences: Advertising (CIP 24.0101; DC 3970; CC ADVERTISING; 60 credit hours; Fall 2026)

Associate of Science in Liberal Arts and Sciences: Anthropology (CIP 24.0101; DC 3970; CC ANTHROPOLOGY; 60 credit hours; Fall 2026)

Associate of Science in Liberal Arts and Sciences: Art History (CIP 24.0101; DC 3970; CC ARTHISTORY; 60 credit hours; Fall 2026)

Associate of Science in Liberal Arts and Sciences: Bible and Ministry (CIP 24.0101; DC 3970; CC BIBLEMINISTRY; 60 credit hours; Fall 2026)

Associate of Science in Liberal Arts and Sciences: Business (CIP 24.0101; DC 3970; CC BUSINESS; 60 credit hours; Fall 2026)

Associate of Science in Liberal Arts and Sciences: Communication Studies (CIP 24.0101; DC 3970; CC COMMUNICATION; 60 credit hours; Fall 2026)

Associate of Science in Liberal Arts and Sciences: Art Education (CIP 24.0101; DC 3970; CC EDUCART; 60 credit hours; Fall 2026)

Associate of Science in Liberal Arts and Sciences: Choral Education (CIP 24.0101; DC 3970; CC EDUCCHORAL; 60 credit hours; Fall 2026)

Associate of Science in Liberal Arts and Sciences: English (CIP 24.0101; DC 3970; CC ENGLISH; 60 credit hours; Fall 2026)

Associate of Science in Liberal Arts and Sciences: Film (CIP 24.0101; DC 3970; CC FILM; 60 credit hours; Fall 2026)

Associate of Science in Liberal Arts and Sciences: Geography (CIP 24.0101; DC 3970; CC GEOGRAPHY; 60 credit hours; Fall 2026)

Associate of Science in Liberal Arts and Sciences: Geography - Geospatial Technology (CIP 24.0101; DC 3970; CC GEOSPATIALTECH; 60 credit hours; Fall 2026)

Associate of Science in Liberal Arts and Sciences: Health Promotion (CIP 24.0101; DC 3970; CC HEALTHPROMO; 60 credit hours; Fall 2026)

Associate of Science in Liberal Arts and Sciences: History (CIP 24.0101; DC 3970; CC HISTORY; 60 credit hours; Fall 2026)

Associate of Science in Liberal Arts and Sciences: Integrated Marketing Communication (CIP 24.0101; DC 3970; CC INTEGMARKTGCOMM; 60 credit hours; Fall 2026)

Associate of Science in Liberal Arts and Sciences: Media Production (CIP 24.0101; DC 3970; CC MEDIAPRODUCTION; 60 credit hours; Fall 2026)

Associate of Science in Liberal Arts and Sciences: Multimedia Journalism (CIP 24.0101; DC 3970; CC MLTIMEDIAJOURNAL; 60 credit hours; Fall 2026)

Associate of Science in Liberal Arts and Sciences: Philosophy (CIP 24.0101; DC 3970; CC PHILOSOPHY; 60 credit hours; Fall 2026)

Associate of Science in Liberal Arts and Sciences: Public Relations (CIP 24.0101; DC 3970; CC PUBLICRELATIONS; 60 credit hours; Fall 2026)

Associate of Science in Liberal Arts and Sciences: Social Studies - History (CIP 24.0101; DC 3970; CC SOCIALSTUDHIST; 60 credit hours; Fall 2026)

Associate of Science in Liberal Arts and Sciences: Strategic Communication (CIP 24.0101; DC 3970; CC STRATEGICCOMM; 60 credit hours; Fall 2026)

Associate of Science in Liberal Arts and Sciences: Studio Art (CIP 24.0101; DC 3970; CC STUDIOART; 60 credit hours; Fall 2026)

Associate of Science in Liberal Arts and Sciences: Theatre (CIP 24.0101; DC 3970; CC THEATRE; 60 credit hours; Fall 2026)

Associate of Science in Liberal Arts and Sciences: Tourism (CIP 24.0101; DC 3970; CC TOURISM; 60 credit hours; Fall 2026)

Associate of Science in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics): Computer Science - General (CIP 30.1801; DC 3660; CC COMPUTERSCIENCE; 65 credit hours; Fall 2026)

Associate of Science in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics): Cybersecurity & Privacy (CIP 30.1801; DC 3660; CC CYBERSECURITY; 65 credit hours; Fall 2026)

Associate of Science in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics): Engineering (CIP 30.1801; DC 3660; CC ENGINEERING; 65 credit hours; Fall 2026)

Associate of Science in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics): Computer Gaming & Animation Design (CIP 30.1801; DC 3660; CC GAMEANIMDESIGN; 65 credit hours; Fall 2026)

Associate of Science in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics): Geology (CIP 30.1801; DC 3660; CC GEOLOGY; 65 credit hours; Fall 2026)

Associate of Science in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics): Business Information Systems (CIP 30.1801; DC 3660; CC INFOSYSTEMS; 65 credit hours; Fall 2026)

Associate of Science in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics):
Mechanical Engineering (CIP 30.1801; DC 3660; CC MECHENGNG; 65 credit hours; Fall 2026)

Associate of Science in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics):
Medical Laboratory Science (CIP 30.1801; DC 3660; CC MEDICALLABSCI; 65 credit hours; Fall 2026)

Associate of Science in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics):
Physics - Chemical Engineering (CIP 30.1801; DC 3660; CC PHYSICSCHEMENG; 65 credit hours; Fall 2026)

Associate of Science in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics):
Pre-Health (CIP 30.1801; DC 3660; CC PREHEALTH; 65 credit hours; Fall 2026)

Associate of Science in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics):
Pre-Health Professional Biochemistry (CIP 30.1801; DC 3660; CC PREHLTHBIOCHEM; 65 credit hours; Fall 2026)

New Certificate or Degree Program

Certificate of Proficiency in Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (CIP 51.0904; DC 4521; 12 credit hours; Fall 2026)

EMSP 1712 Advanced Emergency Medical Technician

Associate of Science in Pre-Engineering (CIP 14.0102; DC 3140; 62 credit hours; Fall 2026)

ORT 1211	First Year Experience
ENG 1113	English Composition I
ENG 1123	English Composition II
MATH 2214	Calculus I
CHEM 1204	Chemistry I for Majors
PHYS 2114	Physics I for Majors
ART 1593	Art Appreciation OR
MUS 1213	Music Appreciation
ECON2703	Macroeconomics
POLS 1113	American National Government
HIST 2223	United States History To 1865 OR
HIST 2233	United States History Since 1865
<u>Engineering Core</u> – 31 credit hours	
EGR 1122	Introduction to Engineering
EGR 2113	Engineering Materials
EGR 2123	Statics
EGR 2213	Dynamics
MATH 2224	Calculus II
MATH 2254	Calculus III
MATH 2284	Differential Equations

PHYS 2124 Physics II for Majors

Select one of the following courses:

CHEM 2204 Chemistry II for Majors (*U of A Preferred*) OR

EGR 2104 Electrical Circuits I (*ATU Preferred*)

New Off-Campus Location – Concurrent Education

Based on the terms of the current MOU, students are eligible to enroll in all or part of any approved certificate or degree program excluding admissions-based programs offered at the following new off-campus location, effective Spring 2026.

Bismarck High School 11636 AR-84, Bismarck, AR 71929

North Arkansas College

New Off-Campus Location – Concurrent Education

Associate of Arts in General Education (CIP 24.0101; DC 0050; 60 credit hours; 95% online) offered at the following new off-campus location, effective Spring 2026.

Elkins High School 259 Carrigan Road, Elkins, AR 72727

Title Change

Associate of Applied Science in Digital Media (CIP 09.0702; DC 3395; 60 credit hours; 85% online) changed to Associate of Applied Science in Creative Media (CIP 09.0702; DC 3395; 60 credit hours; 85% online; Spring 2026)

Technical Certificate in Digital Media (CIP 09.0702; DC 2395; 30 credit hours) changed to Technical Certificate in Creative Media (CIP 09.0702; DC 2395; 30 credit hours; Spring 2026)

Northwest Arkansas Community College

Curriculum Revision

Technical Certificate in Dental Assisting (CIP 51.0601; DC 2510; 39 credit hours) changed to Technical Certificate in Dental Assisting (CIP 51.0601; DC 2510; 34 credit hours; Fall 2026)

Removed Course

DNTA 1128 Clinical Practice and Research

Added Course

DNTA 1123 Clinical Practice and Research

Associate of Applied Science in Health Information Management (CIP 51.0707; DC 3670; 66 credit hours; 100% online) changed to Associate of Applied Science in Health Information Management (CIP 51.0707; DC 3670; 69 credit hours; 100% online; Fall 2026)

Removed Course

Social Science Elective – 3 credit hours

Added Courses

ENGL 1033 Technical Composition (optional)

HIST 2003 U.S. History to 1877 OR

HIST 2013	U.S. History since 1877
PLSC 2003	American National Government

Ozarka College

New Certificate or Degree Program

Associate of General Studies in General Studies (CIP 24.0102; DC 3970; 60 credit hours; Fall 2026)

ENGL 1013	English Comp I OR
ENGL 1133	Business and Tech English
COMM 1313	Communications OR
BUS 2013	Business Communications
ACCT 1003	Introduction to Accounting OR
SKTR 1003	Introduction to Skilled Trades OR
MATH 1213	Quantitative Literacy OR
MATH 1203	College Algebra
HIST 2003	American History I
PLSC 2003	American National Government
Electives – 45 Credit Hours	

Phillips Community College of the University of Arkansas

CIP Code Change and Title Change

Certificate of Proficiency in Agri Mechanics & Equipment Technology (CIP 01.0205; DC 1010; 14 credit hours) changed to Certificate of Proficiency in Applied Mechanical Technology (CIP 47.0303; DC 1010; 14 credit hours; Spring 2026)

New Certificate or Degree Program

Certificate of Proficiency in Agri Mechanics and Technology (CIP 01.0205; DC 1421; 14 credit hours; Spring 2026)

AFLS 10203	Careers in Agriculture
AGRI 12003	Small Engines/Power Units
MSTE 10404	Fundamentals of Mechanics
MSTE 11434	Basic Shop

Southeast Arkansas College

Deletion of Certificate or Degree Program

Associate of Applied Science in Supply Chain Management (CIP 52.0203; DC 3520; 61 credit hours; Spring 2026)

Technical Certificate in Supply Chain Transportation (CIP 52.0203; DC 2525; 31 credit hours; Spring 2026)

Southern Arkansas University Magnolia

Deletion of Certificate or Degree Program

Bachelor of Science in Cyber Criminology (CIP 45.0401; DC 1371; 120 credit hours; Fall 2026)

Deletion of Concentration or Minor

Bachelor of Science in Mathematics: Education (CIP 27.0101; DC 2870; CC EDUCMATH; 120 credit hours; Fall 2026)

New Certificate or Degree Program

Graduate Certificate in Project Management (CIP 52.0201; DC 6580; 12 credit hours; 100% online; Fall 2026)

FIN 5113	Enterprise Risk Management
IS 5313	Data Visualization
SCM 6013	Project Management
SCM 6113	Advanced Project Management

Education Specialist in Rural Educational Leadership (CIP 13.0401; DC 5110; 30 credit hours; 100% online; Summer 2026)

Foundation Courses – complete 15 credit hours from the following

EDFN 7013	Introduction to Doctoral Studies
EDFN 7023	Research Foundations
EDFN 7103	Quantitative Research Methods
EDFN 7123	Educational Law and Accountability
EDFN 7143	Applied Data Analysis
EDFN 7163	Ethical Leadership in Diverse and Rural Communities
EDFN 7183	Qualitative Research Methods
EDFN 7193	Organizational Develop, Eval, & Theory
EDFN 7203	Special Topics I: Rural Impact: Leadership for Where We Serve
EDFN 7303	Special Topics II: Action Research for Leaders

Focus Courses – complete 15 credit hours from a focus below or 15 credit hours of elective courses in HECL, EDAS, or EDUC.

Focus Option 1: Educational Leadership Superintendency (K-12)

EDAS 6113/7113	Strategic School Finance in Rural and Diverse Communities
EDAS 6123/7123	The Superintendency
EDAS 6143/7143	Leadership Systems of Human Capacity
EDAS 6173/7173	Administration and Assessment of Curricular Programs
EDAS 6183/7183	Educational Leadership in Rural and Diverse Communities

Focus Option 2: Teacher Leadership (K-12)

EDAS 6013	School Community Relations
EDAS 6023/7023	Supervision of Instruction in Elementary/Secondary Schools
EDAS 6033	Organizational Development, Evaluation, and Action Research
EDAS 6173/7173	Administration and Assessment of Curricular Programs
EDAS 6183/7183	Educational Leadership in Rural and Diverse Communities
EDUC 6253/7253	Foundations of Teacher Leadership
EDUC 6213/7213	Curriculum Planning

Focus Option 3: Higher Education/Community Leadership

HECL 7113	Fiscal Management of Educational and Community Agencies
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HECL 7133	Advanced Leadership and Dev in Diverse and Rural Communities
HECL 7153	Organizational Leadership and Stakeholder Relations
HECL 7173	Planning Programs for Adult Learners
HECL 7183	Contemporary Issues in Leadership

New Concentration or Minor

Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice: Cyber Criminology (CIP 43.0104; DC 2405; Concentration CIP 45.0401; CC CYBERCRIMOLOG; 120 credit hours; 100% online; Fall 2026)

GSTD 1002 Freshman Seminar

General Education – 35 credit hours

Criminal Justice Courses – 51 credit hours

CRJU 2003 Introduction to Criminal Justice

CRJU 3023 Criminal Evidence and Procedures

CRJU 3033 Criminal Investigations

CRJU 3043 Criminal Law

CRJU 3103 Ethics in Criminal Justice

CRJU 3153 Research Methods

CRJU 3183 Statistics

CRJU 3233 Cyber Crime

CRJU 4053 Criminology

CRJU 4143 Victimology

CRJU 4923 Senior Project

Criminal Justice electives – 18 credit hours

Cyber Criminology Concentration - 26 credit hours

CSCI 2103 Computer Science I and

CSCI 2101 Computer Science I Lab

CSCI 2113 Computer Science II and

CSCI 2111 Computer Science II Lab

CSCI 3103 Data Structures and Algorithms

CSCI 3143 Network Security

CSCI 3213 Computer Networking

CSCI 4213 Privacy, Security, and Ethics

CSCI 4223 Cyber Forensics

CSCI 4333 Cyber Defense

Other Required Courses – 6 credit hours

ENGL 3023 Technical Writing

SPCH 1113 Introduction to Public Speaking

Bachelor of Science in Engineering: Chemical Engineering (CIP 14.0101; DC 3790; CC CHEMENGINEERING; 124 credit hours; Fall 2026)

GTSD 1002 Freshman Seminar

General Education – 18 credit hours

6 credit hours of English Composition

6 credit hours of Fine Arts or Humanities

3 credit hours of U.S. History or Government

3 credit hours of Social Science

Physics Courses – 8 credit hours

PHYS 2201 University Physics I Lab
PHYS 2203 University Physics I
PHYS 2211 University Physics II Lab
PHYS 2213 University Physics II

Chemistry Courses – 12 credit hours

CHEM 1021 University Chemistry I Lab
CHEM 1023 University Chemistry I
CHEM 1121 University Chemistry II Lab
CHEM 1123 University Chemistry II
CHEM 3001 Organic Chemistry I Lab
CHEM 3003 Organic Chemistry I

Mathematics Courses – 16 credit hours

MATH 1525 Calculus I
MATH 1545 Calculus II
MATH 2563 Calculus III
MATH 3033 Differential Equations

Computer Science Courses – 4 credit hours

CSCI 2101 Computer Science I Lab
CSCI 2103 Computer Science I

Basic Engineering Courses – 15 credit hours

ENGR 1021 Introduction to Engineering Lab
ENGR 1023 Introduction to Engineering
ENGR 1212 Engineering Graphics
ENGR 2020 Engineering Exams
ENGR 2033 Electrical Circuits I
ENGR 2043 Properties of Materials
ENGR 2143 Statics

Chemical Engineering Concentration Courses – 43 credit hours

CHEG 2053 Chemical Engineering Fundamentals
CHEG 3063 Mass Transfer
CHEG 3213 Thermodynamics II
CHEG 3352 Chemical Engineering Lab
CHEG 4023 Senior Design Project I
CHEG 4033 Process Control
CHEG 4043 Reactor Control
CHEG 4123 Senior Design Project II
CHEG 4173 Chemical Engineering Processes
ENGR 3003 Fluid Mechanics
ENGR 3013 Thermodynamics
ENGR 3023 Heat Transfer
ENGR 3073 Engineering Economics
ENGR 3083 Numerical Methods in Engineering
ENGR 3211 Thermal Fluid Science Lab
ENGR 4701 Work Experience Learning I

Technical Elective – 3 credit hours chosen from upper-level PHYS or ENGR courses

Other – 3 credit hours

ENGL 3023 Technical Writing

Bachelor of Science in Engineering: Industrial Engineering (CIP 14.0101; DC 3790; CC INDENGINEERING; 124 credit hours; Fall 2026)

GTSD 1002 Freshman Seminar

General Education – 18 credit hours

6 credit hours of English Composition

6 credit hours of Fine Arts or Humanities

3 credit hours of U.S. History or Government

3 credit hours of Social Science

Physics Courses – 8 credit hours

PHYS 2201 University Physics I Lab

PHYS 2203 University Physics I

PHYS 2211 University Physics II Lab

PHYS 2213 University Physics II

Chemistry Courses – 4 credit hours

CHEM 1021 University Chemistry I Lab

CHEM 1023 University Chemistry I

Mathematics Courses – 19 credit hours

MATH 1525 Calculus I

MATH 1545 Calculus II

MATH 2563 Calculus III

MATH 3043 Applied Probability and Statistics I

MATH 4533 Statistical Methods

Computer Science Courses – 4 credit hours

CSCI 2101 Computer Science I Lab

CSCI 2103 Computer Science I

Basic Engineering Courses – 17 credit hours

ENGR 1021 Introduction to Engineering Lab

ENGR 1023 Introduction to Engineering

ENGR 1212 Engineering Graphics

ENGR 1232 Introduction to Solid Modeling

ENGR 2020 Engineering Exams

ENGR 2033 Electrical Circuits I

ENGR 2043 Properties of Materials

ENGR 2143 Statics

Industrial Engineering Concentration Courses – 46 credit hours

ENGR 3073 Engineering Economics

ENGR 3083 Numerical Methods in Engineering

ENGR 3141 Manufacturing Processes Lab

ENGR 3143 Manufacturing Processes

ENGR 3163 Computer-Aided Design and Analysis

ENGR 4701 Work Experience Learning I

IENG 2163 Industrial Engineering Systems

IENG 3053 Statistical Inference and Regression
 IENG 3111 Ergonomics Lab
 IENG 3113 Ergonomics
 IENG 3243 Advanced Manufacturing Systems
 IENG 3281 Simulation Lab
 IENG 3283 Simulation
 IENG 4043 Operations Research
 IENG 4143 Production Planning and Control
 IENG 4023 Industrial Engineering Senior Design I
 IENG 4123 Industrial Engineering Senior Design II
 IENG 4163 Computer-Aided Manufacturing
Technical Elective – 3 credit hours of upper-level advisor approved elective
Other – 3 credit hours
 ENGL 3023 Technical Writing

Minor in Dance (CIP 50.0301; 20 credit hours; Fall 2026)

Complete 12 credit hours from the following:

THDA 1002 Ballet I
 THDA 1102 Ballet II
 THDA 2002 Modern Dance I
 THDA 2102 Modern Dance II
 THDA 3002 Jazz Dance I
 THDA 3102 Jazz Dance II
 THDA 4002 Repertory Dance I
 THDA 4102 Repertory Dance II

Complete 4 credit hours in Special Topics in Dance courses from Ballroom Dance, Hip-Hop, Improvisation, or Tap Dance

Complete 4 credit hours from the following:

HPSS 3882 Theory and Techniques of Rhythm Activities
THDA 4XX2 Choreography and Composition
THDA 4XX2 Dance History and Appreciation
Italics – New Course

University of Arkansas Community College Batesville

New Off-Campus Location – Instruction Center

Associate of Applied Science in Farm and Ranch Management (CIP 01.0104; DC 3285; 60 credit hours), Technical Certificate in Precision Agriculture (CIP 01.0000; DC 2585; 30 credit hours), Certificate of Proficiency in Agriculture Drone Technology (CIP 49.0109; DC 1576; 12 credit hours), and the Certificate of Proficiency in Commercial Vehicle Driving (CIP 49.0205; DC 0156; 7 credit hours) offered at the following new off-campus location, effective Fall 2026.

Gateway Center 2210 E Main Street, Batesville, AR 72501

University of Arkansas Community College Hope-Texarkana

Curriculum Revision

Certificate of Proficiency in Nursing Assistant (CIP 51.3902; DC 0266; 7 credit hours) changed to Certificate of Proficiency in Nursing Assistant (CIP 51.3902; DC 0266; 6 credit hours; Fall 2026)

Removed Course

ALHE 10071 CPR/First Aid

University of Arkansas Community College Morrilton

New Off-Campus Location – Concurrent Education

Certificate of General Studies in General Studies (CIP 24.0101; DC 0910; 30 credit hours) offered at the following new off-campus location, effective Fall 2026.

Vilonia High School 1164 Main Street, Vilonia, AR 72173

University of Arkansas Fayetteville

Curriculum Revision

Master of Information Systems in Information Systems (CIP 52.1301; DC 6165; 30 credit hours; 58% online) changed to Master of Information Systems in Information Systems (CIP 52.1301; DC 6165; 30 credit hours; 58% online; Summer 2026)

Removed Courses

15 credit hours from an area of concentration

Added Courses

ISYS 51003 Data Analytics Fundamentals

Electives – 12 credit hours

Master of Science in Operations Management in Operations Management (CIP 15.1501; DC 6360; 30 credit hours; 100% online) changed to Master of Science in Operations Management in Operations Management (CIP 15.1501; DC 6360; 33 credit hours; 100% online; Fall 2026)

Added Course

OMGT 50203 Foundations of Operations Management

Italics – New Course

Bachelor of Science in Human Environmental Science in Hospitality Management (CIP 19.0501; DC 2765; 120 credit hours) changed to Bachelor of Science in Human Environmental Science in Hospitality Management (CIP 19.0501; DC 2765; 120 credit hours; Fall 2026)

Removed Courses

HDFS 24103	Family Relations and
HDFS 14003	Life Span Development
NUTR 12103	Fundamentals of Nutrition
HOSP 26003	Purchasing and Cost Control
HOSP 26101	Foodservice Sanitation
HOSP 46503	Global Travel and Tourism Management
HOSP 46603	Hospitality Management Capstone
HOSP 46703	Destination Marketing & Operations
HDFS 24903	Introduction to Cultural Competence

Additional Requirements – 6 credit hours

Added Courses

ANTH 10203	Introduction to Cultural Anthropology
HOSP 26102	Foodservice Sanitation
<i>HOSP 25002</i>	<i>Essentials of Food Preparation</i>
HOSP 25103	Foundations of Beverage Management
<i>HOSP 25303</i>	<i>Hospitality Marketing Principles</i>
<i>HOSP 35203</i>	<i>Hospitality Leadership and Team Dynamics</i>
<i>HOSP 45003</i>	<i>Hospitality Experience Management & Service Culture</i>
<i>HOSP 45103</i>	<i>Hospitality Finance and Profit Optimization</i>
<i>HOSP 45403</i>	<i>Beverage Production, Service, and Management</i>
SOCI 10103	General Sociology
General Electives – 3 credit hours	
<i>Italics – New Course</i>	

Master of Social Work in Social Work (CIP 44.0701; DC 7100; 63 credit hours; 100% online) changed to Master of Social Work in Social Work (CIP 44.0701; DC 7100; 57 credit hours; 100% online; Fall 2026)

Removed Courses

SCWK 50103	Bridge Course: Evidenced Based Social Work
SCWK 54102	Foundation Field Seminar
SCWK 64402	Advanced Field Seminar I
SCWK 64502	Advanced Field Seminar II

Added Courses

SCWK 50102	Bridge Course: Evidence Based Social Work
<i>SCWK 61001</i>	<i>Social Work Capstone and Thesis Seminar</i>
SCWK 50803	Social Work with Elders (optional)
SCWK 52403	The Diagnosis & Treatment of Substance Use Disorders (optional)
SCWK 52603	Impact of Policy on Addiction (optional)
SCWK 55203	Ethics and Aging (optional)
SCWK 56403	Child Advocacy Studies 4: Global Issues in Child Welfare (optional)
SCWK 57503	Grant Writing (optional)
SCWK 58503	Introduction to Integrated Behavioral Health (optional)

Italics – New Course

Bachelor of Science in Education in Childhood Education: EASL (CIP 13.1202; DC 3770; CC EDUCESL; 120 credit hours) changed to Bachelor of Science in Education in Childhood Education: EASL (CIP 13.1202; DC 3770; CC EDUCESL; 120 credit hours; Fall 2026)

Removed Courses

General Elective – 3 credit hours

CIED 41203	Literacy Assessment/Interventions in the Elementary Classroom
CIED 44103	Acquiring a Second Language

Added Courses

COMM 23203	Interpersonal Communication (optional)
CIED 30503	The Emerging Adolescent

CIED 41303 Assessment and Instruction
 CIED 44203 Teaching English as a Second Language

Bachelor of Science in Education in Childhood Education: Gifted and Talented (CIP 13.1202; DC 3770; CC EDUCGATE; 120 credit hours) changed to Bachelor of Science in Education in Childhood Education: Gifted and Talented (CIP 13.1202; DC 3770; CC EDUCGATE; 120 credit hours; Fall 2026)

Removed Courses

General Elective – 3 credit hours

CIED 41203 Literacy Assessment/Interventions in the Elementary Classroom

Added Courses

COMM 23203 Interpersonal Communication (optional)

CIED 30503 The Emerging Adolescent

CIED 41303 Assessment and Instruction

Bachelor of Science in Education in Childhood Education: Reading (CIP 13.1202; DC 3770; CC EDUCREADING; 120 credit hours) changed to Bachelor of Science in Education in Childhood Education: Reading (CIP 13.1202; DC 3770; CC EDUCREADING; 120 credit hours; Fall 2026)

Removed Courses

General Elective – 3 credit hours

CIED 41203 Literacy Assessment/Interventions in the Elementary Classroom

Added Courses

COMM 23203 Interpersonal Communication (optional)

CIED 30503 The Emerging Adolescent

CIED 41303 Assessment and Instruction

Bachelor of Science in Education in Childhood Education: STEM (CIP 13.1202; DC 3770; CC EDUCSTEM; 120 credit hours) changed to Bachelor of Science in Education in Childhood Education: STEM (CIP 13.1202; DC 3770; CC EDUCSTEM; 120 credit hours; Fall 2026)

Removed Courses

General Elective – 3 credit hours

CIED 41203 Literacy Assessment/Interventions in the Elementary Classroom

Added Courses

COMM 23203 Interpersonal Communication (optional)

CIED 30503 The Emerging Adolescent

CIED 41303 Assessment and Instruction

Master of Arts in Teaching in Elementary Education: EASL (CIP 13.1202; DC 5533; CC EDUCESL; 30-33 credit hours) changed to Master of Arts in Teaching in Elementary Education: EASL (CIP 13.1202; DC 5533; CC EDUCESL; 30 credit hours; Fall 2026)

Removed Courses

CIED 51803 Advanced Elementary Education Seminar

CIED 59303 Second Language Methodologies

Added Courses

CIED 59203 Second Language Acquisition
 CIED 50503 Multicultural Issues in Elementary Education

Master of Arts in Teaching in Elementary Education: Gifted and Talented Education (CIP 13.1202; DC 5533; CC EDUCGATE; 30-33 credit hours) changed to Master of Arts in Teaching in Elementary Education: Gifted and Talented Education (CIP 13.1202; DC 5533; CC EDUCGATE; 30 credit hours; Fall 2026)

Removed Course

CIED 51803 Advanced Elementary Education Seminar

Master of Arts in Teaching in Elementary Education: Reading (CIP 13.1202; DC 5533; CC EDUCREADING; 30-33 credit hours) changed to Master of Arts in Teaching in Elementary Education: Reading (CIP 13.1202; DC 5533; CC EDUCREADING; 30 credit hours; Fall 2026)

Removed Courses

CIED 51803 Advanced Elementary Education Seminar

Master of Arts in Teaching in Elementary Education: STEM (CIP 13.1202; DC 5533; CC EDUCSTEM; 30-33 credit hours) changed to Master of Arts in Teaching in Elementary Education: STEM (CIP 13.1202; DC 5533; CC EDUCSTEM; 30 credit hours; Fall 2026)

Removed Courses

CIED 51803 Advanced Elementary Education Seminar

Added Courses

CIED 50503 Multicultural Issues in Elementary Education

Doctor of Occupational Therapy Doctor in Occupational Therapy (CIP 51.2306; DC 6355; 115 credit hours) changed to Doctor of Occupational Therapy in Occupational Therapy (CIP 51.2306; DC 6355; 115 credit hours; Fall 2026)

Removed Courses

OCTH 51302	Complexity Science & Applications to Occupational Therapy
OCTH 51402	Research Fundamentals and Scholarly Practice
OCTH 53101	Physical Conditions
OCTH 53202	Occupational Impacts of Pharmacology I: General Medical
OCTH 53742	Anatomy and Occupational Performance Lab
OCTH 53903	Introduction to Health Systems and Policy
OCTH 54101	Neurological Conditions
OCTH 54201	Occupational Impacts of Pharmacology II: Neurology/Mental Health
OCTH 54742	Functional Neurology Lab
OCTH 55401	Integrating Creative Arts as a Modality in Practice
OCTH 55801	Upper Extremity Rehabilitation
OCTH 55941	Occupations, Adaptations, and Innovations Upper Extremity Rehabilitation Laboratory
OCTH 56103	Occupations, Adaptations, Innovations: Mental & Behavioral Health
OCTH 56302	Conceptualizations of Occupational In/Justice
OCTH 56903	Occupational Perspectives of Population Health
OCTH 57801	Occupational Therapy Doctoral Capstone Seminar I

Added Courses

OCTH 51403	Research Fundamentals and Scholarly Practice
OCTH 53743	Anatomy and Occupational Performance Lab
OCTH 53902	Introduction to Health Systems and Policy
OCTH 55802	Upper Extremity Rehabilitation
OCTH 55942	Occupations, Adaptations, and Innovations Upper Extremity Rehabilitation Laboratory
<i>OCTH 51331</i>	<i>Occupational Therapy Scholarly Project Seminar</i>
<i>OCTH 52202</i>	<i>Clinical Conditions and Occupational Impacts: General Medical</i>
<i>OCTH 54733</i>	<i>Functional Neuroscience Lab</i>
<i>OCTH 54132</i>	<i>Clinical Conditions and Occupational Impacts: Neurology</i>
<i>OCTH 55104</i>	<i>Occupations, Adaptations, and Innovations: Mental Health</i>
<i>OCTH 57833</i>	<i>Doctoral Capstone Seminar I</i>

*Italics – New Course***Curriculum Revision, CIP Code Change, and Title Change**

Minor in Nanotechnology (CIP 14.1801; 15 credit hours) changed to Minor in Materials Science (CIP 40.1001; 15-17 credit hours; Fall 2026)

Removed Courses

6 credit hours of Nanotechnology Research coursework

BENG 31103	Measurement and Control for Biological Systems (optional)
BENG 311H3	Honors Measurement and Control for Biological Systems (optional)
BENG 37303	Transport Phenomena in Biological Systems (optional)
BENG 47403	Food and Bio-Product Systems Engineering (optional)
BENG 41203	Biosensors & Bioinstrumentation (optional)
BENG 47403	Food and Bio-Product Systems Engineering (optional)
BMEG 38204	Biomolecular Engineering (optional)
CHEG 50403	Colloid and Interface Science (optional)
CHEM 42203	Instrumental Analysis (optional)
CHEM 54403	Physical Chemistry of Materials (optional)
ELEG 42003	Semiconductor Devices (optional)
ELEG 43003	Introduction to Nanomaterials and Devices (optional)
MEEG 43003	Materials Laboratory (optional)
MEEG 43103	Introduction to Tribology (optional)
MEEG 52603	Introduction to Micro Electromechanical Systems (optional)
MEEG 53403	Computational Material Science (optional)
PHYS 36103	Modern Physics (optional)
PHYS 40703	Introduction to Quantum Mechanics (optional)
PHYS 42103	Physics of Devices (optional)

Added Courses

BMEG 44103	Tissue Engineering
BMEG 49703	Regenerative Medicine
MEEG 23003	Introduction to Materials (optional)
CHEG 23103	Thermodynamics of Single-Component Systems (optional)
CHEM 34603	Elements of Physical Chemistry (optional)
CHEM 35204	Physical Chemistry II (optional)

MEEG 24003	Thermodynamics (optional)
PHYS 43303	Thermal Physics (optional)
<i>MSEN 43103</i>	<i>Structure and Properties of Materials</i>
<i>MSEN 47303</i>	<i>Materials Processing</i>
MEEG 30103	Mechanics of Materials (optional)
MEEG 40203	Composite Materials: Analysis and Design (optional)
<i>Italics – New Course</i>	

Master of Arts in Modern Language (CIP 16.9999; DC 7930; 36 credit hours) changed to Master of Arts in French and Francophone Studies (CIP 16.0901; DC 7930; 36 credit hours; Fall 2026)

Removed Courses

WLLC 50203	Languages, Cultures, and Teaching with Technology (optional)
WLLC 50303	Languages, Cultures and Teaching with Video (optional)

Curriculum Revision and Existing Program Offered by Distance Education

Master of Education in Higher Education (CIP 13.0406; DC 5750; 36 credit hours) changed to Master of Education in Higher Education (CIP 13.0406; DC 5750; 30 credit hours; 100% online; Fall 2026)

Removed Courses

15 credit hours of HIED Electives

3 credit hours of Research Methods course

Added Courses

12 credit hours in concentration area

Curriculum Revision and Title Change

Master of Education in Recreation and Sport Management (CIP 31.0301; DC 5830; 30 credit hours) changed to Master of Science in Sport Management (CIP 31.0301; DC 5830; 30 credit hours; Fall 2026)

Removed Courses

RESM 52903	Athletics and Higher Education
RESM 58103	Social Issues in Sport
RESM 58703	Leadership in Recreation and Sport Management Services
RESM 58803	Recreation and Sport Services Promotion
RESM 58903	Public and Private Finance in Recreation and Sport Management
RESM 65303	Legal and Political Aspects
RESM 58503	Capstone in Recreation and Sport Management
RESM 6000V	Master's Thesis (optional)

Added Courses

SPMT 52903	Athletics and Higher Education
SPMT 58103	Social Issues in Sport
SPMT 58703	Leadership in Sport Management
SPMT 58803	Sport Marketing
SPMT 58903	Sport Finance
SPMT 65303	Legal and Political Aspects
SPMT 58503	Capstone in Sport Management

SPMT 6000V Master's Thesis (optional)

Bachelor of Science in Human Environmental Science in Birth Through Kindergarten (CIP 13.1210; DC 0440; 120 credit hours) changed to Bachelor of Science in Education in Early Childhood Education (CIP 13.1210; DC 0440; 120 credit hours; Fall 2026)

Removed Courses

HDFS 24903	Introduction to Cultural Competence
HDFS 33303	Language and Literacy Pedagogy for Birth through Kindergarten Educators
HDFS 42102	Math and Science for Young Children Lab
HDFS 42103	Math and Science for Young Children
HDFS 42202	Creative and Social Experiences for Young Children Lab
HDFS 42203	Creative and Social Experiences for Young Children
HDFS 42303	Developmental Assessment in Early Childhood
HDFS 43103	Building Family and Community Relationships
HDFS 43706	Internship: Infant, Toddler, and Preschool Programs
HDFS 43809	Internship: Kindergarten Programs
SPED 41403	Teaching Communication Skills to Persons with Autism
General Elective – 5 credit hours	

Added Courses

CIED 31103	Emergent Literacy
CIED 33303	Language and Literacy Pedagogy for Birth through Kindergarten Educators
CIED 31203	Primary Mathematics Methods in the K-6 Classroom
CIED 34503	Developmental Literacy
CIED 40003	Elementary Seminar
CIED 41303	Assessment and Instruction
CIED 41703	Residency I
CIED 42103	Math and Science for Young Children
CIED 42203	Creative and Social Experiences for Young Children
CIED 42906	Advanced Residency II
CIED 10003	Introduction to Technology in Education
CIED 44003	Understanding Cultures in the Classroom
MATH 22103	Survey of Mathematical Structures I
SPED 44603	Teaching Students with Extensive Support Needs

Deletion of Certificate or Degree Program

Master of Education in Community College Leadership (CIP 13.0407; DC 5672; 30 credit hours; 100% online; Fall 2026)

Bachelor of Human Resource Development in Human Resource Development (CIP 52.1005; DC 5201; 120 credit hours; 100% online; Fall 2026)

Graduate Certificate in K-12 Online Teaching (CIP 13.0501; DC 5765; 12 credit hours; 100% online; Fall 2026)

Graduate Certificate in Nursing Education (CIP 51.3203; DC 8540; 12 credit hours; 100% online; Fall 2026)

Graduate Certificate in Music Education for Students with Differences and Disabilities (CIP 13.1312; DC 5555; 15 credit hours; 100% online; Fall 2026)

Certificate of Proficiency in Cybersecurity and Data Management (CIP 11.1003; DC 1335; 15 credit hours; Fall 2026)

Deletion of Concentration or Minor

Master of Information Systems in Information Systems: Cybersecurity Management (CIP 52.1301; DC 6165; CC CYBERSECMGMT; 30 credit hours; 58% online; Summer 2026)

Master of Information Systems in Information Systems: Digital Innovation Management (CIP 52.1301; DC 6165; CC DIGITALINNVGMT; 30 credit hours; 58% online; Summer 2026)

Master of Information Systems in Information Systems: Enterprise Resource Planning Management (CIP 52.1301; DC 6165; CC ENTERPRESPLAN; 30 credit hours; 58% online; Summer 2026)

Master of Information Systems in Information Systems: Information Technology Management (CIP 52.1301; DC 6165; CC INFOTECHMGMT; 30 credit hours; 58% online; Summer 2026)

Master of Information Systems in Information Systems: Software Engineering Management (CIP 52.1301; DC 6165; CC SOFTWAREENGMGMT; 30 credit hours; 58% online; Summer 2026)

Master of Arts in Modern Language: German (CIP 16.9999; DC 7930; CC GERMAN; 36 credit hours; Fall 2026)

Master of Arts in Modern Language: French (CIP 16.9999; DC 7930; CC FRENCH; 36 credit hours; Fall 2026)

Master of Business Administration in Business Administration: Healthcare Business Administration (CIP 52.0201; DC 5580; CC HLTHCAREADMIN; 38-44 credit hours; 58% online; Fall 2026)

Master of Business Administration in Business Administration: Executive Healthcare Business Administration (CIP 52.0201; DC 5580; CC EXECHLTHBUSADMN; 38-44 credit hours; 58% online; Fall 2026)

Minor in Human Resource Development (CIP 52.1005; 15 credit hours; Fall 2026)

Minor in Agricultural Education (CIP 13.1301; 19-24 credit hours; Fall 2026)

Minor in Plant Pathology (CIP 26.0305; 19 credit hours; Fall 2026)

Minor in Food Science (CIP 01.1001; 18 credit hours; Fall 2026)

Minor in Outdoor Leadership (CIP 31.0101; 15 credit hours; Fall 2027)

Minor in East Asian History and Politics (CIP 05.0104; 15 credit hours; Fall 2026)

Deletion of Organizational Unit

The Center for Art as Lived Experience (CALE) (Department Code 1281; Fall 2026)

Existing Program Offered by Distance Education

Master of Science in Finance (CIP 52.0801; DC 5075; 30 credit hours; 50% online) changed to Master of Science in Finance (CIP 52.0801; DC 5075; 30 credit hours; 0% online; Fall 2026)

New Concentration or Minor

Master of Education in Higher Education: Student Affairs (CIP 13.0406; DC 5750; CC STUDENTAFFAIRS; 30 credit hours; Fall 2026)

Core Courses – 18 credit hours

HIED 50403	Student Development in Higher Education
HIED 50903	Research in Higher Education and Student Affairs
HIED 56403	Reflective Practice in Higher Education and Student Affairs
HIED 66503	Legal Aspects of Higher Education

HIED/CCLE/ADLL Electives – 6 credit hours

Student Affairs Concentration - 12 credit hours

HIED 50303	Student Affairs in Higher Education
HIED 50603	Culture, Society, and Higher Education
HIED 50803	History and Philosophy of Higher Education
HIED 66403	College Students in the United States

Master of Education in Higher Education: Strategic Leadership and Administration (CIP 13.0406; DC 5750; CC STRATLEADADMIN; 30 credit hours; Fall 2026)

Core Courses – 18 credit hours

HIED 50403	Student Development in Higher Education
HIED 50903	Research in Higher Education and Student Affairs
HIED 56403	Reflective Practice in Higher Education and Student Affairs
HIED 66503	Legal Aspects of Higher Education

HIED/CCLE/ADLL Electives – 6 credit hours

Strategic Leadership and Administration Concentration - 12 credit hours

HIED 50803	History and Philosophy of Higher Education
HIED 66603	Finance and Fiscal Management
HIED 64803	Strategic Enrollment Management
HIED 66803	Governance and Policy Making in Higher Education

Master of Education in Higher Education: Community College Leadership (CIP 13.0406; DC 5750; CC COLLEGELEADER; 30 credit hours; Fall 2026)

Core Courses – 18 credit hours

HIED 50403	Student Development in Higher Education
HIED 50903	Research in Higher Education and Student Affairs
HIED 56403	Reflective Practice in Higher Education and Student Affairs
HIED 66503	Legal Aspects of Higher Education

HIED/CCLE/ADLL Electives – 6 credit hours

Community College Leadership Concentration - 12 credit hours

CCLE 50003	History of the Community College
CCLE 50403	Finance and Fiscal Management in Community Colleges
CCLE 50203	Organization and Leadership in Community Colleges
ADLL 51603	Managing Change in Adult and Lifelong Learning

Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering in Mechanical Engineering: Robotics and Controls (CIP 14.1901; DC 4230; CC ROBOTICENGINEER; 124 credit hours; Fall 2026)

BSME Specified Core – 112 credit hours

Robotics and Controls Concentration – 12 credit hours

MATH 30803	Linear Algebra
MEEG 42103	Control of Mechanical Systems OR
ELEG 44003	Control Systems
MEEG 42503	Introduction to Robotics OR
MEEG 4910V	Special Topics in Mechanical Engineering (Mobile Robotics)

Choose from one of the following:

MEEG 44403	Machine Learning for Mechanical Engineers
ELEG 44103	Advanced Control Systems
MEEG 4910V	Special Topics in Mechanical Engineering

Bachelor of Science in Business Administration in Information Systems: Data and Cybersecurity Management (CIP 52.1301; DC 3630; CC DATACYBERMGMT; 120 credit hours; Fall 2026)

BSBA Specified Core – 111 credit hours

Data and Cybersecurity Management Concentration – 9 credit hours

ISYS 40103	Principles of Data and Cybersecurity
ISYS 40203	Network and Data Security in a Changing World
ISYS 40403	Cybersecurity, Crime and Data Privacy Law Fundamentals

Master of Design Studies in Design Studies: Advanced Design (CIP 04.0902; DC 1885; CC ADVANCEDDESIGN; 36 credit hours; Fall 2026)

MDes Specified Core – 24 credit hours

Advanced Design Concentration – 12 credit hours

Complete 12 credit hours from the following:

ANTH 51103	Anthropology of the City
ANTH 53603	Museums, Material Culture, and Popular Imagination

ANTH 54403	Cultural Resource Management I
ARCH 46503	Architecture of the City
ARCH 48503	Renaissance and Baroque Architecture
ARCH 59503	Preservation Practice Field Trip
ARDS 65003	History and Theory of Preservation Design I: Fundamentals in Preservation Practice
ARDS 65203	History and Theory of Preservation Design II: Issues in Contemporary Practice Design
ARDS 68103	Cities and Public Good
ARDS 68203	Vocabularies of Context Production
ARDS 68303	Wood Theories, Tectonics and Environmental Response
ARDS 68403	Advanced Wood Production Processes
ARDS 68503	Health and Wellness in the Built Environment
ARDS 64903	Environmental Land Use Planning
EXSC 54503	Physical Activity and Health
HDFS 54903	Environments and Aging
HOSP 46603	Hospitality Management Capstone
HOSP 56503	Global Travel and Tourism Management
ISYS 53603	Business Analytics
MKTG 51003	Introduction to Marketing
MKTG 55603	Retail Strategy
MKTG 55503	New Product Development and Strategy
MKTG 54303	Consumer and Market Research
OCTH 51201	The Quest for Wellness
OCTH 51202	The Quest for Wellness Lab
OCTH 53903	Introduction to Health Systems and Policy
OCTH 55401	Integrating Creative Arts as a Modality in Practice
OCTH 56302	Conceptualizations of Occupational In/Justice
PBHL 55303	Theories of Social and Behavioral Determinants of Health
PBHL 56303	Health Administration, Organizations, and Systems
PBHL 56503	Social Determinants of Health
PUBP 60303	Community Development Policy and Practice
SCMT 56303	Foundations for New Product Launch and Integrated Demand-Driven Value Networks
SUST 51003	Foundations of Sustainable and Resilient Systems
SUST 52003	Decision Making, Analysis and Synthesis in Sustainability

Minor in Ozarks Studies (CIP 54.0102; 18 credit hours; Fall 2026)

HIST 33903 The Ozarks: People, Place, and Time

Choose 15 credit hours (5 courses) from the following:

AAST/HIST 32403 African American History Since 1877

AAST 40503/HIST 41503 Historic Black Northwest Arkansas

ANTH 32603 Indians of Arkansas and the South

ENGL 26603 Survey of English-Language Literature from 1945 to the Present

ENGL 31103 Folklore

ENGL 31203 Folk and Popular Music Traditions

ENGL 38603	Topics in Literature and Culture of the American South
GEOS43903	American Public Lands & Policy
HIST 32703	Agricultural and Rural History of the United States
HIST 37103	Issues in Public History
HIST 45603	The Old South, 1607-1865
HIST 45703	The New South, 1860 to the Present
HIST 45803	Arkansas in the Nation
PLSC 43303	Southern Politics
SOST 20003	Introduction to Southern Studies

Minor in Military Leadership (CIP 28.0602; 18-22 credit hours; Fall 2026)

Army or Airforce Courses – choose 1 sequence below

Army Required Classes:

MILS 30004	Applied Leadership I
MILS 30104	Applied Leadership II
MILS 40104	Advanced Leadership II
MILS 40004	Advanced Leadership I

Air Force Required Classes:

AERO 30103	Leading People and Effective Communication I
AERO 30203	Leading People and Effective Communication II
AERO 40103	National Security Affairs and Preparation for Active Duty I
AERO 40203	National Security Affairs and Preparation for Active Duty II

History Requirement – select one of the following

HIST 30603	Military History
HIST 34503	Modern Terrorism
HIST 35303	World War II
HIST 35703	World War I
HIST 35803	The United States and Vietnam, 1945-1975
HIST 46203	Revolutionary America, 1763 to 1789
HIST 46703	The American Civil War
HIST 47603	Diplomatic History of the United States, 1900-1945
HIST 47703	Diplomatic History of the US, 1945 to Present

Additional Elective – select one of the following

COMM 10203	Communication in a Diverse World
COMM 23203	Interpersonal Communication
NUTR 12103	Fundamentals of Nutrition
SPCH 10003	Public Speaking
RESM 10203	Foundations of Outdoor Leadership

Reorganization of Organizational Unit

Institute for Nanoscience & Engineering (Department Code 3804) reorganized to create the Arkansas Materials Institute (Department Code 5205; Summer 2026)

Title Change

Bachelor of Science in Geography: Technical Geography (CIP 30.4401; DC 1460; CC TECHGEOGRAPHY; 120 credit hours) changed to Bachelor of Science in Geography:

Geospatial Science (CIP 30.4401; DC 1460; CC GEOSPATIALTECH; 120 credit hours; Fall 2026)

Master of Arts in Journalism (CIP 09.0401; DC 5380; 30 credit hours) changed to Master of Arts in Journalism and Strategic Media (CIP 09.0401; DC 5380; 30 credit hours; Fall 2026)

University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

Deletion of Certificate or Degree Program

Graduate Certificate in Clinical & Translational Science (CIP 30.0101; DC 6385; 13 credit hours; Summer 2026)

University of Arkansas Fort Smith

New Certificate or Degree Program

Certificate of Proficiency in Book Arts (CIP 50.0201; DC 1503; 9 credit hours; Fall 2026)

ARTS 24053	Introduction to Book Arts OR
ARTS 23053	Introduction to Letterpress
ARTS 36253	Fine Printing and Book Making
ARTS 36353	Advanced Fine Printing and Book Making

University of Arkansas Little Rock

Deletion of Certificate or Degree Program

Master of Arts in Rehabilitation for the Blind (CIP 51.2310; DC 5450; 60 credit hours; 75% online; Fall 2026)

Graduate Certificate in Orientation & Mobility of the Blind (CIP 51.2310; DC 5340; 12 credit hours; Fall 2026)

Inactivation of Certificate or Degree Program

Master of Arts in Art (CIP 50.0701; DC 5230; 30 credit hours; Fall 2026)

New Certificate or Degree Program

Bachelor of Science in Education in Early Childhood Education PK-2 (CIP 13.1210; DC 3750; 120 credit hours; 40% online; Fall 2026)

EDHP 10001 Introduction to Teaching and Learning

General Education Core – 35 credit hours

Foundational Courses - 26 credit hours

LSTE 30502	Instructional Technology
ELED 20033	Foundations of Education: PreK-6
ELED 20003	Literacy and Multilingual Learners
EDFD 32003	Intro to Educational Psychology
EDHP 31203	Child Growth & Development
MATH 38063	Math for Elementary Educ I
MATH 38263	Math for Elementary Educ II

HIST 41533 Arkansas History
 ELED 20103 Children's Literature
Program Courses – 24 credit hours
ECED 41013 Early Science Methods
ECED 41023 The Early Childhood Classroom
 ECED 41003 Building Family and Community Relationships
 ELED 30133 Teaching Structured Literacy
 ELED 40103 Data-Driven Reading Assessment
 MATH 48503 Math Methods PreK-8
 READ 32203 SOR: Essential Foundations
 SPED 40143 Education of Exceptional Children
Clinical Experience Courses – 28 credit hours
 ELED 20002 Field Experience I
 ELED 30002 Field Experience II
 ELED 40109 Internship I
 ELED 40403 Internship Seminar I
 ELED 40209 Internship II
 ELED 40603 Internship Seminar II
General Electives – remaining credit hours, if any, to reach 120 minimum credit hours
Italics – New Course

New Off-Campus Location – Concurrent Education

Certificate of Proficiency in Cybersecurity Fundamentals (CIP 11.1003; DC 1335; 11-12 credit hours) offered at the following new off-campus location, effective Fall 2026.

Alma High School 101 E. Main St., Alma, AR 72921

Certificate of Proficiency in Cybersecurity Fundamentals (CIP 11.1003; DC 1335; 11-12 credit hours) offered at the following new off-campus location, effective Fall 2026.

Conway High School 2300 Prince St., Conway, AR 72034

Certificate of Proficiency in Cybersecurity Fundamentals (CIP 11.1003; DC 1335; 11-12 credit hours) offered at the following new off-campus location, effective Fall 2026.

eStem High School 410 Shall Ave., Little Rock, AR 72202

Certificate of Proficiency in Cybersecurity Fundamentals (CIP 11.1003; DC 1335; 11-12 credit hours) offered at the following new off-campus location, effective Fall 2026.

Newport High School 406 Wilkerson Dr., Newport, AR 72112

Certificate of Proficiency in Cybersecurity Fundamentals (CIP 11.1003; DC 1335; 11-12 credit hours) offered at the following new off-campus location, effective Fall 2026.

Spring Hill High School 633 AR-355, Hope, AR 71801

University of Arkansas Monticello

New Off-Campus Location – Concurrent Education

Certificate of Proficiency in Education (CIP 13.1209; DC 1925; 9 credit hours) and the Technical Certificate in Education (CIP 13.1209; DC 2945; 31 credit hours) offered at the following new off-campus location, effective Fall 2026.

Woodlawn High School 6760 US Highway 63, Rison, AR 71665

New Off-Campus Location – Instruction Center

Bachelor of Arts in K-6 Elementary Education (CIP 13.1209; DC 2441; 125 credit hours), effective Summer 2026, and the Bachelor of Business Administration (CIP 52.0201; DC 1920; 120 credit hours), effective Fall 2026, offered at the following new off-campus location.

University of Arkansas Community College Batesville
2005 White Drive, Batesville, AR 72501

Bachelor of Business Administration (CIP 52.0201; DC 1920; 120 credit hours) offered at the following new off-campus location, effective Fall 2026.

North Arkansas College 1515 Pioneer Dr, Harrison, AR 72601

Reorganization of Organizational Unit

School of Arts & Humanities (Department Code 2720) and School of Social & Behavioral Sciences (Department Code 2820) reorganized to create the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences (Department Code 1210; Summer 2026)

Title Change

Certificate of Proficiency in Child Development Associate (CIP 19.0706; DC 4919; 12 credit hours) changed to Certificate of Proficiency in Early Childhood Education (CIP 19.0706; DC 4919; 12 credit hours; Summer 2026)

University of Arkansas Pine Bluff

Deletion of Certificate or Degree Program

Bachelor of Arts in Theatre (CIP 50.0501; DC 1813; 120 credit hours; Spring 2026)

Bachelor of Science in Human Sciences Education (CIP 13.1308; DC 2750; 123 credit hours; Spring 2026)

Bachelor of Science in Science Education (CIP 13.1316; DC 3170; 125 credit hours; Spring 2026)

Bachelor of Science in Special Education (CIP 13.1001; DC 3210; 122 credit hours; Spring 2026)

New Certificate or Degree Program

Advanced Certificate in Secondary Education (CIP 13.1205; DC 3215; 36 credit hours; 100% online; Fall 2026)

EDUC 1300 Introduction to Teaching

EDUC 2310 Education Seminar

EDUC 3301 Human Growth and Development

EDUC 3303	Classroom and Behavior Management
EDUC 3366	Assessment of Student Learning
EDUC 4304	General Methods
SPED 2300	Survey of Exceptional Children
SPED 4360	Exceptional Children in the Regular Classroom
EDUC 4600	Internship I
EDUC 4601	Internship II

University of Central Arkansas

Deletion of Certificate or Degree Program

Bachelor of Arts in Economics (CIP 45.0601; DC 1400; 120 credit hours; Spring 2026)

New Certificate or Degree Program

Bachelor of Science in Robotics Engineering (CIP 14.4201; DC 5146; 120 credit hours; Fall 2026)

Lower-division UCA Core – 38 credit hours (includes state minimum core)

Required Courses - 73 credit hours

CSCI 1470	Computer Science I
ENGR 1301	Intro to Engineering
<i>ENGR 1447</i>	<i>Electric Circuits</i>
ENGR 2311	Statics
ENGR 2447	Electronics
ENGR 3311	Engineering Dynamics
ENGR 3321	Introduction to Deep Learning for Robotics
ENGR 3410	Microcontrollers
ENGR 3421	Robotics I
ENGR 3447	Microelectronics
ENGR 4101	Ethics for Engineering
ENGR 4311	Senior Design I
ENGR 4312	Senior Design II
ENGR 4421	Robotics II
MATH 1496	Calculus I
MATH 1497	Calculus II
MATH 2471	Calculus III
MATH 3331	Ordinary Differential Equations
PHYS 1441	University Physics I
PHYS 1442	University Physics II
WRID 3310	Technical Writing

Elective Courses – 16 credit hours

6 credit hours of approved ENGR courses

7 credit hours of approved science or mathematics courses

3 credit hours of approved engineering, science, or mathematics courses

General Electives – 4 credit hours

Italics – New Course

Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering (CIP 14.1001; DC 4140; 120 credit hours; Fall 2026)

Lower-division UCA Core – 38 credit hours (includes state minimum core)

Required Courses - 72 credit hours

CSCI 1470	Computer Science I
ENGR 1301	Intro to Engineering
<i>ENGR 1447</i>	<i>Electric Circuits</i>
ENGR 2447	Electronics
ENGR 3301	Signals and Systems
<i>ENGR 3331</i>	<i>Engineering Statistics</i>
<i>ENGR 3332</i>	<i>Engineering Math Methods</i>
ENGR 3410	Microcontrollers
ENGR 3447	Microelectronics
<i>ENGR 3462</i>	<i>Engineering Electromagnetics</i>
ENGR 4101	Ethics for Engineering
ENGR 4311	Senior Design I
ENGR 4312	Senior Design II
MATH 1496	Calculus I
MATH 1497	Calculus II
MATH 2471	Calculus III
MATH 3320	Linear Algebra
MATH 3331	Ordinary Differential Equations
PHYS 1441	University Physics I
PHYS 1442	University Physics II
WRID 3310	Technical Writing

Elective Courses – 18 credit hours

10 credit hours of additional approved ENGR courses

4 credit hours of approved science or mathematics courses

4 credit hours of approved engineering, science, or mathematics courses

General Electives – 3 credit hours

Italics – New Course

Bachelor of Arts in Applied Economics (CIP 45.0602; DC 4215; 120 credit hours; Fall 2026)

Lower-division UCA Core – 38 credit hours (includes state minimum core)

Required Courses - 27 credit hours

ECON 2320	Principles of Macroeconomics
ECON 2321	Principles of Microeconomics
ECON 3310	Public Sector Economics
ECON 3322	Law and Economics
ECON 3327	Transportation Economics
ECON 4335	International Trade
ECON 4360	Health Care Economics
ECON 4380	Senior Seminar in Economics
PSYC 4354	Judgment and Decision Making

Elective Courses – 6 credit hours

Choose two courses from the following:

All other upper-division ECON course

FINA 3340 Money and Banking

FINA 3350 Personal Financial Planning

INSU 4320 Corporate Risk Management

Required Minor – 15-26 credit hours

General Electives – 26-37 credit hours

**ARKANSAS PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS
LETTERS OF INTENT**

The following intent notifications were received through April 1, 2026.

Southern Arkansas University Tech

New Program – Associate of Applied Science in Environmental Management

University of Arkansas Pulaski Technical College

New Program – Technical Certificate in Energy Systems Technology-Grid Reliability

New Program – Certificate of Proficiency in Critical Infrastructure Protection

New Program – Certificate of Proficiency in Avionics

OUT-OF-STATE AND ARKANSAS PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS

ADHE Executive Staff Recommendation

RESOLVED, That pursuant to A.C.A. §6-61-301, the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board grants initial certification to the institutions listed on pages 1 - 2 to offer the specified degree programs to Arkansas residents for a period of three years through December 31, 2029.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Commissioner of the Arkansas Division of Higher Education is authorized to notify the administration of said institutions that the certification of the degree programs requires the institution to notify the Arkansas Division of Higher Education whenever any of the following occurs: (1) major reorganization of the controlling body; (2) changes in the charter or incorporation documents of the institution; or (3) changes in the method of operation of the institution's programs in Arkansas.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Coordinating Board instructs the Commissioner to notify the administration of said institutions that any advertisement or published materials using the name of the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board or the Arkansas Division of Higher Education must contain the following statement:

Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board certification does not constitute an endorsement of any institution or program. Such certification merely indicates that certain criteria have been met as required under the rules and regulations implementing institutional and program certification as defined in A.C.A. §6-61-301.

Initial Program Certifications – Distance Technology

Academy of Art University, San Francisco, California

State Authorization: California Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education

Institutional Accreditation – Regional: Western Association of Schools and Colleges

Bachelor of Fine Arts in Game Art

The Chicago School, Los Angeles, California

State Authorization: California Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education

Institutional Accreditation – Regional: Western Association of Schools and Colleges

Programmatic Accreditation: Council of Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs

Bachelor of Arts in Psychology
Master of Arts in Applied Forensic Psychology
Master of Arts in Marriage, Couples, and Family Therapy
Master of Science in Biomedical Sciences
Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine

University of Southern California, Los Angeles, California

State Authorization: California Secretary of State

Institutional Accreditation – Regional: Western Association of Schools and Colleges

Master of Arts in Gerontology

Walden University, Minneapolis, Minnesota

State Authorization: Minnesota Office of Higher Education

Institutional Accreditation – Regional: Higher Learning Commission

Master of Science in Clinical Psychology

Initial Program Certification – Arkansas Campus

Baptist Health College Little Rock, Little Rock, Arkansas

State Authorization: Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board

Institutional Accreditation – National: Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools

Programmatic Accreditation: Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (Pending)

RN to Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Initial Program Certification – New Institution

Southwestern Law School, Los Angeles, California

State Authorization: California Bureau of Private Postsecondary Education

Institutional Accreditation – National: American Bar Association

Juris Doctor

**OUT-OF-STATE AND ARKANSAS PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS
LETTERS OF NOTIFICATION**

Recertifications

Community Care College, Tulsa, Oklahoma

Diploma of Bookkeeping
Diploma of Early Childhood Education
Diploma of Medical Assistant (Hybrid)
Diploma of Medical Billing and Coding
Diploma of Paralegal Studies
Associate of Occupational Science in Accounting
Associate of Occupational Science in Business and Industry Management
Associate of Occupational Science in Health Care Administration
Associate of Occupational Science in Medical Billing and Coding
Associate of Occupational Science in Surgical Technology

South University, Savannah, Georgia

Associate of Arts in Allied Health Science
Associate of Occupational Science in Medical Assisting
Associate of Science in Paralegal Studies
Bachelor of Arts in Psychology
Bachelor of Business Administration
Bachelor of Science in Accounting
Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice
Bachelor of Science in Health Science
Bachelor of Science in Healthcare Management
Bachelor of Science in Information Technology
Bachelor of Science in Legal Studies
Bachelor of Science in Nursing
Master of Business Administration
Master of Business Administration in Healthcare Administration
Master of Public Administration
Master of Public Health
Master of Science in Accounting
Master of Science in Criminal Justice
Master of Science in Human Resource Management
Master of Science in Information Systems
Master of Science in Leadership
Master of Science in Nursing
RN to Master of Science in Nursing
Post Graduate Certificate in Nursing
Doctor of Business Administration
Doctor of Nursing Practice

Spartan College of Aeronautics and Technology, Tulsa, Oklahoma
Diploma in Aviation Maintenance Technology
Associate of Applied Science in Aviation Maintenance Technology
Bachelor of Science in Aviation Maintenance Technology

The Chicago School, Los Angeles, California
Bachelor of Arts in Psychology
Master of Arts in Applied Psychology
Master of Arts in Behavioral Economics
Master of Arts in Forensic Psychology
Master of Arts in Industrial and Organizational Psychology
Master of Arts in International Psychology
Master of Arts in Organizational Leadership
Master of Public Health
Master of Science in Applied Behavior Analysis
Master of Science in Clinical Psychopharmacology
Doctor of Education in Educational Psychology and Technology
Doctor of Philosophy in Applied Behavior Analysis

University of Southern California, Los Angeles, California
Master of Arts in Foodservice Management and Dietetics
Master of Construction Management
Master of Science in Aerospace Engineering
Master of Science in Applied Data Science
Master of Science in Astronautical Engineering
Master of Science in Communication Data Science
Master of Science in Computer Engineering
Master of Science in Computer Science (Data Science)
Master of Science in Cyber Security Engineering
Master of Science in Engineering Management
Master of Science in Environmental Data Science
Master of Science in Financial Engineering
Master of Science in Industrial and Systems Engineering
Master of Science in Lifespan, Nutrition and Dietetics
Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering
Master of Science in Nutritional Science
Master of Science in Systems Architecting and Engineering

Recertifications – Arkansas Campus

Vincennes University, Vincennes, Indiana
Campus at the Crawford County Adult Education Center in Van Buren
Bachelor of Science in Technology/Management and Leadership Concentration

Decertification

The Chicago School, Los Angeles, California
Master of Health Services Administration

Letter of Exemption from Certification – Church-Related Training

Evangel University of the Assemblies of God, Springfield, Missouri

Offering a certificate by distance technology

Certificate in Worship Arts Leadership

Kingdom Power Academy, Little Rock, Arkansas

Offering programs by distance technology

Certification of Kingdom Studies

Associate of Arts in Biblical Studies

Bachelor of Ministry

Master of Biblical Studies

Doctor of Theology

Saint Louis University, St. Louis, Missouri

Offering a course in Fayetteville, Arkansas

Special Topics in Catholic Thought

The Master's University and Seminary, Newhall, California

Offering programs by distance technology

Bachelor of Arts, Biblical Studies

Bachelor of Arts, Biblical Counseling

Bachelor of Arts, Christian Ministries

Master of Arts, Biblical Counseling

Master of Arts, Biblical Studies

Master of Divinity

Institutional Changes

Chamberlain University, Chicago, Illinois

Adtalem Global Education, parent company of Chamberlain University, has changed its name to Covista, Inc.

Program Changes/Additions

Arkansas College of Health Education, Fort Smith, Arkansas

Certificate name changes

Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare Excellence changed to Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare

Behavioral Medicine and Wellness changed to Psychiatry and Mental Health

Fellowship Medicine changed to Critical Care

Lifestyle Medicine and Entrepreneurship changed to Lifestyle Medicine

Military/National Security changed to Military and National Security

New Certificate

Emergency Medicine

DMS 5924 Fellowship Elective I

DMS 5926 Fellowship Elective II

DMS 5928 Fellowship Elective III

Choose two electives

Baptist Health College Little Rock, Little Rock, Arkansas

Certificate in Radiology changed to Associate of Applied Science in Radiography

Removed Courses

Introduction to Computers

RADG 4001 Principles of Radiation Biology
RADG 4002 Principles of Radiation Protection
RADG 3402 Patient Care in Radiation Sciences
RADG 3701 Imaging Equipment
RADG 3302 Digital Image Acquisition and Display
RADG 3301 Image Analysis
Added Courses (Course numbers not available)
Radiation Physics
Radiation Biology and Protection
Image Production
Clinical Education V

Certificate in Nuclear Medicine Technology

Removed Courses

NM 4201 Medical Ethics and Law
NM 4102 Patient Care
NM 4104 Diagnostic Nuclear Medicine 3
NM 4303 Diagnostic Nuclear Medicine 4
Nm 4301 Radiobiology

Added Courses

NM 4008 Clinical Practicum II
NM 4503 Clinical Practicum III
NM 4702 CT Procedures and Anatomy
NM 4502 Clinical Practicum IV

Certificate in Practical Nursing

Removed Courses

PNSG 1108 Basic Nursing
PNSG 1204 Pharmacology I
PNSG 1501 Gerontological Nursing
PNSG 1407 Medical Surgical Nursing I
PNSG 2012 Medical Surgical Nursing II
PNSG 2303 Pharmacology II
PNSG 2103 Nursing of Mothers & Infants
PNSG 2203 Nursing of Children

Added Courses

PNSG 1003 Fundamentals of Client Care
PNSG 1002 Fundamentals of Medical Administration
PNSG 1012 Medical/Surgical Concepts I
PNSG 2006 Maternal/Child Nursing
PNSG 2112 Medical/Surgical/Advanced Concepts II
PNSG 2004 Nursing Transitions

Certificate in Sleep Technology

Removed Course

SLPT 1001 Medical Ethics and Law
Associate of Applied Science in Nursing

Removed Courses

NSG 1003 Pharmacology

NSG 2501 Synthesis of Nursing Concepts

Added Courses

NSG 1005 Foundations in Nursing

NSG 1402 Introduction to Pharmacology

NSG 2202 Synthesis of Professional Nursing Concepts

NSG 2601 Advanced Pharmacology for Nursing

Associate of Applied Science in Surgical Technology

Removed Courses

ST 1304 Fundamentals of Clinical I

ST 2301 Advanced Medical Terminology

ST 2302 Advanced Instrumentation Lab

ST 2308 Advanced Surgical Technology: Surgical Procedures

ST 2306 Advanced Clinical Practicum II

ST 2303 Professional Practicum III

Added Courses

ST 2005 Surgical Procedures I

ST 2105 Surgical Procedures II

ST 2004 Clinical Practicum I

ST 2103 Clinical Practicum II

ST 2002 Surgical Seminar

ST 2205 Clinical Practicum III

Evangel University of the Assemblies of God, Springfield, Missouri

New Certificate

Certificate in Psychological First Aid

BEHVA 320 Crisis Intervention

University of Southern California, Los Angeles, California

New Certificates

Graduate Certificate in Systems Architecting and Engineering

Choose five from the following:

ISE 515 Engineering Project Management

ISE 544 Leading and Managing Engineering Teams

SAE 541 Systems Engineering Theory and Practice

SAE 542 Advanced Topics in Systems Engineering

SAE 547 Model-Based Systems Architecting and Engineering

SAE 548 Systems/System-of-Systems Integration and Communication

SAE 549 Systems Architecting

SAE 560 Economic Considerations for Systems Engineering

SAE 574 Net-Centric Systems Architecting and Engineering

Graduate Certificate in Youth Advocacy

SOWK 624 Social Work in Juvenile Justice Settings

SOWK 661 Interprofessional Education, Team-Based Care and Caregivers

Choose two from the following:

SOWK 510 Professional Self-Care in Integrative Social Work Practice

SOWK 590 Directed Research

SOWK 591 Applied Learning in Practicum Education I

SOWK 622 Threat Assessment and Management

SOWK 627 Practice and Policy with Children and Families Across Settings

SOWK 630 Self-Awareness and Intercultural Humility in Social Work

SOWK 634 Violence Against Women: A Transnational Perspective

SOWK 639 Policy Advocacy and Social Change

SOWK 668 Social Work and Law

SOWK 687 Media in Social Work

Walden University, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Graduate Certificate in Nonprofit Management

Removed Course

NPMG 6461 Resource Development

Added Course

NPMG 6455 Funding Resources for Nonprofit Organizations

Master of Science in Nursing

Adult Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner Specialization – For RN and BSN
Entry

Removed Courses

NRNP 6540 Advanced Practice Care of Older Adults

PRAC 6540 Advanced Practice Care of Older Adults Practicum

Added Courses

NRNP 6590 Role Transition for Advanced Practice

PRAC 6587 Acute Care Immersion II: Hospitalist Track OR

PRAC 6597 Acute Care Immersion II: Intensivist Track

Adult Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner Specialization – for RN and BSN
Entry

Removed Course

NRNP 6565 Synthesis in Advanced Nursing Practice Care of Patients in Primary Care
Settings

Added Course

NRNP 6590 Role Transition for Advanced Practice

Family Nurse Practitioner Specialization – for RN and BSN Entry

Removed Course

NRNP 6568 Synthesis in Advanced Nursing Practice of Patients in Family Care Settings

Added Course

NRNP 6590 Role Transition for Advanced Practice

Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Specialization – for RN and BSN Entry

Removed Courses

NRNP 6840 Synthesis of Pediatric Primary Care

PRAC 6840 Advanced Pediatric Nursing Practicum IV: Synthesis Care

Added Courses

NRNP 6590 Role Transition for Advanced Practice

PRAC 6841 Advanced Primary Care Immersion Practicum

Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Specialization – for RN and BSN Entry

Removed Course

NRNP 6675 Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Care Across the Lifespan II

Added Courses

NRNP 6624 Foundations of Psychotherapy

NRNP 6590 Role Transition for Advanced Practice

Post-Master's Certificate in Adult Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner

Removed Courses

NURS 6003 Perspectives on Graduate Study for Advanced Nursing Practice

NRNP 6540 Advanced Practice of Older Adults

PRAC 6540 Advanced Practice Care of Older Adults Practicum

Added Courses

NRNP 6590 Role Transition for Advanced Practice

PRAC 6597 Acute Care Immersion II: Intensivist Track

Post-Master's Certificate in Adult Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner

Removed Courses

NURS 6003 Perspectives on Graduate Study for Advanced Nursing Practice

NRNP 6565 Synthesis in Advanced Nursing Practice Care of Patients in Primary Care Settings

Added Course

NRNP 6590 Role Transition for Advanced Practice

Post-Master's Certificate in Family Nurse Practitioner

Removed Courses

NURS 6003 Perspectives on Graduate Study for Advanced Nursing Practice

NRNP 6568 Synthesis in Advanced Nursing Practice of Patients in Family Care Settings

Added Course

NRNP 6590 Role Transition for Advanced Practice

Post-Master's Certificate in Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Primary Care

Removed Courses

NURS 6003 Perspectives on Graduate Study for Advanced Nursing Practice

NRNP 6840 Synthesis of Pediatric Primary Care

PRAC 6840 Advanced Pediatric Nursing Practicum IV: Synthesis Care

Added Courses

NRNP 6590 Role Transition for Advanced Practice

PRAC 6841 Advanced Primary Care Immersion Practicum II

Post-Master's Certificate in Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner

Removed Courses

NURS 6003 Perspectives on Graduate Study for Advanced Nursing Practice

NRNP 6675 Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Care Across the Lifespan II
PRAC 6675 Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Care Across the Lifespan II
Practicum

Added Courses

NRNP 6624 Foundations of Psychotherapy
NRNP 6590 Role Transition for Advanced Practice

Doctor of Information Technology

Removed Courses

DITC 8930 Research Questions and Frameworks
DITC 8940 Methods and Alignment
DITC 8950 Transition to the Capstone
DITC 8100 Doctoral Study Mentoring
DITC 9000 Doctoral Study Completion

Added Courses

DITC 8215 Security Risk Management
DITC 8101 Information Technology Project Plan Foundation
DITC 8102 Information Technology Project Plan Pre-Proposal
DITC 9101 Information Technology Research Project Stage 1
DITC 9102 Information Technology Research Project Stage 2
DITC 9103 Information Technology Research Project Stage 3

New Specializations

Cybersecurity

DITC 8255 Cyber Crime Prevention and Protection
DITC 8735 Applied Cryptography
DITC 8270 Cyber Forensics

Data Science

DITC 8190 Foundations of Intelligent Systems
DITC 8265 Data Mining
DITC 8685 Data Visualization

Doctor of Philosophy in Health Education and Promotion

Removed Course

HLTH 8040 Advanced Public Health Policy and Advocacy

Specializations Removed:

Behavioral Health

Global Health

Management and Leadership

Population Health

Research

Added Course

HLTH 8362E Sexual Health and Well-Being

New Specializations

Health Outcomes Research

Choose three from the following:

HLTH 8033 Interpretation and Application of Public Health Data

HLTH 8202 Survey Research Methods
RSCH 8260 Advanced Quantitative Reasoning and Analysis
RSCH 8360 Advanced Qualitative Reasoning and Analysis
RSCH 8460 Advanced Mixed-Methods Reasoning and Analysis
Self-Designed
Choose three from the following:
HLTH 8574 Women's Health
HLTH 8573 Child and Adolescent Health
HLTH 8054 Lifestyle and Chronic Diseases
HLTH 8815 Gerontology & Healthy Aging
HLTH 8405 Ethics and Social Justice
HLTH 8501 Leadership Within the Health Sector
HLTH 8247 Social Psychology
HLTH 8701 Cultural and Psychology
HLTH 8111 Leadership and Organizational Change
HLTH 8215 Lifespan Development
HLTH 8242 Changing Health Behavior: Theory and Practice
HLTH 8745 Health Psychology

**OUT-OF-STATE AND ARKANSAS PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS
LETTERS OF INTENT**

The following notifications were received through April 1, 2026.

Academy of Art University, San Francisco, California

Recertification – Distance Technology
Associate of Arts in Fashion Product Development
Associate of Arts in Jewelry and Metal Arts
Associate of Arts in Visual Development
Bachelor of Fine Arts in Fashion Product Development
Bachelor of Fine Arts in Jewelry and Metal Arts
Bachelor of Fine Arts in Landscape Architecture
Bachelor of Fine Arts in Visual Development
Bachelor of Science in Game Programming
Master of Arts in Fashion Marketing
Master of Arts in Jewelry and Metal Arts
Master of Arts in Visual Development
Master of Fine Arts in Fashion Product Development
Master of Fine Arts in Motion Pictures & TV
Master of Fine Arts in Jewelry and Metal Arts
Master of Fine Arts in Visual Development

Arkansas Colleges of Health Education, Fort Smith, Arkansas

Initial Certification – Fort Smith Campus
Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology

Blue Cliff College, Alexandria, Louisiana

Recertification – Distance Technology
Diploma in Health Information Management, Billing and Coding
Diploma in Medical Office Administration
Associate in Occupational Studies in Clinical Administrative Medical Assisting
Associate in Occupational Studies in Health Information Management, Billing and Coding

California Institute of Applied Technology, National City, California

Initial Certification – Distance Technology
Certificate in Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning
Certificate in Cisco Network Associate
Certificate in Cisco Networking Professional, Enterprise
Certificate in Cloud Administration
Certificate in Cloud Infrastructure
Certificate in Computer Information Systems
Certificate in Computer Technician

Certificate in Cybersecurity
Certificate in Database Administration
Certificate in Microsoft Office Specialist
Certificate in Networking Technician
Certificate in Project Management
Certificate in Software Development
Certificate in Workflow Deployment
Associate of Applied Science in Business Administration
Associate of Applied Science in Business Data Analytics
Associate of Applied Science in Computer Information Systems
Associate of Applied Science in Digital Marketing
Associate of Applied Science in Healthcare Administration
Associate of Applied Science in Human Resource Management
Associate of Applied Science in Project Management
Associate of Applied Science in Software Development
Bachelor of Applied Science in Computer Information Systems
Bachelor of Applied Science in Software Development

Calvary University, Kansas City, Missouri

Initial Certification – Distance Technology
Associate of Arts in Information Technology
Bachelor of Science in Business Administration
Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education
Bachelor of Science in Middle School/Secondary Education
Bachelor of Science in Music Education K-12
Bachelor of Science in Professional Directed Studies
Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies
Master of Science in Education
Master of Science in Organizational Development

Campus, Inc., Sacramento, California

Initial Certification – Distance Technology
Diploma in Medical Billing and Coding Specialist
Associate of Science in Information Technology
Associate of Science in Modern Healthcare Administration
Recertification – Distance Technology
Associate of Arts in Business Administration
Associate of Arts in Paralegal Studies

Carrington College, Sacramento, California

Initial Certification – Distance Technology
Associate of Science in Medical Assisting

Evangel University, Springfield, Missouri

Initial Certification – Distance Technology
Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction
Master of Education in Literacy
Master of Organizational Leadership

Fielding Graduate University, Santa Barbara, California

Recertification – Distance Technology
Postbaccalaureate Certificate in Clinical Psychology
Master of Arts in Applied Media Psychology
Master of Arts in Infant, Child, and Family Mental Health Development
Master of Arts in Organization Development and Leadership
Doctor of Education with an emphasis in Leadership for Change
Doctor of Philosophy in Human Development
Doctor of Philosophy in Infant and Child Development with an emphasis in Mental Health and Neurodiversity
Doctor of Philosophy in Psychology with an emphasis in Applied Psychological Sciences
Doctor of Philosophy in Psychology with an emphasis in Clinical Psychology
Doctor of Philosophy in Psychology with an emphasis in Media Psychology
Doctor of Philosophy in Organizational Development and Change
Postdoctoral Certificate in Neuropsychology Specialization
Postdoctoral Certificate of Respecialization in Clinical Psychology

Fresno Pacific University, Fresno, California

Recertification – Distance Technology
Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration: Business Management
Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration: Healthcare Administration
Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration: Organizational Leadership
Bachelor of Arts in Early Childhood Development
Master of Arts in Kinesiology: Physical Education Emphasis
Master of Arts in Strategic and Organizational Leadership
Master of Business Administration

Pepperdine University, Malibu, California

Initial Certification – Distance Technology
Master of Science in Applied Analytics

Quincy University, Quincy, Illinois

Initial Certification – Distance Technology
Doctor of Occupational Therapy
Doctor of Physical Therapy

Reach University, Oakland, California

Recertification – Distance Technology
Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies
Bachelor of Arts in Global Studies

Saybrook University, Pasadena, California

Recertification – Distance Technology
Master of Arts in Clinical Psychology
Master of Arts in Counseling
Master of Arts in Integrative Wellness Coaching
Master of Arts in Psychology

Master of Arts in Transformative Social Change
Master of Science in Integrative and Functional Nutrition
Master of Science in Psychophysiology
Master of Science in Mind/Body Medicine
Doctor of Philosophy in Clinical Psychology
Doctor of Philosophy in Integrative and Functional Nutrition
Doctor of Philosophy in Managing Organizational Systems
Doctor of Philosophy in Mind/Body Medicine
Doctor of Philosophy in Psychology
Doctor of Philosophy in Psychophysiology
Doctor of Philosophy in Transformative Social Change

Sofia University, Palo Alto, California

Initial Certification – Distance Technology
Master of Science in Business Administration
Master of Science in Computer Science
Master of Science in Counseling Psychology
Master of Science in Transpersonal Psychology
Doctor of Philosophy in Clinical Psychology
Doctor of Philosophy in Transpersonal Psychology

Southeastern University, Lakeland, Florida

Initial Certification – New Life Church, Conway, Arkansas
Associate of Arts in General Education

Southern California University of Health Sciences, Whittier, California

Initial Certification – Distance Technology
Ayurvedic Health Counselor Certificate
Ayurveda Practitioner Certificate
Master of Acupuncture and Chinese Herbal Medicine
Master of Science: Physician Assistant
Master of Science in Genetic Counseling
Doctor of Acupuncture and Chinese Herbal Medicine
Doctor of Chiropractic
Doctor of Whole Health Leadership
Doctor of Occupational Therapy
Doctor of Occupational Therapy- AZ
Doctor of Physical Therapy
Doctor of Physical Therapy - AZ
Doctor of Psychology in Psychodynamic Psychology
Post Professional Doctor of Occupational Therapy
Recertification – Distance Technology
Bachelor of Science in Health Science Degree Completion
Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Health Education
Graduate Certificate in Human Genetics and Genomics
Master of Science in Human Genetics and Genomics
Master of Science in Medical Science

Southwest University at El Paso, El Paso, Texas

Initial Certification – Distance Technology

Associate of Applied Science of Business Management in Healthcare Support Systems

Bachelor of Science in Healthcare Leadership Management

The Los Angeles Film School, Hollywood, California

Recertification – Distance Technology

Associate of Science in Music Production

Bachelor of Science in Animation

Bachelor of Science in Digital Filmmaking

Bachelor of Science in Graphic Design

Bachelor of Science in Music Production

Bachelor of Science in Writing for Film and Television

The Master's University and Seminary, Newhall, California

Initial Certification – Distance Technology

Bachelor of Arts in Cinema and Digital Arts

Bachelor of Arts in Communication

Bachelor of Arts, Entrepreneurial Studies

Bachelor of Arts, Liberal Studies

Bachelor of Arts, Marketing Media

Bachelor of Arts, Organizational Management

Bachelor of Science, Business

Master of Business Administration

Master of Healthcare Administration

Master of Education, Teaching

University of Massachusetts Global, Irvine, California

Recertification – Distance Technology

Associate of Arts in General Business

Bachelor of Science in Information Technology

University of California, Berkeley, Berkeley, California

Recertification – Distance Technology

Master of Information and Cybersecurity

Master of Information and Data Science

University of California, Irvine, Irvine, California

Initial Certification – Distance Technology

Master of Advanced Study in Criminology, Law, and Society

Master of Business Analytics

Master of Human Computer Interaction and Design

Master of Legal and Forensic Psychology

Master of Science in Pharmacology

Doctor of Nursing Practice

University of California San Diego, La Jolla, California

Initial Certification – Distance Technology

Master of Advanced Studies in Convergent Systems Engineering with a Specialization in Cyber-Physical Social Systems

Master of Advanced Studies in Convergent Systems Engineering with a Specialization in Value Supply Chains

Master of Advanced Studies in Convergent Systems Engineering with a specialization in Architecture-Based Enterprise Systems Engineering

Master of Business Administration (Flex Executive)

Master of Data Science

University of Massachusetts Global, Irvine, California

Recertification – Distance Technology

Associate of Arts in General Education

Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration

Bachelor of Arts in Applied Studies

Bachelor of Arts in Organizational Leadership

Bachelor of Arts in Psychology

Master of Arts in Organizational Leadership

Master of Business Administration

University of Southern California, Los Angeles, California

Initial Certification – Distance Technology

Master of Education in Sports Leadership

Walden University, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Initial Certification – Distance Technology

Post-Master's Certificate in Palliative Care

Recertification – Distance Technology

Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Studies

Bachelor of Science in Public Health

Graduate Certificate in Public Health

Master of Science in Accounting

Master of Science in Clinical Psychology

Master of Science in Communication

Master of Science in Criminal Justice Leadership and Executive Management

Master of Science in Cybersecurity

Master of Science in Data Science

Master of Science in Health Education and Promotion

Master of Science in Instructional Design & Technology

Master of Science in Industrial and Organizational Psychology

Master of Science in Management

Master of Science in Marketing

Master of Science in Nursing and Master of Business Administration Dual Degree

Post-Master's Certificate in Adult Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner

Post-Master's Certificate in Adult Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner

Post-Master's Certificate in Family Nurse Practitioner

Post-Master's Certificate in Higher Education and Adult Learning

Post-Master's Certificate in Higher Education Leadership and Management
Post-Master's Certificate in Higher Education Leadership, Management, and Policy
Post-Master's Certificate in Nursing – Education
Post-Master's Certificate in Nursing – Informatics
Post-Master's Certificate in Nursing – Nurse Executive
Post-Master's Certificate in Online Teaching in Higher Education
Post-Master's Certificate in Online Teaching in Psychology
Post-Master's Certificate in Organizational Research, Assessment, and Evaluation
Post-Master's Certificate in Pediatric Nurse Practitioner
Post-Master's Certificate in Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner
Post-Master's Certificate in Reading, Literacy and Assessment
Doctor of Human Services
Doctor of Information Technology
Doctor of Philosophy in Developmental Psychology
Doctor of Philosophy in Education
Doctor of Philosophy in Forensic Psychology
Doctor of Philosophy in Healthcare Administration
Doctor of Philosophy in Health Education and Promotion
Doctor of Philosophy in Industrial and Organization Psychology
Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing
Doctor of Philosophy in Social Work
Doctor of Psychology in Behavioral Health Leadership
Doctor of Public Administration
Doctor of Public Health
Doctor of Public Safety and Leadership