

Dr. Ken Warden
Commissioner

Dr. Jim Carr
AHECB Chair

ARKANSAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD

REGULAR QUARTERLY MEETING

JULY 25, 2025



Arkansas Division of Higher Education

101 E. Capitol Ave., Suite 300 | Little Rock, AR 72201 | (501) 371-2000

ARKANSAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD

REGULAR QUARTERLY MEETING

**University of Arkansas Pulaski Technical College
RJ Wills Lecture Hall in the Campus Center Building (CCB)
3000 West Scenic Drive
North Little Rock, AR 72118**

SCHEDULE

Friday, July 25, 2025

Call to Order at 9:00 a.m.

Committee Meetings

Convene Coordinating Board Meeting

**Coordinating Board Meeting will convene at the end of the
Academic Committee meeting.**

ARKANSAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD REGULAR QUARTERLY MEETING

Friday, July 25, 2025

University of Arkansas Pulaski Technical College

AGENDA

I. FINANCE COMMITTEE

- *1. Certification of Intercollegiate Athletic Budgets for 2025-26 (Mr. Nick Fuller)

II. ACADEMIC COMMITTEE

- ~~*2. New Programs: Certificate of Proficiency in Uncrewed Aerial Systems
Technical Certificate in Uncrewed Aerial Systems and Data Applications
North Arkansas College (Mr. Mason Campbell)~~
- 3. Arkansas Public Institutions Letters of Notification (Mrs. Tracy Harrell)
- 4. Arkansas Public Institutions Letters of Intent (Mrs. Harrell)
- *5. Out-of-State and Arkansas Private Institutions (Mrs. Alana Colburn)
- 6. Out-of-State and Arkansas Private Institutions Letters of Notification (Mrs. Colburn)
- 7. Out-of-State and Arkansas Private Institutions Letters of Intent (Mrs. Colburn)
- 8. Report on Academic Program Review (Mr. Campbell)
- *8a. Academic Program Review Recommendations of Notice (Mr. Campbell)
- *9. Concurrent Enrollment Continued Authorization (Mr. Campbell)

III. EXECUTIVE SECTION

- *10. Approve Minutes of April 25, 2025, Regular Meeting (Chair, Dr. Jim Carr)
- *11. Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board By-Laws (Chair Carr)
- 12. Commissioner's Report (Dr. Ken Warden)

- *13. Concurrent Enrollment Policy Updates (Mr. Campbell)
- *14. Rules Governing the Uniform Course Credit for Institutions of Higher Education (Mr. Campbell)
- *15. Scholarship Stacking Policy Change (Mrs. Alisha Lewis)
- *16. Rules Governing the Arkansas Workforce Challenge Scholarship Program (Mrs. Lewis)
- *17. Rules Governing the ACCESS to Acceleration Scholarship Program (Mrs. Lewis)
- *18. Repeal of the ADHE Rules Governing the Concurrent Challenge Scholarship Program (Mrs. Lewis)
- *19. Repeal of the ADHE Rules Governing the Law Enforcement Officers' Dependents Scholarship Program (Mrs. Lewis)
- *20. Rules Governing the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program (Mrs. Lewis)
- *21. Rules Governing the Governor's Higher Education Transition Scholarship Program (Mrs. Lewis)
- *22. Rules Governing Residency Classification for State-funded Scholarships at State-Supported Institutions of Higher Education (Mrs. Lewis)
- *23. Rules Governing the Arkansas Teacher Academy Scholarship Program (Mrs. Lewis)
- *24. Rules Governing the Teacher Opportunity Program (Mrs. Lewis)
- *25. Rules Governing the Arkansas Future Grant Program (Mrs. Lewis)

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board

**University of Arkansas Pulaski Technical College
RJ Wills Lecture Hall in the Campus Center Building
3000 West Scenic Drive
North Little Rock, AR 72118**

Friday, July 25, 2025

Finance Committee
Lucas Pointer, Chair

Heather Maxey
Dr. Jim Carr, Ex Officio

AGENDA

- *1. Certification of Intercollegiate Athletic Budgets for 2025-26 (Mr. Nick Fuller)

*Numbers refer to main agenda.

ACADEMIC COMMITTEE

Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board

University of Arkansas Pulaski Technical College
RJ Wills Lecture Hall in the Campus Center Building
3000 West Scenic Drive
North Little Rock, AR 72118

Friday, July 25, 2025

Academic Committee

Carolyn Rhinehart, Chair
Graycen Bigger

Dr. Jerry Cash
Dr. Katherine Dudley
Dr. Jim Carr

CONSENT AGENDA

- ~~*2. New Programs: Certificate of Proficiency in Uncrewed Aerial Systems~~
~~Technical Certificate in Uncrewed Aerial Systems and Data Applications~~
~~North Arkansas College (Mr. Mason Campbell)~~
- 3. Arkansas Public Institutions Letters of Notification (Mrs. Tracy Harrell)
- 4. Arkansas Public Institutions Letters of Intent (Mrs. Harrell)
- *5. Out-of-State and Arkansas Private Institutions (Mrs. Alana Colburn)
- 6. Out-of-State and Arkansas Private Institutions Letters of Notification (Mrs. Colburn)
- 7. Out-of-State and Arkansas Private Institutions Letters of Intent (Mrs. Colburn)
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- *8a. Academic Program Review Recommendations of Notice (Mr. Campbell)
- *9. Concurrent Enrollment Continued Authorization (Mr. Campbell)

*Numbers refer to main agenda.

CERTIFICATION OF INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES FOR 2025-26

A.C.A. §6-62-805 (Act 366 of 1991) requires each state-supported institution of higher education to annually certify by June 15 to the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board that its intercollegiate athletic program will generate sufficient revenues to meet expenditures or that any athletic deficit will be met by separate institutional board-sanctioned student athletic fees.

Verification of Athletic Budgets and Fee Information

Institutions with intercollegiate athletic programs submitted ADHE Form 21-2, "Certification of Budgeted Athletic Revenues and Expenditures" and proper supporting documentation. ADHE finance staff verified that the athletic data submitted by the institutions matched the overall 2025-26 institutional operating budgets.

A.C.A. §6-62-804 requires that any student athletic fees assessed must be clearly defined in all publications and institutional board minutes and listed separate and distinct from tuition or other student fees on student tuition and fee statements. All institutions assessing a student athletic fee have certified to the Department compliance with this requirement and have submitted copies of their student fee billing statements illustrating the disclosure of the athletic fee to each student.

Summary of Data

The institutional submissions establish the 2025-26 operating budgets for intercollegiate athletic programs and certify to the Coordinating Board any student athletic fees that will be charged to cover operating deficits. The University of Arkansas, Fayetteville (UAF), Arkansas State University Mountain Home (ASUMH), Arkansas State University Mid-South (ASUMS), Arkansas State University Newport (ASUN), Cossatot Community College of the University of Arkansas (CCCUA), North Arkansas College (NAC), National Park College (NPC), Phillips Community College of the University of Arkansas (PCCUA), South Arkansas College (SAC), Southeast Arkansas College (SEAC), and the University of Arkansas Community College at Rich Mountain (UACCRM) do not charge an athletic fee and expect to continue to meet their athletic operating costs without assessing a student athletic fee for the 2025-26 fiscal year. The following institutions have set their athletic fee per student semester credit hour (SSCH) as follows:

<u>Inst.</u>	<u>2024-25 Athletic Fee</u>	<u>2025-26 Athletic Fee</u>
ASUJ	\$23.00	\$23.00
ATU	\$21.63	\$21.63
HSU	\$21.00	\$21.00
SAUM	\$19.00	\$19.00
UAFS	\$18.50	\$19.00
UALR	\$22.00	\$23.50
UAM	\$18.00	\$18.00
UAPB	\$22.00	\$22.00
UCA	\$21.00	\$21.50
ASUTR	\$2.00	\$2.00
NWACC	\$0.00	\$75.00 per Semester
SAUT	\$10.00	\$11.00

A summary chart of 2025-26 athletic certification data from each institution is shown on page 1-3. The summary chart, excluding the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville (UAF), indicates that 29.4 percent of athletic program budgets are being funded from student athletic fees, while 12.3 percent comes from athletic generated revenues. Transfers from educational and general funds contribute 23.4 percent of the funding. There is one institution budgeting for the additional transfer from educational and general funds for Women's Athletic Sports Programs. This accounts for 1.2% of budgeted revenues. The remaining 33.7 percent is funded from other auxiliary profits, endowment and investment income, contributions and other athletic income.

Other than the educational and general transfer, the use of auxiliary profits is the most sensitive source of income for financing athletic budgets. Other auxiliary profits are included as a revenue source for intercollegiate athletic programs; however, the use of auxiliary funds to support intercollegiate athletic programs should not undermine sound fiscal management of those auxiliary enterprises. A breakdown of the various auxiliary profits utilized to fund the athletic budgets is included on page 1-4.

The following resolution is presented for the board's consideration:

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board accepts the Certification of Intercollegiate Athletic Revenues and Expenditures Budgeted for 2025-26 as prepared in accordance with Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board uniform accounting standards and definitions for athletic reporting.

Summary of 2025-2026 Athletic Certification Data from Institutional Boards of Trustees

Inst	Athletic Generated Revenues	% of Total Inst Rev	Contributions	% of Total Inst Rev	Student Athletic Fees	% of Total Inst Rev	Endowment & Investment Income	% of Total Inst Rev	Transfers for Women's Athletic Sports Programs	% of Total Inst Rev	Other Auxiliary Profits	% of Total Inst Rev	Transfers from E&G	% of Total Inst Rev	Other Athletic Income	% of Total Inst Rev	Total Expected Inst Rev	Total Budgeted Expenditure	Athletic Fee Per SSCH
ASUJ	\$ 5,000,790	20.7%	\$ 4,176,172	17.3%	\$ 8,974,412	37.1%	\$ 163,139	0.7%	\$ -	0.0%	\$ 2,331,933	9.7%	\$ 3,512,169	14.5%	\$ -	0.0%	\$ 24,158,615	\$ 24,158,615	\$23.00
ATU	\$ 231,737	3.7%	\$ -	0.0%	\$ 3,087,227	49.9%	\$ 38,325	0.6%	\$ -	0.0%	\$ 731,479	11.8%	\$ 2,042,522	33.0%	\$ 49,836	0.8%	\$ 6,181,126	\$ 6,181,126	\$21.63
HSU	\$ 20,000	0.3%	\$ 6,000	0.1%	\$ 970,169	14.5%	\$ 163,139	2.4%	\$ -	0.0%	\$ 3,798,275	57.0%	\$ 1,710,652	25.7%	\$ -	0.0%	\$ 6,668,235	\$ 6,668,235	\$21.00
SAUM	\$ 31,500	0.5%	\$ -	0.0%	\$ 1,814,600	26.7%	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -	0.0%	\$ 3,243,816	47.7%	\$ 1,710,652	25.2%	\$ -	0.0%	\$ 6,800,568	\$ 6,800,568	\$19.00
UAFS	\$ 63,700	1.4%	\$ 35,000	0.8%	\$ 2,031,404	45.1%	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -	0.0%	\$ 1,844,624	41.0%	\$ 529,137	11.7%	\$ -	0.0%	\$ 4,503,865	\$ 4,503,865	\$19.00
UALR	\$ 1,926,000	15.0%	\$ 920,000	7.2%	\$ 2,970,660	23.1%	\$ -	0.0%	\$ 1,146,331	8.9%	\$ -	0.0%	\$ 5,653,669	43.9%	\$ 250,000	1.9%	\$ 12,866,660	\$ 12,866,660	\$23.50
UAM	\$ 38,000	0.9%	\$ -	0.0%	\$ 962,388	22.1%	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -	0.0%	\$ 2,326,769	53.4%	\$ 1,026,878	23.6%	\$ -	0.0%	\$ 4,354,035	\$ 4,354,035	\$18.00
UAPB	\$ 1,984,000	28.0%	\$ 315,013	4.4%	\$ 1,140,000	16.1%	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -	0.0%	\$ 746,596	10.5%	\$ 1,710,652	24.1%	\$ 1,199,600	16.9%	\$ 7,095,861	\$ 7,095,861	\$22.00
UCA	\$ 2,670,341	15.5%	\$ 483,200	2.8%	\$ 5,202,267	30.2%	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -	0.0%	\$ 5,526,777	32.1%	\$ 3,193,833	18.6%	\$ 138,000	0.8%	\$ 17,214,418	\$ 17,214,418	\$21.50
ASUMH	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -	0.0%	\$ 150,000	64.5%	\$ 82,500	35.5%	\$ 232,500	\$ 232,500	\$0.00
ASUMS	\$ 6,000	0.9%	\$ 75,000	11.0%	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -	0.0%	\$ 600,000	88.1%	\$ 681,000	\$ 681,000	\$0.00
ASUN	\$ 6,000	3.1%	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -	0.0%	\$ 119,200	61.1%	\$ 70,000	35.9%	\$ -	0.0%	\$ 195,200	\$ 195,200	\$0.00
ASUTR	\$ -	0.0%	\$ 50,000	18.1%	\$ 34,000	12.3%	\$ 30,000	10.9%	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -	0.0%	\$ 162,149	58.7%	\$ -	0.0%	\$ 276,149	\$ 276,149	\$2.00
CCCUA	\$ 45,000	12.3%	\$ 240,000	65.7%	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -	0.0%	\$ 30,192	8.3%	\$ 49,900	13.7%	\$ -	0.0%	\$ 365,092	\$ 365,092	\$0.00
NAC	\$ 5,000	1.0%	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -	0.0%	\$ 481,033	95.4%	\$ 18,000	3.6%	\$ 504,033	\$ 504,033	\$0.00
NPC	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -	0.0%	\$ 970,924	85.9%	\$ -	0.0%	\$ 160,000	14.1%	\$ 1,130,924	\$ 1,130,924	\$0.00
NWACC	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -	0.0%	\$ 1,309,821	100.0%	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -	0.0%	\$ 1,309,821	\$ 1,309,821	\$75.00/sem
PCCUA	\$ 17,500	8.1%	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -	0.0%	\$ 171,600	79.9%	\$ 25,777	12.0%	\$ -	0.0%	\$ 214,877	\$ 214,877	\$0.00
SAC	\$ 9,300	2.0%	\$ 71,806	15.7%	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -	0.0%	\$ 248,784	54.5%	\$ 126,924	27.8%	\$ 456,814	\$ 456,814	\$0.00
SAUT	\$ 9,000	1.5%	\$ -	0.0%	\$ 228,085	37.2%	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -	0.0%	\$ 124,979	20.4%	\$ 222,088	36.2%	\$ 28,600	4.7%	\$ 612,752	\$ 612,752	\$11.00
SEAC	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -	0.0%	\$ 245,239	37.5%	\$ 408,990	62.5%	\$ 654,229	\$ 654,229	\$0.00
UACCRM	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -	0.0%	\$ 1,105,000	90.9%	\$ 111,250	9.1%	\$ -	0.0%	\$ 1,216,250	\$ 1,216,250	\$0.00
Subtotal	\$ 12,063,868	12.3%	\$ 6,372,191	6.5%	\$28,725,033	29.4%	\$ 394,603	0.4%	\$ 1,146,331	1.2%	\$23,072,164	23.6%	\$22,856,384	23.4%	\$ 3,062,450	3.1%	\$ 97,693,024	\$ 97,693,024	\$9.60
UAF	\$ 148,620,706	82.1%	\$ 32,285,944	17.8%	\$ -	0.0%	\$ 190,000	0.1%	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -	0.0%	\$ 181,096,650	\$ 181,096,650	\$0.00
Total	\$ 160,684,574	57.6%	\$ 38,658,135	13.9%	\$28,725,033	10.3%	\$ 584,603	0.2%	\$ 1,146,331	0.4%	\$23,072,164	8.3%	\$22,856,384	8.2%	\$ 3,062,450	1.1%	\$ 278,789,674	\$ 278,789,674	\$9.17

Summary of 2025-2026 Athletic Certification Data from Institutional Boards of Trustees

Inst	Other Auxiliary Profits	Other Auxiliary Profits Include	Other Athletic Income	Other Athletic Income Includes	Other Notes
ASUJ	\$ 2,331,933	Residence Life, Dining Services, Bookstore, Auxiliary Business Services, Vending, Parking, and Auxiliary Farm	\$ -		
ATU	\$ 731,479	Transfer from Food Service Auxiliary	\$ 49,836	Royalties, Camps, Pepsi Contract	
HSU	\$ 3,798,275	Housing, Bookstore, and Food Service	\$ -		
SAUM	\$ 3,243,816	Supplemental auxiliary revenue from Housing	\$ -		
UAF	\$ -		\$ -		
UAFS	\$ 1,844,624	Housing, Bookstore Operations, Food Services, and Student Activities	\$ -		
UALR	\$ -		\$ 250,000	Athletic Camps	
UAM	\$ 2,326,769	Residence Halls, University Apartments, Faculty Housing, Food Service, Bookstore, Post Office Rent, Vendor Sales, and Royalties	\$ -		
UAPB	\$ 746,596	Net profits from Residential Life and Food Service departments	\$ 1,199,600	Concessions, Royalties, and Other Revenue	
UCA	\$ 5,526,777	Housin, Food Service, Bookstore, Dr. Pastor Student Health Clinic, Post Office, Thomas Courtway Recreation Center, Access & Security	\$ 138,000	Federal Work Study: \$126,000 Commissions: \$12,000	
ASUMH	\$ -		\$ 82,500	ASU Foundation Scholarship Fundraising \$23,000 Prior Year Auxiliary Fund Balance/ASU Foundation Fundraising \$59,500	
ASUMS	\$ -		\$ 600,000	Transfers from plant funds (excess property tax millage)	
ASUN	\$ 119,200	Bookstore	\$ -		
ASUTR	\$ -		\$ -		
CCCUA	\$ 30,192	Meal Plans and Housing for Athletes	\$ -		
NAC	\$ -		\$ 18,000	Vending Commission \$4,000 Camp Registration \$14,000	
NPC	\$ 970,924	Student Housing	\$ 160,000	Transfer from Student Activities Fee	
NWACC	\$ -		\$ -		
PCCUA	\$ 171,600	Campus Bookstore and Housing	\$ -		
SAC	\$ -		\$ 126,924	Activity Fee Transfer to Athletics	
SAUT	\$ 124,979	Bookstore Commissions - \$22,000 Vending Commissions - \$7,000 Funding Services Catering Split - \$10,000 Housing Surplus Split - \$85,979	\$ 28,600	Baseball Camp Fees - \$5,000 Softball Camp Fees - \$2,500 Athletic Banquet - \$2,500 Student Athletic Gear Fee - \$18,6000	
SEAC	\$ -		\$ 408,990	In FY 2024, there was an increase in the student activity fee to provide funding for athletic program expenditures. The college does not charge an athletic fee.	
UACCRM	\$ 1,105,000	Bookstore, Housing, and Food Service	\$ -		
Total	\$ 23,072,164		\$ 3,062,450		

Summary of 2025-2026 Athletic Certification Data from Institutional Boards of Trustees

Inst	FY 2024 Unrestricted E&G Revenues	4% of Unrestricted E&G Revenues	FY2026 ADHE Established Amount (2.9% Increase over FY 2024)	Transfers from E&G	Difference
ASUJ	\$ 187,812,572	\$ 7,512,503	\$ 1,710,652	\$ 3,512,169	\$ 4,000,334
ATU	\$ 102,126,119	\$ 4,085,045	\$ 1,710,652	\$ 2,042,522	\$ 2,042,523
HSU	\$ 42,223,618	\$ 1,688,945	\$ 1,710,652	\$ 1,710,652	\$ (0)
SAUM	\$ 70,837,844	\$ 2,833,514	\$ 1,710,652	\$ 1,710,652	\$ (0)
UAFS	\$ 63,641,684	\$ 2,545,667	\$ 1,710,652	\$ 529,137	\$ 2,016,530
UALR	\$ 141,341,737	\$ 5,653,669	\$ 1,710,652	\$ 5,653,669	\$ 0
UAM	\$ 34,822,395	\$ 1,392,896	\$ 1,710,652	\$ 1,026,878	\$ 683,774
UAPB	\$ 49,847,315	\$ 1,993,893	\$ 1,710,652	\$ 1,710,652	\$ (0)
UCA	\$ 159,691,655	\$ 6,387,666	\$ 1,710,652	\$ 3,193,833	\$ 3,193,833
ASUMH	\$ 11,403,973	\$ 456,159	\$192 per FTE	\$ 150,000	\$ 306,159
ASUMS	\$ 11,579,538	\$ 463,182	\$192 per FTE	\$ -	\$ 463,182
ASUN	\$ 17,947,061	\$ 717,882	\$192 per FTE	\$ 70,000	\$ 647,882
ASUTR	\$ 8,107,431	\$ 324,297	\$192 per FTE	\$ 162,149	\$ 162,148
CCCUA	\$ 11,475,548	\$ 459,022	\$192 per FTE	\$ 49,900	\$ 409,122
NAC	\$ 16,380,613	\$ 655,225	\$192 per FTE	\$ 481,033	\$ 174,192
NPC	\$ 20,051,464	\$ 802,059	\$192 per FTE	\$ -	\$ 802,059
NWACC	\$ 48,939,807	\$ 1,957,592	\$192 per FTE	\$ -	\$ 1,957,592
PCCUA	\$ 17,366,519	\$ 694,661	\$192 per FTE	\$ 25,777	\$ 668,884
SAC	\$ 12,439,220	\$ 497,569	\$192 per FTE	\$ 248,784	\$ 248,785
SAUT	\$ 11,104,411	\$ 444,176	\$192 per FTE	\$ 222,088	\$ 222,088
SEAC	\$ 14,700,101	\$ 588,004	\$192 per FTE	\$ 245,239	\$ 342,765
UACCRM	\$ 6,929,170	\$ 277,167	\$192 per FTE	\$ 111,250	\$ 165,917
Subtotal	\$ 1,060,769,794	\$ 42,430,792	\$ 15,395,864	\$ 22,856,384	\$ 18,507,767
UAF	\$ 605,479,828	\$ 24,219,193	\$ 1,710,652	\$ -	\$ 24,219,193
Total	\$ 1,666,249,622	\$ 66,649,985	\$ 17,106,516	\$ 22,856,384	\$ 42,726,960

**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 2025 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 State University – Pages 4-15

Approved Programs List Corrections
CIP Code Change and Title Change
Curriculum Revision
Curriculum Revision and Title Change
Deletion of Concentration or Minor
Existing Program Offered by Distance Education
Existing Program Offered at Existing Off-Campus Location
New Administrative Unit
New Certificate
New Concentration or Minor
Program Deletion
Program Inactivation
Program Reconfiguration

Arkansas State University Newport – Pages 15-16

Curriculum Revision
New Certificate

Arkansas Tech University – Page 16

Program Deletion

Cossatot Community College of the University of Arkansas – Pages 16-17

Program Reconfiguration

East Arkansas Community College – Pages 17-18

Program Reactivation
Title Change

Henderson State University – Pages 18-20

Approved Programs List Corrections
Articulation Agreement
CIP Code Change
Existing Program Offered by Distance Education
New Concentration or Minor
Program Reconfiguration

North Arkansas College – Pages 20-22

Curriculum Revision
Program Reconfiguration

Northwest Arkansas Community College – Page 23

Curriculum Revision, CIP Code Change, and Title Change

Ozarka College – Pages 23-25

Curriculum Revision
Curriculum Revision and Title Change
New Certificate

South Arkansas College – Pages 25-27

Curriculum Revision
Program Inactivation

Southern Arkansas University Magnolia – Page 28

CIP Code Change and Title Change
Program Deletion
Title Change of Existing Organizational Unit

Southern Arkansas University Tech – Pages 28-32

CIP Code Change and Title Change
Curriculum Revision
Curriculum Revision and CIP Code Change
Curriculum Revision, CIP Change, and Title Change
Curriculum Revision and Title Change
Deletion of Concentration or Minor
New Certificate
Program Inactivation
Program Reconfiguration

University of Arkansas Community College Hope-Texarkana – Page 32

Program Inactivation
Reorganization of Organizational Unit

University of Arkansas Community College Morrilton – Pages 32-34

Curriculum Revision
Curriculum Revision and Existing Program Offered by Distance Education
Title Change

University of Arkansas Community College Rich Mountain – Pages 34-36

Curriculum Revision
New Certificate
Program Reconfiguration

University of Arkansas – Pages 36-37

Deletion of Concentration or Minor

Deletion of Organizational Unit

Program Deletion

Program Reconfiguration

University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences – Page 37

Program Deletion

University of Arkansas Little Rock – Page 37

New Organizational Unit

University of Arkansas Monticello – Pages 37-39

Articulation Agreement, Existing Program Offered at Existing Off-Campus Location

Curriculum Revision

New Concentration or Minor

Existing Program Offered at Existing Off-Campus Location

Program Deletion

University of Arkansas Pulaski Technical College – Pages 39-40

Articulation Agreement

Program Deletion

Title Change

University of Central Arkansas – Pages 40-44

CIP Code Change

Curriculum Revision

Deletion of Concentration or Minor

New Certificate

Program Deletion

Program Reconfiguration and New Concentration or Minor

LETTER OF NOTIFICATION DESCRIPTIONS**Arkansas State University****Approved Programs List Corrections**

Bachelor of Science in Computer Systems Engineering (CIP 14.0901; DC 3650; *blank* credit hours) changed to Bachelor of Science in Computer Systems Engineering (CIP 14.0901; DC 3650; 128 credit hours; Summer 2025)

Graduate Certificate in Student Affairs (CIP 13.1102; DC 5750; *blank* credit hours) changed to Graduate Certificate in Student Affairs (CIP 13.1102; DC 5750; 15 credit hours; Summer 2025)

Master of Arts in Biological Sciences (CIP 26.0101; DC 6115; *blank* credit hours) changed to Master of Arts in Biological Sciences (CIP 26.0101; DC 6115; 36 credit hours; Summer 2025)

Master of Communicative Disorders in Communicative Disorders (CIP 51.0203; DC 5590; *blank* credit hours) changed to Master of Communicative Disorders in Communicative Disorders (CIP 51.0203; DC 5590; 51 credit hours; Summer 2025)

Master of Science in Early Childhood Services (CIP 19.0708; DC 6200; *blank* credit hours; 100% online) changed to Master of Science in Early Childhood Services (CIP 19.0708; DC 6200; 30 credit hours; 100% online; Summer 2025)

Master of Arts in English (CIP 23.0101; DC 5310; *blank* credit hours) changed to Master of Arts in English (CIP 23.0101; DC 5310; 30 credit hours; Summer 2025)

Master of Arts in Heritage Studies (CIP 05.0199; DC 6275; *blank* credit hours) changed to Master of Arts in Heritage Studies (CIP 05.0199; DC 6275; 39 credit hours; Summer 2025)

Master of Arts in Teaching in Teaching (CIP 13.1299; DC 5542; 36 credit hours; 100% online) changed to Master of Arts in Teaching in Teaching (CIP 13.1299; DC 5542; 33-39 credit hours; 100% online; Summer 2025)

CIP Code Change and Title Change

Bachelor of Science in Accounting (CIP 52.0301; DC 2200; 120 credit hours) changed to Bachelor of Science in Accounting with Data Analytics (CIP 52.1399; DC 2200; 120 credit hours; Fall 2025)

Curriculum Revision

Bachelor of Music Education in Instrumental Music (CIP 13.1312; DC 2150; 120* credit hours) changed to Bachelor of Music Education in Instrumental Music (CIP 13.1312; DC 2150; 123-126 credit hours; Fall 2025)

**Original credit-hour total listed incorrectly on Approved Programs List*

Removed Courses

MUS 2521	Aural Theory IV
MUS 2523	Theory IV
MUS 2611	Keyboard Skills III
MUS 3241	Double Reed Techniques
SCED 3515	Performance-based Instructional Design

Added Courses

MUS 3432	Counterpoint OR
MUS 4412	Form and Analysis
SCED 4004	Residency I
SCED 4002	Performance-Based Pedagogy and Classroom Management

Bachelor of Music Education in Vocal Music (CIP 13.1312; DC 2190; 120* credit hours) changed to Bachelor of Music Education in Vocal Music (CIP 13.1312; DC 2190; 121 credit hours; Fall 2025)

**Original credit-hour total listed incorrectly on Approved Programs List*

Removed Courses

MUS 2521	Aural Theory IV
MUS 2523	Theory IV
MUS 4322	History of Jazz OR
MUS 4512	Church Music

1 credit hour of Instrumental Technique Courses – choose one of the following: MUS 3111, MUS 3241, MUS 3281, MUS 3291, MUS 3411, MUS 3421, MUS 3431, MUS 3551, or MUS 3561

SCED 3515	Performance-based Instructional Design
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Added Courses

MUS 3432	Counterpoint OR
MUS 4412	Form and Analysis
SCED 4004	Residency I
SCED 4002	Performance-Based Pedagogy and Classroom Management

Bachelor of Science in Education in Elementary Education (CIP 13.1210; DC 3760; 125 credit hours; 100% online) changed to Bachelor of Science in Education in Elementary Education (CIP 13.1210; DC 3760; 120 credit hours; 100% online; Fall 2025)

Removed Courses

ELED 4104	Teaching Internship I, Elementary (optional)
ELED 4142	Classroom Management for Elementary Grades
ELED 4216	Teaching Internship II (optional)
ELED 4226	Teaching Internship III (optional)
ARED 3702	Children and Art
GSP 3203	Science for Teachers
MUED 3612	Music and Methods for the Classroom Teacher
PE 3802	Physical Education for Teachers of Young Children

Added Courses

ELED 3153	Elementary Classroom Management & Trauma-Informed Practices
ELED 3173	Elementary Education Content Specialization

Bachelor of Science in International Business (CIP 52.1101; DC 2800; 120 credit hours) changed to Bachelor of Science in International Business (CIP 52.1101; DC 2800; 120 credit hours; Fall 2025)

Removed Courses

Foreign Language (French, German, or Spanish) – 12 credit hours

IB 4143 Export Policies and Procedures (optional)

Added Courses

IB 4283 Internship in International Business (now required)

Required Electives – 6 credit hours

General Electives – 3 credit hours

Doctor of Physical Therapy in Physical Therapy (CIP 51.2308; DC 7440; 106 credit hours) changed to Doctor of Physical Therapy in Physical Therapy (CIP 51.2308; DC 7440; 105 credit hours; Fall 2025)

Removed Course

PT 8571 Research III

Education Specialist in Educational Leadership: Curriculum Director (CIP 13.0408; DC 5080; 33 credit hours; 100% online) changed to Education Specialist in Educational Leadership: Curriculum Director (CIP 13.0408; DC 5080; 30 credit hours; 100% online; Fall 2025)

Removed Courses

ELAD 7053 Planning and Resource Allocation

ELCI 6323 Elementary School Curriculum

ELCI 6523 Secondary School Curriculum

Added Courses

ELCI 6103 Curriculum and Instruction K-12

ELCI 7523 Curriculum Theory and Practice

Education Specialist in Educational Leadership: Gifted, Talented, and Creative Director (CIP 13.0408; DC 5080; 33 credit hours; 100% online) changed to Education Specialist in Educational Leadership: Gifted, Talented, and Creative Director (CIP 13.0408; DC 5080; 30 credit hours; 100% online; Fall 2025)

Removed Courses

ELAD 7003 School and Community Relations

ELAD 7053 Planning and Resource Allocation

ELCI 6323 Elementary School Curriculum OR

ELCI 6523 Secondary School Curriculum

Added Courses

ELTI 6213 Leadership in Instructional Technology

ELCI 7523 Curriculum Theory and Practice

Education Specialist in Educational Leadership: Special Education Director (CIP 13.0408; DC 5080; 33 credit hours; 100% online) changed to Education Specialist in Educational Leadership: Special Education Director (CIP 13.0408; DC 5080; 30 credit hours; 100% online; Fall 2025)

Removed Courses

ELAD 7003	School and Community Relations
ELCI 6323	Elementary School Curriculum
ELCI 6523	Secondary School Curriculum

Added Courses

ELTI 6213	Leadership in Instructional Technology
ELCI 7523	Curriculum Theory and Practice

Graduate Certificate in Curriculum Director (CIP 13.0301; DC 6975; 21 credit hours; 100% online) changed to Graduate Certificate in Curriculum Director (CIP 13.0301; DC 6975; 18 credit hours; 100% online; Fall 2025)

Removed Courses

ELAD 6003	School and Community Relations
ELCI 6323	Elementary School Curriculum
ELCI 6523	Secondary School Curriculum

Added Courses

ELCI 6103	Curriculum and Instruction K-12
ELTI 6213	Leadership in Instructional Technology

Master of Athletic Training in Athletic Training (CIP 51.0913; DC 2204; 65 credit hours) changed to Master of Athletic Training in Athletic Training (CIP 51.0913; DC 2204; 62 credit hours; Summer 2025)

Removed Courses

AT 5603	Orthopedic Assessment I: Lower Extremity
AT 5613	Orthopedic Assessment II: Upper Extremity
AT 6505	Clinical Education in Athletic Training III
AT 6515	Clinical Education in Athletic Training IV
AT 6603	Nutrition for Sport
AT 6703	Pharmacology for the Athletic Trainer

Added Courses

AT 5606	Orthopedic Assessment
AT 5803	Pharmacology and Nutritional Considerations in Athletic Training
AT 6506	Clinical Education in Athletic Training III
AT 6514	Clinical Education in Athletic Training IV

Master of Science in Education in Curriculum and Instruction: Curriculum Director (CIP 13.0301; DC 5663; 33 credit hours; 100% online) changed to Master of Science in Education in Curriculum and Instruction: Curriculum Director (CIP 13.0301; DC 5663; 30 credit hours; 100% online; Fall 2025)

Removed Courses

ELAD 6003	School and Community Relations
ELAD 6053	Planning and Resource Allocation
ELCI 6323	Elementary School Curriculum
ELCI 6523	Secondary School Curriculum

Added Courses

ELTI 6213	Leadership in Instructional Technology
ELCI 6103	Curriculum and Instruction K-12
ELCI 7523	Curriculum Theory and Practice

Master of Science in Education in Curriculum and Instruction: Gifted, Talented, and Creative Director (CIP 13.0301; DC 5663; 33 credit hours; 100% online) changed to Master of Science in Education in Curriculum and Instruction: Gifted, Talented, and Creative Director (CIP 13.0301; DC 5663; 30 credit hours; 100% online; Fall 2025)

Removed Courses

ELAD 6003	School and Community Relations
ELAD 6053	Planning and Resource Allocation

Added Course

ELTI 6213	Leadership in Instructional Technology
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Master of Science in Education in Curriculum and Instruction: Special Education Director (CIP 13.0301; DC 5663; 33 credit hours; 100% online) changed to Master of Science in Education in Curriculum and Instruction: Special Education Director (CIP 13.0301; DC 5663; 30 credit hours; 100% online; Fall 2025)

Removed Courses

ELAD 6003	School and Community Relations
ELAD 6053	Planning and Resource Allocation

Added Course

ELAD 6033	Administration and Supervision of Special Education
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Graduate Certificate in Building Level Administration (CIP 13.0408; DC 6552; 24 credit hours; 100% online) changed to Graduate Certificate in Building Level Administration (CIP 13.0408; DC 6552; 18 credit hours; 100% online; Fall 2025)

Removed Courses

ELAD 6003	School and Community Relations
ELAD 6033	Administration and Supervision of Special Education
ELCI 6063	Curriculum Management

Added Course

ELAD 6573	Leading School Improvement
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Curriculum Revision and Title Change

Bachelor of Science in Management (CIP 52.0201; DC 2820; 120 credit hours) changed to Bachelor of Science in Entrepreneurial Management and Strategic Leadership (CIP 52.0201; DC 2820; 120 credit hours; Fall 2025)

Removed Courses

General Electives – 3 credit hours

Added Courses

MGMT 419V	Management Internship (now required)
BCOM 3573	Managerial Communication (optional)
MGMT 3163	Labor Relations and Negotiations (optional)
MGMT 3173	Contemporary Issues in Human Relations (optional)

MGMT 4173	Compensation and Benefits (optional)
MGMT 429V	Special Problems in Management (optional)
MKTG 3033	Strategic Marketing Communications (optional)
MKTG 3093	Professional Selling (optional)
MKTG 4043	Consumer Behavior (optional)

Deletion of Concentration or Minor

Associate of Applied Science in Disaster Preparedness & Emergency Management:
EMT Basic (CIP 43.0302; DC 3490; 60 credit hours; 100% online; Spring 2025)

Bachelor of Science in Management: Hospitality Management (CIP 52.0201; DC 2820; 120 credit hours; Summer 2025)

Bachelor of Science in Digital Technology & Design: Virtual Reality Production (CIP 09.0999; DC 5392; 120 credit hours; 100% online; Summer 2025)

Master of Science in Education in Educational Theory and Practice: English as a Second Language (CIP 13.0301; DC 5664; 30 credit hours; 100% online; Spring 2025)

Master of Science in Education in Educational Theory and Practice: Instructional Technology (CIP 13.0301; DC 5664; 30 credit hours; 100% online; Spring 2025)

Existing Program Offered by Distance Education

Master of Arts in History (CIP 54.0101; DC 5360; 33 credit hours; 100% online; Fall 2025)

Existing Program Offered at Existing Off-Campus Location

Bachelor of Arts in Psychology (CIP 42.0101; DC 1710; 120 credit hours; 100% online), Bachelor of Science in Computer Science (CIP 11.0101; DC 2410; 120 credit hours), and Bachelor of Science in Education in Special Education K-12 (CIP 13.1099; DC 3210; 120 credit hours; 100% online) offered at the approved, off-campus location, effective Fall 2025.

A-State Qatar: Global Studies Institute Qatar, Otba Bin Mohamed, Street 54, Doha, Qatar.

New Administrative Unit

Department of Medical Laboratory and Radiation Sciences (Department Code 1960; Fall 2025)

New Certificate

Graduate Certificate in Master Professional Educator (CIP 13.1206; DC 6011; 15 credit hours; 100% online; Fall 2025)

RDNG 6023	<i>The Literacy Professional</i>
RDNG 6333	Reading Practicum I – Diagnosis and Intervention
RDNG 6353	Reading Practicum II – Leadership in Literacy
RDNG 6513	Emergent Literacy Birth

*TE 6303 Mathematics Interventions in the Elementary Classroom**Italics – New Courses***New Concentration or Minor**

Bachelor of Science in Business Administration: Business Law and Compliance

(Program Information: CIP 52.0201; DC 2320; 120 credit hours; 95% online)

(Concentration Information: CIP 52.0303; CC BUSLAWCOMP; 9 credit hours; Fall 2025)

BUSN 1003 First Year Experience Business

General Education Core – 35 credit hours

Students are required to take the following:

ECON2313 Principles of Macroeconomics

ECON 2323 Principles of Microeconomics

COMS 1203 Oral Communication

MATH 1023 College Algebra (must have C or better)

Neil Griffin College of Business Core Courses – 39 credit hours

ACCT 2033 Introduction to Financial Accounting

ACCT 2133 Introduction to Managerial Accounting

BCOM 2563 Business Communication

FIN 3713 Business Finance

GSCM 3163 Supply Chain Management

ISBA 1503 Microcomputer Applications (must have C or better)

ISBA 3013 Management Information Systems

ISBA 3553 Foundation of Business Analytics

LAW 2023 Legal Environment of Business

MGMT 3123 Principles of Management

MGMT 4813 Strategic Management

MKTG 3013 Marketing

STAT 2003 Introduction to Statistics OR

ECON 2113 Business Statistics I

Major Requirements - 18 credit hours

Accounting Elective – 3 credit hours of any upper-level Accounting course

Finance Elective – 3 credit hours of any upper-level Finance or Real Estate course (except FIN 3713)

International Elective – 3 credit hours from the following:

ECON4103 International Trade

ECON4143 Export Policy and Procedures

FIN 3813 International Financial Management and Banking

IB 4133 International Law

MGMT 4123 International Management

MKTG 4113 International Marketing

Economics Elective – 3 credit hours of any upper-level Economics course

Management Elective – 3 credit hours of any upper-level Management course (except MGMT 3123)

Marketing or Global Supply Chain Elective – 3 credit hours of any upper-level Marketing or Global Supply Chain course (except MKTG 3013 and GSCM 3163)

Business Law and Compliance Concentration – 9 credit hours

Choose 3 from the following:

LAW 4033	Law of Commerce Transactions
LAW 4043	Law of Business Organizations
LAW 4053	Employment Law
LAW 4073	Business Law in Popular Culture
LAW 459V	Special Problems in Law
LAW 478V	Internship in Business Law and Compliance

General Electives – 16 credit hours

Minor in Applied Leadership and Soft Skills (CIP 52.0213; 18 credit hours; Fall 2025)

BCOM 2563	Business Communication
MGMT 3153	Organizational Behavior
MGMT 3613	Leadership
MKTG 3013	Marketing

Choose two from the following:

BCOM 3573	Managerial Communication
MKTG 3093	Professional Selling
MKTG 4023	Services Marketing
MKTG 4043	Consumer Behavior

Minor in Medical Humanities (CIP 51.3204; 18 credit hours; Fall 2025)

HSS 2013	Introduction to Medical Humanities
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Choose two from the following:

ART 3603	Arts and Medicine
HIST 2113	Spirituality and Medicine
PHIL 3713	Ethics in the Health Professions

Choose three from the following:

ANTH 2233	Introduction to Cultural Anthropology
ART 1053	Elective Drawing for Non-Majors
ART 1063	Elective Painting for Non-Majors
ART 1073	Elective Fine Art Photography for Non-Majors
ART 1083	Elective Screenprinting for Non-Majors
ART 1093	Elective Ceramics for Non-Majors
COMS 2253	Introduction to Health Communication
COMS 4253	Intercultural Communication
COMS 4423	Narratives in Health and Healing
ENG 3613	Introduction to Folklore
HIST 4553	History of Medicine
HIST 4563	Pandemics and People
HP 2112	Introduction to the United States Healthcare System
HP 3413	Cultural Competence in the Health Professions
PHLT 3023	Global Health
PSY 2133	Developmental Psychology
PSY 2233	Abnormal Psychology
PSY 3403	Child Psychology

PSY 3413	Adolescent Psychology
SOC 3333	Sociology of Health and Illness
SOC 4003	Perspective on Death and Dying
SOC 4353	Sociology of Aging
SOC 4423	Sociology of Medicine

Program Deletion

Certificate of Proficiency in Android Application Development (CIP 50.0411; DC 1775; 9 credit hours; 100% online; Summer 2025)

Certificate of Proficiency in Entrepreneurship (CIP 52.0701; DC 1655; 9 credit hours; 100% online; Spring 2025)

Certificate of Proficiency in Game Production and Development (CIP 50.0411; DC 1755; 9 credit hours; 100% online; Summer 2025)

Certificate of Proficiency in Health Coaching (CIP 51.1504; DC 1154; 22-23 credit hours; Spring 2025)

Certificate of Proficiency in Virtual Reality Content Design and Filmmaking (CIP 50.0411; DC 1745; 9 credit hours; 100% online; Summer 2025)

Graduate Certificate in Early Childhood Special Education-Integrated B-K (CIP 13.1015; DC 6971; 15 credit hours; 100% online; Spring 2025)

Graduate Certificate in Student Affairs (CIP 13.1102; DC 5750; *blank* credit hours; Spring 2025)

Doctor of Philosophy in Educational Leadership (CIP 13.0401; DC 4950; 99 credit hours; Spring 2025)

Program Inactivation

Bachelor of Science in Education in World Languages & Cultures (CIP 13.1306; DC 5131; 120 credit hours; Spring 2025)

Program Reconfiguration

Bachelor of Science in Radiologic Science in Radiologic Sciences (CIP 51.0907; DC 3100; 120-134 credit hours; 100% online) and the Certificate of Proficiency in Limited X-Ray Machine Operator (CIP 51.0911; DC 1675; 15 credit hours; 50-99% online) reconfigured to create the Associate of Applied Science in Limited Medical Imaging and Safety Specialist (CIP 51.0911; DC 0791; 61 credit hours; 0-50% online; Fall 2025)

RAD 2001 Introduction to Medical Imaging and Radiation Sciences

RT 1002 Making Connections Radiologic Sciences

General Education Courses – 19 credit hours

ENG 1003 Composition I

ENG 1013 Composition II

MATH 1023	College Algebra
BIO 2203	Human Anatomy and Physiology I
BIO 2201	Human Anatomy and Physiology Laboratory
CS 1013	Introduction to Computers

Choose one of the following:

HIST 2763	The United States to 1876
HIST 2773	The United States since 1876
POSC 2103	Introduction to United States Government

Required Courses – 35 credit hours

CLS 1511	Principles of Clinical Laboratory Science Laboratory
CLS 1512	Principles of Clinical Laboratory Science
HP 2013	Medical Terminology
RAD 3103	Introduction to Radiography
RAD 3122	Radiation Physics and Imaging
RAD 3232	Radiography Clinical I
RAD 4132	Radiobiology
RSLT 2013	Imaging Equipment and Exposure
RSLT 2021	Limited X-Ray Machine Operator Procedures Lab
RSLT 2023	Limited X-Ray Machine Operator Procedures
RSMR 4703	MRI Safety and Instrumentation
<i>RSLT 2041</i>	<i>Limited X-Ray Machine Operator Procedures II Lab</i>
<i>RSLT 2043</i>	<i>Limited X-Ray Machine Operator Procedures II</i>
<i>RSMR 4743</i>	<i>MRI Safety and Instrumentation II</i>
PSY 2013	Introduction to Psychology

Electives – 4 credit hours

Choose two of the following:

RS 3122	Legal and Regulatory Environment of Radiology
RS 3142	Advanced Imaging and Therapy I
RS 3152	Advanced Imaging and Therapy II
RS 4822	Psychological Factors in Health Care Delivery

Italics – New Courses

Bachelor of Science in Creative Media Production (CIP 09.0799; DC 5907; 120 credit hours; 100% online) and the Bachelor of Science in Multimedia Journalism (CIP 09.0499; DC 5904; 120 credit hours) reconfigured to create the Bachelor of Science in Mass Communications (CIP 09.0102; DC 4145; 120 credit hours; 100% online; Fall 2025)

MDIA 1103	Making Connections in Media and Journalism
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General Education Core – 35 credit hours

Students must take the following:

MDIA 1003	Mass Communications in Modern Society
COMS 1203	Oral Communication

Major Requirements – 27 credit hours

MDIA 1013	Introduction to Journalism and Creative Media
MDIA 1813	Digital Publishing I
MDIA 2033	Writing for Creative Media I

MDIA 2123	Audio Production I
MDIA 2223	Video Production I
MDIA 2323	Reporting Words
MDIA 3013	Multimedia Reporting I
MDIA 3683	Desktop Publishing and Publication Design
MDIA 4003	Media Law and Ethics

Emphasis Area – 28 credit hours

Choose one emphasis area:

News Emphasis (CC: MULTIMEDIANEWS)

MDIA 2673	Digital Publishing II
MDIA 3083	History of the Mass Media
MDIA 3203	Audio Storytelling
MDIA 3363	Modern Media Inquiries
MDIA 3613	Digital Publishing III
MDIA 4053	Civic Reporting
MDIA 4123	Media Management and Entrepreneurship
<i>MDIA 4341</i>	<i>Multimedia Reporting II Lab</i>
MDIA 4343	Multimedia Reporting II
MDIA 4603	Internship

Sports Media Emphasis (CC: SPORTSMEDIA)

MDIA 1011	Experiential Media I
MDIA 3011	Experiential Media II
MDIA 3123	Audio Production II
MDIA 3223	Video Production II
MDIA 3233	Video Production III
MDIA 3323	Media Analytics and Data Visualization
MDIA 3573	Sports Production
MDIA 4123	Media Management and Entrepreneurship
MDIA 4563	Sports Programming
MDIA 4573	Sportscasting
MDIA 4812	Media Portfolio

Creative Media Emphasis (CC: CREATIVEMEDIA)

MDIA 1011	Experiential Media I
MDIA 3011	Experiential Media II
MDIA 3123	Audio Production II
MDIA 3223	Video Production II
MDIA 3233	Video Production III
MDIA 3323	Media Analytics and Data Visualization
MDIA 4123	Media Management and Entrepreneurship
MDIA 4353	Corporate Media Production
MDIA 4473	Media Production Practicum
MDIA 4483	Broadcast Graphics
MDIA 4812	Media Portfolio

Electives – 27 credit hours*Italics – New Course*

Education Specialist in Educational Leadership (CIP 13.0408; DC 5080; 33 credit hours; 100% online) reconfigured to create the Education Specialist in Superintendent (CIP 13.0411; DC 5120; 30 credit hours; 100% online; Fall 2025)

ELAD 7013	School Personnel Administration
ELAD 7023	School Business Management
ELAD 7033	Contemporary Issues in American Education
ELAD 7043	Management of Operational Systems for Learning
ELAD 7073	Schooling in a Pluralistic Society
ELAD 7103	School District Administration
ELAD 7123	Educational Policy and Advocacy
ELAD 7493	Supervised Internship
ELCI 7523	Curriculum Theory and Practice
ELFN 7583	Evaluation of Educational Programs and Systems

Master of Arts in Teaching in Teaching (CIP 13.1299; DC 5542; 36 credit hours; 100% online) reconfigured to create the Master of Arts in Teaching in Special Education K-12 (CIP 13.1001; DC 6955; 36 credit hours; 100% online; Fall 2025)

ELSE 5003	SPED Academy 101: Foundations of Teaching Students with Exceptional Needs
ELSE 5043	Assessment and Instruction for Exceptional Learners
ELSE 5633	Literacy Assessment, and Diagnosis of Exceptional Learners
ELSE 5653	Literacy and Language Development for Exceptional Learners
ELSE 6023	Characteristics of Individuals with Disabilities
ELSE 6053	Advanced Methods of Teaching Students with Mild/Moderate Disabilities
ELSE 6073	Advanced Methods of Teaching Students with Significant Disabilities
ELSE 6163	Positive Behavior Interventions and Support
ELSE 6183	Teaching Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders
ELSE 6196	Special Education MAT Internship
ELSE 6243	Due Process in Special Education

Arkansas State University Newport**Curriculum Revision**

Associate of Science in Education (CIP 13.1203; DC 3540; 60 credit hours; 78% online) changed to Associate of Science in Education (CIP 13.1203; DC 3540; 63-67 credit hours; 100% online; Fall 2025)

Removed Courses

Directed Elective – 3 credit hours

HLTH 2513	Principles of Personal Health (optional)
PSY 2013	Introduction to Psychology (optional)

Added Courses

UNIV 1001	College and Life Skills
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EDU 2043 Exceptional Student in the Regular Classroom (now required)
 EDU 2013 Educational Technology (now required)

Certificate of General Studies in General Studies (CIP 24.0101; DC 0050; 32 credit hours; 100% online) changed to Certificate of General Studies in General Studies (CIP 24.0101; DC 0050; 32 credit hours; 100% online; Fall 2025)

Removed Courses

PHSC 1203 Physical Science (optional)
 PHSC 1201 Physical Science Lab (optional)

Added Course

ECON2313 Principles of Macroeconomics

Certificate of Proficiency in Corrections (CIP 43.0102; DC 1431; 12 credit hours) changed to Certificate of Proficiency in Corrections (CIP 43.0102; DC 1431; 12 credit hours; Fall 2025)

Removed Course

CRIM 1083 Introduction to Jail and Correctional Standards

Added Course

ENG 1213 Technical Communications for Emergency Personnel or high-level English

New Certificate

Certificate of Proficiency in Automation and Engineering Controls (CIP 15.0613; DC 1151; 15 credit hours; Fall 2025)

MATH 1013 Mathematical Applications or higher-level math
 TECH 1183 Industrial Motor Control I
 TECH 1153 Industrial Electricity I
 TECH 1173 Programmable Logic Controls I
 TECH 1253 Industrial Electricity II

Certificate of Proficiency in Process Control (CIP 15.0613; DC 4681; 15 credit hours; Fall 2025)

TECH 1013 Pressure Process Control
 TECH 1103 Temperature Process Control
 TECH 1133 Analytical Process Control
 TECH 1213 Pump Systems
 TECH 1093 Level and Flow Process Control Systems

Arkansas Tech University

Program Deletion

Master of Education in K-12 Literacy (CIP 13.1315; DC 5825; 30 credit hours; 100% online; Spring 2026)

Cossatot Community College of the University of Arkansas

Program Reconfiguration

Associate of Science in Agriculture (CIP 01.0000; DC 3010; 63 credit hours; 75% online) reconfigured to create the Associate of Applied Science in Livestock Management & Production (CIP 01.0906; DC 3275; 60 credit hours; 75% online; Fall 2025)

TECH 12074	Technical Success Strategies
TECH 11163	Workplace Writing (or higher)
TECH 10103	Technical Math (or higher)
SPCH 10003	Speech
HIST 21103	U.S. History I OR
HIST 21203	U.S. History II
PLSC 20003	American Government
BIOL 10104	Biology
ANSC 10034	Introduction to Animal Science
ANSC 15004	Animal Nutrition
CSES 16004	Soil Science
AGEC 20703	Agriculture Economics
AGRI 10003	<i>Farm Equipment & Technology</i>
ANSC 10103	<i>Beef Production & Management</i>
ANSC 10203	<i>Small Ruminant Management</i>
ANSC 20003	<i>Equine Science</i>
ANSC 10403	<i>Principles of Livestock Health Management</i>
AGRI 10007	<i>Internship</i>

Italics – New Courses

Associate of Science in Agriculture (CIP 01.0000; DC 3010; 63 credit hours; 75% online) reconfigured to create the Technical Certificate in Farm Management (CIP 01.0906; DC 2555; 30-32 credit hours; 75% online; Fall 2025)

TECH 12074	Technical Success Strategies
TECH 11163	Workplace Writing (or higher)
TECH 10103	Technical Math (or higher)
ANSC 10034	Introduction to Animal Science
AGEC 20703	Agriculture Economics
AGRI 10003	<i>Farm Equipment & Technology</i>
ANSC 10403	<i>Principles of Livestock Health Management</i>

AGRI or ANSC Electives – 6-8 credit hours

Italics – New Courses

East Arkansas Community College

Program Reactivation

Technical Certificate in Residential Construction/Carpentry (CIP 46.0000; DC 4401; 31 credit hours; Summer 2025)

Certificate of Proficiency in Residential Construction (CIP 46.0201; DC 1460; 10 credit hours; Summer 2025)

Title Change

Technical Certificate in Residential Construction/Carpentry (CIP 46.0000; DC 4401; 31 credit hours) changed to Technical Certificate in Construction (CIP 46.0000; DC 4401; 31 credit hours; Summer 2025)

Certificate of Proficiency in Residential Construction (CIP 46.0201; DC 1460; 10 credit hours) changed to Certificate of Proficiency in Construction (CIP 46.0201; DC 1460; 10 credit hours; Summer 2025)

Henderson State University**Approved Programs List Corrections**

Master of Science in Developmental Therapy (CIP 42.2703; DC 7420; 30 credit hours) changed to Master of Science in Developmental Therapy (CIP 42.2703; DC 7420; 30 credit hours; 100% online; Spring 2025)

Graduate Certificate in Developmental Therapy (CIP 42.2703; DC 6130; 15 credit hours) changed to Graduate Certificate in Developmental Therapy (CIP 42.2703; DC 6130; 15 credit hours; 100% online; Spring 2025)

Articulation Agreement

2+2 Agreement between the Bachelor of Science in Education in Early Childhood Special Education Integrated B-K (CIP 19.0706; DC 4155; 121 credit hours; 100% online) and University of Arkansas Community College Rich Mountain's Associate of Arts in General Education (CIP 24.0101; DC 0110; 60 credit hours) and Certificate of Proficiency in Early Childhood Development (CIP 19.0706; DC 0018; 12 credit hours), effective Spring 2025.

CIP Code Change

Bachelor of Science in Education in Early Childhood Special Education Integrated B-K (CIP 19.0706; DC 4155; 121 credit hours; 100% online) changed to Bachelor of Science in Education in Early Childhood Special Education Integrated B-K (CIP 13.1210; DC 4155; 121 credit hours; 100% online)

Existing Program Offered by Distance Education

Master of Science in Education in School Counseling K-12 (CIP 13.1101; DC 6680; 60 credit hours; 100% online; Spring 2025)

Master of Science in Clinical Mental Health Counseling (CIP 51.1508; DC 6490; 60 credit hours; 100% online; Spring 2025)

New Concentration or Minor

Bachelor of Science in Natural Sciences: Wildlife and Field Biology (Degree Information: CIP 30.1801; DC 2920; 120 credit hours; 20% online) (Concentration Information: CIP 26.0101; CC WILDFIELDBIO; 46 credit hours; Fall 2025)

General Education Core – 24 credit hours

ENG 1463 Freshman English A

ENG 1473 Freshman English B
 COM 2013 Oral Communications
 Fine Arts and Humanities – 6 credit hours
 U.S. History or American Government – 3 credit hours
 Social Science – 6 credit hours
(lab science and mathematics are incorporated into the Natural Science core)
Natural Science Core – 34 credit hours
 PHY 2034 General Physics I OR
 PHY 2234 University Physics I
 PHY 2044 General Physics II OR
 PHY 2244 University Physics II
 MTH 1243 College Algebra
 STA 2053 Applied Biostatistics
 BIO 2104 Botany
 BIO 2114 General Zoology and Lab
 BIO 2094 Microbiology
 CHM 1034 General Chemistry OR
 CHM 1014 University Chemistry I
 CHM 1044 General Organic & Biochemistry OR
 CHM 1024 University Chemistry II
Wildlife and Field Biology Concentration - 46 credit hours
 BIO 1023 General Biology for Science Majors
 BIO 1021 Introduction to Biology Lab
 BIO 3054 Genetics
 BIO 3524 General Ecology
 BIO 4383 Wildlife Biology and Conservation
 BIO 4393 Wildlife Management Techniques
 BIO 4074 Dendrology
 Organismal Biology Courses – complete 12 credit hours from the following:
 BIO 3294 Plant Taxonomy
 BIO 3404 Herpetology
 BIO 4034 Ornithology
 BIO 4224 Ichthyology
 BIO 4354 Mammalogy
 Field Ecology Courses – choose one of the following:
 BIO 4204 Aquatic Ecology
 BIO 4504 Behavioral Ecology
 Organismal Anatomy Courses – complete 4 credit hours from the following:
 BIO 3084 Comparative Anatomy and Evolution of Vertebrates
 BIO 3244 Comparative Morphology and Evolution of Plants
 Electives – complete 4 credit hours from the following:
 BIO 3294 Plant Taxonomy
 BIO 3304 Plant Physiology
 BIO 3314 Animal Physiology
 BIO 3404 Herpetology
 BIO 3544/3554 Human A&P (both required to count as 1 elective)

BIO	4034	Ornithology
BIO	4194	Animal Histology
BIO	4204	Aquatic Ecology
BIO	4214	Cell Biology
BIO	4224	Ichthyology
BIO	4354	Mammalogy
BIO	4504	Behavioral Ecology
<u>Electives/Minor Requirements</u> – 16 credit hours		

Program Reconfiguration

Bachelor of Science in Aviation (CIP 49.0101; DC 2290; 120 credit hours) reconfigured to create the Associate of Applied Science in Aviation (CIP 49.0101; DC 3094; 62 credit hours; Fall 2025)

GEN	1031	Henderson Seminar
ENG	1463	Freshmen English A
ENG	1473	Freshmen English B
MTH	1243	College Algebra
MTH	1253	Plane Trigonometry OR
MTH	1233	Applied Trigonometry
PSC	1013	American National Government OR
HIS	2053	U.S. History to 1877 OR
HIS	2063	U.S. History Since 1877
PHY	2034	General Physics I and Lab
PHY	2044	General Physics II and Lab
AVN	1013	Fund of Aero I
AVN	1021	Intro to Aero Lab
AVN	1161	Private Pilot Certification
AVN	1171	Private Pilot Lab
AVN	1403	Fund of Aero II
AVN	2031	Commercial Pilot Certification
AVN	2051	Comm/Instrument Lab I
AVN	2213	Aviation Safety
AVN	2393	Aviation Weather
AVN	2413	Regulations & Publications
AVN	2491	Comm/Instrument Lab II
AVN	3071	Instrument Pilot Certification
AVN	3263	Air Traffic Control
AVN	3383	Commercial Prep & Procedures I
AVN	3433	Commercial Prep & Procedures II
AVN	3501	Comm/Instrument Lab III
AVN	3511	Comm/Instrument Lab IV
AVN	4101	CFI Lab
AVN	4121	CFI-I Lab
AVN	4131	Multiengine Operations
AVN	4421	Multiengine Pilot Lab
AVN	4521	Comm/Instrument Lab V

North Arkansas College**Curriculum Revision**

Associate of Applied Science in Automation and Systems Integration Technology: Electronics (CIP 15.0303; DC 0460; 61-64 credit hours) changed to Associate of Applied Science in Automation and Systems Integration Technology: Electronics (CIP 15.0303; DC 0460; 60-66 credit hours; Fall 2025)

Removed Courses

ET	1024	Semiconductor Devices
ET	2000	Industrial Electronics Internship (3 credit hours)

Added Courses

ET	2002	Industrial Electronics Internship (2 credit hours)
<i>ET</i>	<i>2474</i>	<i>Advanced PLCs</i>

Italics – New Course

Associate of Applied Science in Automation and Systems Integration Technology: Manufacturing (CIP 15.0303; DC 0460; 61-64 credit hours) changed to Associate of Applied Science in Automation and Systems Integration Technology: Manufacturing (CIP 15.0303; DC 0460; 60-66 credit hours; Fall 2025)

Removed Course

ET	2000	Industrial Electronics Internship (3 credit hours)
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Added Courses

ET	2002	Industrial Electronics Internship (2 credit hours)
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Associate of Applied Science in Paramedic (CIP 51.0904; DC 0470; *blank* credit hours) changed to Associate of Applied Science in Paramedic (CIP 51.0904; DC 0470; 68 credit hours; Fall 2025)

Removed Courses

HP	1042	Medical Terminology
EMS	1521	Introduction to Clinical Areas
EMS	1631	Paramedic Skill Lab I
EMS	1542	Paramedic Clinical Practicum I
EMS	1561	Introduction to Field Internship
EMS	1551	Paramedic Clinical Practicum II
EMS	1641	Paramedic Skill Lab III

Added Courses

EMS	1522	Introduction to Clinical Areas
EMS	1622	Paramedic Skill Lab I
EMS	1543	Paramedic Clinical Practicum I
EMS	1562	Introduction to Field Internship
EMS	1552	Paramedic Clinical Practicum II
EMS	1642	Paramedic Skill Lab III

Technical Certificate in Paramedic (CIP 51.0904; DC 2510; *blank* credit hours) changed to Technical Certificate in Paramedic (CIP 51.0904; DC 2510; 49 credit hours; Fall 2025)

Removed Courses

HP	1042	Medical Terminology
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EMS 1521	Introduction to Clinical Areas
EMS 1542	Paramedic Clinical Practicum I
EMS 1551	Paramedic Clinical Practicum II
EMS 1561	Introduction to Field Internship
EMS 1621	Paramedic Skills Lab I
EMS 1631	Paramedic Skills Lab II
EMS 1641	Paramedic Skills Lab III

Added Courses

EMS 1522	Introduction to Clinical Areas
EMS 1543	Paramedic Clinical Practicum I
EMS 1552	Paramedic Clinical Practicum II
EMS 1562	Introduction to Field Internship
EMS 1622	Paramedic Skills Lab I
EMS 1632	Paramedic Skills Lab II
EMS 1642	Paramedic Skills Lab III

Certificate of Proficiency in Emergency Medical Technician (CIP 51.0904; DC 0186; 7 credit hours) changed to Certificate of Proficiency in Emergency Medical Technician (CIP 51.0904; DC 0186; 8-9 credit hours; Fall 2025)

Removed Courses

EMS 1102	Emergency Medical Technology Practicum
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Added Courses

EMS 1003	Emergency Medical Technology Practicum
EMS 1005	Medical Professional Education EMT I (optional)
EMS 1014	Medical Professional Education EMT II (optional)

Technical Certificate in Office Management (CIP 52.0204; DC 4280; 30* credit hours; 100% online) changed to Technical Certificate in Office Management (CIP 52.0204; DC 4280; 30 credit hours; 100% online; Fall 2025)

**Original credit-hour total listed incorrectly on Approved Programs List*

Removed Course

BA 2043	Computerized Accounting
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Added Course

BA 1213	Personal Finance
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Program Reconfiguration

Technical Certificate in Programming (CIP 11.0201; DC 2335; 30 credit hours; 100% online) reconfigured to create the Certificate of Proficiency in Programming (CIP 11.0201; DC 1446; 15 credit hours; 100% online; Fall 2025)

ENGL 1013	English Composition I
CIS 1603	Introduction to Programming
MAT 1223	College Algebra
CIS 2013	Programming in R
CIS 1103	Introduction to Information Technology

Associate of General Studies in General Studies (CIP 24.0102; DC 0900; 60 credit hours; 87% online) reconfigured to create the Certificate of Proficiency in Aviation Maintenance (CIP 47.0607; DC 1081; 12 credit hours; Fall 2025)

AMT 1106 Aviation Maintenance Technician General Part I

AMT 1206 Aviation Maintenance Technician General Part II

Northwest Arkansas Community College

Curriculum Revision, CIP Code Change, and Title Change

Associate of Applied Science in Environmental Regulatory Science (CIP 15.0507; DC 0475; 60 credit hours; 65% online) changed to Associate of Applied Science in Environmental Science (CIP 03.0104; DC 0475; 60 credit hours; 65% online; Fall 2025)

Removed Optional Courses

MATH 1003	Survey of Technical Math
MTCM 1003	Communication and Math for Workforce Readiness
MATH 1001	Special Topics in Survey of Technical Math
MATH 1203R	College Algebra with Review
ENSC 2303	Hazardous Materials Control and Emergency Response
ENSC 2301L	Hazardous Materials Control/Emergency Response Lab
CHEM 1024	Basic Chemistry
ENSC 2233	Environmental Sampling and Analysis
ENSC 2413	Environmental Compliance Doc
ENSC 2703	Fundamentals of Industrial Hygiene
OSHA 2003	Introduction to Occupational Safety and Health
OSHA 2203	OSHA Gen Industry Standards
OSHA 2533	Safety and Health Risk Management
HLSC 1103	Personal Health and Safety
BLAW 2013	Legal Environment of Business
BOTY 2404	Survey of the Plant Kingdom
COMM 1303	Public Speaking
COMM 1303H	Public Speaking Honors
MBIO 2014	Microbiology
CST 2423	Construction Codes & Regulations
CST 1323	Introduction to Craft Skills

Added Optional Courses

MATH 1313	Quantitative Reasoning
BIOL 1604	General Zoology
ANTH 1013	Introduction to Biological Anthropology
ANTH 1011L	Introduction to Biological Anthropology Lab
HORT 2004	Principles of Horticulture
MATH 2554	Calculus I
PSYC 2013	Introduction to Statistics for Behavioral and Social Science

Ozarka College**Curriculum Revision**

Associate of Arts in General Education (CIP 24.0101; DC 0050; 60 credit hours; 100% online) changed to Associate of Arts in General Education (CIP 24.0101; DC 0050; 60 credit hours; 100% online; Fall 2025)

Added Optional Courses

MATH 2404	Calculus I
MATH 2504	Calculus II
MATH 2604	Calculus III

Associate of Applied Arts in Culinary Arts/Hospitality (CIP 12.0599; DC 4835; 60 credit hours) changed to Associate of Applied Arts in Culinary Arts/Hospitality (CIP 12.0599; DC 4835; 60 credit hours; Fall 2025)

Added Optional Courses

HOSP 1303	Hospitality Operations and Supervisory Management
HOSP 1403	Hospitality Management
<i>CUL 2413</i>	<i>Professional Baking</i>
BTMA 1033	Math for Business Technology
MATH 1103	Math with Business Applications

Italics – New Course

Technical Certificate in Culinary Arts (CIP 12.0503; DC 4580; 30 credit hours) changed to Technical Certificate in Culinary Arts (CIP 12.0503; DC 4580; 30 credit hours; Fall 2025)

Added Optional Courses

HOSP 1303	Hospitality Operations and Supervisory Management
HOSP 1403	Hospitality Management
<i>CUL 2413</i>	<i>Professional Baking</i>

Italics – New Course

Technical Certificate in Skilled Trades (CIP 46.0000; DC 4401; 30 credit hours) changed to Technical Certificate in Skilled Trades (CIP 46.0000; DC 4401; 30 credit hours; Fall 2025)

Added Course

<i>SKTR 1023</i>	<i>Skilled Trades Practicum (optional)</i>
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Italics – New Course

Curriculum Revision and Title Change

Certificate of Proficiency in Basic Construction & HVAC (CIP 46.0000; DC 1051; 15 credit hours) changed to Certificate of Proficiency in Basic Construction & Plumbing (CIP 46.0000; DC 3594; 15 credit hours; Fall 2025)

Removed Course

SKTR 1026	Introduction to HVAC with Lab
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Added Course

SKTR 1046	Basic Plumbing with Lab
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Certificate of Proficiency in Basic Electrical & Plumbing (CIP 46.0000; DC 4501; 15 credit hours) changed to Certificate of Proficiency in Basic HVAC & Electrical (CIP 46.0000; DC 0115; 15 credit hours; Fall 2025)

Removed Course

SKTR 1046 Basic Plumbing with Lab

Added Courses

SKTR 1026 Introduction to HVAC with Lab

SKTR 1023 Skilled Trades Practicum (optional)

New Certificate

Certificate of Proficiency in Baking and Pastry (CIP 12.0501; DC 1585; 12 credit hours; Fall 2025)

CUL 1103 Sanitation and Safety

CUL 1603 Introduction to Baking

CUL 2403 Advanced Baking

CUL 2413 Professional Baking

Italics – New Course

Certificate of Proficiency in Advanced Food Production (CIP 12.0599; DC 1836; 12 credit hours; Fall 2025)

CUL 1703 Advanced Food Production

CUL 2213 Meat, Seafood, and Poultry

CUL 2713 International and Modern Cuisine

CUL 2803 Garde Manger

Certificate of Proficiency in Advanced Machining Technology (CIP 48.0510; DC 1492; 16 credit hours; Fall 2025)

PMT 2014 Machining II

PMT 2024 CAD/CAM II Advanced CAD/CAM

PMT 2034 CNC II CNC Setup and Operation

PMT 2044 Advanced Machining Process

South Arkansas College

Curriculum Revision

Associate of Science in Education (CIP 13.1206; DC 3540; 60 credit hours) changed to Associate of Science in Education (CIP 13.1206; DC 3540; 60 credit hours; Summer 2025)

Removed Courses

EDUC 2103 Child and Adolescent Literature OR

ECED 2503 Child Guidance OR

ECED 2843 Teaching and Learning for Exceptional Child OR

EDUC 2023 Survey of Exceptional Children

Added Course

EDUC 2023 Introduction to Special Education

Technical Certificate in Education Studies (CIP 13.1206; DC 2945; 31 credit hours) changed to Technical Certificate in Education Studies (CIP 13.1206; DC 2945; 31 credit hours; Fall 2025)

Removed Courses

EDUC 2003	Child Growth and Development OR
EDUC 2053	Development and Learning

Added Course

EDUC 2023	Introduction to Special Education
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Certificate of Proficiency in Education Studies (CIP 13.1206; DC 0406; 6 credit hours) changed to Certificate of Proficiency in Education Studies (CIP 13.1206; DC 0406; 6 credit hours; Fall 2025)

Removed Course

EDUC 2003	Child Growth and Development OR
EDUC 2053	Development and Learning

Added Course

EDUC 2313	Introduction to Educational Technology
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Technical Certificate in Pre-Health Science (CIP 51.0000; DC 0107; 27-35 credit hours) changed to Technical Certificate in Pre-Health Science (CIP 51.0000; DC 0107; 27-35 credit hours; Fall 2025)

Added Optional Courses

Elective options to now include PSYC, SOC, and HPER courses

Certificate of Proficiency in Pre-Health Science (CIP 51.0000; DC 1103; 14-15 credit hours; 100% online) changed to Certificate of Proficiency in Pre-Health Science (CIP 51.0000; DC 1103; 14-15 credit hours; 100% online; Fall 2025)

Added Optional Courses

Elective options to now include PSYC, SOC, and HPER courses

Associate of Applied Science in Entertainment & Media Arts (CIP 50.0602; DC 2132; 60 credit hours) changed to Associate of Applied Science in Entertainment & Media Arts (CIP 50.0602; DC 2132; 60 credit hours; Fall 2025)

Removed Courses

EMAT 1103	Introduction to Media
EMAT 2203	Documentary Film Making
EMAT 2303	Video Production I
EMAT 1023	Media Ethics
EMAT 2403	Video Production II
EMAT 2513	Internship

Added Courses

COMS 1103	Introduction to Media
COMS 2203	Multi-media Storytelling
COMS 2303	Video Production I
COMS 1023	Media Ethics
COMS 2403	Video Production II

COMS 2513 Internship

Associate of Applied Science in Early Childhood Education (Birth to Pre-K credential) (CIP 13.1210; DC 0437; 66-72 credit hours; 83% online) changed to Associate of Applied Science in Early Childhood Education (Birth to Pre-K credential) (CIP 13.1210; DC 0437; 60-61 credit hours; 83% online; Fall 2025)

Removed Courses

ENGL 2043	Tech Writing for Industry (optional)
ECED 2303	Literacy and Language Arts for Early Childhood
ECED 2403	Math and Science for Early Childhood
ECED 2903	Future Perspectives
EDUC 2023	Survey of Exceptional Children

Choose 5 of the following:

ECED 2053	Administration of Preschool Programs
ECED 2063	Administration for Early Childhood Ed Programs II
ECED 2743	Music and Creative Arts
ECED 2833	Caring for Exceptional Children
ECED 2843	Teaching and Learning for the Exceptional Young Child
ECED 2863	Infant Toddler Development and Learning
ECED 2873	Infant Toddler Caregiving Field Experience
ECED 2883	School Age Environments, Care, and Activities
ECED 2893	School Age Development, Learning Guidance

Added Courses

ENGL 1043	Tech English for Industry (optional)
EDUC 2053	Development and Learning (now required)
ENGL 1123	Composition II
ARTI 2003	Art Appreciation OR
MUSI 2003	Music Appreciation OR
THEA 2003	Theatre Appreciation
EDUC 2003	Introduction to Education
BIOL 1004/L	Fundamentals of Biology OR
PHYS 1004/L	Physical Science with lab
HIST 2013	History of US to 1876 OR
HIST 2023	History of US since 1876
HSCI 1021	CPR First Aid AND PHED 1011 Physical Activity Choice OR
HPER 1403	Personal/Community Health

Program Inactivation

Certificate of Proficiency in Early Childhood Education: Program Administration (CIP 13.1210; DC 0686; 6 credit hours; Fall 2025)

Certificate of Proficiency in Early Childhood Education Curriculum (CIP 13.1210; DC 0337; 12 credit hours; Fall 2025)

Certificate of Proficiency in Early Childhood Education: Infants and Toddlers (CIP 13.1210; DC 0636; 9 credit hours; Fall 2025)

Certificate of Proficiency in Early Childhood Education: School Age & After-School Care (CIP 13.1210; DC 0018; 6 credit hours; Fall 2025)

Certificate of Proficiency in Early Childhood Education: Special Needs (CIP 13.1210; DC 1855; 12 credit hours; Fall 2025)

Associate of Applied Science in Industrial Engineering Technology: Chemical Process Technology (CIP 41.0301; DC 0326; 60-62 credit hours; Fall 2025)

Southern Arkansas University Magnolia

CIP Code Change and Title Change

Bachelor of Science in Physics, Engineering (CIP 40.0899; DC 3040; 120 credit hours) changed to Bachelor of Science in Engineering Science (CIP 14.1301; DC 3040; 120 credit hours; Fall 2025)

Program Deletion

Certificate of Proficiency in Web Design/UX/UI (CIP 11.0801; DC 0437; 15-18 credit hours; Summer 2025)

Title Change of Existing Organizational Unit

Department of Performing Arts and Mass Communication (Department Code 3571) changed to Department of Performing Arts (Department Code 3571; Fall 2025)

Southern Arkansas University Tech

CIP Code Change and Title Change

Associate of Applied Science in Business Administration (CIP 52.0201; DC 0740; 60 credit hours; 100% online) changed to Associate of Applied Science in Business Technology (CIP 52.0401; DC 0740; 60 credit hours; 100% online; Fall 2025)

Curriculum Revision

Associate of Applied Science in Industrial Sciences & Technology: HVAC & Refrigeration (CIP 15.0612; DC 0350; 62 credit hours; 38% online) changed to Associate of Applied Science in Industrial Sciences & Technology: HVAC & Refrigeration (CIP 15.0612; DC 0350; 60 credit hours; 38% online; Fall 2025)

Removed Courses

BA	2223	Business Communications
EE	2013	Industrial Electricity & Motor Controls
MD	1052	Intro to Preventive Maintenance

Added Courses

EE	1003	Introduction to Basic Electricity
MD	1073	NCCER

Technical Certificate in HVAC & Refrigeration (CIP 47.0201; DC 0116; 25 credit hours; 25% online) changed to Technical Certificate in HVAC & Refrigeration (CIP 47.0201; DC 0116; 22 credit hours; 25% online; Fall 2025)

Removed Course

CPSC 1003 Introduction to Computers

Curriculum Revision and CIP Code Change

Associate of Applied Science in Creative Media Production (CIP 50.0401; DC 0314; 60 credit hours; 25% online) changed to Associate of Applied Science in Creative Media Production (CIP 09.0702; DC 0314; 60 credit hours; 33% online; Fall 2025)

Removed Courses

FILM 1013	Video Production I
FILM 2003	Screenwriting
FILM 2023	Podcasting & Audio Production
GCOM 1003	Mass Communication in Modern Society
GCOM 1213	Design Literacy
GCOM 1813	Digital Publishing I
GCOM 2013	Digital Photography
GCOM 2023	Media Aesthetics
GCOM 2673	Digital Publishing II
GCOM 2683	Human Centered Design

Social Science – 9 credit hours

Fine Arts/Humanities – 3 credit hours

Added Courses

<i>CMPR 1003</i>	<i>Digital Media Concepts</i>
<i>CMPR 1013</i>	<i>Technical Skills for Media</i>
<i>CMPR 1023</i>	<i>Creative Writing for Media</i>
<i>CMPR 1033</i>	<i>Video Production</i>
<i>CMPR 2003</i>	<i>Visual Storytelling</i>
<i>CMPR 2013</i>	<i>Podcasting</i>
<i>CMPR 2023</i>	<i>Documentary Filmmaking</i>
<i>CMPR 2033</i>	<i>Advanced Visual Storytelling</i>
<i>CMPR 2043</i>	<i>Design for Digital Media</i>
<i>CMPR 2053</i>	<i>Sports Journalism</i>
ART 2013	Art Appreciation
PSCI 2033	American Government: National
CE 2403	Internship
HIST 2013	U.S. History I OR
HIST 2023	U.S. History II

*Italics – New Course***Curriculum Revision, CIP Code Change, and Title Change**

Technical Certificate in Graphic Communication (CIP 50.0401; DC 0311; 30* credit hours; 80% online) changed to Technical Certificate in Creative Media Production (CIP 09.0702; DC 0311; 27 credit hours; 33% online; Fall 2025)

**Original credit-hour total listed incorrectly on Approved Programs List*Removed Courses

SPCH 1113	Principles of Speech
CPSC 1003	Introduction to Computers

ENGL 1123 Composition II
 GCOM 1003 Mass Communication in Modern Society
 GCOM 1213 Design Literacy
 GCOM 1813 Digital Publishing I
 Social Science – 3 credit hours

Added Courses

CMPR 1003 Digital Media Concepts
CMPR 1013 Technical Skills for Media
 CMPR 1023 Creative Writing for Media
 CMPR 1033 Video Production
CMPR 2003 Visual Storytelling
CMPR 2013 Podcasting
 CMPR 2023 Documentary Filmmaking

Italics – New Course

Curriculum Revision and Title Change

Certificate of Proficiency in HVAC & Refrigeration (CIP 47.0201; DC 0115; 10 credit hours) changed to Certificate of Proficiency in Basic HVAC & Refrigeration (CIP 47.0201; DC 0805; 6 credit hours; Fall 2025)

Removed Courses

IEMI 1004 NCCER E&I Level I
 MD 1303 Basic Welding

Added Course

EE 1003 Introduction to Basic Electricity

Deletion of Concentration or Minor

Associate of Applied Science in Creative Media Production: Film & Video Production (CIP 50.0401; DC 0314; 60 credit hours; 25% online; Fall 2025)

Associate of Applied Science in Creative Media Production: Graphic Communication (CIP 50.0401; DC 0314; 60 credit hours; 25% online; Fall 2025)

Associate of Applied Science in Health Sciences: Pharmacy Technician (CIP 51.0000; DC 7265; 61 credit hours; Fall 2025)

Associate of Applied Science in Health Sciences: Phlebotomy (CIP 51.0000; DC 7265; 61 credit hours; Fall 2025)

Associate of Applied Science in Industrial Sciences and Technology: General Technology (CIP 15.0612; DC 0350; 62 credit hours; 38% online; Fall 2025)

New Certificate

Certificate of Proficiency in Barber Instructor (CIP 12.0413; DC 1381; 16 credit hours; Fall 2025)

BARB 1006 Barber Instructor I
 BARB 2010 Barber Instructor II

Program Inactivation

Certificate of Proficiency in Film & Video Production (CIP 50.0602; DC 1132; 9 credit hours; Fall 2025)

Technical Certificate in Film & Video Production (CIP 50.0602; DC 0132; 27 credit hours; 20% online; Fall 2025)

Program Reconfiguration

Associate of Applied Science in Business Administration (CIP 52.0201; DC 0740; 60 credit hours; 100% online) reconfigured to create the Certificate of Proficiency in Business Technology (CIP 52.0401; DC 1524; 12 credit hours; 100% online; Fall 2025)

CPSC 1003	Introduction to Computers
ENGL 1113	Composition I
MATH 1063	Math Reasoning
OS 2283	Microsoft Word

Associate of Applied Science in Business Administration (CIP 52.0201; DC 0740; 60 credit hours; 100% online) reconfigured to create the Technical Certificate in Business Technology (CIP 52.0401; DC 4285; 24 credit hours; 100% online; Fall 2025)

BA 1103	Personal Finance
CPSC 1003	Introduction to Computers
CS 2223	Electronic Spreadsheet
ENGL 1113	Composition I
MATH 1063	Math Reasoning
OS 1023	College Keyboarding
OS 2233	Office Procedures
OS 2283	Microsoft Word

Associate of Applied Science in Industrial Sciences and Technology (CIP 15.0612; DC 0350; 62 credit hours; 38% online) reconfigured to create the Certificate of Proficiency in Air Conditioning Service (CIP 47.0201; DC 0685; 7 credit hours; Fall 2025)

HVAC 2043	Air Conditioning Service
IMEI 1014	NCCER E&I Level II

Associate of Applied Science in Industrial Sciences and Technology (CIP 15.0612; DC 0350; 62 credit hours; 38% online) reconfigured to create the Certificate of Proficiency in HVAC & Refrigeration Components (CIP 47.0201; DC 0731; 6 credit hours; Fall 2025)

HVAC 1043	Industrial Controls & Electronic Components
HVAC 1053	Tubing and Piping

Associate of Applied Science in Industrial Sciences and Technology (CIP 15.0612; DC 0350; 62 credit hours; 38% online) reconfigured to create the Certificate of Proficiency in Residential Systems (CIP 47.0201; DC 0736; 7 credit hours; Fall 2025)

HVAC 2023	Residential Systems
IMEI 1004	NCCER E&I Level I

Associate of Applied Science in Creative Media Production (CIP 50.0401; DC 0314; 60 credit hours; 25% online) reconfigured to create the Certificate of Proficiency in Foundational Storytelling (CIP 09.0702; DC 1795; 9 credit hours; Fall 2025)

CMPR 1003 Digital Media Concepts
CMPR 1013 Technical Skills for Media
CMPR 1023 Creative Writing for Media

Italics – New Course

Associate of Applied Science in Creative Media Production (CIP 50.0401; DC 0314; 60 credit hours; 25% online) reconfigured to create the Certificate of Proficiency in Multiplatform Storytelling (CIP 09.0702; DC 5395; 9 credit hours; Fall 2025)

CMPR 1033 Video Production
CMPR 2003 Visual Storytelling
CMPR 2023 Documentary Filmmaking

Italics – New Course

Associate of Applied Science in Health Sciences (CIP 51.0000; DC 7265; 61 credit hours) reconfigured to create the Certificate of Proficiency in Sports Medicine (CIP 51.0913; DC 0741; 8 credit hours; 100% online; Fall 2025)

MOA 2003 Essentials of Anatomy & Physiology
HS 1403 Personal & Community Health
HSCI 2002 First Aid & CPR for Healthcare

University of Arkansas Community College Hope-Texarkana

Program Inactivation

Certificate of Proficiency in Bladesmithing (CIP 48.0599; DC 0101; 6 credit hours; Fall 2025)

Reorganization of Organizational Unit

Division of Business, Technology, and Skilled Trades (Department Code 2470) reorganized to create the Division of Non-Credit Workforce (Department Code 2580; Fall 2025)

University of Arkansas Community College Morrilton

Curriculum Revision

Certificate of Proficiency in Air Conditioning, Heating, & Refrigeration Technology (CIP 47.0201; DC 0115; 18* credit hours) changed to Certificate of Proficiency in Air Conditioning, Heating, & Refrigeration Technology (CIP 47.0201; DC 0115; 15 credit hours; Fall 2025)

**Original credit-hour total listed incorrectly on Approved Programs List*

Removed Courses

ENGL 10083 Applied Technical Writing OR
ENGL 10103 Composition I

Added Course

MATH 10103 Applied Technical Mathematics

Technical Certificate in Cybersecurity Fundamentals (CIP 11.1003; DC 1113; 27 credit hours; 88% online) changed to Technical Certificate in Cybersecurity Fundamentals (CIP 11.1003; DC 1113; 27 credit hours; 50% online; Fall 2025)

Removed Courses

CPSI 10003 Introduction to Computers OR
ITEC 11303 Introduction to Computer Programming: Logic and Language

Added Courses

ITEC 11103 Networking Essentials

Certificate of Proficiency in Industrial Mechanics and Maintenance Technology (CIP 47.0303; DC 1417; 15 credit hours) changed to Certificate of Proficiency in Industrial Mechanics and Maintenance Technology (CIP 47.0303; DC 1417; 15 credit hours; Fall 2025)

Removed Courses

ENGL 10083 Applied Technical Writing OR
ENGL 10103 Composition I

Added Course

MATH 10103 Applied Technical Mathematics

Technical Certificate in Industrial Mechanics and Maintenance Technology (CIP 47.0303; DC 2417; 30 credit hours) changed to Technical Certificate in Industrial Mechanics and Maintenance Technology (CIP 47.0303; DC 2417; 31 credit hours; Fall 2025)

Removed Course

BIN 12203 Electronic Spreadsheets

Added Course

AMST 12104 Industrial Mechanics

Associate of Applied Science in Industrial Mechanics and Maintenance Technology (CIP 47.0303; DC 3417; 60 credit hours) changed to Associate of Applied Science in Industrial Mechanics and Maintenance Technology (CIP 47.0303; DC 3417; 60 credit hours; Fall 2025)

Removed Course

BINS 12203 Electronic Spreadsheets

Added Course

DFTG 11003 AutoCAD

Technical Certificate in Practical Nursing (CIP 51.3901; DC 4660; 57 credit hours) changed to Technical Certificate in Practical Nursing (CIP 51.3901; DC 4660; 57 credit hours; Fall 2025)

Removed Courses

PNUR 10001 Professional Ethical Issues
PNUR 12202 Maternal/Child Nursing
PNUR 12037 Med-Surg Nursing I
PNUR 22137 Med-Surg Nursing II

Added Courses

PNUR 12203	Maternal/Child Nursing
PNUR 12035	Med-Surg Nursing I
PNUR 22135	Med-Surg Nursing II
<i>PNUR XXXX1</i>	<i>Pharmacology I</i>
<i>PNUR XXXX1</i>	<i>Pharmacology II</i>
<i>PNUR XXXX1</i>	<i>Pharmacology III</i>
<i>PNUR XXXX1</i>	<i>NCLEX-PN Prep</i>
<i>Italics – New Course</i>	

Curriculum Revision and Existing Program Offered by Distance Education

Certificate of Proficiency in Cybersecurity Fundamentals (CIP 11.1003; DC 1335; 9* credit hours) changed to Certificate of Proficiency in Cybersecurity Fundamentals (CIP 11.1003; DC 1335; 12 credit hours; 50% online; Fall 2025)

**Original credit-hour total listed incorrectly on Approved Programs List*

Removed Courses

CPSI 10003	Introduction to Computers OR
ITEC 11303	Introduction to Computer Programming: Logic and Language

Added Courses

ITEC 11103	Networking Essentials
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Title Change

Certificate of Proficiency in Medication Assistant (CIP 51.2603; DC 0256; 8 credit hours; 38% online) changed to Certificate of Proficiency in Certified Medication Assistant (CIP 51.2603; DC 0256; 8 credit hours; 38% online; Fall 2025)

University of Arkansas Community College Rich Mountain

Curriculum Revision

Certificate of Proficiency in Criminal Justice (CIP 43.0103; DC 0383; 15 credit hours) changed to Certificate of Proficiency in Criminal Justice (CIP 43.0103; DC 0383; 12 credit hours; Fall 2025)

Removed Course

CRJU 11063	Probation & Parole
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New Certificate

Certificate of Proficiency in Business Administration (CIP 52.0201; DC 1645; 12 credit hours; Fall 2025)

ACCT 20003	Principles of Accounting I
BUSI 20103	Business Communications
CPSI 10003	Computer Applications
ECON22003	Microeconomics OR
ECON21003	Macroeconomics

Program Reconfiguration

Associate of Science in Biology (CIP 26.0101; DC 3755; 60 credit hours), Associate of Science in Business Administration (CIP 52.0101; DC 0300; 62 credit hours), and Associate of Arts in Teaching (CIP 13.1206; DC 1005; 60-64 credit hours; 100% online)

reconfigured to create the Associate of Science in Agriculture (CIP 01.0101; DC 3025; 60-63 credit hours; 50% online; Fall 2025)

General Education Core – 35 credit hours

ENGL 10103 English Composition I
 ENGL 10203 English Composition II
 SPCH 10003 Oral Communication
 MATH 11003 College Algebra or higher

Complete 3 credit hours from the following:

ARHS 10003 Art Appreciation
 THTR 10003 Theatre Arts Appreciation
 MUSC 10003 Music Appreciation

Complete 3 credit hours from the following:

PHIL 11003 Philosophy
 ENGL 21103 World Literature I
 ENGL 21203 World Literature II

Complete 3 credit hours from the following:

HIST 21103 US History to 1877
 HIST 21203 US History from 1877
 PLSC 20003 American National Government

Complete 6 credit hours from the following:

ECON 22003 Microeconomics
 ECON 21003 Macroeconomics
 HIST 11103 World Civilizations I
 HIST 11203 World Civilizations II
 HIST 21103 U.S. History I
 HIST 21203 U.S. History II
 PLSC 20003 American National Government
 PSYC 11003 General Psychology
 SOCI 10103 Introduction to Sociology

Complete 8 credit hours from the following:

BIOL 10103 Biological Science
 BIOL 10101 Biological Science Lab
 BIOL 10503 Principles of Zoology
 BIOL 10501 Principles of Zoology Lab
 BIOL 10203 Plant Biology
 BIOL 10201 Plant Biology Lab
 BIOL 20263 Microbiology and Immunology
 BIOL 20161 Microbiology and Immunology Lab
 CHEM 14103 University Chemistry I
 CHEM 14101 University Chemistry I Lab

Agriculture Core Courses – 8 credit hours

ANSC 10333 Introduction to Animal Science
 ANSC 10041 Introduction to Animal Science Lab
 ANSC 21153 Introduction to Animal Evaluation & Handling
 ANSC 21141 Introduction to Animal Evaluation & Handling Lab

Agriculture Elective/Emphasis – 17-20 credit hours

Agriculture Science Emphasis (CC: AGRISCIENCE):

<i>CSES 22003</i>	<i>Soil Science</i>
<i>CSES 22001</i>	<i>Soil Science Lab</i>
CHEM 14203	University Chemistry II
CHEM 14201	University Chemistry II Lab
BIOL 20263	Microbiology and Immunology
BIOL 20161	Microbiology and Immunology Lab
BIOL 10503	Principles of Zoology
BIOL 10501	Principles of Zoology Lab
BIOL 10203	Plant Biology
BIOL 10201	Plant Biology Lab

Business Emphasis (CC: AGRIBUSINESS):

ACCT 20003	Principles of Accounting I
ACCT 20103	Principles of Accounting II
ECON 22003	Microeconomics (If not taken in Social Science)
ECON 21003	Macroeconomics (If not taken in Social Science)
BLAW 20003	Business Law
MATH 21003	Statistics

Education Emphasis (CC: AGRIEDUCATION):

EDHP 21363	Introduction to Education
EDHP 22363	Instructional Technology
CHEM 14103	University Chemistry I (If not taken in Science)
CHEM 14101	University Chemistry I Lab (If not taken in Science)

Arts & Humanities (if not taken in prior section)

Social Science (if not taken in prior section)

Science & Lab (if not taken in prior section)

Italics – New Course

University of Arkansas**Deletion of Concentration or Minor**

Minor in Retail for Non-Business Students (CIP 52.0212; Fall 2025)

Minor in Retail for Business Majors (CIP 52.0212; Fall 2025)

Deletion of Organizational Unit

International Center for the Study of Early Asian & Middle Eastern Music (Department Code 1900; Summer 2025)

Program Deletion

Master of Science in Plant Pathology (CIP 26.0305; DC 6450; 30 credit hours; Fall 2026)

Graduate Certificate in Technical Writing & User Experience Design (CIP 23.1303; DC 6700; 12 credit hours; 100% online; Fall 2025)

Post Master Certificate in Family Nurse Practitioner (CIP 51.3805; DC 7084; 21 credit hours; 100% online; Fall 2025)

Program Reconfiguration

Master of Science in Entomology (CIP 26.0702; DC 6210; 30 credit hours) and Master of Science in Plant Pathology (CIP 26.0305; DC 6450; 30 credit hours) reconfigured to create the Master of Science in Entomology and Plant Pathology (CIP 01.1105; DC 5855; 30 credit hours; Fall 2026)

Core Course Requirements – 2 credit hours

ENPL 50001 Seminar on Presentation Skills

ENPL 60701 Colloquium – Advanced Topics in Entomology and Plant Pathology

Concentration Options – 16 credit hours

Entomology Concentration:

ENTO 50204 Insect Diversity and Taxonomy

ENTO 50503 Insect Ecology

ENTO 51503 Insect Pest Management

ENTO 61103 Insect Physiology and Molecular Biology

A course in statistics for graduate credit is also required.

Plant Pathology Concentration:

PLPA 52203 Plant Disease Control

PLPA 53003 Advanced Plant Path: Host-Pathogen Interactions

PLPA 53103 Advanced Plant Path: Ecology and Epidemiology

PLPA 54004 Disease of Economic Crops

A course in statistics for graduate credit is also required.

Thesis Requirement – 6 credit hours

ENTO 6000V Master's Thesis OR

PLPA 6000V Master's Thesis

Electives – 6 credit hours (approved by student's Advisory Committee)

University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

Program Deletion

Doctor of Philosophy in Neurobiology and Developmental Sciences (CIP 26.0403; DC 7120; 45 credit hours; Fall 2025)

University of Arkansas Little Rock

New Organizational Unit

Cyberspace Operations Research and Education (CORE) Center (Department Code 1707; Fall 2025)

University of Arkansas Monticello

Articulation Agreement, Existing Program Offered at Existing Off-Campus Location

2+2 Agreement between the Associate of Science in STEM: Computer Information Systems-Cybersecurity (CIP 30.1801; DC 3660; 65 credit hours) offered at National

Park College and the Bachelor of Science in Computer Information Systems: Programming and Information Security (CIP 52.1201; DC 2400; 120 credit hours), effective Fall 2025. The last two years of the Bachelor of Science in Computer Information Systems: Programming and Information Security program will be offered on the National Park College campus, effective Fall 2025.

Curriculum Revision

Bachelor of Science in Computer Information Systems (CIP 52.1201; DC 2400; 120 credit hours) changed to Bachelor of Science in Computer Information Systems (CIP 52.1201; DC 2400; 120 credit hours; Fall 2025)

Added Optional Course

ISYS 22103 Data Structures

New Concentration or Minor

Bachelor of Science in Computer Information Systems: Programming and Information Security (Degree Information: CIP 52.1201; DC 2400; 120 credit hours) (Concentration Information: CIP 52.1201; CC PROGRAMINFOSEC; 18 credit hours; Fall 2025)

General Education Core – 35 credit hours

CIS Core - 22 credit hours

ISYS 11903	PC Hardware and Software Maintenance
ISYS 22003	Programming Logic and Design
ISYS 22103	Data Structures OR
CPSI 10003	Microcomputer Applications
ISYS 35203	System Analysis and Design
ISYS 45003	Data Communications and Networking
ISYS 46203	Database Management Systems
ISYS 46304	Application Software Development Project

Supportive Requirements – 21 credit hours

ACCT 20003	Principles of Financial Accounting
BUSI 21003	Business Statistics I
BUSI 20103	Business Communications
MKTG 34043	Principles of Marketing

One of the following courses:

ACCT 20103	Principles of Managerial Accounting
CRJU 10203	Introduction to Criminal Justice

One of the following courses:

ECON 21003	Principles of Macroeconomics
ECON 22003	Principles of Microeconomics

One of the following courses:

MGMT 34703	Principles of Management
BINS 41303	Management Information Systems

Programming and Information Security Concentration – 18 credit hours

CESC 31233	Linux Operating Systems
CESC 34703	Cyberlaw
CESC 36203	Computer Forensics
CESC 42503	Cybersecurity

ISYS 34403 Object-Oriented Programming Languages
 ISYS 34503 World Wide Web Programming
Electives – 24 credit hours

Existing Program Offered at Existing Off-Campus Location

All or part of the Certificate of Proficiency in Nursing Assistant (CIP 51.3902; DC 0266; 7 credit hours), Technical Certificate in Practical Nursing (CIP 51.3901; DC 4660; 42 credit hours), Certificate of Proficiency in Welding (CIP 48.0508; DC 4905; 10 credit hours), Technical Certificate in Welding Technology (CIP 48.0508; DC 4900; 37 credit hours), Certificate of Proficiency in Automotive Diagnostics (CIP 47.0604; DC 0034; 16 credit hours), and Technical Certificate in Automotive Service Technology (CIP 47.0604; DC 4355; 42 credit hours) offered at the approved, off-campus location effective Fall 2025: Monticello Occupational Education Center 741 Scogin Drive, Monticello, AR 71655

All or part of the Certificate of Proficiency in Nursing Assistant (CIP 51.3902; DC 0266; 7 credit hours), Technical Certificate in Practical Nursing (CIP 51.3901; DC 4660; 42 credit hours) offered at the approved, off-campus location effective Fall 2025: White Hall High School 700 Bulldog Drive, White Hall, AR 71602

Program Deletion

Bachelor of Arts in Communication (CIP 09.0101; DC 1830; 120 credit hours; Fall 2025)

Bachelor of Arts in English (CIP 23.0101; DC 1420; 120 credit hours; Fall 2025)

Bachelor of Science in Teaching & Learning (CIP 13.9999; DC 5139; 120 credit hours; Fall 2025)

University of Arkansas Pulaski Technical College

Articulation Agreement

2+2 Agreement between the Associate of Science in Business (CIP 52.0101; DC 0308; 62 credit hours; 100% online) offered at UA Pulaski Technical College and the Bachelor of Business Administration in Business Administration (CIP 52.0201; DC 2320; 120 credit hours; 100% online) offered at UA Grantham, effective Fall 2025.

2+2 Agreement between the Associate of Applied Science in Business: Entrepreneurship (Degree Information: CIP 52.0201; DC 0730; 60 credit hours; 100% online) (Concentration Information: CIP 52.0701; 18 credit hours; 100% online) offered at UA Pulaski Technical College and the Bachelor of Business Administration in Business Administration (CIP 52.0201; DC 2320; 120 credit hours; 100% online) offered at UA Grantham, effective Fall 2025.

2+2 Agreement between the Associate of Applied Science in Business: Office Supervision & Management (Degree Information: CIP 52.0201; DC 0730; 60 credit hours; 100% online) (Concentration Information: CIP 52.0204; CC OFFCSUPERMGMT03; 18 credit hours; 100% online) offered at UA Pulaski Technical College and the Bachelor of Business Administration in Business Administration (CIP

52.0201; DC 2320; 120 credit hours; 100% online) offered at UA Grantham, effective Fall 2025.

2+2 Agreement between the Associate of Science in Technology & Engineering (CIP 15.0000; DC 3487; 60 credit hours; 75% online) offered at UA Pulaski Technical College and the Bachelor of Science in Information Systems (CIP 11.0401; DC 2795; 120 credit hours; 100% online) offered at UA Grantham, effective Fall 2025.

2+2 Agreement between the Associate of Science in Liberal Arts & Sciences (CIP 24.0101; DC 1090; 60 credit hours; 100% online) offered at UA Pulaski Technical College and the Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice (CIP 43.0103; DC 3390; 120 credit hours; 100% online) offered at UA Grantham, effective Fall 2025.

2+2 Agreement between the Associate of Science in Liberal Arts & Sciences (CIP 24.0101; DC 1090; 60 credit hours; 100% online) offered at UA Pulaski Technical College and the Bachelor of Arts in Strategic Communications (CIP 09.0100; DC 1830; 120 credit hours; 100% online) offered at UA Grantham, effective Fall 2025.

2+2 Agreement between the Associate of Applied Science in Paralegal Technology (CIP 22.0302; DC 0610; 60 credit hours; 100% online) offered at UA Pulaski Technical College and the Bachelor of Arts in Multidisciplinary Studies (CIP 30.9999; DC 1871; 120 credit hours; 100% online) offered at UA Grantham, effective Fall 2025.

Program Deletion

Technical Certificate in Nail Technology (CIP 12.0410; DC 4315; 24 credit hours; Fall 2025)

Certificate of Proficiency in Nail Technology (CIP 12.0410; DC 1386; 12 credit hours; Fall 2025)

Title Change

Certificate of Proficiency in Medication Assistant (CIP 51.2603; DC 0256; 7 credit hours) changed to Certificate of Proficiency in Certified Medication Assistant (CIP 51.2603; DC 0256; 7 credit hours; Fall 2025)

University of Central Arkansas

CIP Code Change

Bachelor of Science in Geography (CIP 45.0701; DC 2650; 120 credit hours) changed to Bachelor of Science in Geography (CIP 30.4401; DC 2650; 120 credit hours; Fall 2025)

Curriculum Revision

Bachelor of Science in Engineering Physics (CIP 14.1201; DC 3032; 126* credit hours) changed to Bachelor of Science in Engineering Physics (CIP 14.1201; DC 3032; 123 credit hours; Fall 2025)

**Original credit-hour total listed incorrectly on Approved Programs List*

Removed Course

PHIL 3320 Ethics

Added Course

ENGR 4101 Ethics for Engineers

Master of Music in Music: Instrumental Conducting (CIP 50.0903; DC 5990; 32* credit hours) changed to Master of Music in Music: Instrumental Conducting (CIP 50.0903; DC 5990; 34 credit hours; Fall 2025)

**Original credit-hour total listed incorrectly on Approved Programs List*

Removed Courses

MUS 6203 Instrumental Literature I
 MUS 6208 Instrumental Literature II
 MUS 6206 Instrumental Conducting
 MUS 6310 Instrumental Conducting Practicum

Added Courses

MUSA 6V71 Instrumental Conducting (8 credit hours)
 MUS 6221 Wind Literature I OR
 MUS 6231 Orchestral Literature I
 MUS 6222 Wind Literature II OR
 MUS 6232 Orchestral Literature II
 MUS 6000 Conductors Forum

Master of Music in Music: Choral Conducting (CIP 50.0903; DC 5990; 32* credit hours) changed to Master of Music in Music: Choral Conducting (CIP 50.0903; DC 5990; 34 credit hours; Fall 2025)

**Original credit-hour total listed incorrectly on Approved Programs List*

Removed Courses

MUS 6210 Choral Literature I
 MUS 6211 Choral Literature II
 MUS 6207 Choral Conducting
 MUS 6312 Choral Conducting Practicum

Added Courses

MUSA 6V72 Choral Conducting (8 credit hours)
 MUS 6241 Choral Literature I
 MUS 6242 Choral Literature II
 MUS 6000 Conductors Forum

Deletion of Concentration or Minor

Bachelor of Business Administration in Computer Information Systems: Business Analysis (CIP 52.1201; DC 1940; 120 credit hours; 72% online; Fall 2025)

Master of Science in Instructional Technology: Computer Science Teaching and Learning (CIP 13.0501; DC 5760; 30 credit hours; 100% online; Fall 2025)

New Certificate

Graduate Certificate in Teaching English as a Second Language (K-12) (CIP 13.1401; DC 4335; 12 credit hours; 100% online; Fall 2025)

ASTL 5340	Cultural Diversity: Applications for Classrooms and Workplaces
WLAN 5315	Methods of Teaching Second Languages
WLAN 5325	Second Language Acquisition
WLAN 5330	Second Language Assessment

Program Deletion

Graduate Certificate in Computer Science Teaching and Learning (CIP 13.0501; DC 5785; 15 credit hours; 100% online; Fall 2025)

Program Reconfiguration and New Concentration or Minor

Bachelor of Science in Biology (CIP 26.0101; DC 2300; 120 credit hours), Bachelor of Science in Chemistry (CIP 40.0501; DC 2350; 120 credit hours), Bachelor of Science in Computer Science (CIP 11.0101; DC 2410; 120 credit hours), Bachelor of Science in Physics (CIP 40.0801; DC 3030; 120 credit hours), and Bachelor of Science Education in Middle Level (CIP 13.1203; DC 3915; 121-122 credit hours) reconfigured to create the Bachelor of Science Education in Science and Technology (CIP 13.1316; DC 3170; 120 credit hours; Fall 2025)

CHOOSE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING CONCENTRATIONS:

Biology Concentration (Concentration CIP 13.1322; CC BIOLOGY; 120 credit hours)

BIOL 1440	Principles of Biology I*
BIOL 1441	Principles of Biology II
BIOL 2490	Genetics
BIOL 2405	Anatomy & Physiology
BIOL 3403	General Ecology
BIOL 4415	Mechanisms of Evolution
Upper-division Diversity of Organisms Electives – 8 credit hours	
PHYS 1410	College Physics I*
PHYS 1420	College Physics II
CHEM 1450	College Chemistry I
CHEM 1451	College Chemistry II
MATH 1390	College Algebra*
MATH 2311	Statistical Methods or equivalent
MATH 4200	Introduction to Educational Testing and Assessment in STEM OR
MSIT 4321	Classroom Assessment
EDUC 1300	Education as a Profession
EDUC 3322	Diverse Learners in Inclusive Settings
EDUC 4210	Integration of Technology in Teaching
MSIT 3310	Learning and Development
MSIT 4305	Classroom Management
SCI 4300	<i>Secondary Science Methods & Materials</i>
SCI 4660	<i>Internship I</i>
SCI 4990	<i>Internship II</i>
Remaining General Education Courses – 27 credit hours	

General Electives – 5 credit hours

Chemistry Concentration (Concentration CIP 13.1323; CC CHEMISTRY; 120 credit hours)

CHEM 1450	College Chemistry I*
CHEM 1451	College Chemistry II
CHEM 2401	Organic Chemistry I
CHEM 3411	Organic Chemistry II
CHEM 3520	Quantitative Chemical Analysis
CHEM 3360	Intermediate Inorganic

Elective – 3 credit hours approved by Department Chair

MATH 1496	Calculus I*
MATH 1497	Calculus II
MATH 4200	Introduction to Educational Testing and Assessment in STEM OR
MSIT 4321	Classroom Assessment
BIOL 1440	Principles of Biology I*
BIOL 1441	Principles of Biology II
PHYS 1441	University Physics I OR
PHYS 1410	College Physics I
PHYS 1442	University Physics II OR
PHYS 1420	College Physics II
PHYS 3315	Women and Minorities in STEM
EDUC 1300	Education as a Profession
EDUC 3322	Diverse Learners in Inclusive Settings
EDUC 4210	Integration of Technology in Teaching
MSIT 3310	Learning and Development
MSIT 4305	Classroom Management
SCI 4300	<i>Secondary Science Methods & Materials</i>
SCI 4660	<i>Internship I</i>
SCI 4990	<i>Internship II</i>

Remaining General Education Courses – 27 credit hours

General Electives – 5 credit hours

Computer Science Concentration (Concentration CIP 13.1321; CC COMPUTERSCIENCE; 120 credit hours)

CSCI 1470	Computer Science I
CSCI 1480	Computer Science II
CSCI 2310	Introduction to Data Science
CSCI 2320	Data Structures
CSCI 2335	Networking
CSCI 3380	Computer Architecture
MATH 1491	Applied Calculus for Life Sciences* OR
MATH 1496	Calculus I*
MATH 4200	Introduction to Educational Testing and Assessment in STEM OR
MSIT 4321	Classroom Assessment
EDUC 1300	Education as a Profession
EDUC 3322	Diverse Learners in Inclusive Settings
EDUC 4210	Integration of Technology in Teaching

MSIT 3310 Learning and Development
 MSIT 4305 Classroom Management
SCI 4300 Secondary Science Methods & Materials
SCI 4660 Internship I
SCI 4990 Internship II
 Remaining General Education Courses – 35 credit hours
 General Electives – 27 credit hours
Physics Concentration (Concentration CIP 13.1329; CC PHYSICS; 120 credit hours)
 PHYS 1301 Introduction to Physics
 PHYS 1441 University Physics I*
 PHYS 1442 University Physics II
 PHYS 2320 Introduction to Computational Physics
 PHYS 2443 University Physics III
 PHYS 3210 Experiments in Physics I
 PHYS 3220 Experiments in Physics II
 PHYS 3315 Women and Minorities in STEM
 Electives – 6 credit hours approved by Department Chair
 MATH 1496 Calculus I*
 MATH 1497 Calculus II
 MATH 2471 Calculus III
 MATH 3331 Differential Equations
 MATH 4200 Introduction to Educational Testing and Assessment in STEM OR
 MSIT 4321 Classroom Assessment
 EDUC 1300 Education as a Profession
 EDUC 3322 Diverse Learners in Inclusive Settings
 EDUC 4210 Integration of Technology in Teaching
 MSIT 3310 Learning and Development
 MSIT 4305 Classroom Management
SCI 4300 Secondary Science Methods & Materials
SCI 4660 Internship I
SCI 4990 Internship II
 Remaining General Education Courses – 31 credit hours
 General Electives – 9 credit hours
Italics – New Course
 *Courses also count towards the General Education Core

**ARKANSAS PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS
LETTERS OF INTENT**

The following intent notifications were received through July 1, 2025.

Arkansas State University Newport

New Program – Associate of Applied Science in Automation and Electrical Technology

East Arkansas Community College

New Off-Campus Instruction Center – University of Arkansas East Arkansas
Community College-Augusta
105 N. 1st Street, Augusta, AR 72007

National Park College

New Program – Associate of Applied Science in Outdoor Recreation

North Arkansas College

New Off-Campus Instruction Center – Washington Regional Medical Center
3215 N Northhills Blvd, Fayetteville, AR 72703

Northwest Arkansas Community College

New Program – Associate of Applied Science in Surgical Technology

University of Arkansas Community College Batesville

New Program – Associate of Applied Science in Farm and Ranch Management

University of Arkansas Fayetteville

New Program – Master of Library and Information Studies in Library and Information
Studies

University of Arkansas Fort Smith

New Program – Associate of Applied Science in Respiratory Therapy

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, 2028.

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

State Authorization: Missouri Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development

Institutional Accreditation – Regional: Higher Learning Commission

Programmatic Accreditation: Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs

Master of Science in Clinical Mental Health Counseling
Master of Science in School Counseling

Pepperdine University, Malibu, California

State Authorization: California Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education

Institutional Accreditation – Regional: Western Association of Schools and Colleges
Programmatic Accreditation: Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and
Speech-Language Pathology of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association
(Candidacy Status for New Program)

Master of Arts in Teaching
Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology
Doctor of Education in Organizational Leadership

University of Southern California, Los Angeles, California
State Authorization: California Secretary of State
Institutional Accreditation – Regional: Western Association of Schools and Colleges

Master of Science in Spatial Economics and Data Analysis
Doctor of Education in Mental Health Leadership

New Institution – Initial Program Certifications – Distance Technology

Claremont Lincoln University, Claremont, California
State Authorization: California Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education
Institutional Accreditation – Regional: Western Association of Schools and Colleges

Bachelor of Arts in Organizational Leadership (Degree Completion Program)
Master of Arts in Healthcare Administration
Master of Arts in Human Resources Management
Master of Arts in Organizational Leadership
Master of Arts in Social Impact
Master of Arts in Sustainability Leadership
Master of Public Administration

Initial Program Certifications – Arkansas Campus

Arkansas Colleges of Health Education, Fort Smith, Arkansas
State Authorization: Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board
Institutional Accreditation – Regional: Higher Learning Commission

Master of Medical Science

**OUT-OF-STATE AND ARKANSAS PRIVATE
INSTITUTIONS
LETTERS OF NOTIFICATION**

Letter of Exemption from Certification – Church-Related Training

Charis Bible Colleges, Teller County, Colorado
Offering a program by distance technology
Diploma in Biblical Studies

Iron Bible College, Holly Grove, Arkansas
Deacon Certification Program
Elder/Ministerial Certification Program
Evangelism Certification Program
Associate in Biblical Studies
Bachelor in Biblical Studies
Bachelor in Christian Counseling
Bachelor in Religious Education
Master in Christian Counseling
Master in Religious Education
Doctorate in Christian Counseling
Doctorate in Religious Education

The Local Church Training Institute, Ozark, Arkansas
Bachelor of Arts in Local Church Ministry
Master of Arts in Local Church Ministry
Doctor of Local Church Ministry
Doctor of Preaching in the Local Church

Letter of Exemption from Certification – Church-Related Training (Renewals)

Champion Christian College, Hot Springs, Arkansas
Bachelor of Arts in Church Ministries – Pastoral Studies Emphasis
Bachelor of Arts in Church Ministries – Youth and Family Emphasis
Bachelor of Arts in Church Ministries – Intercultural Studies Emphasis
Bachelor of Arts in Church Ministries – Music Ministry Emphasis

Missionary Baptist Seminary, Little Rock, Arkansas
Associate in Bible
Bachelor of Theology, Emphasis in Theology or Bible Language
Master of Theology, Emphasis in Theology or Bible Language
Doctor of Theology, Emphasis in Theology or Bible Language

Decertifications

University of Southern California, Los Angeles, California

Master of Education in Enrollment Management and Policy
Master of Science in Computer Science (Computer Security)
Master of Science in Computer Science (Software Engineering)
Master of Science in Medical Device and Diagnostic Imaging
Master of Science in Nursing
Master of Science in Pain Medicine
Master of Science in Petroleum Engineering (Geoscience Technologies)
Master of Science in Petroleum Engineering & Master of Science in Engineering Management

Program Changes/Additions

Claremont Lincoln University, Claremont, California

New Certificates

Certificate in Advanced Practice in Land Policy
MPA 5303 Policy Development and Analysis
MPA 5309 Masterplans and Policy Evolution
MPA 5314 Land and Water Use and Management

Certificate in Advanced Practices in Public Finance and Administration

MPA 5304 Introduction to Public Finance
MPA 5308 Innovative Funding Strategies for Social Change
MPA 5313 Legal Frameworks for Public Administration

Certificate in Executive Claremont Core: Advance Engagement for Exceptional Leaders

LMCC 5300 Invitation to Inquiry: Foundations of the Claremont Core
LMSC 5300 Strategic Communication for Effective Leadership
LMCC 5320 Executive Leadership Skills

Certificate in Innovations and Trends in Public Administration

MPA 5306 Change Management in Complex Organizations
MPA 5307 Building Networks and Coalition Building
MPA 5309 Masterplans and Policy Evolution

University of Southern California, Los Angeles, California

New Certificates

Graduate Certificate in Business Taxation
ACCT 531T Taxation of Cross-Border Transactions Using Data Analytics
ACCT 551T Taxation of Partnerships
ACCT 554T Research, Theory and Ethics in Taxation
ACCT 561T Income Tax of Corporations and Their Shareholders

Graduate Certificate in Child and Family Well-Being

SOWK 619 Social Work in Public Child Welfare Settings

SOWK 678 Child Abuse and Neglect: Intervention and Treatment
SOWK 621 Integrative Social Work Practice with Adolescents, Young Adults and Families
SOWK 610 Social Work Practice with Children and Families Across Settings

Graduate Certificate in Dispute Resolution
LAW 715 ADR Law and Policy: Mediation and Arbitration
LAW 819 ADR Ethics
LAW 609 Contemporary Issues in Human Resource Compliance
LAW 829 Cross-Cultural Dispute Resolution
LAW 826 Employment Dispute Mediation
LAW 680 Mediation Theory and Practice
LAW 845 Negotiation Skills

Graduate Certificate in Interprofessional Education Caregiver
SOWK 506 Human Behavior and the Social Environment
SOWK 510 Professional Self-Care in Integrative Social Work Practice
SOWK 661 Interprofessional Education, Team-Based Care and Caregivers
SOWK 616 Clinical Practice with Older Adults

Graduate Certificate in Law & Artificial Intelligence
LAW 527 Intellectual Property: Copyright
LAW 551 Intellectual Property: Trademark
LAW 804 Information Privacy Law
LAW 552 Law and Fundamentals of AI
LAW 553 Legal Issues of AI in Media and Entertainment
LAW 554 AI Ethics, Privacy and Regulations

Graduate Certificate in Real Estate Law
LAW 603 Business Organizations
LAW 710 Contract Drafting and Analysis
LAW 704 Real Estate Contracts
LAW 509 Torts

Walden University, Minneapolis, Minnesota
New Certificate

Post-Master's Certificate in Palliative Care
NURS 6910 Introduction to Palliative Care: Principles of Hospice and Palliative Care
NURS 6912 Symptom Management for the Hospice and Palliative Care Clinician
NURS 6914 Advanced Palliative Concepts and Interdisciplinary Perspectives

**OUT-OF-STATE AND ARKANSAS PRIVATE
INSTITUTIONS
LETTERS OF INTENT**

The following notifications were received through July 1, 2025.

Academy of Art University, San Francisco, California

Recertification – Distance Technology
Associate of Arts in Animation & Visual Effects
Associate of Arts in Fine Art
Associate of Arts in Graphic Design
Associate of Arts in Interior Architecture & Design
Associate of Arts in Illustration
Associate of Arts in Landscape Architecture
Associate of Arts in Motion Pictures & TV
Associate of Arts in Photography
Bachelor of Arts in Architecture
Bachelor of Fine Arts in Animation & Visual Effects
Bachelor of Fine Arts in Fine Art
Bachelor of Fine Arts in Game Development
Bachelor of Fine Arts in Graphic Design
Bachelor of Fine Arts in Interior Architecture & Design
Bachelor of Fine Arts in Landscape Architecture
Bachelor of Fine Arts in Motion Pictures & TV
Bachelor of Science in Game Development
Master of Architecture
Master of Arts in Animation & Visual Effects
Master of Arts in Fine Arts
Master of Arts in Game Development
Master of Fine Arts in Photography
Master of Arts in Graphic Design
Master of Arts in Interior Architecture & Design
Master of Arts in Illustration
Master of Arts in Landscape Architecture
Master of Arts in Motion Pictures & TV
Master of Arts in Photography
Master of Fine Arts in Game Development
Master of Fine Arts in Graphic Design
Master of Fine Arts in Interior Architecture & Design
Master of Fine Arts in Landscape Architecture
Master of Fine Arts in Motion Pictures & TV

Arkansas Colleges of Health Education, Fort Smith, Arkansas
Initial Certification – Fort Smith Campus

Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology
Doctor of Public Health

Carrington College, Sacramento, California

Initial Certification – Distance Technology
Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene
Bachelor of Science in Respiratory Therapy

Evangel University, Springfield, Missouri

Initial Certification – Distance Technology
Bachelor of Science in Accounting
Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction
Master of Education in Literacy
Master of Organizational Leadership

Pepperdine University, Malibu, California

Initial Certification – Distance Technology
Master of Science in Applied Analytics
Recertification – Distance Technology
Master of Arts in Applied Behavioral Analysis

Quincy University, Quincy, Illinois

Initial Certification – Distance Technology
Doctor of Occupational Therapy
Doctor of Physical Therapy

Rocky Vista University, Englewood, Colorado

Initial Certification – Distance Technology
MED 4201 Advanced Topics in Pain Management
MED 4515 Clinical Simulation
MED 4521 Working in Global Health

San Jose State University, San Jose, California

Initial Certification – Distance Technology
Master of Science in Speech Language Pathology
Master of Science in Industrial Design and Technology
Recertification – Distance Technology
Bachelor of Science in Information Science and Data Analytics
Certificate in Strategic Management of Digital Assets and Services
Master of Archives and Records Administration
Master of Library and Information Science
Master of Science in Informatics
Master of Science in Criminology with a concentration in Global Criminology
Master of Science in Transportation Management
Master of Public Health
Advanced Certificate in Business Analytics
Advanced Certificate in High-Speed and Intercity Rail Management
Advanced Certificate in Transportation Management

Advanced Certificate in Transportation Safety, Security, and Emergency Management
Post Master's Certificate in Library and Information Science

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

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

Strayer University, Washington, D.C.

Recertification – Little Rock Campus
Bachelor of Science in Information Technology
Master of Business Administration
Master of Cybersecurity

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 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 the People, Pasadena, California

Initial Certification – Distance Technology
Master of Education in Advanced Teaching
Master of Science in Information Technology

University of Southern California, Los Angeles, California

Initial Certification – Distance Technology
Graduate Certificate in Child and Family Well-Being
Graduate Certificate in Interprofessional Education Caregiving
Graduate Certificate in LGBTQ+ Affirmative Care
Graduate Certificate in Youth Justice
Master of Education in Sports Leadership

University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences, San Marcos, California

Recertification – Distance Technology
Post-Graduate Nursing Certificate in Nurse Educator
Post-Graduate Nursing Certificate in Nurse Executive
Post-Graduate Nursing Certificate in Family Nurse Practitioner
BSN-Entry, Doctor of Nursing Practice
MSN-Entry, Doctor of Nursing Practice

Walden University, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Initial Certification – Distance Technology
Bachelor of Science in Special Education
Master of Science in Clinical Psychology
Master of Science in Nursing and Master of Business Administration-Dual Degree
Post-Master's Certificate in Palliative Care
Doctor of Philosophy in Healthcare Administration
Doctor of Public Safety and Leadership
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

Westcliff University, Irvine, California

Initial Certification – Distance Technology
Bachelor of Arts in Education
Bachelor of Business Administration
Bachelor of Science in Computer Science
Bachelor of Science in Information Technology
Master of Business Administration
Master of Science in Computer Science
Master of Science in Engineering Management
Master of Science in Information Technology
Doctor of Business Administration
Doctor of Education – Leadership, Curriculum, and Instruction

ACADEMIC PROGRAM REVIEW AY2025

Arkansas Code §6-61-214 requires that the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) review existing academic programs at Arkansas public colleges and universities to identify certificate and degree programs not meeting minimum standards of quality and to establish schedules for either resolving these concerns or removing the programs from the AHECB approved program inventory.

The existing academic program review policies were adopted in 1988 and revised in 1995, 1998, 2008 and last updated in January 2025. Institutions have been submitting program reviews for more than 35 years.

Arkansas colleges and universities are required to employ external consultants to review all certificate and degree programs over a period of 7-10 years with the findings from the reviews reported to the Coordinating Board. Accredited, licensed and state certified programs follow the usual review practices and the schedule of the accrediting/approval body.

A quality program review, or self-study, describes the status of a program, assesses program strengths, identifies areas for improvement, and provides strategic direction on program goals and specific plans to achieve those goals. The external reviewers' written report must include a summary of each area examined and should provide examples that document the conclusions. This summary report does not include a recommendation to AHECB on program continuation or program deletion.

The following tables summarize the reports submitted to ADHE during Academic Year 2024-2025.

4-year Institutions

Institution	Degree Code	Award	Program Name	Program Approval Date	Date of Last Program Review
ASU	2495	BS	Exercise Science	7/1/2001	2025
ASU	6305	MS	Exercise Science	7/19/2002	2025
ASU	3240	AA	General Education	7/25/2008	2025
ASU	3241	AS	General Education	7/25/2008	2025
ASU	0900	AGS	General Studies	1/1/1985	2025
ASU	1870	BGS	General Studies	4/25/2014	2025
ASU	2080	BS	Interdisciplinary Studies	1/1/1985	2025
ASU	5334	BAS	Organizational Supervision	7/27/2018	2025
ASU	6880	MSE	Physical Education	1/1/1985	2025
ASU	5091	BS	Strategic Communications	7/26/2013	2025
ATU	2200	BSBA	Accounting	1/1/1985	2025
ATU	3270	BS	Agricultural Education	7/29/2011	2025
ATU	1260	BA	Art Education	1/1/1985	2025
ATU	0301	ABA	Business Administration	4/20/2018	2025
ATU	1645	CP	Business Administration	1/27/2023	2025
ATU	5581	MBA	Business Administration	1/27/2017	2025
ATU	6255	GC	Business Administration	4/28/2023	2025
ATU	2321	BSBA	Business Data Analytics	4/27/2012	2025
ATU	6581	GC	Business Data Analytics	4/28/2023	2025
ATU	2680	BS	Coaching Athletics and Physical Activity	1/1/1985	2025
ATU	3470	AAS	Collision Repair Technology	7/27/2018	2025
ATU	4330	TC	Collision Repair Technology	4/25/2003	2025
ATU	1311	BS	Computer Science Education	4/22/2016	2025
ATU	1471	CP	Construction Technology	1/26/2012	2025
ATU	3135	AC	Data Analytics	1/27/2023	2025
ATU	6911	GC	Dyslexia Therapy K-12	1/26/2024	2025
ATU	1010	AS	Early Childhood Education	4/1/1990	2025
ATU	2460	BSBA	Economics & Finance	1/1/1985	2025
ATU	5120	EdS	Educational Leadership	10/1/2000	2025
ATU	5665	MEd	Educational Leadership	5/1/1997	2025
ATU	3771	BS	Elementary Education	7/25/2014	2025
ATU	2485	BS	Engineering Physics	2/1/1998	2025
ATU	9420	BA	English	1/1/1985	2025
ATU	0900	AGS	General Studies	4/27/2012	2025
ATU	2660	BS	Geosciences	1/1/1985	2025
ATU	2710	TC	Health Professions	10/27/2017	2025
ATU	4720	CP	Health Sciences	1/26/2012	2025
ATU	0306	AC	Human Resources Management	4/20/2018	2025
ATU	5675	MEd	Instructional Technology	1/1/1985	2025
ATU	5825	MEd	K-12 Literacy	1/26/2018	2025
ATU	3530	BSBA	Management	4/20/2018	2025
ATU	2320	BSBA	Management & Marketing	1/1/1985	2025
ATU	9870	BS	Mathematics	1/1/1985	2025

Institution	Degree Code	Award	Program Name	Program Approval Date	Date of Last Program Review
ATU	4740	CP	Medical Billing	7/28/2017	2025
ATU	4741	CP	Medical Coding	7/28/2017	2025
ATU	1071	CP	Microsoft Applications	1/27/2023	2025
ATU	2910	BS	Middle Level Education	2/1/1998	2025
ATU	1640	BME	Music Education	1/1/1985	2025
ATU	1150	ASNT	Nuclear Technology	11/1/1990	2025
ATU	7080	MSN	Nursing	4/21/2017	2025
ATU	4240	BSN	Nursing	1/1/1985	2025
ATU	3510	AAS	Occupational Therapy Assistant	2/4/2011	2025
ATU	0220	CP	Pharmacy Technician	10/27/2017	2025
ATU	4788	CP	Phlebotomy	7/28/2017	2025
ATU	3040	BS	Physics	7/29/2011	2025
ATU	6680	MEd	School Counseling & Leadership	4/21/2017	2025
ATU	1760	BA	Social Studies	1/1/1985	2025
ATU	6971	GC	Special Education Birth-Kindergarten Instructional Specialist	1/28/2022	2025
ATU	5870	MEd	Special Education K-12	1/29/2016	2025
ATU	6980	GC	Special Education K-12 Instructional Specialist Certificate	1/28/2022	2025
ATU	6435	GC	Special Education Resource Instructional Specialist	1/28/2022	2025
ATU	6740	MAT	Teaching	4/30/2010	2025
ATU	4335	GC	Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL)	1/27/2023	2025
ATU	3975	MEd	Teaching, Learning, & Leadership	2/1/2001	2025
HSU	3670	BSE	Art Education K-12		2025
HSU	4125	BSE	Computer Science & Business Technology Education	10/28/2016	2025
HSU	0390	BA	Criminal Justice	7/26/2013	2025
HSU	6130	GC	Developmental Therapy	7/25/2008	2025
HSU	7420	MS	Developmental Therapy	4/26/2013	2025
HSU	5394	BA	Digital Media Production	1/30/2015	2025
HSU	1795	CP	Digital Media Production	7/30/2021	2025
HSU	5542	MAT	Education	7/1/2001	2025
HSU	2470	BS	Educational Studies Elementary	7/29/2016	2025
HSU	6800	GC	Educational Technology Leadership	7/26/2013	2025
HSU	7800	MSE	Educational Technology Leadership	7/26/2013	2025
HSU	3771	BSE	Elementary Education	5/9/2014	2025
HSU	3940	BSE	Health and Physical Education	7/29/2016	2025
HSU	2910	BSE	Middle Level Education	4/1/2001	2025
HSU	2115	BM	Music, Education K-12		2025
HSU	3120	BS	Recreation		2025
HSU	6980	MSE	Special Education K-12	8/8/2014	2025
HSU	3210	BSE	Special Education K-12	7/25/2014	2025
HSU	1785	CP	Special Education Resource	7/30/2021	2025

Institution	Degree Code	Award	Program Name	Program Approval Date	Date of Last Program Review
HSU	6435	GC	Special Education Resource	7/30/2021	2025
HSU	6458	MS	Sport Administration	7/1/2001	2025
HSU	5663	MSE	Teacher Leadership	4/19/2002	2025
SAUM	1890	BBA	Accounting	1/1/1985	2025
SAUM	2300	BS	Biology	1/1/1985	2025
SAUM	0300	AS	Business Administration	10/26/2007	2025
SAUM	1920	BBA	Business Administration	1/1/1985	2025
SAUM	5580	MBA	Business Administration	4/25/2008	2025
SAUM	5425	MS	Business Analytics	7/28/2023	2025
SAUM	6255	GC	Business Leadership	10/30/2020	2025
SAUM	6170	MS	Computer & Information Sciences	4/29/2005	2025
SAUM	6315	GC	Data Analytics	10/30/2020	2025
SAUM	6542	GC	Education	5/1/2015	2025
SAUM	3750	BSE	Elementary Education STEM	7/1/2000	2025
SAUM	3860	BSE	K-12 Physical Education & Health	1/1/1982	2025
SAUM	6520	GC	Supply Chain Management	5/1/2015	2025
SAUM	5542	MAT	Teaching	2/1/2002	2025
UAF	7610	MEd	Adult & Lifelong Learning	10/28/2011	2025
UAF	9610	EdD	Adult & Lifelong Learning	10/28/2011	2025
UAF	6135	MS	Cell & Molecular Biology	4/1/2000	2025
UAF	6137	PhD	Cell & Molecular Biology	2/1/2001	2025
UAF	1310	BA	Chemistry		2025
UAF	2350	BS	Chemistry		2025
UAF	6140	MS	Chemistry		2025
UAF	7180	PhD	Chemistry		2025
UAF	1350	BA	Computer Science	4/1/1988	2025
UAF	2410	BSCS	Computer Science	1/1/1985	2025
UAF	6180	MSCS	Computer Science	10/1/1987	2025
UAF	1352	GC	Cybersecurity	4/20/2018	2025
UAF	7961	PhD	Health, Sport, and Exercise Science	4/22/2016	2025
UAF	1500	BA	History		2025
UAF	5360	MA	History		2025
UAF	7280	PhD	History		2025
UAF	4932	EdD	Human Resource Development	2/2/2007	2025
UAF	5201	BHRD	Human Resource Development	8/3/2007	2025
UAF	5901	MHRD	Human Resource Development	7/29/2005	2025
UAF	4190	BIAD	Interior Architecture and Design		2025
UAF	5380	MA	Journalism	10/1/1987	2025
UAF	1670	BA	Physics		2025
UAF	3030	BS	Physics		2025
UAF	6430	MS	Physics		2025
UAF	7350	PhD	Physics		2025
UAF	0022	MFA	Theatre	10/1/1994	2025
UAF	1380	BA	Theatre		2025
UAFS	3700	BS	Biology	2/7/2003	2025

Institution	Degree Code	Award	Program Name	Program Approval Date	Date of Last Program Review
UAFS	2300	BS	Biology	8/6/2004	2025
UAFS	0310	AAS	Early Childhood Education	8/6/2004	2025
UAFS	4497	TC	Early Childhood Education	4/22/2016	2025
UAFS	4919	CP	Early Childhood Education	4/22/2016	2025
UAFS	3750	BS	Early Childhood Education (non-licensure)	10/28/2022	2025
UAFS	7873	Med	Education	1/25/2019	2025
UAFS	0186	BC	Emergency Medical Technology - Basic	1/26/2018	2025
UAFS	1420	BA	English	4/29/2005	2025
UAFS	2540	BS	English	8/6/2004	2025
UAFS	6850	BS	History	8/6/2004	2025
UAFS	1500	BA	History	4/30/2004	2025
UAFS	2870	BS	Mathematics	8/6/2004	2025
UAFS	3910	BS	Mathematics	4/25/2003	2025
UAFS	1690	BA	Political Science	7/26/2013	2025
UALR	2300	BS	Biology		2025
UALR	6120	MS	Biology	7/1/2000	2025
UALR	6121	MA	Biology	10/26/2012	2025
UALR	1500	BA	History		2025
UALR	5440	MA	Public History		2025
UAM	2710	TC	Health Professions	4/30/2010	2025
UAM	4660	TC	Practical Nursing	5/9/2003	2025
UAM	3070	BS	Psychology		2025
UAMS	2420	BS	Cytology	4/1/1987	2025
UAMS	1375	BS	Diagnostic Medical Sonography	7/1/2000	2025
UCA	6520	MS	Communication Sciences & Disorders	4/1/1988	2025
UCA	6175	MS	Computer Science	2/1/2001	2025
UCA	6481	EdS	School Psychology	7/27/2018	2025

2-year Institutions

Institution	Degree Code	Award	Program Name	Program Approval Date	Date of Last Program Review
ANC	4357	CP	General Aviation	4/27/2012	2025
ASUB	1476	CP	Diesel Technology	7/25/2008	2025
ASUB	4467	TC	Diesel Technology	5/5/2003	2025
ASUB	0337	CP	Early Childhood Education	10/22/2004	2025
ASUB	0437	AAS	Early Childhood Education	4/1/2000	2025
ASUB	4497	TC	Early Childhood Education	5/5/2003	2025
ASUB	4882	CP	Power Sports Engines Technology	4/21/2017	2025
ASUB	4885	TC	Power Sports Engines Technology	1/26/2012	2025
ASUMH	2710	TC	Health Professions	4/28/2006	2025
ASUMH	0945	CP	Health Professions	7/26/2019	2025
ASUMH	0246	BC	Phlebotomy	4/30/2004	2025
ASUMH	4745	CP	Professional Medical Coder	10/27/2006	2025
ASUMH	0112	TC	Professional Medical Coding	4/21/2017	2025
ASUN	5719	TC	Advanced Manufacturing Technology	4/27/2007	2025
ASUN	0685	BC	Apprentice Preventative Maintenance Technician	7/27/2018	2025
ASUN	1039	CP	Automotive Engine Performance	10/27/2017	2025
ASUN	0955	BC	Automotive Heating & Air Conditioning	10/27/2017	2025
ASUN	4345	CP	Automotive Mechanical Systems	10/27/2017	2025
ASUN	2475	TC	Automotive Service Technology	7/25/2008	2025
ASUN	3471	AAS	Automotive Service Technology	7/25/2008	2025
ASUN	2476	CP	Automotive Transmissions and Axles	10/27/2017	2025
ASUN	0361	CP	CNC Operator	10/28/2016	2025
ASUN	0156	BC	Commercial Truck Driving	7/1/1992	2025
ASUN	1120	CP	Culinary Arts	10/26/2012	2025
ASUN	2655	TC	Culinary Arts	7/31/2020	2025
ASUN	2472	TC	Energy Control Technology	7/25/2008	2025
ASUN	3472	AAS	Energy Control Technology	7/25/2008	2025
ASUN	0517	AAS	General Technology	8/1/2003	2025
ASUN	1474	CP	Industrial Maintenance - Electrical	4/19/2019	2025
ASUN	1473	CP	Industrial Maintenance - General	4/19/2019	2025
ASUN	1473	CP	Industrial Maintenance - General	4/19/2019	2025
ASUN	1472	CP	Industrial Maintenance Technical Operator	7/27/2018	2025
ASUN	0805	BC	Introduction to Air-Conditioning	7/27/2018	2025
ASUN	1492	CP	Manual Machining	4/19/2019	2025
ASUN	3116	CP	Manufacturing Technician	7/26/2024	2025
ASUN	0710	AAS	Nursing	10/22/2004	2025
ASUN	0266	BC	Nursing Assistant	10/27/2006	2025
ASUN	4795	TC	Practical Nursing	7/1/1992	2025
ASUN	2235	TC	Practical Nursing - High School Program	10/25/2024	2025
ASUTR	4350	CP	Automotive Service Technology	4/19/2002	2025
BRTC	4330	TC	Auto Collision Cosmetic Repair Technology		2025
BRTC	4331	TC	Auto Collision Structural Repair Technology	7/31/2015	2025

Institution	Degree Code	Award	Program Name	Program Approval Date	Date of Last Program Review
BRTC	0308	AS	Business	4/30/2010	2025
BRTC	0300	AAS	Business Administration	10/31/2014	2025
BRTC	0393	AS	Criminal Justice	5/1/2015	2025
BRTC	0383	CP	Criminal Justice	7/26/2019	2025
BRTC	2675	TC	Criminal Justice	7/31/2020	2025
BRTC	1431	CP	Law Enforcement (LETA)	10/27/2023	2025
BRTC	0721	BC	Law Enforcement Instructor	1/24/2025	2025
BRTC	1430	CP	Law Enforcement Leadership and Administration	1/24/2025	2025
BRTC	0716	BC	Law Enforcement Patrol	1/24/2025	2025
BRTC	1356	CP	Law Enforcement Technical Skills	1/24/2025	2025
BRTC	1388	TC	Law Enforcement Training (LETA)	1/27/2023	2025
BRTC	4660	TC	Practical Nursing		2025
EACC	0050	AA	General Education		2025
NAC	0517	AAS	General Technology	4/1/1995	2025
NAC	2885	TC	General Technology	1/29/2021	2025
NWACC	2045	TC	Accounting Technology	4/25/2008	2025
NWACC	0308	AS	Business	4/30/2010	2025
NWACC	0320	AAS	Computer Information Systems	10/1/1998	2025
NWACC	1460	CP	Electronics Technology	4/26/2013	2025
NWACC	0460	AAS	Electronics Technology and Automation	10/1/1997	2025
NWACC	2520	TC	Entrepreneurship	7/25/2008	2025
NWACC	2970	TC	General Business	4/25/2008	2025
NWACC	0050	AA	General Education	4/1/1991	2025
NWACC	0900	AGS	General Studies	7/29/2005	2025
NWACC	0910	CGS	General Studies	2/3/2006	2025
NWACC	1090	AS	Liberal Arts & Sciences	4/1/1991	2025
NWACC	2621	TC	Logistics Management	4/25/2008	2025
NWACC	3841	TC	Retail Management	2/1/2008	2025
PCCUA	4919	CP	Child Development	4/1/2000	2025
PCCUA	4497	TC	Early Childhood Education	4/1/1995	2025
SAC	3540	AS	Education	7/31/2015	2025
SAC	0406	BC	Education Studies	7/31/2020	2025
SAC	2945	TC	Education Studies	7/31/2020	2025
SAC	0107	TC	Pre-Health Science	1/26/2012	2025
SAC	1103	CP	Pre-Health Science	4/26/2024	2025
SAC	0835	AAS	Surgical Technology	2/3/2006	2025
SAUT	0380	AAS	Cosmetology	1/29/2021	2025
SAUT	4420	TC	Cosmetology	5/1/2015	2025
SAUT	0196	BC	EMS Driver/Operator	7/29/2022	2025
SAUT	3487	AAS	Engineering Technology	7/31/2020	2025
SAUT	1360	CP	Engineering Technology	4/26/2013	2025
SAUT	2360	TC	Engineering Technology	4/26/2013	2025
SAUT	4575	TC	Fire & Emergency Response	7/27/2018	2025
SAUT	0400	CP	Fire & Emergency Response	11/4/2005	2025

Institution	Degree Code	Award	Program Name	Program Approval Date	Date of Last Program Review
SAUT	0500	AAS	Fire & Emergency Response	2/1/1996	2025
SAUT	1006	CP	Fire Inspector	7/29/2022	2025
SAUT	1995	CP	Fire Instructor	7/29/2022	2025
SAUT	1001	CP	Fire Officer	7/29/2022	2025
SAUT	0493	CP	Fire Science Management	7/27/2018	2025
SAUT	0494	TC	Fire Science Management	7/27/2018	2025
SAUT	0495	AS	Fire Science Management	4/25/2003	2025
SAUT	0416	BC	Mechanical Maintenance	7/31/2020	2025
SAUT	4617	TC	Mechanical Maintenance	8/4/2006	2025
SAUT	0291	BC	Programmable Logic Controllers (PLC)		2025
SAUT	4900	TC	Welding	10/29/2010	2025
SAUT	4905	CP	Welding Technology	11/4/2005	2025
UACCHT	0509	TC	Funeral Director	4/30/2004	2025
UACCHT	1509	CP	Funeral Director	1/29/2016	2025
UACCHT	0508	AAS	Funeral Service	4/1/1995	2025
UACCHT	0050	AA	General Education	4/1/1994	2025
UACCHT	0910	CGS	General Studies	2/3/2006	2025
UACCHT	3060	AGS	General Studies	2/2/2007	2025
UAPTC	4260	TC	Accounting	10/1/1993	2025
UAPTC	0045	CP	Accounting Technology	2/2/2007	2025
UAPTC	0308	AS	Business	4/30/2010	2025
UAPTC	0730	AAS	Business	10/1/1993	2025
UAPTC	0397	AAS	Drafting & Design Technology	4/1/1995	2025
UAPTC	4490	TC	Drafting & Design Technology	4/1/1995	2025
UAPTC	1153	CP	Drafting and Design	4/22/2016	2025
UAPTC	1520	CP	Entrepreneurship	5/1/2015	2025
UAPTC	2520	TC	Entrepreneurship	4/27/2012	2025
UAPTC	4772	CP	Office Supervision Management	1/27/2017	2025
UAPTC	4773	TC	Office Supervision Management	1/27/2017	2025
UAPTC	4383	CP	Office Technology	2/2/2007	2025
UAPTC	4650	TC	Office Technology	10/1/1993	2025
UAPTC	1510	CP	Pre-Health Care Studies	2/1/2013	2025
UAPTC	2510	TC	Pre-Health Care Studies	2/1/2013	2025
UAPTC	4896	CP	Tractor & Trailer Operation	2/2/2007	2025

**AY2025 ACADEMIC PROGRAM REVIEW
RECOMMENDATIONS OF NOTICE**

The following resolution is presented to the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board for consideration:

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the Arkansas Division of Higher Education recommendation of notice for potential removal from the AHECB approved program inventory.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Coordinating Board instructs the Commissioner of the Arkansas Division of Higher Education to inform the President and Chief Academic Officer of each institution which programs are placed on notice.

**AY2025 ACADEMIC PROGRAM REVIEW
RECOMMENDATIONS OF NOTICE**

Arkansas Code §6-61-214 requires that the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) review existing academic programs at Arkansas public colleges and universities to identify certificate and degree programs not meeting minimum standards of quality and to establish schedules for either resolving these concerns or removing the programs from the AHECB approved program inventory.

Arkansas colleges and universities are required to employ external consultants to review all certificate and degree programs over a period of 7-10 years with the findings from the reviews reported to the Coordinating Board. Accredited, licensed and state certified programs follow the usual review practices and the schedule of the accrediting/approval body.

Following the comprehensive program review process for existing academic programs, the Arkansas Department of Higher Education (ADHE) staff has identified a list of certificate and degree programs that are currently out of compliance with the established policy requirements. These programs have not submitted the required evidence and documentation within the 7-10 year period, outlined in the policy.

Therefore, pursuant to Section 4 of the "Recommendations to Coordinating Board" within the aforementioned policy, the programs listed below are hereby placed on notice for potential removal from the AHECB approved program inventory. ADHE is committed to working with institutions to address these concerns and maintain the highest quality of academic programs across Arkansas.

4-year Institutions

Institution	Degree Code	Award	Program Name	Program Approval Date	Date of Last Program Review
ATU	0030	AS	Criminal Justice	2/6/2004	2004
UALR	5455	MA	Counseling	10/1/1999	2012
UALR	6110	GC	Data Science	10/31/2014	2014
UALR	0060	AA	General Education	1/1/1985	1985
UALR	7110	MS	Information Science	10/31/2014	2014
UALR	1630	BA	Music	1/1/1985	2014
UALR	1632	BM	Music Education	4/26/2013	2014
UALR	9130	PhD	Reading	7/25/2008	2008
UALR	1840	BA	Theatre Arts		2010
UALR	5161	BA	World Languages	2/4/2011	2012
UAPB	0384	CP	Crime Scene Investigation	8/1/2003	2003
UAPB	0386	TC	Crime Scene Investigation	8/1/2003	2003
UAPB	0387	AAS	Crime Scene Investigation	8/1/2003	2003
UAPB	1360	BA	Criminal Justice		
UAPB	0388	CP	Law Enforcement Administration	8/1/2003	2003
UAPB	0389	TC	Law Enforcement Administration	8/1/2003	2003
UAPB	0391	AAS	Law Enforcement Administration	8/1/2003	2003
UAPB	3070	BS	Psychology		
UAPB	1813	BA	Theatre	1/1/1985	1985
UCA	6260	MS	Health Promotion	4/1/1986	2013
UCA	7511	MS	Mental Health Counseling	7/26/2013	2013

2-year Institutions

Institution	Degree Code	Award	Program Name	Program Approval Date	Date of Last Program Review
ASUMH	1450	CP	Automotive Systems Repair	1/31/2014	2014
ASUMH	2450	TC	Automotive Systems Repair	1/31/2014	2014
ASUMH	0050	AA	General Education	4/1/1995	1995
ASUMS	0280	AS	Business	4/27/2012	2012
ASUMS	1486	CP	Flux-Core Welding Technology	4/27/2012	2012
ASUMS	1487	CP	Gas Metal Arc Welding Technology	4/27/2012	2012
ASUMS	1489	CP	Gas Tungsten Arc Welding Technology	4/27/2012	2012
ASUMS	0050	AA	General Education	4/1/1994	1994
ASUMS	0517	AAS	General Technology	4/1/1998	1998
ASUMS	0355	AAS	Information Systems Technology	7/1/1995	1995
ASUMS	1241	CP	Mechatronics Level I	10/31/2014	2014
ASUMS	1242	CP	Mechatronics Level II	10/31/2014	2014
ASUMS	1243	CP	Mechatronics Level III	10/31/2014	2014
ASUMS	1244	CP	Mechatronics Level IV	10/31/2014	2014
ASUMS	4775	CP	Micro-Computer Upgrade & Repair	7/1/1999	1999
ASUMS	4234	CP	Network Associate	2/6/2004	2004
ASUMS	1511	CP	Phlebotomy	4/24/2009	2009
ASUMS	1488	CP	Shielded Metal Arc Welding Technology	4/27/2012	2012
ASUTR	1483	CP	CNC Machining & Fabrication	7/25/2014	2014
ASUTR	0320	AAS	Computer Information Systems	4/1/1995	1995
ASUTR	4445	TC	Computer Information Systems	8/3/2007	2007
ASUTR	0080	CP	Computer Programming	4/27/2007	2007
ASUTR	4673	CP	Computer Repair	2/1/2002	2002
ASUTR	3595	TC	Electrical Apprenticeship	2/1/2013	2013
ASUTR	0050	AA	General Education	4/1/1994	1994
ASUTR	0910	CGS	General Studies	2/3/2006	2006
ASUTR	0517	AAS	General Technology	2/6/2004	2004
ASUTR	0705	AAS	Healthcare Administration	4/28/2006	2006
ASUTR	4731	TC	Healthcare Administration	8/1/2003	2003
ASUTR	4745	CP	Healthcare Administration	4/19/2002	2002
ASUTR	0115	CP	HVACR	2/1/2002	2002
ASUTR	4633	CP	Industrial Equipment Maintenance	10/1/1993	2004
ASUTR	1881	CP	Industrial Robotics	7/25/2014	2014
ASUTR	4746	TC	Medical Coding	8/1/2003	2003
ASUTR	0150	CP	Network Security	4/27/2007	2007
ASUTR	0104	TC	Pre-Allied Health	10/26/2007	2007
CCCUA	2710	TC	Health Professions	2/4/2011	2011
NPC	4900	TC	Welding Technology	4/25/2003	2021

Institution	Degree Code	Award	Program Name	Program Approval Date	Date of Last Program Review
OZC	0670	AAS	Health Information Technology	4/1/1994	2014
OZC	2510	TC	Health Information Technology	2/1/2013	2014
OZC	2710	TC	Health Professions	2/1/2008	2008
OZC	0018	CP	Information Science Technology	8/4/2006	2006
OZC	1270	CP	Pre-Health Sciences	7/27/2012	2012
SAC	0707	TC	Medical Coding	10/22/2004	2004
SAC	4745	CP	Medical Coding	2/4/2011	2011
SEAC	1707	CP	Medical Coding	4/30/2004	2004
UACCRM	2120	TC	Cosmetology	4/26/2013	2023
UACCRM	1120	CP	Cosmetology Instructor	10/31/2014	2023
UACCRM	0018	CP	Early Childhood Development	7/19/2002	2002
UACCRM	0110	AA	General Education	4/29/2005	2005
UACCRM	0900	AGS	General Studies		
UACCRM	0517	AAS	General Technology	4/1/1996	1996
UACCRM	4741	CP	Health Information Billing & Coding	7/25/2014	2014
UACCRM	4742	TC	Health Information Billing & Coding	7/25/2014	2014

These programs will be subject to a two-year notice period, during which the respective institutions are expected to bring the programs into compliance with the policy requirements. At the conclusion of this two-year period, any programs that continue to not meet the minimum standards will be recommended for deletion from the approved program inventory.

Please be advised that, as per policy, state general revenue funds may not be used for the operation of a program beyond the termination deadline set by the Coordinating Board. Furthermore, ADHE will not include Student Semester Credit Hours (SSCHs) generated by major courses of programs removed from the approved program inventory in its funding formula calculations.

Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board Recommendation for Continued Authorization of Concurrent Enrollment Programs

In accordance with the Concurrent Enrollment policy, an institution with Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board continued authorization for the Concurrent Enrollment Program can offer courses for concurrent enrollment for a period of up to seven (7) years. Institutions that wish to continue to offer courses for concurrent enrollment must request AHECB reauthorization.

The Concurrent Enrollment Policy outlines clear criteria for continued authorization, focusing on the quality of instruction, student support, and institutional oversight. The policy requires institutions seeking reauthorization to provide documentation demonstrating:

- **Current Memorandum of Understanding (MOU):** Institutions submitted for review an example Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) template.
- **Current List of Concurrent Courses:** Institutions provided a comprehensive list of all concurrent courses offered, including course numbers, ACTS numbers (if applicable), and prerequisites.
- **Assurance of Course Content:** A detailed description of the process for ensuring concurrent course content meets the academic unit's requirements at the college or university.
- **Current List of Concurrent Instructors:** A list of all concurrent instructors, along with a statement confirming they meet the AHECB and academic department's minimum requirements for instruction.
- **Grading and Recording Procedures:** An explanation of how grades are awarded and recorded with the college or university Registrar, ensuring consistency with on-campus courses.
- **Student Success Data Analysis:** An analysis of student success, persistence, and retention data from the three years prior to the reauthorization request, demonstrating the effectiveness of concurrent credit courses.

Each institution recommended for continued authorization has submitted the required documentation, which has been reviewed by a three-member team selected by the Arkansas Division of Higher Education (ADHE). The positive evaluations from these reviews form the basis of this recommendation. ADHE recommends to AHECB for continued authorization for the following institutions concurrent enrollment program:

Arkansas Concurrent Enrollment Programs (CEPs) approved by Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board			
Institution	Initially Accredited	Reaccredited	Accredited Through Academic Year
Arkansas Northeastern College	2015	2025	2029-2030
Arkansas State University Mid-South	2015	2025	2029-2030
Arkansas State University Mountain Home	2015	2025	2029-2030
Arkansas Tech University	2015	2025	2029-2030
Arkansas Tech University Ozark	2015	2025	2029-2030
Black River Technical College	2015	2025	2029-2030
Cossatot Community College of the University of Arkansas	2015	2025	2029-2030
University of Arkansas East Arkansas Community College	2015	2025	2029-2030
Henderson State University	2015	2025	2029-2030
Ozarka College	2015	2025	2029-2030
South Arkansas College	2015	2025	2029-2030
Southeast Arkansas College	2015	2025	2029-2030
Southern Arkansas University Tech	2015	2025	2029-2030
University of Arkansas at Fort Smith	2015	2025	2029-2030
University of Arkansas at Monticello	2015	2025	2029-2030
University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff	2015	2025	2029-2030
University of Arkansas Community College at Morrliton	2015	2025	2029-2030
University of Arkansas Community College at Rich Mountain	2015	2025	2029-2030
University of Arkansas Pulaski Technical College	2015	2025	2029-2030

ARKANSAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD
Regular Quarterly Meeting
April 25, 2025

Minutes of Meeting

The April 25, 2025, regular meeting of the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) was held at Southern Arkansas University in Magnolia. 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
Graycen Bigger
Chad Hooten (via Zoom)
Heather Maxey
Dr. Kyle Miller (via Zoom)
Carolyn Rhinehart (via Zoom)

Coordinating Board absent:

Dr. Katherine Dudley, Secretary
Dr. Jerry Cash

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

Chair Carr began by calling on President Bruno Hicks for a welcome. Dr. Hicks welcomed Coordinating Board members, ADHE staff, and presidents and chancellors to the SAU Campus. Established in 1909, on approximately 1700 acres, SAU has become the best small comprehensive public university in Arkansas, said Hicks.

Next, Carr stated the board would go into a Committee of the Whole, which would allow all members to vote during both committee meetings.

Agenda Item No. 1
Distribution of Mineral Lease Funds

Nick Fuller presented the 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 870 of 2023 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.

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.

There were no questions.

Graycen Bigger moved to recommend Agenda Item No. 1 to the full Board for consideration. Heather Maxey seconded, and the Committee unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 2

Associate of Applied Science in Industrial Maintenance
Technical Certificate in Industrial Maintenance
Certificate of Proficiency in Industrial Maintenance
Certificate of Proficiency in automation
Certificate of Proficiency in Machine Tool Technology
Arkansas Northeastern College

The proposed Industrial Maintenance program is designed to address the critical workforce need for skilled industrial maintenance technicians within the steel industry, steel service industries, and other manufacturing sectors in the region surrounding ANC. This program proposal is in direct response to industry demands for a trained and adaptable workforce capable of maintaining and optimizing advanced manufacturing equipment and systems.

The proposed Industrial Maintenance program will educate students in the areas of electricity/electronics, mechanics, welding, automation systems, manufacturing, machining operations, blueprint/schematics, industrial tools, and troubleshooting. It will provide students with the knowledge and skills required to secure high skill, high demand, and high wage employment in a variety of industries. Three Certificates of Proficiency, each 12 credit hours, and a 30 credit-hour Technical Certificate are embedded in the 60 credit-hour Associate of Applied Science curriculum. These stackable credentials will give students the opportunity to earn nationally recognized industry credentials and local employer endorsed credentials while learning specific high-demand skillsets.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the offering of the Associate of Applied Science in Industrial Maintenance (CIP 47.0303), Technical Certificate in Industrial Maintenance (CIP 47.0303), Certificate of Proficiency in Industrial Maintenance (CIP 47.0303), Certificate of Proficiency in Automation (CIP 15.0406), and Certificate of Proficiency in Machine Tool Technology (CIP 48.0501) at Arkansas Northeastern College, effective Fall 2025.

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 Arkansas Northeastern College of the approval.

Ryan Perkins, Vice President for Instruction/CAO and Stacy Walker, Associate Vice President for Workforce Development, presented additional background information.

Graycen Bigger said she was surprised this program wasn't already in place. She asked if the critical need for skilled industrial maintenance technicians was due to skilled workers retiring and questioned if there were any plans for two plus two transfer agreements.

Perkins said the need is mostly retirement based, and yes, they are looking at potential two plus two agreements.

Chair Carr asked how many new students are anticipated in this program. Perkins said they anticipate 20-25 new students in each program.

Graycen Bigger moved to recommend the approval of Agenda Item No. 2 to the full Board for consideration. Lucas Pointer seconded, and the Committee unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 3
Bachelor of Science in Advanced Manufacturing Engineering
Certificate of Proficiency in Advanced Manufacturing
University of Arkansas at Fort Smith

The proposed 120 credit-hour Bachelor of Science in Advanced Manufacturing Engineering blends courses in traditional and applied mechanical and electrical engineering with courses from business and data science. Graduates will be prepared to design, implement, maintain, and manage modern manufacturing systems that require knowledge in automation, device networking, systems integration, technical communication, project management, quality control, procurement, supply chain management, compliance, safety, and manufacturing processes.

The embedded 9 credit-hour Certificate of Proficiency in Advanced Manufacturing prepares graduates to apply technical and management principles in an advanced manufacturing environment to achieve operational excellence. Graduates will apply technical skills such as quality assurance, risk analysis, process management, product management, and other necessary specialties in the field of technology management.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the offering of the Bachelor of Science in Advanced Manufacturing Engineering (CIP 14.3601) and Certificate of Proficiency in Advanced Manufacturing (CIP 14.3601) at the University of Arkansas Fort Smith, effective Fall 2025.

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 Fort Smith and the Chair of the Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas System of the approval.

Dr. Shadow Robinson, Provost and Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs, presented additional background information.

Bigger asked if there is an anticipated average wage or increase for students getting this degree or technical certificate? Dr. Robinson said, yes, the certificate program will open leadership opportunities while the bachelor's degree will see average salaries in the \$70,000 - \$80,000 range.

Graycen Bigger moved to recommend Agenda Item No. 5 to the full Board for consideration. Lucas Pointer seconded, and the committee approved.

Agenda Items No. 4 & 5
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 4-1 through 4-45 and in the Arkansas public institutions Letters of Intent on pages 5-1 of the agenda book.

There were no questions.

Agenda Item No. 6
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 institution listed to offer the specified degree programs to Arkansas residents for a period of three years through December 31, 2028.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Commissioner of the Arkansas Division of Higher Education is authorized to notify the administration of said institution 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 institution 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

University of Southern California, Los Angeles, California

There were no questions.

Graycen Bigger moved to recommend Agenda Item No. 8 to the full Board for consideration. Heather Maxey seconded, and the Committee unanimously approved.

Agenda Items No. 7 & 8 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 7-1 through 7-5 and in the Letters of Intent on page 8-1 of the agenda book.

There were no questions.

Agenda Item No. 9 Approval of Minutes

Lucas Pointer moved to approve Agenda Item No. 9. Graycen Bigger seconded the motion, and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 10 Commissioner's Report

Commissioner Warden began by thanking Dr. Hicks and SAU for hosting such a wonderful meeting. He then thanked the Coordinating Board members and DHE staff for all they do for higher education in Arkansas. Next, he announced that Dr. Terry Martin was stepping down as provost and executive vice chancellor for academic affairs for the University of Arkansas and thanked him for his service to higher education in Arkansas.

Return on Investment

All of the institutions should have received our initial findings on the return on investment metric, said Warden. A lot of work went into the report in a short period of time to really highlight that there is value in higher education in Arkansas.

Agenda Item No. 11
Report on First-Year Student Remediation

Mason Campbell presented information about first-year student remediation. He noted the primary focus of this report is the cohort of 7,620 students receiving remediation during the academic year 2023-2024. These students are a subset of the 21,357 first-time entering, degree seeking students who graduated high school in 2022 or 2023. Of this population, 91% were classified as full-time students and 9% were classified as part-time students. With regards to sex, 58% were female, 42% were male, and less than 1% percent did not report. When examining the institution type, 69% of this population enrolled at a four-year institution compared to 31% enrolled at a two-year institution. Lastly, the remediation status of all first-time entering students, 64% did not require remediation while 36% did require remedial coursework.

There were no questions.

Agenda Item No. 12
Report on Student Retention and Graduation
for Arkansas Higher Education

Sonia Hazelwood reported on the statewide student retention and graduation rates for students entering Arkansas higher education institutions for public 4-Year and 2-Year institutions, and private/independent institutions. While the 4-year institutions held steady, a 1.7% decrease for the 2-year colleges resulted in a small decline of 0.7% in the statewide retention rate.

There were no questions.

Agenda Item No. 13
Report on Retention and Graduation
of Intercollegiate Athletes

Sonia Hazelwood reported on the retention and graduation rates for first-time in college students who participate in Arkansas intercollegiate athletics. In Academic Year 2023-24, 4,509 students participated in athletics at ten universities and twelve 2-year colleges, which is up from nine who reported last year. This is the most student-athletes ever reported for an academic year. The increase was due in part to 139 student-athletes reported by the three additional 2-year colleges and several increases in the number of student-athletes reported by other institutions.

There were no questions.

Report of the Committees

Chair Carr presented the report of the Finance Committee and moved approval of Agenda Item 1. Lucas Pointer seconded, and the board unanimously approved.

Chair Carr presented the report of the Academic Committee and moved approval of Agenda Items 2, 3 & 6. Graycen Bigger seconded, and the board unanimously approved.

Remarks by Presidents/Chancellors and Guest

The next quarterly meeting will be held on July 25, 2025, at the University of Arkansas Pulaski Technical College, at 9:00 a.m.

With no further comments, the meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

SUBMITTED BY:

Nichole Abernathy

APPROVED:

Dr. Katherine Dudley, Secretary

**APPROVAL OF ARKANSAS HIGHER EDUCATION
COORDINATING BOARD BY-LAWS**

The amended by-laws are presented to the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) for approval.

The AHECB By-Laws Committee, appointed by Chair Jim Carr, met and reviewed the by-laws that were originally approved at the July 24, 1997 meeting. The committee recommends the amended by-laws in this agenda item for adoption to allow the Coordinating Board to discharge its responsibilities in a more effective manner. The recommended revisions are shown with strikeouts and underline.

The By-Laws were originally approved on July 24, 1997 (Item No. 6):

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board adopts the amended by-laws presented in this agenda item for the operation of the Coordinating Board.

ARKANSAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD

BY-LAWS

Statement of Mission and Values

1. As members of the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board, we understand that acceptance of appointment to this Board is an acknowledgment of our responsibility to serve the citizens of Arkansas in the arena of higher education, and not simply the receipt of an honor or recognition.
2. We shall prepare for meetings by studying and understanding relevant materials supplied by staff.
3. We shall constantly improve our effectiveness as board members by reading widely in general and specialized publications in the subjects of educational matters and in state and local news.
4. We shall consider issues from the viewpoint of the needs and best interests of the people of Arkansas as a whole, and without partiality for or against any particular institution or type of institution.
5. We shall base our decisions on valid and appropriate data, information, and professional advice and counsel.
6. We shall bring to and expose to Board deliberations all concerns we have; we debate openly, vigorously, candidly, and politely; and we support decisions of the Board once made.
7. We consider attendance at regular and special Board meetings a priority because of our responsibility to bring our individual questions and counsel to Board deliberations.
8. We understand and support the public's right to observe and be informed about the work of the Board as a public body tending to the public's business.
9. We understand the distinction between our duty to set policy and establish appropriate monitoring or reporting to ensure compliance with policy, and our duty to refrain from interfering in the administration and management of the division's responsibilities. We should, however, communicate freely with the Commissioner and appropriate staff regarding information relevant to the respective responsibilities of the Board and the division.
10. We are dedicated to establishing policy and discharging our responsibilities without discrimination on the basis of race, gender, color, creed, religion, age, or other inappropriate characteristics or criteria.

11. We serve as a bridge between institutions of higher education and the division staff on the one hand, and the Governor, General Assembly, and public on the other.
12. We serve as a buffer that shields the institutions and the division staff from inappropriate criticism and political pressure.
13. As individual board members we acknowledge that we should neither act nor speak on behalf of the Board with respect to matters under the jurisdiction of the Board. On these matters the Board should act collectively and the chair should be deemed the spokesperson for the Board.
14. We encourage and demand, within the bounds of the Board's legal authority and responsibility, integrity and accuracy of data and information supplied by institutions and relied upon by the staff and Board in the discharge of its responsibilities.

BY-LAWS**Article I****The Board**

Section 1. Statute. The Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board ("Coordinating Board") was created by Acts of 1997, No. 1114, which abolished the State Board of Higher Education and transferred its powers, duties, and functions, records, personnel, property, unexpended balances of appropriations, allocations, or other funds to the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board. The Coordinating Board is empowered with those duties and responsibilities specified or implied in Acts of 1997, No. 1114; Acts of 1977, No. 560, as amended by Acts of 1991, No. 1244; those duties and responsibilities specified or implied in Acts of 1991, No. 773 and No. 1244; and as otherwise specified by state and federal law.

Section 2. Board Composition. The Coordinating Board consists of twelve (12) members appointed by the Governor as provided in Acts of 1997, No. 1114. No more than four (4) members shall be appointed from any one (1) congressional district, as the districts exist at the time of the appointment. The members of the Board shall serve staggered terms of six (6) years. The terms of the members of the initial board shall be determined by lot so that the terms of two (2) members shall expire each year.

Article II**Officers of the Board and Their Duties**

Section 1. Officers. The officers of the Coordinating Board are the Chair, the Vice Chair, the Secretary, and any other officers deemed necessary to fulfill their responsibilities.

Section 2. Election. The officers of the Coordinating Board are elected annually by the affirmative vote of the majority of the entire Board at its first quarterly meeting. Officers shall serve until the first quarterly meeting one year following their election or until their successors are elected and qualified. A member shall not be eligible to serve for more than two (2), one (1) year terms as chair of the Board.

Section 3. Chair. The Chair shall be a member of the Coordinating Board and (1) shall preside at the meetings of the Board, (2) shall call special meetings as required, (3) shall appoint the chair of and appoint or provide for the election of all committees, and (4) shall perform such other duties as may be prescribed by law or by action of the Board. The Chair shall be an ex officio member of all committees. The Chair shall be entitled to vote only in the event of a tie.

Section 4. Vice Chair. The Vice Chair shall be a member of the Coordinating Board and shall perform the duties and have the powers of the Chair during the absence or disability of the Chair.

Section 5. Secretary. The Secretary shall be a member of the Coordinating Board and shall attest to the official actions of the State Board.

Article III

Executive Staff

Section 1. Commissioner. The executive head of the Division of Higher Education ("Division") shall be the Commissioner of the Division. The Commissioner shall be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the Governor. The Coordinating Board shall evaluate the Commissioner annually. The Presidents Council shall provide an evaluation report of the Division and the Commissioner to the Board at least annually.

Section 2. Authority of Commissioner. The Commissioner of the Division, with the advice and consent of the Governor, shall appoint the heads of the respective ~~divisions~~ units within the Division. All of the personnel of the Division shall be employed by and serve at the pleasure of the Commissioner of the Division. Each department of the Division shall be under the direction, control, and supervision of the Commissioner. The Commissioner may delegate his/her functions, powers, and duties to various departments of the Division as deemed desirable or necessary for the effective and efficient operation of the Division.

Article IV

Committee Structure

Section 1. Committees. The Coordinating Board may establish ~~as permanent committees an Executive Committee, a Finance Committee, and an Academic Committee.~~ Special ad hoc committees ~~may be appointed from time to time as the Board may deem desirable as needed.~~

Section 2. Authority of Committees. All committees of the Coordinating Board, ~~both standing and special,~~ have advisory status to the Board. These committees are not empowered to speak for the Board unless specifically granted such authorization by a majority of the Board or such authority is specified in the By-Laws of the Board.

Section 3. Executive Committee. ~~The Executive Committee shall be composed of the officers of the Coordinating Board and one member at-large appointed by the Chair. The Chair of the Board shall serve as committee chair. The Executive Committee shall be empowered to act on behalf of the Board, subject to ratification of the full Board at the next regularly scheduled meeting.~~

Section 4. Finance Committee. ~~Members of the Finance Committee shall be appointed by the Chair at the first quarterly meeting of each year with vacancies to be filled by appointment by the Chair as they occur. The terms of committee members shall be one year. The Chair shall designate one member to serve as committee chair. The Finance Committee shall consider and make recommendations to the Coordinating Board on all matters relating to fiscal affairs of the institutions within the jurisdiction of the Board.~~

~~**Section 5. Academic Committee.** Members of the Academic Committee shall be appointed by the Chair at the first quarterly meeting of each year with vacancies to be filled by appointment by the Chair as they occur. The terms of the committee members shall be one year. The Chair shall designate one member to serve as committee chair. The Academic Committee shall consider and make recommendations to the Coordinating Board on all matters pertaining to instructional programs of the institutions, including academic policies, program review and approval, and master planning.~~

~~**Section 6. Committee Chair.** A committee chair shall be entitled to vote only in the event of a tie.~~

Article V

Meetings and Procedures

Section 1. Meetings. The Coordinating Board shall meet at least once during each calendar quarter and at such other times upon call of the Chair or any other four (4) members. The Board shall not meet in any facility owned or operated by any organization which practices or condones discrimination. The Board may, at such times as it desires, meet on the campuses of the respective institutions of higher education in the state.

The Board may hold remote meetings or allow for members that cannot attend in person to attend remotely. If a remote meeting is held, it must be recorded in the format it is conducted. Remote methods of attendance include without limitation by telephone, video conference, or video broadcast.

Section 2. Notice. Notice concerning the time, date, and place of each regular meeting of the Coordinating Board shall be sent to each member of the Board by the Commissioner of the Division at least ten (10) days in advance of the meeting date. Public notice of the time, date, and place of each meeting as required by the Arkansas Freedom of Information Act shall be given ~~of all meetings~~. Such notice shall be posted on the Board's website at least three (3) days before a regular meeting and two (2) hours before a special meeting. The notice must include the most current agenda. Agendas must be updated if items are added after posting.

Section 3. Quorum. At all meetings of the Coordinating Board one member more than 50% of the current number of slated members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

Section 4. Agenda. An agenda for each regular meeting of the Coordinating Board will be prepared by the Commissioner of the Division in consultation with the Chair of the Board setting forth each matter of business to be conducted at the meeting. Such agenda shall be sent to the members at least ten days before each meeting. Pursuant to Acts of 1997, No. 1114, all items to be considered as a Board agenda item must be reviewed by the Executive Council and the Presidents Council prior to being placed on the Board agenda. In the event that the Commissioner and staff shall not be in

agreement with the Executive Council on a matter to be considered by the Board, the Executive Council recommendation will be placed on the Board agenda automatically for a presentation and explanation of the Executive Council's position. The Board will then make a decision based on both positions. Matters not on the agenda can be considered at the meeting only by vote of a majority of the members present and voting following appropriate review by the Executive Council and the Presidents Council

Section 5. Rules of Order. Except as modified by these By-Laws, Roberts Rules of Order (latest edition) shall constitute the rules of parliamentary procedure applicable to all meetings of the Coordinating Board and its committees.

Section 6. Minutes. The Commissioner of the Division, or his/or her designee, shall be responsible for keeping minutes of all meetings and shall file, index and preserve all minutes, papers and documents pertaining to the business and proceedings of the Coordinating Board. The minutes of each meeting of the Board shall be reported in the agenda book of the next quarterly meeting of the Board.

Section 7. Open Meetings. All meetings of the Coordinating Board shall be open to the public unless, consistent with the requirements of the Arkansas Freedom of Information Act, a meeting is closed to the public for the consideration of personnel matters. Should any decision be made during an executive session, the Board must reconvene in public session for official action. The Board shall ensure that Arkansas residents have reasonable access to attend a public meeting, including through remote means, if such remote means are utilized by the governing body. The public must be able to verify that the attendee is in fact a Board member, therefore, if attending via video broadcast or video conference, the Board member must turn their camera on to verify their identity. Cameras must also be on for Board members that are speaking or voting. If attending via telephone, the Board member must state their name each time the member speaks or votes.

Polling, which is the practice of a non-member querying the members to determine the likely outcome of any future board action or whether the member of the governing body supports or opposes a certain proposed action by the governing body, is prohibited.

Article VI

Amendment of By-Laws

Section 1. Amendment. These By-Laws may be amended upon thirty (30) days prior written notice at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Coordinating Board by a majority vote of the Board.

Approved: Agenda Item No. 6
July 24, 1997

Amended: Agenda Item No. 21
October 27, 2023

Amended: Agenda Item No. 11
July 25, 2025

REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER

ArkACRAO – Registrar’s Summer Meeting

The ADHE Data Team presented recently at the Arkansas Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers regular summer meeting. Presentation topics included an update on Arkansas Launch, Credential Engine initiatives, and AHEIS reporting updates.

Lyon College Groundbreaking

ADHE staff attended the Lyon College School of Veterinary Medicine groundbreaking on June 12. Staff joined state and local leaders, college officials, and community members as they celebrated the beginning of construction on what will become a hub for innovation, education, and compassionate animal care. The Cabot campus will train and graduate veterinarians ready and able to serve the veterinary healthcare needs of Arkansas into the future, advance public health for Arkansans, create more small businesses, and contribute to community and state economy.



Eastern Arkansas Business and Industry Regional Summit

On June 17, Commissioner Warden presented at the Eastern Arkansas Business and Industry Regional Summit on the ACCESS Act and higher education return on investment (ROI). The Summit was held at UAEACC in partnership with UA Phillips and the Arkansas Delta Training and Education Consortium.



SHEEO Annual Meeting

The SHEEO Annual Meeting will be held at the Park Hyatt in Washington, D.C., July 14-17, 2025. Commissioner Warden will join CEOs of state higher education boards and commissions and leaders of national and regional organizations at the meeting which will emphasize key state and national higher education policy issues and relationship building.

New Chancellor begins at UAPB

On July 1, Anthony Graham, Ph.D., began as chancellor of the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff (UAPB). Dr. Graham previously served as a tenured professor of education and former provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs at Winston-Salem State University. Graham also served as interim chancellor at Winston-Salem State University from 2023-24.



AHECB POLICY - CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT POLICY

Arkansas law allows for the enrollment of high school students in college-level courses under certain conditions. Concurrent enrollment allows students to obtain credit toward a high school diploma at the same time they earn college credit.

The concurrent enrollment policy was first approved by the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) in October 1998 with the latest revision was in July 2024. Proposed new language is in *italics and underlined*, and deleted language is ~~struck through~~.

AHECB Resolutions

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the policy amendment on concurrent enrollment effective Fall 2025. The concurrent enrollment policy outlines the guidelines for concurrent program participation; however, Arkansas state-supported colleges and universities are not required to participate in a concurrent enrollment program; and a high school/school district may choose to partner with more than one Arkansas college/university for concurrent courses.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That any Arkansas state-supported college or university that chooses to participate in a concurrent enrollment program with a public school district, private high school, or home-school student shall implement and administer the concurrent program in accordance with the policies of the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board and the rules of the Arkansas State Board of Education.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Coordinating Board instructs the Director 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, and institutional research officers at Arkansas state-supported colleges and universities.

Concurrent Enrollment Policy

1. Introduction

Concurrent enrollment programs in Arkansas allow students to earn both high school and college credit simultaneously. These programs have evolved over time through legislative acts and subsequent policy refinements to provide accessible and quality higher education opportunities to high school students. Collectively, these policies reflect the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board's ongoing commitment to foster college and career readiness by integrating high school and postsecondary education. The intent is to:

Ensure Quality: Maintain rigorous academic standards by requiring concurrent courses to meet the same content and instructional standards as college courses, taught by highly qualified instructors.

Promote Readiness: Equip students with the academic skills necessary for success in postsecondary education and future careers, with a long-term goal of reducing college remediation rates and increasing college graduation rates across the state.

Reduce Financial Barriers: Mitigate financial barriers by providing scholarship opportunities and ensuring no student, parent, or guardian will be held accountable for the costs of tuition, fees, or materials associated with concurrent credit course participation.

Increase Access: Provide eligible high school students with opportunities to earn college credit, thereby accelerating their academic progress and potentially reducing the financial burden.

2. Arkansas Code and Concurrent Credit

Arkansas Code §6-18-223 allows public high school students in Arkansas who have successfully completed the eighth grade to enroll in publicly supported community colleges or four-year universities. If they successfully complete these college courses, they are entitled to receive academic credit in both the institution of higher education and their public high school.

Arkansas Code §6-60-202 declares it state policy that qualified public or private high school students should be accepted for part-time enrollment in public institutions of higher education upon request.

Arkansas Code §6-16-1202, §6-16-1203, and §6-16-1204 detail implementation requirements and qualifications and training required for teachers of Accelerated Learning opportunities. For concurrent enrollment courses, the law specifies that

courses must be college-level, approved by the higher education institution, meet the same standards as post-secondary courses, and be taught by qualified instructors. The higher education institution is responsible for instructor support, student academic guidance, and access to resources.

3. **Definitions**

Accelerated Learning means an organized method of learning that enables students to meet individual academic goals and graduation requirements while pursuing higher levels of skill development, including without limitation the following coursework:

- A College Board pre-Advanced Placement and Advanced Placement course
- An International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme course
- A Cambridge Advanced International Certificate of Education course
- A concurrent credit course
- A substantively similar course or program approved by the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education

Pre-Advanced Placement course is a middle, junior high, or high school course that specifically prepares students for an AP course.

Advanced Placement course is a high school course that prepares a student for a college AP test, incorporating required topics and approved by The College Board

Concurrent Enrollment is the enrollment of a high school student in a college course for high school credit and college-level credit. (Arkansas Code §6-18-223) Concurrent enrollment allows students to obtain credit toward a high school diploma at the same time they earn college credit.

Concurrent Credit Course is a college-level course offered by an institution of higher education in Arkansas that upon completion would qualify for academic credit in both the institution of higher education and a public high school.

Dual Enrollment Course is the enrollment of a high school student in postsecondary education exclusively for college credit. High school students enrolled in a dual enrollment course may petition the district or high school to consider allowing the college-level dual enrollment credit to be considered for high school credit. (Arkansas Code §6-60-202)

4. **State Authorization for Concurrent Enrollment Program**

A college or university must be accredited by the National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships (NACEP) or be authorized by the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) to participate in the State Concurrent Enrollment Program (CEP).

~~College/University offering Concurrent Courses on College/University Campus Only~~

~~A college/university only offering concurrent courses on the college/university campus (and does not offer or plan to offer concurrent courses on the high school campus) has satisfied the requirements for initial authorization for Concurrent Enrollment Program participation.~~

~~The college/university must submit to ADHE a copy of the written, signed MOU agreement between the college/university and high school/school district as verification of the on-campus college/university concurrent enrollment program. The MOU must outline in detail the concurrent enrollment arrangements between the two parties. A copy of the current written, signed MOU agreement must be submitted to ADHE each subsequent year for continued authorization.~~

~~Any college/university currently not offering concurrent courses on a high school campus must follow the concurrent program approval process outlined below; and the college/university must have AHECB authorization for its institutional (high school) concurrent enrollment program prior to the offering of concurrent courses on a high school campus.~~

I. ~~College/University with NACEP Accreditation Authorization for Concurrent Enrollment Program~~

~~All colleges or universities with NACEP accreditation must provide written documentation to ADHE of the institution's NACEP accreditation status. upon approval of this concurrent policy.~~

- ~~A. A college or university currently initial~~ A college or university accredited by NACEP has satisfied the requirements for initial authorization for Concurrent Enrollment Program participation, and must maintain NACEP accreditation for continued CEP participation; or
- ~~B. A college or university with continued NACEP accreditation must submit written documentation to ADHE of its current accreditation status within 30 days of NACEP notification of reaccreditation to maintain AHECB CEP continued authorization.~~
- ~~C. A college or university currently accredited by NACEP has satisfied the requirements for initial authorization for Concurrent Enrollment Program participation and may request AHECB authorization to satisfy the requirements for continued CEP participation when current NACEP accreditation expires~~ or is revoked. The college or university must submit the written notification to ADHE ~~no later than June 1~~ no later than 30 days prior to expiration, requesting AHECB authorization for continued CEP participation.

II. ~~College/University without NACEP Accreditation~~ Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board Authorization for Concurrent Enrollment Program ~~(and offering Concurrent Courses on High School Campus)~~

To receive initial authorization through the state review process, developed in cooperation with the colleges and universities, and implemented by the Arkansas Division of Higher Education (ADHE); a college or university must demonstrate that the college or university concurrent program meets or exceeds all requirements outlined in the AHECB Concurrent Enrollment Program (CEP) policy, outlined below.

AHECB approval will be granted to the college or university to offer concurrent credit courses for a period ~~not to exceed~~ up to seven (7) years once the college or university has submitted a CEP proposal that has been reviewed and recommended for approval by a 3-member review team selected ~~from a panel of reviewers agreed upon~~ by the Concurrent Review Committee (CRC) and ADHE.

The initial proposal for offering concurrent credit must specify how the college or university concurrent enrollment program satisfies each component of the CEP policy by providing evidence of the following:

A. Faculty

Each college or university must have a policy for selecting faculty to teach concurrent courses that meets AHECB, institutional, and accreditor guidelines. ~~Each concurrent instructor for general education courses at a minimum must hold a master's degree and have 18 graduate-level hours in the subject to be taught.~~

Each college or university must have an official transcript on file for each instructor approved for concurrent courses which clearly indicates that the concurrent faculty member meets the requirements specified by the college or university ~~has the required academic credentials~~.

Each college or university must have a description of the orientation process for ~~new~~ all concurrent faculty and a sample of information that is provided to concurrent faculty during orientation. Each college or university must have a description of the plan to assure concurrent faculty receive appropriate, ongoing professional development.

B. Courses

Each college or university must present a current list of proposed concurrent courses by course name, course number ~~(i.e. ENGL 1013)~~, and the associated Arkansas Course Transfer System (ACTS) course number (if

applicable) and indicate any pre-requisite courses. All general education course offerings must follow the approval process for additions to the Arkansas Course Transfer System.

C. Syllabi and Course Materials Textbooks

Each college or university must have a policy regarding final approval of concurrent syllabi and course materials textbooks. The course content and instruction must meet the same standards and adopt the same learning outcomes as those developed for a course taught at post-secondary institution of higher education, including the administration of any departmental exams applicable to the course and the use of substantially the same materials and syllabus as is used at the college level.

D. Students

Each college or university must verify that students have met admission criteria for the college or university and that the process conforms to AHECB guidelines.

Each college or university must provide an explanation of how grades are awarded and recorded with the college or university registrar and must provide documentation that the college or university course grading/awarding and course recording standards are followed for concurrent courses.

E. Student Guide for Concurrent Enrollment

Each college or university must have a student guide for concurrent enrollment available to students and parents that outlines the college or university and school district participation requirements and includes information regarding syllabi, academic standing, grading, links to ACTS, academic dishonesty, transcripts, current contact information for the concurrent enrollment liaison at the college or university, drop/withdrawal from class, academic due process guidelines, use of the college or university library, FERPA protections, policy for students with disabilities, sexual harassment policy, and student evaluation of instruction procedures.

F. Faculty Guide for Concurrent Enrollment

Each college or university must have a faculty guide for concurrent enrollment detailing the syllabus requirements, FERPA requirements, academic dishonesty policy, grading system, access to input grades, grade changes, student academic due process, student evaluation of instruction, policy for students with disabilities, sexual harassment policy, contact information for the college or university concurrent liaison, child maltreatment and reporting policy, non-compliance policy, and process of faculty evaluation by the

academic unit head from the college or university.

G. Assessment

By academic discipline, a description of the process for assuring concurrent course content satisfies the requirements of the college or university academic unit. Examples may include common examinations, approval of concurrent tests by the college or university, common grading criteria, etc.

H. Evaluation

Each college or university will analyze its student success, persistence, and retention data to determine to what extent concurrent credit courses are leading to student success.

I. Memorandum of Understanding

The college or university must have on file a current written, signed Memorandum of Understanding with each high school with whom the college or university offers or desires to offer concurrent enrollment.

The Memorandum of Understanding must include the following:

1. The names and addresses of the college or university and the participating school district/high school
2. Academic calendar with which the college or university and the high school must comply
3. Guidelines and requirements for approval of instructors
4. Guidelines for approval and assessment of courses
5. Guidelines and requirements for admission and eligibility of students
6. Requirements for syllabi
7. Non-compliance statement
8. Length of time covered by the MOU and procedures for termination of MOU
9. Description of the concurrent course billing process.

~~All evidence indicating how the college or university plans to offer a concurrent enrollment program must be submitted to ADHE by June 1 for an evaluation by a review team selected from among those designated by the Arkansas Division of Higher Education to serve on the Concurrent Review Committee. The Committee members will be selected by ADHE and will serve for a three-year period.~~

The CRC evaluation report will be forwarded to the Arkansas Division of Higher Education for consideration of a recommendation for AHECB approval of the institutional concurrent enrollment program.

AHECB Continued Authorization

A college or university with AHECB initial authorization for the Concurrent Enrollment Program can offer courses for concurrent enrollment for a period of up to seven (7) years unless the AHECB requires a follow-up review within the 7-year timeframe and/or the NACEP accreditation has expired.

The college or university must submit a CEP Continued Authorization Proposal that will be reviewed for approval by a 3-member review team selected by the Concurrent Review Committee (CRC) and ADHE. The CEP Continued Authorization Proposal will serve as the institution's request for AHECB Reauthorization.

The request for AHECB CEP reauthorization must include documentation of the following:

1. A current Memorandum of Understanding with each high school with whom the college/university desires to offer concurrent enrollment.
2. A current list of concurrent courses offered by course name, number (i.e. ENGL 1013), the ACTS course number, and any pre-requisites courses.
3. By academic discipline, a description of the process for assuring that concurrent course content satisfies the requirements of the college/university academic unit.
4. A current list of concurrent instructors offering courses for concurrent credit including a statement that each instructor meets the minimum requirements for instruction as required by AHECB and the academic department offering the concurrent credit.
5. An explanation of how grades are awarded and recorded with the college/university Registrar.
6. An analysis of student success, persistence, and retention data to determine to what extent concurrent credit courses are leading to student success for the three years prior to the reauthorization request year.

The information for continued authorization must be submitted to ADHE by June 1 before the expiration date of AHECB CEP initial authorization; and reviewed by a 3-member team selected by ADHE from among those designated to serve on the Concurrent Review Committee. Based on the CRC review, ADHE will make a recommendation to AHECB for continued authorization or a recommendation for discontinuation of the institutional concurrent enrollment program.

5. Criteria for Conflict Resolution from AHECB Policy: Off-Campus Instruction Policy-Criteria for Conflict Resolution

Institutions that seek to offer concurrent courses at the same high school and cannot reach agreement between each other, either informally or with a written Memorandum of Understanding, will appeal to the ADHE Commissioner. After

receiving a written request from each affected institution that includes pertinent information and data, the ADHE Commissioner will mediate the conflict. If the affected institutions reject the decision of the ADHE Commissioner, the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board will hear evidence, consider staff recommendations, and make a final determination.

In order to determine the merits of presented arguments, the ADHE Commissioner and Board members will require in writing from each institution the following information:

- Mission of institution
- Willingness of institution to offer the course ~~at the off-campus/high school location~~
- Capability of institution
- Type of courses/programs proposed
- Cost to students
- Desire of the community or local school district
- History of off-campus offerings in the geographical area or at the high school
- Evidence that this course offering will not result in unnecessary duplication of courses/programs
- Evidence that the course offerings will not result in overextension of state's resources
- Other relevant information as determined by the institutions, ADHE Commissioner, and/or AHECB members

Although the "30-Mile Rule" is not a criterion used to resolve institutional conflicts regarding off-campus or concurrent offerings, the AHECB does not look favorably on an institution that encroaches on the service area of a second institution.

6. College and University Concurrent Course Ownership

Any ~~The~~ course offered for concurrent credit must meet the same standards as college courses ~~taught on~~ offered by the college or university ~~campus~~. Students can earn college credit and/or up to one unit of high school credit for successful completion of each ~~general education concurrent course and each blended AP/concurrent course~~ that is a minimum of 3 semester credit hours. ~~Students can earn college credit and/or up to one unit of high school credit for successful completion of each CTE course that is a minimum of 3 semester credit hours.~~

~~Note: It is understood that one~~ High schools ~~may have concurrent agreements with more than one college or university; however, there should not be unnecessary duplication of college~~ concurrent course offerings.

~~If there is not agreement among multiple institutions offering college courses at one high school/school district, the college/university seeking clarification on the~~

~~implementation of the concurrent enrollment policy must contact the ADHE Commissioner in writing and follow AHECB Policy: Off-Campus Instruction Policy-Criteria for Conflict Resolution.~~

Institutions of higher education must demonstrate “ownership” of any course offered for concurrent credit for which students are reported. Ownership means the administration must exercise direct oversight of all aspects of the concurrent course, including participation in the faculty selection, orientation, professional development, and evaluation processes. Ownership of courses means that the college or university will:

- Provide the instructors with appropriate training and orientation in course curriculum, assessment criteria, course philosophy, and administrative requirements after approval of the instructors to teach the college or university courses.
- Ensure that instructors receive continuing collegial interaction with college faculty through professional development, required seminars, and site visits. These interactions will address topics such as course content, course delivery, student learning assessment, in-class evaluation, and professional development in the field of study.
- Ensure that students have the opportunity to utilize institutional resources including the college or university library and academic advising on the college or university campus.

The instructor teaching the college course for concurrent credit must:

- Use the approved college or university course syllabus,
- Use the same textbook or a textbook with aligned content and course learning outcomes as approved by the college or university,
- Adopt the same learning outcomes and assignments as those developed for the course offered on the college or university campus with limited exceptions approved by the college or university, and
- Use the same course grading/awarding standards as those on the college or university campus. If departmental exams are used in college or university campus courses, then those course exams must be used at the high school site.

Simply awarding college credit to students who are enrolled in concurrent courses offered by a sponsoring college or university does not meet the principle of “course ownership” as described above.

7. General Education Courses

~~Concurrent credit courses should be freshman-level and/or sophomore-level~~

~~college/university courses, or in select cases upper-level courses, approved through the established process of an institution and included in the institutional catalog. General education courses offered for concurrent credit should be listed in the Arkansas Course Transfer System (ACTS). Students taking general education courses that are not part of the Arkansas Course Transfer System must be informed by the institution and high school that the course may not transfer to another college or university. A list of the career and technical education (CTE) courses offered for concurrent credit must be attached to the signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the high school/school district and the college/university.~~

8. ~~Concurrent Course Enrollment~~ – Career and Technical Education Courses

Students enrolled in Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses that are included in the MOU agreement between the school district and college or university can be awarded college credit and/or up to one unit of high school credit for successful completion of each CTE course that is a minimum of 3 semester credit hours, as delineated in the MOU agreement.

9. Concurrent Course Enrollment – Co-Requisite Remedial/Developmental Education Courses *(College or University Participation Optional)*

High school students may only enroll in remedial/developmental education in English, reading, and/or mathematics for concurrent credit if they are simultaneously enrolled in the corresponding college-level course in the same subject area. These types of courses, also known as co-requisite remediation, can allow students to access college-level material while receiving necessary support.

Nothing in this concurrent policy, shall require a college or university or school district to offer remedial/developmental education courses in English, reading, and mathematics for concurrent credit.

A high school student enrolled in college or university co-requisite remedial/developmental education courses in English, reading, and/or mathematics for concurrent credit must be notified verbally and in writing by the high school principal or designee that while remedial/developmental courses may be used as co-requisites they do not earn college credit and do not count towards graduation requirements. ~~successful completion of remedial/developmental education courses at one college or university does not guarantee college-level course placement at another Arkansas college or university, unless there is a written/signed college course placement agreement with the other Arkansas college or university.~~

~~A college or university remedial/developmental education course cannot be used to meet the college or university core subject area/unit requirements in English and mathematics.~~

~~A list of the colleges/universities with a signed college course placement agreement must be:~~

- ~~A. Attached to the signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the school district and college or university~~
- ~~B. Included in the Concurrent Enrollment Student Guide/Information Sheet~~
- ~~C. Posted on the college or university website~~

10. AP/Concurrent or IB/Concurrent Blended Courses
(College or University Participation Optional)

Advanced Placement (AP) courses are high school courses in which students are required to take the AP Exam and make the requisite score in order to receive college credit from an Arkansas institution of higher education.

The merging of AP or IB courses and general education college courses is allowed under certain circumstances, and these merged courses will be referenced as blended AP/concurrent or IB/concurrent courses.

- Colleges and universities that offer blended AP/concurrent or blended IB/concurrent courses must ensure that these blended courses meet all the requirements of concurrent courses as set forth in this concurrent enrollment policy.
- The AP course guidelines specified by the College Board in its published course description must be incorporated into the blended AP/concurrent course syllabus, and the core IB program requirements must be incorporated into the blended IB/concurrent course syllabus.
- The blended AP/concurrent course syllabus must be submitted by the high school teacher for approval by the College Board AP Course Audit; and the school district must have on file the written documentation of the College Board approval of the blended AP/concurrent course syllabus. A copy of the blended AP/concurrent course syllabus currently approved by the College Board must be submitted for college or university approval during the concurrent instructor/course approval process. A copy of the blended IB/concurrent course syllabus also must be on file at the school district.
- ~~▪ All students enrolled in blended AP/concurrent courses are required to take the AP exam; and the high school must have written documentation on file of the students who took the AP exam with this AP exam data provided to the college or university upon request.~~
- There also must be written documentation on file of the students who took the IB assessment with the assessment data provided to the college or university upon request.

- Students can earn at least three semester credit hours of college credit and one unit of high school credit for successful completion of one blended AP/concurrent or blended IB/concurrent course only if the student registers for concurrent course credit at the beginning of the term. (A minimum score on the AP exam or IB assessment is not required for the student to earn college credit for the blended AP/concurrent or blended IB/concurrent course.) ~~All other students enrolled in the blended AP/concurrent or blended IB/concurrent course can earn only one unit of high school credit for the course.~~
- Students enrolled in these blended AP/concurrent or blended IB/concurrent courses must meet all college or university requirements included in this concurrent enrollment policy.
- Any high school that cannot furnish data on blended AP/concurrent or blended IB/concurrent test takers (during an ADE/ADHE concurrent enrollment program audit) will not be approved for the continued offering of blended AP/concurrent or blended IB/concurrent courses.

11. Instructor/Faculty Qualifications and Credentials

~~Faculty~~ An instructor teaching ~~general education~~ concurrent courses must meet the requirements of the institution of higher education that is offering the course, and the requirements of the accrediting organizations, and the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board. Institutions authorized to offer concurrent enrollment in Arkansas should work closely with accreditors and consider the 2023 Higher Learning Commission "Institutional Policies and Procedures for Determining Faculty Qualifications Guidelines" or other relevant accreditor standards to assure requirements for reasonable policies and procedures are met.

An instructor's credentials shall be approved by the academic unit or chief academic officer of the institution of higher education offering the concurrent credit course, per §6-16-1203. Any instructor approved by an institution of higher education must possess relevant credentials, experience, and qualifications necessary to teach from the syllabus approved by the institution granting the course credit. ~~have a master's degree that includes a minimum of 18 graduate college credit hours in the subject area being taught.~~

~~The teacher of the blended AP/concurrent course(s) must have completed the College Board AP training in the subject area(s), must have a master's degree with a minimum of 18 graduate college credit hours in the subject area being taught, and must be approved to teach the concurrent course(s) by the college or university, and must provide the college or university with documentation of successful completion of AP training.~~

~~The instructor of record must be the individual that teaches the concurrent course(s);~~

~~and for general education concurrent courses and blended AP/concurrent or blended IB/concurrent courses these individuals must have a master's degree that includes a minimum of 18 graduate college credit hours in the subject areas being taught. For the purpose of teaching a concurrent course under this policy, an individual under contract with the school district as a teacher will not be considered an adjunct faculty member of the college or university; although, they must be reported as an academic rank of adjunct faculty to AHEIS.~~

12. Instructor/Faculty Background Checks & Child Maltreatment

College or university faculty who ~~travel to the high school or secondary center to~~ teach concurrent courses, regardless of modality (and/or faculty and staff that have direct, official contact with the high school student), must have a criminal background check every five (5) years and complete the child maltreatment training course as required of public-school teachers. Background checks and child maltreatment course completion records must be kept on file at the college or university. It is the responsibility of the institution of higher education to adopt reasonable policies and procedures to comply with this requirement.

13. Concurrent Course Enrollment

Concurrent College Admission

High school students enrolled in general education concurrent courses will be those who have successfully completed the eighth grade and are admitted to the college or university ~~as non-award seeking students per §6-16-1204 (although a major can be reported for the concurrent students to AHEIS to assist with tracking of students completing college certificates/degrees before high school graduation).~~ Each college or university must specify the concurrent admission requirements for high school students.

Concurrent Course Registration

All high school students enrolled in the concurrent course must meet the same requirements for completion of the course whether ~~or not~~ the student is registered for college credit or not. The concurrent course withdrawal process and procedures must be implemented in accordance with established college or university guidelines.

Concurrent/Dual Course Placement

To ensure successful placement in concurrent English, math, and reading intensive courses, institutions are encouraged to consider a variety of factors beyond a single standardized test score. Procedures and standards for placement are outlined in the Higher Education Coordinating Board Student Placement Policy.

- A college or university may allow simultaneous enrollment in college-level credit and developmental courses.

- The board and administration of any campus may elect to set minimum scores for enrollment in college-level mathematics and English composition courses based on established and documented criteria, which demonstrate the students' ability to succeed.
- All concurrent students shall be assessed for placement into credit-bearing courses by at least one of the following methods:
 - An objective examination
 - Previous coursework and/or career training
 - Measures supported by sufficient analysis of predicted student success

The placement assessment should reflect a better than 75 percent likelihood of the student's ability to earn a "C" or better grade in the course in which the student is placed. A student's reading level should be strong enough for them to earn a "C" or better in courses that require substantial reading such as courses in the sciences, humanities, and social sciences. Ideally, students should possess a readiness for credit-bearing courses and the institution admitting them should develop and refine a system to determine this.

~~Concurrent Course Enrollment~~– Data Reporting (via Student Information System)

All institutions are required to collect and report placement exam/assessment scores for the purpose of AHEIS reporting although a minimum score is not required.

~~Concurrent Course Enrollment~~– Payment of Tuition and Fees

The college or university will establish tuition and fee rates for concurrent students.

The high school student or the student's parent or guardian shall not be responsible for tuition, fees, or materials for participation in a concurrent credit course. ~~all costs of college or university courses taken for concurrent credit, unless the costs for these courses are paid by the public school district, a college or university scholarship, a grant, or a private foundation.~~ If the costs for a college or university course(s) are paid by the public school district, a college or university scholarship, a grant, or a private foundation a signed agreement must exist between the public school district, the external entity or foundation, and the Arkansas state-supported college or university.

~~If the college or university sets tuition and fees at a lower rate than the regular full tuition rate on campus, reduction in tuition shall not be considered an institutional scholarship per §6-16-1204.~~

The tuition rate for a concurrent credit course offered by a public school district or open-enrollment public charter school in partnership with an institution of higher education shall not exceed the standard tuition rate and fee structure of the

institution of higher education providing the concurrent credit course.

For every one (1) academic credit hour provided by an institution of higher education, the agreed amount:

- Must not be more than two and one-half percent (2.5%) of the per-pupil amount established under §6-20-2305 that is allotted per student each year and,
- Must not be less than one-half percent (0.5%) of the per-pupil amount established under §6-20-2305 that is allotted per student each year.

Institutions may leverage the following sources to satisfy costs associated with tuition, fees, or materials:

- ACCESS to Acceleration Scholarship Program funds, or
- Funding from the school district where a student is enrolled, or
- Other consideration agreed to by the public school district or open-enrollment public charter school and institution of higher education, or
- Any other available sources as determined by the Division of Higher Education

An institution of higher education shall not receive funding for concurrent credit courses for tuition at secondary vocational centers under § 6-51-301 et seq. if the institution of higher education is already receiving funding designated for vocational center aid. Pursuant to Arkansas Code §6-53-501, the intent of this concurrent policy is that the college courses described above shall include but not be limited to articulated courses designed for instruction of secondary students qualifying for state aid from the public school fund. Nothing in this policy shall preclude money flowing to the secondary centers under Arkansas Code §6-51-305.

~~An institution must be accredited by the National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships (NACEP); or effective August 1, 2015, the college or university must have an AHECB-approved Concurrent Enrollment Program to report concurrent courses/students to AHEIS.~~

~~(Note: More details on funding for concurrent enrollment may be included in AHECB financial aid policy.~~

14. Partnership Agreement/Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

A written and signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) must exist to reflect the various expectations, obligations, and responsibilities of all parties.

The MOU must be reviewed annually, and the college or university must provide to the high school a list of all college courses that may be offered for concurrent

credit during the school year. The unit of high school credit that will be awarded for each college course must be noted for each concurrent course along with the high school course replacement/substitution. The high school/school district or the college or university can modify or terminate the written, signed concurrent agreement during the annual review period.

High school students who desire to enroll in a college or university must first be recommended by their high school principal or designee.

High school students enrolled in college courses for concurrent credit purposes must be 1) informed that the student is responsible for all costs associated with enrollment in the concurrent course, unless the courses are paid by another approved public or private entity; and 2) advised about the potential limitations concerning the transfer of college course credit.

~~If remedial/developmental education courses in English, reading or mathematics are offered for concurrent credit to high school seniors, a list of the colleges/universities with a signed college course placement agreement must be attached to the MOU, published in the student guide/information sheet, and posted on the college or university website.~~

The college or university must provide the school district with a student guide or information sheet for concurrent enrollment that the high school must distribute to students and parents that outlines the college or university and school district requirements for student participation. The high school will assure that the student and parent acknowledge that the student will participate in the concurrent program in accordance with the stated college or university and school district participation requirements.

Concurrent program requirements and guidelines required for course instruction must be provided by the college or university to the school district and concurrent instructors.

Adopted: Agenda Item No. 19
October 23, 1998

Revised: Agenda Item No. 38
July 23, 1999

Agenda Item No. 12
April 27, 2007

Agenda Item No. 2
June 28, 2011

Agenda Item No. 5
July 26, 2013

Agenda Item No. 2
July 27, 2017

Agenda Item No. 15
July 26, 2024

Agenda Item No. #
July 25, 2025

DRAFT

**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 initial 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 public comment release.

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the Code of Arkansas Rules.

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;

DRAFT

(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;

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(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 Higher Education.

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(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.

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(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.

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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



~~subsections (a) and (b) of this section on a biennial basis, with the first report due on March 1, 2020.~~

SECTION 53. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 50, Subchapter 1, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

6-50-105. Workforce reporting and information – Requirements.

(a) No later than January 31, 2024, the Department of Education, in partnership with the Department of Commerce and the Division of Workforce Services, shall develop, publish, and maintain a strategic workforce dashboard and related resources that will provide, at a minimum, information to job seekers on:

(1) State and regional labor market conditions;

(2) Supply and demand of workers;

(3) Workforce program outcomes; and

(4) Projected employment growth and declines.

(b)(1) No later than January 2025, the Department of Education, in partnership with the Department of Commerce and the Division of Workforce Services, shall develop a single mobile-phone-friendly application for the state that enables every job seeker to view the following without limitation:

(A) Available jobs in the job seeker's region;

(B) Training required for all available jobs; and

(C) Where job seekers can obtain required training or certifications that job seekers may not yet have.

(2) The application under this subsection may also include the information reported under § 6-60-105.

SECTION 54. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 60, Subchapter 1, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

6-60-119. High school course credit.

(a) As used in this section:

(1) "Advanced Placement examination" means an examination administered through the Advanced Placement Program;

(2) "CLEP examination" means an examination administered through the College-Level Examination Program; and

(3) "International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme" means the 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

SCHOLARSHIP STACKING POLICY CHANGE

In compliance with Act 340 of 2025, changes to the Scholarship Stacking Policy will be presented to the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) for approval. Proposed new language is in *italics and underlined*, and deleted language is ~~struck through~~.

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

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board Reviews the changes presented in this agenda item for the Scholarship Stacking Policy.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Stacking Policy changes be approved.

SCHOLARSHIP STACKING POLICY

Pursuant to Arkansas Code § 6-80-105, Aa post-secondary institution shall not award state aid in a student aid package in excess of the recognized cost of attendance at the institution where the student enrolls. State aid is defined to include scholarships and grants awarded to a student from public funds, including without limitation the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship under § 6-85-201 et seq., Arkansas Division of Higher Education (ADHE) scholarships and grant programs, state general revenues, tuition, and local tax revenue. All post-secondary institutions shall report to ADHE the total amount of financial aid from all sources for any student who receives an award from an ADHE program. When a student receives a student aid package that includes state aid and the student aid package exceeds the cost of attendance, the postsecondary institution shall reduce state aid starting with the institutional aid.

For purposes of this policy, the student aid package includes federal aid, state aid and other aid a student receives for postsecondary education expenses. The definitions for federal aid, state aid and other aid are below.

Federal aid - scholarships or grants awarded to a student as a result of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, excluding the Pell grant.

Other aid – a scholarship, grant, waiver, or reimbursement for tuition, fees, books, or other cost of attendance, other than federal aid or state aid, provided to a student from a postsecondary institution or a private source.

State aid - scholarships and grants awarded to a student from public funds, including without limitation the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship under § 6-85-201 et seq., Arkansas Division of Higher Education (ADHE) scholarships and grants, programs, state general revenues, tuition, and local tax revenue.

The Federal Cost of Attendance (COA) method shall be used for all students receiving state aid, regardless of whether the student is receiving federal financial aid. Costs that would not be included in Federal COA may not be included in the package of any student who receives state aid. Exceptions to the normal COA allowances as set forth in federal regulations may be included in COA calculations. Institutional work study is not included in COA unless it is need based. This policy shall apply to students entering college in the 2025-2026 academic and subsequent years.

An institution of higher education shall award aid in the following order:

- (A) The Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship;
- (B) Any other state scholarship program, excluding the Arkansas Future Grant Program, Arkansas Teacher Academy Scholarship Program, and Arkansas National Guard Tuition Waiver Program;

Drafted July 1, 2025

(C) The Arkansas Future Grant Program, Arkansas Teacher 4 Academy Scholarship Program, or Arkansas National Guard Tuition Waiver Program; and
(D) Institutional aid.

A postsecondary institution shall report to the division, no later than September 30 of each year, the total amount of federal aid, state aid, and other aid a student receives if the student receives an award from a division scholarship or grant program, including the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship under § 6-85-201 et seq.

When a student receives a student aid package that includes state aid and the student aid package exceeds the cost of attendance, the post-secondary institution shall repay state aid in the amount exceeding the cost of attendance, utilizing the stacking order under subdivision (b)(6) of this section

**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 initial 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 public comment release.

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the Code of Arkansas Rules.

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/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 Veteran Affairs; or

(iii) Included on the division's Private Career Education list;

(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, or course completion including without limitation a program operated or sponsored by a third party.

(B) Certificate programs include without limitation:

(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

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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~~

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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~~ Has earned either of the following:

(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;~~ A high school diploma; or

(B) ~~Received a~~ A high school general 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.~~

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~~(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:
program of study or certificate program costs, or three thousand dollars (\$3,000).

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~~— (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~~

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

6 CAR § 403-203. Institutional responsibilities — College and university responsibilities.

(a) Administrative agreement.

(1) The chief executive officer of ~~the eligible~~ approved institution of higher education ~~is responsible for shall appointing~~ 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 by March 15 for the spring ~~term~~ semester, and at the date specified by the division for the summer semester.

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(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 term semesters.

(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.

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(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 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.

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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

collected or imposed by the office under this chapter;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SECTION 7. Arkansas Code § 23-115-206(a)(8)(D)(v), concerning the statement of revenue, expenses, and changes in net assets portion of the 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 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 initial 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 public comment release.

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the Code of Arkansas Rules.

Proposed Rulemaking

Title

Promulgated by:
Division of Higher Education

Title 6. Education

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Chapter IV. Division of Higher Education, Department of Education

Subchapter B. Scholarships and Grants

Part 408. Rules Governing Access to Acceleration Scholarship Program

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Subpart 1. Generally

6 CAR § 408.101. Creation.

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(a) This part shall be known as the Division of Higher Education’s Rules Governing the Access to Acceleration Scholarship Program.

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6 CAR § 408.102. Definitions.

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As used in this part:

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(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:

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(A) Is approved by the Division of Higher Education to participate in the Access to Acceleration Scholarship Program; and

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(B) Is a:

(i) State-supported two-year or four-year institution of higher education; or

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(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:

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(1) Courses at a vocational center that are reimbursable under Arkansas Code § 6-51-305; or

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(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.

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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:

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(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;

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(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) Institutions of higher education shall not charge a public school students for concurrent credit courses, if the student is eligible under this part.

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(5) Institutions of higher education may charge students participating in dual enrollment courses only.

(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.

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(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.

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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 ARKANSAS CONCURRENT CHALLENGE
SCHOLARSHIP**

In compliance with the Arkansas ACCESS Act of 2025 (Act 341 Section 88), the Arkansas Division of Higher Education Rules Governing the Arkansas Concurrent Challenge Scholarship are presented to the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) for repeal. This scholarship is being replaced by the Arkansas ACCESS to Acceleration Scholarship Program.

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 Concurrent Challenge Scholarship to be repealed 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 Concurrent Challenge Scholarship.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the repeal of the Arkansas Concurrent Challenge Scholarship rules be approved for public comment release.

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 390. Rules Governing the Arkansas Concurrent Challenge Scholarship Program~~

~~Subpart 1. Generally~~

~~6 CAR § 390-101. Policy statement.~~

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

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

~~6 CAR § 390-102. Applicability.~~

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

~~6 CAR § 390-103. 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.

~~_____ (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 that:~~

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

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

~~_____ (C) Is a:~~

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

~~_____ (ii) Private, nonprofit two-year or four-year college or university that has its primary headquarters located in Arkansas and that is eligible to receive Title IV federal student aid funds;~~

~~_____ (3) "Eligible course" means any endorsed concurrent enrollment course or certificate program;~~

~~_____ (4)(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.~~

~~_____ (B) This definition does not include a program operated or sponsored by a third party;~~

~~_____ (5)(A) "Endorsed concurrent enrollment course" means a college-level course offered by an approved institution of higher education in Arkansas that upon completion would qualify for academic credit in both the approved institution of higher education and a public high school that:~~

~~_____ (i) Is in one (1) of the four (4) core areas of math, English, science, and social studies;~~

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~~—————(ii) Meets the requirements of Arkansas Code § 6-16-1204(b); and~~
~~—————(iii) Is listed in the Arkansas Course Transfer System of the Division of Higher Education.~~
~~—————(B) This definition does not include programs operated or sponsored by a third party;~~
~~—————(5) "Student" means a person who has sophomore, junior, or senior status and who is enrolled at a:~~
~~—————(A) Public high school in Arkansas;~~
~~—————(B) Private high school in Arkansas; or~~
~~—————(C) Home school, as defined in Arkansas Code § 6-15-501 et seq.;~~
~~—————(6)(A) "Student success plan" means a plan developed by school personnel in collaboration with parents and the student that is reviewed annually.~~
~~—————(B) The plan shall, at a minimum:~~
~~—————(i) Guide the student along pathways to graduation;~~
~~—————(ii) Address accelerated learning opportunities;~~
~~—————(iii) Address academic deficits and interventions; and~~
~~—————(iv) Include college and career planning components; and~~
~~—————(7) "Third party" means a person or entity that does not receive disbursement directly from the Division of Children and Family Services for this program, including a subcontractor of the institution.~~

~~—————**6 CAR § 390-104. Eligibility.**~~

~~—————(a) A student is eligible to receive an Arkansas Concurrent Challenge Scholarship for an academic semester or academic year during which the student is enrolled in an endorsed concurrent enrollment course or certificate program if the student:~~

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

~~—————(2) Provides proof that a completed student success plan has been submitted to the student's high school or home school.~~

~~—(b) The student success plan for a student who is enrolled in an endorsed concurrent enrollment course or certificate program shall:~~

~~——(1) Be prepared in consultation with school personnel, the student, and the student's parent or legal guardian or a college advisor;~~

~~——(2) Include an endorsed concurrent enrollment course or certificate program that is relevant to the student's success plan and include measures that ensure the successful completion of the endorsed concurrent enrollment course or certificate program in which the student is enrolled;~~

~~——(3) A student whose enrollment in a vocational center is reimbursable under Arkansas Code § 6-51-305 is not eligible for a scholarship under this program; and~~

~~——(4) Students must meet all established requirements for endorsed concurrent enrollment courses set by the Division of Higher Education.~~

~~—6 CAR § 390-105. Continuing eligibility.~~

~~——(a) A student is eligible to continue to receive the Arkansas Concurrent Challenge Scholarship if the student successfully completes an endorsed concurrent credit course or certificate program course and receives a minimum grade point average of 2.5.~~

~~——(b)(1) A student who fails to complete an endorsed concurrent credit course or certificate program course with a minimum grade point average of 2.5 shall retain eligibility and enroll in no more than one (1) endorsed concurrent credit course or certificate program course for the first semester following the semester in which the student failed to successfully complete an endorsed concurrent credit course or certificate program course.~~

~~——(2)(A) If a student fails to complete an endorsed concurrent credit course or certificate program course a second time, the student shall be ineligible to reapply or receive the scholarship again.~~

~~——(B) This also applies to a student that drops out of an endorsed concurrent credit course or certificate program course before the end of the semester.~~

~~—6 CAR § 390-106. Amount of awards.~~

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~~—(a) If funds are available, the Division of Higher Education shall award Arkansas Concurrent Challenge Scholarships to all students eligible for the scholarship for the fall, spring, or summer terms.~~

~~—(b) The maximum scholarship award a student may receive in an academic year shall be the lesser of:~~

~~——(1)(A) Five hundred dollars (\$500).~~

~~——(B) Eligible students shall be awarded one hundred and twenty-five dollars (\$125) for each eligible course the student is enrolled, up to two (2) eligible courses per semester; or~~

~~——(2) The actual tuition and mandatory fees cost to the student for up to two (2) eligible courses per semester.~~

~~—(c) A scholarship granted under this section may be awarded in addition to any funds received for the enrollment in an endorsed concurrent enrollment course under Arkansas Code § 6-16-1204(e)(3).~~

~~—(d) Unless a student's high school or community-based program provides financial assistance for the cost of tuition and mandatory fees for an endorsed concurrent credit course or certificate program course, the remaining cost of tuition and mandatory fees for an endorsed concurrent enrollment course or certificate program is the responsibility of the eligible student who is enrolled in the endorsed concurrent credit course or certificate program course.~~

~~—(e) 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 this scholarship.~~

~~—6 CAR § 390-107. Institutional responsibilities.~~

~~—Approved institution of higher education responsibilities:~~

~~——(1) **Administrative agreement.**~~

~~——(A) The chief executive officer of the approved institution of higher education is responsible for appointing one (1) representative from the financial aid office to act as administrator of the Arkansas Concurrent Challenge Scholarship Program~~

~~and to receive all communications, forms, etc.~~

~~—————(B) This representative is responsible for verification, data, and compliance with this part.~~

~~—————(C) The approved institution of higher education shall comply with all rules in order to maintain the status of an approved institution of higher education;~~

~~—————(2) **Disbursement records.** The approved institution of higher education shall maintain information on the student indicating disbursement of scholarship funds;~~

~~—————(3) **Verification.**~~

~~—————(A) 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.~~

~~—————(B) The verification roster is an alphabetical listing by an approved institution of higher education of all students receiving the award for a given academic term.~~

~~—————(C) The certifying official is responsible for completing the verification rosters each semester;~~

~~—————(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 this date must be returned to the division.~~

~~—————(C) For those students whose applications are received by the division too late to allow disbursement by this date, 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;~~

~~—————(5) **Due diligence.**~~

~~—————(A) The approved institution of higher education will exercise due diligence in providing complete, accurate, and timely information as requested by the division on any scholarship recipient or former scholarship recipient.~~

~~—————(B) In addition, the approved institution of higher education will exercise due diligence in complying with this part.~~

~~—————(C) The division may periodically review the approved institution of higher education's records concerning this scholarship program to ensure the compliance with due diligence requirements; and~~

~~—————(6) **Course eligibility.** The approved institution of higher education is responsible for verifying that the endorsed concurrent credit courses and certificate program courses meet the requirements set in Arkansas Code § 6-16-1202 and rules of the division.~~

~~—————**6 CAR § 390-108. High school and home school responsibilities.**~~

~~—————(a) The high school or home school shall provide certification of eligibility for a student to enroll in an endorsed concurrent enrollment course or certificate program.~~

~~—————(b) A high school or home school shall verify the completion of the student's student success plan before certifying that a student is eligible for the scholarship.~~

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 (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~~

1 ~~is eligible to receive Title IV federal student aid funds;~~

2 ~~(2)(A) "Certificate program" means a program that is offered or~~
3 ~~made available to a student by an approved institution of higher education~~
4 ~~that leads to the obtainment of a certification or license.~~

5 ~~(B) "Certificate program" does not include a program that~~
6 ~~is operated or sponsored by a third party;~~

7 ~~(3)(A) "Endorsed concurrent enrollment course" means the same as~~
8 ~~defined in § 6-16-1202.~~

9 ~~(B) "Endorsed concurrent enrollment course" does not~~
10 ~~include a program that is operated or sponsored by a third party; and~~

11 ~~(4) "Student" means a person in grade ten (10), grade eleven~~
12 ~~(11), or grade twelve (12) who is enrolled at a:~~

13 ~~(A) Public high school in Arkansas;~~

14 ~~(B) Private high school in Arkansas; or~~

15 ~~(C) Home school, as defined in § 6-15-501.~~

16
17 ~~6-85-403. Eligibility.~~

18 ~~(a) A student is eligible to receive an Arkansas Concurrent Challenge~~
19 ~~Scholarship under this subchapter for an academic semester or academic year~~
20 ~~during which the student is enrolled in an endorsed concurrent enrollment~~
21 ~~course or certificate program if the student:~~

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

25 ~~(2)(A) Submits a student success plan as described under § 6-15-~~
26 ~~2911(b).~~

27 ~~(B) The student success plan required under subdivision~~
28 ~~(a)(2)(A) of this section for a student who is enrolled in an endorsed~~
29 ~~concurrent enrollment course or certificate program shall:~~

30 ~~(i) Be prepared in consultation with:~~

31 ~~(a) School personnel, the student, and the~~
32 ~~student's parent or legal guardian; or~~

33 ~~(b) A college advisor; and~~

34 ~~(ii) Include:~~

35 ~~(a) An endorsed concurrent enrollment course~~
36 ~~or certificate program that is relevant to the student's success plan; and~~

~~(b) Measures that ensure the successful completion of the endorsed concurrent enrollment course or certificate program in which the student is enrolled.~~

~~(b)(1) A student successfully completes an endorsed concurrent enrollment course or a course taken towards the completion of a certificate program under this subchapter if he or she completes the course or program and receives a minimum grade point average of 2.5.~~

~~(2)(A) A student who fails to successfully complete an endorsed concurrent enrollment course or a course taken towards the completion of a certificate program under this subchapter shall:~~

~~(i) Retain eligibility for a scholarship under this subchapter; and~~

~~(ii) Enroll in no more than one (1) endorsed concurrent enrollment course or course required for the completion of a certificate program for the first semester following the semester in which the student failed to successfully complete an endorsed concurrent enrollment course or course taken towards the completion of a certificate program.~~

~~(B) However, if a student fails an endorsed concurrent enrollment course or a course taken towards the completion of a certificate program under this subchapter a second time, the student shall be ineligible to reapply for a scholarship under this subchapter.~~

~~(c) A student whose enrollment in a vocational center is reimbursable under § 6-51-305 is not eligible for a scholarship under this subchapter.~~

~~6-85-404. Funding.~~

~~(a) For an academic year, Arkansas Concurrent Challenge Scholarships under this subchapter shall be funded with any funds remaining after the Division of Higher Education allocates sufficient funding to award Arkansas Workforce Challenge Scholarships under § 6-85-301 et seq., at a level equivalent to the awards made in the previous academic year.~~

~~(b)(1) A scholarship under this subchapter 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 § 23-115-802 for the Arkansas Academic~~

1 ~~Challenge Scholarship Program, § 6-85-201 et seq., for the previous academic~~
2 ~~year.~~

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

6
7 ~~6-85-405. Distribution — Award amounts.~~

8 ~~(a) If funds are available, the Division of Higher Education shall~~
9 ~~award Arkansas Concurrent Challenge Scholarships to all students who meet the~~
10 ~~requirements under this subchapter.~~

11 ~~(b)(1) The division shall distribute scholarships from the funds~~
12 ~~available in an equal amount to every approved institution of higher~~
13 ~~education that has enrolled a student eligible to receive a scholarship under~~
14 ~~this subchapter.~~

15 ~~(2) The maximum scholarship award a student may receive in an~~
16 ~~academic year shall be the lesser of:~~

17 ~~(A)(i) Five hundred dollars (\$500).~~

18 ~~(ii) A scholarship awarded to a student who is~~
19 ~~eligible under § 6-85-403 shall be awarded in the amount of one hundred~~
20 ~~twenty-five dollars (\$125) for each endorsed concurrent enrollment credit~~
21 ~~course or certificate program in which the eligible student is enrolled, up~~
22 ~~to two (2) endorsed concurrent enrollment credit courses or certificate~~
23 ~~programs per semester; or~~

24 ~~(B) The tuition and mandatory fees of the endorsed~~
25 ~~concurrent credit course or certificate program.~~

26 ~~(3) A scholarship granted under this section may be awarded in~~
27 ~~addition to any funds received for the enrollment in an endorsed concurrent~~
28 ~~enrollment course under § 6-16-1204(e)(3).~~

29 ~~(4) Unless a student's high school or community-based program~~
30 ~~provides financial assistance for the cost of tuition and mandatory fees for~~
31 ~~an endorsed concurrent enrollment course or certificate program, the~~
32 ~~remaining cost of tuition and mandatory fees for an endorsed concurrent~~
33 ~~enrollment course or certificate program is the responsibility of the~~
34 ~~eligible student who is enrolled in the endorsed concurrent enrollment course~~
35 ~~or certificate program.~~

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

**RULES GOVERNING THE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS' DEPENDENTS
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

In compliance with the Arkansas ACCESS Act of 2025 (Act 341 Section 72), the Arkansas Division of Higher Education Rules Governing the Law Enforcement Officers' Dependents Scholarship Program are presented to the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) for repeal. This scholarship is being replaced by the Arkansas Heroes Scholarship Act.

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 Law Enforcement Officers' Dependents Scholarship Program to be repealed 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 Law Enforcement Officers' Dependents Scholarship Program.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the repeal of the Law Enforcement Officers' Dependents Scholarship Program rules be approved for public comment release.

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 392. Rules Governing the Law Enforcement Officers' Dependents~~

~~Scholarship Program~~

~~Subpart 1. Generally~~

~~6 CAR § 392-101. Organization and structure.~~

~~(a)(1) The Division of Higher Education shall administer the Law Enforcement Officers' Dependents Scholarship Program within the policies set by the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board.~~

~~(2) All formal communications shall be addressed to or signed by the Director of the Division of Higher Education or his or her designee.~~

~~(b) The final responsibility for determining eligibility of scholarship recipients shall rest with the director pursuant to the provisions of Acts 1973, No. 521, Acts 1983, No. 47, Acts 1989, No. 190, Acts 1993, No. 153, Acts 1999, No. 1034, Acts 2001, No. 113, Acts 2001, No. 158, and Acts 2007, No. 172, Acts 2009, No. 1217, and any subsequent legislation.~~

~~(c) When functioning under Acts 1973, No. 521, Acts 1983, No. 47, Acts 1989, No. 190, Acts 1993, No. 153, Acts 1999, No. 1034, Acts 2001, No. 113, Acts 2001, No. 158, Acts 2007, No. 172, Acts 2009, No. 1217, and any subsequent legislation, the division shall follow the provisions of the Arkansas Administrative Procedure Act § 25-~~

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~~15-201 et seq.~~

~~**6 CAR § 392-102. Program definitions.**~~

~~The following definitions are used in the Law Enforcement Officers' Dependents Scholarship Program:~~

~~(1) "Approved institution" means a state-supported two-year or four-year college or university or technical institute located in the State of Arkansas that is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission, or has achieved candidacy status, and does 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;~~

~~(2) "Dependent" means a spouse, natural child, adopted child, or step child of an Arkansas law enforcement officer, fireman, state correction employees, state forestry employees, certain Arkansas Department of Transportation employees, state parks employees, teacher, or Division of Community Correction employees killed or totally and permanently disabled in the line of duty; and~~

~~(3) "Satisfactory progress" means satisfactory academic progress toward a degree as defined by the institution.~~

~~**6 CAR § 392-103. Scholarship eligibility criteria.**~~

~~(a) **Definitions.** As used in this section:~~

~~(1) "Division of Community Correction employee" means any employee of the Arkansas Division of Community Correction who suffers fatal injuries or wounds or becomes permanently and totally disabled as a result of injuries or wounds which occurred through contact with:~~

~~(A) Parolees;~~

~~(B) Probationers; or~~

~~(C) Center residents.~~

~~(2) "Fireman" means any Arkansas fireman employed on a full-time or volunteer duty status while actually engaged in the performance of his or her duties;~~

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~~—————(3) "Law enforcement officer" means:~~

~~—————(A) Arkansas state highway patrolman, which includes any law enforcement officer, regardless of department or bureau, of the Division of Arkansas State Police;~~

~~—————(B) Arkansas municipal and college or university police officers, which includes all law enforcement officers of any municipality, college, or university who are regular duty personnel on full-time status and does not include auxiliary officers or those serving on a temporary or part-time status;~~

~~—————(C) Arkansas sheriff or deputy sheriff, which includes all law enforcement officers of full-time status on a regular basis serving the sheriff's department of any county located in Arkansas, but does not include deputy sheriffs who are engaged in administrative or civil duty or deputy sheriffs serving in a temporary capacity or part-time basis;~~

~~—————(D) Arkansas constable, which includes all duly elected constables of any beat of any county within the State of Arkansas while actually engaged in the performance of their duties concerning the criminal laws of the county and state; and~~

~~—————(E) Arkansas game warden, which includes all appointed game wardens employed by the State of Arkansas on a full-time duty status while actually engaged in their duties concerning the game laws of this state;~~

~~—————(4) "State correction employee" means any employee of the Division of Correction or the Arkansas Correctional School District who becomes subject to injury through contact with inmates or parolees of the Division of Correction;~~

~~—————(5) "State forestry employee" means an employee of the Arkansas Forestry Commission who is actively engaged in his or her duties of fighting forest fires;~~

~~—————(6) "State highway employee" means an Arkansas Department of Transportation employee, which is defined as any employee who actively engages in highway maintenance, construction, or traffic operations on the roadways and bridges of the state highway system while the roadways and bridges are open for use by the traveling public;~~

~~—————(7) "State park employee" means any employee of the Department of Parks;~~

~~Heritage, and Tourism who is a commissioned law enforcement officer or emergency response employee while actively engaged in the performance of his or her duties;~~

~~———(8) "Teacher" means any person employed by an Arkansas public school for the purpose of giving instructions and whose employment requires state certification; and~~

~~———(b)(1) In order to be eligible for the Law Enforcement Officers' Dependents Scholarship, the student must be a natural child, adopted child, stepchild, or spouse of an Arkansas law enforcement officer, fireman, state highway employee, state forestry employee, state correction employee, state park employee, teacher, or Division of Community Correction employee who was killed or permanently and totally disabled as a result of injuries or wounds which occurred in the performance of duty or in the course of going to or returning from a location where a hazardous situation existed.~~

~~———(2) Scholarship benefits shall not accrue to the dependents if the wounds or injuries suffered by the law enforcement officer, fireman, state highway employee, state forestry employee, state correction employee, state park employee, teacher, or Division of Community Correction employee are self-inflicted or if death is self-induced.~~

~~———(c) To be eligible to receive the Law Enforcement Officer's Dependents Scholarship, the applicant must be:~~

~~———(1)(A) A child must have been born prior to the date of the death or total and permanent disability.~~

~~———(B) See subsection (b) of this section;~~

~~———(2)(A) An adopted child must have been adopted prior to or the adoption process must have begun prior to the date of the death or total and permanent disability.~~

~~———(B) See subsection (b) of this section;~~

~~———(3)(A) A stepchild must have been listed as a dependent on the federal and state income tax returns in each of the five (5) income tax years immediately prior to the death or total and permanent disability and must have received more than one-half (1/2) his or her financial support.~~

~~———(B) See subsection (b) of this section;~~

~~—————(4) Enrolled or accepted for enrollment as an undergraduate student in any Arkansas state-supported:~~

~~—————(A) College;~~

~~—————(B) University; or~~

~~—————(C) Technical institute;~~

~~—————(5) Less than twenty-three (23) years of age on or before the first day of the semester or quarter, unless the applicant is a spouse; and~~

~~—————(6) A bona fide resident of Arkansas, as defined by the Division of Higher Education, for at least six (6) months prior to enrollment in an Arkansas institution.~~

~~——(d)(1) **Continued eligibility.** The scholarship will be awarded for one (1) academic year and renewed annually up to three (3) years (for a total of eight (8) semesters) so long as the student maintains a minimum of a 2.0 grade point average on a 4.0 scale and satisfactory progress toward a degree as defined by the institution.~~

~~————(2) For purposes of scholarship payments, "academic semester" includes summer terms, semesters, quarters, or their equivalents at the postsecondary institution in which the student is enrolled.~~

~~——(e)(1) The spouse will not be eligible for the educational benefits if he or she remarries.~~

~~————(2) The benefits will cease at the end of the semester in which the spouse is currently enrolled at the time of the marriage.~~

~~—— **6 CAR § 392-104. Application process.**~~

~~——(a) **Applications.**~~

~~————(1) Applications and brochures regarding the Law Enforcement Officers' Dependents Scholarship are mailed to the following:~~

~~—————(A) Counselors and principals at all public and private high schools in the state; and~~

~~—————(B)(i) Financial aid officers at all public colleges, universities, and public technical institutes in the state.~~

~~—————(ii) The institutional financial aid officer is responsible for ensuring~~

~~that eligible students at their institution are made aware of the Law Enforcement Officers' Dependents Scholarship Program and its benefits.~~

~~—————(2) Applications will be made available online from the Division of Higher Education.~~

~~—————(b) **Submission of applications.**~~

~~—————(1)(A) The division shall establish the deadline for receipt of applications.~~

~~—————(B) The deadline date shall be clearly printed on the application.~~

~~—————(2) Scholarship applicants shall submit to the division the following:~~

~~—————(A) The Law Enforcement Officer's Dependents Scholarship Application;~~

~~—————(B) Documentation in the form of a death certificate;~~

~~—————(C) Order and finding of facts from the Arkansas State Claims Commission;~~

~~—————(D) A copy of birth certificate, if a dependent child; and~~

~~—————(E) A copy of their marriage license, if a spouse.~~

~~—————(3)(A) The applicant must apply for the scholarship prior to the published deadline in order to receive the scholarship.~~

~~—————(B) Reimbursement can only be made for the year in which the student is currently enrolled and has made application.~~

~~—————**6 CAR § 392-105. Award process.**~~

~~—————(a)(1) Applications and supporting documentation will be reviewed for completeness and to determine whether the applicant meets all the required eligibility requirements.~~

~~—————(2) Applicants will be notified within thirty (30) days of receipt of all required documentation of the status of their application.~~

~~—————(b) Eligible students will receive an award notice that contains:~~

~~—————(1) The conditions of the award;~~

~~—————(2) The requirements for continued eligibility;~~

~~—————(3) An explanation of the benefits; and~~

~~—————(4) The student's responsibilities.~~

- ~~——(c)(1) The institution will also receive an award notice that contains the:~~
 - ~~————(A) Student's name and social security number;~~
 - ~~————(B) Award limits;~~
 - ~~————(C) Conditions of the award;~~
 - ~~————(D) Verification process; and~~
 - ~~————(E) Payment process.~~
- ~~——(2) The institution will be asked to complete a reimbursement form listing all charges covered by this program.~~
- ~~——(d) The institution will be responsible for verifying the student's continuing eligibility each semester.~~
- ~~——(e) The award will be renewed annually as long as the student satisfies the continued eligibility requirements in 6 CAR § 392-103.~~

~~——6 CAR § 392-106. Scholarship payment policies.~~

- ~~——(a)(1) A recipient may receive up to eight (8) semesters of tuition and fee waivers from the scholarship program.~~
- ~~————(2) Payment to the scholarship recipient will be in the form of a tuition and fee waiver at the recipient's institution.~~
- ~~————(3) The Division of Higher Education will reimburse the institution upon verification of enrollment after the eleventh day of classes each semester for approved charges.~~
- ~~——(b)(1) The scholarship will pay the cost of tuition at the in-state rate and room in school-owned housing at any state-supported college, university, or technical institute within the State of Arkansas.~~
 - ~~————(2) It does not include the cost of the following:~~
 - ~~————(A) Books;~~
 - ~~————(B) Food;~~
 - ~~————(C) School supplies and materials; and~~
 - ~~————(D) Dues and fees for extracurricular activities.~~
- ~~——(c)(1) The division will pay the institution for tuition and fees covered by this~~

~~program at the beginning of each term upon receipt of the reimbursement form and verification of the charges.~~

~~—————(2) A recipient who has received a Law Enforcement Officers' Dependents Scholarship may transfer to another eligible institution provided the division receives written notification of the change of status by October 1 for the fall term, February 1 for the winter/spring terms, and May 1 for the summer terms.~~

~~—————(3)(A) Recipients may withdraw from the Law Enforcement Officers' Dependents Scholarship Program upon written notification to, and approval by, the division.~~

~~—————(B) The petition shall give the reason for withdrawal and shall be supported with documentation.~~

~~—————(4)(A) The award will be revoked if the recipient fails to:~~

~~—————(i) Enroll in an eligible Arkansas institution;~~

~~—————(ii) Notify the division, in writing, of transfer to another eligible institution by October 1 for the fall term, February 1 for the winter and/or spring term, and May 1 for the summer terms;~~

~~—————(iii) Petition the division, in writing, for withdrawal from an institution by October 1 for the fall term, February 1 for the winter/spring terms, and May 1 for the summer terms; or~~

~~—————(iv) Maintain a minimum GPA of 2.0 on a 4.0 per academic year.~~

~~—————(B) At the discretion of the division, the award will not be revoked if the division determines that extraordinary circumstances prevented the student from notifying division by the required dates.~~

~~—————(5)(A) Recipients who are members of the Arkansas National Guard or Armed Forces Reserves units who are called to active duty for reasons other than regular unit training and are unable to complete the current term will not be penalized.~~

~~—————(B) They will be placed on deferred status until six (6) months after release from active duty.~~

~~—————6 CAR § 392-107. Institutional responsibilities.~~

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~~—(a) **Administrative agreement.**~~

~~—(1) The chief executive officer of the state-supported institution of higher education or technical institute is responsible for appointing one (1) representative from the financial aid office to act as administrator of the Law Enforcement Officers' Dependents Scholarship Program and to receive all communications and forms issued by the Division of Higher Education.~~

~~—(2) This representative is responsible for completing all forms, verification of data, and complying with all program rules.~~

~~—(b) The institution must comply with the following responsibilities in order to maintain continued eligibility status:~~

~~—(1)(A) The institution shall provide verification to the division at the close of each term concerning the student's continuing eligibility.~~

~~—(B) This is accomplished using the verification form issued by the division.~~

~~—(C) Reimbursement to the institution will be made after the institution has completed the verification form and the reimbursement form and returned them to the division;~~

~~—(2)(A) Institutions will be responsible for publicizing the program and identifying students eligible for the program.~~

~~—(B) Reimbursement can only be made for the year in which the student is currently enrolled and has made application.~~

~~—(C) Applications made after May 1 of the academic year in which the student is enrolled will not be considered and the student will not be eligible for the scholarship;~~

~~—(3) The institution shall maintain information on the student indicating disbursement of these fund;~~

~~—(4)(A) The deadline for disbursement of funds is no later than ten (10) days after written receipt of funds.~~

~~—(B) Any outstanding funds not disbursed must be returned to the division;~~

~~—(5)(A) It is the institution's responsibility to notify the division of the:~~

~~—(i) Names of any persons owing a refund;~~

~~_____ (ii) Date of the withdrawal; and~~

~~_____ (iii) Refund amount.~~

~~_____ (B) This information should be placed on the institution's verification roster before returning it to the division;~~

~~_____ (6)(A) Acts 1999, No. 1180 states that students who receive scholarships from public funds may not use those funds in a financial aid package to exceed the federally recognized cost of attendance at the institution where the student enrolls.~~

~~_____ (B) The institution must follow the division policy in repaying public funds in the amount exceeding the total cost of attendance for any student who receives public funds in a financial aid package above the cost of attendance; and~~

~~_____ (7)(A) The institution will exercise due diligence in providing complete, accurate, and timely information as requested by the division on any scholarship recipient.~~

~~_____ (B) In addition, the institution will exercise due diligence in complying with all the rules of the Law Enforcement Officers' Dependents Scholarship Program.~~

~~_____ **6 CAR § 392-108. Recipient responsibilities.**~~

~~_____ (a)(1) The recipient must notify the Division of Higher Education, in writing, of any change in status within thirty (30) days.~~

~~_____ (2) This includes changes in:~~

~~_____ (A) Name;~~

~~_____ (B) Address;~~

~~_____ (C) Institution; and/or~~

~~_____ (D) Withdrawal from an institution.~~

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

~~_____ (b) It is also the recipient's responsibility to be knowledgeable of the rules of the Law Enforcement Officers' Dependents Scholarship Program.~~

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 (e) An Arkansas Governor's Scholar shall be chosen based on a student
2 who:

3 (1) Graduates with a diploma of distinction based on criteria
4 determined by the State Board of Education; or

5 (2) Earns an associate degree upon completing the summer term
6 immediately following graduation from high school.

7 (f) An Arkansas Governor's Scholar shall be chosen based on a student
8 exhibiting the highest exemplary academic achievement if:

9 (1) There are no recipients of the Arkansas Governor's
10 Distinguished Scholarship; or

11 (2) An Arkansas Governor's Scholar under subsection (e) of this
12 section is not chosen in any given Arkansas county.

13
14 SECTION 71. Arkansas Code § 6-82-310, concerning the use of funds
15 under the Arkansas Governor's Scholars Program, is amended to add an
16 additional subsection to read as follows:

17 (c) In the event the number of students who qualify for a scholarship
18 under this subchapter during an academic year exceeds the amount of funds
19 appropriated to the Higher Education Grants Fund Account for purposes of
20 funding students who qualify for a scholarship under this subchapter during
21 the given academic year, the excess awards that qualify for distribution
22 under this subchapter shall be funded with any net proceeds from the state
23 lottery remaining after the Division of Higher Education allocates sufficient
24 funding to award the following scholarships at levels equivalent to the
25 awards made in the previous academic year:

26 (1) Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship, § 6-85-201 et seq.; and

27 (2) Arkansas Workforce Challenge Scholarship, § 6-85-301 et seq.

28
29 SECTION 72. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 82, Subchapter 5, is
30 repealed.

31 ~~Subchapter 5 — Children of Law Enforcement Officers, Etc.~~

32
33 ~~6-82-501. Definitions.~~

34 ~~As used in this subchapter:~~

35 ~~(1) "Child" or "children" means any natural child, adopted~~
36 ~~child, or stepchild who is eligible under § 6-82-504;~~

1 ~~(2) “Division of Community Correction employee” means any~~
2 ~~employee of the Division of Community Correction who suffers fatal injuries~~
3 ~~or wounds or becomes permanently and totally disabled as a result of injuries~~
4 ~~or wounds that occurred through contact with parolees, probationers, or~~
5 ~~center residents;~~

6 ~~(3)(A) “Emergency medical services personnel” means an~~
7 ~~individual licensed by the Department of Health at any level established by~~
8 ~~the rules adopted by the State Board of Health under the Emergency Medical~~
9 ~~Services Act, § 20-13-201 et seq., and authorized to perform those services~~
10 ~~set forth in the rules.~~

11 ~~(B) This shall include without limitation an emergency~~
12 ~~medical technician, advanced emergency medical technician, paramedic,~~
13 ~~emergency medical services instructor, or emergency medical services~~
14 ~~instructor trainer;~~

15 ~~(4) “Firefighter” means any firefighter employed on a full-time~~
16 ~~or volunteer duty status while actually engaged in the performance of his or~~
17 ~~her duties;~~

18 ~~(5) “Law enforcement officer” means a:~~

19 ~~(A) Constable, which includes all duly elected constables~~
20 ~~of any beat of any county within the state while actually engaged in the~~
21 ~~performance of their duties concerning the criminal laws of the county and~~
22 ~~state;~~

23 ~~(B) Game warden, which includes all appointed game wardens~~
24 ~~employed by the State of Arkansas on a full-time duty status while actually~~
25 ~~engaged in their duties concerning the game laws of this state;~~

26 ~~(C) Municipal and college or university police officer,~~
27 ~~which includes all law enforcement officers of any municipality, college, or~~
28 ~~university who are regular duty personnel on full-time status and does not~~
29 ~~include auxiliary officers or those serving on a temporary or part-time~~
30 ~~status;~~

31 ~~(D) Sheriff or deputy sheriff, which includes all law~~
32 ~~enforcement officers of full-time status on a regular basis serving the~~
33 ~~sheriff’s department of any county but does not include deputy sheriffs who~~
34 ~~are engaged in administrative or civil duty or deputy sheriffs serving in a~~
35 ~~temporary capacity or part-time basis; and~~

36 ~~(E) State highway patrolman, which includes any law~~

~~enforcement officer, regardless of department or bureau, of the Division of Arkansas State Police;~~

~~(6) "State correction employee" means any employee of the Division of Correction or the Arkansas Correctional School District who becomes subject to injury through contact with inmates or parolees of the Division of Correction;~~

~~(7) "State forestry employee" means an employee of the Arkansas Forestry Commission who is actively engaged in his or her duties of fighting forest fires;~~

~~(8) "State highway employee" means any employee of the Arkansas Department of Transportation who actively engages in highway maintenance, construction, or traffic operations on the roadways and bridges of the state highway system while the roadways and bridges are open for use by the traveling public;~~

~~(9) "State parks employee" means any employee of the Department of Parks, Heritage, and Tourism who is a commissioned law enforcement officer or emergency response employee while actively engaged in the performance of his or her duties; and~~

~~(10) "Teacher" means any person employed by a public school for the purpose of giving instruction and whose employment requires state certification.~~

~~6-82-502. Rules.~~

~~The Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board is directed and empowered to promulgate rules as necessary to administer benefits awarded under this subchapter by the Arkansas State Claims Commission.~~

~~6-82-503. Entitlement.~~

~~(a) If any Arkansas law enforcement officer, full-time or volunteer firefighter, emergency medical technician, state highway employee, state correction employee, Division of Community Correction employee, state parks employee, teacher, or state forestry employee suffers fatal injuries or wounds or becomes permanently and totally disabled as a result of injuries or wounds that occurred in the performance of a hazardous duty within the scope of his or her employment or that occurred en route to or returning from a location where a hazardous situation existed, his or her children and spouse~~

1 ~~shall be entitled to a total of eight (8) semesters, or the equivalent~~
2 ~~thereof, of scholarship awards without cost, exclusive of books, food, school~~
3 ~~supplies, materials, and dues or fees for extracurricular activities, at any~~
4 ~~state-supported college, university, or technical institute of his or her~~
5 ~~choice within this state. Up to four (4) semesters, or the equivalent~~
6 ~~thereof, may be taken at a technical institute.~~

7 ~~(b) Scholarship benefits shall not accrue under this subchapter to any~~
8 ~~person if the wounds or injuries suffered by any law enforcement officer,~~
9 ~~firefighter, emergency medical technician, state highway employee, state~~
10 ~~correction employee, Division of Community Correction employee, state parks~~
11 ~~employee, teacher, or state forestry employee are self-inflicted or if the~~
12 ~~death is self-induced.~~

13 ~~(c) Unless § 6-82-504(c) is applicable, the Arkansas State Claims~~
14 ~~Commission shall award any scholarship benefit provided by this subchapter at~~
15 ~~the same time that any death benefit or total and permanent disability~~
16 ~~benefit is awarded by the commission under the provisions of § 21-5-701 et~~
17 ~~seq.~~

18
19 ~~6-82-504. Awards to children.~~

20 ~~(a) In order for a natural child to be eligible to receive a~~
21 ~~scholarship benefit:~~

22 ~~(1) The child must have been born prior to the date of the death~~
23 ~~or total and permanent disability of the law enforcement officer,~~
24 ~~firefighter, emergency medical technician, state highway employee, state~~
25 ~~correction employee, Division of Community Correction employee, state parks~~
26 ~~employee, teacher, or state forestry employee; or~~

27 ~~(2) The law enforcement officer, firefighter, emergency medical~~
28 ~~technician, state highway employee, state correction employee, Division of~~
29 ~~Community Correction employee, state parks employee, teacher, or state~~
30 ~~forestry employee or the spouse of the law enforcement officer, firefighter,~~
31 ~~emergency medical technician, state highway employee, state correction~~
32 ~~employee, Division of Community Correction employee, state parks employee,~~
33 ~~teacher, or state forestry employee must have been pregnant with the child at~~
34 ~~the time of the death or total and permanent disability of the law~~
35 ~~enforcement officer, firefighter, emergency medical technician, state highway~~
36 ~~employee, state correction employee, Division of Community Correction~~

1 ~~employee, state parks employee, teacher, or state forestry employee.~~

2 ~~(b) In order for an adopted child to be eligible to receive a~~
3 ~~scholarship benefit:~~

4 ~~(1) The child must have been adopted prior to the date of the~~
5 ~~death or total and permanent disability of the law enforcement officer,~~
6 ~~firefighter, emergency medical technician, state highway employee, state~~
7 ~~correction employee, Division of Community Correction employee, state parks~~
8 ~~employee, teacher, or state forestry employee; or~~

9 ~~(2) The child's adoption process must have begun prior to the~~
10 ~~date of the death or total and permanent disability of the law enforcement~~
11 ~~officer, firefighter, emergency medical technician, state highway employee,~~
12 ~~state correction employee, Division of Community Correction employee, state~~
13 ~~parks employee, teacher, or state forestry employee.~~

14 ~~(c) In order for a stepchild under nineteen (19) years of age to be~~
15 ~~eligible to receive a scholarship benefit:~~

16 ~~(1) The stepchild must have been listed as a dependent on the~~
17 ~~federal and state income tax returns of the law enforcement officer,~~
18 ~~firefighter, emergency medical technician, state highway employee, state~~
19 ~~correction employee, Division of Community Correction employee, state parks~~
20 ~~employee, teacher, or state forestry employee in each of the five (5) income~~
21 ~~years immediately prior to the date of the death or total and permanent~~
22 ~~disability of the law enforcement officer, firefighter, emergency medical~~
23 ~~technician, state highway employee, state correction employee, Division of~~
24 ~~Community Correction employee, state parks employee, teacher, or state~~
25 ~~forestry employee; and~~

26 ~~(2) The stepchild must have received more than one half ($\frac{1}{2}$) of~~
27 ~~his or her financial support from the law enforcement officer, firefighter,~~
28 ~~emergency medical technician, state highway employee, state correction~~
29 ~~employee, Division of Community Correction employee, state parks employee,~~
30 ~~teacher, or state forestry employee in each of the five (5) income years~~
31 ~~immediately prior to the date of the death or total and permanent disability~~
32 ~~of the law enforcement officer, firefighter, emergency medical technician,~~
33 ~~state highway employee, state correction employee, Division of Community~~
34 ~~Correction employee, state parks employee, teacher, or state forestry~~
35 ~~employee.~~

36 ~~(d) In order for a stepchild nineteen (19) years of age or older to be~~

1 ~~eligible to receive a scholarship benefit.~~

2 ~~(1) The stepchild must have been listed as a dependent on the~~
3 ~~federal and state income tax returns of the law enforcement officer,~~
4 ~~firefighter, emergency medical technician, state highway employee, state~~
5 ~~correction employee, Division of Community Correction employee, state parks~~
6 ~~employee, teacher, or state forestry employee in each of five (5) income~~
7 ~~years during the eight (8) years immediately prior to the date of the death~~
8 ~~or total and permanent disability of the law enforcement officer,~~
9 ~~firefighter, emergency medical technician, state highway employee, state~~
10 ~~correction employee, Division of Community Correction employee, teacher,~~
11 ~~state parks employee, or state forestry employee; and~~

12 ~~(2) The stepchild must have received more than one-half ($\frac{1}{2}$) of~~
13 ~~his or her financial support from the law enforcement officer, firefighter,~~
14 ~~emergency medical technician, state highway employee, state correction~~
15 ~~employee, Division of Community Correction employee, state parks employee,~~
16 ~~teacher, or state forestry employee in each of five (5) income years during~~
17 ~~the eight (8) years immediately prior to the date of the death or total and~~
18 ~~permanent disability of the law enforcement officer, firefighter, emergency~~
19 ~~medical technician, state highway employee, state correction employee,~~
20 ~~Division of Community Correction employee, state parks employee, teacher, or~~
21 ~~state forestry employee.~~

22 ~~(e) If the covered public employee or his or her heirs did not file~~
23 ~~for the available death or disability benefit, but were otherwise eligible to~~
24 ~~receive, within the time frame provided in § 21-5-703, then the covered~~
25 ~~public employee's child or children who would have otherwise been eligible to~~
26 ~~receive the provided educational scholarship benefit under this section may~~
27 ~~individually file prior to their twenty first birthdays a claim to receive~~
28 ~~the provided educational scholarship benefit.~~

29
30 ~~6-82-505. Limits for scholarship.~~

31 ~~(a) No child will be entitled to receive benefits under this~~
32 ~~subchapter during any semester or quarter when the child has reached twenty-~~
33 ~~three (23) years of age on or before the first day of the semester or~~
34 ~~quarter.~~

35 ~~(b) No spouse will be eligible for the education benefit if he or she~~
36 ~~remarries. The benefit will cease at the end of the semester at which the~~

1 ~~spouse is currently enrolled at the time of the marriage.~~

3 ~~6-82-506. Written application for benefits.~~

4 ~~Any person claiming benefits awarded by the Arkansas State Claims~~
5 ~~Commission under the provisions of this subchapter shall make written~~
6 ~~application with the Division of Higher Education on forms provided by the~~
7 ~~division.~~

9 ~~6-82-507. Renewal of scholarship.~~

10 ~~To retain eligibility for a scholarship benefit under this subchapter,~~
11 ~~a recipient shall:~~

12 ~~(1) Maintain a minimum of a 2.0 grade point average on a 4.0~~
13 ~~scholastic grading scale; and~~

14 ~~(2) Meet any other continuing eligibility criteria established~~
15 ~~by the Division of Higher Education.~~

17 SECTION 73. Arkansas Code § 6-82-601(i)(3), concerning funding by
18 certain scholarships related to tuition waivers for dependents of certain
19 veterans, is amended to read as follows:

20 ~~(3) *Arkansas Concurrent Challenge Scholarship, § 6-85-401 et seq*~~
21 ~~*ACCESS to Acceleration Scholarship, § 6-85-701 et seq.*~~

22 SECTION 74. Arkansas Code § 6-82-1802(c), concerning continuing
23 eligibility under the Arkansas Future Grant Program, is amended to read as
24 follows:

25 (c) A student may continue to be eligible until the student has:

26 (1) Received the grant for ~~five (5) academic semesters~~ a maximum
27 of seventy-five (75) course credit hours in which the student is enrolled;

28 (2) Obtained an associate degree; or

29 (3) Failed to maintain satisfactory academic progress, as
30 determined by the approved institution of higher education in which the
31 student is enrolled; ~~or~~

32 ~~(4) Failed to complete the mentoring or community service~~
33 ~~requirements under § 6-82-1804.~~

35 SECTION 75. Arkansas Code § 6-82-1803(a)(1), concerning distribution
36 of the Arkansas Future Grant Program, is amended to read as follows:

**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 initial 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 public comment release.

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the Code of Arkansas Rules.

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);

(iv)(a) A public or private vocational-technical school.

(b) A public or private vocational-technical shall be bonded and insured; or

(v)(a) A public or private technical institute.

(b) A public or private technical institute shall be bonded and insured.

(B) An approved institution of higher education that is a private, nonprofit two-year or four-year college or university shall be eligible to receive Title IV federal student aid funds;

(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;

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(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

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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 of Merit" means a diploma that requires a student to complete a Career Ready Pathway as outlined in the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education Rules Governing Career-Ready Pathways to Diploma, 6 CAR pt 106.

(B) Students shall demonstrate readiness by earning at least one of the following:

(i) An industry-recognized credential;

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

(iii) The Seal of Biliteracy;

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

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

~~(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

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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;

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- (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.

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(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

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(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 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 of 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

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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.

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(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.

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(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

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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.

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(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~~

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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

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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

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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

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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.

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(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

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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.

(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: S2/14/23

94th General Assembly

A Bill

Regular Session, 2023

SENATE BILL 248

By: Senator J. English

By: Representative Evans

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS CHALLENGE PLUS
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS CHALLENGE PLUS
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 85, is amended to add an
additional subchapter to read as follows:

Subchapter 6 – Arkansas Challenge Plus Scholarship Program

6-85-601. Creation.

There is created and established the Arkansas Challenge Plus
Scholarship Program.

6-85-602. Eligibility.

A student is eligible to receive an Arkansas Challenge Plus Scholarship
under this subchapter for an academic semester or academic year if the
student:

(1) Applies for and maintains eligibility for a scholarship
under the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program; and

(2) Demonstrates financial need as determined by the Free
Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).



1 6-85-603. Award of scholarship.

2 (a) An Arkansas Challenge Plus Scholarship under this subchapter shall
3 be awarded to eligible applicants:

4 (1) In addition to a scholarship awarded under the Arkansas
5 Academic Challenge Scholarship Program;

6 (2) Based on the amount of financial need as determined by the
7 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA);

8 (3) As determined by the Division of Higher Education if
9 sufficient funds are available; and

10 (4)(A) In increments of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) per
11 eligible student per academic year, with a maximum of four thousand dollars
12 (\$4,000) per eligible student per academic year, as determined by the
13 division.

14 (B) The sum of an Arkansas Challenge Plus Scholarship
15 under this subchapter and an Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship shall
16 not exceed five thousand dollars (\$5,000) total per eligible student per
17 academic year.

18 (C) Scholarship amounts awarded under this subchapter may
19 vary each year depending on the amount of funding available.

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

23 (A) Transfers the funds requested by the division under §
24 23-115-801(c)(2); and

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

28 (2) However, an Arkansas Challenge Plus Scholarship under this
29 subchapter shall not be awarded for an academic year if:

30 (A) Less than two hundred fifty thousand dollars
31 (\$250,000) is available under subsection (b)(1)(A) of this section; or

32 (B) The division received a loan from the account under §
33 23-115-802 for the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program for the
34 previous academic year.

35 (3) The total amount of scholarships awarded under this
36 subchapter shall not exceed twenty-five million dollars (\$25,000,000) for

1 academic year 2023-2024.

2
3 6-85-604. Authority.

4 (a) The Division of Higher Education shall administer the Arkansas
5 Challenge Plus Scholarship Program under this subchapter.

6 (b) The division may promulgate rules to administer the program under
7 this subchapter.

8
9 SECTION 2. EFFECTIVE DATE. This act is effective on and after July 1,
10 2023.

11
12 */s/J. English*

13
14
15 **APPROVED: 3/30/23**

State of Arkansas

As Engrossed: H2/14/23

94th General Assembly

A Bill

Regular Session, 2023

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**

State of Arkansas *As Engrossed: H2/20/23 H4/5/23*

94th General Assembly

A Bill

Regular Session, 2023

HOUSE BILL 1417

By: Representative Lundstrum

By: Senator J. English

For An Act To Be Entitled

*AN ACT TO AMEND THE ARKANSAS ACADEMIC CHALLENGE
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM TO INCLUDE VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL
SCHOOLS AND TECHNICAL INSTITUTES AS APPROVED
INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION; TO ENSURE THAT
CERTAIN FUNDS FROM THE HIGHER EDUCATION GRANTS FUND
ACCOUNT ARE EXPENDED ON STUDENTS ENROLLED IN A
TECHNICAL INSTITUTE OR A VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL SCHOOL;
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.*

Subtitle

*TO AMEND THE ARKANSAS ACADEMIC CHALLENGE
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM CONCERNING APPROVED
INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION; AND
CONCERNING THE HIGHER EDUCATION GRANTS
FUND ACCOUNT.*

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

*SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-85-204(3), concerning the definition of
an "approved institution of higher education" under the Arkansas Academic
Challenge Scholarship Program, is amended to read as follows:*

*(3)(A) "Approved institution of higher education" means an
institution of higher education approved by the division 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;*



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

4 ~~(G)(iii)~~ An approved school of nursing, subject to
5 the provisions of § 6-85-213(c);

6 (iv)(a) A public or private vocational-technical
7 school.

8 (b) A public or private vocational-technical
9 school shall be bonded and insured; or

10 (v)(a) A public or private technical institute.

11 (b) A public or private technical institute
12 shall be bonded and insured.

13 (B) An approved institution of higher education that is a
14 private, nonprofit two-year or four-year college or university shall be
15 eligible to receive Title IV federal student aid funds;

16
17 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 85, Subchapter 2, is amended
18 to add an additional section to read as follows:

19 6-85-222. Vocational-technical school and technical institute
20 eligibility.

21 (a) An applicant for a scholarship under this subchapter who has
22 applied to or is currently enrolled in a public or private vocational-
23 technical school or a public or private technical institute shall, in
24 addition to the relevant eligibility requirements under this subchapter, be
25 accepted for admission in a program of study that leads to an associate
26 degree or a certificate program in one (1) of the following high-demand
27 fields:

28 (1) Industry;

29 (2) Health care; or

30 (3) Information technology.

31 (b) The Division of Higher Education shall file annually by November 1
32 a report to the Legislative Council in the manner and format that the
33 Legislative Council requires regarding:

34 (1) All state-supported student financial assistance awarded by
35 the division under this subchapter to students enrolled in vocational-
36 technical schools and technical institutes; and

1 (2) The permissible high-demand fields under subsection (a) of
2 this section, including without limitation recommendations for adding or
3 removing a high-demand field that is considered eligible for scholarship
4 purposes under subsection (a) of this section.

5
6 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 19-5-302(11), concerning the Higher
7 Education Grants Fund Account of the State General Government Fund, is
8 amended to read as follows:

9 (11) HIGHER EDUCATION GRANTS FUND ACCOUNT.

10 (A) The Higher Education Grants Fund Account shall be used for
11 the:

12 (i) State's contribution for tuition support for Arkansas
13 students attending out-of-state schools in dentistry, optometry, veterinary,
14 podiatry, osteopathy, and chiropractic; and

15 (ii)(a) Disbursement of funds for the Arkansas Academic
16 Challenge Scholarship Program, and other various scholarship, loan, and grant
17 programs as authorized by law and administered by the Division of Higher
18 Education or other state agencies made disbursing agents by the General
19 Assembly from the Higher Education Grants Fund Account.

20 **(b) Disbursement of additional funds allocated for**
21 **the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program under this subdivision**
22 **(11)(A)(ii) shall account for the distribution of up to two million dollars**
23 **(\$2,000,000) by the Division of Higher Education on behalf of students who**
24 **are enrolled in a technical institute or a vocational-technical institute.**

25 (B) The Higher Education Grants Fund Account shall consist of
26 transfers from the Private Career School Student Protection Trust Fund under
27 § 6-51-607 and those general revenues and any other funds as may be provided
28 by law;

29
30 /s/Lundstrum

31
32
33 APPROVED: 4/11/23
34
35
36

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;

**RULES GOVERNING THE GOVERNOR'S HIGHER EDUCATION
TRANSITION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

In compliance with the Arkansas ACCESS Act of 2025 (Act 341 Section 79, pages 103-104), the Arkansas Division of Higher Education Rules Governing the Governor's Higher Education Transition Scholarship Program is presented to the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) for initial 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 Governor's Higher Education Transition 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 rule for the Governor's Higher Education Transition Scholarship Program.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Governor's Higher Education Transition Scholarship Program rule be approved for public comment release.

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the Code of Arkansas Rules.

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 405. Rules Governing the Governor’s Higher Education Transition Scholarship Program
Subpart 1. Generally

6 CAR § 405-101. Purpose.

The purpose of this part is to establish the requirements and processes governing the Governor’s Higher Education Transition Scholarship Program.

6 CAR § 405-102. ~~Governor’s Higher Education Transition~~

Scholarship Definitions.

~~(a) The Division of Higher Education shall oversee the establishment of the Governor’s Higher Education Transition Scholarship Program.~~

~~—(b) Continuation of the Governor’s Higher Education Transition Scholarship Program shall be contingent upon available funding.~~

As used in this part:

(1) “Eligible student” means an Arkansas student with a disability admitted to a qualifying program at a state-supported institution of higher education;

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

(3) "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; and

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

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6 CAR § 405-103. Organization and structure.

(a) The Division of Higher Education shall administer the Governor's Higher Education Transition Scholarship Program.

(b) The division shall establish application periods and deadlines.

6 CAR § 405-104. Eligibility criteria.

(a)(1) The Governor's Higher Education Transition Program Scholarship may only be awarded to those students who are admitted into transition programs that are accredited by the Institute for Community Inclusion as comprehensive training programs.

(2) In order to be considered a qualifying institution, an institution must offer a transition program as described in this subsection.

(b) Students, or representatives acting on behalf of students, must complete the

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online scholarship application provided by the Division of Higher Education.

(c)

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6 CAR § 405-105. Continued eligibility.

Recipients of the Governor's Higher Education Transition Scholarship will maintain award eligibility for ~~a maximum of four (4)~~ up to eight (8) continuous semesters, or until credentialing is obtained, whichever ever comes first. as long as the recipients are continuously enrolled in a transition program.

6 CAR § 405-106. Scholarship amounts.

(a) Scholarship awards are contingent upon availability of funds.

(b)(1) Awards may not exceed the institutional cost of attendance.

(2) The maximum award amount is two thousand five hundred (\$2,500) per semester that the student qualifies for the scholarship.

(c) Awards may be applied to:

- (1) Tuition;
- (2) Mandatory fees;
- (3) Programmatic fees;
- (4) Room and board;
- (5) Supplies; or
- (6) Extended support services.

6 CAR § 405-107. Payment of scholarships.

(a) The Division of Higher Education shall disburse scholarship funds to the qualifying institution of the recipient's choice via electronic funds transfer or state warrant.

(b) After verification of enrollment, the institution will disburse the scholarship funds to the student according to the institution's disbursement procedures.

(c)(1) The scholarship payment will correspond to academic terms, semesters, quarters, or equivalent time periods at the institution.

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(2) For purposes of scholarship payments, academic terms at the institution may include summer terms, semesters, quarters, or their equivalent.

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

(e) 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.

(f)(1) 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.

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

(3) The institution shall refund the overpayment or overpayments to the division.

(g) If the award of a Governor's Higher Education Transition Program Scholarship results in an overpayment to the student per Arkansas Code § 6-80-105, the institution shall follow the division scholarship stacking policy in reducing the student's financial package so that the student does not receive funds above the federally recognized cost of attendance.

6 CAR § 405-108. Responsibilities of qualifying institutions.

(a)(1) The chief executive officer of the qualifying institution is responsible for appointing one (1) representative from the financial aid office to act as administrator of the Governor's Higher Education Transition Scholarship Program and to receive all communications, forms, and other correspondence related to the program.

(2) This representative will be responsible for:

(A) Verification;

(B) Data; and

(C) Compliance with all program rules.

(b) The institution shall maintain information regarding disbursement of scholarship

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funds.

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

(d)(1) Any outstanding funds not disbursed by these dates must be returned to the Division of Higher Education.

(2) If the division receives an application beyond the deadline referenced in this subsection, disbursement will be made within ten (10) business days of receipt of the verification roster and electronic transfer of funds.

(e) In exercising its due diligence requirements as a steward of state funds, the division shall periodically review the qualifying institution's records concerning this program.

(f) Upon request, the qualifying institution shall exercise due diligence in providing the division with complete, accurate, and timely information regarding current and former Governor's Higher Education Transition Scholarship Program recipients.

(g) Institutions with accredited transition programs will certify students' admittance and enrollment prior to scholarship award.

(h) The institution shall comply with all applicable law and rules in order to maintain its status as a qualified institution.

6 CAR § 405-109. Responsibilities of recipients.

(a) It is the recipient's responsibility to notify the Division of Higher Education of any change in status within twenty-one (21) days, including the recipient's:

(1) Name;

(2) Address; and

(3) Institution.

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

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 (1) Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship, § 6-85-201 et seq.;
2 and

3 (2) Arkansas Workforce Challenge Scholarship, § 6-85-301 et seq.

4
5 6-82-2508. Scholarship funding and continued eligibility.

6 (a) The state assistance under this subchapter is limited to the
7 tuition, fees, and other expenses required for the first bachelor's degree
8 earned by the dependent.

9 (b)(1) An eligible dependent shall be entitled to a total of eight (8)
10 semesters, or the equivalent thereof, of scholarship awards without cost,
11 exclusive of books, food, school supplies, materials, and dues or fees for
12 extracurricular activities, at any state-supported institution of higher
13 education or technical institute of his or her choice within this state.

14 (2) The eligible dependent may take up to four (4) semesters, or
15 the equivalent thereof, at a technical institute.

16 (c) To retain eligibility for a scholarship benefit under this
17 subchapter, a recipient shall:

18 (1) Maintain a minimum of a 2.0 grade point average on a 4.0
19 scholastic grading scale; and

20 (2) Meet any other continuing eligibility criteria established
21 by the Division of Higher Education.

22 (d) If a recipient fails to meet eligibility criteria, he or she may
23 apply for state assistance under this subchapter a maximum of one (1)
24 additional time once eligibility is reestablished.

25
26 Subchapter 26 – Governor's Higher Education Transition Scholarship Program

27
28 6-82-2601. Title.

29 This subchapter shall be known and may be cited as the "Governor's
30 Higher Education Transition Scholarship Program".

31
32 6-82-2602. Definitions.

33 As used in this subchapter:

34 (1) "Eligible student" means an Arkansas student with a
35 disability admitted to a qualifying program at a state-supported institution
36 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

**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 initial 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 public comment release.

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the Code of Arkansas Rules.

Proposed Rulemaking

Title

Promulgated by:
Division of Higher Education

Title 6. Education

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Chapter IV. Division of Higher Education, Department of Education

Subchapter B. Scholarships and Grants

Part 375. Rules Governing Residency Classification for State-funded

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Scholarships at State-Supported Institutions of Higher Education

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Subpart 1. Generally

6 CAR § 375.101. Creation.

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(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.

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6 CAR § 375.102. Definitions.

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As used in this part:

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(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

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(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.

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(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;

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6 CAR § 375.103. 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 § -- of 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.

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(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 § 375.104. 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.

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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 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 initial 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 public comment release.

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.

(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

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 initial 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 public comment release.

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the Code of Arkansas Rules.

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

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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 in:

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

(B) Computer science;

(C) Literacy or reading;

(D) Prekindergarten education; or

(E) Special education.

~~(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.

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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:~~

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~~_____ (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.**

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(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;

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(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

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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.~~

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(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.

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~~—(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)

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~~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.~~

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~~—(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;~~

~~—(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

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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

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~~(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 FUTURE GRANT PROGRAM

In compliance with the Arkansas ACCESS Act of 2025 (Act 341 Sections 74-76), the Arkansas Division of Higher Education Rules Governing the Arkansas Future Grant Program are presented to the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) for initial 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 Future Grant 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 Future Grant Program.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Future Grant Program rules be approved for public comment release.

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the Code of Arkansas Rules.

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 400. Rules Governing the Arkansas Future Grant Program

Subpart 1. Generally

6 CAR § 400-101. Policy statement.

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

(b) This part addresses the:

- (1) Student eligibility criteria;
- (2) Method for recipient selection;
- (3) Continuing eligibility requirements;
- (4) Procedures for making payments to an approved institution of higher education; and
- (5) Other administrative procedures necessary for operation of the program.

6 CAR § 400-102. Definitions.

As used in this part:

(1) "Approved institution of higher education" means an institution of higher education approved by the Division of Higher Education to participate in the Arkansas Future Grant Program that is:

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(A) A state-supported two-year or four-year college or university;

(B) A state-supported technical institute;

(C) An approved state-supported school of nursing; or

(D) A private, nonprofit two-year or four-year college or university;

(2) "Approved state-supported school of nursing" means a state-supported school of nursing with its primary headquarters located in Arkansas that:

(A) Prepares students as registered nurses;

(B) Grants nursing diplomas;

(C) Is eligible to participate in the federal student aid programs of the Higher Education Act of 1965, 20 U.S.C. § 1070 et seq.;

(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 Future Grant Program; and

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

(3) "Federal student financial assistance" means scholarships or grants awarded to a student as a result of:

(A) An approved Free Application for Federal Student Aid, including without limitation a Pell Grant; or

(B) The student's or other family member's service in the United States Armed Forces, including without limitation the Army National Guard or Air National Guard;

(4) "Private scholarship" means a scholarship or grant awarded by a private entity or donor;

(5) "Regional high-demand field" means any field of study identified as:

(A) In demand by the Division of Workforce Services as published on its annual regional Projected Employment Opportunities List; or

(B) In high demand by an approved institution of higher education and approved by the Division of Higher Education; and

(6) "State-supported student financial assistance" means a state-supported scholarship, grant, tuition waiver, or tuition reimbursement, funded with state funds or

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net proceeds from the state lottery, awarded by:

(A) The Division of Higher Education; or

(B) A scholarship or grant awarded by an approved institution of higher education in this state, funded 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) 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

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

(a) Tuition;

(b) Fees;

(c) Books; or

(d) Other costs of attendance.

Subpart 2. Procedures

6 CAR § 400-201. Eligibility requirements.

A student is eligible for an Arkansas Future Grant if the student is an Arkansas resident who meets one (1) of the following requirements:

(1) Has either:

(A) Graduated from an Arkansas:

(i) Public high school;

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(ii) Private high school; or
(iii) Home school under Arkansas Code § 6-15-501 et seq.; or
(B) Received a high school equivalency diploma approved by the Division of Workforce Services; or

(2) Verifies that he or she has resided in Arkansas for the three (3) years immediately preceding application for the grant, and has either:

(A) Graduated from an out-of-state:

- (i) Public high school;
- (ii) Private high school; or
- (iii) Home school recognized by another state; or

(B) Received a high school equivalency diploma approved by another state;

(3) Is enrolled part-time or full-time at an approved institution of higher education in a program of study that leads to an associate degree or a certification in a:

(A) Science, technology, engineering, accounting, finance, nursing, education, or mathematics field, including without limitation:

- (i) Computer science;
- (ii) Information technology;
- (iii) Data analysis; or
- (iv) Graphic design;

(B) Regional high-demand field; or

(C) State high-demand field; and

(4) 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.

6 CAR § 400-202. Continuing eligibility requirements.

A student may continue to be eligible until the student has:

(1) Received the grant for ~~five (5) academic semesters~~ a maximum of seventy-five (75) course credit hours in which the student is enrolled;

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(2) Obtained an associate degree; or

(3) Failed to maintain satisfactory academic progress, as determined by the approved institution of higher education in which the student is enrolled; ~~or~~

~~———— (4) Failed to complete the mentoring or community service requirements under 6 CAR § 400-205.~~

6 CAR § 400-203. Grant award amounts.

(a)(1) An Arkansas Future Grant shall be ~~in:~~

(A) Distributed in accordance with the Division of Higher Education's stacking policy under Arkansas Code § 6-80-105; and

(B) Distributed in an amount equal to the tuition, fees, and other charges incurred by a student who meets the requirements under 6 CAR § 400-201 and 6 CAR § 400-202 ~~to attend an approved institution of higher education, less the amount the student receives in:~~

~~———— (A) State-supported student financial assistance;~~

~~———— (B) Federal student financial assistance; and~~

~~———— (C) Private scholarships.~~

(2) If the approved institution of higher education in which the student is enrolled is a state-supported four-year institution of higher education or a private, nonprofit four-year institution of higher education, the total amount of tuition, fees, and other charges under subdivision (a)(1) of this section shall be calculated as the average cost of tuition, fees, and other charges at approved institutions of higher education that are state-supported two-year institutions of higher education or private, nonprofit two-year institutions of higher education.

(b) The Division of Higher Education shall disburse the grant directly to the approved institution of higher education.

(c) The division shall award grants under this part in the order in which the division receives applications from eligible students and based on availability of funds, to include summer terms, semesters, quarters, or their equivalents, at the postsecondary institution in which the student is enrolled.

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6 CAR § 400-204. Grant hold.

(a) The Division of Higher Education may approve a grant hold for a period of twenty-four (24) months or less.

(b) The reasons for a grant hold 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 grant hold if the division determines that the student did not complete the commitment under the written agreement.

6 CAR § 400-205. Grant recipient responsibilities.

(a)(1) A student who receives an Arkansas Future Grant shall enter into a written agreement with the Division of Higher Education to:

~~(1)(A) Receive monthly mentoring from a mentor from an organization determined by the Division of Higher Education.~~

~~(B) A mentor under subdivision (a)(1)(A) of this section shall:~~

~~(i) Receive annual mentoring training.~~

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~~_____ (a) Developed by the Division of Higher Education; and~~
~~_____ (b) Provided by a local volunteer group approved by the Division of Higher Education; and~~
~~_____ (ii) Certify to the Division of Higher Education that at least one (1) time each semester the mentor has provided mentoring services by telephone, email, or in person to each student he or she is mentoring;~~
~~(2)(A) Complete at least ten (10) hours of community service each semester the student receives a grant.~~
~~_____ (B)(i) A student may select a community service project that meets requirements developed by the Division of Higher Education.~~
~~_____ (ii) An approved institution of higher education may provide community services opportunities designed to benefit the approved institution of higher education community or the broader local community.~~
~~_____ (C) A student shall certify his or her community service to the approved institution of higher education by the last regular day of the semester the student received the grant; and~~
~~_____ (3)(A) Reside reside in this state for three (3) consecutive years six (6) months and be employed beginning within six (6) months after receiving an associate degree or a certification.~~

~~(B)(2)~~ The Division of Higher Education may defer the requirement under subdivision ~~(a)(3)(A)(a)(1)~~ of this section if:

~~(i)(A)~~ The Division of Higher Education, in consultation with the Division of Workforce Services, determines that there was no employment position available that would reasonably enable the student to meet this requirement; or

~~(ii)(B)~~ Special circumstances as determined by the Division of Higher Education exist.

~~(C)(3)~~ After the period of deferral, the student shall begin or resume working in this state or become subject to repayment under subsection (b) of this section.

(b) The written agreement under subsection (a) of this section shall provide that

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the grant converts into a loan and the student shall repay the grant amount:

(1) On a pro rata basis at an interest rate and on a schedule as determined by the Division of Higher Education, for each year the student does not reside in this state for three (3) consecutive years, and become employed beginning within six (6) months after receiving an associate degree or a certification; or

(2) In its entirety at an interest rate and on a schedule as determined by the Division of Higher Education if the recipient does not comply with the written agreement under subsection (a) of this section.

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

(2) Failure to notify the Division of Higher Education of a change of status may affect future eligibility.

(3) Change of status will include:

(A) Change in name;

(B) Change in address; and

(C) Change in institution.

6 CAR § 400-206. Collection of loan.

(a)(1)(A) Accounts will be retained by the Financial Aid Division of the Division of Higher Education until the individual is no longer eligible for deferment, at which point the account will be turned over to a vendor for repayment.

(B) The student will:

(i) Be notified by mail that their account is being placed with a vendor for collections; and

(ii) Receive a loan amortization schedule.

(2)(A) The account will remain with the vendor until repaid or one hundred twenty (120) days past due.

(B) Loan recipients who are determined by the Division of Higher Education to be one hundred twenty (120) days delinquent will be mailed their first letter of notification ten (10) days after the installment payment is due.

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(C) If payment is not forthcoming within sixty (60) days from the original payment due date, a second letter of notification will be sent to the loan recipient declaring their account is delinquent and requesting that the account be immediately brought up to date.

(3) If the loan recipient has not responded within ninety (90) days from the original payment due date, the third and final letter of notification will be sent to the recipient informing them that the account will officially be in default if outstanding payments are not made within thirty (30) days.

(b) **Skip tracing mechanisms.** The Division of Higher Education will use the following steps to locate recipients if communications are returned as undelivered:

(1) Contact the Office of Motor Vehicle of the Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration;

(2) Contact references listed on the recipient's application;

(3) Utilize telephone directory or check with directory assistance in the area of the recipient's last known address;

(4) Contact institutional offices (alumni office, admissions office, registrar's office, fraternity or sorority, and the department that the recipient majored in) at the campus where the recipient last attended;

(5) Contact creditors, such as credit card companies, credit bureaus, or GSL lender;

(6) Contact recipient's:

(A) Field of study;

(B) Professional organization;

(C) Union; or

(D) Licensing board;

(7) Contact post office;

(8) Contact utility companies; and

(9) Contact Chamber of Commerce.

(c) **Credit reporting agencies.**

(1) Defaulted recipients will be reported to the following credit reporting

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agencies:

(A) CSC Credit Reporting Services, Inc.;

(B) TRW Credit Data; and

(C) Trans Union Credit Reporting.

(2)(A) Forms for reporting defaulted loan recipients are located in the collections file.

(B) The Division of Higher Education will respond promptly to any inquiries it receives from credit reporting agencies concerning delinquent or defaulted loan recipients.

(d) **State income tax set-off.** By the authority of Acts 1993, No. 345, the Division of Higher Education has been included as a claimant agency for the setoff of debts against state tax refunds.

(e) **Litigation.**

(1) No sooner than thirty (30) days after sending the third letter of notification, the Division of Higher Education shall institute a civil suit against the recipient for repayment of the loan.

(2) Small claims courts will be used to satisfy debts of accounts up to three thousand dollars (\$3,000).

(3) If the account is over three thousand dollars and one cent (\$3,000.01), the Division of Higher Education must use circuit court.

(4) If the account is three thousand dollars and one cent (\$3,000.01) or above, the Division of Higher Education may choose to use small claims courts and waive the difference because of the expense involved in going to circuit court.

(5) If the Division of Higher Education chooses to waive the difference, it cannot later try to collect the difference.

(6) Forms to take the recipient to small claims court are requested from the recipient's county of residence.

(f) **Write-offs.**

(1) Arkansas Future Grants that convert to loans may be written off as uncollectible if the Division of Higher Education shows due diligence to satisfy the

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collection of the debt, and documents in the recipient's file that:

(A) The cost of litigation would exceed the likely recovery if litigation were commenced; or

(B) The recipient does not have the means to satisfy a judgment on the debt, or a substantial portion thereof.

(2) Proof of due diligence collection activities must be submitted to the Administrator of the Department of Finance and Administration and approval from the administrator must be received before Arkansas Future Grant loan accounts may be written off.

(g) **Nonpayment penalties.** Loan recipients who fail to meet their repayment obligations may have added to their total obligation any costs for collection of the debt.

6 CAR § 400-207. Institutional responsibilities — College and university responsibilities.

(a) Administrative agreement.

(1) 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 Future Grant Program 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 eligibility status.

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

(c) Institutional verification.

(1)(A) 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.

(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.

(2) 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.

(3)(A) The division shall also provide electronic continuing eligibility rosters to the financial aid administrator before the end of the fall and spring term.

(B) The 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 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 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 Future Grant recipient or former recipient.

(2) In addition, the institution will exercise due diligence in complying with all the rules of the Arkansas Future Grant Program.

(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.

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 ~~spouse is currently enrolled at the time of the marriage.~~

3 ~~6-82-506. Written application for benefits.~~

4 ~~Any person claiming benefits awarded by the Arkansas State Claims~~
5 ~~Commission under the provisions of this subchapter shall make written~~
6 ~~application with the Division of Higher Education on forms provided by the~~
7 ~~division.~~

9 ~~6-82-507. Renewal of scholarship.~~

10 ~~To retain eligibility for a scholarship benefit under this subchapter,~~
11 ~~a recipient shall:~~

12 ~~(1) Maintain a minimum of a 2.0 grade point average on a 4.0~~
13 ~~scholastic grading scale; and~~

14 ~~(2) Meet any other continuing eligibility criteria established~~
15 ~~by the Division of Higher Education.~~

17 SECTION 73. Arkansas Code § 6-82-601(i)(3), concerning funding by
18 certain scholarships related to tuition waivers for dependents of certain
19 veterans, is amended to read as follows:

20 ~~(3) *Arkansas Concurrent Challenge Scholarship, § 6-85-401 et seq*~~
21 ~~*ACCESS to Acceleration Scholarship, § 6-85-701 et seq.*~~

22 SECTION 74. Arkansas Code § 6-82-1802(c), concerning continuing
23 eligibility under the Arkansas Future Grant Program, is amended to read as
24 follows:

25 (c) A student may continue to be eligible until the student has:

26 (1) Received the grant for ~~five (5) academic semesters~~ a maximum
27 of seventy-five (75) course credit hours in which the student is enrolled;

28 (2) Obtained an associate degree; or

29 (3) Failed to maintain satisfactory academic progress, as
30 determined by the approved institution of higher education in which the
31 student is enrolled; ~~or~~

32 ~~(4) Failed to complete the mentoring or community service~~
33 ~~requirements under § 6-82-1804.~~

35 SECTION 75. Arkansas Code § 6-82-1803(a)(1), concerning distribution
36 of the Arkansas Future Grant Program, is amended to read as follows:

1 (a)(1) An Arkansas Future Grant shall be ~~in~~:

2 (A) Distributed in accordance with the Division of Higher
3 Education's stacking policy under § 6-80-105; and

4 (B) In an amount equal to the tuition, fees, and other
5 charges incurred by a student who meets the requirements under § 6-82-1802 to
6 attend an approved institution of higher education less the amount the
7 student receives in:

8 ~~(A) State supported student financial assistance;~~

9 ~~(B) Federal student financial assistance; and~~

10 ~~(C) Private scholarships.~~

11
12 SECTION 76. Arkansas Code § 6-82-1804(a), concerning the written
13 agreement requirements for a recipient of an Arkansas Future Grant, is
14 amended to read as follows:

15 (a)(1) A student who receives an Arkansas Future Grant shall enter
16 into a written agreement with the Division of Higher Education to:

17 ~~(1)(A) Receive monthly mentoring from a mentor from an~~
18 ~~organization determined by the Division of Higher Education.~~

19 ~~(B) A mentor under subdivision (a)(1)(A) of this section~~
20 ~~shall:~~

21 ~~(i) Receive annual mentoring training;~~

22 ~~(a) Developed by the Division of Higher~~
23 ~~Education; and~~

24 ~~(b) Provided by a local volunteer group~~
25 ~~approved by the Division of Higher Education; and~~

26 ~~(ii) Certify to the Division of Higher Education~~
27 ~~that at least one (1) time each semester the mentor has provided mentoring~~
28 ~~services by telephone, email, or in person to each student he or she is~~
29 ~~mentoring;~~

30 ~~(2)(A) Complete at least ten (10) hours of community service~~
31 ~~each semester the student receives a grant.~~

32 ~~(B)(i) A student may select a community service project~~
33 ~~that meets requirements developed by the Division of Higher Education.~~

34 ~~(ii) An approved institution of higher education may~~
35 ~~provide community services opportunities designed to benefit the approved~~
36 ~~institution of higher education community or the broader local community.~~

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~~