

Academic Program Proposals for January 24, 2025

The following is a list of academic program proposals being reviewed for possible consideration for approval at the January 24, 2025, Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board meeting. The summary contents are subject to change. The finalized version of the summaries will be available in the board book.

The institution's name, program title, and program summary are listed below. Contact ADHE for a copy of the proposals.

If you have concerns, objections, questions, or comments concerning a specific proposal, please send them to **Mason Campbell, Assistant Commissioner of Academic Affairs** (mason.campbell@adhe.edu) no later than January 1, 2025.

NORTHWEST ARKANSAS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE IN MEDICAL LABORATORY TECHNICIAN

The administration and Board of Trustees of Northwest Arkansas Community College (NWACC) request approval to offer the Associate of Applied Science in Medical Laboratory Technician, effective Summer 2025.

NWACC is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and the proposed program is within the role and scope established for the institution. The Northwest Arkansas Community College Board of Trustees approved the program on September 9, 2024.

Program Description

The proposed Associate of Applied Science in Medical Laboratory Technician (MLT) program will prepare students for a dynamic career in clinical laboratories, where they play a crucial role in diagnosing and monitoring patient health. This program combines theoretical knowledge with hands-on training in laboratory techniques, including blood analysis, microbiology, hematology, and chemistry, blood banking, urine and body fluid analysis and immunology. Students learn to operate sophisticated laboratory equipment, perform diagnostic tests, and ensure the accuracy of results. Graduates are equipped with the skills needed to work in hospitals, clinics, and diagnostic labs, contributing to patient care through precise and reliable laboratory work.

The proposed 70-71 credit hour program will be taught by one full-time faculty member, who will also serve as Program Director. The program will also be supported by adjunct faculty. Existing resources and technologies will be utilized by the proposed program. Program-related equipment will be sought as in-kind donations from local industry as well as from industry vendors.

Program Need

According to labor market information, employment as a Medical Laboratory Technician in Benton and Washington counties has increased 3.5% over the past ten years and the

average salary has also increased 2.3% over the same timeframe. The median salary in northwest Arkansas is \$54,600 with a forecasted annual growth of 1.8%.

Based on the results of an Employer Needs Survey sent out to local employers, there are currently 139 Medical Laboratory Technician positions in northwest Arkansas of which 17 positions are unfilled. Employers project approximately 30 job openings in the next 2-5 years. Employers state wages range from \$23/hour to \$32/hour.

Program Expenditures and Funding

Personnel expenses include one full-time faculty member (Program Director) hired at a salary of approximately \$74,000. Instructional equipment and resources will require an immediate expenditure of \$55,500, and \$25,500 annually thereafter. A facility renovation at \$15,000 is also planned. Other expenditures include the hiring of a curriculum designer at a cost of \$30,600 and anticipated accreditation expenses of \$2,500.

Funding for the proposed program will come from tuition and fees. A differential tuition for the professional curriculum for NWACC is set at \$127.00 per credit hour as opposed to the \$91 per credit hour for general education courses. Students will pay a \$20 per credit hour Health Professions Technology fee as well as a \$150 per course fee for lab equipment and supplies. Students also pay a \$20/year insurance fee for malpractice insurance.

Program Duplication

Arkansas public institutions offering similar programs are Arkansas State University Beebe, Cossatot Community College of the University of Arkansas, North Arkansas College, National Park College, and Phillips Community College of the University of Arkansas.

Program Learning Outcomes

- Demonstrate an understanding of the underlying scientific principles of laboratory testing, including technical, procedural, and problem-solving aspects. Recognize the importance of proper test selection, causes of discrepant test results, deviations of test results, and correlation of abnormal data with pathologic states.
- Perform proficiently in the full range of clinical laboratory tests in areas such as hematology/hemostasis, clinical chemistry, immunohematology/transfusion medicine, microbiology, serology/immunology, urine and body fluid analysis, and molecular and other emerging diagnostics. Identify and troubleshoot pre-analytical, analytical, and post-analytical components of the testing process. Play a role in the development and evaluation of new test systems and interpretative algorithms.
- Communicate effectively, orally and in writing, at a level sufficient to serve the needs of patients, the public, and members of the healthcare team. Demonstrate scientific literacy by finding, interpreting, critically analyzing, scientific literature to inform decision making for the benefit of the profession and the patient community.
- Engage in the scientific process by understanding the principles and practices of

clinical study design, implementation, and dissemination of results.

- Effectively apply educational methodologies and terminology at a level to train/educate users and providers of laboratory services.
- Apply safety and governmental regulations and standards in clinical laboratory science. Apply knowledge of principles and practices of administration and supervision as applied to clinical laboratory science to improve the efficiency of the workplace as well as contribute to quality assurance/quality improvement plans and collaborative healthcare teams to ensure quality healthcare delivery to the community.
- Apply the principles and practices of professional and ethical conduct to ensure the safe and ethical treatment of all patients. Recognize the significance of continuing professional development and development of a professional community.

Program Enrollment and Graduation Projections

Academic Year	Projected Enrollment	Projected Graduates
2025 – 2026	16	15
2026 – 2027	16	15
2027 – 2028	16	15
2028 – 2029	16	15
2029 – 2030	16	15

Program Curriculum

Prerequisites – 33-34 credit hours

ENGL 1013	English Composition I
BIOL 2214	Anatomy & Physiology I
MBIO 2014	Microbiology
MATH 1023	College Algebra
AHSC 1303	Phlebotomy
CHEM 1074	Fundamentals of Chemistry OR
CHEM 1104	College Chemistry I
CISQ 1103	Intro to Computer Information Systems OR
HIM 1123	Electronic Health Records
PSYC 2003	General Psychology OR
SOCI 2033	General Sociology
ENGL 1023	English Composition II OR
<i>ENGL 1033</i>	<i>Technical Composition II</i>
BIOL 1544	Principles of Biology OR
BIOL 1013	Introduction to Anatomy and Physiology

Professional Courses – 37 credit hours

<i>CMLT 2002</i>	<i>Orientation to Clinical Laboratory Science</i>
<i>CMLT 2013</i>	<i>Clinical Urinalysis & Body Fluids</i>
<i>CMLT 2114</i>	<i>Clinical Microbiology I</i>
<i>CMLT 2105</i>	<i>Clinical Practicum I</i>
<i>CMLT 2024</i>	<i>Clinical Chemistry</i>

CMLT 2032 Clinical Immunology
CMLT 2133 Clinical Microbiology II
CMLT 2203 Clinical Practicum II
CMLT 2123 Clinical Hematology & Hemostasis
CMLT 2143 Clinical Immunohematology
CMLT 2305 Clinical Practicum III
Italics = New Courses

UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS MONTICELLO
ROLE AND SCOPE CHANGE
DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN FOREST RESOURCES

Role and Scope Review Process

Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) policy outlines the process institutions must follow in order to request a change in the degree level approved by the AHECB, and the process to be followed during the review and consideration of that request. The process for AHECB consideration and action was amended by the Coordinating Board at its meeting on April 25, 2014.

Role and Scope Change Review

The University of Arkansas at Monticello (UAM) proposes a change to its role and scope to include the offering of doctoral programs with the Doctor of Philosophy in Forest Resources as its inaugural program. UAM is uniquely positioned to offer this degree as the only four-year institution in Arkansas with a Forestry program. UAM's program offerings currently include degrees in Forestry at the Associate, Bachelor, and Master levels.

Program Description

The proposed Doctor of Philosophy in Forest Resources will increase the state's forestry and natural resources scientific workforce, and importantly, do so through applied, in-depth education and research on Arkansas forestry and natural resource issues. Given that Arkansas has never offered a Ph.D. in forest resources, it has been entirely reliant on doctoral programs of other states. This doctoral program will be offered by UAM's College of Forestry, Agriculture, and Natural Resources (CFANR). The CFANR also houses the Arkansas Forest Resources Center of the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture which provides funding for research that bolsters the ability of the CFANR to deliver the program.

The proposed Ph.D. in Forest Resources will require 72 post-baccalaureate credit hours, of which a minimum of 48 hours will be coursework and up to 24 hours of credit for research/dissertation preparation and defense. Additionally, the degree requirements include the completion of an entrance seminar, comprehensive exams, a dissertation, one semester of instruction of a lower-level undergraduate course or lab, and a dissertation defense. Over the first five years, UAM expects to enroll at least fourteen students into the proposed doctoral program.

Existing resources, facilities, research equipment, and funding will be used to support the offering of this proposed doctoral program. No new faculty will be required as the CFANR has 20 faculty members with diverse expertise in forestry, wildlife ecology, ecology, economics, and biometrics to deliver this program.

Program Need

For the past several decades, forests and the forest industry have contributed substantially to the economic well-being of rural Arkansas and have had a significant cultural influence. Arkansas is the second most timber dependent economy among states in the U.S. and the most timber dependent economy in the southern United States. Arkansas has been completely reliant on Ph.D. programs in forest resources from other states to supply its forestry and natural resources scientific workforce.

UAM has become increasingly aware of this need and demand through direct contacts from the forestry industry and the institution's supporters in the Forestry Caucus of the Arkansas state legislature. The institution has also become aware through its increasing challenges in filling positions requiring a Ph.D. in forest resources for its own program, and frequent contacts from peer universities and agencies at the federal and state seeking graduates of Ph.D. in Forest Resources programs.

Labor market information provided by ADHE indicated that forestry and conservation post-secondary teaching positions, research and development careers in life sciences, and professional scientific technical services as career paths associated with graduates with a Doctor of Philosophy in Forest Resources. Each of these career paths are anticipated to have approximately 1% annual job growth at the state and national levels over the next 10 years. Average salaries range from \$76,000 to \$82,000. This salary range is 12-19% higher than the national salary average and 46-58% higher than the Arkansas salary average, according to the 2023 Arkansas Labor Market and Economic Report.

Program Expenditure and Funding

No new costs are associated with the offering of the proposed program. Administrative, instructional, and faculty resources used to deliver current programs in natural resources management, forestry, agriculture, and wildlife management are adequate for delivery of the proposed program.

Tuition and fees from students will be the key source of funding for the program. Additionally, UAM has received a \$16.8 million appropriation from the Arkansas legislature for the construction of the Arkansas Forest Health Research Center, under the CFANR and the Arkansas Forest Resources Center of the U of A System Division of Agriculture. The CFANR/Arkansas Forest Resources Center has also recently joined the Southeast Climate Adaptation Science Center, a consortium of universities of the Southeast U.S. that receives recurring funding from U.S. Geologic Survey for forestry and wildlife research and outreach responding to climate trends. This membership

enhances the unit's funding opportunities for Ph.D. assistantships in service of this program.

Program Duplication

There are no other active programs similar to the proposed program in the state of Arkansas.

Program Learning Outcomes

Upon completion, a graduate should:

1. Have an advanced understanding of principles relating to forest sciences, natural resource management, spatial sciences, or wildlife ecology and management.
2. Have an advanced understanding of natural resource issues and topics pertinent to an individual's program of study and career goals and be able to apply this knowledge in the decision-making process.
3. Be able to apply the scientific method in designing, implementing, analyzing, interpreting and integrating studies related to forest resource management problems and issues.
4. Be able to communicate effectively using written and oral communication skills in technical and non-technical settings.
5. Have excellent decision-making and critical thinking skills.

Program Enrollment and Graduation Projections

Academic Year	Projected Enrollment	Projected Graduates
2025 - 2026	2	
2026 - 2027	5	
2027 - 2028	7	
2028 - 2029	11	2
2029 - 2030	13	5

Program Curriculum

Required Courses – 9 credit hours

NREM 51003 Research Methods in Natural Resources

NREM 51103 Applied Predictive Statistics

NREM 51203 Applied Comparative Statistics

Electives Courses – 39 credit hours from the following

NREM 5020V Special Topics (variable credit)

NREM 50303 Applications in Recreational Farm Management

NREM 51303 Decision Making in Natural Resources Management

NREM 51403 Recreational Land & Lodge Management

NREM 52003 Social Aspects of Natural Resource Management

NREM 52203 Natural Resources Ecology

NREM 52403 Wetlands Ecology and Management

NREM 52903 Contemporary Issues in Natural Resource Conservation

NREM 5790V	Research and Thesis (variable credit)
NREM 5890V	Independent Study in Natural Resources (variable credit)
NREM 51603	Advanced GIS
NREM 51003	Forest Finance
NREM 52003	Forest Operations and Supply Chain Management
NREM 50603	Forest Appraisals
NREM 54003	Leadership in a Forest Business
NREM 5980V	Independent Study in Forest Business
NREM 53003	Forest Products Marketing
NREM 55003	Life Cycle Assessment of Forest Products
<i>NREM 5XXX3</i>	<i>Forest Economics and Modeling</i>
<i>NREM 5XXX3</i>	<i>Forest Business and Human Resources</i>
<i>NREM 5XXX3</i>	<i>Forest Taxes</i>
<i>NREM 5XXX3</i>	<i>Forest Business Legal Issues</i>
<i>NREM 5XXX3</i>	<i>Forest Operations Research</i>
<i>NREM 5XXX3</i>	<i>Data Analysis for Forest Business</i>
<i>NREM 5XXX4</i>	<i>Advanced Silviculture</i>
<i>NREM 5XXX3</i>	<i>Forest Ecology and Tree Ecophysiology</i>
<i>NREM 5XXX3</i>	<i>Advanced Forest Management</i>
BIOL 50134	Waterfowl Ecology
BIOL 50234	Herpetology for Graduate Students
BIOL 51434	Mammalogy for Graduate Students
BIOL 53434	Ornithology
SPCH 50003	Advanced Argumentation & Debate
SPCH 51103	Professional Behavior
STAN 52103	Critical & Textual Research Methods
STAN 53803	Research Methods for Forensics
STAN 54103	Qualitative Research Methods
STAN 54203	Quantitative Research Methods
COMM 5905V	Special Topics (variable credit)
COMM 5995V	Independent Study (variable credit)

Additional Requirements

Completion of the following:

1. Entrance Seminar
2. Instruction of a lab or course for undergraduate course for one semester
3. Comprehensive written and oral candidacy exams
4. Dissertation
5. Dissertation defense and exit seminar

Italics = New Courses

OUT-OF-STATE AND ARKANSAS PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS

The following applications may be reviewed by ADHE for possible consideration at the AHECB meeting in January 2025.

Initial Certifications – Distance Technology

Arizona Christian University, Glendale, Arizona

Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration
Bachelor of Science in Biology
Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education
Bachelor of Science in Psychology
Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education
Master of Arts in Education

Evangel University, Springfield, Missouri

Associate of Arts in General Studies
Associate of Arts in Leadership
Bachelor of Science in Allied Health
Bachelor of Science in Applied Biology
Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice
Bachelor of Science in Multidisciplinary Studies
Doctor of Strategic Leadership