Academic Program Proposals for April 28, 2023

The following is a list of academic program proposals being reviewed for possible consideration for approval at the April 28, 2023, 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 Director of Academic Affairs** (mason.campbell@adhe.edu) at ADHE no later than March 17, 2023.

ARKANSAS TECH UNIVERSITY (ATU)
BACHELOR OF ARTS IN SOCIAL MEDIA INFLUENCING

The administration and Board of Trustees of Arkansas Tech University (ATU) request approval to offer the Bachelor of Arts in Social Media Influencing effective Summer 2023. ATU is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and the proposed program is within the role and scope established for the institution. The ATU Board of Trustees approved the program on October 20, 2022.

Program Description

The proposed 120 credit hours bachelor's program is designed to offer students a program of study that focuses on both historical methods of mass communication, but also the new technologies and methods used in the burgeoning field of social influencing. Social influencers are professionals that assist employers in creating perceptions of their products or services. With this degree, ATU can match the personnel needs of companies and agencies who recognize that their messaging must take place within new social media platforms and not necessarily rely on traditional marketing outlets that are becoming less effective in the swirling mediaverse, branching out to inform and persuade audiences in nontraditional ways and with nontraditional forms.

Arkansas Tech University's Communication and Media Studies Department is uniquely situated to offer this degree, which can be added using mostly courses and supplies that already exist. There will be no need, at this point, for additional faculty or facilities.

Program Need

Without the blend of traditional disciplines of communication, theatre, speech, and journalism along with the latest trends in digital tools skills, those entering any part of the communications market will have difficult thriving. This degree recognizes that while traditional careers within journalism and media are disappearing, they are being reborn in the new economy as digitally embedded in businesses, media corporations, and

governmental agencies. Providing students with old and new skillsets will have a profound effect on their ability to participate in the emerging political, cultural, and economic landscapes that are transforming communities and the nation at large.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment in media and communication occupations is projected to grow 14 percent from 2020 to 2030, faster than the average for all occupations, and will result in about 151,500 new jobs. Demand for media and communication occupations is expected to arise from the need to create, edit, translate, and disseminate information through a variety of different platforms. The median annual wage for media and communication workers (such as announcers, interpreters and translators, and technical writers) was $61,310 in May 2020, which was higher than the median annual wage for all occupations of $41,950. Media and communication equipment workers (such as broadcast and sound engineering technicians, film and video editors, and photographers) had a median annual wage of $50,870 in May 2020, higher than the median annual wage for all occupations in the economy.

In a survey conducted by Morning Consult, out of 2,000 young people surveyed, 54% would like to be a social media influencer. While there are many programs nation-wide that focus on social media marketing, there are virtually none that take an academic approach to social media *influencing.*

To better gauge student interest, ATU distributed a survey to students enrolled in Communication and Media Studies during the first summer session of 2022. Of the 61 students surveyed, 17 (approximately 28%) agreed or strongly agreed that they would consider adding social media influencing as a major.

Program Cost

The Social Media Influencing program is designed to use pre-existing courses, faculty, and resources and make use of them in innovative ways. Because the Communications and Media Studies Department already includes faculty and coursework in the areas of broadcast journalism, public relations, social media, communication, film-making, and theatrical performance, this degree is a perfect match for what the Department already has.

Program Duplication

The Bachelor of Arts in Social Media Influencing would be the first bachelor-level award in the state of Arkansas. Henderson State University offers a Certificate of Proficiency in Social Media and Arkansas State University Jonesboro offers a Certificate of Proficiency in Social Media Management.

Program Goals/Objectives

1. Students will demonstrate understanding of public relations principles and the ability to plan a campaign.
2. Students will employ fundamental film-making skills including plot structure, shot planning, camera work, and editing.

3. Students will use theories related to the functioning of social media communication.
4. Students will employ digital communication effectively and ethically.
5. Students will build, leverage, and monetize an online presence.

Program Enrollment and Graduation Projections

Academic Year	Projected Enrollment	Projected Graduates
2024 - 2025	25	
2025 - 2026	35	
2026 - 2027	55	5
2027 - 2028		13
2028 - 2029		20

Program Requirements

General Education Core (35 credit hours)
Major Requirements
COMM/JOUR 1023   Communication and Media Exploration
COMM   3133   Digital Civility
JOUR   3173   Public Relations Principles
JOUR   4023   Social Media
TH   3263   Narrative Film Production
TH   4393   Social Media Influencing
COMM/JOUR 4823   Senior Capstone
Complete 3-credit hours from the following:
COMM   2003   Public Speaking OR
COMM   2013   Voice & Diction OR
COMM   3063   Oral Interpretation OR
TH   2703   Acting Theories and Techniques
Complete 6-credit hours from the following:
COMM   3003   Interpersonal Communication
COMM   3163   Writing for Performance
COMM   3263   Podcast / Radio Theatre Writing
JOUR   2143   Media Writing
JOUR   4073   Graphic Communication
TH   3803   Directing Theories and Techniques
TH   4563   Sound Design for Moving Images
JOUR or TH Internship
JOUR or TH Practicum
Other courses/seminars as approved by instructor
Electives
35 credit hours of Directed Electives
19 credit hours of Upper-Level Electives
Italics = New Courses

The degree can be combined with a number of majors including Communication, English, or Journalism; with minors like Art, Creative Writing, Film Studies, Theatre, and

Business & Entrepreneurship; and with certificates of proficiency in areas like Performance, Broadcast Journalism, and Public Relations.

ARKANSAS TECH UNIVERSITY (ATU)
MASTER OF ARTS AND GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND LEARNING

The administration and Board of Trustees of Arkansas Tech University (ATU) request approval to offer the Master of Arts and Graduate Certificate in Organizational Development and Learning effective Fall 2023. ATU is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and the proposed program is within the role and scope established for the institution. The ATU Board of Trustees approved the program on October 20, 2022.

Program Description

The proposed Master of Arts and Graduate Certificate in Organizational Development and Learning degree programs provide graduate level instruction in training and organizational development, organizational management and leadership, globalization and diversity, project management, organizational change, budgeting, implementation, and assessment of organizational development programs. The proposed program, with a core focus on organizational leadership, learning, and organizational development, allows students to develop effective leadership at all organizational levels, manage teams, make strategic decisions, design, and evaluate organizational training and development, and communicate effectively in diverse professional settings. Its graduates will influence an organization's culture, productivity, and team strength.

This innovative, fully online, interdisciplinary degree program consists of 30 credit hours with a 24-credit hour, organizational development and learning focused core and a block of 6 credit hours of graduate level electives. Students can customize the elective credit hours to specialize in nonprofit leadership, emergency management, health informatics, student affairs administration, gerontology, research methods and assessment, or interdisciplinary studies. The Graduate Certificate in Organizational Development and Learning consists of the first 12 credit hours of the Master of Arts core.

Building on ATU's current offerings, there is no current need for additional faculty, facilities, or revenue in order to offer this proposed program.

Program Need

The Master of Arts and Graduate Certificate in Organizational Development and Learning degrees increase the stackability options at Arkansas Tech University, particularly for students enrolled in the Bachelor of Arts in Organizational Leadership (BAOL) program or the many two-year programs aligned with the BAOL. This program will also increase credentialing opportunities and provides interdisciplinary options for

students enrolled in Arkansas Tech graduate programs. ATU's fully online delivery will serve working professionals who must balance academic work with other obligations. According to a recent market analysis conducted for Arkansas Tech University by Gray and Associates, there is an increased demand for online Organizational Development/Leadership degrees at the graduate level. Additionally, the analysis showed a 219% increase year-over-year in job postings for organizational leadership across the country. Data obtained from O*Net, indicates a national median wage of $55.60 per hour or $115,640 annually for Training and Development Managers. The national growth trend (2020-2030) indicates faster than average growth (10%-15%) and 4,300 projected positions. The median salary for this position in Arkansas is $92,570.

Program Cost

The Master of Arts in Organizational Development and Learning program is designed to use pre-existing faculty, resources, and distance education infrastructure. Therefore, no new costs are anticipated.

Program Duplication

The Graduate Certificate and Master of Arts in Organizational Development and Learning would be the first of their kind in the state of Arkansas.

Program Goals/Objectives

1. Students will review, analyze, and apply prominent theories in leadership, leadership ethics, followership, adult learning, and development to address organizational issues in diverse settings.
2. Students will develop strategic verbal, written, interpersonal, and technological communication functions for leadership, training, and motivation.
3. Students will identify and implement effective solutions for complex organizational systems through group dynamics and team building.
4. Students will articulate the impact of social and cultural diversity in organizations.
5. Students will demonstrate ethical, evidence-based decision-making practices based on exploration of issues, collection of evidence, data analysis, critique of sources, and interpretation/dissemination of results.
6. Students will develop a sense of self and others through exploration, identification, and articulation of social and cultural norms that form ethics, identity, values, beliefs, and motivations.

Program Enrollment and Graduation Projections

Academic Year	Projected Enrollment	Projected Graduates
2023 - 2024	15	
2024 - 2025	30	
2025 - 2026	45	10
2026 - 2027		22
2027 - 2028		33

Program Requirements

<u>Core</u>
MGMT 6103	Organizational Management and Leadership
OL	5043	Ethical Leadership
OL	5643	Organizational Globalization and Diversity
OL	6043	Leadership in Organizational Change
OL	6143	Consultation, Coaching, & Leadership Development
MGMT 5203	Project Management
SAA	6113	Research Design and Analysis OR
EMHS 6103	Research Design and Methods
OL	6093	ODL Capstone (Applied Project or Thesis)

<u>Graduate Level Electives</u> (Select 6 credit hours from the following focus areas)

Emergency Management
EMHS 6063	Principles of Emergency Management
EMHS 6093	Fundamentals of Homeland Security

Gerontology
SOC	5183	Social Gerontology
SOC	6063	Advanced Topics in Gerontology

Health Informatics
HI	6063	Leadership in Health Informatics
HI	6083	Health Care Policy

Nonprofit Leadership
OL	5143	Nonprofit Governance
OL	5343	Community Development

Student Affairs Administration
SAA	6023	Intro to College Student Personnel Work
SAA	6143	Administration in SAA

Research Methods and Assessment (for thesis option)
OL	6053	Advanced Research Methods in ODL
OL	6063	Evaluation and Assessment in ODL

Interdisciplinary
5000 – 6000 level Graduate Elective
5000 – 6000 level Graduate Elective

PHILLIPS COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS (PCCUA) ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE IN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT

The administration and Board of Trustees of Phillips Community College of the University of Arkansas (PCCUA) request approval to offer the Associate of Applied Science in Occupational Therapy Assistant effective Fall 2023. PCCUA is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and the proposed program is within the role and scope established for the institution. The University of Arkansas System Board of Trustees approved the program on January 25-26, 2023.

Program Description

The proposed Associate of Applied Science in Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA) program will teach students to collaborate and work under the supervision of a registered occupational therapist. Upon passing the licensure exam, graduates will practice as Certified Occupational Therapy Assistants (COTA). Occupational Therapy Assistants use rehabilitative activities to help clients of all ages overcome physical, emotional, mental and/or social limitations and become independent in their daily living. OTAs work in a wide variety of settings such as hospitals, clinics, rehabilitation facilities, nursing homes, extended skills care, education, community-based settings, mental health facilities, and so much more.

This 63-hour credit program consists of four semesters of academic preparation including 16 weeks of fieldwork prior to graduation. Graduates from the program are eligible to take the national certification examination administered by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy Assistant (NBCOTA).

Phillips Community College of the University of Arkansas has received a Title III grant that will cover program costs for the first 3 years. In the first year, the college plans to hire 1 fulltime instructor and 4 adjunct instructors. In year 2, an additional fulltime instructor will be hired to work with the second-year cohort.

Program Need

Occupational Therapy Assistant is listed as a high-demand occupation according to the Arkansas Division of Workforce Services. At the Associate degree level, the statewide mean of the annual salary for an Occupational Therapy Assistant is $67,490. According to the *Occupational Outlook Handbook (2022)*, employment in this field is projected to grow 25% from 2021 to 2031.

PCCUA has many students enroll in college with the dream of becoming a nurse. The College has strong Practical Nursing and Registered Nursing programs. However, acceptance into these high demand programs is limited, and students who are not accepted often have little awareness that many other allied health jobs are also available. By developing an OTA program, the College will provide access to another high-demand, high-pay option for qualifying students.
An Occupational Therapy Assistant program in Phillips County would provide an associate degree for struggling students in the Delta who desire to improve the quality of their lives and strive to achieve strong work satisfaction. Based on the feedback the College received from local employers, the need for OTAs is vital to local nursing homes and centers serving disabled children. Many agencies cannot afford to hire multiple Occupational Therapists but can afford to pay the much lower salary of OTAs working under the supervision of an Occupational Therapist.

Program Cost

Phillips Community College of the University of Arkansas wrote and received a $2,250,000 Title III grant to support two new programs, one of which is Occupational Therapy Assistant. The Title III grant will cover all start-up costs for the program for

three years. This new program funded entirely by external dollars is a remarkable opportunity for PCCUA.

Program Duplication

Occupational Therapy Assistant education is offered at only 4 locations in Arkansas. These institutions and their distance from Helena-West Helena are Arkansas State University (106 mi.), Arkansas Tech University- Ozark Campus (231 mi.), UA-Pulaski Technical College (219 mi.), and Cossatot Community College of the University of Arkansas (258 mi.). A for-profit entity, Concorde Career College, is located 79 miles away in Memphis but charges $46,010 for books and tuition, compared to PCCUA's annual tuition of just $2,190 per term. For low-income, place-bound PCCUA students, it is clear that an OTA program at the College would offer their best chance for a high-demand, high-pay career as an Occupational Therapy Assistant.

Program Goals/Objectives

Upon completion students will be able to:
1. Implement client-centered, evidence-based occupational therapy interventions while keeping in mind the safety of self and others.
2. Apply all the components of the *Occupational Therapy Code of Ethics to* practice.
3. Meet the occupational demands of clients while satisfying responsibilities as an employee.
4. Ability to self-reflect, improve, grow, and develop throughout the program and as a practitioner. Therefore, students will demonstrate the following skills.
5. Establish and ongoing professional development plan to reflect current practice settings and the healthcare environments and to continue professional growth and work skill improvement.
6. Meet responsibilities of treatment and documentation of that treatment and prioritize needs and time required to do this.
7. Exhibit professional appearance and interactions when working with patients, supervisors, administrators, and the public.
8. Pursue professional development and connect with professional organizations and activities.
9. Review and revise therapeutic activities and treatment based on client needs and progress.
10. Communicate the benefits of incorporating personal perspectives of therapy when working in a therapeutic relationship.
11. Provide caring and compassion to clients, families, and colleagues of diverse cultural background.

Program Enrollment and Graduation Projections

Academic Year	Projected Enrollment	Projected Graduates
2023 - 2024	10	
2024 - 2025	22	10
2025 - 2026	24	12
2026 - 2027	24	12
2027 - 2028	26	12

Program Requirements

OT	113	Medical Terminology
BY	154	Anatomy and Physiology I (ACTS BIOL 2404)
EH	123	Composition II (ACTS ENGL 1023)
PSY	213	General Psychology (ACTS PSYC 1103)
PSY	223	Human Growth and Development (ACTS PSYC 2103)
BH	123	Theories and Treatments of Social Problems (ACTS SOCI 2013)
CT	113	Computer Information Systems (Medical Informatics) (ACTS CPSI 1003)
PE	243	First Aid/ Basics of CPR
OTAP XXXXX		*Kinesiology/Lab*
OTAP XXXXX		*Introduction to Occupational Therapy Assistants*
OTAP XXXXX		*Adult and Geriatric Occupational Therapy and Interventions*
OTAP XXXXX		*Pediatric Occupational Therapy Interventions and Lab*
OTAP XXXXX		*Lifetime Health and Wellness*
OTAP XXXXX		*Level II Fieldwork I with Seminar*
OTAP XXXXX		*Level II Fieldwork II*
OTAP XXXXX		*Level II Fieldwork III*
OTAP XXXXX		*Fieldwork Documentation*
OTAP XXXXX		*Advanced Occupational Therapy Interventions*
OTAP XXXXX		*Occupational Intervention Analysis and Application*

Italics = New Courses

SOUTH ARKANSAS COMMUNITY COLLEGE (SACC) CERTIFICATES OF PROFICIENCY AND TECHNICAL CERTIFICATE IN FORESTRY TECHNOLOGY

The administration and Board of Trustees of South Arkansas Community College (SACC) request approval to offer the Certificates of Proficiency and Technical Certificate in Forestry Technology effective Fall 2023. SACC is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and the proposed program is within the role and scope established for the institution. The SACC Board of Trustees approved the program on May 17, 2022.

Program Description

The proposed program in Forestry Technology will provide training and hands-on experience for students interested in working in the Forestry Industry. This program will

produce a talent pipeline of well-trained workers to fill high-demand, entry to middle-skill positions of which there is an immediate need in the region and across the country.

This 36-credit hour program consists of coursework in basic forestry principles, forest management, dendrology, sampling, processing, and summarization of data, geographic information systems, and harvesting. Students will also be participating in a forestry internship which will only enhance the skills learned in the classroom.

The proposed program is designed with multiple exit points, credentials, and on-ramps for high school students, traditional students, and incumbent workers. Upon completion of the first semester, students will earn the Certificate of Proficiency in Basic Forestry, an 11 credit-hour credential. After the second semester, a student will earn the Certificate of Proficiency in Forestry Technology, a 9 credit-hour award. These two certificates, in combination with technical math and writing, lead to the third and final semester of the Technical Certificate in Forestry Technology.

One full-time program director, who will also serve as lead instructor, will be hired. Adjunct faculty will be brought in to teach other program courses in order to expose students to faculty with a variety of professional experiences. Start-up program supplies and small equipment will be provided by a grant awarded for the program development under the Office of Skills Development.

Program Need

Approximately 56% of the state of Arkansas is designated as forest land. This is roughly 18.9 million acres of arboreal land. There is a need for trained and experienced forest management professionals including foresters and forestry technicians, to maintain this valuable commodity.

Forest Technology/Technician is listed as a high-demand occupation according to the Arkansas Division of Workforce Services. These positions constitute gainful employment with an average Arkansas hourly rate of pay of $22/hour. Southern Arkansas is still the heart of the state's forest industry. The southern part of the state still dominates the employment picture, with Ashley County providing a significant number of jobs at 1,355. Bradley County follows at 1,218 jobs, and Union County at 1,007 positions. (High Plains Journal, February 2021). These counties are part of SACC's physical service area.

SACC was made aware of the need for trained personnel in the forestry management sector when a meeting was requested by F and W Forestry Services. They described the difficulty they had in finding employees to fill their teams and expressed concern associated with hiring under-skilled candidates. Following research into available programs, the college recognized that the needs of the employer would not be met by available output. Similar discussions were held with smaller independent forestry management groups, regional sawmills including Potlatch Deltic and the Arkansas Foresters Association.

Program Cost

Funding for the first 2 years of the program is provided by a grant received by the Office of Skills Development in the amount of $250,000. After the first 2 years, SACC will absorb the program cost which consists of faculty salary and benefits and administrative costs that includes software licensure.

Program Duplication

The University of Arkansas at Monticello offers an Associate of Science in Forest Technology and Cossatot Community College of the University of Arkansas offers an Associate of Science in Natural Resources.

Program Goals/Objectives

1. Demonstrate a broad understanding of the forestry industry and its regional significance.
2. Work safely and with awareness in a forest environment.
3. Correctly identify regionally native trees and woody vines.
4. Use standard forestry industry tools and techniques for measurement and plotting.
5. Use standard forestry industry tools and techniques for sampling, data collection, and documenting forest environments.
6. Apply agricultural principles to managed properties and trees.
7. Work effectively in a forestry crew.

Program Enrollment and Graduation Projections

Academic Year	Projected Enrollment	Projected Graduates
2023 - 2024	10	
2024 - 2025	10	
2025 - 2026	15	10
2026 - 2027		10
2027 - 2028		15

Program Requirements

Certificate of Proficiency in Basic Forestry
FRST 1002   *Introduction to Forestry*
FRST 1011   *History and Policy in Forestry*
FRST 1014   *Applied Dendrology*
FRST 1024   *Forest Mensuration*
MATH 1073   Technical Math OR
MATH 1023   College Algebra

Certificate of Proficiency in Forestry Technology
FRST 1012   *Forest Soils and Watershed*
FRST 1013   *Forest GIS Applications*

FRST 1034	*Harvesting Procedures*
CSCI 1003	Intro to Computers OR
BTEC 2143	Business Applications
ENGL 1143	Technical Writing OR
ENGL 1113	Composition I

Technical Certificate in Forestry Technology
FRST 1002	*Introduction to Forestry*
FRST 1011	*History and Policy in Forestry*
FRST 1014	*Applied Dendrology*
FRST 1024	*Forest Mensuration*
MATH 1073	Technical Math OR
MATH 1023	College Algebra
FRST 1012	*Forest Soils and Watershed*
FRST 1013	*Forest GIS Applications*
FRST 1034	*Harvesting Procedures*
CSCI 1003	Intro to Computers OR
BTEC 2143	Business Applications
ENGL 1143	Technical Writing OR
ENGL 1113	Composition I
FRST 1023	*Applied Silviculture*
FRST 1054	*Forestry Internship I OR*
FRST 1064	*Forestry Capstone*

Italics = New Courses

UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS FAYETTEVILLE (UAF)
MASTER OF ARTS IN INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

The administration and Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas Fayetteville (UAF) request approval to offer the Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies effective Fall 2023. UAF is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and the proposed program is within the role and scope established for the institution. The University of Arkansas System Board of Trustees will consider the program for approval on March 15, 2023.

Program Description

Growth of graduate education has been one of the University's guiding priorities, as has the expansion of access to Arkansans in graduate and undergraduate education. The Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies fills a gap within the University's graduate offerings by providing a flexible program of study with online options to increase access to graduate education for Arkansas residents across the state.

The Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies, a 30 credit-hour program, supports graduate students whose academic interests and career goals are not currently serviced by existing degree programs or span two or more subject areas. The target population for this program, like the Bachelor of Arts program in Interdisciplinary

Studies, are both high-achieving students who cannot be adequately served in other degree programs offered by the University as well as those seeking to return to the University to complete their graduate degrees after an absence. This degree-completer audience, consisting of non-traditional working professionals, will be uniquely served through this program as it can combine prior graduate coursework completed in person on the UAF campus or at other accredited institutions with online offerings in a variety of areas.

By utilizing existing coursework and graduate programs, no new faculty will be required for this program. Only two new courses, an introductory/research methods course and a research capstone course, both offered online, will be required.

Program Need

Nationally, Interdisciplinary Studies programs reach large populations of online students with the top five largest programs graduating between 80 and 150 students per year. The possibility of combining existing on-campus curriculum with existing online curriculum to create a flexible degree option will place the University in a unique position to support a variety of working professionals, degree-completers, and high achieving graduate students whose needs are not filled by current offerings.

Demand for this program is based on the overwhelming enrollment in the undergraduate program to fill a need for both degree completers as well as students who are not currently served by our degree program offerings. There are many students who left the University of Arkansas Fayetteville without a graduate degree in good standing due to personal/professional issues and would now have the opportunity to complete a graduate degree online through this program. With no other similar programs available in the state of Arkansas, this program will fill a need that is currently being filled by out of state institutions. Further, enrollment in out of state institutions in similar programs is quite high showing that demand for this type of program is available.

Median salary for all professions with this credential is $51,300. After 5 years, the median earnings for the top two target professions with this credential, postsecondary teachers and general/operations managers, are $58,900 and $103,000 respectively.

Program Cost

Costs related to course development will be supported by the University's Global Campus and instructional costs for these required online courses will be supported by tuition revenue based on enrollments. A stipend for the director of the program to complete administrative tasks and advise students will be paid by the Graduate School & International Education. No new library resources or facilities will be required.

Program Duplication

The Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies would be the first of its kind in the state of Arkansas. This program is unlike other degree programs of similar CIP code. Students have the flexibility to create a customized pathway by choosing 2 focus areas. These

focus areas must be approved by an advisor and contain enough coursework at the graduate level to meet the program's requirements.

Program Goals/Objectives

Upon completion students will be able to
1. Analyze complex issues and topics from multiple disciplinary perspectives.
2. Formulate original ideas and articulate them clearly through oral and written presentations for interdisciplinary audiences.
3. Evaluate and appraise various research methodologies from an interdisciplinary perspective.
4. Synthesize and analyze material from multiple sources from multiple disciplinary perspectives and to produce original research.
5. Create an organized research strategy from an interdisciplinary perspective and successfully execute a research plan based on an interdisciplinary approach to scholarship.

Program Enrollment and Graduation Projections

Academic Year	Projected Enrollment	Projected Graduates
2023 - 2024	5	
2024 - 2025	10	
2025 - 2026	15	7 – 10
2026 - 2027	25	10 – 15
2027 - 2028	40	10 – 15

Program Requirements

Semester One:
GRSD 5113 Introduction and Methods of Interdisciplinary Inquiry
Graduate Coursework in Primary Focus Area (6 credit hours)

Semester Two:
Graduate Coursework in Primary Focus Area (3 credit hours)
Graduate Coursework in Secondary Focus Area (6 credit hours)

Semester Three:
Graduate Coursework in Primary Focus Area (3 credit hours)
Graduate Coursework in Secondary Focus Area (3 credit hours)

Graduate Coursework Elective in any area (3 credit hours)—non-thesis option OR
GRSD 600v Masters Thesis (3 credit hours)—thesis option

Semester Four:
GRSD 5203 Capstone Seminar in Graduate Interdisciplinary Studies OR
GRSD 600v Masters Thesis—thesis option
Italics = New Courses

UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS FAYETTEVILLE (UAF)
BACHELOR OF ARTS IN ITALIAN

The administration and Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas Fayetteville (UAF) request approval to offer the Bachelor of Arts in Italian effective Fall 2023. UAF is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and the proposed program is within the role and scope established for the institution. The University of Arkansas System Board of Trustees will consider the program for approval on March 15, 2023.

Program Description

The proposed Bachelor of Arts in Italian program at the University of Arkansas challenges students to think critically about the literary and cultural history which founds Italian and Italian American studies by integrating language acquisition and intercultural competence through the classroom and co-curricular activities on campus and through global experiences and high-impact practices such as study abroad, internships, and service learning. Beyond the more traditional outcomes of language learning and through the most up-to-date tools in foreign language pedagogy, the program encourages the importance of Italian for interdisciplinary study. The end goal is to create global citizens who are prepared to embrace the principal aspects of Italian society and who have critically explored their native language and culture. An Italian major is a wonderful complementary course of study to numerous fields: Architecture, Art History, English, History, International Relations, International Business, Music, Philosophy, etc.

This 120-credit hour program allows a student the choice between two concentrations, Transnational Studies or Literary and Cultural Studies. The program's curriculum will be comprised mostly of existing coursework and include only 2 new courses. Students in this program will have the opportunity to study abroad at the University of Arkansas Fayetteville's Rome Center, located in the historic Palazzo Taverna, just minutes from the Vatican. At this time, no new faculty will be hired, and no additional costs are anticipated.

Program Need

Besides being the language of Dante, Italian has a foundational role in theatre, cinema, art and architecture, music, history, social and migration history, politics and political theory internationally. Many employers seek to recruit candidates who speak both Italian and English. An estimated 7,500 American companies do business with Italy, and more than 1,000 U.S. firms have offices there. Italian is the fourth most studied language worldwide, with an average of 2.3 million students. Additionally, 250 million people speak Italian as a second language internationally.

Students have been requesting an Italian Major for the last five years. UAF students choose Italian as a minor because of how well it complements the various fields of study they are pursuing. In UAF's Italian courses, students have learned the importance that language and intercultural competence play in order to be competitive in the job market. Moreover, they understand how the Italian language enhances what they are learning in

and outside of the classroom. The courses in the Italian program teach students critical skills used later in their careers including, but not limited to, presentational and personal communication, professional writing, research, etc., all in a second language.

The World Languages, Literatures, and Cultures Department learned of the students' desire for a degree in Italian from numerous years of advising both Italian Minor students and from students going to study abroad in Italy. Parents have inquired why the University does not have an Italian Major. A large percentage of current students come from Romance Languages backgrounds (French, Italian, Portuguese, and Spanish-decent(s) including Latin and South America, plus Brazil) and this alone encourages students to enroll in Italian courses.

Program Cost

The Bachelor of Arts in Italian program is designed to use pre-existing faculty and resources. Therefore, no new costs are anticipated. The Italian Program has received over $30,000 in external funding and has reapplied for a $17,000 external grant to support the program.

Program Duplication

The Bachelor of Arts in Italian would be the first of its kind in the state of Arkansas.

Program Goals/Objectives

Upon completion students will be able to:
1. Communicate in Italian, both orally and in writing, by engaging in interpersonal, interpretative, and presentational communication activities.
2. Make meaningful cross-cultural comparisons between Italy and other countries.
3. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of other cultures.
4. Develop critical thinking by making connections and engaging creatively in problem solving activities.
5. Engage in multilingual communities at home and around the world by applying classroom learning to real-world situations.
6. Ability to produce an organized, well-supported argument in writing; to write clearly and persuasively; and to observe ethical and precise citation practices.

Literary and Cultural Studies Concentration
1. Advanced knowledge of major periods of Italian literature and other cultural texts with understanding of historical, generic, or cultural context.
2. Demonstrated capacity to read critically and closely, to interpret texts, and to evaluate arguments about literary and cultural texts and topics.

Transnational Studies Concentration
1. Advanced knowledge of Italian culture through an interdisciplinary lens and from various genres/disciplines.

Program Enrollment and Graduation Projections

Academic Year	Projected Enrollment	Projected Graduates
2023 - 2024	15	
2024 - 2025	18 – 20	
2025 - 2026	25 – 30	10 – 12
2026 - 2027		15 – 20
2027 - 2028		28 – 32

Program Requirements

General Education Core – 35 credit hours
ENGL 1013   Composition I
ENGL 1023   Composition II
MATH 1203   College Algebra OR
MATH 1313   Quantitative Reasoning or any higher level MATH
3 credit hours Fine Arts Elective
9 credit hours Social Sciences Elective
8 credit hours Science/Lab
3 credit hours US History or Government
ITAL   2003   Intermediate Italian I

Italian Core Requirements
ITAL   3033   Italian Conversation
ITAL   3103   Italian Cinema
ITAL   3123   Advanced Italian
Choose 3 credit hours from the following:
CLST 1013   Introduction to Classical Studies: Rome
CLST 2323   Greek and Roman Mythology
ITAL   3333   Made in Italy
MRST 2013   Introduction to Medieval and Renaissance Studies
Choose 3 credit hours from the following:
ITAL   4123   Dante: A Journey Between Visions and Words OR
ITAL   4143   Tracing the Italian American Experience: From Good Guys to Wise Guys
General Electives – 42 credit hours
3 credit hours of any UAF credit hours numbered at the 3000-level or higher
10 credit hours of any credit hours numbered at the 3000-level or higher, or any 2000-level credit hours that have a course prerequisite.
Upper Division Elective (3000-level or higher) – 3 credit hours

Literary and Cultural Studies Concentration
ITAL   3113   Introduction to Literature
ITAL   4033   Advanced Italian Conversation
ITAL electives (3000-level or higher) – 9 credit hours

Transnational Studies Concentration
Choose 15 credit hours from the following, no more than 9 credit hours in a single discipline:
ARHS 4423   Roman Art and Archaeology
ARHS 4733   Saint Peter's and the Vatican
ARHS 4753   Renaissance and Baroque Architecture

ARHS 4853	Italian Renaissance Art
ARHS 4873	Baroque Art
CLST 4423	Roman Art and Archaeology
ENGL 3173	Introduction to Linguistics
ENGL 3433	Introduction to Chaucer
ENGL 3713	Topics in Medieval Literature and Culture
ENGL 3723	Topics in Renaissance Literature and Culture
ENGL 4713	Studies in Medieval Literature and Culture
ENGL 4723	Studies in Renaissance Literature and Culture
HIST 3303	U.S. Immigration History
HIST 3383	Arkansas and the Southwest
HIST 3703	Urban History: The Modern Metropolis
HIST 3883	Modern Italy and the World, 1861-Present
HIST 3963	Art as History
HIST 4023	Roman Republic
HIST 4073	Renaissance and Reformation, 1300-1600
HIST 4973	The Civilization of the Renaissance in Italy
ITAL 4133/GNST 4133/MRST 4133	The Power of Women: Representations of and from Italian Women from the Middle Ages to the Early Modern Period
MRST 3013	Special Topics in Medieval Studies
MRST 4003	Medieval and Renaissance Studies Colloquium
MRST 4113	Italian Fairy Tales in Literature, Visual Arts, and Cinema
PHIL 4023	Medieval Philosophy
PLSC 3823	Theories of International Relations
PLSC 4803	Foreign Policy Analysis
PLSC 4833	International Political Economy

or other related courses as approved by the director of the program.
Italics = New Courses

UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS – PULASKI TECHNICAL COLLEGE (UAPTC) TECHNICAL CERTIFICATE IN ELECTRICAL LINEWORKER TECHNOLOGY

The administration and Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas – Pulaski Technical College (UAPTC) request approval to offer the Technical Certificate in Electrical Lineworker Technology effective Fall 2023. UAPTC is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and the proposed program is within the role and scope established for the institution. The University of Arkansas System Board of Trustees will consider the program for approval on March 14, 2023.

Program Description

The proposed Technical Certificate in Electrical Lineworker Technology would be a for-credit offering of UAPTC's successful, non-credit lineworker program, High Voltage Lineman Training Academy (H-VOLT). The H-VOLT Academy, whose external funding ceases June 30, 2023, is a certified power lineworker training program designed to provide quality education along with real-world, hands-on instruction to those seeking careers as electrical lineworkers. UA-PTC would like to transition the non-credit

program into a for-credit offering while retaining the quality and integrity of the program. UA-PTC will absorb operating costs that were previously funded by external resources. Students enrolled in the proposed for-credit program, like the non-credit program, will gain the knowledge and skills needed to install, repair, service, and maintain electrical power lines and supporting equipment.

This 38-credit hour program includes instruction in electrical circuits and theory, safety, aerial framing, transformers, testing equipment, and more. The program also includes instruction in construction, maintenance, and troubleshooting, as well as pole climbing, pole testing, equipment maintenance, and pole top rescue.

Students that graduate with a Technical Certificate in Electrical Lineworker Technology will also earn the Certificate of Proficiency in Tractor Trailer Operations (CDL). Earning a Class A CDL will play an integral role in the new program due to industry requirements for Electrical Lineworkers to hold such a credential. The program will also equip students with the industry-specific skills for entry-level employment, including an industry-recognized National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER) credential.

Program Need

In the summer of 2018, the Arkansas Energy Workforce Consortium was formed with the following mission, "to combine the power of partners to positively impact the community by developing and growing the Arkansas energy workforce." This Consortium developed three working committees as follows:
1. Workforce Planning Committee to balance supply and demand for a qualified and diverse energy workforce,
2. Career Awareness Committee to create awareness to increase diversity in talent and to build a state-wide awareness of the need for a skilled energy workforce and
3. Education Committee to close the existing skill gaps and implement core curriculum across schools.

Feedback from industry has been critical since the development of the pilot H-VOLT program. A strong need was identified to prepare more workers for the workforce pipeline. Increasing retirements, limited applicant pools, and expansion of the industry facilitated the initial Arkansas Energy Workforce Consortium to find a solution to these issues. Industry partners have continued to grow since the original consortium. The needs in industry have not waned since 2018 and moving the existing non-credit program to credit will allow UA-PTC to continue addressing the needs of industry.

The Electrical Lineworker Technology Program is applicable to several careers including Electrical Powerline Worker, Electrical Powerline Installers, and Electrical Powerline Repairs. The profession that best corresponds with the Technical Certificate in Electrical Lineworker Technology is Electrical Power Line Installers and Repairer. The *Jobs EQ Occupation Report*, a meta-analysis workforce labor data source, lists the range for Electrical Power Line Installers and Repairer starting salaries as $38,000 with a median of $66,800. Experienced salaries may earn as high as $81,200.

The non-credit program currently has a 92% graduation rate and a 93% employment rate. Similar results are expected from the for-credit Technical Certificate in Electrical Lineworker Technology program.

Program Cost

The Technical Certificate in Electrical Lineworker Technology program is designed to use pre-existing faculty, resources, and facilities. The College will absorb any associated costs that were previously covered by external funding after the program transitions to for-credit.

Program Duplication

Arkansas State University Newport offers a Technical Certificate in High Voltage Lineman Technology. The ASU Newport program was represented in the original consortium and provided critical feedback about examples of implementation strategies and curriculum. No conflict exists for the proposed credit program. ASU Newport and UAPTC are approximately 94 miles apart.

Program Goals/Objectives

1. The program will provide quality training along with real world, hands-on instruction to those seeking careers as electrical lineworkers.
2. Students will gain the knowledge and skills needed to install, repair, service, and maintain electrical power lines and supporting equipment.
3. The customized training program will equip students with industry-specific skills for entry level employment, including an industry recognized National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER) credential. Graduates may obtain employment in the field of electrical power line work with one of our energy partners.

Program Enrollment and Graduation Projections

Academic Year	Projected Enrollment	Projected Graduates
2023 - 2024	30	
2024 - 2025	30	
2025 - 2026	30	28
2026 - 2027		28
2027 - 2028		28

Program Requirements

HVLT	1001	*NCCER Core*
HVLT	1002	*Introduction to Power Industry*
HVLT	1003	*High Voltage Line Worker*
TRT	1003	Legal Requirements of Tractor and Trailer Operation
TRT	1011	Tractor Trailer Logistics
TRT	1904	Pre-Trip For Road Tractors and Trailers

Italics = New Courses

INSTITUTIONAL CERTIFICATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ICAC)
The following applications may be reviewed by ADHE for possible consideration at the AHECB meeting in April 2023.

<u>Fielding Graduate School, Santa Barbara, California</u>
Master of Arts in Applied Media Psychology
Master of Arts in Infant, Child, and Family Mental health and Development
Master of Arts in Organization Development and Leadership
Doctor of Education
Doctor of Philosophy in Human Development
Doctor of Philosophy in Infant and Early Childhood Development
Doctor of Philosophy in Psychology
Doctor of Philosophy in Psychology with an emphasis in Clinical Psychology
Doctor of Philosophy in Psychology with an emphasis in Media Psychology
Doctor of Philosophy in Organizational Development and Change

<u>Southern California University of Health Sciences, Whittier California</u>
Accelerated Science Courses
Bachelor of Science in Health Science
Post-Baccalaureate Health Education Certificate
Graduate Certificate in Human Genetics and Genomics
Master of Science in Human Genetics and Genomics
Master of Science in Medical Science
Doctor of Occupational Therapy

<u>University of California, Berkeley</u>
Master of Information and Cybersecurity
Master of Information and Data Science

<u>University of St. Augustine for Health Science, San Marcos, California</u>
Master of Science in Nursing – Adult Gerontology Nurse Practitioner
Master of Science in Nursing – Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner-Primary Care
Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology
Post-Graduate Certificate in Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner-Primary Care

<u>Walden University, Minneapolis, Minnesota</u>
Master of Arts in Teaching in Elementary Education
Education Specialist in Early Childhood Education
Education Specialist in Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment
Education Specialist in Educational Administration and Leadership (Non-Licensure)
Education Specialist in Educational Leadership and Administration (Principal Licensure Preparation)
Education Specialist in Educational Technology
Education Specialist in Learning, Instruction, and Innovation

Education Specialist in Reading, Literacy and Assessment
Education Specialist in Special Education