Academic Program Proposals for October 24, 2025

The following is a list of academic program proposals being reviewed for possible consideration for approval at the October 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 October 1, 2025.

ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY BEEBE

Certificate of Proficiency in Construction Trades
Technical Certificate in Construction Trades

The administration of Arkansas State University Beebe (ASUB) and Board of Trustees of the Arkansas State University System request approval to offer the Technical Certificate in Construction Trades Technology and Certificate of Proficiency in Construction Trades Technology, effective Fall 2025.

ASUB is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission, and the proposed program is within the role and scope established for the institution. The Arkansas State University System Board of Trustees approved the program on June 5, 2025.

Program Description

The proposed Construction Trades Technology program is designed to prepare students with the necessary skills and knowledge to be proficient in the fundamentals of residential and commercial construction. The 27 credit-hour Technical Certificate, with embedded 12 credit-hour Certificate of Proficiency, provides instruction in safety and industry codes, methods and materials of construction, blueprints and drawings, site layout, carpentry and roofing, plumbing and electrical systems, framing, flooring, cabinetry and finishing work, and general processes of project management. Graduates of the proposed program may continue their education through additional coursework in HVAC-R, welding, and other related fields or pursue the Associate of Applied Science in General Technology. Electrical or plumbing apprenticeship programs are also available at the ASUB Heber Springs campus.

In mid-2024, ASUB partnered with local political and business leaders, Quitman High School, and the Office of Skills Development to assume administration of the longstanding Quitman Building Trades Program after its former partner, the Conway Public School District, ended its involvement. ASUB integrated the existing Building Trades program into its Regional Career Center offerings, with plans to develop a credit

program enabling Cleburne County and surrounding-area high school students to earn concurrent credit and gain workforce-ready training for careers in construction. The proposed Construction Trades Technology program will be available exclusively to high school students enrolled for college credit through ASUB's Regional Career Center at Quitman High School.

No new personnel, facility, resource, or equipment costs are anticipated for the proposed program. Continued funding from the Office of Skills Development is anticipated.

Program Need

From 2018 to 2023, labor market information indicates construction trades employment in Arkansas grew 34.1%, compared to 11.7% nationally. Growth was higher in Cleburne, White, and Lonoke counties at 39.8%. Average salaries in the construction trades are $43,346 in the three-county area, $45,685 statewide, and $58,118 nationally. The most common occupations relevant to the proposed program are construction laborers, plumbers, maintenance electricians, carpenters, skilled tradesmen, concrete finishers, and general laborers.

The proposed credit program and existing secondary program are supported by several local employers, including Nabholz Central Arkansas, SRW Construction Services, Hart Construction LLC, Command Construction Inc., and Red River Plumbing & Mechanical, with many also serving on the program's advisory committee. Nabholz currently provides donations/discounts on supplies and in-kind donations of time and expertise, as well as access to facilities for demonstration and educational purposes. Additionally, Nabholz has committed to partial reimbursement of tuition for their full-time employees enrolled in the program. Both Nabholz and SRW Construction Services have expressed a desire to hire program graduates.

Program Expenditures and Funding

No new personnel, facilities, resources, or equipment expenditures are anticipated for the proposed program. The offering of the Technical Certificate and Certificate of Proficiency in Construction Trades Technology will continue to operate at Quitman High School.

Funding for the proposed program will be provided annually by the Office of Skills Development. Additionally, the sale of the student-built house auctioned each May will fund, in part, supplies and building materials for the next academic year's student-built house. The AY25 auction generated $75,000 for the AY26 project.

Program Duplication

Arkansas public institutions offering certificate programs in Construction Technology and their distance from ASUB are Arkansas Northeastern College (136 miles), Arkansas State University Three Rivers (78 miles), Arkansas Tech University Ozark

(126 miles), North Arkansas College (126 miles), Ozarka College (90 miles), Phillips Community College of the University of Arkansas (104 miles), University of Arkansas Community College Hope-Texarkana (147 miles), University of Arkansas Community College Morrilton (57 miles), and University of Arkansas Little Rock (40 miles).

Program Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion, a student will demonstrate proficiency in:

1. Fundamentals of residential and commercial construction trades
2. Safety and industry codes
3. Methods and materials of construction
4. Blueprints and drawings
5. Site layout
6. Carpentry and roofing
7. Plumbing and electrical systems
8. Framing, flooring, cabinetry and finishing work
9. General processes of project management

Program Enrollment and Graduation Projections

Academic Year	Projected Enrollment	Projected Graduates
2025 - 2026	60	20
2026 - 2027	65	25
2027 - 2028	65	25
2028 - 2029	65	25
2029 - 2030	65	25

Program Curriculum

Technical Certificate in Construction Trades Technology

COM 1003 Career Communications (or higher)
MATH 1013 Technical Mathematics (or higher)
CTTE 1003 Introduction to Construction Trades
CTTE 1013 Construction Methods I with Lab
CTTE 1023 Construction Methods II with Lab
CTTE 2003 Plumbing and Electrical Systems
CTTE 1033 Modern Cabinet Making
CTTE 2013 Project Management
CTTE 2023 Residential Construction Codes and Regulations
Italics – New Course

Certificate of Proficiency in Construction Trades Technology

CTTE 1003 Introduction to Construction Trades
CTTE 1013 Construction Methods I with Lab

CTTE 1023 Construction Methods II with Lab
CTTE 2003 Plumbing and Electrical Systems
Italics – New Course

NATIONAL PARK COLLEGE
Associate of Applied Science in Outdoor Recreation
Technical Certificate in Outdoor Recreation
Certificate of Proficiency in Foundations in Outdoor Recreation
Certificate of Proficiency in Mountain Biking & Trail Maintenance
Certificate of Proficiency in Outdoor Maintenance
Certificate of Proficiency in Outdoor Recreation Activities
Certificate of Proficiency in Outdoor Recreation Management
Certificate of Proficiency in Tourism & Hospitality
Certificate of Proficiency in Wilderness Safety

The administration and Board of Trustees of National Park College (NPC) request approval to offer the Associate of Applied Science in Outdoor Recreation, Technical Certificate in Outdoor Recreation, Certificate of Proficiency in Foundations in Outdoor Recreation, Certificate of Proficiency in Mountain Biking & Trail Maintenance, Certificate of Proficiency in Outdoor Maintenance, Certificate of Proficiency in Outdoor Recreation Management, Certificate of Proficiency in Outdoor Recreation Activities, Certificate of Proficiency in Tourism & Hospitality, and Certificate of Proficiency in Wilderness Safety, effective Fall 2026.

NPC is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission, and the proposed program is within the role and scope established for the institution. The National Park College Board of Trustees will consider the program for approval on October 22, 2025.

Program Description

In 2024, outdoor recreation and tourism in Arkansas surpassed the agriculture, mining, and forestry industries, attracting over 52 million visitors and generating $10.3 billion in spending. Located at the heart of this thriving sector, Hot Springs—home to National Park College—offers access to Hot Springs National Park, the Ouachita National Forest, numerous parks, lakes, creeks, and more than 200 miles of biking and hiking trails. The city also features notable cultural attractions, including Oaklawn Racing Casino, Bathhouse Row, Garvan Woodland Gardens, art galleries, studios, and a vibrant downtown, making outdoor recreation and tourism essential to the local economy. The proposed program in Outdoor Recreation is designed to support these industries by providing graduates with entry- and mid-level job skills while taking advantage of all the resources, expertise, and opportunities available in their own backyard.

The proposed program contains a 60-credit hour Associate of Applied Science and 45-credit hour Technical Certificate, both in Outdoor Recreation, as well as seven

Certificates of Proficiency, varying from eight to twelve credit hours, that allow a student to tailor the program to their interests and needs. The program will provide students with a fundamental understanding of the outdoor recreation industry, issues in policy and law, leadership and supervision, survival and first-response in remote environments, to name a few. A comprehensive listing of skills per program is available in the full proposal.

The proposed Outdoor Recreation program will be the first academic program at NPC to provide instruction jointly with the Division of Workforce Development, Community & Corporate Training. As a result, this program will serve both credit-seeking college students as well as local businesses and agencies in need of employee training or upskilling. Most Certificates of Proficiency will be cross-listed as workforce non-credit programs, allowing a completer to receive equivalent credit if they later enroll as a degree-seeking student.

Utilizing existing faculty in partnership with workforce instructors, the proposed program will require only one additional faculty member to be hired in the spring of 2026. Existing campus facilities such as classrooms, offices, and laboratories will be used to deliver the program. Instruction space, resources, and equipment needed to deliver off-campus classes will be provided by industry partners. Although NPC anticipates the significant need for equipment and supplies for the proposed program, these costs are difficult to forecast. NPC will work with industry partners to identify equipment and supply needs and anticipate their support in offsetting associated costs.

Program Need

Due to the proposed program's unique curriculum, traditional labor market information proved to be inconclusive given the misalignment of defined Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) and Classification of Instructional Program (CIP) codes. NPC worked with ADHE to develop an alternate approach to providing evidence of program need. For this proposal, program need is based on two sources: state-funded recreation and tourism economic reports and partnerships with local employers and agencies.

Heartland Forward partnered with the Arkansas Office of Outdoor Recreation, a subsidiary of the Arkansas Department of Parks, Heritage, & Tourism, to release a report on the impact of outdoor recreation in Arkansas. From 2019 to 2023, Arkansas' economic growth in outdoor recreation grew tremendously, outpacing national averages elsewhere, with Arkansas having the 6th largest impact from cycling and trail-building, 3rd largest GDP increase in traditional hunting and fishing, 6th largest contribution to state GDP due to boating, and the 4th largest share of GDP produced through outdoor product manufacturing.

The 2024 Arkansas Tourism Economic Impact Report describes an increase of 4% in visitor spending, ~3.5% increase in state and local tax revenues, and a 2.3% increase in the number of jobs directly supported by this industry. The report also forecasts a 7% increase in the number of outdoor recreation jobs needed to sustain this growth.

Many local employers as well as state and federal agencies have expressed their support for the proposed program by donating tools and equipment, providing feedback on program structure and curriculum, serving on the program advisory board, or on-site use of their lands and facilities for instruction. Additionally, local partners, such as Oaklawn Racing Casino, have expressed interest in enrolling their employees in the non-credit options of the program. NPC received several letters of support and can be found in the full proposal.

Program Expenditures and Funding

One full-time faculty will be hired in the Spring of 2026 and will be required to hold a master's degree in Outdoor Recreation, Physical Education, or related field. This candidate must have the appropriate experience and credentials to effectively teach and manage the program. Existing on-campus facilities, administrative personnel, and resources will be utilized. However, NPC foresees a great need for equipment to support this program. The cooperation and support of local employer partners will determine the types and quantities of equipment needed. At this time, the equipment needs have not been finalized.

Instruction and operating costs will be shared between the Division of Academic Affairs and Division of Workforce Development, Community & Corporate Training. For the first three years, NPC anticipates spending $12,000 annually from the institution's operational budget to purchase any equipment or tools not supplied by industry partners or students. NPC has also received a grant in the amount of $10,000 from the Arvest Foundation for the use of equipment purchases for trail maintenance. The institution may implement a program-based student fee as a last resort to fund equipment and instructional needs.

Program Duplication

Arkansas public institutions offering associate degree and certificate programs in either recreation, tourism, hospitality, or combinations thereof and their distance from NPC are North Arkansas College (157 miles), University of Arkansas Monticello (124 miles), and University of Arkansas Pulaski Technical College (67 miles). Although Arkansas State University, Arkansas Tech University, Henderson State University, University of Arkansas Fayetteville, and University of Arkansas Pine Bluff offer bachelor's degrees in areas directly or tangentially related to outdoor recreation, NPC's Outdoor Recreation program was not specifically designed for transfer. The proposed program is intended to offer short-term, work-ready certificates and degrees that lead directly to entry- and mid-level employment. Regionally, NPC has begun discussions with Henderson State University and Arkansas Tech University to create 2+2 pathways for students interested in pursuing a bachelor's degree.

Program Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion, a student will be able to:

1. Demonstrate the ability to design and implement outdoor recreation activities that exemplify considerations of accessibility, safety, and environmental stewardship
2. Discuss the key elements of outdoor recreation, including effective planning, leadership, and understanding of critical legal, environmental, and risk assessment factors.
3. Demonstrate skills related to fostering effective team building, collaboration, and communication.
4. Identify current economic, social, legal, and environmental issues in outdoor recreation.
5. Develop the skills needed to safely navigate and survive in wilderness settings, including shelter building, safe food and water procurement, and wilderness first aid.
6. Demonstrate knowledge of the outdoor recreation industry, including the history of outdoor recreation, the social importance of outdoor recreation in American society, and career opportunities in the field.
7. Demonstrate the oral and written ability needed to perform forward-facing roles in outdoor recreation, as well as the ability to effectively present information in a group setting.

Program Enrollment and Graduation Projections

Associate of Applied Science in Outdoor Recreation		
Academic Year	**Projected Enrollment**	**Projected Graduates**
2025 - 2026	15	
2026 - 2027	20	4
2027 - 2028	25	7
2028 - 2029	30	10
2029 - 2030	40	15

Technical Certificate in Outdoor Recreation		
Academic Year	**Projected Enrollment**	**Projected Graduates**
2025 - 2026	15	4
2026 - 2027	20	8
2027 - 2028	25	12
2028 - 2029	30	15
2029 - 2030	40	20

Certificate of Proficiency in Foundations in Outdoor Recreation		
Academic Year	**Projected Enrollment**	**Projected Graduates**
2025 - 2026	15	4
2026 - 2027	20	8
2027 - 2028	25	12
2028 - 2029	30	15
2029 - 2030	40	20

Certificate of Proficiency in Mountain Biking & Trail Maintenance		
Academic Year	**Projected Enrollment**	**Projected Graduates**
2025 - 2026	10	4
2026 - 2027	12	6
2027 - 2028	15	8
2028 - 2029	18	10
2029 - 2030	20	12

Certificate of Proficiency in Outdoor Maintenance		
Academic Year	**Projected Enrollment**	**Projected Graduates**
2025 - 2026	10	4
2026 - 2027	12	6
2027 - 2028	15	8
2028 - 2029	18	10
2029 - 2030	20	12

Certificate of Proficiency in Outdoor Recreation Activities		
Academic Year	**Projected Enrollment**	**Projected Graduates**
2025 - 2026	10	4
2026 - 2027	12	6
2027 - 2028	15	8
2028 - 2029	18	10
2029 - 2030	20	12

Certificate of Proficiency in Outdoor Recreation Management		
Academic Year	**Projected Enrollment**	**Projected Graduates**
2025 - 2026	10	4
2026 - 2027	12	6
2027 - 2028	15	8
2028 - 2029	18	10
2029 - 2030	20	12

Certificate of Proficiency in Tourism & Hospitality		
Academic Year	**Projected Enrollment**	**Projected Graduates**
2025 - 2026	15	6
2026 - 2027	18	8
2027 - 2028	20	10
2028 - 2029	23	12
2029 - 2030	25	15

Certificate of Proficiency in Wilderness Safety		
Academic Year	**Projected Enrollment**	**Projected Graduates**
2025 - 2026	15	4
2026 - 2027	20	8
2027 - 2028	25	12
2028 - 2029	30	15
2029 - 2030	40	20

Program Curriculum

Associate of Applied Science in Outdoor Recreation – 60 credit hours

ORT 1211 First Year Experience
General Education Courses – 22 credit hours
ENG 1113 English Composition I
ENG 1133 Technical Report Writing
MATH 1123 College Algebra OR
MATH 1213 Math Reasoning
CIS 1023 Introduction to Computing
HIST 2223 US History to 1865
POLS 1113 American National Government
Select one of the following:
BIOL 1024 Biology for Non-Majors
BIOL 1114 Biology for Majors
BIOL 1164 Botany for Majors
BIOL 1154 Zoology
Outdoor Recreation Core – 17 credit hours
OREC 1012 Outdoor Living Skills
OREC 1022 Wilderness Navigation
OREC 1032 Wilderness Safety & First Aid
OREC 2012 Introduction to Outdoor Recreation
OREC 2023 Foundations of Outdoor Recreation
OREC 2033 Leadership in Outdoor Recreation
OREC 2043 Outdoor Recreation Programming
Outdoor Recreation Tracts – 8-12 credit hours, select one:
Outdoor Maintenance - 8 hours
INDT 1073 Welding for Maintenance Technicians

INDT 1123 Plumbing, Electrical, & Construction Maintenance
OREC 1042 Outdoor Power Equipment Maintenance
Outdoor Recreation Management - 11 hours
BUS 1113 Introduction to Business
BUS 1183 Small Business Management
BUS 2403 Social Media Marketing
HA 2312 Tourism Management
Tourism & Hospitality - 8 hours
HA 1312 Hospitality Operations
HA 1322 Food & Beverage Management
HA 2312 Tourism Management
HA 2322 Resort & Event Management
Mountain Biking & Trail Maintenance - 9 hours
OREC 1111 Trail Building & Maintenance I
OREC 2112 Trail Building & Maintenance II
OREC 1121 Bicycle Mechanics I
OREC 2122 Bicycle Mechanics II
OREC 1131 Mountain Biking I
OREC 2132 Mountain Biking II
Outdoor Recreation Activities - 8 hours
OREC 1052 Kayaking & Canoeing
OREC 1062 Backpacking & Hiking
OREC 1131 Mountain Biking I
OREC 2132 Mountain Biking II
OREC 1101 Watercraft Safety & Maintenance
Marine Engine Maintenance Fundamentals - 12 hours
MAR 1706 Service & Routine Maintenance I
MAR 1716 Service & Routine Maintenance II
Outdoor Recreation Electives – 8-12 credit hours
OREC 2101 Internship
OREC 1052 Kayaking & Canoeing
OREC 1062 Backpacking & Hiking
OREC 1131 Mountain Biking I
OREC 2132 Mountain Biking II
OREC 1121 Bicycle Mechanics I
OREC 2122 Bicycle Mechanics II
OREC 1111 Trail Building & Maintenance I
OREC 2112 Trail Building & Maintenance II
OREC 1101 Watercraft Safety & Maintenance
PE 1102 Life Fitness Concepts
General Education Elective (may choose more than one)
Italics – New Course

Technical Certificate in Outdoor Recreation – 45 credit hours

ORT 1211 First Year Experience
General Education Courses – 9 credit hours

ENG 1113 English Composition I
ENG 1133 Technical Report Writing
MATH 1123 College Algebra OR
MATH 1213 Math Reasoning

Outdoor Recreation Core – 17 credit hours

OREC 1012 Outdoor Living Skills
OREC 1022 Wilderness Navigation
OREC 1032 Wilderness Safety & First Aid
OREC 2012 Introduction to Outdoor Recreation
OREC 2023 Foundations of Outdoor Recreation
OREC 2033 Leadership in Outdoor Recreation
OREC 2043 Outdoor Recreation Programming

Outdoor Recreation Tracts – 8-12 credit hours, select one:

Outdoor Maintenance - 8 hours
INDT 1073 Welding for Maintenance Technicians
INDT 1123 Plumbing, Electrical, & Construction Maintenance
OREC 1042 Outdoor Power Equipment Maintenance

Outdoor Recreation Management - 11 hours
BUS 1113 Introduction to Business
BUS 1183 Small Business Management
BUS 2403 Social Media Marketing
HA 2312 Tourism Management

Tourism & Hospitality - 8 hours
HA 1312 Hospitality Operations
HA 1322 Food & Beverage Management
HA 2312 Tourism Management
HA 2322 Resort & Event Management

Mountain Biking & Trail Maintenance - 9 hours
OREC 1111 Trail Building & Maintenance I
OREC 2112 Trail Building & Maintenance II
OREC 1121 Bicycle Mechanics I
OREC 2122 Bicycle Mechanics II
OREC 1131 Mountain Biking I
OREC 2132 Mountain Biking II

Outdoor Recreation Activities - 8 hours
OREC 1052 Kayaking & Canoeing
OREC 1062 Backpacking & Hiking
OREC 1131 Mountain Biking I
OREC 2132 Mountain Biking II
OREC 1101 Watercraft Safety & Maintenance

Marine Engine Maintenance Fundamentals - 12 hours
MAR 1706 Service & Routine Maintenance I
MAR 1716 Service & Routine Maintenance II

Outdoor Recreation Electives – 6-10 credit hours

OREC 2101 Internship
OREC 1052 Kayaking & Canoeing

OREC 1062 *Backpacking & Hiking*
OREC 1131 *Mountain Biking I*
OREC 2132 *Mountain Biking II*
OREC 1121 *Bicycle Mechanics I*
OREC 2122 *Bicycle Mechanics II*
OREC 1111 *Trail Building & Maintenance I*
OREC 2112 *Trail Building & Maintenance II*
OREC 1101 *Watercraft Safety & Maintenance*
PE 1102 Life Fitness Concepts
General Education Elective (may choose more than one)
Italics – New Course

<u>Certificate of Proficiency in Foundations in Outdoor Recreation</u> – 11 credit hours

OREC 2012 *Introduction to Outdoor Recreation*
OREC 2023 *Foundations of Outdoor Recreation*
OREC 2033 *Leadership in Outdoor Recreation*
OREC 2043 *Outdoor Recreation Programming*
Italics – New Course

<u>Certificate of Proficiency in Mountain Biking & Trail Maintenance</u> – 9 credit hours

OREC 1111 *Trail Building & Maintenance I*
OREC 2112 *Trail Building & Maintenance II*
OREC 1121 *Bicycle Mechanics I*
OREC 2122 *Bicycle Mechanics II*
OREC 1131 *Mountain Biking I*
OREC 2132 *Mountain Biking II*
Italics – New Course

<u>Certificate of Proficiency in Outdoor Maintenance</u> – 8 credit hours

INDT 1073 Welding for Maintenance Technicians
INDT 1123 *Plumbing, Electrical, & Construction Maintenance*
OREC 1042 *Outdoor Power Equipment Maintenance*
Italics – New Course

<u>Certificate of Proficiency in Outdoor Recreation Activities</u> – 8 credit hours

OREC 1052 *Kayaking & Canoeing*
OREC 1062 *Backpacking & Hiking*
OREC 1131 *Mountain Biking I*
OREC 2132 *Mountain Biking II*
OREC 1101 *Watercraft Safety & Maintenance*
Italics – New Course

Certificate of Proficiency in Outdoor Recreation Management – 11 credit hours

BUS	1113	Introduction to Business
BUS	1183	Small Business Management
BUS	*2403*	*Social Media Marketing*
HA	*2312*	*Tourism Management*

Italics – New Course

Certificate of Proficiency in Tourism & Hospitality – 8 credit hours

HA	*1312*	*Hospitality Operations*
HA	*1322*	*Food & Beverage Management*
HA	*2312*	*Tourism Management*
HA	*2322*	*Resort & Event Management*

Italics – New Course

Certificate of Proficiency in Wilderness Safety – 6 credit hours

OREC 1012	*Outdoor Living Skills*
OREC 1022	*Wilderness Navigation*
OREC 1032	*Wilderness Safety & First Aid*

Italics – New Course

NORTH ARKANSAS COLLEGE
Associate of Applied Science in Uncrewed Aerial Systems and Data Applications
Technical Certificate in Uncrewed Aerial Systems and Data Applications
Certificate of Proficiency in Uncrewed Aerial Systems

The administration and Board of Trustees of North Arkansas College (NAC) request approval to offer the Associate of Applied Science and Technical Certificate in Uncrewed Aerial Systems and Data Applications and Certificate of Proficiency in Uncrewed Aerial Systems, effective Fall 2025.

NAC is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission, and the proposed program is within the role and scope established for the institution. The North Arkansas College Board of Trustees approved the program on March 13, 2025.

Program Description

Developed with support from a three-year NSF grant, the proposed program in Uncrewed Aerial Systems and Data Applications will prepare students for careers in commercial drone operation, data analysis, and related emerging applications across industries such as agriculture, criminal justice, digital media, real estate, and construction. Graduates will earn their FAA Part 107 certification and gain skills in mission planning, drone maintenance, aerial data analysis, business practices, and cybersecurity considerations.

The proposed 16 credit hour, 100% online Certificate of Proficiency in Uncrewed Aerial Systems will focus on the skills necessary to operate and troubleshoot the various types of drones and equip students with the knowledge to apply industry regulations and standards to ensure safe, responsible drone use in commercial, governmental, and recreational environments. The proposed 31 credit hour Technical Certificate in Uncrewed Aerial Systems and Data Application aims to educate students on the analysis, interpretation, and application of aerial data, effective communication, and the evaluation of ethical issues, privacy implications, and cybersecurity threats associated with drone use in different professional contexts. Expanding on the foundational and technical certificate-level training, the proposed 61 credit hour Associate of Applied Science in Uncrewed Aerial Systems and Data Applications will prepare students for advanced roles in drone industry by obtaining deeper knowledge in data analysis, business applications, and workforce readiness.

All faculty, equipment, and instructional resources will be funded through the NSF grant, ensuring no new costs or allocations will be required. Existing facilities, including classrooms, laboratories, and mobile drone training enclosure will be utilized.

Program Need

ADHE was unable to provide NAC with usable data to support the creation of the proposed program. This was due, in part, to the novelty of the program and the lack of an existing relationship between the CIP code and the Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) Code, as defined by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. ADHE consulted the AR Data team's Chief Research Officer at the Arkansas Department of Transformation and Shared Services and requested data showing program need. They were also unable to provide labor market information based on current job openings. However, they were able to provide historical data from similar programs that included the number of completers and their employment rate upon exiting the program.

In September 2023, North Arkansas College faculty and administration met with regional employers to discuss current and anticipated Uncrewed Aerial System (UAS) workforce needs. Three employers, Harrison Police Department, Entergy, and Garver USA predicted a cumulative need for 21-26 new drone workers in the region within the next 3 years. Additionally, in April 2025, a follow-up survey was given to three regional employers (UVT – Unmanned Vehicle Technologies, MW Claims, and Garver USA) who predicted a cumulative need for 8-11 new UAS workers over the next year and 21-27 new UAS workers over the next three years.

NAC received letters of support from local and regional employers expressing their support of the proposed program. These letters can be found in the full proposal.

Program Expenditures and Funding

NAC received a three-year National Science Foundation (NSF) grant in the amount of $582,171. These funds will cover faculty development, personnel expenses for adjunct

faculty, and instructional equipment needed for the proposed program. Existing facilities will be utilized.

Program Duplication

The University of Arkansas Fort Smith offers both a Certificate of Proficiency in Unmanned Aerial Systems and a Technical Certificate in Unmanned Aerial Systems Data Analysis, as well as an additional Technical Certificate in Unmanned Aerial Systems Flight Operations and an Associate of Applied Science in UAS. Although these programs are active and currently meet ADHE viability standards, UAFS has requested the deletion of all UAS programs due to insufficient program enrollments and graduates.

Arkansas Tech University offers a Certificate of Proficiency in Small Unmanned Aerial Systems (sUAS), created in AY2024. Henderson State University offers a Certificate of Proficiency in Small Unmanned Aerial Systems that currently meets ADHE viability standards. Ozarka College deleted their Certificate of Proficiency in Small Unmanned Aerial Systems in AY2020 after graduating no students since the program's inception in AY2017.

Program Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion, a student will be able to:

1. Demonstrate proficiency in the operation, maintenance, and troubleshooting of uncrewed aerial systems (UAS), including multi-rotor and fixed-wing drones, for various applications.
2. Apply FAA Part 107 regulations and industry standards to ensure safe and legal drone operations in commercial, governmental, and recreational settings.
3. Analyze and interpret aerial data collected from drone missions for applications such as mapping, surveying, photography, and environmental monitoring.
4. Communicate technical information effectively in written reports, flight logs, and verbal briefings, ensuring clarity in regulatory compliance, operational planning, and client interactions.
5. Evaluate ethical considerations, privacy concerns, and cybersecurity risks in the use of drone technology across various industries.

Program Enrollment and Graduation Projections

Associate of Applied Science in Uncrewed Aerial Systems and Data Applications		
Academic Year	Projected Enrollment	Projected Graduates
2025-2026	3	2
2026-2027	9	8
2027-2027	18	15
2028-2029	20	15
2029-2030	23	18

Technical Certificate in Uncrewed Aerial Systems and Data Applications		
Academic Year	Projected Enrollment	Projected Graduates
2025-2026	5	3
2026-2027	12	8
2027-2027	20	16
2028-2029	22	17
2029-2030	25	20

Certificate of Proficiency in Uncrewed Aerial Systems		
Academic Year	Projected Enrollment	Projected Graduates
2025-2026	5	4
2026-2027	12	9
2027-2027	20	18
2028-2029	22	20
2029-2030	25	23

Program Curriculum

Associate of Applied Science in Uncrewed Aerial Systems and Data Applications

CIS 1123 Introduction to GIS
CIT 1153 Introduction to Cybersecurity
ECON 2313 Principles of Macroeconomics
ENGL 1013 English Composition I
ENGL 1033 Technical Report Writing OR
ENGL 1023 English Composition II
ET 1013 Principles of Electronics
MM 1303 Human Relations
MM 2543 Introduction to Project Management
TECH 1013 Technical Math or higher
UAS 1004 UAS Multi-Rotor Operations
UAS 1014 UAS Safety & Maintenance
UAS 1022 Aviation Weather
UAS 1103 UAS Remote Sensing
UAS 2014 UAS Advanced Maintenance & Repair
UAS 2103 Mobilizing a Drone-Powered Economy
UAS 2303 UAS Capstone OR
UAS 2403 UAS Internship
Choose one of the following electives – 3 credit hours
AGRI 2313 Introduction to Agribusiness
AJ 1003 Intro to Criminal Justice
BIOL 1314 Field Biology
DVSC 1003 Introduction to Data Science
MDIA 1113 Introduction to Creative Media
MDIA 2253 Video Editing

Italics – New Courses

Technical Certificate in Uncrewed Aerial Systems and Data Applications

CIS	1123	Introduction to GIS
CIT	1153	Introduction to Cybersecurity
ECON	2313	Principles of Macroeconomics
ENGL	1013	English Composition I
TECH	1013	Technical Math or higher
UAS	*1004*	*UAS Multi-Rotor Operations*
UAS	*1014*	*UAS Safety & Maintenance*
UAS	*1022*	*Aviation Weather*
UAS	*1103*	*UAS Remote Sensing*

Choose one of the following electives – 3 credit hours

AGRI	2313	Introduction to Agribusiness
AJ	1003	Intro to Criminal Justice
BIOL	1314	Field Biology
DVSC	1003	Introduction to Data Science
MDIA	1113	Introduction to Creative Media
MDIA	2253	Video Editing

Italics – New Courses

Certificate of Proficiency in Uncrewed Aerial Systems

CIT	1153	Introduction to Cybersecurity
ENGL	1013	English Composition I
UAS	*1004*	*UAS Multi-Rotor Operations*
UAS	*1014*	*UAS Safety & Maintenance*
UAS	*1022*	*Aviation Weather*

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 October 2025.

Arkansas Colleges of Health Education, Fort Smith, Arkansas
Doctor of Public Health

Carrington College, Sacramento, California
Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene
Bachelor of Science in Respiratory Therapy

Rocky Vista University, Englewood, Colorado
MED 4201 Advanced Topics in Pain Management
MED 4515 Clinical Simulation
MED 4521 Working in Global Health

Southwest University at El Paso, El Paso, Texas
Associate of Applied Science of Business Management in Healthcare Support Systems
Bachelor of Science in Healthcare Leadership Management

University of California Irvine, Irvine, California
Master of Business Analytics

University of the People. Pasadena, California
Master of Education in Advanced Teaching
Master of Science in Information Technology

Walden University, Minneapolis, Minnesota
Bachelor of Science in Special Education
Master of Science in Nursing and Master of Business Administration-Dual Degree
Doctor of Philosophy in Healthcare Administration
Doctor of Public Safety and Leadership