

## **Academic Program Proposals for April 26, 2024**

The following is a list of academic program proposals being reviewed for possible consideration for approval at the April 26, 2024, 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](mailto:mason.campbell@adhe.edu)) no later than April 1, 2024.

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### **ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY NEWPORT ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE IN RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGY**

The administration of Arkansas State University Newport (ASUN) and Board of Trustees of the Arkansas State University System request approval to offer the Associate of Applied Science in Radiologic Technology, effective Fall 2024.

ASUN 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 December 8, 2023.

#### **Program Description**

The proposed Associate of Applied Science in Radiologic Technology program supports the mission of Arkansas State University Newport by providing affordable, accessible, and innovative learning opportunities that transform lives and strengthen the regional economy. Based on local industry requests, the proposed program is designed to prepare students for immediate and future workforce needs.

The proposed 65 credit-hour, 5 semester program in Radiologic Technology will prepare students for the American Registry of Radiologic Technology (ARRT) Certification exam by educating students on the operation of imaging or radiation therapy equipment and the preparation of patients for these imaging studies. Students completing this program will earn the Associate of Applied Science in Radiologic Technology, as well as the existing Certificate of Proficiency and Technical Certificate in Pre-Health Professions. Potential earnings of graduates within the area surrounding ASUN are approximately \$52,000 per year.

Students will be admitted to the Radiologic Technology program once every two years. One full-time faculty member will be hired and will serve as the lead instructor of the proposed program. No additional equipment or resources will be purchased. Future grant opportunities will be explored to assist with the expansion of the program.

## **Program Need**

Labor Market Information, provided by ADHE for the area of Arkansas defined by Jackson, Independence, White, Woodruff, Lawrence, Craighead, Poinsett, and Cross counties, shows that there are currently 65 online job postings for Radiologic Technologist/Technicians with 542 postings statewide. Additionally in the same area of AR, this field has shown a 2.4% annual growth rate over the past 5 years and is projected to grow 0.4% annually for the next 10 years, compared to a statewide annual growth rate of 1.5% over the past 5 years and 0.1% annually for the next 10 years.

A recent survey of current ASUN health profession students revealed a large interest in the proposed Associate of Applied Science in Radiologic Technology program. Furthermore, a survey of local employers was conducted, and results show that they are struggling to find Radiologic Technologists to fill their vacancies. Local industry partners/employers contacted ASUN to seek the possibility of offering a radiology program to help fill the current and future vacancies. Presently, to rectify their shortages, one employer is utilizing an online, out-of-state institution.

## **Program Expenditures and Funding**

One full-time, 12-month faculty member will be hired and will serve as lead instructor of the Radiologic Technology program. As enrollment increases, adjunct faculty will be hired to support instruction. The proposed program will use existing facilities and resources currently being utilized by other health profession programs. Students will use the equipment at the local clinic/hospital for learning purposes. Future plans include seeking grant monies for lab equipment to maximize hands-on learning.

Funding for the proposed program will come primarily from tuition and fees and general revenue. A special student lab fee of \$300 per semester will be acquired from students to help offset lab equipment needs.

## **Program Duplication**

Associate-level degree programs in Radiologic Technology are offered at the Arkansas public institutions: East Arkansas Community College (66 miles away), North Arkansas College (146 miles away), National Park College (155 miles away), South Arkansas College (210 miles away), and Southeast Arkansas College (136 miles away).

Bachelor-level programs are offered at Arkansas State University Jonesboro (41 miles away), University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (97 miles away), and the University of Central Arkansas (96 miles away).

ADHE received a formal objection to the proposed program from the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences on September 28, 2023. ASUN provided a formal response to the objection on September 28, 2023. All communications are included at the end of this summary.

## Program Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion, a student will be able to:

1. Apply appropriate positioning skills in the clinical facility.
2. Produce quality diagnostic images.
3. Account for certain technical factors that can degrade the quality of images.
4. Practice proper radiation protection.
5. Display effective written and oral communication.
6. Apply critical thinking ability in trauma situations.
7. Demonstrate the importance of ethical and professional behavior.

## Program Enrollment and Graduation Projections

Academic Year	Projected Enrollment	Projected Graduates
2024 - 2025	12	
2025 - 2026		11
2026 - 2027	16	
2027 - 2028		15
2028 - 2029	20	
2029 - 2030		19

## Program Curriculum

BIOL 2401	Human Anatomy and Physiology I Lab
BIOL 2403	Human Anatomy and Physiology I
BIOL 2411	Human Anatomy and Physiology II Lab
BIOL 2413	Human Anatomy and Physiology II
ENG 1003	Composition I
ENG 1013	Composition II
MATH 1023	College Algebra
MIS 1033	Introduction to Computers
Social Science Elective (3 credit hours)	
<i>RAD 1002</i>	<i>Introduction to Radiologic Technology</i>
<i>RAD 1012</i>	<i>Radiologic Practicum I</i>
<i>RAD 1013</i>	<i>Radiologic Procedures I</i>
<i>RAD 1103</i>	<i>Radiological Imaging</i>
<i>RAD 1203</i>	<i>Radiologic Practicum II</i>
<i>RAD 1213</i>	<i>Radiologic Procedures II</i>
<i>RAD 1302</i>	<i>Radiologic Practicum III</i>
<i>RAD 1303</i>	<i>Radiologic Procedures III</i>
<i>RAD 2003</i>	<i>Radiologic Protection</i>
<i>RAD 2013</i>	<i>Radiologic Physics</i>
<i>RAD 2102</i>	<i>Radiologic Seminar</i>
<i>RAD 2103</i>	<i>Radiologic Practicum IV</i>
<i>RAD 2112</i>	<i>Radiologic Pathology</i>
<i>RAD 2113</i>	<i>Special Imaging</i>

*RAD 2202            Radiologic Practicum V*  
*RAD 2213            Radiologic Evaluation*  
*Italics = New Courses*

UAMS Objection

Email correspondence between

Dr. Typhanie Myers (typhanie\_myers@asun.edu)  
Dr. Kristen Sterba (sterbakristen@uams.edu)

Cc: DHE Academic Affairs (academic.affairs@adhe.edu)  
Susan Long (longsusanl@uams.edu)  
Dr. Stephanie Gardner (gardnerstephanief@uams.edu)  
Stacie Hay (Stacie\_hay@asun.edu)

**9/27/2023  
8:46 AM**

Dear Colleagues,  
Arkansas State University-Newport will be submitting a request to add a new degree program.

**Associate of Applied Science-Radiologic Technology:** The Radiologic Technology program prepares students to successfully function in the clinical setting performing diagnostic imaging examinations. After successful completion of the Associate of Applied Science in Radiologic Technology, the graduates will be eligible to sit for the American Registry of Radiologic Technology (ARRT) exam to be credentialed as a R.T (R). We expect to accept the first students into the program in August 2024.

If you have any questions or concerns, you can contact me directly at typhanie\_myers@asun.edu and copy ADHE academic.affairs@adhe.edu.

Thank you,  
Typhanie

**9/28/2023  
9:25 AM**

Good morning, Dr. Myers,  
UAMS is concerned with the availability of clinical sites and the potential size of this program. There are already issues finding clinical sites for students, and this may have a detrimental effect on other programs.

Kristen Sterba, Ph.D.  
Associate Provost for Students and Administration  
Director, Department of Institutional Research, Policy, and Accreditation  
Associate Professor, Division of Academic Affairs

**9/28/23**  
**10:37 AM**

Dr. Sterba,  
I can understand your concerns; however, we would be the only institution within an hour or more that offers an Associates Degree in Radiologic Technology. Our industry partners have requested that we offer this degree to our local community, to fill a current need within our area. Our intention is to offer clinical options during various shifts/days in our local area to avoid disruption of other programs. We will not be accepting more than 20 students per cohort. I hope this helps to alleviate any concerns.

Dr. Typhanie Myers  
Provost/Vice Chancellor for Academic & Student Affairs  
Arkansas State University-Newport

**10/2/23**  
**1:22 PM**

Good afternoon, Dr. Myers,  
Thank you for your reply. We certainly understand the current need for radiologic technologists by healthcare institutions throughout the state and the response you are taking to address the needs of your industry partners. However, the availability of sites for the clinical education component of the curriculum of a radiography program, regardless of the degree or certificate awarded, remains the limiting factor to opening a new program. There are currently barely enough clinical sites for the ten existing programs in the state to ensure the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology (JRCERT) Standard 4, Objective 4.4 is met, which states, "The program provides timely, equitable, and educationally valid clinical experiences for all students." East Arkansas Community College (EACC), which is an AS degree program, and UAMS are just over an hour away from Newport, while ASU-Jonesboro is less than an hour away. We all utilize clinical sites in the area. If ASU-Newport accepts an annual cohort of 20 students, this would make it the largest Certificate/AS degree program in the state, and the third largest overall. Have you identified clinical sites in your area that will agree to take your students and not encroach on established programs should your request be approved?

Kristen Sterba, Ph.D.  
Associate Provost for Students and Administration  
Director, Department of Institutional Research, Policy, and Accreditation  
Associate Professor, Division of Academic Affairs

**10/19/23**  
**1:24 PM**

Hello again,  
I apologize for the delay in responding to your question. Although, this would have been a part of our proposal process (and not the LOI), we went forward with meeting with several of our local

healthcare providers to ensure that your concern regarding clinical space was addressed. We have been enthusiastically assured that there would be space available for this new program and it would not take away from the current agreements in place with UAMS. As one further point of clarification—it is not an annual cohort of 20 students as you mentioned below; this is a two-year program.

Dr. Typhanie Myers  
Provost/Vice Chancellor for Academic & Student Affairs  
Arkansas State University-Newport

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**NORTH ARKANSAS COLLEGE**  
TECHNICAL CERTIFICATE IN ENERGY MANAGEMENT  
CERTIFICATE OF PROFICIENCY IN ENERGY MANAGEMENT

The administration and Board of Trustees of North Arkansas College (NAC) request approval to offer the Technical Certificate and Certificate of Proficiency in Energy Management, effective Fall 2024.

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 February 8, 2024.

**Program Description**

Students enrolling in the proposed Energy Management program will explore energy auditing, renewable energy systems, energy-efficient building design, energy modeling, and energy codes and standards. Students will learn how to analyze energy usage data and develop energy management plans that can help reduce energy consumption and save costs. They will learn how to perform blower door and duct blasting tests; capture and interpret thermal imagery; install and service scaled solar, wind, and hydronic systems; and perform load calculations.

The proposed 17 credit-hour Certificate of Proficiency and 35 credit-hour Technical Certificate in Energy Management are designed to prepare students for an entry-level career in energy management, building science, and related fields, with a focus on sustainable practices and green technologies. The program will also focus on workforce training for local and regional businesses, partners, and contractors in the renewable energies industry. The proposed program will stack into the existing Associate of Applied Science in General Technology for those students wishing to further their education.

One part-time faculty member will be hired for the program. Existing resources and facilities will be utilized. Additional equipment will be acquired via donations, college funds, and future grants.

## **Program Need**

Over the next 10 years, careers in the renewable energy industry are set to increase more than 3%, which exceeds most job growth projections for other skilled trades in Arkansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Texas. The demand for occupations in the renewable energy field is substantial, which shows how much businesses, industries, and individuals are dedicated to becoming energy independent. Wage projections indicate a median wage ranging from \$38,000 to \$53,000 or higher depending on the occupation chosen in this field.

North Arkansas College became aware of this need through national media coverage and by surveying related job markets in the HVAC and construction industries. One Arkansas company, Today's Building Science LLC, based out of Sherwood, has been involved in discussions about the proposed program since its inception and will provide curriculum guidance as well as employment opportunities for graduates of the proposed program. Additionally, First Star Energy has also expressed interest in employing future graduates.

## **Program Expenditures and Funding**

One part-time faculty with 1-3 years of experience in energy management or related field and having one or more BPI, LEED, IREC, or HERS certifications will be hired in the summer of 2024. A salary of \$20,600 is anticipated for this hire. Other expenditures include \$5,000-\$7,000 for faculty development, \$75,000-\$100,000 for solar panel and wind turbine training equipment, and approximately \$2,500-\$5,000 for facility renovations. Program accreditations will also be sought, and costs are estimated at \$3,500-\$4,500.

Funding for the proposed program will come from general revenue, possible Perkins funds and reserve funds, endowed chairs, and potential grants from Arkansas Advanced Energy Foundation (AAEF), the Office of Skills Development (OSD), and Arkansas Energy Department (AED).

## **Program Duplication**

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

## **Program Learning Outcomes**

### Certificate of Proficiency

Upon successful completion, a student will be able to:

1. Demonstrate skills in the use of energy production, distribution, consumption, and efficiency, with a focus on high-performing building designs; solar, wind, and hydroelectric systems; and other renewable energy sources.



2. Demonstrate the ability to stay informed and embrace new and innovative solutions in the energy industry.
3. Identify economic, environmental, and social impacts of energy production and consumption, and the ability to evaluate the return on investment for various energy efficiency measures.
4. Demonstrate technical skills in building envelope design and construction, with a focus on energy efficiency, indoor air quality, and sustainability.
5. Describe the interrelationships between energy, the environment, and human well-being.
6. Present energy-related information to a variety of audiences.
7. Demonstrate technical skills in the use of HVAC-R (heating, ventilation, air conditioning, and refrigeration) systems and the ability to perform system assessments and design energy-efficient solutions.

### Technical Certificate

Upon successful completion, a student will be able to:

1. Perform building envelope analysis, duct blasting, blower door testing, and other diagnostic procedures to evaluate a building's energy efficiency.
2. Demonstrate principles of the LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design), BPI (Building Performance Institute), RESNET (Residential Energy Services Network), and HERS (Home Energy Rating System) certification processes and the ability to evaluate a building's compliance with energy codes and standards.
3. Complete LEED and BPI Certification Exams.
4. Demonstrate practical skills with data analytics, including the use of energy management software to track energy consumption and evaluate energy performance.
5. Demonstrate the ability to promote sustainable energy practices.
6. Communicate effectively about energy-related topics.
7. Work effectively in teams on energy projects
8. Demonstrate a knowledge of careers in the energy sector, including positions as energy analysts, auditors, consultants, managers, and renewable energy specialists, with a specific emphasis on high performing building designs and renewable energy systems.

## Program Enrollment and Graduation Projections

Academic Year	Projected Enrollment	Projected Graduates
2024 - 2025	5	4
2025 - 2026	7	6
2026 - 2027	9	8
2027 - 2028	11	10
2028 - 2029	13	12

## Program Curriculum

### Certificate of Proficiency in Energy Management

<i>ENGR 1003</i>	<i>Intro to Energy Management</i>
<i>ENGR 1124</i>	<i>Energy Modeling</i>
<i>ENGR 1123</i>	<i>HVAC-R Systems</i>
<i>ENGR 1103</i>	<i>Building Science Fundamentals</i>
TECH 1013	Tech Math
TECH 1021	Industrial Safety

*Italics = New Courses*

### Technical Certificate in Energy Management

<i>ENGR 1003</i>	<i>Intro to Energy Management</i>
<i>ENGR 1124</i>	<i>Energy Modeling</i>
<i>ENGR 1123</i>	<i>HVAC-R Systems</i>
<i>ENGR 1103</i>	<i>Building Science Fundamentals</i>
<i>ENGR 2104</i>	<i>Building Envelop Analysis</i>
<i>ENGR 2204</i>	<i>Renewable Energies and Sustainability</i>
<i>ENGR 2223</i>	<i>High Performance Building Design</i>
DVSC 2213	Data Analytics
HVAC 2202	Residential and Commercial Load Calculations
TECH 1013	Tech Math
TECH 1021	Industrial Safety
TECH 1102	Tech Communication

*Italics = New Courses*

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## UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS FORT SMITH ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE IN NURSING

The administration of the University of Arkansas Fort Smith (UAFS) and Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas System request approval to offer the Associate of Applied Science in Nursing, effective Fall 2024.

UAFS 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 12-13, 2023.

### **Program Description**

The proposed Associate of Applied Science in Nursing will prepare students for the NCLEX-RN examination necessary to become a Registered Nurse and will also allow current Licensed Practice Nurses to transition to the role of Registered Nurse. This program will support the mission of UAFS by contributing to economic growth and by directly addressing a local need.

The proposed 65 credit-hour program consists of 15 credit hours of general education, a 30 credit-hour nursing core, and 20 additional credit hours of courses that can serve as pre-requisites or co-requisites. The program also contains a total of 450 clock hours of laboratory and/or clinical experience.

Four full-time faculty and 3-4 adjunct instructors will be hired to teach in the proposed program. Current facilities will house the program while additional resources, equipment, and supplies will be purchased through funding received from a Windgate Foundation grant.

### **Program Need**

Nursing is, and continues to be, a high-demand, high-wage, high-skill occupation for the area around Fort Smith and for the state of Arkansas. More than 200 current job openings exist for the Fort Smith region. This large number of vacancies is indicative of the struggle employers are facing when trying to fill the current need with an anticipated additional 150-280 openings over the next 2-5 years.

Representatives from two local hospitals, Baptist Health and Mercy Health, approached the administration of UAFS with their continued concerns of the nursing shortages in the area. Both hospitals have shown their commitment to overcoming this shortage by offering tuition assistance, extern positions, and clinical rotation space to the students enrolled in this program. Additionally, several letters of support were received by UAFS from other community members and local employers.

### **Program Expenditures and Funding**

Four full-time, master-level faculty members, with a median salary of \$55,000, will be hired to teach in the proposed program as well as 3-4 adjunct instructors for clinical rotations. Program-specific library resources, supplies, and equipment will be purchased for a total of \$42,000 per year. This expenditure includes NCLEX test preparation and pinning/graduation ceremonies for students. Current facilities are adequate for housing the proposed program and therefore, no renovations are required at this time. Other expenses include accreditation fees that consist of both one-time and annual fees.

These include an initial application fee of \$2,500, initial accreditation fees totaling \$12,000, and an annual fee of \$2,875.

Funding for the proposed Associate of Applied Science in Nursing program will come from both tuition and fees and from a 3 year, \$936,000 Windgate Foundation grant. Students enrolled in the program incur special fees totaling \$1,352.50 over the course of the program.

**Program Duplication**

Twenty-four Arkansas public institutions offer an Associate of Applied Science in Nursing. Four of the 24 programs are offered at 4-year universities and 20 are offered at 2-year colleges. These programs may use certain program specific courses as prerequisites or as corequisites. Total credit hours for these programs vary depending on the design but range from 60 to 77 credit hours.

**Program Learning Outcomes**

Upon completion of the program, students will be able to:

1. Incorporate knowledge of the nursing process in the application of providing culturally sensitive, holistic, and compassionate care for clients across the lifespan.
2. Implement moral, ethical, and legal concepts in caring for the clients.
3. Integrate health promotion, prevention, and restoration in the nursing care of clients across the lifespan.
4. Demonstrate accountability and responsibility in a professional manner.
5. Use effective communication as an essential nursing skill.

**Program Enrollment and Graduation Projections**

<b>Academic Year</b>	<b>Projected Enrollment</b>	<b>Projected Graduates</b>
2024 - 2025	49	
2025 - 2026	104	22
2026 - 2027	114	52
2027 - 2028	114	54
2028 - 2029	114	54

**Program Curriculum**

**Traditional Option**

General Education Courses

English Composition – 6 credit hours

Mathematics – 3 credit hours

ITA 1003 Computer Applications for The Knowledge Worker

PSYC 1163 General Psychology

Major Requirements

HLTH 1473	Medical Terminology
<i>NURS 1215</i>	<i>Nursing Concepts I</i>
<i>NURS 1226</i>	<i>Nursing Concepts II OR</i>
<i>NURS 2237</i>	<i>Nursing Concepts III</i>
<i>NURS 2242</i>	<i>Client Management Concepts</i>
<i>NURS 2247</i>	<i>Nursing Concepts IV</i>

Additional Degree Requirements

CHEM 1303	Chemical Principles
CHEM 1301	Chemical Principles Laboratory
BIOL 2203	Human Anatomy
BIOL 2201	Human Anatomy Laboratory
BIOL 2213	Human Physiology
BIOL 2211	Human Physiology Laboratory
BIOL 2503	General Microbiology
BIOL 2501	General Microbiology Laboratory
PSYC 2963	Developmental Psychology: A Life Span
FIN 1521	Personal Finance Applications

*Italics = New Courses*

**Transitional Option**

General Education Courses

English Composition – 6 credit hours

Mathematics – 3 credit hours

ITA 1003	Computer Applications for The Knowledge Worker
PSYC 1163	General Psychology

Major Requirements

HLTH 1473	Medical Terminology
<i>NURS 2226</i>	<i>LPN-RN Transition Concepts</i>
<i>NURS 2237</i>	<i>Nursing Concepts III</i>
<i>NURS 2242</i>	<i>Client Management Concepts</i>
<i>NURS 2247</i>	<i>Nursing Concepts IV</i>

Additional Degree Requirements

CHEM 1303	Chemical Principles
CHEM 1301	Chemical Principles Laboratory
BIOL 2203	Human Anatomy
BIOL 2201	Human Anatomy Laboratory
BIOL 2213	Human Physiology
BIOL 2211	Human Physiology Laboratory
BIOL 2503	General Microbiology
BIOL 2501	General Microbiology Laboratory
PSYC 2963	Developmental Psychology: A Life Span
FIN 1521	Personal Finance Applications

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## **OUT-OF-STATE AND ARKANSAS PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS**

The following applications may be reviewed by ADHE for possible consideration at the AHECB meeting in April 2024.

### **Initial Certifications – Arkansas Campus**

Alice Walton School of Medicine, Bentonville, Arkansas  
Bentonville Campus

Doctor of Medicine

### **Initial Certifications – Distance Technology**

Aspen University, Phoenix, Arizona  
Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and Addiction Studies  
Bachelor of Science in Health Care Administration  
RN to Bachelor of Science in Nursing (Degree Completion)

The Chicago School, Los Angeles, California  
Certificate in Clinical Rotations for Clinical Psychopharmacology  
Certificate in Forensic Psychology  
Bachelor of Arts in Criminology  
Bachelor of Science in Business Psychology  
Bachelor of Science in Healthcare Management  
Graduate Certificate in Applied Behavior Analysis  
Post Bachelor's Certificate in Applied Behavior Analysis  
Master of Arts in Clinical Mental Health Counseling  
Doctor of Philosophy in Counselor Education Supervision  
Doctor of Psychology in Clinical Psychology

University of California, Irvine, Irvine, California  
Master of Advanced Study in Criminology, Law, and Society  
Master of Business Administration  
Master of Human Computer Interaction and Design  
Master of Legal and Forensic Psychology  
Master of Science in Pharmacology  
Doctor of Nursing Practice

University of Southern California, Los Angeles, California  
Doctor of Regulatory Science

University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences, San Marcos, California  
RN to Master of Science in Nursing

Walden University, Minneapolis, Minnesota  
Graduate Certificate in Applied Behavior Analysis  
Master of Science in Applied Behavior Analysis  
Master of Science in School Counseling