

**Tentative Agenda Items  
July 24, 2026, AHECB Meeting**

**BOARD BUSINESS  
REPORTS  
POLICIES  
ACADEMIC ITEMS\*  
FINANCE ITEMS\***

\* With the discontinuation of committee meetings, all agenda items will be placed on the full Board agenda for consideration.

**BOARD BUSINESS**

- Welcome
- Minutes, April 24, 2026, Regular Meeting
- Minutes, May 27, 2026, Special Meeting
- Commissioner's Report

**REPORTS**

- **Program Review Report**

A summary report on academic programs reviewed by the institutions will be presented.

- **Annual Report on First-Year Student Remediation for AY2025**

Annual Report on First-Year Student Remediation for AY2025. Remediation rates for the AY2025 entering class will be presented to the Coordinating Board as an information item.

**POLICIES**

- **Rules Governing the Governor's Higher Education Transition Scholarship Program**

In compliance with the Arkansas ACCESS Act of 2025 (Act 341 Section 79), the Arkansas Division of Higher Education Rules Governing the Governor's Higher Education Transition Scholarship Program are presented to the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) for final approval.

- **Professional Skills Training Funding Formula to Support State-Supported Institutions of Higher Education**

The Division of Higher Education recommends a Funding Formula to Support Professional Skills Training (Noncredit) Programs at State-supported Institutions of Higher Education.

**FINANCE ITEMS**

- **Certification of Intercollegiate Athletic Budgets for 2026-27**

A.C.A. §6-62-805 directs institutions of higher education having intercollegiate athletic programs to certify annually that their intercollegiate athletic programs will generate sufficient revenues to meet budgeted expenditures, or that any athletic deficit will be met by separate institutional, board-sanctioned student athletic fees.

Each institution having an intercollegiate athletic program responds with submission of both ADHE Form 21-2 and a copy of its Board resolution approving the athletic operating budget for the 2026-27 fiscal year.

- **Productivity-Based Funding Distribution for 2027-28**

The productivity-based funding formulas were approved by the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) at its Special Meeting held on May 22, 2017. This report will provide the outcomes for each University and College based on the productivity-based funding formulas for the 2027-2028 fiscal year.

- **Operating Recommendations for 2027-29 Biennium**

This agenda item contains the operating budget recommendations for the 2027-29 biennium based on productivity funding distribution recommendations and non-formula requests.

- **Personal Services Recommendations for Institution Personnel for 2027-29 Biennium**

A.C.A. §6-61-209 requires the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board to present a consolidated budget request from the state-supported colleges and universities to the General Assembly and the Governor prior to each regular session of the General Assembly. As part of this process, ADHE staff reviewed personal services requests for each Arkansas public institution of higher education and recommended changes for AHECB approval.

- **Recommendations for State Funding of Capital Projects: 2027-29 Biennium**

Capital funding recommendations were based on institutional E&G square footage need, condition of existing facilities, enrollment, deferred maintenance needs and replacement of equipment & library. Recommendations include funding for renovation, new construction, and technology infrastructure.

## **ACADEMIC ITEMS**

- **Report on Academic Program Review AY2026**

A summary report on academic programs reviewed by the institutions will be presented.

- **Concurrent Enrollment Continued Authorization**

A summary of the institutions seeking reauthorization to continue offering concurrent enrollment through the ADHE process.

- **Northwest Arkansas Community College  
Associate of Applied Science in Surgical Technology**

The proposed Associate of Applied Science in Surgical Technology degree will prepare students to function as key members of a surgical team in hospitals and outpatient surgical centers. The 63-credit-hour curriculum requires the completion of 30 credit hours general education prerequisites prior to program admission. Once admitted, the remaining 33 credit hours include specialized surgical technology coursework delivered through classroom instruction, hands-on laboratory training, and supervised clinical experiences.

Students will gain competencies in aseptic technique, surgical instrumentation, perioperative patient care, and operating room procedures. Upon completion, graduates will be eligible to sit for a nationally recognized certification exam, enhancing employability within Arkansas and beyond. The program will be housed within NWACC's School of Health Professions and supported by dedicated laboratory space in the Center for Health Professions, including a simulated surgical suite which will be renovated pending approval.

The college plans to staff the program with a program director and clinical coordinator (two full-time faculty), along with adjunct instructors as needed. Instructional delivery will be supported through existing institutional infrastructure, including learning management systems and simulation

technologies. The program will also benefit from donated equipment from a recently closed surgical technology program in the region, allowing NWACC to establish instructional capacity efficiently while maintaining program quality.

- **Southern Arkansas University Magnolia  
Master of Science in Nursing: Family Nurse Practitioner (Rural Health)**

The proposed, fully online Master of Science in Nursing program with Family Nurse Practitioner (Rural Health) concentration is designed to prepare registered nurses for advanced practice roles as primary care providers, equipping graduates with the knowledge and clinical competencies necessary to deliver comprehensive, evidence-based care across the lifespan.

The 44 credit-hour curriculum includes core nursing coursework and specialized Family Nurse Practitioner content, with an emphasis on rural health disparities, population health, healthcare systems, and policy. Instruction will be delivered through online coursework supported by 540 hours of in-person clinical training and simulation experience in areas such as women's health, pediatrics, adult/geriatric care, and primary care. The proposed program is purposefully designed to meet the needs of working registered nurses, providing flexibility while permitting clinical training to be completed at approved sites.

The MSN-FNP program builds upon SAUM's established Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program and leverages existing faculty expertise, clinical training infrastructure, and regional healthcare partnerships. One additional tenure-track faculty member will be hired to support program implementation, while current nursing faculty will contribute to both didactic and clinical instruction. Graduates of the program will be eligible to sit for national certification examinations and pursue licensure as Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs).

- **Southern Arkansas University Tech  
Associate of Applied Science in Environmental Management (Municipal)**

The proposed fully online Associate of Applied Science in Environmental Management (Municipal) program is a 60-credit-hour, workforce-focused degree intended to prepare students for careers in municipal utilities and environmental services, with technical emphasis in water treatment and distribution, wastewater treatment, industrial pretreatment, and solid waste management, along with supporting coursework in science, safety, and compliance. Graduates will be fully prepared to handle the operation and maintenance of municipal environmental systems, ensure regulatory compliance, assess performance, and deliver clear communications.

The proposed program directly supports the mission of SAUT by advancing workforce development, strengthening partnerships with industry, and providing accessible, career-focused education. Through its alignment with the Arkansas Environmental Training Academy's statewide training mission, the program promotes strategic initiatives centered on economic development, industry engagement, and expanding educational access, particularly through its fully online delivery format designed for working adults across Arkansas. Instruction will be provided by existing faculty who hold advanced industry licenses and certifications in water, wastewater, industrial wastewater, OSHA, hazardous materials, and solid waste.

Program sustainability is supported by minimal startup costs, reliance on existing faculty and institutional resources, and no requirement for additional facilities or major capital expenditures.

- **Arkansas Public Institutions Letters of Notification**

Programs included in the Arkansas Public Institution Letters of Notification have been approved by the ADHE Director and must be included on the AHECB agenda prior to program initiation. The programs are reasonable and moderate extensions of existing certificates and degrees.

- **Arkansas Public Institutions Letters of Intent**

A Letter of Intent informs the AHECB of institutions that plan to offer new programs or organizational units that require a proposal and Coordinating Board approval. Chief Academic and Chief Executive Officers can comment on the proposed programs and organizational units before the proposals are considered by AHECB.

- **Out-of-State and Arkansas Private Institutions**

The following applications may be reviewed by ADHE for possible consideration at the AHECB meeting in July 2026.

Carrington College, Sacramento, California  
Associate of Science in Medical Assisting

Southern California University of Health Sciences, Whittier, California  
Ayurvedic Health Counselor Certificate  
Ayurvedic Practitioner Certificate  
Master of Acupuncture and Chinese Herbal Medicine  
Master of Science: Physician Assistant  
Master of Science in Genetic Counseling  
Doctor of Acupuncture and Chinese Herbal Medicine  
Doctor of Chiropractic  
Doctor of Medical Science  
Doctor of Occupational Therapy  
Doctor of Physical Therapy  
Doctor of Whole Health Leadership

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

- **Out-of-State and Arkansas Private Institutions Letters of Notification**

Programs included in the Out-of-State and Arkansas Private Institutions' Letters of Notification have been approved by the ADHE Director and will be included on the AHECB agenda.

- **Out-of-State and Arkansas Private Institutions Letters of Intent**

A Letter of Intent informs the AHECB of institutions that plan to offer new programs that require a proposal and Coordinating Board approval.