

**Tentative Agenda Items
October 23, 2026, AHECB Meeting**

BOARD BUSINESS (Introductions, announcements, minutes)

EXECUTIVE SECTION

AGENCY UPDATES

OTHER INFORMATION ITEMS

BOARD BUSINESS

- Welcome
- Minutes, July 24, 2026, Regular Meeting
- Minutes, September 22, 2026, Special Meeting
- Appointment of Nomination Committee
Chair Jim Carr will appoint members of a nomination committee, which will recommend the officers for the upcoming year at the January board meeting.
- Approval of 2027 Coordinating Board Meeting Schedule
The proposed 2027 schedule of the regular quarterly meetings will be recommended to the Board.
- Commissioner's Report

REPORTS

- **Prevention of Sexual Assault on Campus**
An update on the activities by ADHE to address the prevention of sexual assault on our college and university campuses, pursuant to Act 563.
- **Prevention of Unplanned Pregnancies on College Campuses**
An update on the activities by ADHE to prevent unplanned pregnancies on Arkansas college campuses among young adults, pursuant to Act 943.
- **Advanced Placement (AP) Policy Update**
Addition of three (3) new AP exams to the existing Advanced Placement Credit Policy
- **Report on Academic Program Status**
A report detailing program status changes during the 2025-2026 Academic Year will be presented indicating the number, level, and type of programs that were changed. An academic program's status can be one of six possible values: active, active future, inactive, future inactive, delete, phase-out/delete. The information will also be summarized by institution. This report was previously called the report on academic program deletions.
- **Report on Concurrent Enrollment**
The annual report on Concurrent Enrollment and Credit will be presented. Concurrent enrollment allows students to obtain credit toward a high school diploma at the same time they earn college credit. The report will focus on the state of concurrent education among Arkansas postsecondary institutions in academic year 2025-2026 and comparison data from AY2022 through AY2026.

- **Annual Report on Credentials Awarded**

The Credentials Awarded report provides multi-year trend data on credentials awarded by our public and private institutions, including trend data by award level and institution type. The 2026 report will include students receiving credentials in the 2025-26 academic year as reported last month by all institutions.

POLICIES

- **Residency Classification for Tuition Purposes Policy**

This policy was originally established to provide guidance on residency determinations for tuition purposes. Since its adoption, the provisions governing residency classification have been codified in state law. As a result, maintaining a separate ADHE policy is duplicative and unnecessary.

- **Military Dependents' Scholarship Program Policy**

The Military Dependents' Scholarship Program policy is recommended for repeal because the underlying program has been repealed through legislative action. With the program no longer authorized in statute, the corresponding ADHE policy is no longer needed.

- **SREB Doctoral Scholars Program Policy**

ADHE no longer participates in the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) Doctoral Scholars Program. Therefore, the policy associated with this program no longer serves an operational purpose and is recommended for repeal.

FINANCE ITEMS

- **Bond/Loan Feasibility Update**

This update consists of the actual terms for bond and loan issues receiving AHECB approval that occurred from October 2025 through October 2026. This update was requested by the AHECB during the July 30, 2010, quarterly meeting.

- **Report on Intercollegiate Athletic Revenues and Expenditures for 2025-26**

Act 245 of 1989 (A.C.A.6-62-106) directed the Coordinating Board to develop and establish uniform accounting standards and procedures for reporting revenues and expenditures and, based on these standard definitions and formats, to collect the financial data and provide a uniform report of each institution's athletic revenues and expenditures. In addition, the Coordinating Board must provide a report to the Legislative Joint Audit Committee and the public by November of each year on each institution's athletic costs. In this agenda item, institutions have submitted reports of their actual intercollegiate athletic program revenues and expenditures for 2025-26 in the required format.

- **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.

- **Economic Feasibility of Bond for University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS)**

The University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) requests approval of the economic feasibility of plans to issue bonds not to exceed \$15.5 million with a maximum term of sixteen (16) years at an estimated annual interest rate not to exceed 5.00%. Proceeds from the bond issue will be used for

auxiliary purposes. The bond issue will be used to primarily fund the acquisition of certain clinical assets, including a proton beam therapy system, related equipment, and associated property interests, from Proton International Arkansas, LLC. In addition, as funds are available, proceeds will be used for other capital improvements and infrastructure for UAMS as needed. The University of Arkansas Board of Trustees approved financing for these bond issues at its meeting on September 18, 2026.

- **Economic Feasibility of a Master Equipment Financing Agreement for University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS)**

The University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) requests approval of the economic feasibility of a master equipment financing program to support equipment acquisitions as needs arise. Under the program, UAMS may enter into financing agreements with approved financial institutions and execute financing schedules for a period of seven (7) years following execution of the first Schedule under a Master Agreement. The aggregate principal amount outstanding under all agreements and schedules may not exceed \$65 million at any one time. The University of Arkansas Board of Trustees approved the financing program on September 18, 2026.

ACADEMIC ITEMS

- **University of Arkansas Community College Rich Mountain Associate of Applied Science in Traditional Nursing**

The proposed Associate of Applied Science in Traditional Nursing is designed to prepare students for entry-level practice as Registered Nurses. The curriculum combines classroom instruction, simulation-based learning, and supervised clinical experiences to develop the knowledge, clinical judgment, and professional competencies required for safe nursing practice. Graduates will be eligible to sit for the NCLEX-RN licensure examination.

The proposed program requires 63 credit hours, including general education coursework, nursing process courses, nursing practicum experiences, and an NCLEX-RN preparation course. The curriculum emphasizes quality and safe patient care, evidence-based practice, critical thinking, interprofessional collaboration, information management, leadership, and ethical and legal responsibilities of the registered nurse.

The program will be housed in the Division of Allied Health and will build upon UACCRM's existing health-related offerings, including the Technical Certificate in Health Professions, Technical Certificate in Practical Nursing, and the ARNEC Bridge pathway.

UACCRM has secured substantial infrastructure support for the program, including federal funding to construct a new Allied Health facility and Arkansas ALIGN grant funds simulation to purchase advanced training equipment. The current LPN faculty will transition to teaching the proposed program. The College will then hire two new faculty members, one full-time and one part-time, to support the current LPN program.

- **University of Arkansas Fayetteville Master of Science in Pavement Technology**

The proposed Master of Science in Pavement Technology is a 30 credit-hour, 100% online program designed for working professionals in the pavement, transportation, construction, materials, and civil engineering sectors. Designed for civil engineers seeking advanced expertise in pavement systems, as well as professionals in related disciplines such as chemical engineering, chemistry, business, construction, materials supply, and pavement operations, this program serves individuals working in the pavement industry who may not have formal academic training in pavement technology.

Graduates will develop specialized knowledge and skills that enhance their ability to contribute to pavement design, materials selection, production, construction, maintenance, rehabilitation, and asset management decision-making.

The curriculum is structured to provide graduate-level preparation across the full pavement life cycle, including aggregate materials, asphalt materials, concrete materials, asphalt emulsions, pavement

structural design, pavement production and construction, quarry operations, and pavement maintenance and rehabilitation. Students may complete either a non-thesis option, consisting of 30 hours of coursework, or a thesis option, consisting of 24 hours of coursework and 6 thesis hours. Courses will be offered in an eight-week format, allowing students to take one course at a time and complete the program in approximately two years. The proposed program includes 21 credit hours of required pavement-focused coursework and 9 credit hours of electives in areas such as project management, operations management, construction management, or thesis research.

The proposed program is distinguished by its delivery format, as it will be the first fully online graduate program in pavement technology offered in the United States. The program will be delivered by existing faculty within the College of Engineering and will leverage current institutional resources, facilities, and technological infrastructure, enabling implementation without the need for significant additional investments.

- **University of Arkansas Fort Smith
Associate of Applied Science in Respiratory Therapy**

The proposed 64 credit-hour Associate of Applied Science in Respiratory Therapy program is designed to prepare graduates for entry-level practice as Respiratory Therapists who evaluate, treat, manage, and rehabilitate patients with cardiopulmonary disorders across the lifespan. Instruction will combine classroom learning, laboratory practice, simulation, and supervised clinical experience to develop competency in the cognitive, psychomotor, and affective domains of respiratory care. Graduates will be eligible to apply for the National Board for Respiratory Care (NBRC) Therapist Multiple-Choice (TMC) Examination and, upon achieving the high-cut score, the Clinical Simulation Examination (CSE) leading to the Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT) credential. Passing the NBRC TMC is required for licensure but is not required for graduation.

The proposed program will be housed in the College of Health, Education, and Human Sciences under the leadership of the Executive Director of Respiratory Therapy. UAFS plans to support the program with existing health sciences infrastructure, Boreham Library resources, classroom and laboratory space in the Pendegraft Health Sciences Center, and specialized respiratory therapy equipment funded through the Windgate gift.

- **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 October 2026.

California Institute of Applied Technology, National City, California

Certificate in Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning

Certificate as Cisco Networking Professional – Enterprise

Certificate in Computer Information Systems

Certificate in Cybersecurity

Certificate in Project Management

Associate of Applied Science in Accounting

Associate of Applied Science in Business Administration

Associate of Applied Science in Business Data Analytics

Associate of Applied Science in Computer Information Systems

Associate of Applied Science in Digital Marketing

Associate of Applied Science in Healthcare Administration
Associate of Applied Science in Health Information Technology
Associate of Applied Science in Human Resource Management
Associate of Applied Science in Project Management
Associate of Applied Science in Software Development
Applied Bachelor's Degree in Cloud Computing
Applied Bachelor's Degree in Cybersecurity
Applied Bachelor's Degree in Digital Marketing
Applied Bachelor's Degree in Health Information Management
Applied Bachelor's Degree in Human Resource Management
Applied Bachelor's Degree in Software Development

Campus, Inc., Sacramento, California

Diploma in Medical Billing and Coding Specialist
Associate of Science in Healthcare Administration
Associate of Science in Information Technology

Champion Christian College, Hot Springs, Arkansas

Associate of Arts in Business
Associate of Arts in Criminal Justice
Associate of Arts in Education
Associate of Arts in Sports Management

Southern California University of Health Sciences, Whittier, California

Doctor of Physical Therapy (Los Angeles-Based Program)

Walden University, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Doctor of Behavioral Health Leadership

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

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▪ **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.