

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL ARKANSAS
BOARD POLICY

Policy Number: 100

Subject: History of the University/ Role and Scope

Date Adopted: _____ Revised: 08/11

The University of Central Arkansas was established as Arkansas State Normal School by the General Assembly of Arkansas in 1907, with statewide responsibility for preparing citizens to teach Arkansas children. Summer sessions were started in 1910.

The name of the institution was changed to Arkansas State Teachers College in 1925. By legislative enactment, the Board of Trustees was given authority to grant appropriate degrees. In January 1967, the name of the institution was again changed by the state legislature to the State College of Arkansas, expanding its statewide role to a multipurpose institution. On January 21, 1975, the governor of Arkansas signed a bill granting university status to the institution and naming it the University of Central Arkansas.

The first diploma granted by Arkansas State Normal School was the Licentiate of Instruction, and in 1922 the first baccalaureate degrees were granted. Today the university's comprehensive undergraduate curriculum comprises more than 80 major programs and nine different degrees. A program of study leading to the Master's of Science in Education degree was inaugurated in 1955, the Educational Specialist degree was begun in 1980, and the first doctoral program was offered in 1999. UCA has developed a variety of high quality offerings in graduate studies, with more than 30 master's degree program options and 13 different graduate degrees, including doctoral programs in communication science and disorders, leadership studies, physical therapy, and school psychology. Extension classes were first offered through correspondence courses in 1919-1920 and Study Clubs in 1920-1921. Outreach and Community Engagement, including extended-learning opportunities for undergraduate and graduate credit and in non-credit courses, continues to play an important role in fulfilling the university's 21st-century mission.

The University of Central Arkansas is a residential university offering undergraduate and graduate preparation in a variety of fields and disciplines. The university enrolls students from every county in the state.

According to the Southern Regional Education Board, the university is currently categorized as a Master's I institution. The academic programs are organized into six undergraduate colleges and a graduate school. Current and future areas of particular emphasis include the liberal arts; the broad area of business; teacher education, including special programs in counseling, special education, and early childhood education; fine arts and mass communication; health sciences; and vocational teacher education. The university offers programs in these areas through the master's degree and in education through the Educational Specialist degree. Particular needs in

the area served by the university may justify further expansion into advanced graduate programs, particularly in programs of education.

The unique or distinctive features of the university are and will continue to be found in the commitment the university has made to (1) high quality instructional programs provided, (2) emphasis on remaining a residential institution in which well-organized programs of campus life are an integral part of student development, (3) public service, (4) research, and (5) the spirit and plans outlined in the approved desegregation plan of 1978.

In an effort to fulfill the commitment, which the university has to quality instruction, efforts are made to emphasize the following:

1. Accreditation for all programs in the university;
2. Opportunities for superior students through our Honors College;
3. Program review on both the undergraduate and graduate levels;
4. A high quality computerized library and library collection; and
5. A Developmental Skills Center for any student who needs academic assistance.

As a residential institution where campus life is considered important to student development, the university will:

1. Emphasize the important role of the Counseling Center and the services offered by the program;
2. Recognize the importance of a good work ethic and stress the services of Career Counseling;
3. Encourage the concept of co-curricular activities designed to encourage student activities as true learning experiences; and
4. Place importance on cultural activities from which both student and community profit.

The public service commitment will be achieved by placing major emphasis on the following:

1. Continuing education programs offering both credit and non-credit courses;
2. Seminars, workshops, and conferences designed to meet the needs of business, industry, professions, and labor; and
3. Undergraduate and graduate courses offered beyond the confines of the university campus to help update the professional preparation of the people.

Research has been, and will continue to be, a very important component of any university. The University of Central Arkansas will conduct activities consistent with this obligation. In order to do so the university shall:

1. Encourage basic and applied research efforts by both faculty and students, particularly at the graduate level;
2. Emphasize research and the dissemination of research findings in business, science, health care, and education; and
3. Encourage opportunities for both faculty and students to attack current problems facing society such as those concerning environment, energy, economics, and education.

Finally and importantly, the commitment to desegregation of institutions of higher education means the university will:

1. Support those plans outlined in the desegregation plan of 1978; and
2. Emphasize programs and activities designed to meet the goals of that plan.