GIFTED & TALENTED EDUCATION
GRADUATE PROGRAM

UNIVERSITY OF
CENTRAL ARKANSAS
201 Donaghey, Mashburn Hall
Department of Teaching & Learning
Conway, AR 72035
Phone 501.852.2963 Fax 501.450.5680
What Makes the UCA GT Program Different?

A Premier (and the First) Leader in Arkansas Teacher Preparation

Founded in 1908 as the Arkansas Normal School (for teacher preparation), the College of Education at the University of Central Arkansas is dedicated to providing exemplary programs with a rich history focused on the preparation of professional educators. With an emphasis on teaching, research, and service, the members of the College of Education prepare professionals who demonstrate the content, pedagogical, and professional knowledge, skills, and dispositions necessary to help all students learn.

Intellectually Diverse Gifted Education Faculty

With four in-house professors with gifted education expertise ranging from STEM education, arts integration, diverse populations, central office/building-level administration, and curriculum and instruction, you are sure to find the resources and assistance needed to be successful in your gifted and talented education career!

Wide Array of Online Program Options

We offer a wide variety of gifted education online program options including a 15 hour gifted education teaching license, two online Master’s degree options (Master’s of Advanced Studies in Teacher Leadership; Master’s in Special Education leading to dual licensure in both K-12 Gifted and Special Education), two online GT options leading to an Educational Specialist Degree, and three GT cognate options in the Ph.D. in Leadership Studies program. (The Ph.D. program is not an online program; however, the Gifted and Talented Education Cognate Courses are offered entirely online.)

Gifted and Talented Program Options

✍ 15 Hour Licensure in Gifted Education
✍ Two Master Degree Options:
  ✓ Masters of Advanced Studies in Teacher Leadership (30 Hours)
  ✓ Masters in Special Education (39 Hour Option Leading to K-12 Special Education and Gifted Education Licensure
✍ Educational Specialist Degree / Two GT Options (EDS:EDLP)
✍ Ph.D. in Leadership Studies / Three GT Cognate Options

Important Note: Candidates must pass the state-designated Praxis examination(s) to add the gifted and talented and/or Special education licenses to existing Arkansas teaching licenses. Out-of-state students should check with their state-issuing teacher licensure agency to determine licensure eligibility and state-specific reciprocity rules and regulations.
Financial Aid, Scholarships, and Fellowship Opportunities

Financial aid, scholarships, and graduate assistantships are available to graduate students pursuing gifted and talented education program options. For more information, visit http://uca.edu/scholarships/

Tommie Sue Anthony Fellowship for the Education of the Gifted

Mrs. Tommie Sue Anthony has endowed a fellowship for gifted education candidates at the University of Central Arkansas. The fellowship will be used to support tuition, sponsor travel to national conferences, purchase books, and/or other relevant student support to students pursuing graduate studies leading to gifted education certification, Master’s degree (M.Ed.), Education Specialist (Ed.S.) degree, or Ph.D. in Leadership Studies with a cognate in gifted education. Mrs. Anthony was honored as the 2014 UCA Distinguished Alumni. She is a two-time graduate (BSE-1963, MSE-1973) of UCA. She is the Immediate Past-President of the Arkansas Advanced Initiative in Mathematics and Science, Inc. (AAIMS). Previously, Mrs. Anthony was the Director of Talented and Gifted Programs for the Pulaski County Special School District from 1983-1998. Applications for the fellowship are accepted in the spring preceding the fall term.

STEMulate Engineering Academy

A Practicum Experience for GT Educators

Funded by a UCA Foundation Grant & Kimberly Clark Corporation – Conway Mill

Funded by a UCA Foundation Grant and a contribution by Kimberly Clark Corporation – Conway Mills, STEMulate Engineering Academy is a no-cost academic summer enrichment camp that provides talent development in the STEM disciplines to promising learners in grades 3 through 5. Gifted and Talented licensure candidates co-teach with gifted education and STEM professionals including Kimberly Clark engineers!

Program Options Contact Information

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<tr>
<th>GT Program Coordinator</th>
<th>Master’s of Advanced Studies in Teacher Leadership</th>
<th>Master’s in Special Education</th>
<th>Educational Specialist Degree</th>
<th>Ph.D. in Leadership Studies</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Debbie Dailey</td>
<td>Dr. Jeff Whittingham</td>
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Gifted Education Program Faculty

Dr. Debbie Dailey is the coordinator of UCA’s Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) program. She holds a doctoral degree in Gifted Education Administration from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. She has produced numerous publications focused on gifted and STEM education. She has delivered professional development workshops, presentations, and keynotes at local, state, national venues. In addition, Dr. Dailey is the Director of UCA’s STEMulate Engineering Academy, a summer engineering camp for promising elementary students and a practicum experience for gifted education graduate candidates.

Dr. Alicia Cotabish has earned both her Ed.D. and M.Ed. in Gifted Education from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. Dr. Cotabish has published numerous journal articles and books focused on gifted and STEM education. She has delivered professional development workshops, presentations, and keynotes at local, state, national, and international venues, and serves as a National Association for Gifted Children Expert Speaker. She is the current President of the Arkansas Association of Gifted Education Administrators (AAGEA) and serves on the board of the Council for Exceptional Children – The Association of the Gifted (CEC-TAG).

Dr. Rachelle Miller received her Ph.D. in Educational Psychology with specialization in Gifted and Talented Education from Purdue University and her M.Ed. in Gifted Education from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. She currently collaborates with Arkansas A+ Schools by completing program evaluation in their participating schools. Her research interests include supporting the academic needs of low-income gifted students, integrating the arts into the general and gifted curriculum, and examining teacher perceptions of arts integration.

Dr. Nykela Jackson earned both her Ph.D. (Higher Education Administration) and M.Ed. (Gifted Education) from the University of Southern Mississippi. Dr. Jackson has worked in public schools (elementary/middle levels, gifted education, and instructional technology) and education administration (curriculum and assessment). Her research interests include cultural and diversity issues in gifted education, differentiated instruction, and multicultural education.