

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL ARKANSAS BOARD POLICY

Policy Number: 100

Subject: History of the University/ Role and Scope

Date Adopted: _____ Revised: 08/11, 7/25

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 degree and certificate. A program of study leading to the Master of Science in Education degree was inaugurated in 1955, the Educational Specialist degree began in 1980, and the first doctoral program was offered in 1999. UCA has developed more than 50 high-quality graduate degrees and certificates, including master's, specialist, and doctoral programs. Since extension classes were first offered through correspondence courses in 1919-20 and Study Clubs in 1920-21, Outreach and Community Engagement continues to play an important role in fulfilling the university's 21st-century mission by providing continuing education and non-traditional training to meet the needs of the regional community.

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

The university is currently categorized as a Four-Year 3 institution by the Southern Regional Education Board and a Professions-focused Undergraduate/Graduate-Doctorate Medium institution by the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education. The academic programs are organized into multiple colleges and supported by a graduate school and honors college. Current and future areas of particular emphasis include the arts, humanities, and social sciences; the broad area of business; teacher education; health and behavioral sciences; and science and engineering.