



**To:** Jake Held, Assistant Provost for Academic Assessment and General Education

**Cc:** Kurt Boniecki, Associate Provost of Institutional Effectiveness

**From:** Michael Hargis, Provost and Executive Vice President

**Date:** September 30, 2025

**Subject:** Review of UCA Core Pillar (Diversity) Requirements

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I want to thank you and the UCA Core Council for the thoughtful work you have already begun in reviewing all of the UCA Core rubrics and pillars.

Your efforts position us well as we continue aligning the UCA Core program with the feedback from our recent external review, our ongoing internal review cycle (including post-assessment adjustments), and the expectations outlined in the Arkansas ACCESS Act. I recognize that your plan was to use the entire academic year to conduct this work, but recent discussions and guidance have highlighted the need to accelerate the review.

At this time, I am requesting that the UCA Core Council provide, no later than October 7, 2025, a recommendation for a new name for the Core pillar currently labeled "Diversity," to better reflect the broad learning goals assessed within that pillar.

While the broader review of the associated rubrics, requirements, and courses will continue throughout this semester, establishing a new name by this date will allow us to remain timely and responsive in our planning and implement the change before Spring registration begins.

As part of this charge, I am also asking that you work closely with the FYS Advisory Committee to review FYS section and course titles, learning goals, and other pertinent information to ensure compliance with ACCESS requirements. This work should be conducted in coordination with your broader review of the UCA CORE outlined above.

This work is important, and while it comes with unique challenges, it provides an opportunity to affirm our commitment to academic integrity and shared governance. Faculty leadership and input will help guide how we adapt.

Alignment with state law remains essential, and we will meet those requirements in a manner that reflects the mission and values of the University of Central Arkansas. By proceeding transparently and collaboratively, we support our students, faculty, and staff while strengthening the long-term stability of the institution.

Thank you for leading this important work. Please let me know if there are resources or additional support the council may need to complete the review on this timeline.