

University of Arkansas, Fayetteville
Joseph E. Steinmetz, Chancellor

ENABLING LAWS

Morrill Act of 1862, Act 44 of 1871, Arkansas Code Annotated Chapter 64 of Subtitle 5 of Title 6, and Act 210 of 2016

INSTITUTION HISTORY AND ORGANIZATION

Under the Morrill Act of 1862 and pursuant to Act 44 of 1871, the Arkansas General Assembly established the university in Fayetteville as Arkansas Industrial University. It became the state's land-grant institution and the first state-assisted college in Arkansas. Arkansas Industrial University became the University of Arkansas in 1899 reflecting the institution's broadened academic mission.

Under the authority of the University of Arkansas's Board of Trustees, the University of Arkansas is the oldest and largest state institution of higher education and the primary state and land-grant university in Arkansas, offering the state's most comprehensive array of undergraduate, professional, graduate, and honors programs. The University of Arkansas is recognized in many assessments and surveys as being one of the top public research universities in the country. Through these programs, students have the opportunity to participate in nationally competitive research, to study abroad, and to work in business, industry, and other institutions through internships. Courses and degree programs are offered by both traditional and technology-mediated instruction to students at other campuses and sites in Arkansas and on some military bases and at international sites.

The University of Arkansas also provides a wide range of public- and economic development-related services including—most especially—technical and professional services to further the economic growth of Arkansas. In addition, the University of Arkansas assists other institutions of public and higher education in Arkansas by providing specialized resources, such as computing, library, and information technology services and expertise in many disciplines. Public- and economic development-related services are provided through the various academic departments, schools, and colleges and by specialized units:

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- Arkansas Leadership Academy
- Legal Clinic
- Small Business Development Center
- Center for Business and Economic Research
- Community Design Center
- Global Campus of the School of Continuing Education and Academic Outreach
- Arkansas Research and Technology Park
- World Trade Center Arkansas.

Of the nation's 4,664 accredited universities and colleges, the University of Arkansas is one of 115 to receive the highest possible research classification from the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. The University of Arkansas is the state's only comprehensive research university. Pursuit of research, scholarly, and creative endeavors is a significant responsibility of faculty members at the University of Arkansas, along with integrating original scholarship with teaching and public outreach activities. Such integrated efforts are designed to advance the frontiers of knowledge and to apply that knowledge to improve human understanding, advance economic development and the standard of living and quality of life of people in Arkansas, the nation, and world. University of Arkansas research, scholarly and creative programs also play important roles in graduate education and increasingly in undergraduate programs as well.

Research and scholarly efforts at the University of Arkansas are pursued by faculty members through the various academic departments, schools and colleges and through specialized units:

- Business and Economic Research Center
- Mack Blackwell Rural Transportation Center
- Center for Advanced Spatial Technologies
- Center for Protein Structure and Function
- Institute of Food Science and Engineering

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Nationally Competitive Students, Nationally Competitive University

The University of Arkansas is enrolling and graduating more students than any other institution in Arkansas. The qualifications and diversity of the entering freshmen classes have continued to increase in recent years, as have the University's efforts to retain and graduate students. Through its competitive scholarship programs and endowed chairs and professorships, the University of Arkansas is retaining many of Arkansas' best students and attracting scholars from throughout the world. The University's progress brings positive national attention to the State of Arkansas in the higher education arena as well as in the areas of economic development, basic and applied research and scholarship. For the 10th year in a row, the U of A is ranked in the top tier of national universities in the "Best Colleges 2017" annual ranking from U.S. News and World Report. The University of Arkansas is committed to putting Students First to ensure that its diverse mix of students receive the assistance they need to succeed both at the University and in their chosen careers upon graduation. Since 2000, the six-year graduation rate of University of Arkansas new freshmen has increased by almost ten percent, and it continues to move upward as the university identifies and implements programs to help students meet their educational goals.

Fueling the Arkansas Economy

The University of Arkansas strives to fuel the Arkansas economy:

- Through its graduates

The knowledge-based economy of the 21st Century requires skilled, educated workers. University of Arkansas graduates receive the nationally competitive education necessary to succeed in the knowledge-based economy—the kind of education that will fuel the economic and cultural growth of the State of Arkansas.

- By attracting businesses to Arkansas

Proximity to nationally competitive public research universities is often a deciding factor when relocating existing businesses. Corporations such as Wal-Mart have cited the University of Arkansas as a major reason why they are

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headquartered in Arkansas. The World Trade Center Arkansas connects the state to the world by providing international trade services to companies and individuals and by educating students in global commerce. World Trade Center Arkansas brings together businesses and governmental agencies involved in foreign trade to further the economic outlook for the state.

- By being a “magnet” that attracts intellectual capital and economic activity

The University of Arkansas’s national reputation as an academic institution attracts brain power from outside of Arkansas and from around the world. Students and faculty come to our state and stay for those reasons, generating millions of dollars annually in economic activity that would not otherwise result. Furthermore, the concentration of intellectual capital at and around the University of Arkansas provides a clean, natural resource of tremendous value to our state’s public, private and not-for-profit sectors. The University of Arkansas’s social and cultural elements, such as its affiliated arts, sports and guest lecture series are major economic attractions as well and help make Arkansas a vibrant place to live, work and raise a family.

- By supporting new businesses

Over the past several years, the University of Arkansas’s Technology Development Foundation has overseen a steady transformation of the Arkansas Research and Technology Park (ARTP) into a multi-faceted knowledge community focused on innovation and technology development. Since 2003 the ARTP has added significant physical infrastructure in the form of the Innovation Center, Enterprise Center and the National Center for Reliable Electric Power Transmission bringing the total R&D capacity in the research park to nearly 300,000 square feet. A portfolio of 36 public/private affiliates contributing over \$67 million in regional economic activity now resides in the park. In addition, mergers and acquisitions are providing major expansion opportunities for affiliates such as Wolfsped and Pacific Vet Group to expand their operation for commercialization of products developed through R&D at the ARTP. By growing and retaining these companies, the ARTP is contributing to the development of a technologically skilled workforce with the addition of approximately 200 high technology jobs earning an average salary of over \$80,000 and an overall employment impact of 363 jobs statewide. The Arkansas Research and Technology Park is now recognized as a State asset supporting the formation, growth and retention of emerging technology

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companies that add an important dimension to the state's economy. In that regard, the operations of the ARTP, including the business expenditures of the affiliate companies and the associated construction activity, have exceeded \$256.6 million since 2003. More importantly, these economic activities have had a combined economic output impact of \$643 million on the state of Arkansas. Labor income generated by these activities totals \$249.8 million and \$22 million in state and local taxes have been generated. In addition, the World Trade Center Arkansas assists Arkansas businesses to compete more effectively in the global marketplace. In the last seven years, the World Trade Center Arkansas has partnered with many firms across the state to establish or strengthen their global presence including comprehensive international business services, global connections, professional development and educational events.

- By supporting Arkansas high schools, students, and parents

The University of Arkansas conducts several programs geared to assist, encourage, and develop future college students. The Upward Bound Program gives students of high academic ability in grades 9-12 exposure to challenging pre-college experiences by showing them the study habits, essential skills, and discipline necessary for success in high school and college. The Academy for Mathematics and Sciences Program is a college preparation program designed to introduce students in grades 9-12 to opportunities in math and science and to encourage them to pursue post-secondary degrees in these fields. The Gifted and Talented Scholars Program serves students in grades 6-12 who possess exceptional academic ability and motivation and establishes a resource for students and parents in preparing for college. ACT Academy serves low-income, under-represented students with a five-day residential summer program that provides participants with the opportunity to improve their readiness for the ACT and to provide a college-like experience on the U of A campus. As a partner in the national UTeach program, the UATeach program is producing well-qualified teachers in the STEM areas and providing career options for majors in the sciences and mathematics to fill critical teaching needs across Arkansas.

- By supporting our veterans

The University of Arkansas operates the Veteran Resource and Information Center (VRIC). With the understanding that each student veteran has different needs, our services are adapted to the individual student

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veteran. The VRIC serves as the central point of contact for prospective or current University of Arkansas student veterans needing assistance with the admissions process, applying for military educational benefits and scholarships, and referrals to various academic departments around campus. Additionally, the VRIC maintains a large network within the community to refer students to organizations specializing in veteran services. As a result of these efforts, the University of Arkansas was voted in the Top 50 (#41) of “Best for Vets Colleges” by *Military Times* in 2016.

University of Arkansas Research

In FY 2016, the University expended about \$145 million in total research and development expenditures, almost \$41M coming from federal sources as reported to the National Science Foundation. These totals include not only the external research awards actually spent in that year, but also institutional funds invested in research, as well as funded and unfunded indirect costs. Research awards for FY2016 topped \$100 million, the highest level of research funding in the university’s history and a 27 percent increase over the previous year.

General Appropriation Request

The University of Arkansas is a formula driven entity and did not make a request for general appropriation. The increase in general appropriation is a result of the recommendation made by the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board through the formula driven by the number of credit hours students enroll and complete. These funds will be used to fund enrollment growth through new faculty hiring, to provide competitive salaries and fringe benefits for faculty and staff, and to fund required cost increases such as utilities and health care.

Personal Services Request

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The requested positions reflect an increase in faculty and staff to accommodate the growing numbers in enrollment, degree programs and research, as well as increases in the numbers of classes offered. In order to keep pace with these expansions, it becomes necessary to provide administration and support to meet the needs with faculty and additional programs and services, including campus safety, technology, and academic advisors.