General Information

Vision
By 2021, the University of Arkansas will be recognized as one of the nation’s top 50 public research universities with nationally ranked departments and programs throughout the institution.

Quick Facts
- **Location:** Fayetteville, Arkansas
- **Founded:** 1871
- **Enrollment:** 24,537 (Fall 2012)
- **Student-to-faculty ratio:** 19:1
- **Average ACT:** 26
- **Average high school GPA:** 3.6
- **Mission:** As a land grant university, the University of Arkansas strives to fulfill a three-fold mission of teaching, research and service. As the flagship campus of the University of Arkansas System, the University of Arkansas serves as the state’s major center of liberal and professional education and as the state’s main source of theoretical and applied research.

History
Founded in 1871 as a land-grant college and state university, the University of Arkansas established its campus on a hilltop overlooking the Ozark Mountains. There were few facilities and little money that first academic year, but the eight students and three faculty members who gathered for classes in 1872 showed the same dedication to learning and commitment to excellence that has carried the University of Arkansas into the 21st century.

More than 140 years later, the university’s enrollment is quickly approaching 25,000 and its students represent all 50 states and 120 countries. The university is the state’s foremost partner and resource for education and economic development. It serves as the major provider of graduate-level instruction in Arkansas. And its public service activities reach every county in Arkansas, throughout the nation, and around the world.

The University of Arkansas has 10 colleges and schools offering more than 210 academic programs including bachelor’s degrees in 75 fields of study — while maintaining a low student-to-faculty ratio of 19:1 that promotes personal attention and mentoring opportunities. Individual classes may range from a large general-lecture class of more than 400 to a focused special-topics class of 4 or 5 students. U of A students are given the tools and encouragement needed to excel. Over the last 15 years, Arkansas students have become Rhodes, Gates Cambridge, Madison, Marshall, Goldwater, Fulbright, Boren, Gilman and Truman scholars. Forty students have received National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowships.

Students pursue a broad spectrum of academic programs leading to baccalaureate, master’s, doctoral, and professional degrees, not only in traditional disciplines within arts, humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences, but also in the core professional areas of agricultural, food and life sciences; architecture; business; education; engineering; nursing; human environmental sciences; and law.

Students may also pursue a wide range of graduate degrees, including the Master’s, the Educational Specialist, the Doctor of Education, and the Doctor of Philosophy.

- The University of Arkansas is the state’s only institution classified as having the highest possible level of research by the Carnegie Foundation, placing the University among the top 2% of colleges and universities nationwide.
- A 2012 *U.S. News & World Report* survey of college leaders across the U.S. gave the University a top-10 ranking among public universities for having made “the most promising and innovative changes” to advance academics and the student learning experience.
- The University is consistently ranked as one of the nation’s best public values by multiple sources including:
  - *Kiplinger’s Personal Finance* — which ranked the U of A 65th on its top 100 ‘Best Values in Public Colleges’ list for 2012-2013.
  - *The Princeton Review* — which recognized the University as one of the top 75 schools on its “2013 Best Value Colleges” list.
  - *And Forbes* — which ranked the U of A 44th on its “Top 100 Best Buy Colleges” list last year.
- *U.S. News & World Report* ranked the Sam M. Walton College of Business No. 1 in the nation for fulltime MBA graduates employed at graduation. *U.S. News* also recognized Walton College as 27th best in the country among public undergraduate business schools.
- The Fay Jones School of Architecture tied for No. 1 in two different categories in the annual survey of “America’s Best Architecture and Design Schools,” a study conducted by the Design Futures Council and also published in the November/December 2012 issue of DesignIntelligence. Earning the top spot for “Regional Respect and Admiration” and “Best Small School Design Program,” the Fay Jones School was ranked 19th in the nation overall.
- *U.S. News & World Report* ranked the School of Law 36th among public law schools.
- The University has hosted the Dalai Lama, Elie Wiesel, Jane Goodall and President George W. Bush in recent years as a part of its Distinguished Lecture Series. And in 2012, President Bill Clinton kicked off the Dale and Betty Bumpers Distinguished Lecture Program.
- In 2012, the U of A’s Full Circle Campus Food Pantry finished second nationally in the Campus Champions of Change Challenge sponsored by the White House. More than 1,400 programs were nominated.
- Entrepreneurial teams from the University of Arkansas have won 16 national business-plan competitions, three times more than any other university. In 2012, the U of A became the only school in the 25-year history of the Super Bowl of business plan competitions to have three separate teams win a qualifying competition.
- University of Arkansas students won almost $2 million in awards last spring, including six National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowships, as well as highly prestigious Goldwater, Udall, and Truman Scholarships.
- Honors College enrollment has increased by 17 percent since 2009 while maintaining an average ACT score of 31 and GPA of 4.0. More than 50 percent of Honors College students who graduated in the last four years have studied abroad. And 100% of Honors College graduates have engaged in undergraduate research with faculty mentors.
- The University has made investments of more than $1.3 billion in new construction, major renovations and facilities enhancements since 2000.
As you make your way around campus, you’re sure to notice something unique about many of the sidewalks. Historic Senior Walk showcases the names of more than 150,000 University of Arkansas graduates, grouped by year of graduation starting in 1876. Senior Walk is the university’s longest tradition in both length and years. It’s concrete proof of the university’s commitment to students.

You won’t be able to discover everything the university has to offer in a day, but here are a few attractions that you don’t want to miss.

• **The Arkansas Union** — A primary gathering place for more than 40 years, the Arkansas Union serves as a place for students to attend educational and cultural events, access campus resources, eat, study and just meet friends between classes. The facility offers a food court, fitness center, technology center, bank, post office, Razorback shop, art gallery, theatre and much more.

• **Chi Omega Greek Theatre** — This replica of the original Chi Omega Greek Theatre is a popular place for concerts, pep rallies or just catching some rays between classes. Chi Omega, founded at the U of A in 1895 and now the largest women’s fraternity in the nation, donated the Greek Theatre in 1930.

• **Fulbright Peace Fountain and Sculpture** — These two impressive landmarks commemorate the legacy of the late U.S. Senator J. William Fulbright, a graduate and former president of the University of Arkansas. Fulbright famously helped create the Fulbright Scholarship Program, the largest international exchange program of its kind. Internationally-renowned architect E. Fay Jones, a U of A graduate and former dean of the School of Architecture, designed the Peace Statue.

• **Old Main** — This architectural centerpiece of campus opened for classes in 1876, making it the oldest building at the University of Arkansas. Visit the restored classrooms, take a closer look at the inner workings of the tower clock on the fourth floor and enjoy the shade of the trees on the scenic Old Main Lawn.

• **The Inn at Carnall Hall** — Built in 1905, the first women’s residence hall on campus is now a historic inn. The Inn at Carnall Hall is also home to the award-winning Ella’s Restaurant and Lambeth Lounge, the perfect spot for a little R&R on campus.

• **Silas Hunt Memorial Sculpture** — Near Old Main, you’ll find this tribute to the first black student to integrate a major Southern public university since Reconstruction. A veteran of World War II, Hunt was admitted without litigation into the University of Arkansas School of Law in 1948.

• **Pi Beta Phi Centennial Gate** — A new landmark, the gate serves as a formal entrance to the university’s historic core. The striking entranceway was a gift, commemorating the first 100 years of Pi Beta Phi on campus.

• **Il Porcellino** — This wild boar statue and fountain is a replica of the original Il Porcellino, in Florence, Italy. It’s Italian title, which means “piglet,” comes from the local Florentine nickname for the statue. One of many Razorback tributes on campus!

• **Razorback Stadium/Hall of Champions Museum** — Donald W. Reynolds Razorback Stadium is one of the finest collegiate football facilities in the nation and home to the Jerry Jones/Jim Lindsey Hall of Champions Museum, located in the Frank Broyles Athletic Center. Bud Walton Arena houses two more athletics museums.

• **WalMart On Campus** — The nation’s first Walmart on Campus is also the smallest Walmart in the country. It’s located in the Garland Center, which also includes the U of A Bookstore as well as boutiques, salons and dining options.

The campus features many other landmarks and noteworthy facilities including the Clinton House, the small brick home on campus in which future President Bill Clinton and future Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton lived while both served on the U of A’s law school faculty.

Fayetteville is routinely considered among the country’s finest college towns, and the area is regularly ranked as one of the best places to live and work in the U.S. A thriving city of 73,000, Fayetteville is located in the hilly northwest corner of the state.

Quickly gaining recognition as a nationwide center for arts and culture, the region is home to Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art. This world-class museum features a permanent collection of art spanning five centuries, from the Colonial area to the current day. The collection includes several works considered masterpieces. Crystal Bridges also offers miles of wilderness trails and a unique dining experience. If that’s not enough, admission is free. Another major cultural amenity, the Walton Arts Center, is located just two blocks from campus.

Dickson Street, one of the state’s most popular entertainment districts, is also just a short walk from campus. A part of Fayetteville’s downtown historic district, Dickson Street offers a variety of restaurants, boutiques, galleries, and clubs unique to the area. Fayetteville’s historic square, College Avenue and the area around the Northwest Arkansas Mall are also great places for shopping and dining. The Fayetteville Farmer’s Market, an area tradition since 1974, was recently named one of “America’s Favorite Farmer’s Markets.”

Nearby Rogers offers the region’s newest open-air shopping experience with many of the nation’s most popular shops and eateries. And Eureka Springs, a Victorian mountain village known as the “Little Switzerland of the Ozarks,” offers more than 100 specialty shops and 70 restaurants about 45 minutes from campus.

Arkansas is a natural wonder of forests, mountains and lakes framed by picturesque rivers and streams. Some of the nation’s best outdoor amenities and most spectacular hiking trails are within a short drive of campus. Devil’s Den State Park is a short distance south of Fayetteville. Beaver Lake is 30 minutes to the northeast. Hawksbill Crag and the Buffalo National River, America’s first National River and one of the few remaining undammed rivers in the lower 48 states, are an hour’s drive to the east. Even closer to campus, Fayetteville’s Botanical Garden of the Ozarks offers another outdoor option.

Northwest Arkansas is one of the most economically stable regions in the nation and serves as the base of operations for Walmart, Tyson Foods Inc. and J.B. Hunt Transport Services. Because of their presence, many other corporations have established primary or secondary headquarters in the region. Their close proximity to the U of A campus, along with their executives’ and employees’ active involvement in university life, offers students and faculty exceptional opportunities for research partnerships, internships, and post-graduation employment.

The Northwest Arkansas Regional Airport has direct flights to most major metropolitan areas, including Atlanta, Chicago, Cincinatti, Charlotte, Dallas, Denver, Houston, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Minneapolis, New York and Orlando, and the city is within a day’s drive of several larger metropolitan areas, including Dallas, Kansas City, Little Rock, Memphis, St. Louis and Tulsa.