



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING



UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS RICH MOUNTAIN

AND

UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS AT MONTICELLO

This Memorandum of Understanding (Agreement) between University of Arkansas Rich Mountain (hereinafter, UARM) and the University of Arkansas at Monticello (hereinafter, UAM) defines a robust collaboration aimed at increasing post-secondary degree attainment in Arkansas. This signed document represents a commitment on the part of the administration and faculty to combine their efforts to ensure that students have ample degree opportunities throughout Arkansas.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Agreement is to facilitate the admission and transfer of eligible UARM students into approved baccalaureate degree programs offered by UAM and delivered on the UARM campus. Both parties agree to offer students a seamless degree completion option to improve the economic status and employment opportunities available to students residing in Polk, Montgomery, and Scott Counties, Arkansas. The partners wish to do this by collaboration and coordination of resources, maintaining strong communication, and building reliable and permanent pathways for students to earn bachelor's and other advanced degrees.

The collaboration between UAM and UARM is designed to:

- Establish a pathway for UARM students to graduate with degrees awarded by UAM in Polk, Montgomery, and Scott Counties;
- Enhance the economic development of Polk, Montgomery, and Scott Counties and Arkansas by providing baccalaureate educational opportunities locally;
- Expand and strengthen the academic programs of both schools;
- Foster collaboration between faculty of the two institutions; and
- Create additional research/career networking opportunities for students.

NEED AND EXPECTATIONS

The addition of locally offered bachelor's degrees and the possibility of advanced degrees in Polk, Montgomery, and Scott Counties will help to increase the earning power and capability of the local workforce.

COURSES AND DEGREE PROGRAMS

Any degree programs offered by UAM at UARM will use the same admission and progression requirements and the same course requirements as stated in the UAM Undergraduate Catalog. Academic guidance for any degree program will be provided as outlined in this Agreement.

Prospective bachelor's degree students will be provided information concerning the academic preparation required for enrollment in and completion of the degree programs. While UARM and UAM will each have full authority over their own institution's courses, degree programs, and assessments of faculty qualifications, representatives from both institutions will have input into all decisions that directly impact the delivery of degree programs on the UARM campus (e.g., scheduling of courses, classroom facilities, and other logistical issues). It is agreed that UAM will emphasize quality in all degree programs offered at UARM and will apply its own on-campus evaluations and assessments for UAM courses, degree programs, and graduates.

Degree programs will be added as addenda to this parent Agreement, as mutually agreed upon by the respective Chief Academic Officers at UARM and UAM. Specific course requirements for each degree program will be reviewed and agreed upon by the Deans under whom the specific degree resides.

SUPERVISION OF DEGREE PROGRAMS

UAM academic programs offered at UARM will be under the supervision of the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and the appropriate Dean. The Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and the appropriate Dean will review the degree programs each year with the appropriate UARM representatives.

OPERATION OF PROGRAMS

It is the intent of this Agreement that when possible, UARM students complete all courses required for the UARM associate degree before entering the bachelor's degree program with UAM onsite at UARM.

- Only students who have been officially admitted to UAM may enroll in courses offered by UAM at UARM.
- Once admitted to UAM, students will be advised jointly throughout their degree program by a UARM and UAM advisor.
- Registration for UAM courses will be processed through the UAM registration system.
- All student withdrawals and course additions will be processed through UAM and will adhere to UAM policies.
- The UAM Registrar will issue official transcripts for all UAM courses and the UARM Registrar will issue official transcripts for all UARM courses.
- Once students begin seeking their baccalaureate degree with UAM, the UAM Financial Aid Office will serve as the contact for students seeking financial assistance (Pell, Arkansas Challenge, FAFSA, etc.). UARM students enrolled in these programs will have the opportunity to compete for select transfer scholarships if qualified.
- All books and course supplies will be listed in UAM course syllabi. Students may obtain books and supplies through the UAM e-commerce system or through alternative sources approved by the institutions.

- Students enrolled in the degree programs will receive both UARM and UAM identification cards, which grant them student privileges at both institutions.
- UARM will share classroom, instructional laboratory, office, internet, library, and other infrastructure needs as required by UAM as an investment in student success and degree attainment.
- UARM will pay qualified faculty, according to ADHE and HLC standards, to teach UAM courses onsite at UARM. If UARM faculty exceed their normal course load in order to teach a UAM course, then UAM will pay the faculty as part-time faculty according to UAM Operating Procedure 435.1. UAM will consider UARM teaching experience as UAM teaching experience to determine part-time faculty compensation.
- UARM will provide proctoring services free of charge for students enrolled in UAM programs.
- UAM and UARM will work together to provide public relations support to amplify advanced degree opportunities for students and to provide communication of program information.

FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

The UARM Business Office and UAM Business Office will work together to manage all financial transactions related to this Agreement.

- Under this Agreement, students enrolled in courses offered by UAM will pay all tuition and fees set forth by UAM. Tuition and fee charges may be adjusted as UAM deems necessary and as approved by the U of A System Board of Trustees.
- The UAM Financial Aid Office will disburse financial aid for the semester in which the qualified student is concurrently enrolled at both institutions per the UARM-UAM Consortium Agreement for Financial Aid. When financial aid is disbursed, UAM will keep the amount owed to UAM and will send any remaining balance to the student. There is no guarantee that the student's financial aid will cover the balance at both institutions. It is the student's responsibility to make payment arrangements with UARM and UAM as needed.
- UARM and UAM will work together to produce a financially efficient delivery model that will result in most of the investment being made in faculty and student success.
- This collaboration will be intentional about minimizing administrative overhead and avoiding the addition of recurring costs to the state budget.

AMENDMENT

The Agreement may be amended upon mutual written agreement of the parties.

We, the undersigned, as representatives of the organizations above, agree to this Memorandum of Understanding.

UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS AT MONTICELLO

Peggy Doss 6-1-26
Dr. Peggy Doss Date
Chancellor

UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS RICH MOUNTAIN

Phillip Wilson 6-1-26
Dr. Phillip Wilson Date
Chancellor