



OUACHITA
BAPTIST UNIVERSITY



OPPORTUNITY PROFILE



INTRODUCTION

Ouachita Baptist University, a private liberal arts university in Arkadelphia, Arkansas, is in its 137th year as a Christ-centered learning community.

Ouachita continues to experience considerable institutional momentum. During the past seven years, Ouachita's enrollment has increased by almost 18%. Fall 2023 enrollment is the highest in 57 years, with a headcount of nearly 1800 students. On-campus enrollment is the highest since 2011, while enrollment in all colleges and universities in the state combined decreased during that period. The first-time freshman student cohort is distinctive: half earned a high school grade point average of 4.0 or higher, 5% graduated first in their high school class, more than 30 are Arkansas Governor's Distinguished Scholars, more than 17% are students of color, and 23% are first-generation college students.

Ouachita is ranked among the best national liberal arts universities in the country by *U.S. News & World Report* and among the top 20 Christian colleges in the nation by Niche.com. Learn more about the university's highly personal approach, reflected in a student/faculty ratio of 14:1, at www.obu.edu.

Ouachita has experienced growth not only in the number of enrolled students but also in the number of academic programs offered at the undergraduate and graduate levels. At the undergraduate level, programs in criminal justice, engineering and nursing have begun. In recent years, Ouachita's strategic decision to serve non-traditional degree-seeking students at the undergraduate and graduate levels reflects a desire to serve society better. At the graduate level, Ouachita has added a Master of Science degree in applied behavior analysis, a Master of Education degree in curriculum and instruction, and a Master of Science in Nutrition/Dietetic Internship program; launched in Fall 2023 are a Master of Science degree in exercise science and a Master of Business Administration degree.

During the past seven years, the university has received a record number of philanthropic gifts, achieved a record high for its endowment and is stronger financially than any time in the past quarter century. During the 2020-21 academic year, during a pandemic, Ouachita was one of the few universities in the country to have a fully in-person experience. It reflected the collective efforts of students, faculty, and staff to care for one another and have a meaningful campus life.





UNIVERSITY OVERVIEW

Ouachita was established in 1886 by the Arkansas Baptist State Convention and remains strongly connected to the ABSC. Ouachita's statements of vision, mission, and values anchor its distinct approach to Christian higher education. The university's five-year strategic plan guides its focus.

Ouachita is in Arkadelphia, Arkansas, a city of 11,000, that is one hour southwest of Little Rock and four hours northeast of Dallas, Texas. The beautiful campus is situated on a bluff overlooking the Ouachita River, surrounded by two million acres of forests, within a 10-minute drive to DeGray Lake Resort State Park and close to other lakes, rivers, and trails.

The university is primarily a residential undergraduate institution with 97% of students living in campus housing. About 62% of students are from Arkansas, 26% from Texas and the balance from another 24 states and 22 countries. Academically, the university is organized into seven academic schools: Business, Christian Studies, Education, Fine Arts, Humanities, Natural Sciences and Social Sciences.

The university's highly residential nature is part of a commitment to a vibrant campus life that contributes to a holistic education. It includes required Chapel and a range of opportunities for ministry and spiritual development. There are over 50 student organizations and clubs for leadership, service, and affiliation, as well as a robust intramural sports and outdoor recreation program. On average, students, faculty, and staff volunteer 40,000 hours each year locally, nationally, and globally. The university fields 18 athletics teams involving 25% of the student body at the NCAA Division II level.

The university employs faculty and staff who have an active Christian faith; identify with its vision, mission, and values; are devoted to helping students experience academic progress, personal development, and spiritual growth; and are committed to excellence and collegiality in their work. Ouachita is known for a highly personalized approach to students.

The university occupies 200 acres and includes 51 buildings with 1.3 million square feet. Several improvements to the campus have occurred recently, including a new 144-bed student apartment complex and the state-of-the-art Whisenhunt Nursing Education Center.

The university is governed by a 24-member Board of Trustees whose appointments are approved by the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.





FOUNDATIONAL STATEMENTS

VISION Ouachita Baptist University seeks to foster a love of God and a love of learning by creating for students and other constituents' dynamic growth opportunities both on campus and throughout the world. With foresight and faithfulness, Ouachita makes a difference.

MISSION Ouachita Baptist University is a Christ-centered learning community. Embracing the liberal arts tradition, the university prepares individuals for ongoing intellectual and spiritual growth, lives of meaningful work and reasoned engagement with the world.

VALUES Ouachita strives to be an academic community of vision, integrity, and service grounded in the following values:

FAITH We believe that life is lived most abundantly in response to the love of God through Jesus Christ.

SCHOLARSHIP We advance excellence in teaching, learning, research, and creative expression.

GROWTH We foster broad-based education, encouraging growth in intellectual, spiritual, physical, and social domains.

CHARACTER We affirm that respect and honesty undergird responsible citizenship and stewardship.

COMMUNITY We promote a vibrant community strengthened by diversity, sustained by common aims and supportive relationships, and committed to leadership and service on campus and beyond.

LEARNING GOALS UNDERGRADUATE

Through all its undergraduate educational programs – curricular and co-curricular, classroom and experiential – Ouachita promotes the following goals for student learning:

- Intellectual and applied skills that promote competency and lifelong learning, including articulate communication; critical and creative thinking; analytical and quantitative reasoning; scientific reasoning; and information literacy.
- Engagement with content and methods of the major domains of knowledge.
- Heightened awareness of personal and social responsibility, including the ability and inclination to practice civic engagement, ethical reasoning, personal integrity, stewardship, physical well-being, and spiritual growth.
- Appreciation for cultural diversity and development of intercultural competence for constructive engagement in both local and global contexts.
- Depth of knowledge and skills in a chosen discipline or combination of disciplines sufficient to provide the foundation for advanced study, professional competence, and meaningful work.
- Ability to connect learning across disciplines and apply knowledge and skills to solve problems.

LEARNING GOALS GRADUATE

By offering advanced study in selected fields, Ouachita aims to promote scholarly achievement, enhance professional expertise, encourage faithful stewardship, and graduate highly capable professionals ready to assume places of leadership and service. Students completing the university's graduate programs are expected to accomplish the following:

- Demonstrate graduate-level mastery of the knowledge and skills central to scholarly inquiry and professional practice within a field of study.
- Develop a reasoned approach to the role of faith in scholarly and professional pursuits and responsibly relate Christian perspectives to disciplinary practice.
- Interpret and apply ethical insights and decision-making in the context of one's intended profession.
- Communicate a personal vision of vocation, including how one can contribute meaningfully to one's profession and broader community.



LIBERAL ARTS COMMITMENT

Since its founding in 1886, Ouachita has aimed to unite a broad-based education in the liberal arts with preparation for service in a variety of fields. In the context of an overarching fidelity to Christian faith and practice, Ouachita's educational mission remains rooted in the liberal arts tradition and oriented toward preparing graduates for meaningful work.

Ouachita's general education program, known as the Ouachita Core, combines the liberal arts tradition with knowledge and skills that prepare graduates for meaningful work and effective service to God and others. A freshman seminar, OBU Connections, introduces students to the institutional mission and helps them understand how Christian faith influences Ouachita's distinctive approach to a liberal arts education. The Core also provides a shared intellectual experience for students and helps them develop analytical skills; artistic, linguistic, and cultural appreciation; an inclination toward civic engagement; and a commitment to a healthy lifestyle. Interdisciplinary perspectives within the Core encourage students to make connections across disciplines and understand the complexity and diversity of the world they inhabit. As students progress through their major field of study, they hone the skills developed in the Core, achieving higher levels of competence and engagement by the time they graduate.





AT A GLANCE

STRATEGIC PLAN

The university's direction and momentum have been guided and fueled by the current five-year strategic plan, which includes six strategic directions and 24 goals. The strategic directions are:

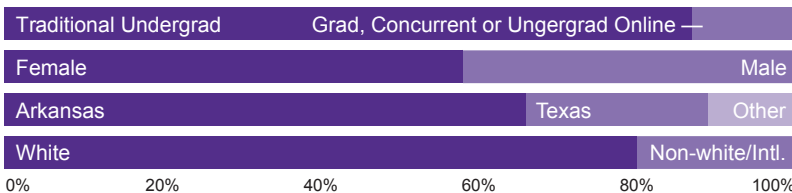
- Sustain Christ-centered identity.
- Advance faculty/staff support.
- Ensure transformative learning.
- Grow residential enrollment.
- Diversify educational offerings.
- Strengthen key partnerships.

ACCREDITATION

The university is accredited by the **Higher Learning Commission**. Individual programs are accredited by:

- Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN)
- Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND)
- Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB)
- Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP)
- National Association of Schools of Music (NASM)

1,750 TYPICAL TOTAL ENROLLMENT



-18-
NCAA
Division II
 ATHLETICS TEAMS

25
AVERAGE
ACT SCORE

40,000+
VOLUNTEER
HOURS

INVESTED ANNUALLY BY
OUACHITA COMMUNITY

60+ **ACADEMIC**
PROGRAMS
 IN 7 ACADEMIC SCHOOLS



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 profs about our programs**

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99%

JOB OR GRADUATE SCHOOL
PLACEMENT
 FOR UNDERGRADS

TUITION, FEES, ROOM & BOARD (2023-24): \$41,520



**It's [Wash-i-tah] - in case
 you were wondering**

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**Learn about Arkadelphia
 & the surrounding area**

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ACADEMIC ENVIRONMENT

STUDENT ACADEMIC ENVIRONMENT

Student engagement and high-impact, experiential learning are hallmarks of the Ouachita experience.

- The Carl Goodson Honors Program enriches the curriculum by offering participants innovative honors seminars, opportunities for grant-funded travel for scholarly research and individual faculty mentoring through directed study and honors thesis projects.
- In the sciences, the Patterson Summer Research Program supports students and professors in collaborative research that often leads to publications and conference presentations.
- Business students manage the Ary Student Investment Fund, an investment portfolio of \$2 million, and the annual Business Plan Competition offers all students an opportunity to develop their entrepreneurial skills and compete for startup funds.
- Students interested in film studies may participate in the Sundance Film Festival and Windrider Forum, which approaches critical analysis of contemporary film from Christian perspectives.
- The Grant Center for International Education supports a broad range of study abroad opportunities, including a three-week European Study Tour led by Ouachita faculty.
- The Elrod Center for Family and Community enables both students and faculty to engage in course-based, service-learning projects and other service opportunities.
- Internships are required in several majors and encouraged in many others.
- An annual celebration of student academic achievement known as Scholars Day takes place in the late spring, when students from every discipline are encouraged to present their scholarly and creative work to their peers, faculty members, and guests.

FACULTY ACADEMIC ENVIRONMENT

Characterized by strong traditions of faculty engagement, the academic environment fosters both collegial relationships and opportunities for scholarly and creative work.

- A biweekly Faculty Colloquium, launched nearly 50 years ago, features faculty presentations to colleagues on their research, creative endeavors, and professional development activities.
- A monthly faculty/staff book discussion group, the Gutenberg Conspiracy, fosters a lively exchange of ideas across disciplines.
- The university promotes ongoing scholarly and creative activities through sabbaticals and faculty development grants designed to promote research, professional development, academic enrichment, and teaching effectiveness.
- Endowed professorships provide additional support for faculty who have demonstrated scholarly and professional excellence.





ESSENTIAL FACULTY CHARACTERISTICS

- Authentic Christian faith lived out through personal discipleship and active involvement in a local church
- Exemplary character and personal integrity in accordance with biblical standards
- Enthusiastic support for and ability to articulate the university's vision, mission, values and learning goals to all constituents
- Appreciation for Ouachita's institutional history, culture and traditions, understanding of and commitment to the liberal arts tradition
- Evidence of successful classroom teaching, scholarship and professional activity
- Earned appropriate terminal degree for appointment as tenure track professor
- Engagement with the local community, including willingness to reside in or near Arkadelphia

Education is more than the transference of knowledge, it is the transmission of values, culture, and the proper ordering of loves — Ravi Jain & Kevin Clark, "The Liberal Arts Tradition: A Philosophy of Christian Classical Education"



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