

# ADMISSIONS, FINANCIAL AID, AND SCHOLARSHIPS

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Office of Admissions and Financial Aid  
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Little Rock, AR 72204-1099

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<http://ualr.edu/admissions/>

The Office of Admissions and Financial Aid may also be reached by phone at (501) 569-3127. Students who want to enroll at UALR should correspond with the Office of Admissions and Financial Aid as soon as possible because official determination of eligibility can be made only on receipt of official credentials.

After reviewing the appropriate credentials, an admissions counselor will determine if a student may be accepted or deferred admission. Non-degree seeking students will be classified as transient, temporary, non-degree seeking, or another classification. See "Other Admissions Categories" on page 12.

To ensure that all necessary requirements for admission have been fulfilled before registration, students are urged to submit all transcripts of previous academic work at least 30 days before registration. Transcripts from other institutions of higher education must be official and sent directly to UALR's Office of Admissions and Financial Aid by the institution or hand delivered in a sealed envelope.

Foreign Transcripts: Applicants who have completed college or university-level courses in another country comparable to course credits in the U.S. must submit a course-by-course evaluation that gives U.S. equivalencies for each course and a conversion of the foreign grading scale and credit system into a 4.0 grading scale and semester credit system. For example, World Education Services ([www.wes.org](http://www.wes.org)) and the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers ([www.aacrao.org/international/foreignEdCred.cfm](http://www.aacrao.org/international/foreignEdCred.cfm)) are two highly reputable non-profit organizations that provide evaluations of education credentials from all countries of the world.

## Admissions

### Admissions Categories

#### Entering Freshmen

First-time entering freshmen are persons who have never been enrolled in an institution of higher education since graduating from high school or earning a GED. Such applicants must submit:

1. Completed application for admission
2. Official high school transcript or GED scores
3. ACT, SAT, or COMPASS scores taken within the previous five years
4. Proof of two MMR immunizations (required of all applicants born after January 1, 1957)

#### Transfer Students

Transfer students are those who have been enrolled previously in a higher institution of learning and have at least 12 transferable college credit hours and a grade point average of at least 2.00 on all previous college work to be granted regular admission. Such applicants must submit:

1. Completed application for admission
2. Official transcript from each college previously attended sent to UALR's Office of Admission and Financial Aid by the college

3. Proof of two MMR immunizations (required of all applicants born after January 1, 1957)

Transfer credit from regionally accredited institutions will be evaluated only after a completed application for admission and final transcripts have been received. See "Transferring Coursework" on page 26. Transcripts from institutions not accredited by the regional accrediting associations will be handled at the discretion of the Director of Records and Registration. Students presenting such transcripts may be given provisional credit subject to the satisfactory completion of further work at UALR in subjects for which they are asking advanced standing and a satisfactory grade point average. However, such transcripts may be refused altogether.

Only official transcripts will be accepted for evaluation. They must include complete records of the courses taken at all other institutions and be sent to UALR by the institutions. The director may also request that a catalog or bulletin of the years covered by the transcript be presented.

#### Provisional Admission

Transfer students who have not submitted all credentials necessary for admission by the application deadline may be admitted provisionally. In such cases, the student is admitted with the provision that s/he submit the missing admission credentials by the end of the term during which provisional admission was granted. The credentials will be evaluated upon receipt, and the student will be admitted and placed in the appropriate student status, or deferred admission.

If evaluation of the records shows that the student does not meet UALR's minimum admission requirements, the student may be required to reduce the number of courses for which he or she is currently enrolled. For example, the student may be limited to no more than seven credit hours of enrollment. Such reductions may occur after the semester has already begun, in which case the student may be required to withdraw from one or more courses.

### Admissions Deadlines and Criteria

#### Deadlines

Deadlines are strictly enforced. Entering freshmen must apply for admission and provide all required academic credentials one week prior to the start of classes. Freshmen are also required to be advised prior to the first day of classes.

All other applicants must apply for admission prior to the first day of classes.

Students unable to provide valid academic credentials prior to the start of classes may be admitted provisionally. See the section on provisional admission on the following page.

Students who have fewer than 12 acceptable transfer credits from another college or university must meet all of the admission requirements for entering freshmen. Students with 12 or more acceptable transfer credits must meet the admission requirements listed for transfer students.

Beginning September 1, 2009, all entering students will be charged an admission application fee.

Students granted provisional admissions who do not submit the missing credentials by the end of the term will not be permitted to enroll in subsequent terms until the admission requirements have been satisfied. Under no circumstances may students admitted provisionally be changed to non-degree seeking student status. Students on provisional status are not eligible to receive financial aid and are limited to 13 hours in the fall, spring, or summer semesters.

## Criteria for Regular Admission

### High School Core Curriculum

The college preparatory core curriculum for Arkansas high school students used in UALR's freshman admission requirements may be changed by action of the Arkansas state legislature. UALR's admission requirements apply to the college preparatory core curriculum in place when the student graduates from high school. High school students should work closely with their counselors to be sure to take the appropriate courses.

The transcripts of students who attend high school and apply to UALR will be examined for presence of the college preparatory core curriculum courses. The transcripts of students who attended high school outside of Arkansas will be examined for equivalent courses.

First-time entering freshman students not meeting the necessary requirements may be admitted as described below.

### First-time Entering Freshmen

To be eligible for admission a student must have earned a grade point average of at least 2.00 on the Arkansas high school core in effect at the time of graduation from high school, and have one of the following:

- A cumulative high school grade point average of 2.5
- An ACT composite score of 21 (enhanced)<sup>1</sup>, a combined verbal/math SAT I score of at least 990, or comparable COMPASS score taken within the last five years

### Transfer Students

Transfer students must have 12 transferable college credit hours and a grade point average of at least 2.00 on all previous college work to be granted regular admission.

## Admission of International Students

See the "Office of International Services" section.

## Other Admissions Categories

### Donaghey Scholars Program Admission Information

The Donaghey Scholars Program is an honors program with a separate admissions process. This process uses test scores, written essays, recommendations, and personal interview to determine whether the student would benefit from admission to the program. Call (501) 569-3389 for more information.

### Freshman Early Admission

Students who have completed the 8th, 9th, 10th, or 11th grade will be considered for admission provided they present a junior high or high school transcript indicating a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.00 and an ACT composite score of at least 21 (enhanced) or an SAT I total score of at least 990. The test must be taken on a national test date. Additionally, students who have not completed the 11th grade must achieve sub-scores on the ACT or SAT that meet the minimums necessary to qualify for college-level courses in order to be eligible for admission. The Admissions and Transfer of Credit Committee must approve the admission of these students. A personal interview with the Committee and/or additional testing may be required. Students under 18 years of age must also obtain their parent's or guardian's permission to enroll, permission of the high school counselor or principal, and approval of the instructor of the class they plan to attend at UALR.

All students seeking early admission must obtain an advisor through University College prior to enrolling at UALR. Students who qualify may take advantage of this program by:

- Enrollment in a summer term, then returning to junior high or high school
- Enrollment in a summer term or fall semester as a beginning freshman
- Enrollment in a limited number of college-level courses while completing junior high and/or high school.

UALR is not responsible for guaranteeing high school diplomas under this arrangement; however, campus officials will cooperate with state or local school administrators concerning regulations for awarding a diploma to successful participants in this program. All college credit earned under this plan will apply toward a degree at UALR. Students in this category are not eligible for federal aid.

## High School Concurrent Enrollment

Concurrent enrollment is permitted, subject to the approval of the appropriate academic advisors.<sup>2</sup> Students are only eligible to receive financial aid funding from their primary institution.

Under state law UALR may concurrently admit qualified high school students to its academic programs as part-time students. To be eligible for high school concurrent enrollment, the applicant must meet one of the following requirements:

- Complete at least 50% of the state-recommended college preparatory courses with a minimum grade point average of 2.5
- Achieve a minimum overall high school grade point average of 3.0
- Achieve a minimum composite score of 21 on the ACT

Admission under these guidelines does not guarantee that a student may be enrolled in a particular course. Individual university departments may restrict enrollment into specific courses based on the following criteria:

- Acceptable score on a departmentally-approved placement or proficiency test
- Acceptable sub-scores on the ACT in the specific subject area
- Permission of the department chair or instructor

Prospective students for high school concurrent enrollment must submit a completed UALR undergraduate admission application.

Tuition and other fees for students attending UALR under high school concurrent enrollment are the same as for regular undergraduate students. Students in this category are not eligible for federal aid.

### Home-Schooled or GED

Students who were home schooled or completed a GED are eligible for regular admission if they have an ACT of 21, SAT I of 990, or acceptable COMPASS score. Otherwise they may be admitted subject to credit hour limitations.

### Non-degree Seeking Students

Non-degree seeking status does not require the submission of transcripts or ACT/SAT scores, but students must submit proof of immunization. It is available on a limited basis to students who wish to enroll in courses for personal enrichment or career development and do not plan to earn a certificate or degree at UALR.

Temporary students are not eligible for student financial aid or veteran's benefits, nor are they eligible to enroll in RHET 1311 Composition I, MATH 1302 College Algebra, or 1315 College Math.

### Nonresidents

UALR students are governed by the University of Arkansas Board of Trustees' policy on student residency status. Those classified as nonresidents of Arkansas must pay higher tuition in addition to regular registration fees. Questions about residency status and requests for the written policy should be directed to the Office of Admissions and Financial Aid.

### Post-baccalaureate Students

Students who already have a bachelor's degree who wish to take additional undergraduate courses are required to submit an official transcript from the institution that granted the degree, proof of

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1. Students with test sub-scores below the state minimum requirement will be placed in the appropriate developmental courses. For placement purposes, students 25 years old and older prior to applying for admission may opt to take either the ACT (or SAT) or a UALR set of placement tests. Placement tests must be completed before a student can be officially admitted.

2. A student should obtain a Special Exception form for this purpose in the Office of Records and Registration.

immunization, and an admission application to the Office of Admissions and Financial Aid. Post-baccalaureate students are not eligible for federal grants.

### Previously Enrolled Students

Previously enrolled students who have attended another institution since attending UALR must submit an admission application and an official transcript mailed directly from the other institution(s) attended.

### Readmission

Students who have not enrolled at UALR for two years or longer must reapply for admission. Such students who have attended other institutions in the interim should apply as a previously enrolled transfer student.

### Students Over Age 60

Any Arkansas resident who is over 60 and has been admitted as a student at UALR shall receive a tuition waiver once proof of age has been provided to the Bursar's Office on a space-available basis. Students qualifying for the waiver will be permitted to register only on the last day of the regular and late registration periods each academic term. If a course section has no available slots and additional students are attempting to register, students receiving the waiver may be removed from that course section. Exceptions may be granted to students who agree to forgo the waiver of tuition.

Verification of age will be required in the first semester a student qualifies for and accepts the waiver. If the student is degree seeking, transcripts are required from all institutions for transfer work. Students in this category are not eligible for federal aid.

### Students Whose First Language is Not English

Any applicant for whom English is not the first language must provide proof of English language proficiency and academic skill proficiency before starting classes at UALR. This includes refugees, immigrants, permanent residents, and citizens.

English proficiency may be demonstrated in one of four ways by all students whose first language is not English, regardless of entry status:

- A score of at least 525 (paper-based) or 197 (computer-based) earned within the last two years on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) and a score of at least 4 points earned within the last two years on the Test of Written English (TWE).
- A score of 85 percent or above on the institutional English language proficiency test administered by the UALR Intensive English Language Program.
- Complete the Intensive English Language Program.
- An ACT score of at least 21 on both the English and Reading sections of the test.

All other admission requirements must be met.

### Transient Students

Students enrolled in an institution of higher education to which they intend to return who wish to take courses at UALR must submit a letter of good standing from the institution in which they are enrolled. Transient status is limited to one semester or two summer terms. Further enrollment in this status is not permitted unless the student has returned to his or her original institution or has attended another institution before reapplying. Students in this category are not eligible for federal aid.

## Financial Aid & Scholarships

UALR offers aid from various sources including federal and state governments, colleges, and private organizations, to help students pay for their studies. Financial aid and Scholarships are meant to supplement a student's ability to pay for college costs including tuition and fees, room and board, books, supplies, transportation, and other educational expenses.

To be eligible for any form of financial aid, a student must be accepted for admission with an eligible admission status and be enrolled at UALR as a degree-seeking student. Students who wish to apply for financial assistance must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Financial Aid (FAFSA) each year. Students may apply online at <http://www.fasfa.ed.gov/>. Applications are available in January of each year and students are encouraged to apply early.

Additional financial aid information can be obtained by calling (501) 569-3035 or by e-mailing: [financialaid@ualr.edu](mailto:financialaid@ualr.edu).

## Financial Aid

Financial aid available to UALR students includes grants, loans, scholarships, and employment. Aid packages can include a combination of different types of aid.

- *Grants*: financial aid that the recipient does not have to pay back
- *Loans*: borrowed money that must be repaid with interest
- *Scholarships*: gift aid with eligibility based on academic achievements, talents, skills, or merit
- *Employment*: part-time on-campus and community service jobs that allow the student to earn money to help pay for school.

The majority of the financial aid available at UALR is provided by the federal government. The State of Arkansas also provides student aid, as do UALR and its contributors.

### Federal Aid

The U.S. Department of Education provides funding for grants, student loans, scholarships, and employment. Most awards are based on financial need; some are based on merit. Federal student aid includes the Federal Pell Grant, Federal Stafford Loans, Federal Parent Loan for Undergraduate Students, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants, Federal Work Study, and various scholarship awards. The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is the application required for all federal financial aid and can be completed on-line at [www.fasfa.ed.gov](http://www.fasfa.ed.gov). The UALR school code is 001101.

### State Aid

The Arkansas Department of Higher Education (ADHE) provides loans, grants, and scholarships to Arkansas residents enrolled at UALR. Award criteria include financial need, academic achievement, and/or study of specific subjects. For additional information about financial aid, call ADHE at (800) 54-STUDY, or in the Little Rock area, (501) 371-2050, or visit [www.adhe.edu](http://www.adhe.edu).

### Private Aid

UALR offers scholarships and grants-in-aid provided by institutional and departmental funds, private foundations, corporations, and individuals. Eligibility requirements vary. Criteria for different scholarships include academic achievement, demonstrated talent or ability, a specific major or student classification, university or community involvement, and/or financial need. Some scholarships are available for part-time students.

The deadline to apply for UALR scholarships is March 1 for the coming academic year. Contact the Office of Development to obtain a complete list of UALR Private Scholarships. This includes the names and necessary qualifications for a number of scholarships. Students must also complete a current Free Application for Student Aid (FAFSA) to apply for UALR private scholarships. For Entering Freshman and Shelby Breedlove (two-year college graduate) Scholarships contact the Office of Admissions and Financial Aid. For specific academic or talent awards and scholarships, or contact the appropriate department. Areas in which scholarships are offered include athletics, chemistry, education, English, fine arts, geography, history, journalism, School of Law, marketing, military science, music, nursing, political science, psychology, rehabilitation of the blind, School of Social Work, speech, and theatre.

### Veterans Benefits

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs provides basic programs for veterans and service members seeking assistance for education or training. Veterans and service members who entered the military from January 1, 1977 through June 30, 1985 may receive educational assistance under the Veterans Educational Assistance Program (VEAP) contributory plan. Individuals entering on active duty after June 30, 1985 may receive benefits under the Montgomery GI Bill contributory plan. Another educational entitlement program, referred to as the Montgomery GI Bill Selected Reserve (chapter 1606 and 1607 REAP), is available for members of the Selected Reserve, including the National Guard. Note: The Post 9/11 GI Bill is a new education benefit program for individuals who served on active duty on or after September 11, 2001. Please visit the website [www.gibill.va.gov](http://www.gibill.va.gov) or call 1-888-GIBILL-1 for additional information.

The noncontributory GI Bill ended on December 31, 1989. No benefits are payable for any training pursued on or after January 1, 1990 under this bill.

Monthly educational assistance benefits are based on the number of hours of enrollment. Full-time enrollment for an undergraduate student during fall and spring terms is 12 hours or more; three-quarter enrollment is 9 to 11 hours; half-time enrollment is 6 to 8 hours. For fewer than six

hours only tuition and fees are reimbursed, except in the case of the MGIB for Selected Reserve/National Guard (Chapter 1606), these benefits are based on one-fourth of the full-time amount. Full-time enrollment for graduate students during fall and spring terms is 9 hours or more; three-quarters enrollment is 6 to 8 hours; half-time enrollment is 3 to 5 hours. Summer benefits for both graduate and undergraduate students are based on the number of hours enrolled and the number of weeks in the term.

There are Survivors/Dependents benefits for eligible persons. For further information contact the VA Regional Office at (800) 827-1000.

Other services available under the Veteran's Affairs educational benefits include tutorial assistance, educational loans, and work-study.

Students classified as nondegree seeking or provisional may be eligible to receive Veteran's Education benefits for one semester.

All eligible persons wishing to apply for Veteran's Affairs educational benefits should contact the Office of Admissions and Financial Aid at (501) 569-3035.

## Scholarships

UALR offers a number of full-tuition scholarships. Chancellor's Leadership Corps Scholarships are awarded to freshmen who have demonstrated outstanding leadership capability in high school activities. Donaghey Scholars Program Scholarships are most often awarded to high school seniors with exceptional academic promise. See "Academic Policies & Requirements" on page 25 for specific academic or talent awards and scholarships, or contact the appropriate department.

CyberScholar scholarships are awarded to outstanding entering students in Computer Science, Information Science, and Systems Engineering. EAST Scholarships are available to selected students who participated in the EAST Program in high school.

Entering Freshman Scholarships are based on availability of funds and awarded to selected high school seniors who meet the February 1 deadline and have at least an ACT composite score of 24. A Freshman Award may also be available to students with an ACT composite score of at least 22. There are also scholarships available to students transferring from Arkansas public junior and community colleges. Applications and

further information for these scholarships are available from the Office of Admissions and Financial Aid.

## Private Scholarships and Awards

The Office of Development publishes a comprehensive list of private scholarships and awards available to all students. Additional information as well as applications can be obtained by contacting the Office of Development at (501) 569-3194.

## Applying for Nationally Recognized Scholarships and Fellowships

As applications for the more prestigious scholarships often must be made while the student is still an undergraduate, students are encouraged to think ahead and start work on the application process at the earliest possible time. Commencing research on scholarship possibilities during the freshman year is not too early.

UALR offers considerable support and assistance to undergraduate students seeking scholarships for graduate study. The University has had recent winners in the Truman, Rhodes, and Mellon competitions, and has had many students win other prestigious national awards and scholarships. Students are encouraged to aim high in their scholarship goals, and take advantage of the assistance and advice that professors at UALR can offer.

Students should visit <http://ualr.edu/fellowships/> for further information on the Truman Scholarship, Rhodes Scholarship, Marshall Scholarship, James Madison Fellowship, National Security Education Fellowship (all of which fund graduate study); and the National Security Education Scholarship, Udall, and Goldwater Scholarships (which fund undergraduate study).

The website includes for each scholarship a statement of the purpose for which the sponsoring institution is underwriting the funding; an overview of the eligibility requirements; some remarks on important features of the written application; a description of the application process and summary of deadlines; and the person on campus to contact for further information.

Interested students should inquire early. Call (501) 569-8399, for general information or a referral to the appropriate scholarship advisor.