



ARKANSAS TECH
UNIVERSITY

WHY GRADUATE COLLEGE?

Why Me? Why Now? Why Not?

Dear Prospective Students:

Thank you for your interest in Arkansas Tech University's Graduate College. It is my hope that you will consider one of the many fine programs offered through the Graduate College. Pursuing an advanced degree is an important decision. It is a decision that has many rewards for you as you continue your educational journey.

This guide is to assist you as you make this important decision. How to begin, what programs are available, what financial and time commitments must be considered, and, most importantly, what does it take to succeed in a graduate program, will be addressed in this guide.

I trust this guide will be helpful in assisting you in making a positive decision to enroll in a graduate program that best meets your future needs and career goals. I believe this guide will assist you in answering the questions that serve as a theme to this guide. *Why Me? Why Now? Why Not?*

I invite you to come by or make an appointment to meet with me to discuss Arkansas Tech Graduate Programs.

Dr. Mary B. Gunter, Dean
Tomlinson, Room 113
Arkansas Tech University



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Why Me?

Benefits of an Advanced Degree
Determining a Program Fit
Graduate College Expectation

Why Now?

Moving from Undergraduate to Graduate Status
Employment Opportunities
Research Opportunities
Time Commitment
Online Programs and Course Offerings

Why Not?

Admission Criteria
Program Assessment Requirements
Financial Assistance
Graduate Assistantships
Eligible for Veterans Education Benefits
Student Loans
Work Study

WHY NOT?

Process for Admission:

Step One: Contact the advisor in your program of interest

Step Two: Complete online application for acceptance to the Graduate College at www.atu.edu/gradcollege.

Admission Criteria:

Admission to the Arkansas Tech University Graduate College requires the following:

1. An earned Bachelor's Degree from an accredited college or university with an overall GPA of 2.5
2. An official copy of your transcript from your degree granting institution for your Bachelor's Degree
3. An on-line application completed at www.atu.edu/gradcollege
4. A \$25 application fee payable to the Arkansas Tech University Graduate College

Program Admission Requirements

Once you have been accepted to the Graduate College, you must be approved for your program of interest; each program has specific requirements. Some programs require the Graduate Record Exam (GRE). If you have not contacted a program advisor to learn of the program requirements, consult the Graduate Catalog found at www.atu.edu/academics/catalog-graduate/home.html. Your application will be forwarded to the program director for final acceptance if you meet the necessary program requirements.

Financial Assistance

Tuition costs can be found at www.atu.edu/finaid. The various sources of financial assistance include:

1. Graduate Assistantship
2. Veterans Assistance
3. Student Loans

Time Commitment

The Graduate College policy requires completion of all degree requirements within 6 years of the start of your program. While each program has its own criteria for completion and graduation, typically graduate programs at Arkansas Tech University range from 36 hours to 42 hours of course work. Many programs are designed to be completed in a two year period of time.

A full time graduate student is allowed to take 9 hours of course work a semester. Students may want to work part-time and take 3 to 6 hours a semester and must consider the time they are willing to commit outside of class time to complete readings, assignments and research. Most programs have courses available during summer terms.

Online Program and Course Offerings

The College Student Personnel program offers a completely online program. Other programs may offer mixed-technology which allows for a blend of on-campus and online work. Check your program of interest for more information.



WHY ME?

Benefits of a Graduate Degree

Graduate College offers an opportunity for you to continue your education through an advanced degree that:

- Further prepares you for your chosen career
- Provides necessary study for required professional licensure areas
- Provides opportunities for research in your field of interest
- Increases your earning potential
- Enhances opportunities for career advancement

Determining a Program Fit

Arkansas Tech University Graduate College offers various Master Degrees with several options and one Educational Specialist Degree.

Graduate College Expectations

Graduate College expectations differ from your undergraduate experience. Specialized course work will be focused on your area of study, providing relevant information for your field. The Graduate College requires excellence, with students earning mostly A's and B's, and allows for only 6 hours of C's in a degree program. Unlike an undergraduate degree, you are limited to 9 hours a semester for course study. This allows you to focus and excel in your work.

A 3.0 GPA is required for admission to candidacy, and must be maintained for graduation. This GPA is an expectation at the end of 12 hours of earned credit toward the degree when an admit to candidacy form must be completed by you and your academic advisor.

Some fields of study require special licensing exam completion and/or internship (field experiences). In addition, some Graduate College programs require scholarly writing through thesis, special projects or portfolios. These are conducted under the supervision of a member of the graduate faculty for that program area. Comprehensive exams, written and/or oral, may be required. This practical application will ultimately provide you with the necessary tools and additional experience to excel in your chosen field.

Program information and expectations can be found in the On-line Graduate Catalog at www.atu.edu/academics/catalog-graduate.

GRADUATE COLLEGE PROGRAMS

Master of Education

- Elementary Education

Options in

- Elementary Education
- Early Childhood Education
- Special Education

- Secondary Education

Options in

- English
- Physical Education
- Instructional Technology

Options in

- Library Media
- Instructional Design and Technology

- Instructional Improvement
- Educational Leadership
- School Counseling and Leadership
- Teaching Learning and Leadership

Options in

- Curriculum Administrator/Master Teacher Leader
- Non-Traditional Teacher Leader
- Instructional Facilitator

Master of Engineering

Options in

- Electrical Engineering
- Nuclear Engineering

Master of Arts

- English

Option in

- Teaching English as a Second Language (TESL)
- History
- Multi-Media Journalism
- Spanish
- Teaching
- Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages

Master of Liberal Arts

Options in

- Communication
- Fine Arts
- Social Science

Master of Science

- College Student Personnel
- Emergency Mgmt./Homeland Security
- Fisheries and Wildlife Biology
- Health Informatics
- Information Technology
- Psychology

Master of Science in Nursing

- Nursing Administration

Educational Specialist

- Educational Leadership

WHY NOW?

Moving from Undergraduate to Graduate Status

If you graduate with a bachelor's degree and meet the requirements of the Graduate College, you are eligible to begin a graduate degree immediately. Submitting an application early ensures timely admission into the program. Priority deadline date for summer and fall admission is March 1, and spring admission is October 1.

Some students choose to continue their education immediately upon completion of their bachelor's degree. Other students choose to work in their field for preparation and experience before returning to pursue a graduate degree. It is important to note that some graduate degrees require work experience before beginning graduate work. Meeting with a graduate faculty advisor is important to your planning and can avoid frustration in your graduate study.

Employment Opportunities

Holding an advanced degree places you in a better position against your peers in a competitive job market. The Graduate College and your program office provide support by posting job announcements relevant to your degree. Other employment opportunities are available through on-campus recruiters and career fairs. Another avenue of support comes from networking through the Arkansas Tech Alumni Association. For non-traditional students, an advanced degree can fill the age-gap when entering a new career path.

Research Opportunities

Graduate programs offer opportunities to pursue research activities in your field through a thesis or special project. Participation in regional and national conferences as a presenter and/or author are opportunities provided in many graduate programs. Interacting with professional content and pursuing answers can be a rewarding part of your graduate study.



Graduate Assistantships

Visit www.atu.edu/gradcollege/ga.shtml to apply for a graduate assistantship. A graduate assistantship includes a tuition waiver to cover no more than 18 graduate credit hours in a calendar year (July 1 to June 30). Normally, a stipend of \$2,000 per semester is provided for the 20 hours a week of work required by the department and/or university office where the graduate assistantship is assigned. A student receiving a graduate assistantship may take a maximum of 9 hours and a minimum of 6 hours per semester and up to 6 hours during each summer term.

If you are accepted unconditionally to the Graduate College, you are eligible for a graduate assistantship if you meet all admission and program criteria. You are eligible to maintain a graduate assistantship for 4 semesters if you maintain a 3.0 GPA after completion of your first 12 hours of graduate course work.

Veterans Assistance:

If you have served in the armed forces, you may be eligible for assistance. Contact Marsha Oels at moels@atu.edu or log onto www.atu.edu/registrar/va.shtml regarding eligibility of VA Benefits.

Student Loans:

Contact the Arkansas Tech Financial Aid Office at fa.help@atu.edu or (479) 968-0399. You will find information regarding tuition costs and fees associated with the graduate college at www.atu.edu/finaid or refer to the Graduate College On-line Catalog at www.atu.edu/academics/catalog-graduate.

Work Study:

Graduate students may also apply for student worker positions.

Arkansas Tech University
Graduate College
Tomlinson Building Room 113
1507 North Boulder Ave.
Russellville, AR 72801
(479) 968-0398