

Arkansas Governor's —School—

at ARKANSAS TECH UNIVERSITY™

**July 5 – August 1
2026**

STUDENT HANDBOOK



Daily Schedule

Daily Class Schedule

Area I:

Monday to Friday 9:30 am – 11:50 am

Area II and III:

Monday to Friday 1:30 pm – 2:20 pm and 2:30 pm – 3:20 pm

AGS Small Group Activities/Enrichment Activities:

Wednesdays 4:00 pm – 5:20 pm

Saturdays 9:00 am – 12:00 pm and 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm

AGS Talks:

Monday to Friday 4:30 pm – 5:20 pm and 6:30 pm – 7:20 pm

Cafeteria Hours

Breakfast: 8:00 am – 9:00 am

Lunch: 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

Dinner: 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm

Ross Pendergraft Library and Technology Center

Monday-Thursday: 8:00 am – 5:00 pm

Saturday: Closed

Sunday: 1:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Health and Wellness Center

Doc Bryan Student Services Center, Suite 119

Monday-Thursday 8:00 am – 5:00 pm

Friday 8:00 am --12:00 pm

479-968-0329

<https://atu.medicatconnect.com/>

For Ferguson Fitness center Hours, see the our Blackboard page

2026 AGS General Information

You are about to embark on the experience of a lifetime. Arkansas Governor's School is a four-week residential summer program for approximately 400 gifted and talented rising high-school seniors in Arkansas. Living in the residence hall will mean becoming part of a close-knit community, where you will share opportunities and experiences.

The purpose of Governor's School is to give students, who will be future leaders in the state and nation, a challenging opportunity to experience 20th and 21st century theories for the interpretation of facts. The goal of AGS is to provide students with a contemporary curriculum in the three areas of (1) Academics and Arts, (2) General Conceptual Development, and (3) Personal and Social Development. The available courses will explore our society's development and possible future developments. The needs of communities and the benefits of technology will be discussed along with the challenges and ethical dilemmas we all face. Classroom activities will be collaborative and project-based, having students put the information into broader social and political contexts.

Our program embraces the idea that learning is not a passive experience. Our expectations are that you will embrace our challenge of excellence and accept the responsibility for your own learning by coming to this program with the determination to do your best. We also expect you to help us maintain an atmosphere conducive to learning and personal growth. This requires you, as an AGS participant, to take on some of the responsibilities that will ensure that this summer is productive. This booklet contains details about program activities and policies for students and staff to follow.

Governor's School Main Office:

BazTech 202

Arkansas Tech University

Monday - Friday: 8:30 a.m. – 9:00 pm

Saturday & Sunday: 10:00 am – 9:00 pm

Email: ags@atu.edu

Web: www.atu.edu/ags

Emergency Phone: Arkansas Tech University Department of Public Safety: 479-968-0222

(This number patches the caller into the campus public safety radio network, and is strictly for "life or death" emergencies. Arkansas Tech Public Safety Officers can neither take after-hour messages for the AGS office nor pass on messages to AGS students, faculty, or staff.)

If an emergency situation occurs, call 911.

Rules of Conduct

Overarching rules of decorum and norms:

Respect everyone as an extension of yourself. The definition of respect is to treat individuals with dutiful regard, and to acknowledge the rights and responsibilities of a person – as an individual, or as an authority figure. Respect includes the following:

- Valuing the property of others
- Placing value on a person as a unique individual
- Showing consideration for everyone
- Avoiding intrusion upon or interfering with another person's purpose

No student will be allowed to act in such a way that infringes upon the rights, privileges, health, or safety of other persons.

The following specific rules govern and partly define the AGS community. Please be sure that you fully understand them in letter and spirit. In case of rules violations and their resolution: Each case will be handled individually, and parents or guardians will be informed of any escalated disciplinary action. Residence Assistants (RAs), Residence Directors (RDs) and Residence Life staff are trained to report all violations, ranging from minor to severe. If enough minor violations are accumulated over a short time span, AGS staff follows a protocol. When students break multiple rules, they will be called to meet with a Residence Life official, and AGS staff will follow this up by notifying a parent/guardian of the discipline problem. If additional violations occur, then the student will meet with the Residence Life official and the AGS director. Parents/guardians will then be notified of the student's impending dismissal with one additional violation. This final violation leads to dismissal.



More serious violations may be elevated to the Residence Life official and Directors first, and parents/guardians will be notified immediately. Some violations, as reviewed below, are cause for immediate dismissal.

- Hazing in any form is prohibited and will be reported. This will result in immediate dismissal from the AGS program. Hazing can be defined as any action or situation, with or without consent of the participants, which recklessly, intentionally or unintentionally endangers the mental, physical or academic health or safety of a student or property.
- Any form of sexual misconduct, which includes sexual assault and sexual harassment, is prohibited and will lead to automatic dismissal from the AGS program. Sexual misconduct is any unwelcome sexual behavior that is committed without consent or by force, intimidation, coercion, or manipulation. Sexual misconduct can be committed by a person of any gender, and it can occur between people of the same or different gender.
- Any form of retaliation is prohibited and will lead to automatic dismissal from the AGS program. Retaliation means any adverse action threatened or taken against a person because he or she has filed, supported, or provided information in connection with a complaint of hazing or sexual misconduct.

- Physical or verbal assault while participating in or attending functions sponsored by the AGS Program is prohibited.
- No student is permitted to use or possess alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs, tobacco products, vapors, or prescription drugs not approved by the AGS office. Parents will be notified and violators will be sent home immediately.
- Possession of any potentially destructive weapons such as guns, knives, etc., is prohibited.
- Students are to conduct themselves in an orderly manner. This includes refraining from excessive and unnecessary noisiness (loud talking, yelling, and laughing, etc.). Rude, discourteous behavior or using profanity toward staff persons or other students will not be permitted.
- Activities or actions that promote or suggest sexual intimacy will not be permitted. The AGS staff will judge students' behavior and deal with it accordingly. As an AGS participant, you are requested to immediately discontinue any actions that a staff member or counselor sees as offensive or out of order. Disciplinary actions will be taken when appropriate.
- Students may not bring or use bicycles, skateboards, roller-skates, or rollerblades on campus.
- Students are expected to attend all AGS functions unless otherwise excused by AGS staff.
- Students are not allowed in areas deemed "off-campus" without authorization. Students are expected to stay on campus for the entire length of the summer program. Only facilities authorized for use by AGS are considered "on-campus".
- AGS organizes "field trips" to various local or in-state sites. All field trips are organized by Governor's School staff, are approved parts of the AGS curriculum, and are chaperoned by AGS staff. Students are allowed to leave campus on authorized AGS field trips with authorized AGS staff and AGS chaperones.
- Gambling on campus property or on program-sponsored activities is forbidden.
- No student shall take or attempt to take or keep items belonging to the University, AGS, or any of its participants or guests.



- Any damage to University property will be paid for by the student or his/her parents.
- Computer/internet usage: AGS makes use of one official platform to communicate and enhance the student experience at AGS: Blackboard. AGS is not responsible for activities and communications on unsupported platforms; however, student conduct rules apply to AGS students regardless of the mode of communication or university platform support.
- Harassment of others on social media is strictly prohibited. This involves, but is not limited to, sending unwanted or obscene pictures, messages or files, interfering with the work of another person, sending abusive or obscene messages, using computers and printers to

generate offensive media (examples: flyers, posters, e-mail, instant messages, etc...). Time-consuming recreational computer/internet use (Facebook, Instagram, X/Twitter, Snap Chat, and other social media) at inappropriate times is also not permitted.

- Illegal downloading of music, programs, movies, etc. while on campus is strictly prohibited.
- Participation in ANY ILLEGAL activities (on or off-campus) including, but not limited to, use of tobacco products on campus, the use or the intended use of a weapon, use or possession of illegal substance, or violent behavior which threatens the safety of any person will automatically result in program dismissal.
- Students are expected to stay in the pre-approved areas for after-hours gatherings.

If any of these rules are broken, the student will face disciplinary action and may immediately be dismissed from the AGS program.

Important Information

Attendance – Each student is required to attend classes, programs, special events, and all other activities specified as required by AGS. If, for any reason, a student does not attend a class or scheduled activity, their name will be forwarded to the AGS program director. Lack of class attendance will lead to disciplinary action and possible dismissal from the program.

Tardiness – All students are expected to be on time for all classes and events. Any student who is consistently late will be referred to the AGS program director.

Classroom disruption – Disruption of classroom activities will not be tolerated. All incidents will be reported to the AGS program director.

Rooms – Resident hall rooms are shared by two to three students. Each resident is provided with 1 loft extra-long twin bed, closet area, desk, desk chair, and chest of drawers. You must provide your own sheets, pillows, and blanket for a twin-XL size bed.

Meals – Meals are provided at Chambers Cafeteria. Your AGS ID card will be used to access the cafeteria. You will be able to choose from a variety of meal selections that adhere to the USDA summer food program to assure nutritionally balanced meals. Pay attention to signage in the cafeteria if you have applied for food accommodations. Students are free to bring food from home to keep in residence hall rooms. Students may bring refrigerators.



DRESS CODE

Dress Code – Student attire and grooming must permit the student to participate in learning without posing a risk to the health or safety of any student or AGS personnel. You may be asked to change, by a staff member, if your clothing is deemed to be inappropriate.

- Students must wear clothing including both a shirt with pants or skirt, or the equivalent (for example dresses, leggings, or shorts) and shoes.
- When the body is standing straight, clothing must cover the chest, back, torso, stomach, and lower extremities from armpit to armpit to mid-thigh. Tops must have a strap and at no time may any part of a student's buttocks be exposed.
- Clothing must cover all undergarments. No underwear or undergarments may be visible at any time. Clothing may not be see-through.
- Students must wear shoes or sandals during scheduled activities.

Clothing – Pack comfortable, casual clothes. You should expect the weather to be variable so please be prepared. AGS students will have access to laundry facilities. Please bring your own hangers.

Toiletries – Toiletries will not be provided so please make arrangements for your own personal hygiene products, bath towels and washcloths.

Laundry – Students are responsible for their own laundry. Laundry facilities are available in each residence hall. Students will need to bring their own laundry soap.

Do Not Bring – cooking appliances, weightlifting equipment, skateboards, bikes, roller blades, scooters, pocketknives, firearms, fireworks, alcohol, tobacco products, or any illegal substance.

Electronic Devices – Students may bring laptop computers and other electronic devices. AGS is not responsible for damages to or loss of these items. Computers are available in the library and in some classrooms.

Cell phones/portable media players – Cell phones and portable media players are allowed at AGS, but students are encouraged to limit their usage. The development of relationships with other students at AGS is an important component of the program. Spending too much time on your phone or computer inhibits your ability to meet new people. Cell phones or computers may be used in classrooms only with the explicit consent of the instructor. Any violation of this rule could result in referral to the program director.



Health services – Medical services will be available to all AGS students at the Health and Wellness Center on campus. The Health and Wellness Center is located in Doc Bryan Student Services Center Suite 119 across from the lecture hall. Hours are Monday – Friday, 8 am to 5 pm. They can be contacted by phone at 479-968-0329. Appointments can be scheduled online at <https://atu.mediatconnect.com/>. Students must present their AGS ID card and indicate that they are an AGS student when reporting for services.

Honor – Stealing, lying, or cheating under any circumstances may result in immediate dismissal. Failure to inform AGS staff about others' rule violations, or to cooperate with AGS staff investigating suspected rule violations, may result in immediate dismissal.

AGS ID cards – Upon arrival, students will receive an official AGS ID card with lanyard. These must be worn at all times, unless instructed otherwise. ID cards are required for admittance into the student's residence hall and the dining hall. There is a \$25.00 charge for lost ID cards.

Instructors and residential staff – Our instructors come from a variety of educational backgrounds. They may be public school educators, college faculty, guidance counselors, or AGS staff. They will guide you through the academic curriculum. Our residential staff will be college graduates or undergraduate college students.

Library – Students may use the library for study, research, and recreational reading. Students are allowed to check items out from the library. All items must be returned before check-out. Computers, with internet access, are available for use also, as they are an integral part of the academic day and are useful in developing presentations, writing research papers, and gathering information.



Visitors – Visiting Hours are Sundays, 8:00 am – 6:00 pm. Visitors must sign in at the residence hall of the student they are visiting. Visitors are not allowed in residence hall rooms. Visitors may not use campus computers or recreation equipment or facilities. Before departing, visitors must

sign out. These are important security measures—visitors who violate these policies may cause the student they are visiting to be dismissed from the program.

Sunday Leave – Students may sign out of the residence hall and leave the campus on Sundays between 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. with a family member or a person listed on the “List of Approved Persons Allowed to Check Student Out of AGS” from the student forms previously signed by family members. Additional names may be added after the session begins. However, the AGS office must be notified by **3:00 p.m. on Friday prior to that Sunday** or the new names cannot be added to the student’s list for that weekend. **Email requests must include a scanned driver’s license of the parent or guardian.** Transportation will be provided for a limited option of religious services. Students will be dropped off and then picked up from the services. Parental permission in the form of a signed note will be required and students must sign up for transportation.

Zero tolerance policy – Students found involved in any hazing, sexual or illegal activities will be dismissed from the program with no previous warning. Students who are caught with any illegal substance (alcohol, tobacco, vaping, etc...) will be dismissed from the program with no previous warning.



Residence Hall Regulations

- Students are not allowed to enter any residence hall other than the one assigned to them. With the exception of check-in and check-out, no visitors are permitted in students' room at any time. If this rule is violated, students may be sent home immediately.
- Announced or unannounced room inspections may be made periodically to insure that cleanliness and care is exercised. The following items should be dealt with prior to the inspection (though routine cleanliness will eliminate the need): trash, unclean clothing, and items that produce undesirable odors!
- No candles, incense, open flame or open coil appliances are allowed in the residence halls.
- Students are not to throw trash or other debris in hallways, lounges, bathroom facilities, on stairways, or out of the windows. Trash must go into proper disposal units available at the end of each hall.
- Residents of a hall are jointly responsible for damage to public areas and each participant will be charged a share of the repair costs, should it be necessary.
- Students are to remain reasonably quiet in the residence hall and to respect the privacy and rights of other students. Should there be a problem, the student should report the incident immediately to an RA. All incident reports will be turned in to the appropriate supervisor for further investigation.
- Students and staff members are expected to respect the privacy of others and work together in making the living experience enjoyable.
- Students are to occupy only the room to which they have been assigned.
- Roommates will be assigned by the AGS staff.
- Never loan your building swipe card to another student who has lost theirs.
- Lost swipe cards should be reported immediately.
- Never let anyone into the residence hall using your swipe card. If someone, who is not an AGS participant, seeks entrance, you should contact one of the residential staff members.
- Never leave rooms unlocked.
- Do not play with fire extinguishers.
- Do not pull fire alarms – this is a criminal act!
- Do not overload electrical outlets. Bring a surge protector.
- Prepare for emergency exiting in advance.

- Do not play with electrical panel switches.
- Do contact residential staff regarding any emergencies or suspicious activity.
- Never leave personal belongings unattended. The responsibility for personal belongings cannot be assumed by the program. Students are urged to exercise good judgment and caution in securing their personal belongings.
- Acts of disrespect to instructors, staff, and fellow students will not be tolerated. Violations will be grounds for disciplinary action or dismissal.

AGS Leave Policy

Arkansas Governor's School is state funded, highly competitive, and invested in fostering a very strong sense of community among its participants. Therefore, it is inappropriate for students who have accepted a place at AGS to take temporary leaves from the program. Time away from the program has a detrimental effect on student participation, both for the individual and for the Governor's School community at large. We know that gifted and talented students will have many quality opportunities during the summer. Although we hope that students invited to attend AGS will accept our invitation to attend for the full four weeks, we understand that other choices are available and difficult decisions must be made. For students desiring to take advantage of other opportunities that coincide with AGS, students should decline the AGS invitation which will allow another student to be invited to benefit from the entire program.

Students are expected to participate in all classes and activities. Failure to participate will result in removal from the program. Temporary leaves will be granted for certain situations and only these situations. Requests for special leaves of absence, except in the case of emergencies, must be made in writing at least one (1) week in advance and include explicit justification for the leave. Documentation may be requested to verify listed justification. A leave may be granted for the following situations:

- personal or family emergencies
- medical reasons
- weddings of immediate family members

Exceptions:

- Students are allowed to be checked out by an authorized person and leave campus on Sundays from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm.
- In addition, students are allowed to be checked out by an authorized person and leave campus for **one** 24-hour period during the session. This is intended to give students a chance to participate in important senior year activities such as senior pictures, etc.

Please note:

- Requests for a leave of absence or a 24-hour leave must be submitted by email to ags@atu.edu at least one week in advance. It is not necessary to request permission to leave campus on Sundays (8 am to 6 pm).
- The student cannot miss more than 2 class days. (Leaves granted for medical reasons may not exceed a total of five (5) class days.)
- The leave cannot be during the first 3 days or the last 3 days of the program.
- No student may be granted more than one leave of absence.
- While taking the ACT is an important activity, there are many opportunities to take it throughout the year. There is only one opportunity to attend AGS. We **strongly** recommend that students do not miss AGS activities to take the ACT in July.
- Athletic practices and competitions, dance/cheerleading practices and auditions, and band practices are examples that do **not** qualify for a leave of absence but **would** qualify for a 24-hour leave.

Buildings Used

Numbers correspond to the map on the next page.

Food

Chambers Cafeteria
BazTech

Residence Halls

Nutt Hall
Baswell Hall

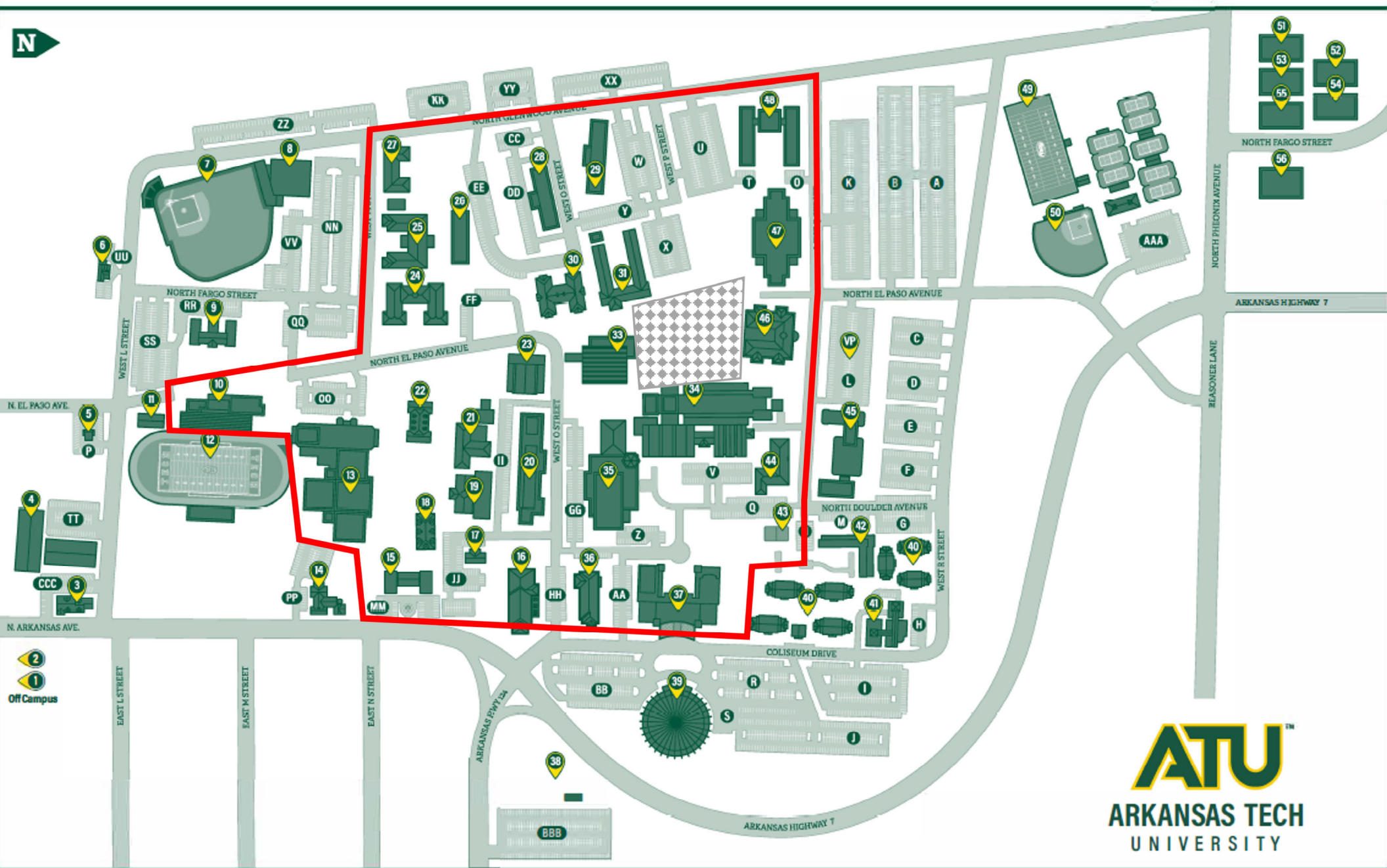
Classroom Buildings

Brown (Area III classrooms, events)
Doc Bryan [DB] (events)
McEver [MCE] (Natural Science classrooms
Norman [NOR] (Visual Art classrooms)
Ross Pendergraft Library [RPL]
Rothwell [RTH] (English, Math, and Social Science classrooms, Area II classrooms, Area III
classrooms, events)
Techionery [TEC] (Drama classroom)
Witherspoon [WPN] (Music classrooms, events)

Recreation

Hull Gym Courts/Hull Event Center
Volleyball courts/Hammock grove/Pickleball courts
Ferguson Student Union, Fitness Center

AGS students need to stay within the area designated by the red box on the map, unless attending a specific event outside of that area.



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|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| 1 Green & Gold Cupboard | 8 Multi-Sport Complex | 15 Caraway Residence Hall | 22 Crabaugh Hall | 31 Dean Hall | 38 Campus Recreation Fields | 45 Corley Hall | 51 Tech Greenhouses |
| 2 Public Safety | 9 Williamson Hall | 16 Brown Hall | 23 Techionery | 32 Hindsman Tower | 39 Tucker Coliseum | 46 Ross Pendergraft Library and Technology Center | 52 Fisheries, Wildlife and Engineering Lab |
| 3 Rock House | 10 Baswell Residence Hall | 17 ROTC | 24 Wilson Residence Hall | 33 Baswell Techionery | 40 University Commons Apartments | 47 Witherspoon Hall | 53 Tech Farm |
| 4 Stadium Suites Student Housing | 11 Visiting Team Dressing Facility | 18 Browning Hall | 25 M Street Residence Hall | 34 McEver Hall | 41 Energy Center | 48 Paine Residence Hall | 54 Animal Science Teaching Lab |
| 5 Taco Villa Building | 12 Thone Stadium at Buerkle Field | 19 Tomlinson Hall | 26 Tucker Residence Hall | 35 Chambers Cafeteria | 42 Jones Residence Hall | 49 Marching Band Practice Field | 55 Facilities Management Building |
| 6 Campus Recreation Offices | 13 Hull Physical Education Building | 20 W.O. Young Building | 27 Hughes Residence Hall | 36 Rothwell Hall | 43 Sand Volleyball Court | 50 Chartwells Athletic Complex | 56 Crabaugh House |
| 7 Tech Field | 14 Alumni House | 21 Administration Building | 28 Brown Residence Hall | 37 Doc Bryan Student Services Center | 44 Norman Hall | | VP Visitor's Parking |
| | | | 29 Turner Residence Hall | | | | |
| | | | 30 Nutt Residence Hall | | | | |

Out of Darkness-

Alma mater for Arkansas Governor's School

Out of the darkness, out of the cave from across the natural state,
We come together to sing your name.

Bright like a diamond, shining in the sky
We search for knowledge, compassion, and light.

Though we are scattered, our bond is strong,
Arkansas governor's school,
We honor you with our voices, our lives, and our song.

-est. July 13, 2015-

Text by John Andrews (AGS '05; AGS faculty 2014-2018) music composed by Stefan Cwik (AGS faculty 2012-2014) commissioned by AGS