

**ARKANSAS GEOGRAPHICAL CRITICAL NEEDS  
MINORITY TEACHER SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM  
UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS AT PINE BLUFF  
Fall 2022-Spring 2023**

**1200 NORTH UNIVERSITY DRIVE  
MAIL SLOT - 4986  
PINE BLUFF, AR 71601  
(870) 575-8058**

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

The Arkansas Geographical Critical Needs Minority Teacher Scholarship Program is designed to provide scholarships to Black-American, Hispanic-American, Asian-American and Native-American students who will be attending public or private institutions of higher education in the State of Arkansas with approved teacher education programs or at an accredited state-supported community college. Recipients who maintain eligibility may receive the scholarship for a maximum of four (4) academic years or until such time as they have completed certification requirements. Participating scholars may receive up to \$1,500.00 per academic year for full-time attendance; up to \$750.00 for part-time attendance; however, the scholarship, when totaled with other sources of Title IV student financial aid, may not exceed the total cost of attendance at the institution to be attended. Also, scholars must agree to teach in the Delta or in a geographical area of the state in which there exists a critical shortage of teachers, as designated by the State Board of Arkansas.

**ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

An Applicant must:

1. Be a Black-American, Hispanic-American, Asian-American or Native-American;
2. Be enrolled as a full-time student (full-time is defined as a minimum of twelve college semester credit hours) or the equivalent, (excluding correspondence courses) or part-time student (part-time is defined as a minimum of six semester credit hours) but less than twelve semester credit hours or the equivalent (excluding correspondence courses) in an Arkansas public or independent 4-year or 2-year institution;
3. Agree, in writing, of an intention to teach in the Delta or a geographical area of the State in which there exists a critical shortage of teachers, as designated by the Arkansas State Board of Education;
4. Have successfully completed the core curriculum established by the State Board of Education and the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board by earning a 2.5 on a 4.0 scale. Applicants, who have not completed the core curriculum by the end of the senior year of high school due to unavailability of the courses in the applicant's high school, shall have a grace period of twelve (12) months from the date of high school graduation in which to make up any course deficiencies.
5. Have a 2.50 on a 4.0 scale in the core curriculum courses, if attending an approved four-year institution or 2.50 on a 4.0 scale in the core curriculum courses if attending an approved two-year institution; and,
6. Have scored nineteen (19) or above on the ACT composite or the equivalent as defined by the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff.

7. **CONTINUED ELIGIBILITY**

The University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff will renew awards for succeeding years to recipients who continue to meet the criteria set forth in 1-6 above, and who complete at least 24 semester credit

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hours (or the equivalent) unless they are a part-time student. Part-time students must complete 12 semester credit hours or the equivalent. **A new application must be submitted by July 31 of each year.**

### **SCHOLAR'S RESPONSIBILITIES**

It is the scholar's responsibility to notify the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, in writing, of any change in status within 21 days after submission of their application. These changes include: name, address, telephone number, social security number, institution, full-time status, or course of study.

**Students may transfer their scholarship to another eligible institution by notifying the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, in writing, by August 01 for the fall term and January 01 for the Winter/Spring terms. Failure to comply will result in funds being returned to the Arkansas Department of Education.**

Scholars have an obligation to teach full-time in the Delta or in a geographical area of the state in which there exists a critical shortage of teachers, as designated by the State Board of Education, one year for each year the scholarship assistance received. If the scholar withdraws from the Teacher Education Program or does not fulfill the teaching commitment, the scholarship shall convert to a loan, which must be repaid with accrued interest over a period not to exceed five (5) years, excluding any deferment period.

Acts 1310 of 1995 and 1313 of 1997 require criminal background checks for new teachers and prohibit persons guilty of certain criminal offenses from receiving or holding a teacher license in Arkansas. The specific statutory language is enclosed for your information. If you are selected as a scholarship recipient, you must certify that you have not been convicted of any of the twenty-nine (29) felonies listed on the attached page in Arkansas or any other state.

### **DISBURSEMENT POLICY**

The scholarship will be divided equally according to the number of terms at each institution: three payments for those institutions on trimesters and two payments for those institutions on semesters. Funds will be mailed to the institution's financial aid office to be disbursed to recipients according to the institution's disbursement policy.

**Acts 1310 of 1995 and 1313 of 1997 states:** On and after July 01, 1996, each first-time applicant for a license by the State Board of Education shall be required to apply to the Identification Bureau of the Arkansas State Police for state and nationwide criminal records check, to be conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The check shall conform to the applicable federal standards and shall include the taking of fingerprints. Such applicant shall sign a release of information to the State Department of Education and shall be responsible to the Arkansas State Police for the payment of any fee associated with the criminal records check.

### **Act 1313 of 1997 states:**

No person shall be eligible to receive or hold a license by the State Board of Education if that person has pleaded guilty, nolo contendere, or been found guilty of any of the following offenses by any court in the State of Arkansas or of any similar offense by a court in another state:

1. Capital murder
2. Murder in the first and second degrees
3. Manslaughter

4. battery in the first and second degrees
5. Aggravated assault
6. Terrorist threatening in the first degree
7. Kidnapping
8. Rape and carnal abuse in the first and second degrees
9. Sexual abuse in the first and second degrees
10. Violation of a minor in the first and second degrees
11. Incest
12. Engaging children in sexually explicit conduct for use in visual or print media,
13. Transportation of minors for prohibited sexual conduct, or use of a child or consent to use a child in a sexual performance by producing, directing, or promoting a sexual performance by a child
14. Distribution to minors
15. Manufacture, deliver or possess with intent to manufacture or deliver any controlled substance
16. Criminal attempt, criminal solicitation, or criminal conspiracy
17. Carnal abuse in the third degree
18. Sexual solicitation of a child
19. Endangering the welfare of a minor in the first degree
20. Pandering or possessing visual or print medium depicting sexually explicit conduct involving a child
21. False imprisonment in the first degree
22. Permanent detention or restraint
23. Permitting child abuse
24. Negligent homicide
25. Assault in the first degree
26. Coercion
27. Sexual misconduct
28. Public sexual indecency
29. Indecent exposure
30. Endangering the welfare of a minor in the second degree

**APPLICATION SUBMISSION**

The application must be completed in its entirety. Mail completed application and transcripts to:

<p><b>UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS AT PINE BLUFF          ARKANSAS GEOGRAPHICAL CRITICAL NEEDS          MINORITY TEACHER SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM          1200 NORTH UNIVERSITY DRIVE          MAIL SLOT – 4986          PINE BLUFF, AR 71601</b></p>
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**Application Deadlines:  
 (Fall) July 31 (Spring) October 10**

**Important Note:** Awards for the Arkansas Geographical Critical Needs Minority Teacher Scholarship, as for all financial aid programs administered by the Arkansas Department of Higher Education, are dependent on the availability of funds. While it is not anticipated, it is possible that a reduction in state revenues could reduce the funds available for this program. If such a situation occurs, the Department of Higher Education will determine the most equitable means of reducing funding and all individuals affected will be notified immediately.

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**UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS AT PINE BLUFF  
ARKANSAS GEOGRAPHICAL CRITICAL NEEDS  
MINORITY TEACHER SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

**Undergraduate Application  
Fall 2019-Spring 2020**

**Deadlines: July 31 (fall semester)  
November 10 (spring semester)  
(Please keep a copy for your records)**

**PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE:**

1. Name (Last, First, Middle): \_\_\_\_\_

2. Social Security Number: \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

4. Current Mailing Address:  
Street: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_  
State: \_\_\_\_\_  
Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

5. Permanent Mailing Address:  
Street: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_  
State: \_\_\_\_\_  
Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

6. Phone Number(s): \_\_\_\_\_ (Cell) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

7. Citizenship Status: \_\_\_\_ U.S. Citizen \_\_\_\_ Permanent Resident Alien\* \_\_\_\_ Other  
\*If permanent resident alien, you must attach form I-151, I-551 or other documents may be accepted.

8. Sex: \_\_\_\_ Male \_\_\_\_ Female

9. Race: \_\_\_\_ Black-American \_\_\_\_ Native American or Alaskan Native  
\_\_\_\_ Asian or Pacific Islander \_\_\_\_ Hispanic-American  
\_\_\_\_ Other

10. Name of Institution Attending: \_\_\_\_\_ fall ( ) spring ( )  
Full Time ( ) Half Time ( )

- NOTE: The institution indicated is where the scholarship check will be sent, if you fail to enroll for any semester indicated above, funds will not be available, and you must re-apply for the following semester.

\*Students may transfer their scholarship to another eligible institution by notifying the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, in writing by August 01 for the fall term and January 01 for the Winter/Spring terms. Failure to comply will result in funds being returned to the Arkansas Department of Education.

11. Indicate your academic program or major: \_\_\_\_\_

12. Indicate the number of semester credit hours you have completed: \_\_\_\_\_

13. List at least two persons below who will be in permanent contact with you:

Name: _____	Name: _____
Address: _____	Address: _____
City, State/Zip code: _____	City, State/Zip code: _____
Telephone#: _____	Telephone#: _____
Employer: _____	Employer: _____
Employer telephone#: _____	Employer telephone#: _____

14. ACT Score: \_\_\_\_\_ (For high school graduates or if you have never attended college before)

15. PLEASE HAVE THE ADVISOR/TEACHER LICENSURE OFFICIAL COMPLETE THE SECTION BELOW.

I certify that \_\_\_\_\_ has completed \_\_\_\_\_ semester credit hours toward licensure and his/her expected date of graduation is \_\_\_\_\_.

His/her overall college GPA is \_\_\_\_\_ and his/her major GPA is \_\_\_\_\_.

I verify that the applicant is pursuing a course of study leading to licensure as a teacher in his/her major field of study OR has been admitted to the Teacher Education Program OR has successfully passed the PRAXIS CORE examination. (Please sign one of the areas below)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Advisor/Teacher Licensure Official

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**STUDENTS SIGNATURE**

I, the undersigned, do hereby certify that I have read and understand the application in its entirety and will fully comply with all deadlines and instructions and that the information submitted on this application is accurate to the best of my knowledge. It is my intent to complete a program of study leading to teacher licensure as indicated in number 11 of this application. I understand that, if I receive the Arkansas Geographical Critical Needs Minority Teacher Scholarship and do not fulfill the required teaching obligation, or do not complete my program of study or if I do not attend college on a full-time or part-time basis, the scholarship converts to a loan. The loan will accrue interest at a simple per annum rate, not to exceed five (5) percentage points above the Federal Reserve Discount rate at the time of the contract.

I, hereby authorize the Financial Aid Office and the Registrar's Office to release my academic records to the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff School of Education Office of the Dean.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## PROMISSORY NOTE

I, \_\_\_\_\_, do hereby enter into this agreement with the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff (UAPB). Both parties do agree that the conditions provided in Act 1731, created by the 2001 Arkansas General Assembly, are apart of this promissory note wherever applicable.

### GENERAL

The recipient has filed an application with the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff for the purpose of securing teacher education licensure at an eligible Arkansas postsecondary institution. The University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff hereby contracts to pay the recipient the agreed upon amount, contingent upon availability of funds, payable in amounts as stipulated in the Rules and Regulations of the Arkansas Geographical Critical Needs Minority Teacher Scholarship Program.

The recipient understands that to be eligible to receive this scholarship/loan he/she must:

1. be a Black American, Hispanic American, Asian American or Native American
2. have a grade point average of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale in high school if the applicant graduated within the preceding five (5) years
3. be enrolled as a full-time (full-time is defined as a minimum of twelve (12) college semester credit hours, or the equivalent, excluding correspondence courses) of part-time (part-time is defined as a minimum of six (6) semester credit hours, but less than twelve semester credit hours or the equivalent, excluding correspondence courses) student in an Arkansas public or independent 2-year or 4-year institution
4. have scored nineteen (19) or above on the American College Test composite or the equivalent as defined by the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff
5. be enrolled in or accepted for enrollment at a baccalaureate degree granting institution of higher education whose teacher education program is approved by the State Board of Education or at an accredited state supported community college in the State of Arkansas
6. agree, by signature on this form, of an intention to teach in the Delta or a geographical area of the State in which there exists a critical shortage of teachers, as designated by the Arkansas State Board of Education
7. have successfully completed the core curriculum established by the Arkansas State Board of Education and the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board by earning a 2.5 on a 4.0 scale. Applicants who have not completed the core curriculum by the end of the senior year of high school due to unavailability of the courses in the applicant's high school, shall have a grace period of twelve (12) months for the date of high school graduation in which to make up any course deficiencies
8. maintain a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale and complete a minimum of 24 semester credit hours each academic year if attending on a full-time basis or a minimum of 12 semester credit hours each academic year if attending on a part-time basis. An academic year is defined as the fall and spring semester only
9. at the beginning of the first school year in which a recipient of a scholarship is eligible for employment as a licensed teacher, he/she shall begin to render service as a licensed teacher in a public school district in the Delta or in a geographical areas of the State where there exists a critical shortage of teachers, as designated by the Arkansas State Board of Education
10. any person who received four (4) annual awards, or the equivalent of four (4) annual

awards, shall render two (2) years of service as a licensed teacher; any person who received fewer than four (4) annual awards or the equivalent of four (4) annual awards, shall render one (1) school semester of service as a licensed teacher for each year that the person received a full-time student scholarship or for the number of academic hours equivalent to one (1) school year, as determined by the University for which a part-time student who received a scholarship/loan.

11. **The following forty-two counties in Arkansas are designated as being in the Delta Region:** Arkansas, Ashley, Baxter, Bradley, Calhoun, Chicot, Clay, Cleveland, Craighead, Crittenden, Cross, Dallas, Desha, Drew, Fulton, Grant, Greene, Independence, Izard, Jackson, Jefferson, Lawrence, Lee, Lincoln, Lonoke, Marion, Mississippi, Monroe, Ouachita, Phillips, Poinsett, Prairie, Pulaski, Randolph, St. Francis, Searcy, Sharp, Stone, Union, Van Buren, White, and Woodruff.

#### **REPAYMENT**

1. In the event the recipient fails to complete a program of study which will enable the person to become a licensed teacher or fails to complete his/her teaching obligation, he/she shall, within a maximum of five (5) years from the completion of study or withdrawal from school, repay the full remaining balance, plus accrued interest, according to an interest and repayment schedule provided by the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, including a reasonable attorney's fee less the amount of any award for which service has been rendered.
2. In the event a recipient receives a deferral of debt for cause approved by the State Board of education if there is no employment position immediately available upon completion of licensure requirements, the timing of the repayment obligation will be modified.
3. The repayment schedule will include payments based on the total amount of the loan remaining at the time of entry into repayment, plus interest, less the amount of any award for which service has been rendered. Payments will be computed to ensure that repayment will be completed within a maximum of five (5) years from the completion of the program or withdrawal from school.
4. Loan recipients required to repay loans who fail to meet their repayment obligation may have added to their total obligations cost associated with collection of the debt.
5. If the recipient defaults on the repayment of a loan, the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff may disclose that default, along with other relevant information to the Arkansas General Assembly and credit bureaus or reporting organizations.
6. There shall be no penalty for prepayment or repayment of all or any portion of the principal.

#### **INTEREST**

Interest will accrue from the beginning of the repayment period at a maximum annual percentage rate not to exceed five percent (5%) per annum above the Federal Reserve Discount Rate at the time of the contract on the outstanding principal.

#### **CHANGE IN NAME, ADDRESS, AND SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER**

The recipient shall notify the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff within twenty-one (21) days, in writing, of any change in name, address, social security number, enrollment status, pertinent employment status, change in institution, or change in course of study.

## **STATEMENT OF EDUCATIONAL PURPOSE**

**The recipient hereby warrants that all proceeds received through this program will be used for educational purposes. The recipient may not assign, delegate, or otherwise transfer any interest, right, or obligation arising hereunder.**

## **AGE**

**This note shall not be voidable by reason of the age of the student at the time of receiving the scholarship.**

## **RESPONSIBILITY**

**The University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff is not responsible for locating a teaching position for the recipient.**

## **DISABILITY AND DEATH CANCELLATION**

**A recipient's repayment obligation may be cancelled:**

- 1. On the basis of a sworn affidavit of a licensed physician, that the recipient is unable to teach on a full-time basis because of an impairment that is expected to continue indefinitely or result in death. UAPB reserves the right to require a second opinion by a UAPB – approved physician; or**
- 2. On the basis of a death certificate or other evidence of death, that is conclusive under state law, which the recipient has died.**



**AGREEMENT**

**I understand that this Note, which represents the entire agreement between me and the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, is executed under the authority of and pursuant to, and is to be administered and interpreted in all respects in accordance with Act 1731 of 2001, any amendments thereto, and implementing regulations.**

**I, \_\_\_\_\_, promise to pay the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, or to a subsequent holder of this Promissory Note, the amount of funding received by this request, including interest, if I fail to complete the contractual agreement as stated above.**

**APPLICANT'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please print)**

**SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_**

**PERMANENT ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_**

**TELEPHONE NUMBER)  
(HOME) \_\_\_\_\_**

**(CELL) \_\_\_\_\_**

**(E-Mail) \_\_\_\_\_**

**SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_**

**DATE \_\_\_\_\_**

**A COPY OF YOUR CURRENT OFFICIAL COLLEGE TRANSCRIPT (IF ENROLLED IN COLLEGE) OR A COPY OF YOUR HIGH SCHOOL TRANSCRIPT (IF A RECENT HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE) MUST BE INCLUDED WITH YOUR APPLICATION. PLEASE MAIL COMPLETED APPLICATION TO:**

**UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS AT PINE BLUFF  
ARKANSAS GEOGRAPHICAL CRITICAL NEEDS MINORITY TEACHER SCHOLARSHIP  
PROGRAM  
1200 NORTH UNIVERSITY DRIVE  
MAIL SLOT – 4986  
PINE BLUFF, AR 71601**

**Applications are accepted on a semester by semester basis.  
Application deadline:  
Fall semester – July 31  
Spring semester – November 10**