Mission, Role and Scope

MISSION STATEMENT

To Teach
The University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences prepares excellent health care professionals and scientists who are committed to high ethical and professional standards, life-long learning and skill advancement in health care for Arkansas, the nation and the world.

To Heal
The University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences provides comprehensive, nationally and internationally recognized health care in many specialties and disciplines for Arkansas, the nation and the world.

To Search
The University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences conducts pioneering research that leads to new knowledge with application and integration into the health care disciplines, systems-of-care public policy and economic progress for all people.

To Serve
The University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences provides leadership and service in the health care disciplines and in public health policy for the benefit of the citizens and communities of Arkansas.
The University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) is Arkansas’ only institution of professional and graduate education devoted solely to the health and biological sciences. First founded as a School of Medicine in 1879, UAMS became a medical sciences campus in 1951 with the addition of the College of Pharmacy. The College of Nursing was established in 1953 and the University Hospital was built in 1956. The College of Health Related Professions was organized as a separate college within UAMS in 1971. The Graduate Program was organized as an extension of the Graduate School of the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville in 1943 and was approved for independent status by the Board of Trustees in 1995. The Area Health Education Centers Program (AHEC) was established in 1973. The College of Public Health enrolled students for the first time in 2002. Multiple Centers of Excellence and Institutes now reside on the UAMS campus, including the Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute, the Harvey and Bernice Jones Eye Institute, the Donald W. Reynolds Center on Aging, the Myeloma Institute for Research and Therapy, and the Jackson T. Stephens Spine and Neurosciences Institute. Today UAMS has grown into an academic health sciences center that encompasses broad aspects of education, research and service. The institution offers programs that improve the physical, economic and intellectual well being of the citizens of Arkansas.

In fulfilling its educational mission, the six academic units of UAMS – the Colleges of Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, Health Related Professions, Public Health, and the Graduate School – as well as the UAMS Medical Center, the Area Health Education Centers, and the other Centers and Institutes noted above, provide the environment and opportunities, for students and practitioners alike, to learn and maintain the knowledge and skills they need. These programs integrate the liberal arts with the biological, physical and behavioral sciences and emphasize life-long learning for practitioners in the health professions.

UAMS is the principal biomedical research center for the state of Arkansas. In its programs of research, UAMS seeks to stimulate and support scholarly inquiry, for both faculty and students, aimed at maintaining and preserving knowledge and making discoveries that address the health needs of the state, nation and world. These research programs enhance the economic and educational programs of Arkansas through technology transfer and collaborative arrangements with other qualified individuals, groups, companies and institutions. The research mission involves the quest for new information, the organization of known information in new ways and the sharing of this information with the scientific community.

The service mission is fulfilled by providing comprehensive health care services to meet both the educational needs of our students and the health care needs of the state. As the only academic medical center in Arkansas, the unique role of UAMS is to provide services requiring highly specialized personnel and technology. These services are delivered in an interdisciplinary environment to all Arkansans regardless of their ability to pay. In addition, comprehensive services in health, wellness and rehabilitation are offered in a statewide context. Our service mission is enhanced by affiliation with Arkansas Children's Hospital, the John L. McClellan Memorial Veterans Administration Medical Center, the Arkansas Rehabilitation Institute, the Central Arkansas Radiation Therapy Institute, and the Arkansas State Hospital. Additional cooperative programs are offered with other hospitals and practitioners affiliated with the AHEC Programs. UAMS has a responsibility to provide health care services in a manner that ensures the long-range financial viability and continued quality of its programs while providing the most cost-effective care for its patients.

The UAMS mission encompasses a responsibility to its alumni and other health care practitioners of Arkansas to help them continue to improve their professional knowledge and skills. All schools and departments offer life-long learning opportunities as appropriate to their mission. The University library also serves as a resource for all health professionals by maintaining a portfolio of information services needed to support their information needs.

UAMS values its role of service to the general welfare of the state of Arkansas. This service includes action as a partner in science and health areas at all levels of the educational system of the state. As the leader in health care, the institution provides educational programs, consultation and technical advice to other institutions, agencies and local communities for the purpose of improving and maintaining the health of citizens.

The role of UAMS in the economic life of the community is significant. A major element of the central Arkansas economy, the salaries of a highly trained work force contribute substantially to the regional economy. UAMS represents $1 billion/year in revenue, employs about 9,600 faculty and staff, and attracts $60 million/year in nationally funded research. It is estimated that UAMS and its affiliates, the Arkansas Children's Hospital and the Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare system, have an economic impact on Arkansas that exceeds $5 billion every year.

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