

OTC serving five-county area with higher education

Ouachita Technical College is a small, public, open-access, comprehensive, community-based institution of higher education.

The College has been affiliated with the Higher Learning Commission since February 1994 when it became a Candidate for Accreditation under what was then the North Central Association, A Commission on Institutions of Higher Education.

Initial accreditation was granted in February 1996; accreditation status was reaffirmed in 2001 for a period of 10 years.

A single-campus college that serves a primarily rural, five-county service area (approximate population of 174,000, approximate median income of \$33,400), OTC annually enrolls over 6,500 credit and non-credit students, operates on a semester calendar, and awards associate degrees and certificates.

Credit enrollment in Fall 2009 was 1,610 students in 13,268 student semester credit hours, a full-time equivalent of 885 (SSCH/15).

Demographics on these students follow:

38 percent were full time, 62 percent part time;

57 percent were female, 43 percent male;

14 percent were African-American, 83 percent Caucasian, 2 percent Hispanic, 1 percent other ethnicities;

47 percent were from Hot Spring County (OTC's location), 45 percent from the other four counties in the College's service area, 8 percent from counties outside the service area;

63 percent were college-matriculated students, 37

school students;

Mean age for all credit students was 24, mean age excluding concurrent students was 28;

16 percent of SSCH was through distance education;

83 percent of Fall 2009 entering students were placed into one or more developmental courses;

32 percent of college-matriculated students were declared to the Associate of Arts degree, 14 percent to the Practical Nursing technical certificate, 7 percent to the Associate Nursing degree (RN), with the remaining in a variety of certificate and associate degree programs;

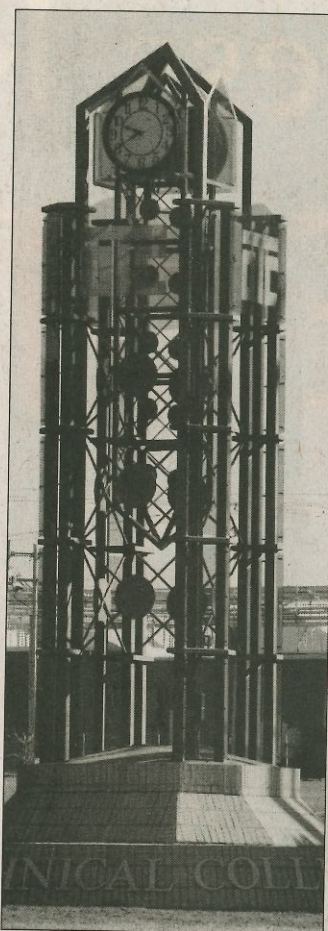
62 percent of Fall 2009 full-time, award-seeking students and 54 percent of part-time, award-seeking students were on need-based aid.

The College also operates a secondary career center that provides technical education in partnership with area high schools and is the sponsoring agency for the Hot Spring County and the Grant County adult education programs. The College also provides credit and non-credit customized business and industry training and non-credit personal enrichment courses.

Mission and Purposes

The current Mission and Purposes statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on March 26, 2008. They are as follows:

Ouachita Technical College is a public, two-year institution of higher education that continually identifies and addresses the changing learning needs of the communities it serves through Developmental courses and services that promote collegiate-level



Associate-degree programs and courses that prepare learners to transfer and to succeed at universities;

Associate degree, certificate, and continuing professional education programs and courses that prepare learners to succeed in the workforce;

Services and resources that meet the needs of students in order to support successful learning;

Specialized training courses and services that meet the needs of business and individuals;

Partnerships with K-12 schools, other colleges and universities, businesses, industries, public agencies, and civic groups that support learning and promote the economic development of Arkansas;

Non-credit, lifelong learning programs and opportunities that meet

Continuous improvement through a system of inquiry, evidence, and accountability.

To fulfill its mission and purposes, OTC offers educational opportunities for transfer, employment, preparatory remediation, adult education, secondary technical training, business and industry training, and personal enrichment. These purposes are accomplished through a broad range of classes, programs, and services.

The College is one of 22 comprehensive two-year colleges across the state. Since its inception in 1991, OTC's fall enrollment has increased 667 percent (210 to 1,610). The graph that follows indicates the 68 percent increase in unduplicated headcount and in annualized full-time equivalents (SSCH/30) between academic years 2001 and 2009.

Significant Developments since 2000 HLC-NCA Visit

In addition to changes and developments discussed previously and throughout this Self-Study Report, the following underscore major changes since the 2000 comprehensive evaluation.

Fall unduplicated enrollment has risen 94 percent (from 829 in Fall 2000 to 1610 in Fall 2009);

Fall online unduplicated enrollments have risen 645 percent (from 70 in Fall 2000 to 376 in Fall 2009);

The 11,000 square foot Allied Health Building was constructed and occupied in Fall 2001;

The 17,765 square foot Arts & Sciences Building was constructed and opened for classes in Fall 2008;

HLC-NCA approved the College's Change Request to

programs; the Associate of Arts in General Education and the Associate of Applied Science in Criminal Justice were implemented in 2004;

In September 2003, the College received a five-year, \$1,800,000 Title III Strengthen Institutions Grant;

The OTC Foundation Board was reactivated in 2004;

New programs in cosmetology, teaching, registered nursing, medical office, and electrical apprenticeship were added;

The College implemented merit scholarships;

The College was selected as a Round Four Achieving the Dream College and received a \$50,000 one-year implementation grant and subsequent \$400,000 four-year program grant recipient;

2002 and 2008 mission reviews led to revised mission documents and strategic plans;

Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) graduation rate has risen from 14 percent for the Fall 2000 cohort to 23 percent for the Fall 2006 cohort; the transfer rate has risen from 17 percent for the Fall 2000 cohort to 24

percent for the Fall 2006 cohort;

The National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships certified the College's concurrent enrollment program;

In May 2009, the Board of Trustees mandated a College name change study.

In 2009, 424 students earned 505 awards—102 associate degrees, 149 technical certificates, and 254 certificates of proficiency.

In Fall 2010 credit classes:

1,542 students were enrolled;

330 students were enrolled in one or more online classes;

40 percent were full-time students, 60 percent were part-time students;

12 percent were African-American, 82 percent were Caucasian, 3 percent were two or more races, 3 percent were other ethnicities;

48 percent were from Hot Spring County;

Average age was 24;

In 2009-10, 477 students graduated with 659 awards—a 13 percent increase in the number of graduates in 2008-09 and a 31 percent increase in the number of awards.

**BOBBY
PIERCE**
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 19

OUACHITA

TECHNICAL COLLEGE



Ouachita Technical College proudly recognizes the dedication and commitment of the many women that provide their expertise as OTC faculty, staff, and administrators.



"I believe that women everywhere share the same dreams; to be educated, to live in peace, to enjoy good health, to be prosperous and to be heard. And, of course, these dreams start with the education of girls."

---Laura Bush

Malvern Daily Record

Thursday, February 24, 2011



"CHANGING LIVES...BUILDING FUTURES"