Summer 2022 Request for Proposal Packet

Arkansas Computer Science and Computing Educator Academy

2021-2023

Arkansas Computer Science and Computing Educator Academy 2021-2023

As part of the Arkansas Computer Science and Computing Initiative founded under Governor Asa Hutchinson, the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) seeks additional Arkansas public universities to form a partnership with the ADE Office of Computer Science to provide postsecondary graduate credit for Arkansas residents completing a Computer Science and Computing Educator Academy. This "request for proposal" packet seeks to assist in the identification of Arkansas public university partners.

All inquiries regarding this packet should be addressed to:

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1. Program Description and Guidelines

A.   Purpose

During the Spring of 2021, the ADE Office of Computer Science established the Arkansas Computer Science and Computing Educator Academy (ACSCEA) and selected Arkansas Tech University as its initial Arkansas Public University Partner. The ACSCEA provides additional options for Arkansas residents to:

- Learn basic computer science which provides a starting point for new teachers to be successful,
- Receive preparation for passing the Computer Science Content Knowledge Praxis exam,
- Gain approval to teach high school computer science courses,
- Earn postsecondary credits for academy completion, and
- Expand skills in specialized areas aligned to state adopted programs of study.

B.   Training Components

The ACSCEA consists of each candidate completing 18 graduate-level credit hours of computer science and computing (CSC) training and coursework that is aligned to that candidate's needs and desires.

The primary 90 hours of training is provided by the ADE Office of Computer Science and consists of 60 hours of content that is designed, and required, for all candidates who have not yet passed the Computer Science Content Knowledge Praxis exam and 30 hours of advanced level training that varies based on the participant's interests and needs.

The initial 60 hours of training, which may take place physically in one or more of the selected university partners and is provided by the ADE Office of Computer Science, will, at minimum, consist of:

- An overview of CSC Initiative including the importance of CSC,
- An examination of state-provided resources and requirements both regulatory and legislative,
- A broad examination of the scope and sequencing of the content within the K-8 computer science standards,
- A broad examination of the approved high school pathways and Division of Career and Technical Education (DCTE) approved programs of study found at: https://bit.ly/CSforARPoS2021,
- Information on active steps to broaden upper level participation in computing and computer science amongst underserved populations, especially female students,
- Computer science and computing concepts and instructional strategies for standards within the ADE Computer Science and Computing year one standards found at: https://bit.ly/ARCSCourses,
- Additional concepts that are found on the computer science Praxis, but not part of the Arkansas Computer Science and Computing year one standards, and
- Strategies and resources for passing the Computer Science Content Knowledge Praxis Exam.

The advanced training options, which the candidate may select based on their needs and/or interests, are 30 hours each. Advanced training options will be provided by the ADE Office of Computer Science or partners/trainers selected by the ADE Office of Computer Science.

Advanced training options planned for the summer of 2022 will include:
- Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning
- Computer Engineering
- Cybersecurity
- Data Science
- Game Development and Design
- Mobile Application Development
- Networking
- Programming
- Robotics
- Advanced Placement Computer Science A Certification Training

A candidate, who enters the program that has already passed the Computer Science Content Knowledge Praxis exam, will be allowed to take three different advanced training options to meet the initial 90-hour requirement.

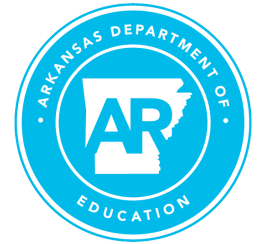**C.   Additional Graduate Hours**

Selected participants, who fully complete the initial 90 hours of training and are awarded the associated 6 hours of graduate-level computer science credit, will be eligible to have tuition and fees covered for up to 12 additional graduate hours of computer science or related credit at an ACSCEA Public University Partner. For funding to be provided under the ACSCEA program, the completion of the 18 hours must be in course work that will allow the participant to be eligible to teach computer science concurrent credit under Arkansas law and regulations.

D.   Candidate Selection

The ACSCEA is restricted to Arkansas residents who are either employed by an Arkansas public school district or intend to teach within an Arkansas Public School District and have a letter of support from a Superintendent or Principal of an Arkansas public school district. Up to 300 total candidates across all public university partners may be accepted during the life of the ACSCEA, which will expire on June 30, 2023. The candidate selection criteria and process will be developed and conducted by the ADE Office of Computer Science.

E.   CSCEA Participant Certification, Credit, and/or Grades

Upon completion of the 90-hour program, if other required criteria is met, the ADE may issue the participant one of the following:
- 5016 Computer Science Approval Code for individuals who already hold an Arkansas Educator's License,
- 5014 Computer Science Technical Permit for individuals who have at least 3 years of work experience in a computer science and computing (or related) field, or
- 5013 Computer Science Technical Permit for Classified Staff who have at least 1 year of direct student involvement work experience in a public school district.

Candidates who successfully complete the 90-hour program may also earn up to 6 graduate-level credits in computer science and/or education awarded by the selected Arkansas public university partners. Once the participant has been successfully awarded these credits, they may apply to take additional computer science graduate-level credits as outlined in any response to this proposal and/or approved in writing by the ADE. The expense for these credits will be remunerated by the Arkansas Department of Education. If the Arkansas public university partner has accreditation-based requirements for training instructors, those requirements, in addition to expenses to meet those requirements, should be clearly outlined within the response to this RFP.

2. Proposals should outline the following:

A.   Determine whether your institution meets the criteria for selection.
- a. Minimum Criteria
    - i.   Can award 6 state-recognized graduate-level credits to participants completing the initial training,
    - ii. Can provide a physical space for up to 60 individuals to meet (subject to potential COVID guidelines in place at the time of the ACSCEA) Monday through Friday (8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.) of the weeks of June 13-17, 2022, and June 20-24, 2022, (this space should be able to be secured overnight),
    - iii. Can provide access to this space from 8:00a.m. to 6:00p.m. on Friday, June 10, 2022, for ADE Office of Computer Science members to prepare the space for the next week's training,
    - iv. Can provide a physical space for up to 3 groups of 20 individuals to meet (subject to potential COVID guidelines in place at the time of the ACSCEA) Monday through Friday (8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.) of the weeks of June 27 - July 1; July 11 - July 15; July 18 - July 22, and July 25 - July 29, (the spaces should be able to be secured overnight),
    - v.   Can provide reasonable access to and set up of tables, chairs, and other necessary equipment for the training,

   vi.   Can provide access to a reliable physical high-speed network connection for ADE Office of Computer Science digital conferencing and streaming equipment,
   vii. Can provide access to reliable wireless internet connectivity (WiFi) for up to 60 individuals,
   viii. Can provide reasonable access to parking for up to 60 individuals,
   ix.   Can provide access to in-room or on-campus breakfast and lunch for each day (Monday-Friday) of the ACSCEA,
   x.   Can provide adult appropriate lodging for up to 60 individuals for Sunday through Thursday night of both weeks (WiFi access included); the proposal may include costs for participants to stay in a local hotel block arranged for by the public university partner. Proposed on-campus residential facilities or proposed hotels may be inspected by a member of the ADE Office of Computer Science before an entity is selected as a public university partner.
         (final number of on-site participants and participants needing lodging will be established by May 1, 2022)
   b.   Optional Bonus Criteria - if provided this may increase the likelihood for selection
      i.   Can provide and run digital equipment (cameras, computers, high-speed internet, audio and visual connection for a presenter's laptop that feeds into the system, projectors to display both the presenter's laptop and Zoom participants) that will allow individuals in the physical space to interact effectively with digital participants joining via Zoom. (ADE will establish the Zoom rooms to be used)
      ii. Access to local and appropriate evening entertainment activities
      iii. A university approved Certificate of Proficiency in a computer science related area is available for participants completing the 18 hours of credit successfully

B.   Complete the application, detailing the availability of each element of the criteria for selection outlined above.

C.   Provide a proposed postsecondary partner budget:
   a.   Include a per participant price to award state-recognized 18 graduate hours
   b.   Indicate if this cost is consistent, regardless of the number of participants
   c.   Include all costs to meet other elements of criteria for selection (including a per participant cost where applicable)
   d.   Indicate if there will be and clearly outline all instructor accreditation requirements and any associated costs

D.   Email all of the information above, with a letter from the public university partner's chief officer or president, by November 28, 2021, to anthony.owen@ade.arkansas.gov and CSforAR@ade.arkansas.gov.

Interested parties should fill out the 2022 Arkansas Computer Science and Computing Educator Academy Request for Proposal for Public University Partners - Intent to Submit form found at https://forms.gle/1in1ELfAYBtc5hHi8 as soon as possible. Submissions to the Intent to Submit form are for informational purposes only and are not binding on the part of the party submitting it nor ADE.

3. Review and Approval Process

A. The ACSCEA public university partner selection committee will be appointed by the ADE Director of Computer Science upon approval of the Deputy Commissioner of Education.
B. The committee will review proposals and may interview applicant representatives.
C. The committee may recommend one or more public university partners to the Secretary of Education for consideration and/or approval.

4. Application Components

A detailed description of each program component defined below is required for a complete application.

A. Name, title, address, phone number, and email address of a point of contact for the public university partner,
B. A full explanation of reasoning and plan to meet any additional instructor accreditation requirements,
C. Explain proposed processes to be used by the public university partner to register, and award postsecondary credit to the participants,
D. Detail the full costs, expenses, and fees to award each participant the postsecondary graduate-level credit,
E. Detail the full costs, of all other budgeted criteria the public university partner can/will provide,
F. A full listing of the 6 hours of credits that will be awarded upon completion of the 90 hours of ADE provided training,
G. A full listing of the 12 hours of credits additional computer science graduate-level courses with indications of if they are available in-person, online, or both, and what semesters they will be available and
H. Provide other information that the public university partner wants considered during the review process.

5. Public University Partner Responsibilities

A. Appoint a single point of contact for the ACSCEA who will coordinate public university partner efforts with the Arkansas Department of Education Office of Computer Science.

B.   Process and submit, on time, all reports, relevant to the ACSCEA, that are requested by the Arkansas Department of Education Office of Computer Science.

6. Proposed Budget

The proposed budget should be submitted on the public university partner's letterhead, may be digital, and encompass all budgetary components required above.