PEAK
INNOVATION CENTER

Inspiring Transformative Learning

UAFS
University of Arkansas
Fort Smith

BELIEVE. BELONG. BECOME.

Inspiring Transformative Learning

The Peak Innovation Center is a partnership between Fort Smith Public Schools and the University of Arkansas – Fort Smith that delivers cutting-edge technical and career programming to high school students in 22 school districts throughout the River Valley.

At Peak, students take a hands-on approach to learning in a multi-million dollar facility designed specifically for career-focused programming taught by University of Arkansas – Fort Smith faculty as an extension of the Western Arkansas Technical Center.

Through programming and industry exposure, students receive a direct connection to career opportunities in the region. Students who successfully complete these courses have the ability to earn a competitive salary upon high school graduation and are better prepared to thrive in college. In fact, the coursework students complete at Peak seamlessly transfers to the University of Arkansas – Fort Smith. In some cases, Peak students will be within a few course hours of earning their associate degree at the same time they graduate from high school.

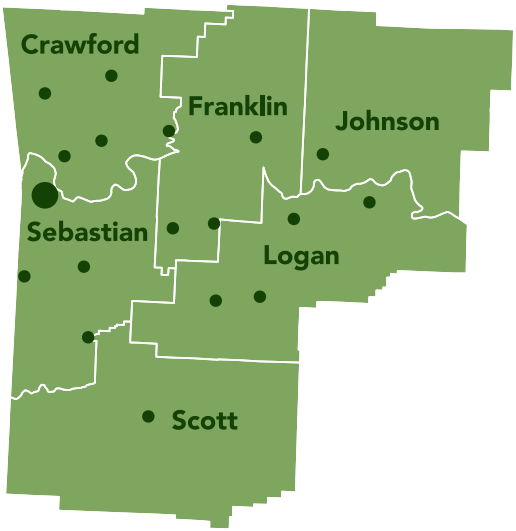
Student-Centered. Career-Focused. Community-Supported.

This is the Peak Innovation Center.

FORT SMITH PUBLIC SCHOOLS | PEAK INNOVATION CENTER | UAFS University of Arkansas Fort Smith

At a Glance

Location: Zero Street and Painter Lane in Fort Smith, Arkansas
Facility Size: 160,000 square feet with 17 acres for future expansion
Phase 1 Learning Space: Approximately 80,000 square feet
Facility/Equipment Investment: $20,000,000
Facility Partner: Fort Smith Public Schools
Academic Partner: University of Arkansas – Fort Smith



Programs

Advanced Manufacturing
- Computer Integrated Machining
- Electronics Technology
- Automation/Robotics

Information Technology
- Network Engineering Technology
- Unmanned Aerial Systems

Health Sciences
- Practical Nursing
- Emergency Medical Responder

School Districts Served

Alma
Arkansas Connections Academy
Arkansas Virtual Academy
Booneville
Cedarville
Charleston
County Line
Fort Smith Public Schools
Future School of Fort Smith
Greenwood
Hackett
Johnson County
Westside
Lavaca
Magazine
Mansfield
Mountainburg
Mulberry/
Pleasant View
Ozark
Paris
Scranton
Van Buren

PATHWAYS

ADVANCED MANUFACTURING

Manufacturing in the 21st century is highly automated and designed to continuously operate in efficient, clean, climate-controlled environments. In order to maintain this level of productivity, employers need a skilled workforce that's adept in modern technology, computerized production processes, and strategic workflow methods. If you love to work with your hands, as well as your mind, our Advanced Manufacturing pathway is for you.

Peak's Advanced Manufacturing pathway offers three distinct programs:

- Computer Integrated Machining
- Electronics Technology
- Automation/Robotics

Each pathway builds on a common set of classes to provide you with fundamental knowledge that will benefit your long-term goals. This foundation gives you the opportunity to more easily delve into specialized manufacturing fields in future academic courses. Through Peak, you'll become a specialist rather than generalist, and better prepared for a successful career.

Median wage figures from U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. www.bls.gov

PEAK INNOVATION CENTER

COMPUTER INTEGRATED MACHINING

Today's manufacturing world is complex, fast-paced, and reliant upon sharp minds as well as advanced processes, technology, tools and equipment. In the Gene Haas Computer Integrated Machining Lab, students will be trained on state of the art equipment and technology and will receive theoretical and practical education on machine shop operations, manufacturing and machining processes, use and care of tools and machines, technical drafting (CAD/CAM) and interpretation of blueprints, computer numeric control programming and requirements for quality work.

Career Titles: *CNC Machine Operator, Machinist, Machine Tool Operator, Tool and Die Maker, Advanced Manufacturing Technician*
Industry: *Manufacturing, Public Institutions, Government, Specialty Machining Shops*
Outlook: *3% growth*
Arkansas Median Wage: *$37,340*

ELECTRONICS TECHNOLOGY

Students who enter the Electronics Technology program will gain the skills needed to solve complex problems through the use of technology. In the ABB Electronics Technology Lab, students will learn how to install, maintain and repair machinery, equipment and processes used by manufacturing and industrial companies. The courses in this pathway cover a range of integrated fields such as advanced manufacturing, engineering, sciences and technology.

Career Titles: *Industrial Maintenance Technician, Advanced Manufacturing Technician, Engineering Technician*
Industry: *Electromedical, Manufacturing, Governmental, Engineering Services*
Outlook: *2% growth*
Arkansas Median Wage: *$62,080*

AUTOMATION/ROBOTICS

Advancements in industrial innovation, productivity and global competition have led to an increasing demand for automation and robotic technicians and programmers in advanced manufacturing operations. In the ABB Automation and Robotics Lab, students will develop the skills necessary to design, develop and maintain automation and robotic systems as well as build automation solutions and program robots to perform intricate assignments.

Career Titles: *Automation Technicians, Robotic Technicians, Advanced Manufacturing Technicians, Engineering Technicians*
Industry: *Advanced Manufacturing, Transportation, Engineering Services*
Outlook: *3% growth*
National Median Wage: *$39,810 - $58,350 (varies by specialty)*

PATHWAYS

HEALTH SCIENCES

The Health Services sectors is one of our nation's fastest growing fields. As our population ages, the demand for skilled healthcare providers will increase exponentially over the next decade. If you're driven by a desire to make a real difference in the lives of others and enjoy a fast-paced environment, then this may be the field for you. Beyond the security and flexibility of an in-demand career, healthcare providers traditionally enjoy one of the highest levels of job satisfaction.

Our Health Sciences pathway delivers the foundational knowledge you will need to enter this fast-paced and highly-rewarding career field.

The Peak Health Sciences pathway offers two distinct programs:

- Practical Nursing
- Emergency Medical Responder

These programs combine practical instruction with clinical experience to provide you with the foundational knowledge needed to begin a career in health care or obtain advanced credentials through continued higher education.

PRACTICAL NURSING

This program offers you the opportunity to earn a technical certificate in Practical Nursing. Admission into the Practical Nursing program is competitive, but those who are accepted will receive a combination of classroom instruction in a state-of-the-art facility with clinical experience in the care of clients at local healthcare facilities.

Upon successful completion of this program, you'll be able to apply for the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX-PN) when you reach 18 years of age. Peak's Practical Nursing Program is approved by the Arkansas State Board of Nursing (ASBN).

Career Titles: *Licensed Practical and Vocational Nurse (LPN, LVN)*
Industry: *Hospitals, Residential Care Facilities, Physician Offices, Government*
Outlook: *9% growth*
Arkansas Median Wage: *$40,760*

EMERGENCY MEDICAL RESPONDER

Combine your goals of helping people with your desire to work in a fast-paced environment with Peak's Emergency Responder program. Peak offers certifications in Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) and Emergency Medical Responder (EMR). An EMT is an emergency responder with the practical medical knowledge and skills necessary to deliver healthcare in a rapid time frame. The knowledge gained at this level provides the foundation for all future certification. The goal of EMT intervention is to rapidly evaluate and stabilize a patient's airway, breathing, and circulation through the use of CPR and defibrillation.

EMR's deliver life-saving care to patients who find themselves in emergency situations. They are generally the first medical technicians on the scene of emergency situations and are able to provide assistance to higher-level personnel at these scenes and during transport to a hospital.

Career Titles: *Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) – Paramedics*
Industry: *Ambulance Services, Hospitals, Government*
Outlook: *6% growth*
Arkansas Median Wage: *$34,660*

PATHWAYS

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

As technology advances, so does the industry's need for skilled professionals to deliver effective, efficient, and secure information technology services. This pathway prepares you to go directly into a specialized career in computer networking. With the number of cyber attacks on the rise and confidential information becoming increasingly vulnerable, the need for networking specialists and information security analysts is expected to grow.

Peak's Network Engineering Technology (NET) program will teach you to design, administer, maintain and support local and wide area networks (LANs and WANs). Those who graduate from the Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) program will be introduced to both the operational and analytical aspects of UAS systems.

The Peak Information Technology pathway offers two programs:

- Network Engineering Technology
- Unmanned Aerial Systems

NET graduates will be qualified for exciting technological roles in network design and installation, infrastructure security and maintenance, incident response, inter-network communications, network monitoring and administration and cyber security. UAS graduates will have the foundational skills necessary to succeed in this burgeoning career field.

NETWORK ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY

Turn your love of computers and virtual networks into a lucrative career by becoming a network engineering technician. Network Engineering Technicians, also known as network architects, combine programming skills with imagination to construct robust computer networks for businesses and their employees.

This program equips students with the skills they will need to enter the workforce as a computer network support specialist progressing to the level of a network and system administrator. Courses of study that will allow high school students to qualify for a technical certificate include:

- Introduction to Program and Networking
- Wiring and Cabling
- Electrical Circuits and Components
- Fiber Optics
- Cloud-Based Computing
- Network Security

Certificates of proficiency will be awarded in networking technology and supporting technology customers.

Career Titles: *Network Engineer, Network Architect, Computer System Administrator*
Industry: *Educational Services, Computer systems Design, Government, Finance & Insurance*
Outlook: *4-8% growth*
Arkansas Median Wage: *$39,450 - $63,380 (varies by specialty)*

UNMANNED AERIAL SYSTEMS

Much more than toys or hobbies, unmanned aerial systems (popularly known as drones) have become a vital tool for industry and a lucrative career option. A 2019 study by Research and Markets predicts the global drone service market will grow 51.1% by 2027. Licensed operators are sought after by employers in a variety of industries including: real estate, agriculture, manufacturing, oil & gas and much more.

Our program has been selected by the Federal Aviation Administration for inclusion in its Unmanned Aircraft Systems-Collegiate Training Initiative. This UAS-CTI designation ensures graduates stand-out from competitors in the workforce. The relatively recent availability of this career field limits historical salary ranges but according to PayScale, drone operators make a median salary of $48,000.

Career Titles: *UAV Pilot - Drone Pilot, Drone Operator*
Industry: *Oil & Gas, Construction, Agriculture, City/State Government, Law Enforcement, Self-Employed Contractor*
Outlook: *100,000+ jobs by 2025*
National Average Pay: *$51,000 - $70,000 (varies by certification/experience)*


TECHNOLOGY
PEAK


GENE HAAS
ADVANCED

BELIEVE. BELONG. BECOME.

Student,

The information on the previous pages represents the culmination of over four years of brainstorming, strategic planning, collaboration, development, and investment by countless individuals and organizations. The Peak Innovation Center leverages an over $20 million investment and throughout the work it has taken to bring Peak to life, you should know that you have been the focus of our efforts.

As business, industry, and community leaders, we take our responsibility seriously when it comes to driving the economy of our region forward. With the help and commitment from many, we work hard to be good corporate citizens as well as the financial engine for thousands of employees, who are our families, friends, and neighbors. Ultimately, the efforts we make at providing career opportunity and community support, are only possible if the workforce in our region continues to be skilled and experienced. As a young adult, we understand that your ability to experience career opportunity is incredibly important, and that is why the Peak Innovation Center is something we hope you will consider.

At Peak, career and college bound students will have the chance to learn hands-on, in a cutting-edge environment, directed by University of Arkansas – Fort Smith instructors who bring industry experience to the classroom. Through programming and industry exposure, you'll receive direct connection to career opportunities in our region. Preparing for one of those careers not only provides you the ability to earn a competitive salary right out of high school, but better prepares you for any college ambitions you might have. The coursework you complete as a Peak student will seamlessly transfer into enrollment with UAFS, and in some cases you can graduate high school very close to the completion of an associate degree.

We hope you'll choose to Believe in yourself, decide to Belong at Peak, and Become a highly skilled professional in our community. Share this information with a parent or guardian and talk with your counselor to find out how to enroll.

Best wishes,

Industries of Western Arkansas

COMPUTER INTEGRATED MACHINING • ELECTRONICS TECHNOLOGY
AUTOMATION/ROBOTICS • NETWORK ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY
UNMANNED AERIAL SYSTEMS • PRACTICAL NURSING
EMERGENCY MEDICAL RESPONDER
AUTOMOTIVE TECHNOLOGY • COMPUTER GRAPHIC TECHNOLOGY
WELDING TECHNOLOGY • CERTIFIED NURSING ASSISTANT (CNA)
MEDICAL OFFICE ASSISTANT

Inspiring Transformative Learning

ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS

on the University of Arkansas – Fort Smith campus

Students also have the option of selecting programs and coursework provided through the Western Arkansas Technical Center (WATC) on the UAFS campus. These courses are also delivered by UAFS faculty, designed to industry standards, and focused on career success.

WATC offers two program pathways:

- Industrial and Engineering Technology
  - Automotive Technology
  - Computer Graphic Technology
  - Welding Technology
- Health Sciences
  - Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA)
  - Medical Office Assistant

WATC, in partnership with UAFS, the Guy Fenter Education Service Cooperative, and the Arkansas Division of Workforce Services, has served the region since 1998.

UAFS
University of Arkansas
Fort Smith

PATHWAYS

INDUSTRIAL AND ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY

The need for skilled technicians and specialists continues to grow, especially in the automotive, construction, and digital graphics industries. The complexity of the modern manufacturing sector requires employees with advanced, experience-based knowledge and the ability to work in a team setting.

WATC's Industrial and Engineering Technology pathway offers three programs:

- Automotive Technology
- Computer Graphic Technology
- Welding Technology

These programs lay the foundation students will need to stand for industry certification and advance their academic careers.

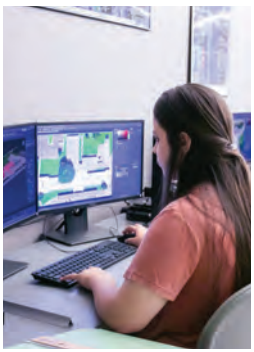
AUTOMOTIVE TECHNOLOGY

With nearly 300 million registered vehicles on the road, the United States is one of the world's largest automobile markets. If you're an analytical thinker, love technology, and working with your hands then WATC's Automotive Technology program is for you.

Certified by the National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation, Inc. (NATEF), this program provides students with the skills needed to inspect, maintain, and repair automotive engines and complex vehicle computer systems in order to begin a career as an entry-level automotive technician. Successful completion of the courses can lead to certification by the National Institute for Automotive Services Excellence (ASE).

Career Titles: *Automotive Technician, Service Technician, Field Service Technician*
Industry: *Automotive Dealerships, Independent Repair Shops, Manufacturing, Agriculture*
Outlook: *4% growth*
Arkansas Median Wage: *$38,970*

COMPUTER GRAPHIC TECHNOLOGY



Combine your love for technology with your passion for creativity and enjoy a fun and lucrative career by becoming a Computer Graphic Technician. You'll learn how to use the latest technology to create drawings, illustrations, graphics, and more.

In our program, you will actively use computers to understand, analyze, and create models while gaining competency in basic drafting and design skills. Beginning with traditional 2-D board drafting and progressing to advanced 3-D animation, you'll learn skills in solid and parametric modeling using advanced computer aided drafting and design techniques.

Career Titles: *Digital Designer, Graphic Artist, Graphic Designer*
Industry: *Communication, Multi-media, Corporate, Manufacturing*
Outlook: *4% growth*
Arkansas Median Wage: *$44,750*

WELDING TECHNOLOGY

Welding is essential to the United States economy, but as the current workforce ages, we find ourselves facing a welding shortage. You can help fill this gap, start a great career, and keep our economy moving by gaining the skills necessary to become a welder.

In this program, you will learn basic and advanced welding in three areas (arc, tungsten inert gas, metal inert gas) along with basic welding layout and fabrication. Students must reach the American Welding Society (AWS) certification test standards for both structural and high-pressure vessel welding. Upon successful completion of both years of the program, you can earn certificates of proficiency in ARC, TIG, and MIG.

Career Titles: *Welder, Cutter, Solderer, Brazer*
Industry: *Construction, Manufacturing, Aerospace, Oil & Gas*
Outlook: *3% growth*
Arkansas Median Wage: *$40,000 – $89,000 (varies by specialty)*

PATHWAYS

HEALTH SCIENCES

As our population ages, so too does the demand for skilled healthcare providers. If you're driven by a desire to make a real difference in the lives of others and enjoy a fast-paced environment, then this may be the field for you. Beyond the security and flexibility of an in-demand career, healthcare providers traditionally enjoy one of the highest levels of job satisfaction.

This pathway introduces students to a variety of career options available in the field of healthcare.

WATC's Health Sciences pathway offers two programs:

- Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA)
- Medical Office Assistant

Both programs provide a foundation for future study in more specialized healthcare areas.

CERTIFIED NURSING ASSISTANT (CNA)

The Certified Nursing Assistant program introduces students to a variety of health careers and the related medical terminology. Students are actively engaged clinical settings, working directly with residents of local long-term care facilities. Upon successful completion of this one-year program, students may fulfill requirements to take the CNA certification exam.

Career Title: *Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA)*
Industry: *Home Health Care – Personal Care Aides – Nursing Assistants*
Outlook: *8% growth*
Arkansas Median Wage: *$26,000*

MEDICAL OFFICE ASSISTANT

Students learn to assemble patient health information, ensure proper completion of all forms, and record information using various computer applications in addition to proper management of patient records and medical coding and billing. The curriculum emphasizes high standards of proficiency in communication, technology, and information management.

Career Titles: *Medical Office Assistant – Administrative Specialist*
Industry: *Hospitals, Healthcare Offices*
Outlook: *19% growth*
Arkansas Median Pay: *$31,000*

APPRENTICESHIPS

To supplement classroom exposure, students gain practical experience during later-term apprenticeships, which are modeled to provide real-world learning throughout the student's senior year, allowing them to capitalize on the technical concurrent college credit offerings at Peak and WATC. The ongoing, aligned support of our K-12 partners is critical to a student's successful transition into the workplace or their pursuit of a college degree.

Changing perceptions about the value an apprenticeship has for both students and industry requires an adjustment of delivery methods and expectations. Students are expected to hone the professional and technical skills that will allow them to become competitive candidates in the workplace.

Our apprenticeships hold high expectations for industry partners. In order to participate in the program and engage with the diverse and proficient talent being produced through the technical centers, companies will be required to demonstrate their commitment to our modern apprenticeship model.

Inspiring Transformative Learning

With a building and land donated by the Estate of William L. Hutcheson, the Peak Innovation Center is the culmination of more than four years of planning, collaboration, development, and investment by countless individuals and organizations, all with one goal in mind – your success.

Choose to:

- Believe in yourself
- Belong at Peak
- Become an accomplished professional

Ready to join the Peak Innovation Center? Get started today.

Next Steps

Middle School

- Participate in Career and Technical Education classes and summer camps at Peak to learn more about options for high school
- Utilize career interest and aptitude inventory tools like YouScience and Edge Factor to help focus on your strengths
- Create a student success plan that includes your area of interest at Peak Innovation Center

High School

- Take the first-level class to begin your path to Peak Innovation Center. CTE courses offer Principles or Introduction classes.
- Communicate your interest in continuing your chosen pathway with your high school counselor
- Register for classes at Peak through the Western Arkansas Technical Center at UAFS
- Participate in work-based learning opportunities such as apprenticeships and internships
- Complete your high school credits while earning concurrent technical credit and industry-recognized certifications

For more information visit **peakinnovationcenter.org** and **academics.uafs.edu/watc**.

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