SAU TECH
SOUTHERN ARKANSAS UNIVERSITY TECH
We put YOU first!

COMMITTED TO QUALITY, ACCESSIBILITY AND STUDENT SUCCESS

College Guide
Cindee Mason - Norphlet, Arkansas

“My lifelong goal has always been to become a teacher, but the goal slipped out of reach more times than I can count when life happened. SAU Tech’s teacher education program allowed me to be a mother, wife, and work full-time at the local elementary school. I am so excited to finish something I set out to do 15 years ago. SAU Tech’s instructors go above and beyond to help students obtain their goals. Through the partnership with SAU Magnolia, I was able to take the last two years of my program on SAU Tech’s campus. This was essential for me to be able to be a mom, wife, and employee, all while attending college!”

Why College?

Why should I consider technical training or a transfer degree? Why is college necessary for my future?
The future for careers in Arkansas and across the nation require training. Many are in healthcare and related fields, production and personal services. The research shows that the more you know, the more you earn. Training and education is the key to a career. Moving from a job to a career can significantly increase your earning potential and provide better benefits for yourself and your family.

The top ten fastest growing jobs in Arkansas all require some level of education past high school. These jobs are the ones projected to grow in the next five to ten years.

1. Registered Nurses
2. Nursing Aides, Orderlies, and Attendants*
3. Licensed Practical Nurses*
4. General and Operations Managers*
5. Computer Support Specialists*
6. First-Line Supervisors of Production and Operating Workers*
7. Preschool Teachers (except special education teachers)*
8. Firefighters*
9. Hairdressers, Hairstylists and Cosmetologists
10. Heating, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Mechanics and Installers

The information above came from www.discoverarkansas.net.

*SAU Tech has programs that address these career areas.

So, what do you need to know to prepare to go to college? Let’s find out!

What kinds of college and technical programs are available in our area?

Southern Arkansas University Tech is a two-year public college located in Camden and provides transfer degrees and career degrees. SAU Tech’s transfer degrees will transfer to any public four-year college in Arkansas. SAU Tech’s career degrees are designed to get you ready for a career in two years or less.

Below is a listing of SAU Tech’s Programs:

Transfer Degrees
Business Administration
General Studies
Teacher Education

Career Degree
Aviation Maintenance
Computer Information Systems
Early Childhood Education
Fire & Emergency Response
Fire Science Management
Engineering
Environmental Science
Film & Video Production
Graphic Design
Industrial Maintenance
Licensed Practical Nursing
Office Systems Technology
Paraprofessional Education
Web Design & Development
Welding Academy

Within the career program, short-term certifications are available for those who may already have a job but need to obtain certification or extra training.

Cindee Mason - Norphlet, Arkansas
What are the benefits of attending a two-year college?

- Lower cost of attendance
- Classes are smaller
- Close to home
- Transition classes for those needing to build skills
- Career programs available for students who want to go to work in two years or less
- Flexible scheduling
- Prepares students to do better academically when transferring to a four-year college

SAU Tech has on-campus housing for students who want to live independently while attending college.

Nationwide two-year colleges are known for being more flexible and more accommodating of the busy lives of today's students. With money tighter than ever, it makes sense to make a choice that provides quality education without breaking the bank. Due to state laws, all public four-year colleges must accept transfer of basic core courses and the general studies associate degree from the state's public two-year colleges. This protects you, the student, while allowing you to make a choice that fits both your lifestyle and your career plans.

How much does college or technical training cost?

The cost for college varies depending on what college you choose to attend. The costs go beyond just tuition. Below is a brief explanation of costs you can expect when obtaining your education.

**Tuition:** Cost per Credit Hour: For example a standard three-hour class would cost $210.00 if the cost per credit hour is $70.00.

**Fees:** Fees are costs added to each class or the student's total tuition. The kinds of fees depend on the classes you are taking and the college you are attending. For example, fees may be charged for activities, internet, labs, etc. Many scholarships do not cover fees, so make sure to ask the financial aid office about fees and scholarships.

**Housing-Room & Board:** Many colleges package room & board together to include meals. The cost may vary depending on what type of meal plan you choose. The costs also vary depending on whether you choose a private or semi-private room.

**Books:** Books continue to be a big expense for college students. The best option is to buy used books but still plan on paying $300 or more per semester depending on the courses taken. At the end of each semester, bookstores often offer to buy back some books for a portion of the purchase price.

**Supplies:** Some programs of study require supplies, such as nursing. This really depends on what area of study you are pursuing. Always ask during the admissions process about added expenses for supplies.

So, when figuring educational costs, you will need to make some decisions: whether to live at home or on campus, to be a full-time or part-time student, and whether or not to work while attending college. While the cost of obtaining your education may seem overwhelming, it is good to remember that the degree or technical certificate you earn will continue to pay off for the rest of your life. Education is a worthwhile investment in yourself.

What do I need to know about the application process?

Each college is different, but there is basic information that most colleges require.

- Application for Admission (sometimes a fee is required)
- Immunization Records (if born after 1/1/1957) with proof of 2 measles and 1 rubella shot
- GED scores or Official High School Transcript
- ACT, SAT, or Compass Scores
- College Transcript (if the student has ever taken college classes)
- Scholarship Award Letters (if applicable)* these are needed for the financial aid office

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“Akelia was the SAU Tech Arkansas Association of Two-Year College’s Academic All-Star in 2011.”

Akelia Russell - Camden, Arkansas
How do I pay for college?

There are options to help you pay for college. The best place to begin is to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at www.fafsa.ed.gov. If you are considered a dependent of your parents, then both you and your parents must first obtain a Personal Identification Number (PIN) at www.pin.ed.gov before completing the online FAFSA application.

The FAFSA is used to determine whether or not you qualify for Federal Pell Grants, student loans, scholarships and other programs. Even if you think you might not qualify, EVERYONE needs to fill out a FAFSA. SAU Tech’s Financial Aid office can assist you in completing the FAFSA. Even if you decide to go to a different college, SAU Tech can help answer any questions you may have about the FAFSA. The FAFSA must be completed with the most current tax year information. As soon as you or your parents complete an income tax return, you can use the information to complete your FAFSA.

Arkansas has other scholarships you may be eligible for as well. You can find out by simply going to www.adhe.edu and clicking on the YOUiversal application. After you answer a series of questions, it will tell you which scholarships are a good fit for you. Many local employers have education programs for their employees. You can find out more by talking to the human resources officer where you work. Other forms of aid can include military, veteran, WIA, student loans and other assistance programs.

SAU Tech’s Financial Aid office is happy to help you with locating resources to pay for college. More information and web resources are available on the financial aid page at www.sautech.edu. Never pay to apply for a scholarship. All legitimate scholarships application processes are FREE.

What if I never graduated from high school?

It is never too late to start your education! Every Arkansan has access to an adult education program in his/her county. The SAU Tech Adult Education Center provides services in Camden, Magnolia, Hampton, Stephens, Rison, and Fordyce. The Center offers GED prep and testing, basic computer skills, employment skills, Microsoft IT Academy, and English as a Second Language. Our adult education program will help prepare you to start college.

What if I am not prepared academically for college?

Unfortunately this can happen either from being out of high school for several years or not having taken college prep course work while in high school. SAU Tech has programs just for you. We provide transition courses to prepare you for college-level courses. You may have to work a little harder, but research shows that with hard work, students who start out in transitional classes can succeed.

What do I do next?

You have time to get enrolled in classes for summer or fall! If you need more information about the programs we offer, please call us or go to www.sautech.edu. The college is open from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday and from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Fridays. We are happy to schedule a campus tour, help you with admissions and financial aid, or answer any questions you may have.

SAU Tech is interested in helping you make a decision that could change your future. Your education is the beginning to a career that can bring you a lifetime of work options. Call us at 870.574.4712 and begin a relationship that could change your life.
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<tr>
<td>SAU Tech (Main Line)</td>
<td>870.574.4500</td>
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<td>Admissions</td>
<td>870.574.4558</td>
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<td>Adult Education Center</td>
<td>870.837.4001</td>
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<td>Business Office</td>
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<td>Campus Tours</td>
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