

**CENTRAL
ARKANSAS**

TM

***ANNUAL REPORT
FISCAL YEAR 2022***



TM



***ANNUAL REPORT
FISCAL YEAR 2022***



CONTENTS

- ***AD Address / Letter***
- ***Academic Integrity***
- ***Rules Compliance***
- ***Facility Enhancements***
- ***Events on Campus***
- ***Financial Prudence***
- ***Accomplishments***
- ***Student-Athlete Success
& Well-Being***

Dear Bear Nation,

We are very glad to get the 2020-2021 Covid year behind us. But when the 2021 fall approached, infection levels were rising and it was evident, we were still going to have to test weekly for Covid. We again met that challenge and by the end of the fall, testing was not as prevalent in college sports. We made it through two tough years of Covid and all the by-products of a pandemic. Our medical staff, along with our coaches and staff were incredible and allowed our student-athletes to compete with all the challenges present. They are all to be commended.

Mental wellness has become a priority for our department. We have limited resources but started a partnership with our counseling center to address the needs for our students and staff. We continued to have large roster sizes in all sports to assist with enrollment at UCA. Some of this due to Covid years but much of it due to added non-scholarship students to our rosters.

Our first year in the ASUN was a great experience. It certainly confirmed we made the correct decision on our conference options. The institutions represented and the administrators at each have similar priorities and visions for their programs. Our students enjoyed competing at the new locations and venues. We implemented a full ESPN platform for football, basketball, and baseball this past year. We will add volleyball, soccer, and softball this coming year. We couldn't have done this without great campus partnerships, especially Institutional Technology.

Outside of the extremes, we continued to see accomplishments with many great initiatives and maintained our increased graduation rates. Student-Athletes graduated 18 percentage points higher than the general student body which is a metric the NCAA reviews closely. It puts UCA Athletics in a great position. At UCA, we embrace the NCAA DI principles of Academic Integrity, Rules and Governance, Financial Prudence, and Student-Athlete Well-being. These characteristics shape our program as we excel at providing a great place to live, learn, and compete.

UCA is a total package program. We succeed in academics, socially, and with life skills, while winning championships. Our goal is to provide a wonderful educational experience for our student-athletes which is further enhanced through athletics success. The fondest memories come from our great teams and programs. We want all to have that experience.

As we enter our 17th year in Division I, and our second in the ASUN, our image continues to be very important to our success. Through our branding, facilities, and media, our image is impacted. We will ensure our image elicits a perception of a first-class program. We have been successful due to the re-branding of our logos and trademarks. We have been successful due to our abundant facility improvements since our move to Division I. We have been successful due to our forethought in social media and communications. We have been successful due to our staff's creativity and innovation. And we have been successful due to our willingness to take risks and go against the norms. We do all of this for all of you.

UCA Athletics is committed to providing a rewarding student-athlete experience, an enjoyable fan/donor experience, and a professional and classy image. We will do this while contributing to the university's educational experiences. UCA Athletics cherishes the role it plays on this great educational campus of UCA. Athletics will AVIDly provide a rewarding and enriching experience for the diverse group of students and coaches leading to excellence and accountability in the classroom, on campus, and in their sport.

GO BEARS! GO SUGAR BEARS!



Brad Teague, Ph. D.
Director of Athletics

CENTRAL ARKANSAS

TM

ANNUAL REPORT FISCAL YEAR 2022



TM

MISSION

To AVIDly provide a rewarding and enriching experience for students and coaches leading to excellence and accountability in the classroom, on campus and in their sport.

AVID - UCA dedicates itself to Academic Vitality, Integrity, and Diversity

CORE VALUES

1. Student-Athlete Success
2. Excellence
3. Accountability
4. Innovation
5. Collegiality

LEADERSHIP TRAITS

1. Work Ethic
2. Integrity
3. Communication
4. Professionalism

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

1. Student-Athlete Experience
2. Fan/Donor Experience
3. Program Image

COACHING EVALUATION

1. Recruiting
2. Academics
3. Athletics
4. Administrative
5. Compliance
6. Student-Athlete Well-Being
7. Public Relations



Athletics programs utilize several metrics to evaluate the success of their student-athletes in academics. Grade Point Average (GPA), Graduation Success Rate (GSR), Federal Graduation Rate (FGR), Academic Progress Rate (APR) and Completed Athletics Eligibility Graduation Rate (CEGR) are all part of the evaluation system. As detailed below, UCA turned in an overall cumulative GPA of 3.22 for the second time in three years, has an FGR 18 points greater than the student body, had its sixth straight year with an APR above 980 and has maintained a department-wide 3.0+ GPA for 10 consecutive years.

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
<u>GPA</u>												
Wom	3.16	3.18	3.19	3.28	3.28	3.32	3.35	3.40	3.37	3.43	3.44	3.51
Men	2.79	2.82	2.88	2.87	2.88	2.88	2.98	3.02	3.04	3.08	3.02	3.02
Total	2.94	2.98	3.02	3.04	3.04	3.10	3.14	3.18	3.19	3.22	3.19	3.22

<u>GSR</u>												
Wom	86%	95%	82%	83%	73%	81%	89%	88%	90%	93%	92%	96%
Men	68%	75%	67%	66%	69%	70%	73%	74%	69%	71%	77%	79%
Total	74%	81%	73%	72%	74%	75%	80%	80%	78%	80%	83%	86%

<u>FGR</u>												
Wom	55%	58%	50%	49%	66%	60%	64%	65%	65%	79%	76%	68%
Men	50%	43%	43%	42%	65%	56%	49%	51%	45%	61%	56%	66%
Total	53%	50%	47%	46%	65%	58%	56%	58%	54%	68%	64%	67%
SB (all)	42%	41%	41%	41%	45%	45%	42%	43%	42%	43%	45%	49%

<u>APR</u>												
Wom	964	988	972	990	980	997	987	986	994	994	990	#
Men	957	952	939	933	971	971	980	980	978	982	969	#
Total	960	971	957	963	976	985	984	984	987	989	981	#

<u>CEGR</u>												
Total	93%	96%	100%	94%	99%	97%	99%	97%	93%	95%	96%	

Graduation Success Rate (GSR) - no cohort - transfers count

Federal Graduation Rate (FGR) - freshman cohort

Academic Progress Rate (APR) - NCAA metric - Retention and academic eligibility

Completed Athletics Eligibility Grad Rate (CEGR) N=60

Official in October each year



COMPLIANCE

- 1. The most important part of Compliance is that all individuals associated with UCA Athletics promote and support the interest of the athletic department to ensure full compliance with NCAA, ASUN Conference and University Rules.***
- 2. Increased rules education and updates to coaches, staff, boosters, and student-athletes. These updates occur in a variety of ways from face to face, email blasts, website notices, and individual meetings with coaches or student athletes.***
- 3. Conversion to e-filing system for all student-athlete records.***
- 4. Financial Aid can enter student-athlete data without the assistance of athletics staff.***
- 5. Implementation of JumpForward to make tracking many aspects of Compliance simpler for coaches as well as the compliance office.***
- 6. Compliance staff and general counsel will continue semi-annual meetings.***

FACILITY ENHANCEMENTS

- 1. UCA football, softball and baseball competed on new artificial turf at their respective stadiums in 2021-22.***
- 2. Men's basketball coaches' offices were moved, along with a renovation of the locker room in the Farris Center in the summer of 2022.***
- 3. New video rooms were added for indoor volleyball, beach volleyball and men's basketball in summer of 2022.***
- 4. New Baseball "Bears in the Pros" wall was added to the exterior of Bear Stadium.***
- 5. The Prince Center front lobby was completely renovated in the summer of 2022.***
- 6. A new run-through tunnel for UCA football will debut in the fall of 2022.***
- 7. A new hammer cage at the Bill Stephens Complex/Richard Martin Track will debut in 2023.***
- 8. New chairs for women's soccer and in the Estes Stadium suites.***

ON-CAMPUS EVENTS HOSTING

- 1. Arkansas Activities Association All-Star Week, which includes high school All-Star games for football, boy's and girl's basketball, boy's and girl's soccer, volleyball, baseball, softball and cheer and dance student-athletes from around the state (not held in 2020-21 due to covid-19) returned to the UCA campus in June 2022.***
- 2. Numerous high school and youth baseball tournaments were held at Bear Stadium, UCA's baseball facility.***
- 3. Hosted the Top 5 ranked University of Arkansas Razorbacks in a softball matchup at Farris Field for the second consecutive season.***
- 4. Summer athletics camps returned to UCA in multiple sports in the summer of 2022 after the covid years.***
- 5. Hosted a first-round men's basketball matchup in the 2021-22 ASUN Championship at the Farris Center.***



PURPLE CIRCLE ANNUAL FUND

The Purple Circle is the official annual fund of the University of Central Arkansas Department of Athletics and is a top fund-raising priority. The Purple Circle Fund provides essential operating resources and is critical to the continued success of UCA Athletics in supporting all sports. The Purple Circle fund focuses on three key areas to positively impact the lives of our 400+ UCA student-athletes. These areas of focus are: Academic Support; Student-Athlete Success Initiatives; Facility Enhancements. In a year when athletic departments around the country were faced with a second year of covid-19 pandemic issues, our membership still responded with Purple Circle contributions totaling more than \$550,000. This year on UCA's Day of Giving, donors contributed \$232,455 to the Purple Circle Fund, continuing the exciting trend of the previous years.

CORPORATE SPONSORSHIPS

The arrangement with Peak Sports MGMT/UCA Sports Properties has proven to be extremely beneficial for UCA Athletics and corporate partners alike, as our property has grown from \$300,000 per year to over \$900,000, and the Central Arkansas brand continues to enhance its image and visibility. During this time, local and regional businesses have realized an increase in value in their relationship with Central Arkansas Athletics.

BUDGET

UCA & UCA Athletics are committed to reducing the amount of state funding for Athletics while increasing the amount of external funding from ticket sales, fundraising, corporate sponsorships, and NCAA Revenue. This trend is demonstrated below.

Revenue	FY22		FY21		FY20*		FY19		FY18		FY17	
Student Fees	\$ 5,225,000	37%	\$ 5,028,798	38%	\$ 5,276,664	41%	\$ 5,215,840	38%	\$ 5,249,391	39%	\$ 5,314,847	43%
Auxiliaries	\$ 3,966,503	28%	\$ 3,776,049	28%	\$ 2,770,932	21%	\$ 3,698,946	27%	\$ 3,611,406	27%	\$ 2,700,735	22%
E&G	\$ 1,410,887	10%	\$ 1,391,407	10%	\$ 1,362,789	11%	\$ 1,333,453	10%	\$ 1,304,748	10%	\$ 1,272,925	10%
External Funds	\$ 3,300,000	24%	\$ 2,999,990	23%	\$ 3,395,029	26%	\$ 3,258,809	24%	\$ 3,216,003	24%	\$ 3,008,934	24%
Federal	\$ 125,000	1%	\$ 73,495	1%	\$ 150,205	1%	\$ 130,672	1%	\$ 120,963	1%	\$ 115,607	1%
TOTAL	\$ 14,027,390	100%	\$ 13,269,739	100%	\$ 12,955,619	100%	\$ 13,637,720	100%	\$ 13,502,511	100%	\$ 12,413,048	100%
Expenses												
Salaries/Fringes	\$ 4,428,000	32%	\$ 4,096,343	31%	\$ 4,236,859	33%	\$ 4,140,814	30%	\$ 4,087,035	30%	\$ 4,062,265	33%
Scholarships	\$ 5,047,000	36%	\$ 4,628,112	35%	\$ 4,290,018	33%	\$ 4,554,909	33%	\$ 4,484,781	33%	\$ 4,062,265	33%
Travel	\$ 1,350,000	10%	\$ 1,213,611	9%	\$ 1,418,134	11%	\$ 2,032,145	15%	\$ 1,894,897	14%	\$ 1,716,320	14%
M&O	\$ 1,300,000	9%	\$ 1,257,973	9%	\$ 1,362,577	11%	\$ 1,182,049	9%	\$ 1,276,509	9%	\$ 1,070,933	9%
Debt Service	\$ 675,000	5%	\$ 671,057	5%	\$ 669,102	5%	\$ 672,746	5%	\$ 671,793	5%	\$ 674,447	5%
Medical	\$ 200,000	1%	\$ 471,137	4%	\$ 153,697	1%	\$ 152,211	1%	\$ 145,612	1%	\$ 136,063	1%
Federal	\$ 125,000	1%	\$ 73,495	1%	\$ 150,205	1%	\$ 130,672	1%	\$ 120,963	1%	\$ 115,607	1%
Facilities	\$ 500,000	4%	\$ 440,802	3%	\$ 450,110	3%	\$ 474,377	3%	\$ 495,496	4%	\$ 405,256	3%
Other	\$ 402,390	3%	\$ 417,209	3%	\$ 224,917	2%	\$ 297,797	2%	\$ 325,425	2%	\$ 365,728	3%
TOTAL	\$ 14,027,390	100%	\$ 13,269,739	100%	\$ 12,955,619	100%	\$ 13,637,720	100%	\$ 13,502,511	100%	\$ 12,413,048	100%

SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS



The UCA Bears and Sugar Bears enjoyed a successful first year in their new league in 2021-22, the ASUN Conference, after a 15-year partnership with the Southland Conference. UCA featured numerous All-Conference selections in their new league, and even more All-Academic selections.

UCA's more than 400 student-athletes continued their stellar work in the classroom, finishing with a combined cumulative grade-point average above 3.0 for the 16th and 17th consecutive semesters.

UCA had nearly 300 student-athletes named to the ASUN Honor Roll for the 2021-22 school year, including four teams that had their entire squads named to the Honor Roll (women's cross country, women's golf, women's soccer, women's tennis).

UCA's baseball, softball and football programs debuted new artificial turf fields for the 2021-22 seasons, while the men's and women's basketball teams competed on Scottie Pippen Court at the Farris Center for the first time in 2021-22, and the track and field teams ran on Richard Martin, Jr. Track for the first time.

MEN'S SOCCER:

- The Bears received the No. 2 seed in the 2021 ASUN Tournament and hosted Bellarmine in the semifinals, winning 2-0, to advance to the ASUN championship game in their first year in the conference. The Bears lost to Lipscomb 4-1 in Nashville, Tenn.
- The Bears earned numerous postseason awards from the ASUN, including Alberto Suarez (Player of the Year, Defensive Player of the Year), Saurez and Karim Diao (first-team All-ASUN), Zach Shawl and Vicent Abaso (second-team All-

ASUN) and Kris Naicker and Jonathan Randall (All-Freshman team). First-year Bears head coach Frank Kohlenstein was named the ASUN Coach of the Year.

- Saurez and Diao were both named to the Atlantic All-Region first team by the United Soccer Coaches.

WOMEN'S SOCCER:

- The Bears earned the No. 2 seed in the 2021 ASUN Tournament and lost in the quarterfinals in their first year in the league, before falling in overtime to Kennesaw State. UCA was the No. 2 seed after finishing 4-1 in ASUN West play during the regular season.
- Junior Emma Hawkins secured the single-season record for points with 37 and also tied the single-season mark for goals scored with 15.
- Hawkins was named a first-team All-ASUN selection along with senior Gracie Hair, while Adley Barham was named to the All-Freshman team. Both Hawkins and Hair were named to the All-South Region second team as well.
- Hair was UCA's honoree on the ASUN Fall Winners for Life list, which recognizes athletic, academic and community service achievements.

TRACK & FIELD:

- In October, the UCA track was named for long-time UCA head coach Richard Martin, Jr., who competed as a student-athlete (track and football) and coached at UCA for nearly 50 years. Martin, the longest tenured coach in UCA athletics history before retiring in 2020, is a UCA Sports Hall of Fame member.
- UCA men's and women's track and field teams set numerous school records during the 2021-22 indoor and outdoor seasons.
- UCA's men's squad finished fourth at the ASUN Indoor Championships held in Lynchburg, Va. The UCA women



SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

finished sixth at the ASUN Indoor Championships.

- UCA sent two student-athletes to the postseason NCAA West Preliminaries in Fayetteville, Ark.

CROSS COUNTRY:

- UCA's cross country teams finished sixth (women) and seventh (men) out of 12 teams at their first ASUN Championship Meet. Sara Steimel led the women with an 18th-place finish, while Julian Haessner topped the men with a 42nd place.
- Haessner, a graduate student from Berka, Germany, was named to the ASUN All-Academic Team, sporting a 4.0 GPA while pursuing his MBA.
- Both the men's and women's squads earned All-Academic Team honors from the United States Track and Field/Cross Country Coaches' Association for having a cumulative 3.0 or better team GPA. The men had a 3.45 GPA while the women had a 3.69.

VOLLEYBALL:

- UCA hosted the Arkansas Razorbacks at the Prince Center for the first in school history for an exhibition match in March 2022.
- The Sugar Bears beat Little Rock 3-2 to win the "Governor's I-40 Showdown" matchup to kickoff UCA's third consecutive win in the annual battle with the neighboring Trojans.

FOOTBALL:

- The Bears earned 10 All-ASUN postseason awards, including Offensive Player of the Year for wide receiver Tyler Hudson and Freshman of the Year for running back Darius Hale.

That duo was joined on the All-ASUN team by offensive linemen Toby Sanderson, Jaylin Hendrix and Justin Lairy, defensive lineman Logan Jessup, linebacker T.J. Campbell, defensive backs Deandre Lamont and Cameron Godfrey and punter Chander Caughron.

- Hale, from Pearland, Texas, was the runnerup for the prestigious Jerry Rice Award which goes to the nation's top freshman at the FCS level.
- Hudson earned three All-America honors from three separate entities, while Hale was named a Freshman All-American.
- Hudson set the UCA single-season record with 1,242 receiving yards and the career mark with 3,062 yards. He also broke a 40-year-old record for single-game receiving yards with 251 against Eastern Kentucky.
- UCA had four student-athletes named to the 11-man ASUN Football All-Academic team, including A'Javius Brown, Darin Davenport, Toby Sanderson and Hayden Ray.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL:

- The Sugar Bears had two players named to the All-ASUN team, including Lucy Ibeh (second team) and Randrea Wright (All-Freshman team).
- Ibeh, from Lagos, Nigeria, was also named to the ASUN All-Academic team with a 3.93 GPA.
- Senior Carley Hudspeth was UCA's honoree for the ASUN Winter Winners for Life list, recognizing athletics, academic and community services.

MEN'S BASKETBALL:

- Camren Hunter, a guard from Bryant, Ark., was named the ASUN Freshman of the Year after leading UCA in scoring and assists in his first season with the program.
- Hunter was also a three-time ASUN Newcomer of the Week honoree, while Darius Hall and Ibbe Klintman were also honored with the weekly award during the regular season.
- The Bears earned the No. 3 seed from the West Division and hosted Stetson for the first-ever ASUN Tournament game at the Farris Center. UCA beat Stetson 74-73 to advance to the second round in its first ASU appearance.



SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

TENNIS:

- UCA's Fuka Nonoyama, a junior from Myoshi, Japan, earned first-team All-ASUN honors after finishing with a 9-0 regular-season record at No. 2 singles. Nonoyama, who has now earned three All-Conference awards in three seasons, was also named to the ASUN All-Academic team.
- UCA earned the No. 5 seed in its inaugural ASUN Tournament in Fort Myers, Fla.

GOLF:

- UCA's women's golf team finished sixth overall at its first ASUN Championship in Valdosta, Ga. Junior Elin Kumlin finished a team-best 13th overall.
- Sophomore Camila Moreno earned second-team All-ASUN honors after leading UCA in stroke average for the season and winning the Little Rock Golf Classic in October among her four Top 10 finishes on the year.
- UCA's men's team finished 10th at the 2022 ASUN Championship, played in Athens, Ga.
- UCA finished a season-best fifth at the Twin Oaks Intercollegiate in Springfield, Mo., in October.

BEACH VOLLEYBALL:

- UCA had three student-athletes earn conference postseason honors, including the pair of Carol Barbosa and Faith Hasness (second-team All-ASUN) and Kelsie Sager (ASUN All-Academic Team).
- The Beach Bears earned the seventh seed for their first ASUN Championship and won two matches in the pool play portion of the postseason tournament, beating Jacksonville and Jacksonville State.

SOFTBALL:

- The Bears, competing in their first season in the ASUN Conference, were at or near the top of the West Division

standings for the entire 2022 season and went into postseason play as the No. 2 tournament seed in their first season in the ASUN.

- UCA reached the semifinals of the ASUN Tournament in Jacksonville, Fla., and finished in third place overall.
- The Bears, who won 37 games (second best in school history), played in the National Invitational Softball Championship (NISC) postseason tournament and finished third.
- UCA first-year head coach Jenny Parsons received the prestigious Raymond Bright Award in May as the collegiate coach of the year in Conway.
- Five different Bears earned ASUN Player/Pitcher of the Week honors in 2022, including Jordan Johnson (twice), Tremere Harris, Kayla Beaver, Mary Kate Brown and Morgan Nelson.

BASEBALL:

- UCA sophomore right hander Tyler Cleveland (Sheridan, Ark.) was named the ASUN Conference Pitcher of the Year and a second-team All-American by Collegiate Baseball newspaper. He finished with a 7-2 record and a league-high 101 strikeouts.
- Cleveland was the seventh UCA Bear to be selected in the Major League Baseball Draft in the past five years when he was drafted in the 14th round by the Seattle Mariners in July 2022.
- UCA redshirt freshman second baseman Tanner Leonard was named to the ASUN All-Freshman team after leading the Bears in hitting in conference play.
- Three UCA pitchers earned ASUN Pitcher of the Week honors in 2022, including Cleveland (twice), sophomore Jesse Barker and sophomore Trent Gregson.
- A.J. Mendolia was UCA's honoree on the ASUN Spring Winners for Life list, which recognizes athletic, academic and community service achievements.



STUDENT-ATHLETE ADVISORY COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

- *Athletes bought more than 2,500 toys for the annual Marine Corps Toys for Tots campaign*
- *Helped numerous families through Operation Christmas Child.*

LIFE SKILLS AREAS RECOMMENDED BY NCAA

- *Alcohol and drug guidelines*
- *Personal development*
- *Leadership*
- *Sexual orientation*
- *Diversity*
- *Nutrition*
- *Personal counseling*
- *Gambling*
- *Career counseling*

AREAS COVERED THIS YEAR

- *Athlete2Career*
- *Sexual misconduct/Title IX training*
- *Leadership Summit*
- *Mental wellness session provided by UCA Mental Wellness team: "Don't Bear it Alone"*

● COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS

Throughout the year, our teams volunteer at numerous community events, school programs, youth & elderly programs and charity functions, in addition to on-campus events and organizing and volunteering for fundraisers for a variety of charities. In all, our student-athletes logged more than 500 hours of community service over the past year even during the pandemic. Some of the projects UCA student-athletes & staff were involved in over the past year include:

- *Conway Optimist Club Youth Football Clinic*
- *Numerous reading programs at local elementary schools*
- *5K Walk for Diabetes*
- *Collecting toys for annual Toys for Tots*
- *Packing boxes at Operation Christmas Child warehouse*
- *Volunteering at Boys & Girls Club of Conway*
- *Assisting with Tacos4Life Mobile Pack program to provide food to underdeveloped nations*
- *Staffing "The Big Event" volunteer day in Conway*
- *Worked UCA "Bake For Bears" safe driving/pedestrian awareness event*
- *Participating in morning Meet & Greets at local elementary schools.*
- *Volunteering at Community Connections' "Field of Dreams."*