

It's Good to Know

By S.G. Seals

Here are some important or unusual facts and information about Malvern's own Ouachita Technical College:

- Since it became the first two-year college in the state, the College has experienced a 667% (from 210 students to 1,610 students!) increase in student enrollment in the last nineteen years
- The College is one of only four in the state of Arkansas to be a recipient of the Lumina Foundation's Achieve the Dream grant to improve the success and retention of students
- If you want to get an Associate of Arts degree to transfer to a four-year university, you can do it totally online through OTC
- The College has approximately 400 students who are "concurrently enrolled", which means they get both high school and college credit for classes. The College offers college classes at ten high schools in its service area
- The \$2500 award of the new Arkansas Lottery Scholarship will cover a full year's tuition at OTC, since it is the least expensive college per credit hour in the area
- If you want to be a teacher, you can get your Associate of Arts degree in Teaching at OTC for the areas of P-4, Middle School Language Arts and Social Studies, and Middle School Math and Science
- The OTC Library has approximately half a million dollars worth of holdings in books, periodicals, videos, and other resources that are available for community use. You do NOT have to be a student to use the College Library
- The College has a Guaranteed Skills Policy. If an employer judges any OTC graduate to be lacking in technical job skills for his or her job-specific educational program, the College will provide the graduate with additional training
- If you want to look glamorous, the College's Cosmetology department does perms, relaxers, highlights, braids, twists, nail art, manicures, facials, waxing, eyelashes, shampoos and haircuts—all for reduced prices to community citizens
- The College has recently added a Credentialing Center where both OTC students and area citizens can go to take tests and get their credentialing in Cisco, Net Plus, A+ Computer Repair, Security +, and other specialties
- The College has partnered with the Ouachita River Correctional Unit to provide internships and on-the-job training for students interested in Criminal Justice careers
- People seeking their GEDs through the Adult Basic Education branch of OTC have significantly higher pass rates than other people across the nation: 84% at OTC verses 70% nationally
- The College currently employs 97 people full time and about 110 people part time, and pumps roughly 4.5 million dollars annually into the local economy
- Senior citizens who are 60 and older can attend OTC for free, as the College waives tuition and fees