



UNIVERSITY *of* ARKANSAS
FORT SMITH®

Exchange Study Program Information

2026-2027

Office of International Relations (OIR)

5210 Grand Avenue, PO Box 3649, Fort Smith, Arkansas, 72913, USA • <http://international.uafs.edu>

Primary Contact

Noah Schmidt

International Student Programs and Services Administrator

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Important Dates



Nomination/Application Deadlines

Fall 2026 Semester

May 1, 2026

Spring 2027 Semester

October 1, 2026

Beginning and End of Semesters (including orientation dates)

Fall Semester

Starts: August 10, 2026

Ends: December 11, 2026

Spring Semester

Starts: January 13, 2027

Ends: May 14, 2027

Important Dates



Arrival Dates

Fall Semester

August 8 - 9, 2026

Spring Semester

January 11 - 12, 2027

Students should plan to arrive during the arrival period. Early or late arrival are strongly discouraged.

Orientation Dates

Fall Semester

August 10 - 11, 2025

Spring Semester

January 13 - 14, 2027

Orientation is mandatory for all international students.

Application process

1. All applicants apply **ONLINE** and upload all application materials **BEFORE** the application deadline.
2. OIR processes the applications and releases admission results to applicants via email.
3. OIR emails **Acceptance Letter** and **DS-2019** to accepted students.
4. Students start the **J-1 visa** application process.
5. Students will receive the **UAFS login information** via email.

Application Website

<https://lions.uafs.edu/apply/>

University of Arkansas - Fort Smith Application

Returning users: [Students that have applied to UAFS since 8/1/2020](#) [Log In](#)

First-time users: [Students that have never applied to UAFS or applied prior to 8/1/2020](#) [Create an account](#)

UNIVERSITY of ARKANSAS
FORT SMITH

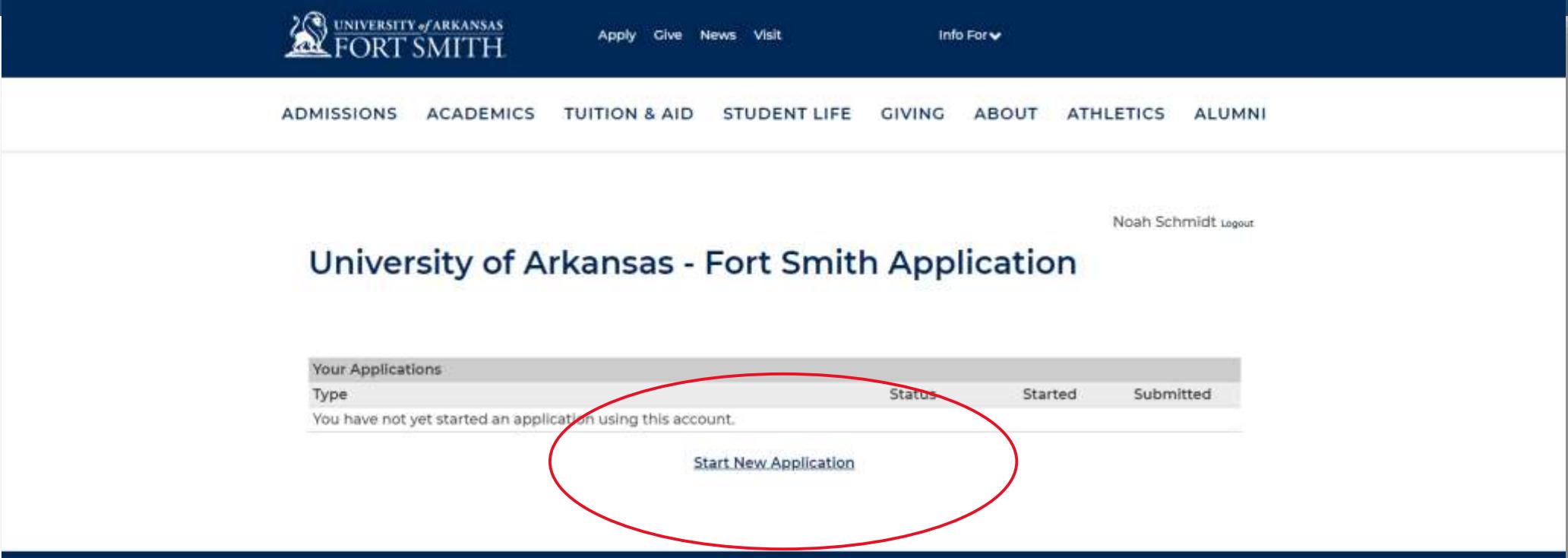
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Start new Application

<https://lions.uafs.edu/apply/>



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Apply Give News Visit

Info For▼

ADMISSIONS ACADEMICS TUITION & AID STUDENT LIFE GIVING ABOUT ATHLETICS ALUMNI

Noah Schmidt Logout

University of Arkansas - Fort Smith Application

Your Applications		Status	Started	Submitted
Type				
You have not yet started an application using this account.				
Start New Application				

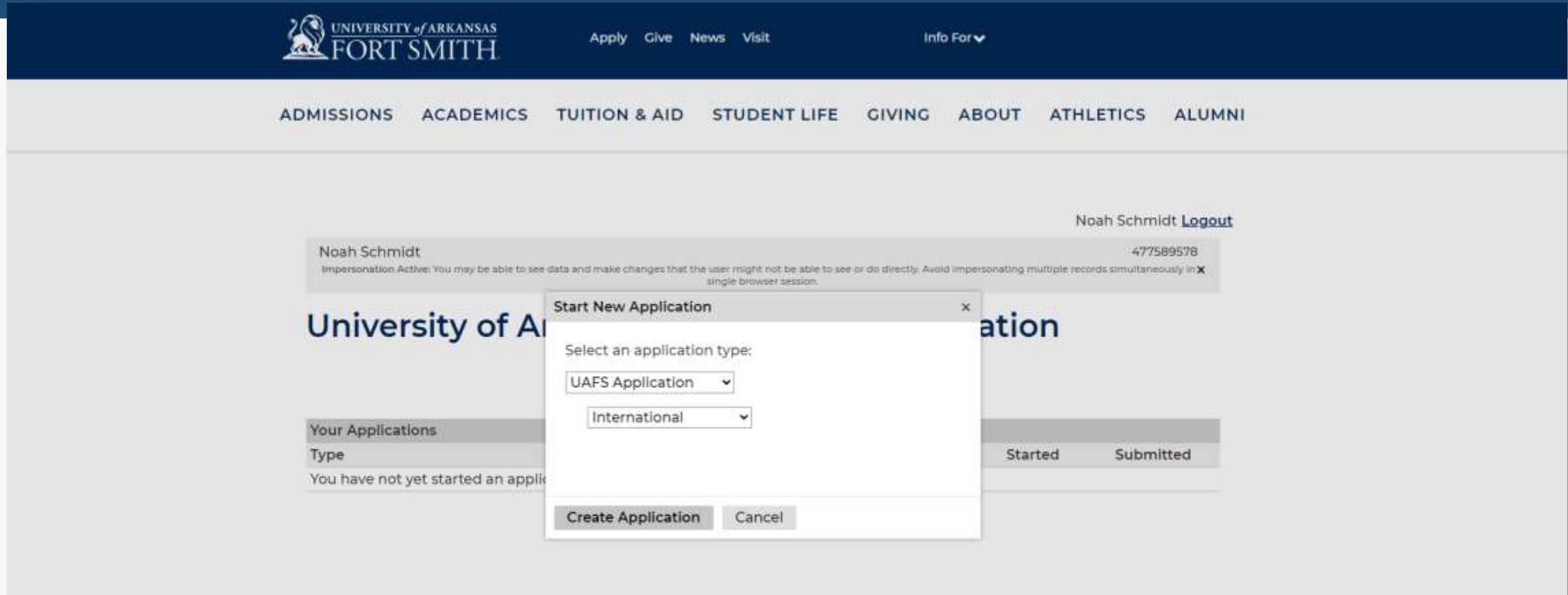
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f t i y in d

Application Type

<https://lions.uafs.edu/apply/>



The screenshot shows the University of Arkansas Fort Smith website with a dark blue header. The header includes the university's logo, the text "UNIVERSITY of ARKANSAS FORT SMITH", and navigation links for "Apply", "Give", "News", "Visit", and "Info For". Below the header is a horizontal menu with links for "ADMISSIONS", "ACADEMICS", "TUITION & AID", "STUDENT LIFE", "GIVING", "ABOUT", "ATHLETICS", and "ALUMNI". The main content area shows a user profile for "Noah Schmidt" with a "Logout" link and a user ID "477589578". A message about impersonation is displayed. A modal dialog box titled "Start New Application" is open, prompting the user to "Select an application type:" with two dropdown menus: "UAFS Application" and "International". At the bottom of the dialog are "Create Application" and "Cancel" buttons. The background of the main page shows a "Your Applications" section with a message: "You have not yet started an application." At the bottom of the page is a dark footer with the university logo, social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, LinkedIn, and TikTok, and links for "Campus Map" and "News".

Student Type

<https://lions.uafs.edu/apply/>



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Info For A small white downward-pointing arrow indicating a dropdown menu.

ADMISSIONS ACADEMICS TUITION & AID STUDENT LIFE GIVING ABOUT ATHLETICS ALUMNI

Noah Schmidt [Logout](#)

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Student Type

Are you an international student? (required)

Any student who requires a visa to study in the United States is considered an international student.

Visa types are usually F-1 or J-1.

Yes

Student Type (required)

Exchange

Partner University Name and Country

University of Ulsan, South Korea

Exchange Semester

Spring

Program of Study at current/home institution?

TYPE YOUR MAJOR HERE

What semester do you plan to enroll? (required)

Spring 2024

[Continue](#)

Application Website

<https://lions.uafs.edu/apply/>



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ADMISSIONS ACADEMICS TUITION & AID STUDENT LIFE GIVING ABOUT ATHLETICS ALUMNI

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Declaration and Confirmation of Financial Resources

Total of all documented funds must equal or exceed the minimum estimated cost for one academic year, which is currently \$27,475. Exchange student may need to show a different amount of estimated cost. Please contact the Office of International Relations at International@uafs.edu if you have any questions. Please fill out applicant's information below. Write your name exactly as it appears on the personal information page of your passport. Please make sure to sign at the bottom of this form.

Are any of the bank documents under the applicant's name? (required)

Are any of the bank documents under a family member or individual sponsor's name?

Are any of the financial documents issued by or under the name of an organization, firm, government or school?

This is to certify that all the information furnished on this form is true and correctly reflects my plans to meet expenses while attending the University of Arkansas - Fort Smith. I fully understand that the minimum amount necessary for my living expenses is subject to change and that my individual financial needs may vary from the minimum estimated amount, as shown on the UAFS website. I will notify UAFS immediately of any change in my financial situation.

I agree

Continue

Exchange students need to show **\$6,180** per semester.

Housing: \$2,500

Meals: \$2,200

Books: \$700

Insurance: \$780

Required Documents

More info of each document is available on the application website

- Official transcript (To be emailed by home institution)
- English proficiency test score
- Official bank statement (see Fees on slide 19)
- Declaration and confirmation of financial resources form
- Copy of passport
- Copy of US visa, if applicable
- Proof of 2 shots of Mumps, Measles, and Rubella Vaccination

Compulsory English Proficiency Test Requirement

TOEFL (61 IBT, 500 PBT)
IELTS (5.5 or above)

We may accept other forms of English proficiency proof. Please check with OIR for more information.

Course Selection

UAFS courses are conducted in **English**.

Most courses are available to exchange students as long as the prerequisites are met. List of all courses:

<https://uafs.edu/workday/course-schedule.php>

There are some special topics courses not available to exchange students.

Students will receive an email about course selection **around one to two months** before the semester starts.

Required no. of credits per semester



**Min. 12 credit hours;
Max. 13 credit hours**

**Exchange students are not
allowed to take more than one
fully online class.**

Accuplacer Tests

UAFS uses Accuplacer Tests to make course placement decisions and set students up for success.

Students are required to take Accuplacer Tests (English Writing, English Reading, Mathematics) BEFORE or AFTER arrival.

After the tests, students will be scheduled to meet with academic advisors to finalize their class schedule.

If students do not obtain the required scores, they may be asked to retake the tests or be enrolled in less than 12 credit hours in the first semester to build up their skills.

Final decision of class enrollment rests on UAFS.

Airport Pick Up

All exchange students are required to arrive at **Fort Smith Regional Airport (FSM)**.

OIR staff will meet students at the airport and take them to UAFS campus free of charge.

For safety, all exchange students must be picked up by OIR staff and return to on-campus housing immediately following arrival.

Students are required to fill out the **Arrival Information Form** (available on the application website) and send their flight itinerary.

Health Insurance

All exchange students **MUST** purchase health insurance through UAFS.

The International Student Health Insurance from UAFS is in compliance with the **U.S. Federal requirements**.

Students can decide whether they want to purchase *additional* insurance from their home countries.

The insurance coverage is August 1 to December 31 for Fall semester and January 1 to July 31 for Spring semester.

On-campus Housing

Sebastian Commons (Apartment style housing): <https://uafs.edu/student-life/housing/sebastian-commons.php>

The Lion's Den (Dorm style housing): <https://uafs.edu/student-life/housing/lions-den.php>

All exchange students are required to stay in on-campus housing.

Students can apply for on-campus housing **AFTER** they are accepted to UAFS.

Students will receive the UAFS login information via email to login to the Housing Application.

Housing Application: <https://uafs.edu/student-life/housing/application-process.php>
Application Fee: **US\$75** (pay through the housing application website)

Fees

Students are responsible for Housing, Meals, Books, Health Insurance, plus Personal Expenses while studying in UAFS.

Estimated cost of study Per Semester in USD : \$6,180 (personal expenses are not included)

Here is the breakdown-

Tuition: Waived under exchange agreement

Fees: Waived under exchange agreement

Housing: \$2,500 (Lion's Den, double room)

Meals: \$2,200 (on campus meal plan, unlimited meals)

Books: \$700

Health Insurance: \$130 per month (approx. \$780 per semester)

Students are required to provide a bank statement showing proof of financial resources for visa application. For one semester, the amount shown on financial document needs to be **at least \$6,180**.

Other one-time fees

Application Fee: \$50

Tuberculosis Test: Covered by health insurance

New Student Orientation Fee: \$75

Please note that other mandatory fees may be applied. For more information, please contact OIR.

Frequently Asked Questions

Visa and Employment

Do I need to pay for the SEVIS I-901 fee?

Yes. You are required to pay for the SEVIS I-901 fee to the Department of Homeland Security as part of the J-1 visa application. It is not the J-1 visa application processing fee. For the current amount of the SEVIS I-901 fee and other information, please visit <https://www.ice.gov/sevis/i901>

In order to get your student visa, you must present proof of your I-901 SEVIS Fee payment at your visa interview. The printed confirmation will serve as proof of payment for the I-901 SEVIS Fee. Please make sure to print a receipt of payment after you have completed your I-901 payment.

Can I work while studying as a J-1 exchange student in UAFS?

You are not allowed have any paid employment. However, you can take an unpaid internship. You may also volunteer at a local nonprofit charitable organization.

Can I apply for Social Security Number (SSN)?

You are eligible to apply for SSN only if you have an internship.

Can I get a driver's licenses?

Yes.

Can I travel outside of the United States while studying as a J-1 exchange student?

Yes, but you need to have a travel signature on the DS2019 in order to return to the U.S.

Frequently Asked Questions

Period of Stay

Can I study for more than one semester in UAFS?

Yes. UAFS has four semesters: Fall (August – December); Spring (January – May); Summer I (June); Summer II (July)

Can I study for one whole academic year?

Yes, it will be Fall and Spring semesters.

Can I stay for Summer semesters?

Yes, exchange students can stay for Summer I and/or Summer II. Students are required to stay on-campus during Summer semesters and are not required to take any classes. If students register for classes in Summer, their tuition and fees will not be waived. However, we can sometimes offer scholarships to students who obtain a good GPA in his/her previous semester if they want to take any classes in Summer semesters.

What should I do if I want to extend my exchange study after starting the semester?

Please contact OIR and your home institution to find out whether you are eligible for the extension.

Frequently Asked Questions

Finance

When do I need to pay for the balance in the student account?

Exchange students are usually required to pay off the balance before the end of the Orientation Week. However, the payment deadline differs each semester. Please ensure to check with OIR for the update payment deadline.

What do I need to pay?

Exchange students pay for application fee at the time of the application. During the study at UAFS, students pay for housing, meals, books, insurance, and personal expenses. For the first semester, students will also pay for the Tuberculosis Test Fee and Orientation Fee.

Can I pay by international credit card?

Yes.

How can I pay?

You can pay online via the UAFS portal.

Can I open a bank account after arrival?

Yes. We can take you to the bank and open a bank account. It is free to open an account.

Frequently Asked Questions

Arrival (I)

Can I arrive before the arrival period?

It is highly discouraged for students to arrive before the arrival period. Campus may not be open for some dates outside of the arrival period and airport pickup service may not be available. Students may be able to move into on-campus housing before the arrival period but will need to pay for each additional night.

Can I arrive after the arrival period?

It is highly discouraged. Students need to attend the mandatory orientation. If students arrive after the arrival period, they will not have enough time to take the Accuplacer tests and it will affect students' final course selection.

Can I arrive in another airport apart from Fort Smith Regional Airport (FSM)?

Please avoid choosing another airport for arrival. Our airport pick up service is only available for students arriving at Fort Smith Regional Airport (FSM). If you arrive at another airport, you will need to arrange transportation to Fort Smith. Transportation between cities can be inconvenient and costly.

Can I have my friends to pick me up at the airport?

You can have your friends greet you at the airport. However, you must be picked up by OIR staff and return to UAFS campus upon arrival.

Frequently Asked Questions

Arrival (II)

Can I stay off campus?

No, all exchange students are required to stay on campus.

Will temporary bedding be available in the room on the day of my arrival?

Yes, please make a request if you need the Housing Office to provide temporary bedding for you on the first day. It is free of charge.

Will I be able to go to the store to buy the daily necessities?

Yes, OIR will arrange shopping trip for you on the first or second day of your arrival.

Will I be able to buy a phone card?

Yes. Please make sure your phone is compatible with a U.S. sim card.

Can I skip Orientation or leave early during Orientation?

No. You must attend the whole Orientation and cannot leave early before the sessions finish.

Frequently Asked Questions

Enrollment

How can I register for classes?

For the first semester, students will receive an email notifying them to select classes around one to two months before the semester starts. After the first semester, students will make appointments with the academic advisors to register for classes.

Can I change my classes after arriving at UAFS?

Yes, you can change your classes when you meet with the academic advisors during Orientation Week.

How many classes can I take?

Exchange students can take minimum of 12 credit hours and maximum of 13 credit hours for each Fall and Spring semester. Normally, one class consists of 3 credit hours.

Can I receive an official transcript after each semester or the completion of exchange study?

Yes, you can request the official transcript from UAFS Registrar's Office.

**Thank you for considering the
University of Arkansas Fort Smith!**

@ UAFS Student Exchange Program 2025/26

