

# 1 - Mission

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The institution's mission is clear and articulated publicly; it guides the institution's operations.

## 1.A - Core Component 1.A

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The institution's mission is articulated publicly and operationalized throughout the institution.

1. The mission was developed through a process suited to the context of the institution.
2. The mission and related statements are current and reference the institution's emphasis on the various aspects of its mission, such as instruction, scholarship, research, application of research, creative works, clinical service, public service, economic development and religious or cultural purpose.
3. The mission and related statements identify the nature, scope and intended constituents of the higher education offerings and services the institution provides.
4. The institution's academic offerings, student support services and enrollment profile are consistent with its stated mission.
5. The institution clearly articulates its mission through public information, such as statements of purpose, vision, values, goals, plans or institutional priorities.

## Argument

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### 1.A.1 .

Henderson State University has kept a profound commitment to the liberal arts and providing a quality education to a diverse student body. This commitment is reflected in the institution's longstanding membership in the Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges and in its [mission statement](#), revised in 2014 as a key component of the [strategic planning process](#).

In 2014, the [Guiding Statement Committee](#) was formed for the purpose of creating a mission statement. The focus was to identify the attributes that verified what it means to be the "School with a Heart." Those attributes are what guided the development of the [vision and mission](#) of the university. At the start of this process, President Glen Jones invited students, faculty, staff, alumni, and other constituents, both internal and external, to attend forums facilitated by Dr. Sal Rinella of Penson Associates. During the meetings, Rinella asked attendees to share their thoughts of what Henderson State University would look like 10 years from now and what cultural expectations are the most important to the campus.

The campus community engaged in thoughtful discussions based upon the feedback from campus forums. The [Guiding Statement Committee](#) condensed the comments into the core values, mission and vision statements that identified six key [strategic priorities](#). At [town hall meetings](#), attendees gave meaningful feedback that continued to help shape these concepts. As a result, the core values, mission statement and six strategic priorities with measurable outcomes were developed. The committee articulated and polished the [core values, vision, mission, and a summary of the university's strategic position](#) based on university feedback. [Henderson's Board of Trustees](#) was

introduced to the plan for implementation in July of 2014. While Henderson operated under this mission statement for several years, the [Board](#) was introduced to the mission but did not officially approve it. Following the completion of the merger with the [Arkansas State University System](#), the ASU System Board of Trustees [reaffirmed](#) the mission of HSU on [June 3, 2021](#).

### 1.A.2.

Henderson's [mission, vision, and core values](#) are current and reference an emphasis on educating first generation college students for a lifetime of intellectual and personal growth in a global society. [All incoming first-time freshmen](#) at Henderson are required to take [Henderson Seminar](#), a one-hour, thirteen week course that covers topics that will educate them on strategies to achieve success in college. At the beginning of the semester, the instructor and students spend time discussing the value of a liberal arts education and the Henderson mission statement.

The offices of Academic Affairs and Student Affairs and Student Success offer student support services that directly support our mission, from [academic advising](#), [financial aid](#), residence life and other student support services. Student Affairs and Student Success also offers [co-curricular programs](#) that directly support the mission, from providing financial support that allows all students free attendance to university [theatrical productions](#) and [musical performances](#), to supporting campus visits by authors of books chosen as the [Reddie Read](#), the annual common book, as well as making that book available free of charge to all freshmen, faculty, and staff.

[Ellis College of Arts and Sciences](#), [Teachers College, Henderson](#), and [the School of Business](#) have separate mission statements that are aligned with the mission statements of individual departments and administrative units. The [Honors College](#) and [Graduate School](#) also have mission statements that support the mission. The mission is also presented in departmental policies such as the [Ellis College New Faculty and Adjunct Handbook](#). [Undergraduate](#) and [graduate](#) catalogs reflect various aspects of the institution's vision and mission in that focus on producing well-rounded graduates that will be leaders in their professions and society upon graduation.

### 1.A.3.

From its beginning in [1890](#), Henderson's mission recognizes the institution serves as a vital educational and cultural center for the local community, region, and state. The Arkansas Department of Higher Education has affirmed the role of HSU in meeting the needs of the state, region and nation by specifically authorizing undergraduate and graduate programs to be offered at HSU along with the right to confer degree programs in arts and sciences, business and education. HSU mission identifies the nature, scope and intended constituents of its offerings and services by stating its commitment to serving a diverse student body from across Arkansas, United States and a number of foreign countries.

The [Liberal Arts Core \(LAC\)](#) provides a base for all students. Coursework in the LAC exposes students to Non-Western Culture and World Civilization courses while reinforcing writing skills. The university offers a wide range of majors and minors that encourage students' academic growth in a number of fields. The Matt Locke Ellis College of Arts and Sciences includes over 36 majors in of fields, including [engineering](#), [nursing](#), and [wildlife and field biology](#). Students interested in creating their own degree may pursue the [Bachelor of Integrated Studies](#) while a number of interdisciplinary minors and certificates are offered, including [museum studies](#) and [women and gender studies](#).

Professional programs in business and education support the liberal arts mission of the university,

including degrees in [aviation](#), [accounting](#), and several [education](#) fields. In addition to these degrees, the university offers several graduate degrees including the [Master of Liberal Arts](#), [Master of Science in Nursing](#), and the [Education Specialist](#) degree.

#### 1.A.4.

[Student Support Services \(SSS\)](#) is a program that helps first-generation, low income, pell eligible college students. [Veterans Upward Bound](#) is a college preparation program that helps veterans who are first-generation, low income or at a high risk for academic failure. [McNair Scholars Program](#) prepares students from a group underrepresented in graduate education, low-income and first-generation for graduate study at the masters and doctoral level. The [Disability Resource Center](#) promotes access, retention and academic success for students with disabilities, working to create an accessible university community where students with disabilities can fully participate in all aspects of the educational environment.

All students have access to [tutoring services](#), the [Writing Center](#), and the [Communication Center](#) for assistance in completing assignments. Incoming freshmen that earn an ACT score of 19 or below are required to participate in the [Reddie Intervention for Success in Education \(R.I.S.E.\) program](#). [Academic Advisors](#) work closely with each student on campus to ensure they meet benchmarks and are making adequate progress towards degree completion.

The first line of the university's mission statement reads, "Located in the heart of southwest Arkansas, Henderson State University is a public institution serving as a vital educational and cultural center for the local community, region, and state." While enrolling students nationally, the majority of students are residents of southwest and central Arkansas. The [Fall 2021 enrollment](#) of the university included 2914 total students with 1917 reported as Caucasian (65%), 521 reported as African American (18%), and 168 reported as Hispanic American (6%). These totals reflect the racial makeup of Arkansas with 72% of the population Caucasians, 15% African American Other ethnic and racial groups are similarly represented in the university enrollment.

Henderson draws many students who began their educational careers at two-year institutions and then [transfer](#) to Henderson. Henderson's leading transfer schools are National Park College (27%), ASU-Three Rivers (4%), Cossatot Community College of University of Arkansas (1%), University of Arkansas Community College-Hope (4%), and Out-of-State 2-year schools aggregated account for 12%.

#### 1.A.5.

Henderson's website displays the [core values, vision and mission, strategic priorities](#), and [university effectiveness dashboard](#) to track progress towards the goals included in the strategic plan. The print version of the Strategic Plan, "Beyond the Horizon," was widely distributed to faculty, staff, trustees, and other university constituents. The mission is clearly articulated in the [undergraduate](#) and [graduate](#) catalogs. [Student handbook](#) displays the core values that were developed by the guiding statement committee. Posters displaying vision, mission and core values are displayed throughout the campus.

## Sources

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- 3.B.01 Liberal Arts Core

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- Master of Science in Nursing
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- Museum Studies
- Music Performances Combined
- Nursing
- Reddie Read\_Redacted
- Residence Hall - Staff Led Housing Events Fall 2020 and Spring 2021
- RISE
- School of Business Mission Statement\_Henderson State University
- Stategic Planning
- Strategic Priorities.pdf
- Student Support Services
- Teachers College Catalog.Mission Statement
- Theatre and Dance Emails
- Tutoring
- University Effectiveness Dashboard
- University Mission
- University Mission from Graduate Catalog\_Henderson State University
- University Mission from Undergraduate Catalog\_Henderson State University
- Veterans Upward Bound

- Vision and Mission.pdf
- Wildlife and Field Biology
- Women and Gender Studies
- Writing Center

## 1.B - Core Component 1.B

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The institution's mission demonstrates commitment to the public good.

1. The institution's actions and decisions demonstrate that its educational role is to serve the public, not solely the institution or any superordinate entity.
2. The institution's educational responsibilities take primacy over other purposes, such as generating financial returns for investors, contributing to a related or parent organization, or supporting external interests.
3. The institution engages with its external constituencies and responds to their needs as its mission and capacity allow.

### Argument

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#### 1.B.1 .

As Arkansas's public liberal arts institution, Henderson has a responsibility to recruit and educate students from across the state while also serving surrounding counties. The [university mission](#) tasks Henderson with serving as a "vital educational and cultural center for the local community, region, and state." Most students at Henderson are from counties in south and central Arkansas. Balancing the economic needs of the surrounding area along with the university's mission as a public liberal arts institution, Henderson offers degrees in both liberal arts and professional fields.

Part of the mission statement calls for a "learning environment that prepares students for a lifetime of intellectual and personal growth in a global society." This is met in part by the [LAC curriculum](#). The LAC exposes all students, regardless of major, to a range of subjects and fields, preparing them to become life-long learners. The LAC also strengthens writing and analytical skills for students. With these skills, students return to their communities after graduation and begin careers, shaping those communities and encouraging continued growth and learning.

As part of the development of institution's strategic plan, seven core values were identified. Collaboration and Community, one of the core values, reflects the institution's commitment to the public good. The primary focus of the institution is to serve the people of Arkansas by offering a superior educational experience. From annual public lectures to numerous public [theater](#) and [music performances](#), the institution's educational mission reaches the greater Arkadelphia community and towns throughout southwest Arkansas.

#### 1.B.2.

The education focused mission of Henderson State University guides the decision making at every level of the institution. As a public institution, the mission of the university focuses on serving the citizens of Arkansas. While the mission of the university has evolved over the years, it continues to focus on educating and serving Arkansans, with a specific focus on southwest Arkansas and offering liberal arts programs to Arkansans from across the state.

#### 1.B.3.

The relationship between Henderson and the Arkadelphia community is historically evident. While Henderson has relied on the community for support over the decades, it continues to return that support to Arkadelphia, Clark County, and other nearby communities. Examples of this support include both educational and entertainment focused programming. In an effort to support the greater Arkadelphia community, the university operated the [Center for Economic Development and Community Engagement](#) for more than a decade, serving [hundreds](#) within the larger community each year. With the impact of institutional financial shortfalls and COVID-19, the university administration closed the center in 2020 as part of a series of cost-saving moves.

Examples of Henderson working with the wider community to support educational activities include [Family Science Night](#), [Summer Art Camp](#), [Summer Band Camp](#), [musical performances](#), [Planetarium Shows](#), and [Art Exhibitions](#). In addition to these activities, the university regularly hosts concerts and theatre presentations open to the public, drawing community members to campus.

Several academic departments on campus work with parents and their children in the Arkadelphia community. The [Davis-Baker Preschool](#), operated by the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences in Teachers College, Henderson, provides preschool experiences for children ages three to five. It is a clinical site for candidates seeking a bachelors degree in childcare management or elementary education. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, The Department of Nursing had to cancel the Kindergarten Spring Round-up for the past two years. However, in 2020, the nursing department participated in administering flu and immunization shots at the local elementary schools in Arkadelphia. Faculty, staff and students served as [clinic volunteers](#) in COVID-19 vaccine volunteer clinics for Henderson State University and Ouachita Baptist University faculty and students.

Other events hosted by the university bring members of the campus community together with local residents. These events include [Henderson Halloween](#) which welcomes hundreds of children to campus to receive candy from student organizations and the [Carol of Lights](#) that includes musical performances and book readings. Huie Library, working closely with the Clark County Library System, hosts summer reading programs for both children and adults. Biology students reached out to clients of the Arkadelphia Human Development Center by hosting a [fishing tournament](#) for them at the [Simonson Biological Field Station](#).

Housed in the renovated Caddo Center, the [Hodges Collection](#), as well as other collections held by the [HSU Arkansas Archaeological Survey Station](#), are open for public viewing and serve as a draw to bring visitors to campus to learn more about Native Americans who resided in the area.

The university houses the [Southwest Economic Renewal Zone\(ERZ\)](#), a multi-year Pre-K-16 initiative funded by the state of Arkansas to help improve public school performance and student achievement. Each year, this program sponsors over a dozen [workshops and developmental meetings](#) for regional teachers and students.

Henderson students are offered an opportunity to pursue coursework not offered by the university by taking classes at Ouachita Baptist University, located next to the Henderson campus. This student exchange allows Henderson students to take religious coursework, along with other classes, and creates opportunities for students of both universities to experience learning in a different environment. The two institutions created the Joint Educational Consortium in 1972 to share educational resources between the universities as well as the wider community. The JEC continues to operate, most notably owning the [Hodges Collection](#) and allowing the university libraries to share a joint catalog, promoting sharing physical library resources.

Living in Arkadelphia and surrounding areas, faculty and staff members are active members in their communities. From service in professional organizations such as the board of the [Arkansas Library Association](#) and the Arkansas Historical Association to public service in [city and county government](#), Henderson employees work to better their community, with faculty and staff serving on various boards and in elected office.

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, the Department of Social Sciences sponsored an annual [Constitution Day event](#). This campus event is open to the public where an invited speaker addresses issues related to the U.S. Constitution. Every spring the Department of Social Sciences organized the annual [Sydney S. McMath Pre-law Conference and Banquet](#). This event was open to students of all majors and the public. The banquet featured a keynote speaker and panel discussions in which representatives of law schools, local practicing attorneys, and others were available to answer questions from students pertaining to matters such as law school admission requirements, the first-year law school experience, and professional expectations.

The close relationship enjoyed by Henderson and surrounding communities provides for support for both entities. Henderson also works to bring the families of students to campus in order to build relationships. Annual events like [Family Day](#) bring the families of students to campus with numerous activities for all ages. The event helps construct a connection between the families and the university, encouraging new generations of Reddies to attend Henderson. Many student organizations, such as Physics and Engineering Club, sponsor outreach events aimed at local elementary and high school students.

Upon graduation, alumni continue to be active within the university community. Bringing alumni back to campus to network with current students is a goal of the [Office of Alumni](#) and several departmental and college-level programs. In social settings, the alumni return to campus to participate in events surrounding [homecoming](#) and at other times during the academic year. In addition to returning to campus, alumni are active in supporting the current student body through scholarship opportunities and supporting updates to campus. Maintaining the relationships with alumni through regional and special interest alumni groups, the university continues to work closely with both former Reddies and members of the local community.

## Sources

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- Fishing Tournament
- Henderson Family Science Night



- Henderson Halloween Event-Community
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- Musical Performances\_Redacted.pdf
- Planetarium Shows
- Sidney S. McMath Pre-Law Conference\_Redacted
- Simonson Biological Field Station
- Southwest Educational Renewal Zone
- Summer Art Camp
- Summer Band Camp
- Theatre and Dance Emails
- University Mission

## 1.C - Core Component 1.C

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The institution provides opportunities for civic engagement in a diverse, multicultural society and globally connected world, as appropriate within its mission and for the constituencies it serves.

1. The institution encourages curricular or cocurricular activities that prepare students for informed citizenship and workplace success.
2. The institution's processes and activities demonstrate inclusive and equitable treatment of diverse populations.
3. The institution fosters a climate of respect among all students, faculty, staff and administrators from a range of diverse backgrounds, ideas and perspectives.

### Argument

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#### 1.C.1 .

Prior to the current pandemic, each semester the [Reddie to Serve](#) day was set aside as a day for students, staff, and faculty to perform a variety of community service projects, not only in Arkadelphia but also in [Hot Springs](#). The Center for Student Engagement at Henderson serves the student body and university community by providing programs and experiences that promote [educational, cultural, recreational, social, and personal](#) growth. The center is committed to facilitating experiences and providing activities for the enhancement and enrichment of the and leadership opportunities. Every month, the Student Engagement Center sponsors [campus events](#) designed to celebrate diversity and multiculturalism. There are several [organizations](#) that serve students of diverse backgrounds, for example: Black Student Association, Gay and Straight Alliance, League of Extraordinary Gentlemen, and [League of Latinos](#).

33.5 percent of the Henderson student body was culturally diverse in the 2020-21 academic year. This represents a 2 percent drop from the 2019-20. At the beginning of the 2021-22 academic year, Henderson employed 82 minority faculty and staff compared to 80 in 2020-21. The data is included in the [Minority Recruitment Retention Report](#).

[Study abroad](#) opportunities for students to experience different cultures have been offered recently by the School of Business, Ellis College, the Honors College, and in individual departments such as biology and art. Many of the student trips abroad within Ellis College are recorded annually in [Forge Magazine](#), with feature articles recounting previous student learning experiences in China, France, Mexico, Belize, Spain, the [Galapagos Islands](#), and other international destinations.

Students at Henderson are encouraged to participate in cocurricular activities that prepare them for informed citizenship and workplace. Business majors have been exposed to a variety of [events](#) that will lead to making informed decisions in the workplace. Since 2018, education majors in Teachers College have sponsored a [future educators conference](#). Each year, conference topics focused on providing teacher candidates knowledge that will lead to success in the field of education. Ellis College majors have participated in [conferences](#) that focused on presenting their research findings in conferences. The Office of Student Affairs and Student Success have provided [theme centered activities](#) for dorm residents that will prepare them for success in the workplace.

### 1.C.2.

Civic engagement with a strong focus on inclusive and equitable treatment of diverse populations, is fostered on campus by student organizations such as League of Latinos, Young Democrats, and Secular Student Alliance. Other student organizations perform outreach to underserved populations connected to their purpose. For example, when Arkadelphia's weekly newspaper, the [Arkadelphia Dispatch](#), abruptly ceased publication in the summer of 2020, students with Henderson's campus newspaper, *The Oracle*, secured a small grant from the State Press Association to keep it running and prevent the diverse Arkadelphia community from becoming a news desert.

### 1.C.3.

Respect for diverse backgrounds, ideas, and perspectives is grounded in [university's mission statement](#), [core values](#), faculty and student handbooks, as well as in college and departmental mission statements and course syllabi. Each week during the fall and spring semesters, the office of Student Affairs and Student Success sends out a [weekly email](#) to all students, faculty and staff announcing upcoming campus events. A sampling of events from just one semester includes many announcements of gatherings from culinary to political, of debates and dances, and of films and lectures celebrating diverse backgrounds, ideas, and perspectives. Each fall until 2020, all freshmen have been given a copy of a common book called the [Reddie Read](#), and many upper class courses have adopted it as supplemental text. The highlight of this annual program is typically a visit from the book's author, which is open to the community as well as everyone on campus. A sampling of past Reddie Read announcements of this popular event indicate that these authors, and the subjects of their verse, provide a campus-wide focal point on diversity.

In June 2020, Acting President Elaine Kneebone held a [campus conversation](#) via zoom that focused on racism. After that event, Acting President Kneebone created the framework of [diversity and inclusion task force](#) to build a culture at Henderson in which all students, faculty and staff feel supported, respected and valued. In Spring of 2021, Chancellor Borsig made the decision to let new chancellor implement diversity and inclusion task force in conjunction with new strategic plan.

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- Residence Hall - Staff Led Housing Events Fall 2020 and Spring 2021
- School of Business Co-Curricular
- Student Organizations
- Study Abroad Opportunities
- University Mission
- Weekly Email with Events

## **1.S - Criterion 1 - Summary**

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The institution's mission is clear and articulated publicly; it guides the institution's operations.

### **Summary**

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Henderson mission is focused towards providing a quality liberal arts education to a diverse student body. As Arkansas's public liberal arts institution, Henderson has a responsibility to recruit and educate students from across the state while also serving surrounding counties. Henderson is committed to facilitating experiences and providing activities for the enhancement and enrichment of the student's own development. and leadership opportunities.

### **Sources**

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*There are no sources.*