



UNIVERSITY *of* ARKANSAS  
FORT SMITH.

**Department Head of Computer Science and  
Neal Pendergraft Leadership Endowed Chair**  
College of Arts and Sciences

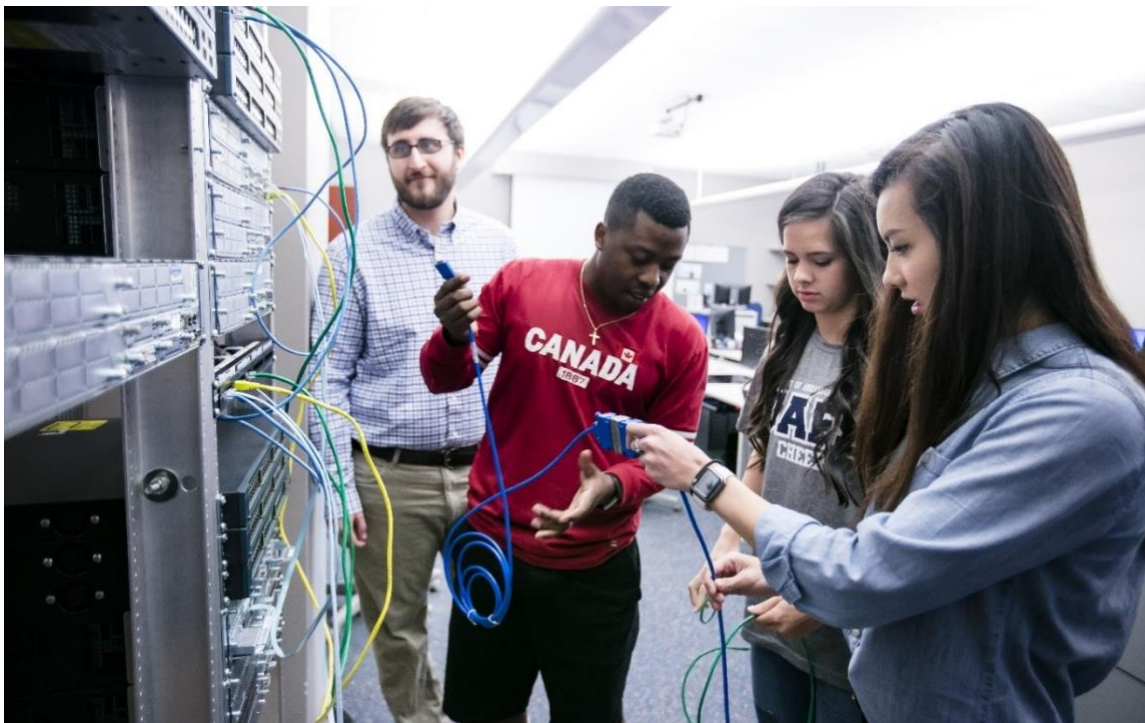


## The Opportunity

The Department of Computer Science at the University of Arkansas - Fort Smith (UAFS) seeks applications for the **Department Head and Neal Pendergraft Leadership Endowed Chair** to be appointed at the rank of full Professor. As one of the Five Pillars of Excellence identified in the 2023-28 UAFS Strategic Plan, Computer and Data Science, are primed for expansion at the University and across the Arkansas River Valley. The department currently offers a four-year Bachelor of Science in Computer Science, a minor in Computer Science and Certificates of Proficiency in Cybersecurity and Data Analytics.

The Neal Pendergraft Leadership Endowed Chair is a distinguished faculty position established through philanthropic support to attract and retain an exceptional scholar and leader in the field. Through an annual spending allocation, the Chair will advance innovation in data science education, research, and industry engagement, strengthening the University of Arkansas–Fort Smith’s impact in preparing graduates for a data-driven economy.

The Department Head serves as the primary administrator and leader for the academic unit and reports to the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. The successful candidate will teach a 15credit hour courseload during the 12-month contract year. Administrative duties include managing full-time and part-time faculty, academic program development and growth, program evaluation and assessment, and collaboration across the university and with industry leaders. The position will start July 1, 2026.



## Major Job Duties and Responsibilities:

The Department Head of Computer Science will:

- Provide effective leadership and administration of the Department of Computer Science by facilitating the vision, mission, goals, objectives, and activities of the department as consistent with those of the College and University
- Coordinate recruiting, hiring, evaluation, and retention of qualified faculty and staff
- Manage the department's fiscal year budget, development funds, and other expenses
- Create curricula and semester course schedules centered upon student success
- Coordinate outreach, recruitment, marketing, and fundraising to support departmental programs
- Engage with programmatic and industry advisory boards
- Maintain a positive work atmosphere that fosters teamwork and collegiality
- Teach various computer science courses in their area of expertise and others as needed.
- Maintain scholarly and research activities appropriate to a full professor
- Encourage and advocate for scholarly and research activities in department faculty and students
- Participate in service at the department, college, university, community, and professional levels
- Exhibit consistent on-time attendance.
- Perform other duties as assigned by the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.



## Required Qualifications

The candidate must have a Ph.D. in Computer Science or a related discipline from an accredited institution; and

- Demonstrated experience in an academic or professional leadership position for at least three years, supervising others and being a team leader.
- Scholarly record commensurate with appointment as a full professor at UAFS. Applicants should be prepared to provide evidence of their continuity in scholarly/creative activities. Evidence could include but is not limited to presentations at national or international conferences, peer-reviewed published scholarship, extramural grant funding, development of published instructional materials, and/or other scholarly activity as is appropriate to their academic discipline.
- Demonstrated experience in the effective use of technology in the classroom, developing instructional materials, and delivering distance learning.
- Demonstrated commitment to first-generation and non-traditional learners and pedagogical experience in support of a broad range of students.
- Demonstrated excellent oral, written, and interpersonal communication skills.

## Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities:

To perform the job successfully, the following competencies are required for the essential functions of this position:

- Ability to collaborate with students, faculty, staff, and administrators to achieve departmental, college, and university goals
- Commitment to growth in all aspects as a faculty member, including teaching, scholarship, and service and fostering these attributes in the departmental faculty
- Ability to administer academic programs, including scheduling, evaluation, and budgeting
- Attention to maintenance of facilities and technology, including computer and data science laboratories
- Willingness to engage with external stakeholders
- Strong work ethic and time management skills

## About the University of Arkansas at Fort Smith

The University of Arkansas - Fort Smith is a dynamic, mid-sized public university focused on delivering hands-on learning experiences to nearly 5,500 students each year. Its student body is ambitious and committed, primarily hailing from the Arkansas River Valley region it serves.

With more than 70 academic programs, including certificate, associate, bachelor's, and master's degrees, UAFS combines academic rigor with a strong commitment to opportunity, access, and success. Faculty and students are encouraged to engage in research and publication, and a dedicated center for teaching and learning supports continual professional development.

As an employer, UAFS offers a culture that supports work-life balance. Employees receive a competitive benefits package that includes university contributions to health, dental, life, and disability insurance; tuition waivers for employees and eligible family members; 12 official holidays; immediate leave accrual; and retirement plan options with university contributions ranging from 5 to 10 percent of salary.



## The City of Fort Smith

Nestled along the Arkansas River on the western edge of Arkansas, this vibrant city offers a perfect blend of history, culture, and natural beauty. With a population of approximately 90,000, Fort Smith is Arkansas' third largest city and is located on the border with Oklahoma.

Immerse yourself in the rich heritage of the Old West at the Fort Smith National Historic Site, explore the eclectic local art scene, listen to the Fort Smith Symphony, or take a scenic stroll along the picturesque riverfront trails. With a welcoming community, diverse dining options, and a thriving downtown, Fort Smith is the ideal destination for history enthusiasts and those seeking modern amenities.



## Specifics of Employment

The Department Head and Chair will be a faculty member in Computer Science on a twelve-month administrative position. The salary will be commensurate with education and experience with a minimum of \$120,000 plus benefits.

This position may be subject to a pre-employment criminal background check, sex offender registry check, financial history background check, motor vehicle reports check, and/or drug screening. A criminal conviction or arrest pending adjudication and/or adverse financial history alone shall not disqualify an applicant in the absence of a relationship to the requirements of the position. Background checks and drug screening information will be used in a confidential, nondiscriminatory manner consistent with state and federal law.

Persons must have proof of legal authority to work in the United States on the first day of employment. All application information is subject to public disclosure under the Arkansas Freedom of Information Act.



## Nominations and Applications

AGB Search is pleased to assist the University of Arkansas at Fort Smith with this leadership search.

Applications for the Department Head of Computer Science will be received and considered until the position is filled. **Applications** must include the following:

1. A letter of interest addressing the qualifications and responsibilities identified in the profile;
2. Resume or curriculum vitae, and
3. The contact information (email address and phone number) for **five** professional references, including their relationship to the candidate. *References will not be contacted without prior authorization from the candidate.*

To apply to the position, upload materials to the University of Arkansas System Career Site <https://uasys.wd5.myworkdayjobs.com/UASYS>. Please do not submit materials to the AGB Search consultants.

Nominations and expressions of interest in the position of the Department Head and Neal Pendergraft Leadership Endowed Chair are encouraged. Please direct them to [UAFSCompScience@agbsearch.com](mailto:UAFSCompScience@agbsearch.com) or to the AGB search consultants listed below.

### **Concetta M. Stewart, PhD**

Principal

AGB Search

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### **Jerome A. “Jerry” Gilbert, PhD**

Executive Search Consultant AGB Search

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