Dr. Lisa Oden has been an educator for over 25 years. She taught at the elementary level for 14 years while simultaneously teaching night classes for Henderson State University’s Teacher Education program. Dr. Oden started the Teacher Education program at SAU Tech in 2001. She has taught numerous workshops teaching local educators how to use technology in the classroom at the same time. The Teacher Education program at SAU Tech has produced over 130 graduates in recent years and a number of these students have gone on to complete their Bachelor’s degrees and are effectively teaching in school districts all over south Arkansas.

“I needed to take a few classes during the summer in order to be ready to start the early childhood education program in the fall. SAU Tech was the only school (reasonably located to me) that offered the courses I needed that summer. I was able to take a total of eighteen hours online in one summer and never had to leave my house. They took care of my enrollment via fax and email as well as taking care of my books with very little effort on my part. I was so impressed with how easy it was to enroll in SAU Tech. After taking the summer courses it didn’t take long for me to decide that I wanted to obtain my Associates Degree of Arts from SAU Tech. I have been out of high school for fifteen years, the hassle of enrolling in college was enough to deter me from going back, but the faculty and administration made the process extremely easy and “pain-free”. I highly recommend SAU Tech to anyone considering post-secondary education!” - Cindee Mason
Becoming a teacher in Arkansas

There are many reasons to consider becoming an Arkansas teacher. First, the joy of making a difference in the life of students as a positive role model. Second, you can consider the job security in teaching. Teachers will always be needed, and in rural Arkansas the need is even greater. Third, the ability to give back to your community or the community in which you chose to teach in is invaluable.

What special benefits exist in Arkansas for teachers?

Teachers in Arkansas are paid well and benefit from a state retirement system which lets a teacher begin to draw benefits at the age of 60. Students who borrow money while in college to become a teacher can participate in loan forgiveness programs if you choose to teach in an area of a teacher or subject shortage. Arkansas teachers receive pay raises when they complete master’s level classes and degrees. Arkansas is among the top five states in the nation in terms of average 10-year salary increases.

How do I become an Arkansas Teacher?

In order to be considered a licensed teacher in the state of Arkansas, you must have a minimum of a bachelor’s degree and successful completion of all three Praxis Exams. In order to maintain a teaching license, each teacher also must complete 60 hours of approved professional development each year.

If you already have a bachelor’s degree or higher, in a subject area taught in K-12, you can still decide to become a teacher as Arkansas provides for this option through its nontraditional certification process.

How can SAU Tech help me become a teacher?

While SAU Tech cannot provide all four years of a teaching degree, we can get you started on your career track. We offer an Associate of Arts in General Studies that will transfer to any four-year college in the state.

SAU Tech offers education courses as electives within the General Studies degree and has agreements with Southern Arkansas University (SAU) and Henderson to transfer teacher education credits to their teacher education programs. SAU offers the last two years of a teaching degree on SAU Tech’s campus making it easier for students living in the area.

How do I get started?

The first step is to go to sautech.edu and complete the online application. After completing the application, it is important to gather all of the additional items required for admission to SAU Tech. The list of items can be found on our admissions page at sautech.edu. If you need housing, the housing application is on the website as well.

Next, you will need to secure funding to attend college. To do that, first complete the Free Application for Federal Aid or FAFSA. You can do that at fafsa.gov. If you need help completing the FAFSA, our financial aid office is ready to assist you! Call them at 870.574.4511. We also have scholarships located on the financial aid page on our website and links to Arkansas’s Lottery Scholarship and other resources.

If you have questions, please call us at 870.574.4500. We will be happy to give you a campus tour, meet with you regarding our teaching program or answer any questions or concerns you may have.

SAU Tech’s School Code (Needed to Complete the FAFSA) 007738