



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

We are excited about being College of the Ouachitas, and we hope you are too. Even though our name will change, our focus will continue to be our current and future students, our graduates, employer partners and all members of our communities. Since we're sure you have many questions about the name change, we've provided a list of FAQs.

What is the new name of the College?

College of the Ouachitas

When will this officially happen?

July 1, 2011

Why is the College changing its name?

The Ouachita Technical College Board of Trustees decided in 2009 that the time had come for a name change. The Board asked the administration to involve students, faculty, staff and citizens in the community to come up with a new name that would better communicate the College's comprehensive mission.

Why College of the Ouachitas?

We feel that it will help us to communicate more effectively and clearly the comprehensive nature of this fine institution of higher education. The word "technical" was removed because too many people wrongly thought career and technical programs were the primary offerings. Plus, too few people knew that students could earn college credit and an associate degree in two years then transfer to hundreds of different universities to earn a four-year bachelor's degree in just two more years of study. The word "Ouachitas" was preserved in the name to honor the cultural heritage of the beautiful river and mountain region characteristic of our service area.

What were the steps taken regarding the name change?

After soliciting proposed names from both the community and the College through advertisements, polls, and focus groups, a committee pared down some 200 suggestions to two names that were recommended to the Board of Trustees. The Board unanimously approved the new name for the College in fall 2010 after discussing and considering the options. The College's two local State Legislators, Senator Mike Fletcher and Representative Loy Mauch, sponsored a name change bill and ushered it through the committees and both chambers getting it passed without a dissenting vote. Governor Mike Beebe signed the bill into law on March 8, 2011.

Will the College still offer the programs that have been traditionally offered?

Yes, nothing changes on that front because of the name change. We will continue to meet the needs of students and the community, and to remain in touch with community values.

Will students who started at the College while it was Ouachita Technical College need to do anything special to continue?

No, students will simply continue their college career here. They will graduate from College of the Ouachitas.

Will I need to get a new student/employee ID card?

Students are required to replace or renew their ID cards each semester. Employees receive ID cards when they are first employed with the College. Both students and employees should visit the Library to have a new College of the Ouachitas card made after July 1, 2011.

Will the community still be able to use the College Library or other campus facilities?

Yes, the community will be able to use the College Library and other campus facilities as before. Community users are issued a community-user library card and are allowed to check out materials and use the computers in the Library just as they could before the name change.

Will employee email addresses change? If so, when will that happen and how long will the current addresses continue to work?

Employee email addresses will change to reflect the new domain name and become @coto.edu. This change will take place July 1, 2011. Old @otcweb.edu email addresses will continue to be valid for six months.

Is my Ouachita Technical College diploma still valid?

Yes, all diplomas, certificates and degrees will still be valid. The Higher Learning Commission, our accreditor, the Arkansas Department of Higher Education, and the U.S. Department have all acknowledged the new name.

Should I change the name of my alma mater on my resume?

Yes, we suggest you alter your resume to read "College of the Ouachitas, formerly Ouachita Technical College."

Is the tuition and/or fees changing because of this?

Although the tuition and fees do change occasionally, the name change will not affect tuition and fees.

How is the name change being paid for?

All expenses incurred from the name change will be taken from the College's normal operating budget. The new name will appear on publications as supplies run out and have to be reprinted.

Did the College get a new logo?

Yes... The College's identity/brand is a reflection of who we are and is one of the College's most valuable assets. The logo is one of the most visual ways we communicate our institution's identity.

What else will we see changed?

The College logo, crest/seal, slogan, and campus signage will all reflect changes.

What is the new website?

The new web address is www.coto.edu. It will become effective July 1. (Both websites will be functional for a while.) A new website is in development.

Will there be any special ceremony announcing the name change?

Yes, although the College will officially become College of the Ouachitas on July 1, 2011, the College will host an official open house celebration on September 1, 2011, to start the new school year. More details to come.