



RACHEL RUDD

NEWS EDITOR

The nationwide Adderall shortage is nearing its fifth month, leaving people who take the medication and its variants scrambling to fill their prescriptions. This has trickled down to Arkansas State University, where students have been affected by the shortage.

**On Oct. 12, 2022, the Food and Drug Administration officially announced a shortage of Adderall, citing increased demand and manufacturing delays.** Adderall is a stimulant used to treat attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).

“One of the reasons behind the shortage is the increased number of people being diagnosed with ADHD that has happened just during the pandemic and hereafter,” said Dr. Shane Speights, dean of NYITCOM at A-State.



PHOTO COURTESY OF NYITCOM  
Dean of NYITCOM Dr. Shane Speights.

## How the nationwide ADDERALL SHORTAGE is affecting A-State students

“The reason why we’re seeing a shortage is for those two main reasons: they are the uptick in the number of diagnoses and prescriptions.”

Speights added that Adderall is an amphetamine, which is a Schedule II drug. Drugs in this category have a high potential for abuse, so they are controlled substances.

Since Adderall and its variants, such as Ritalin, Strattera and Vyvanse, are controlled substances, this means their production is regulated by the federal government.

“These pill manufacturers and these drug manufacturers, they’re under federal constraints. They can’t just ramp up production,” Speights said.

If students can get their prescriptions filled, they have had to ration their medications or only take their pills on certain days.

Laura Carter, a senior multimedia journalism major from Hot Springs who takes Concerta, had heard hints of the shortage. Her cousin is a pharmacist and she warned Carter about the shortage.

**“I started trying to alter what I was taking and prepare my body for (the shortage) because I know a certain shift like that really, for me, is bad.”**

Carter said she would get prescriptions that were only half filled and that the pharmacy would “give me what they had.”

“I’d be like, ‘I can take this much when I have this much schoolwork to do,’ so then I

had to start positioning my schoolwork onto the days that I knew I could separate my medicine out on how long it would last and at what point in the day I could take it to get the most stretch out of my focus,” Carter said.

Blake Walker, associate director for Access and Accommodation Services, said he has been working with a student who has had to ration his medications when his prescriptions start to run low.

“He has gone up to two and a half weeks without medication at times,” Walker said. “He is only taking it Monday through Friday because those are the days he’s in class.”

Speights said if students were to try and ration their medications, they won’t see the full effects a normal dosage provides.

“If you can’t get your medicine and that’s what you’re doing, I think that’s appropriate. With a smaller dose, you’re just not going to see the full effect if you were taking your regularly prescribed amount,” Speights said.

Other students have had to switch medications entirely. Mary Mashburn, first-year psychology major from Crossett, Arkansas, previously took Adderall XR, which is the extended release version of the drug, meaning the active ingredients are released over a longer period of time as opposed to the standard version.

She has been switched to the



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE WASHINGTON POST

The first reported delay of filing orders for Adderall began in Aug. in Oct. the FDA announced an official shortage.

generic version of Adderall XR.

“I’ve already noticed a difference, because people say they’re the same. They’re not the same. The brand name works 100 times better for me,” Mashburn said.

Mashburn said the reason for the switch was due to how “extremely hard” it was to get her prescription filled.

Speights said if a student switches medications, they won’t see much difference in how the drug itself works, but they may have to try and find the best dosage.

“They may wear off quicker. Sometimes there’s a little bit of difference, because the milligrams and the dosage are not the same from one drug to the next. So sometimes we have to play with those dosages to try to get the right

amount for the student to get the same effect,” Speights said.

If students can get their prescription filled, the cost of the medicine is still a concern. Jacie Davis, a graduate student studying social work from Calico Rock, Arkansas, who takes Vyvanse, paid \$308 with a coupon. She had gone without her medication for a month.

“I went ahead and paid for it just for the month because if I can get through the next month or two months until I graduate, I’ll be fine and then I can maybe try and find an alternative.”

With the shortage, Walker said Access and Accommodation Services has had to “reevaluate the accommodations” they provide.

CONTINUED:  
ADDERALL, 3A

### Fall and Summer 2023 schedules are now available for view

To review the course schedules, log in to your my.AState student portal and go to Self-Service Banner. Please note that Summer and Fall registration begins for graduates, seniors and juniors next week, March 8 and for sophomores and first-years on March 10. Prior to registration, students must be cleared by their advisor.

### Zero Discrimination Day Planned

Students will come together at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, March 1 to recognize Zero Discrimination Day with a march starting on the Heritage Plaza Lawn. Students are encouraged to bring signs and posters about Zero Discrimination Day.

### SGA, Multicultural Affairs to host The Human Library

The Student Government Association and Multicultural Affairs will host the Human Library on Thursday, March 30 at 6 p.m. in Centennial Hall. This a global innovative and hands-on learning platform.

### BRIEFS COURTESY OF A-STATE DAILY DIGEST

#### THIS WEEK IN THE HERALD:

#### OPINION, 2A

- Section 230 needs to be revised
- Living cheap and healthy is easier than you think

#### NEWS, 3A

- Phoenix Drag Show Group
- Fifth annual Living Legends

#### NEWS, 4A

- Battle of the Baes

#### SPORTS, 1B

- Fourth Straight Sweep
- Half-court shot for free tuition

#### LIFE, 3B

- Stress washes over computer science and engineering students
- Non-drivers at A-State
- Meet the members
- Club spotlight: Model UN

#### PHOTO, 4B

- Students and professionals at Simpson Theater drag show

## Student Government Association passes new scholarship

ANNA COX

COPY EDITOR

Bill SR 22/23 .01 passed on Feb. 28, which allows five students to receive \$1,100 each academic year. Garrett Partain, a junior political science major from Lepanto, Arkansas, was the founder and writer of this bill.

Partain wanted to create a new scholarship opportunity to combat the housing insecurity in Jonesboro and on Campus.

“I know that people having access to housing is really important. When I moved in on campus my entire life changed for the better. It was good to be independent,” Partain said.

Financial Aid and the SGA will create an application by the end of the 2023 fall semester. The bill states that to be eligible for the scholarship a student must: be a full time student, enrolled in the university, in good academic standing and

signed up for the upcoming academic year. Students who have all on-campus housing fees covered by other means are ineligible for the scholarship.

Applicants will submit their applications to the Chair of Financial Aid and Scholarships shared governance committee for their application to be reviewed. The bill also states “Preference will be given to an applicant who demonstrates (a) financial need, (b) academic achievement in the face of adversity and (c) a want to participate in and improve the campus community.”

The second bill to pass, bill SR 22/23 -04, would require running candidates to provide receipts to SGA. This would ensure that candidates are not spending more money than the allotted \$500, so candidates do not have a financial advantage.

Maddyson Lamb, a senior exercise science major from

Imboden, Arkansas, is the vice president of SGA. She is the main sponsor of the bill.

“In recent years I’ve seen that the campaign is unfair and I wanted it to have a baseline that way anyone that is eligible to run doesn’t have to worry about spending a lot of money, especially if they don’t have it,” Lamb said.

Bill SR 22/23 -04 will be available for the student body to vote in the upcoming election.



Photo by Anna Cox | Copy Editor  
Garrett Partain (left) sponsor of the housing scholarship bill and Maddyson Lamb (right) sponsor of campaign budget bill.