

ANNUAL REPORT OF CREDENTIALS AWARDED

Every year colleges and universities submit a Graduated Student File to the Arkansas Higher Education Information System (AHEIS). This file contains a record for every **credit** certificate and degree awarded to students by the institution between July 1st and June 30th of each year. This year’s annual report includes academic year 2024 credentials awarded between July 1, 2023 and June 30, 2024.

Statewide Trends

In academic year 2024, Arkansas higher education institutions reported 52,773 credentials were awarded to 42,325 students. This was a 5.4% increase in the number of credentials and 4.6% increase in the number of unduplicated students receiving those credentials. Prior to 2024, the number of students receiving credentials had remained consistent for the past five years running just above 40,000, but 2024 showed solid improvement with institutions reporting an increase of almost 2,000 recipients over 2023. Comparing 2024 to 2015, the number of credentials awarded has increased more than 10,000 and the number of students receiving those credentials has increased more than 5,000.

The increase in total credentials is due to a rise in awards in several degree levels at both public 2-year and 4-year institutions.

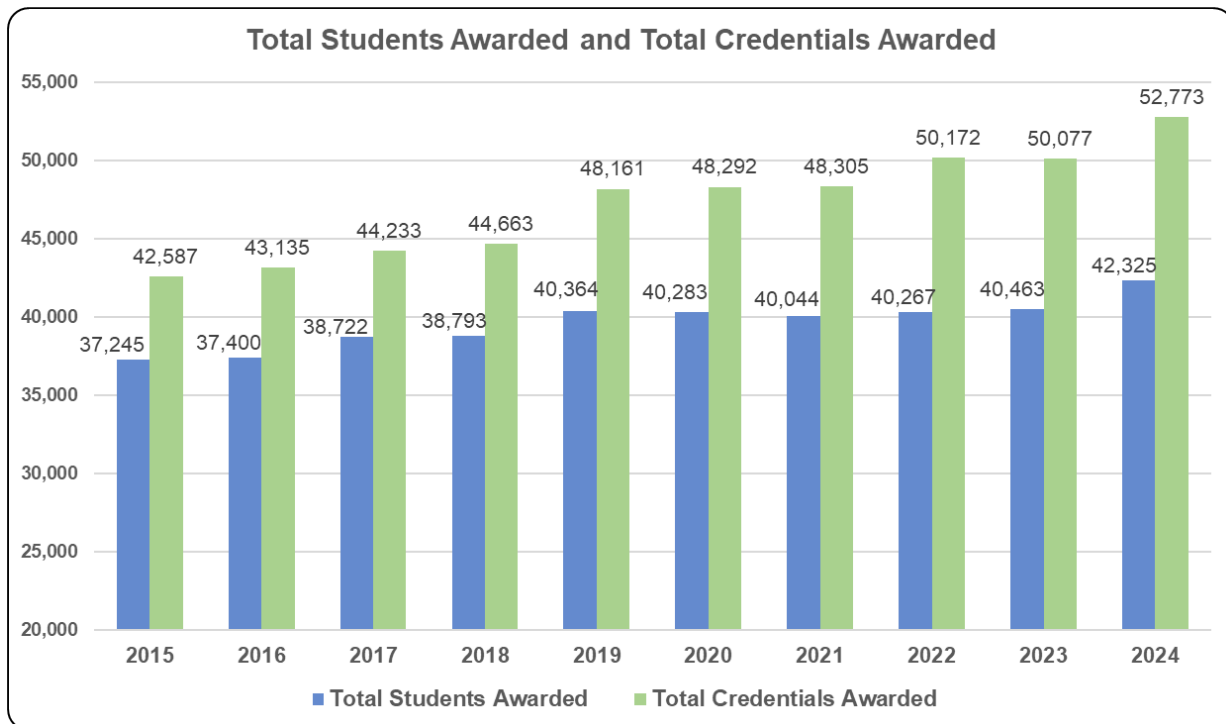


Chart 19-1: Statewide Trends

When looking at statewide undergraduate credential trends for the past six years, there have been some notable shifts in several degree levels. Chart 19-2 includes awards from both public and private/independent colleges and universities and includes the 2019 academic year, which is the last year that was not impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic.

- The number of Certificates of Proficiency awarded across the state continued its upward trend increasing 5.3%. This does include CPs of less than 9 credit hours (Basic Certificates).
- Technical Certificate awards in 2024 increased 3.5% compared to 2023, but TCs haven't shown the same rapid growth the Certificates of Proficiency have had the past three academic years.
- 11,563 Associate Degrees were awarded in the 2024 academic year, which is a notable 11.6% increase over 2023.
- In 2021, 16,947 Bachelor's Degrees were awarded, which is the most ever, however, declines were reported the past three academic years, including a modest -0.8% decline for 2024.
- Undergraduate Credentials awarded statewide represent about 81% of total credentials awarded each academic year.

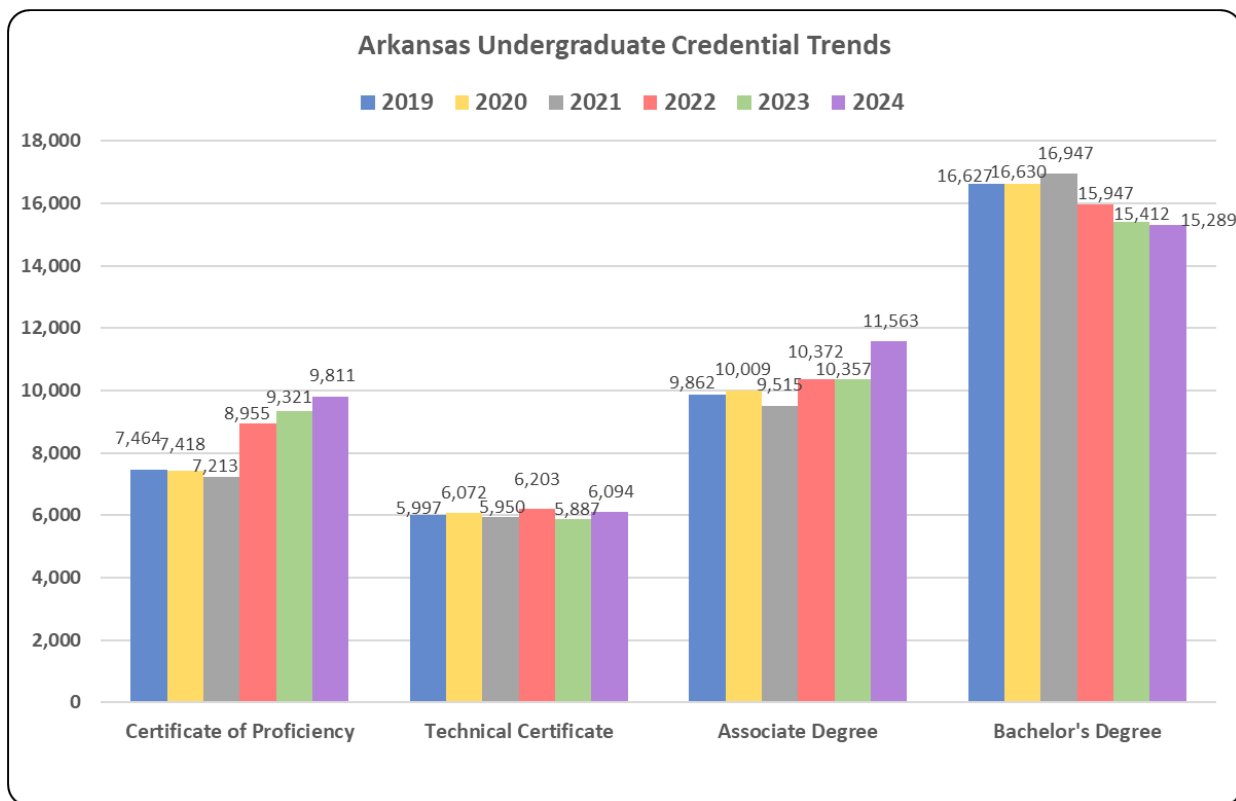


Chart 19-2: Statewide Undergraduate Credential Trends

Chart 19-3 below includes graduate level awards for the past six years from both public and private/independent universities, including the 2019 academic year, which is the last year that was not impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic.

- Each graduate credential level reported considerable increases for the 2024 academic year.
- The Post-Baccalaureate Certificates reported a 37.5% increase in 2024.
- Post-Masters/Specialist awards increased from 600 in academic year 2023 to 706 in 2024. This is a 17.7% increase.
- Doctoral awards, including both research and professional practice awards, recovered from a decline for 2023, and reported a 16.5% improvement for academic year 2024.
- Graduate Credentials awarded statewide represent about 19% of total credentials awarded each academic year.

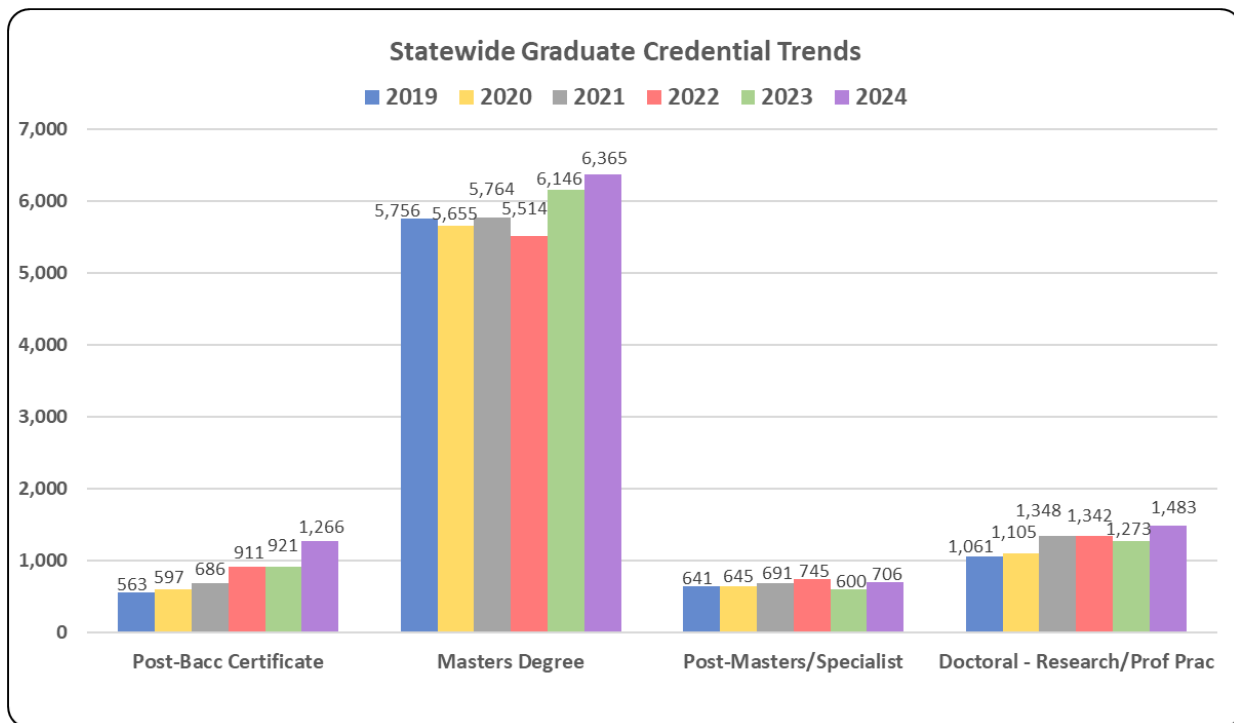


Chart 19-3: Statewide Graduate Credential Trends

Trends by Institution Type

Chart 19-4 provides five-year trends by institution type. The public 4-year universities consistently award 55% of the total statewide credentials. The public 2-year colleges award about 37%, the private/independent colleges and universities award 6% and the two nursing schools and one technical institute about 1% of the total statewide credentials.

- Public 4-year universities reported a 6.5% increase in credentials awarded comparing academic year 2024 to 2023.
- Public 2-year colleges reported a 4.5% increase in total awards from academic year 2023 to 2024.
- Private/Independent institutions reported a slight 0.6% increase in total awards from 2023 to 2024.
- The two nursing schools and one technical institute reported an 11.1% increase in total awards from 2023 to 2024. Counts are not included in the chart, but 470 credentials were awarded in academic year 2023 compared to 522 credentials awarded in academic year 2024.

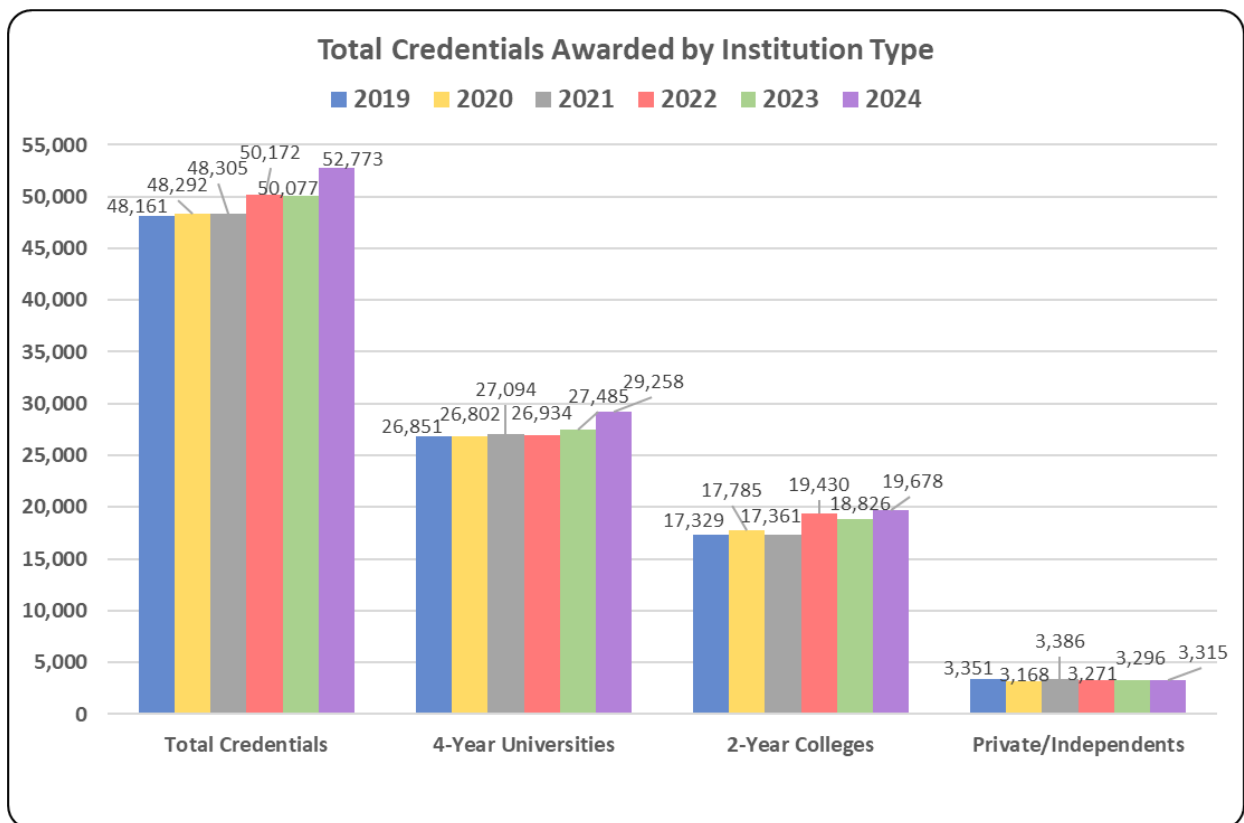


Chart 19-4: Six-Year History of Credentials Awarded by Institution Type

Charts 19-5 through charts 19-11 provide ten-year trends of certificates and degrees awarded by our Public 4-Year Universities. All charts on this page have the same Y-axis scale to assist with comparisons between award levels.

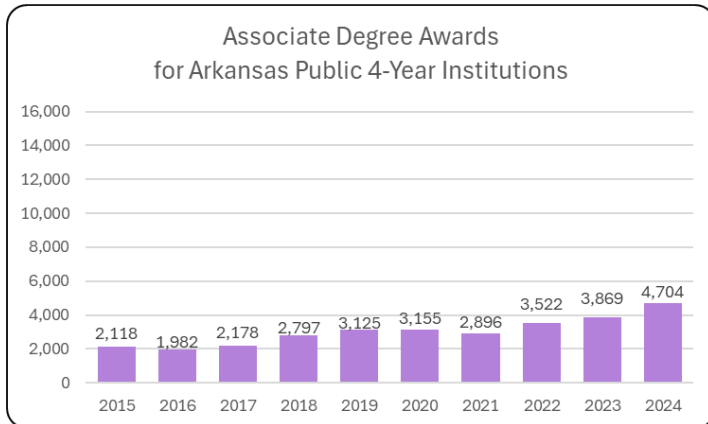


Chart 19-5: Ten-Year Trend of Associate Degrees

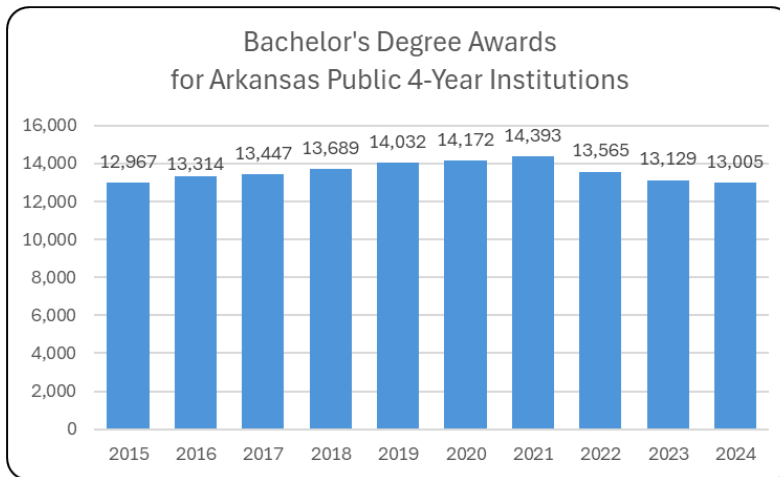


Chart 19-6: Ten-Year Trend of Bachelor's Degrees

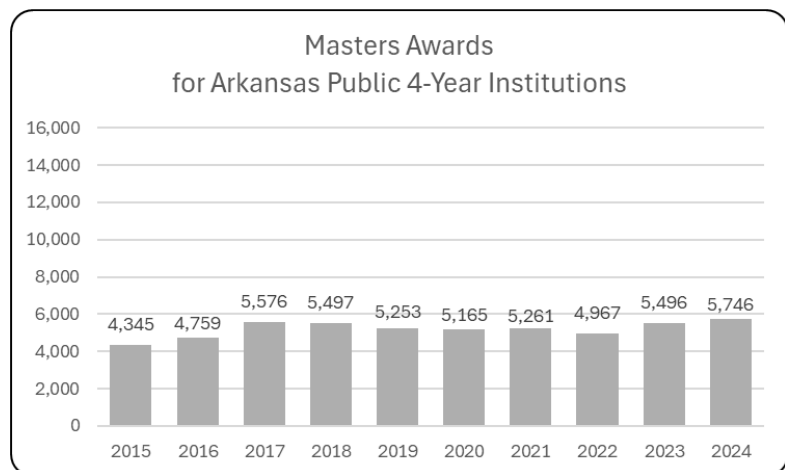


Chart 19-7: Ten-Year Trend of Masters Degrees

The next two charts show credentials awarded by several of our 4-year institutions, including those that have offsite locations focused on workforce training. All charts on this page have the same Y-axis scale to assist with comparisons between award levels. There has been a solid increase in the number of certificates of proficiency each year since academic year 2021, while the technical certificate awards remains consistent.

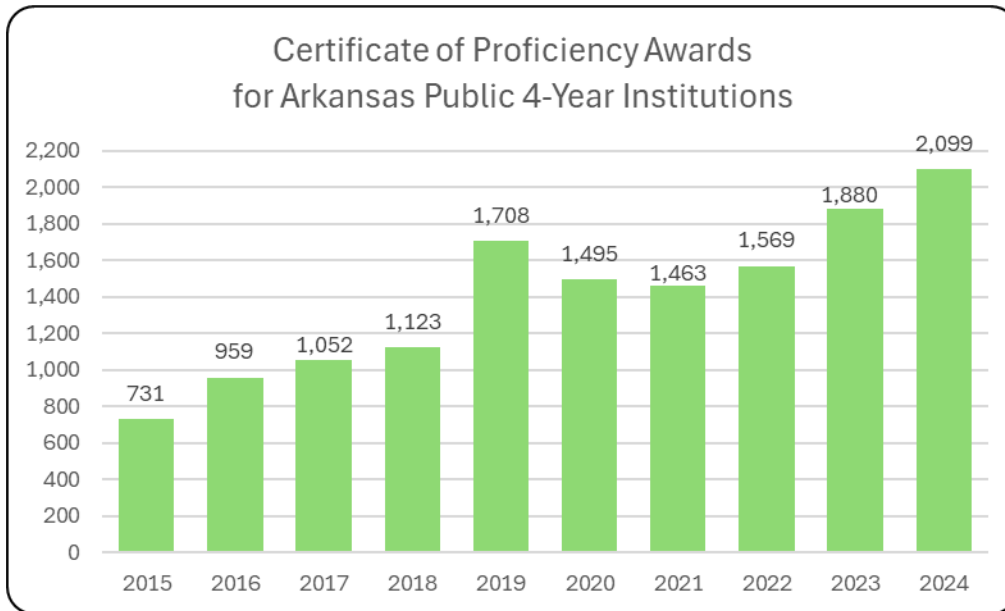


Chart 19-8: Ten-Year Trend of Certificates of Proficiency

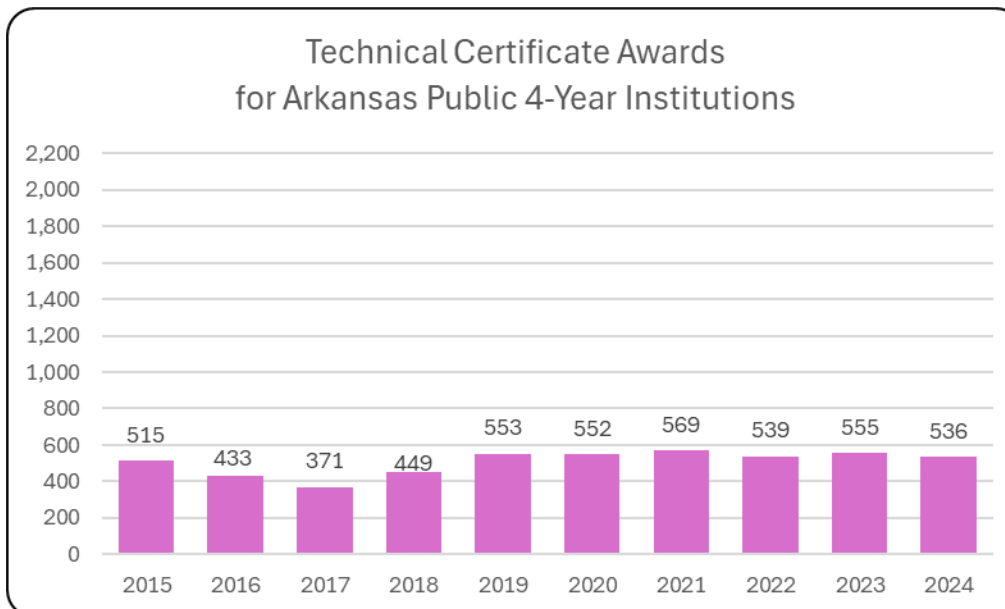


Chart 19-9: Ten-Year Trend of Technical Certificates

Doctoral Research credentials reported a good improvement over a decline last year, showing 379 awards for academic year 2024. First Professional awards include those in medicine, pharmacy, physical and occupational therapy, and law and reported an increase of over 100 credentials in 2024.

All charts on this page have the same Y-axis scale to assist with comparisons between award types.

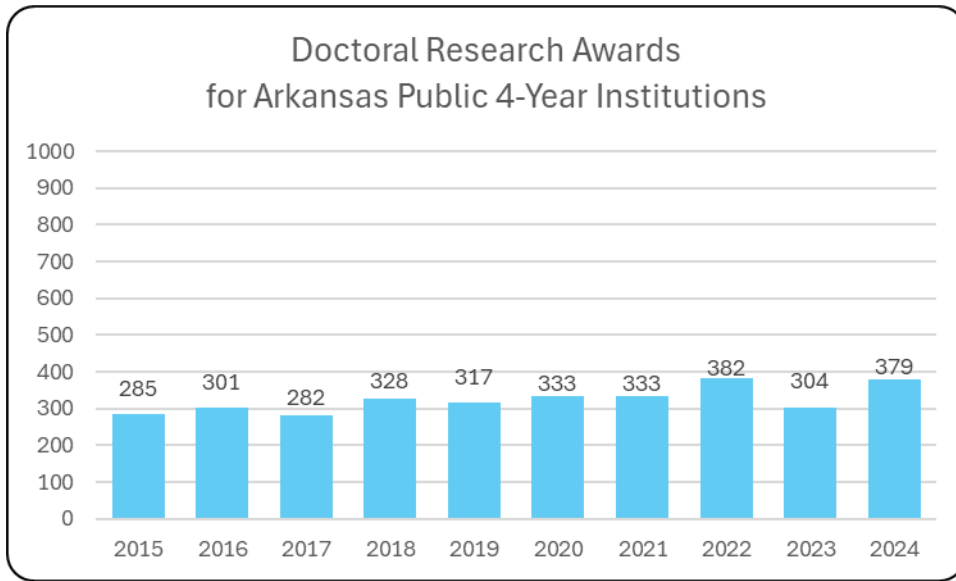


Chart 19-10: Ten-Year Trend of Doctoral – Research Degrees

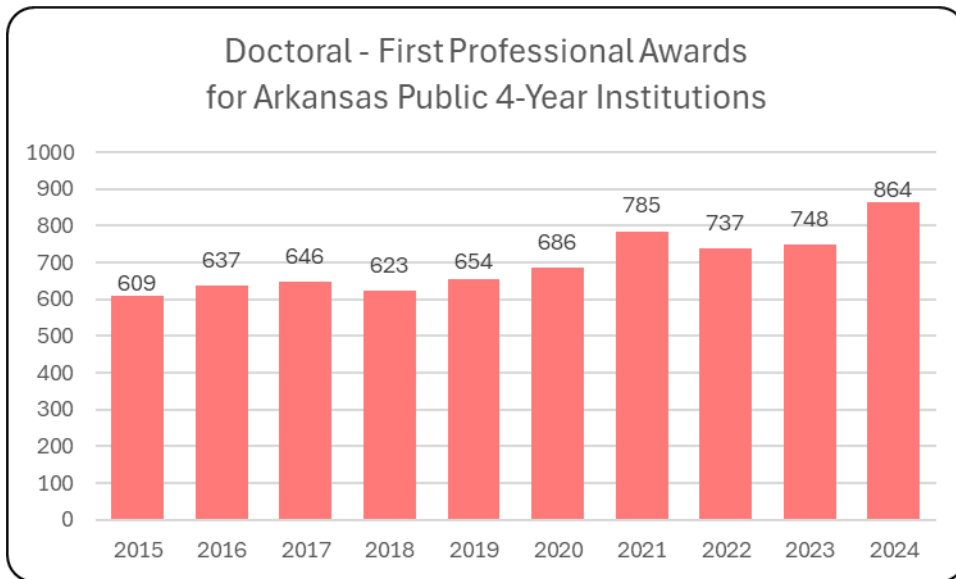


Chart 19-11: Ten-Year Trend of Doctoral – First-Professional Degrees

Charts 19-12 through 19-14 provide ten-year trends for the Public 2-Year Colleges. Associate degrees reported the highest percent improvement at 6.6% when comparing academic year 2024 to last year. Both certificate levels reported increases of more than 3% over 2023. All charts on this page have the same Y-axis scale to assist with comparisons between award levels.

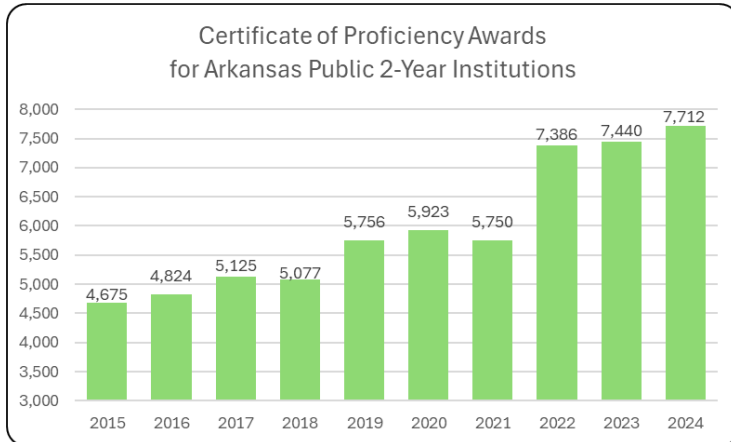


Chart 19-12: Ten-Year Trend of Certificates of Proficiency

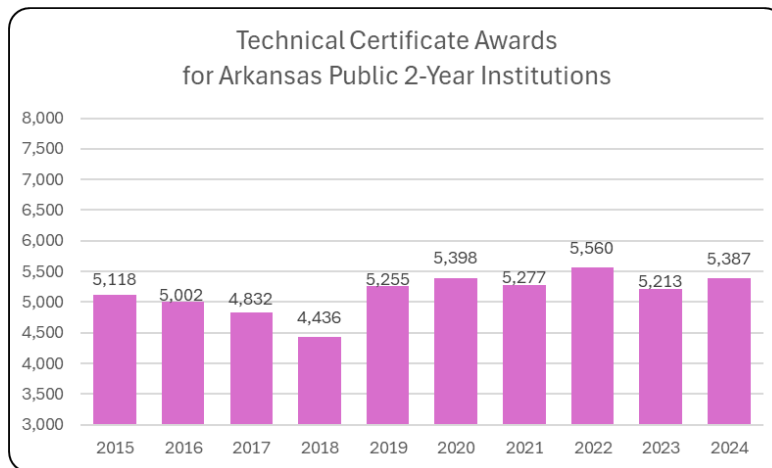


Chart 19-13: Ten-Year Trend of Technical Certificates

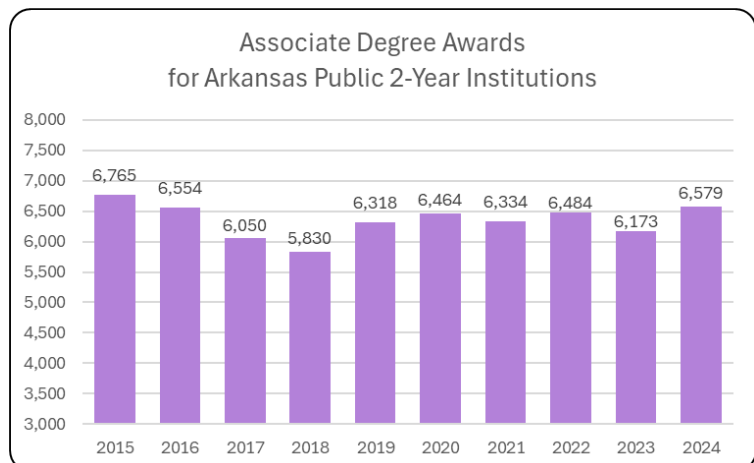


Chart 19-14: Ten-Year Trend of Associate Degrees

The following charts show a 10-year trend for the public 4-year universities. For this ten-year period, the green highlights indicate the year with the highest number of credentials awarded and the light red show the lowest number of credentials awarded.

- ATU reported the highest percent change when comparing 2024 to 2023 with a 24.8% increase supported by gains in Certificates of Proficiency, Associate Degrees and Post-Bacc Certificate credential categories.
- ASU increased total credentials 13.2% when comparing 2024 to 2023. Most notable was a 46% jump in associate degree awards (almost 500 credentials).
- Three other 4-year institutions reported positive percent changes, UAF (6%), UAM (1.3%) and UAMS (10.1%).

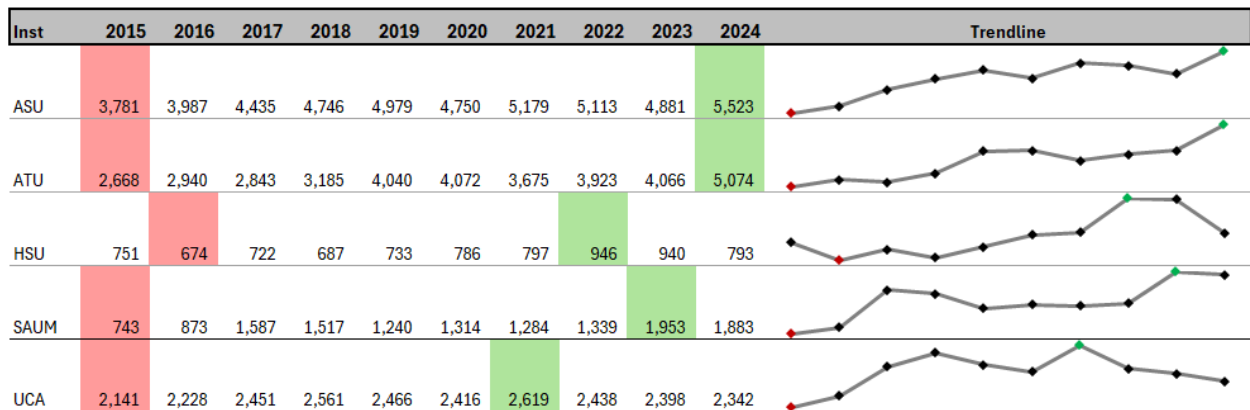


Chart 19-15: Ten-Year Trend of Total Credentials Awarded – 4-Year

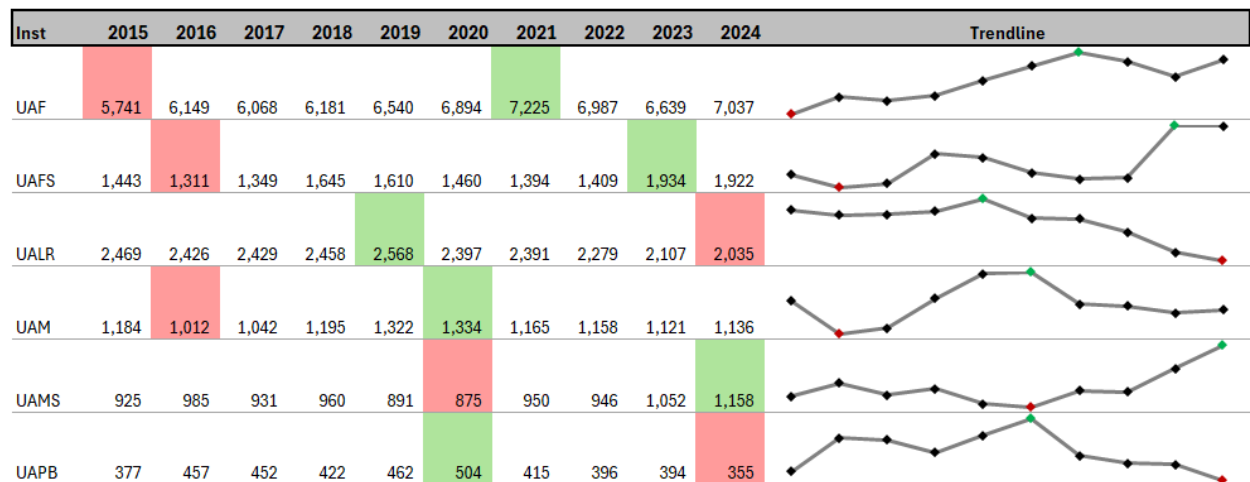


Chart 19-16: Ten-Year Trend of Total Credentials Awarded – 4-Year

The following charts show a 10-year trend for the public 2-year colleges. The ASU and UA System colleges are grouped together, with other colleges grouped alphabetically. For the ten-year period, the green highlights indicate the year with the highest number of credentials awarded and the light red show the lowest number of credentials awarded.

- Four 2-year colleges reported a 2024 increase over 30%. ASUB showed a 39.3% increase with solid increases in all certificate and degree levels.
- ASUN reported a 31% increase in total credentials for 2024 with a 47.2% increase in Certificates of Proficiency.
- ASUTR reported a 30% increase in total credentials for 2024 with a 30.4% increase in Certificates of Proficiency.
- NAC awarded 82% more Technical Certificates in 2024 and 34.4% more Associate Degrees resulting in an overall increase of 30% for 2024.

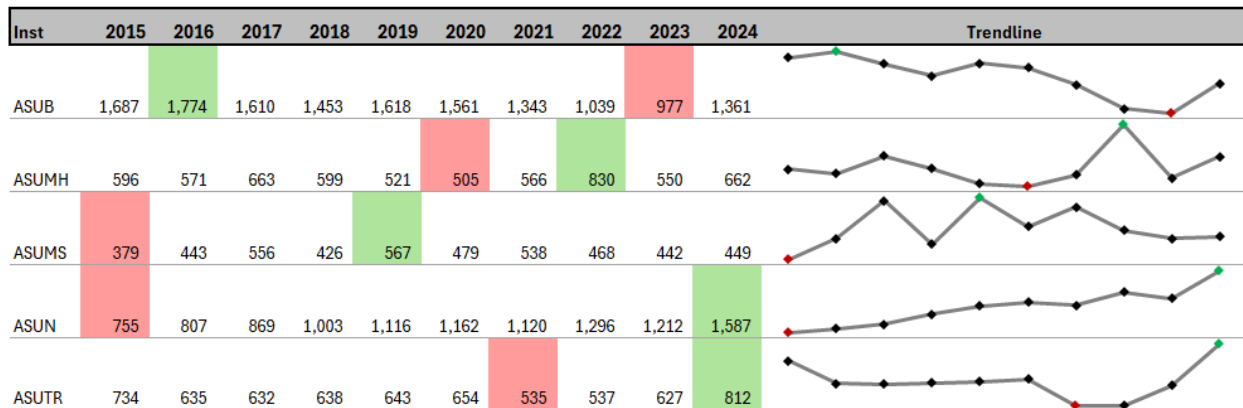


Chart 19-17: Ten-Year Trend of Total Credentials Awarded – 2-Year

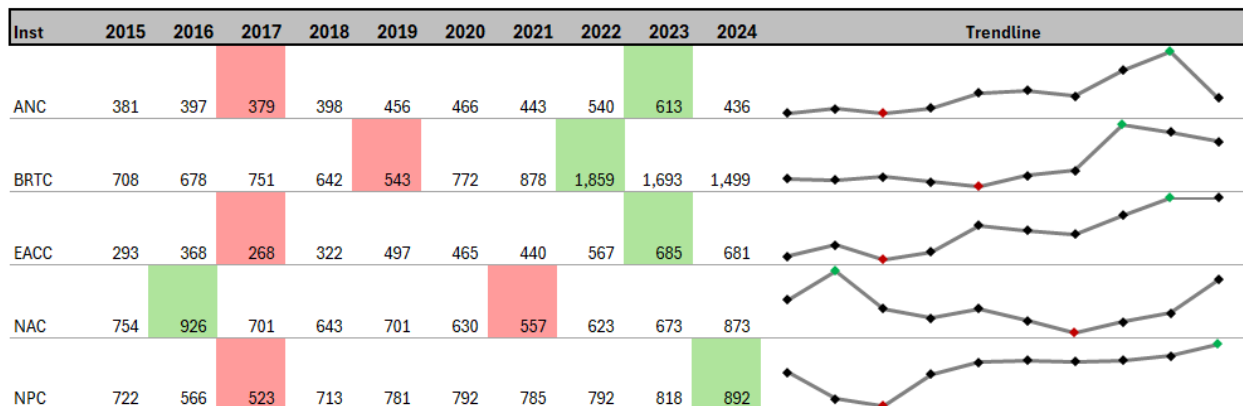


Chart 19-18: Ten-Year Trend of Total Credentials Awarded – 2-Year

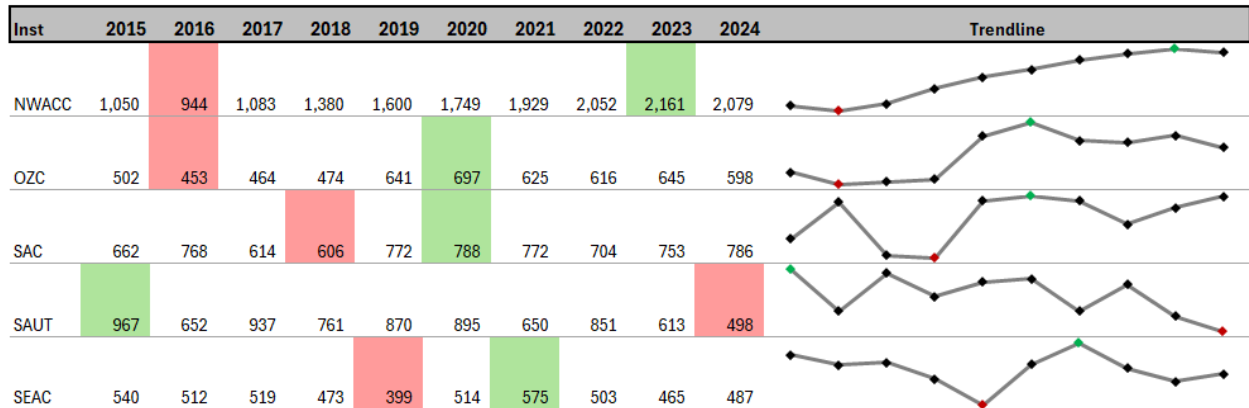


Chart 19-19: Ten-Year Trend of Total Credentials Awarded – 2-Year

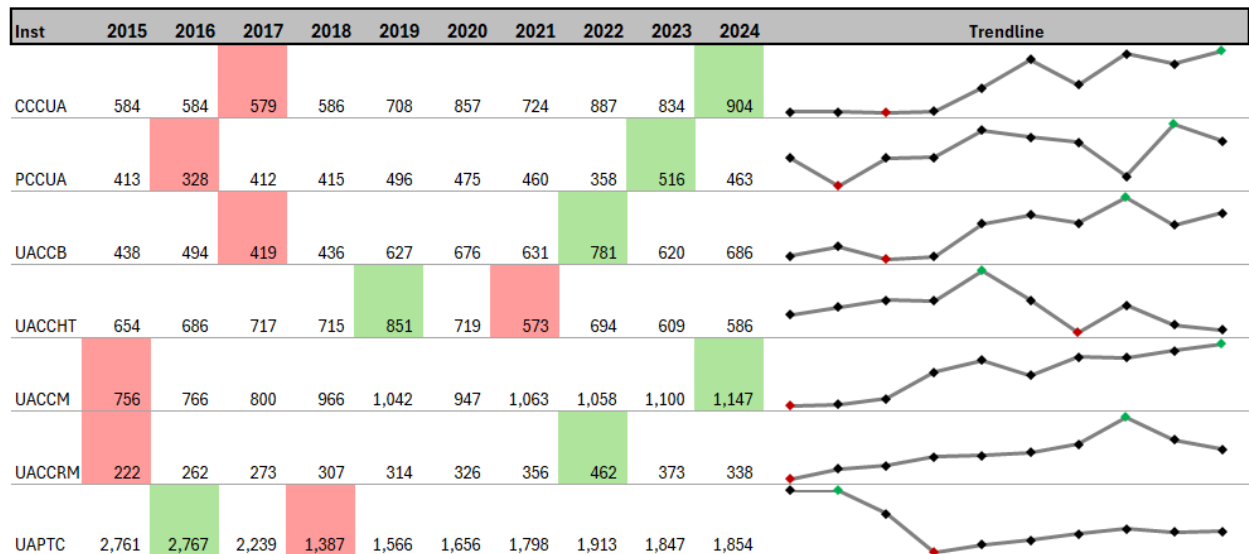


Chart 19-20: Ten-Year Trend of Total Credentials Awarded – 2-Year

The following charts show a 10-year trend for the private/independent colleges and universities. The green highlights indicate the year with the highest number of credentials awarded and the light red show the lowest number of credentials awarded.

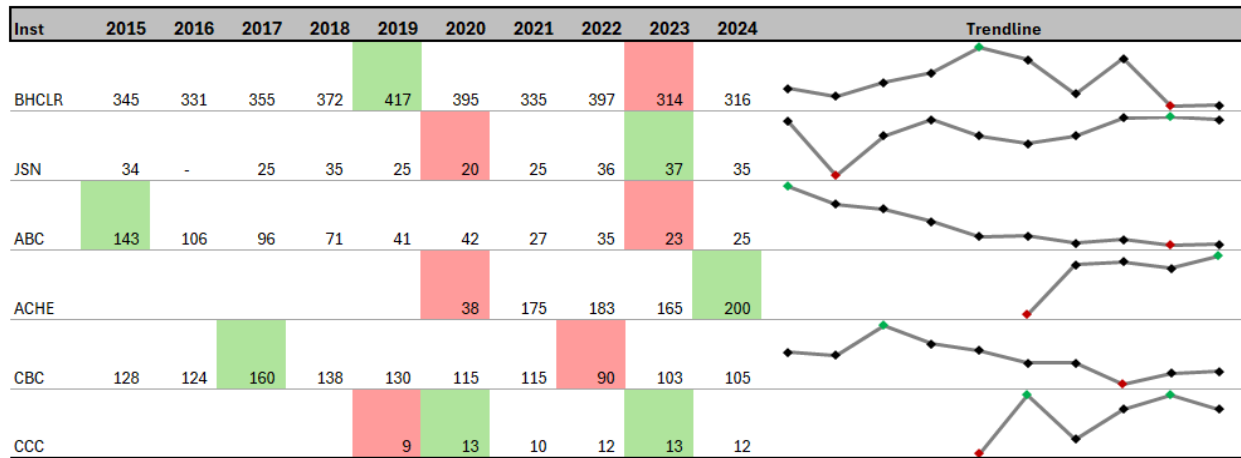


Chart 19-21: Ten-Year Trend of Total Credentials Awarded – Private

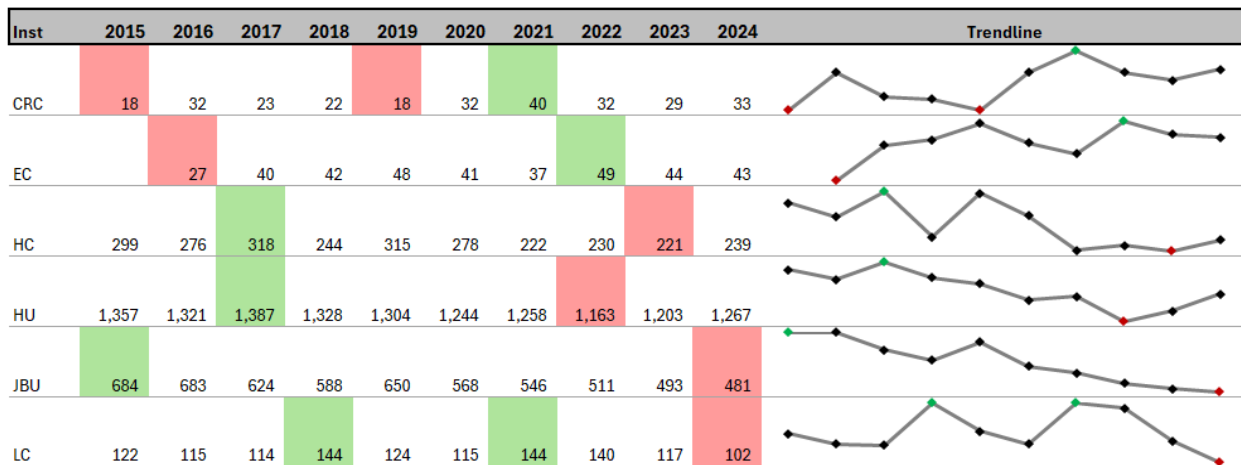


Chart 19-22: Ten-Year Trend of Total Credentials Awarded – Private

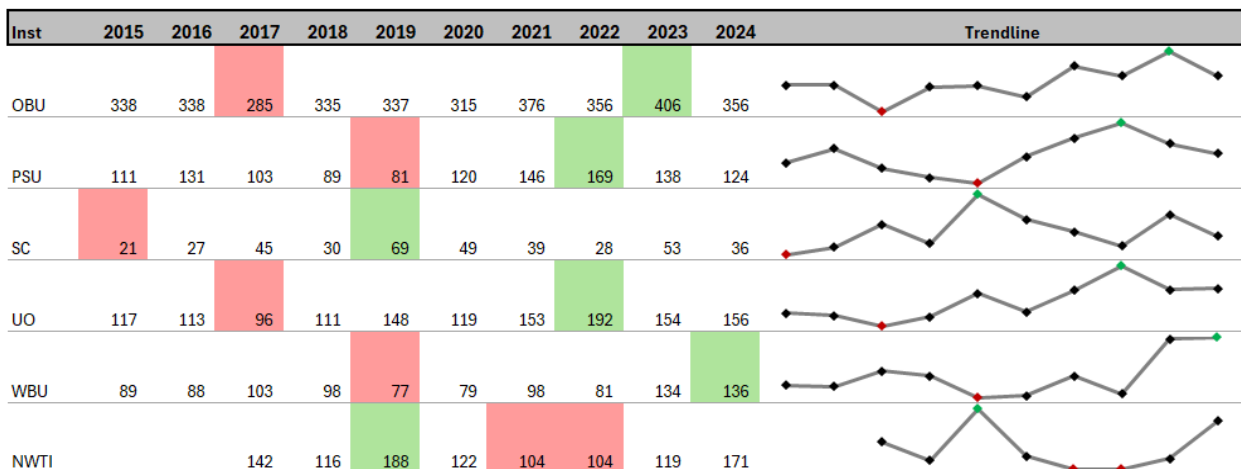


Chart 19-23: Ten-Year Trend of Total Credentials Awarded – Private