

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 2025 credentials awarded between July 1, 2024 and June 30, 2025.

For the second year in a row, Arkansas institutions reported solid gains in both credentials awarded and the number of students receiving those credentials. In academic year 2025, Arkansas higher education institutions reported 56,708 credentials awarded to 45,307 students. This was a 5.7% increase in the number of credentials and 5.3% increase in the number of unduplicated students receiving those credentials. This is the second year in a row statewide numbers reflected gains. Prior to 2024, the number of students receiving credentials remained consistent for the previous five years running just above 40,000. Comparing 2025 to 2016, the number of credentials awarded has increased more than 13,000 and the number of students receiving those credentials has increased more than 7,900.

The increase in total credentials is due to a rise in awards for several degree levels at both public 2-year and 4-year institutions. 2024 and 2025 increases are also due in part to the addition of UA Grantham credentials.

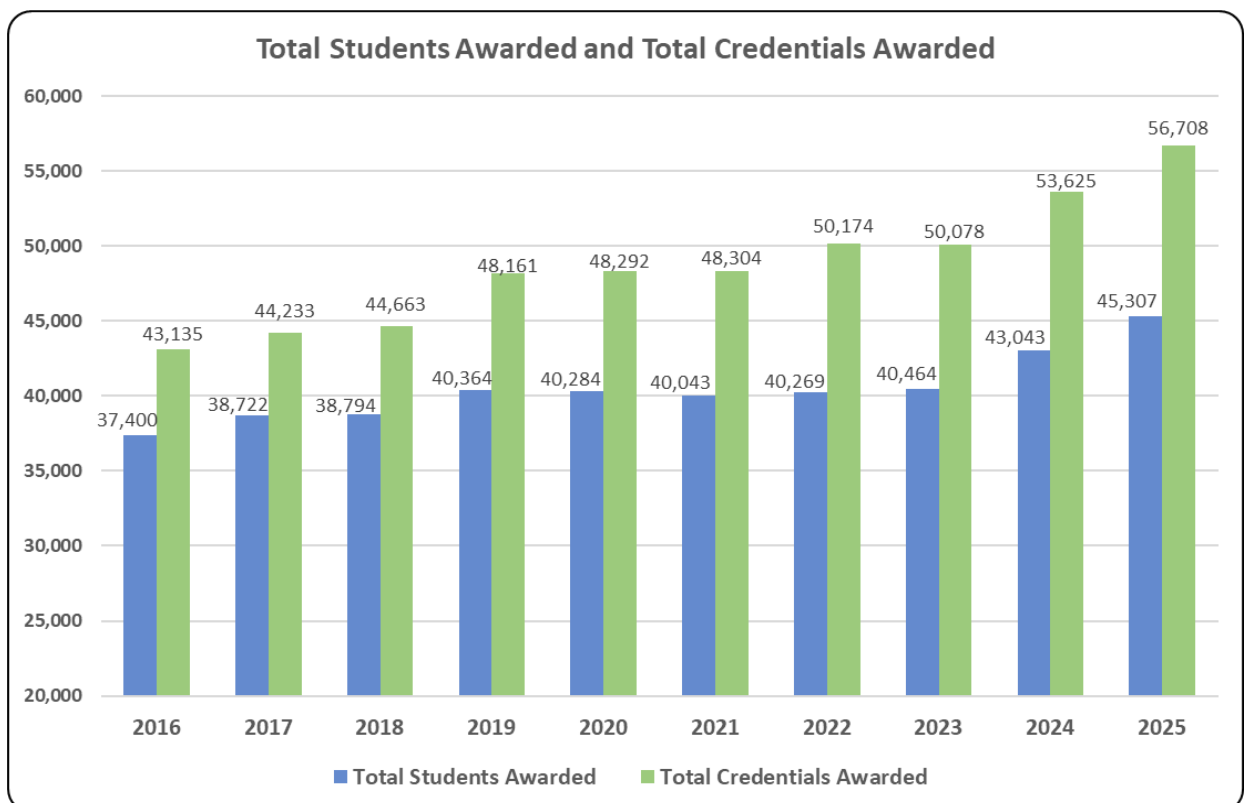


Chart 19-1: Statewide Trends

Statewide undergraduate certificate trends have shown notable increases in Certificates of Proficiency for the past four years while Technical Certificate awards remain consistent. Chart 19-2 includes statewide totals for the past ten years.

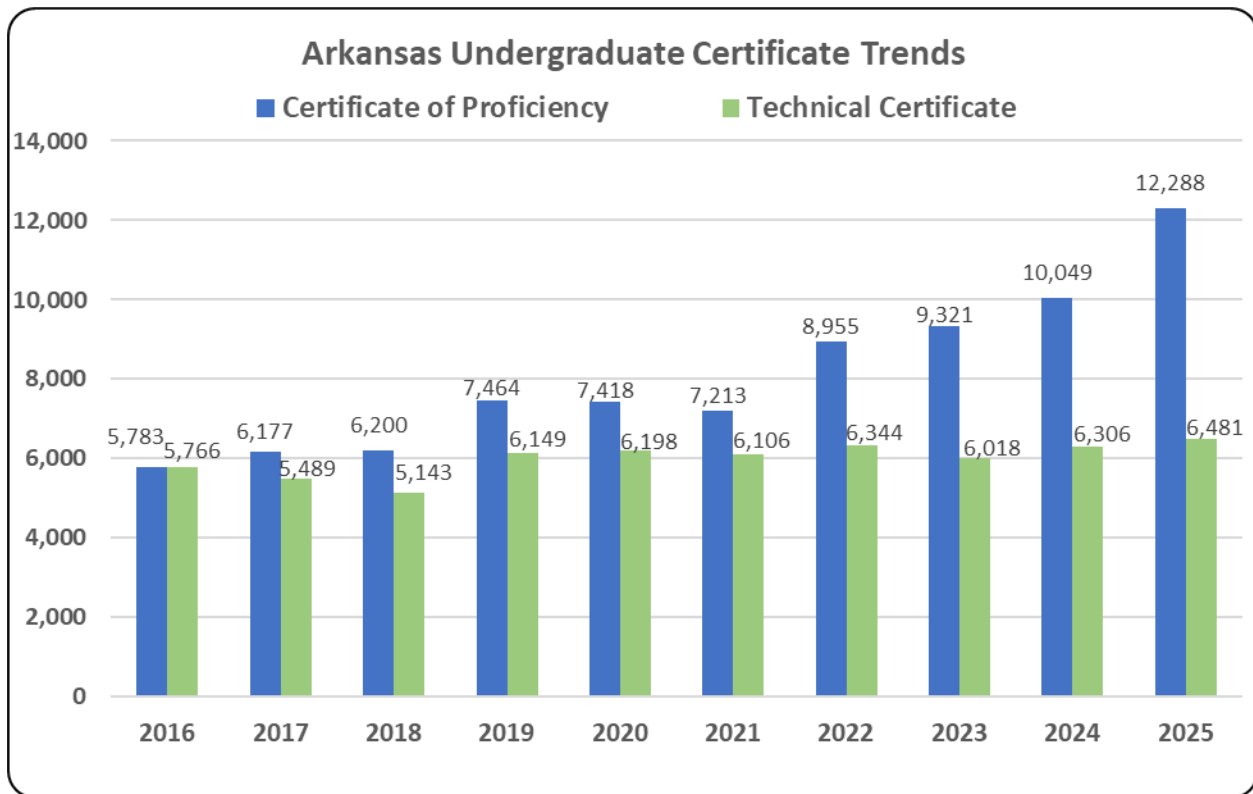


Chart 19-2: Statewide Undergraduate Certificate Trends

- The number of Certificates of Proficiency awarded across the state continued its upward trend, increasing over 22% in one year. This does include CPs of less than 9 credit hours (Basic Certificates).
- Healthcare leads the way with the highest number of CP awards, followed by production trades/mechanics, business administration and management and general education.
- Technical Certificate awards in 2025 increased 2.8% compared to 2024, although TC awards have remained consistently above 6,000 for the past seven years, they have not shown the same rapid growth the Certificates of Proficiency have had in the past four academic years.
- Healthcare also leads the way with the highest number of TC awards, followed by general education, production trades/mechanics, and culinary and personal services, education and engineering-related technologies.
- Undergraduate Certificates awarded statewide represent 33% of total credentials awarded each academic year.

Chart 19-3 below includes other certificate awards for the past ten years.

- Advanced Certificate programs offered by Arkansas Tech University and the University of Arkansas at Monticello include programs of study in electromechanical technology, healthcare, and business administration and management.
- Required credit hours for an advanced certificate range from 21 – 45 hours.
- Ten 4-year institutions offer Post-Bacc Certificates in many program areas, including engineering/industrial management, business administration and management, information technology, and education/teaching of students with speech or language impairments or English as a second language.
- Required credit hours for a post-baccalaureate certificate range between 12 – 43 credit hours.
- Advanced Certificates and Post-Bacc Certificates comprise only 2% of total credentials awarded each year.



Chart 19-3: Statewide Certificate Trends

Chart 19-4 provides ten-year trends for Arkansas Associate and Bachelor's completions.

- In 2024, Associate degree awards jumped over 12% as statewide 11,665 awards were reported, however, 2025 resulted in a 4.4% decline in associate degrees.
- The 4-year institutions reported a 3.2% decline in associate degrees, while the 2-year colleges reported a decline of 5.9%. This contrasts with the considerable increase at the certificate of proficiency level, indicating a solid move toward short-term, workforce-related credentials.
- Over 53% of associate degrees awarded in 2025 were in General Ed/Studies.
- Associate degree completions make up 20% of the total credentials awarded statewide.
- Institutions reported 16,813 Bachelor's degrees were conferred in 2025, which is an 8% increase in the number of Bachelor's degrees awarded in 2024.
- At the Bachelor's level, business credentials comprise over 22% of the total, healthcare at 17%, and education at 7%.
- Bachelor's degree completions comprise 30% of the statewide credential total.

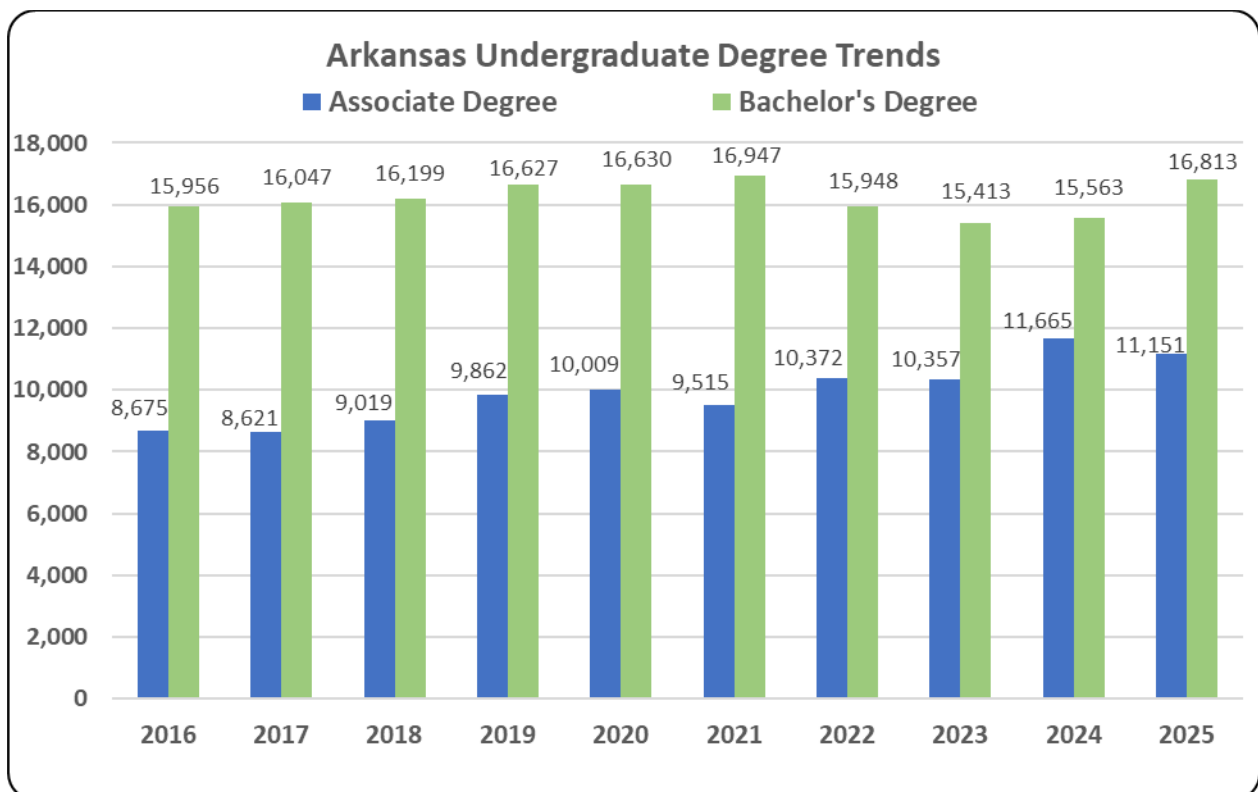


Chart 19-4: Statewide Undergraduate Degree Trends

Chart 19-5 provides ten-year trends for Masters Degrees and Post-Masters/Specialist awards.

- Masters degree awards remained consistent in 2025 with 6,549 degrees awarded statewide.
- Popular Masters' program areas include education/teaching which awarded 27% of the total, business administration and management which awarded 20%, and computer science which awarded 14% of the total Masters awards in 2025.
- Masters awards comprise 12% of the statewide total.
- Education/teaching programs represent 95% of the post-masters/specialist awards.
- Post-Masters/Specialist awards comprise slightly over 1% of the statewide total.

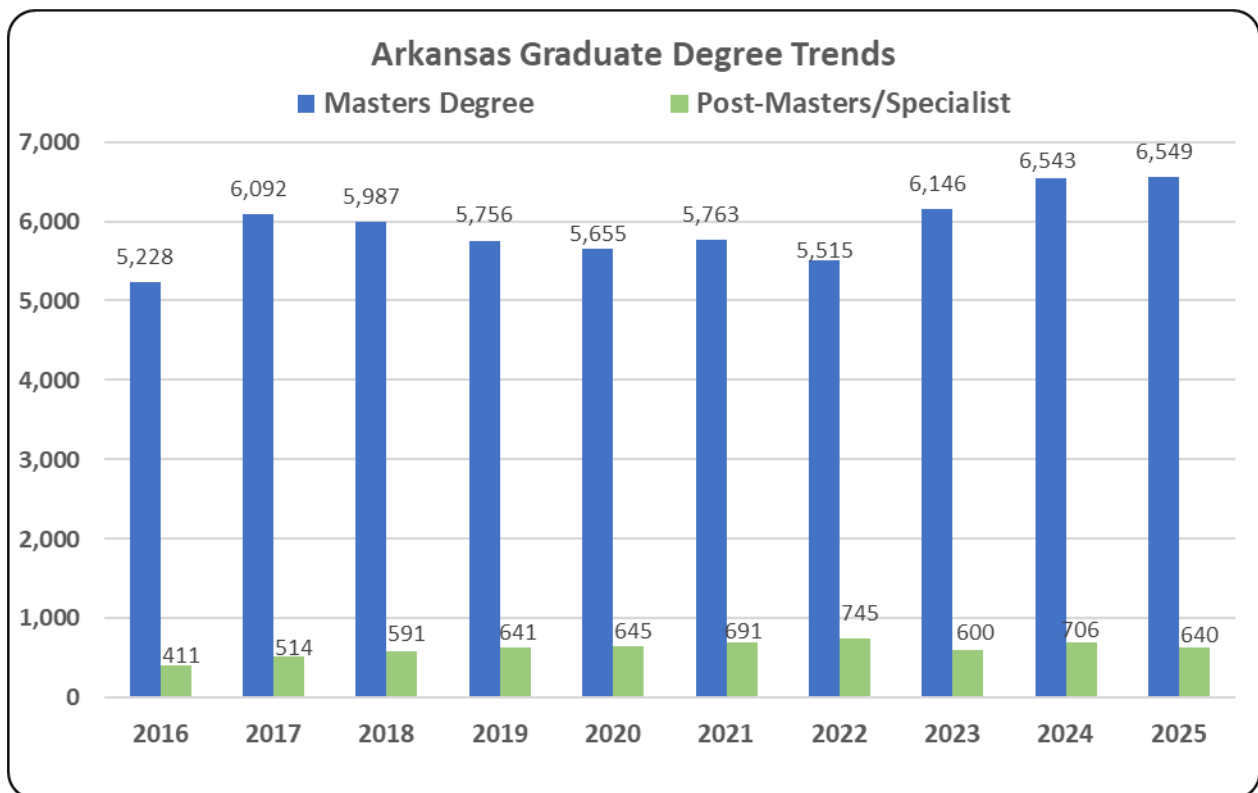


Chart 19-5: Statewide Graduate Degree Trends

Chart 19-6 provides ten-year trends for the Doctoral Research and Professional Practice degrees.

- Over 39% of all doctoral research credentials are awarded in educational leadership and administration.
- Other popular research program areas include engineering, biology, physical sciences and computer science.
- Doctoral research awards comprise less than 1% of the statewide total.
- Professional practice awards increased almost 12% and include those in medicine, pharmacy, physical and occupational therapy, and law.
- An increase in nursing practice awards contributed to the 12% increase in 2025.
- 20% of all professional practice credentials were law degrees, with the other 80% being health-care related.
- Professional practice awards comprise slightly over 2% of the statewide total.

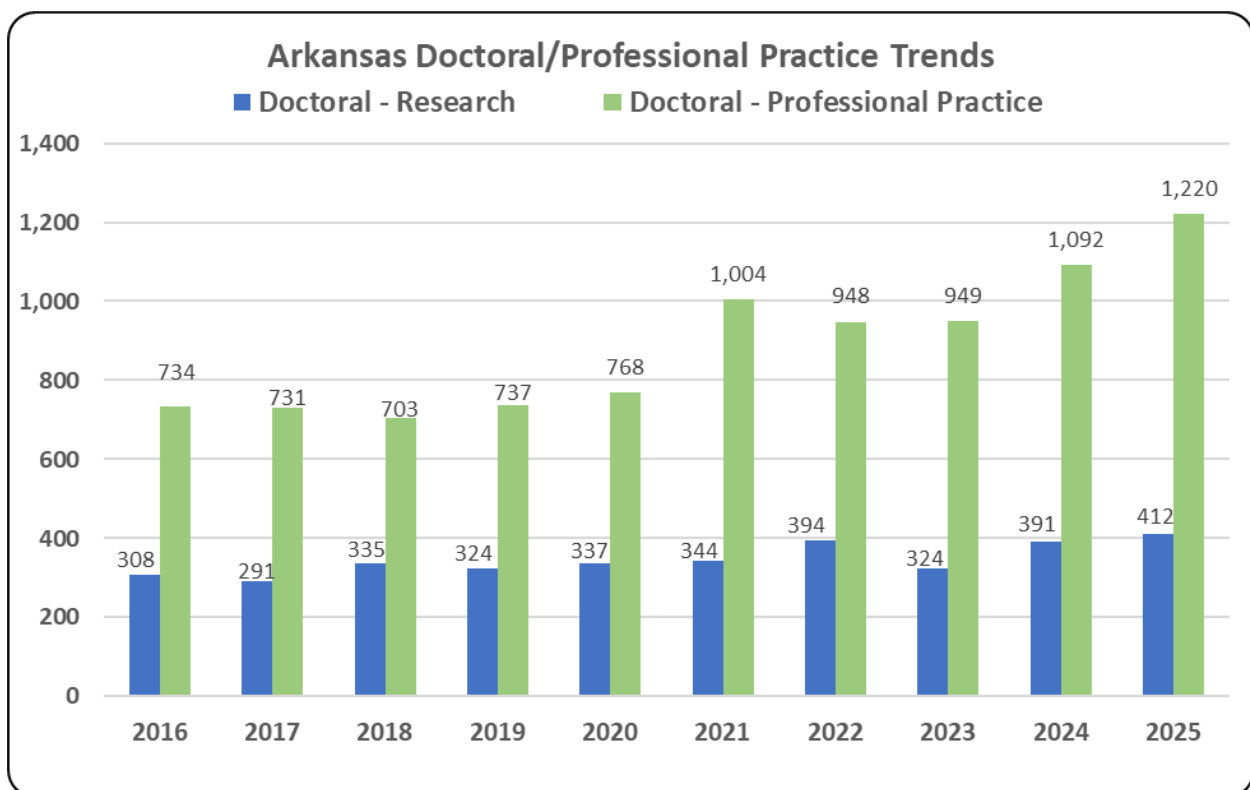


Chart 19-6: Statewide Doctoral Trends

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

- UAF reported the highest percentage change when comparing 2025 to 2024 with an 11.9% increase in the number of credentials awarded.
- ASU increased total credentials 8.6% when comparing 2025 to 2024.
- Five other 4-year institutions reported positive percent changes, ATU (4.4%), UCA (2.7%), UALR (3.6%), UAM (6.1%) and UAMS (3.1%).
- Four universities reported a decline in the number of credentials awarded.
- Four institutions reported their highest-ever credential totals, ASU (6,000), ATU (5,299), UAF (7,875), and UAMS (1,194).

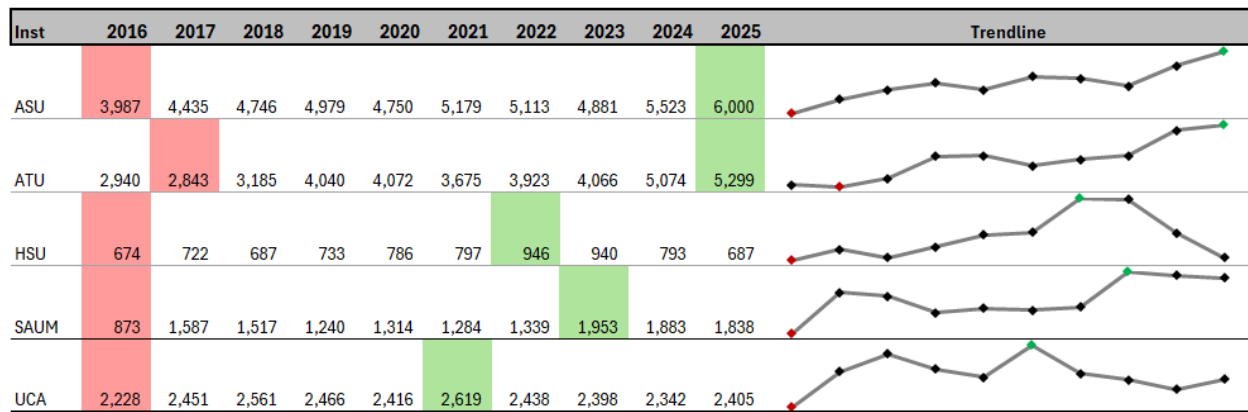


Chart 19-7: Ten-Year Trend of Total Credentials Awarded – 4-Year

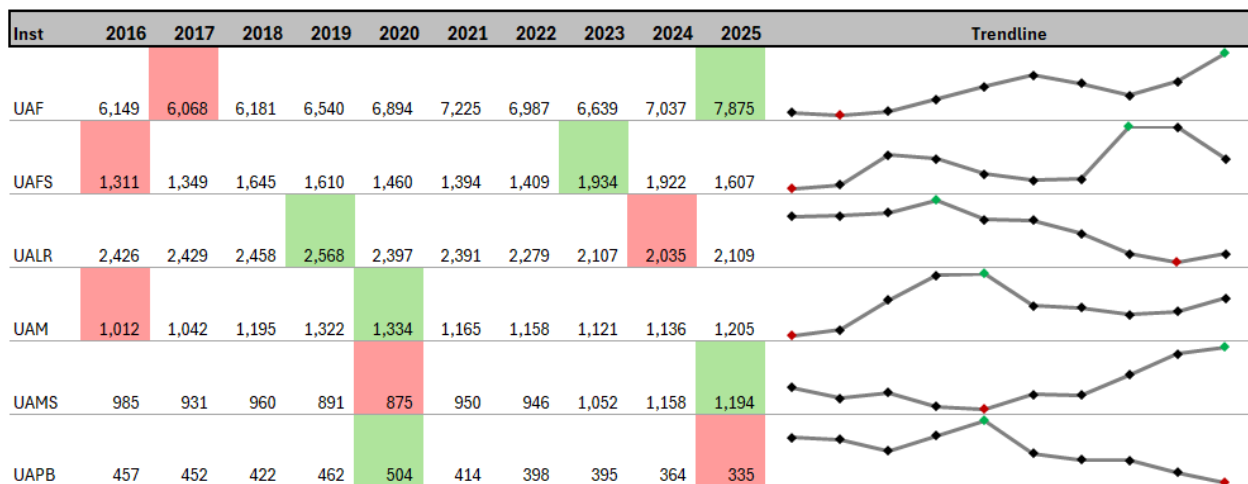


Chart 19-8: Ten-Year Trend of Total Credentials Awarded – 4-Year

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 highlight** indicates the year with the highest number of credentials awarded and the **light red highlight** shows the lowest number of credentials awarded.

- Five 2-year colleges reported significant increases over 25% in 2025 in the number of credentials awarded, UACCRM (43.5%), SAC (43.1%), ASUMS (38.3%), ANC (33.9%), SEAC (27.9%).
- Eight 2-year colleges reported their highest-ever credential total in 2025, ASUMS (621), ASUN (1,691), ASUTR (888), NWACC (2,315), SAC (1,145), SEAC (623), PCCUA (544), and UACCRM (485).
- Seven 2-year colleges reported a decline in the number of credentials awarded ranging from -4.2% to -16.9%.

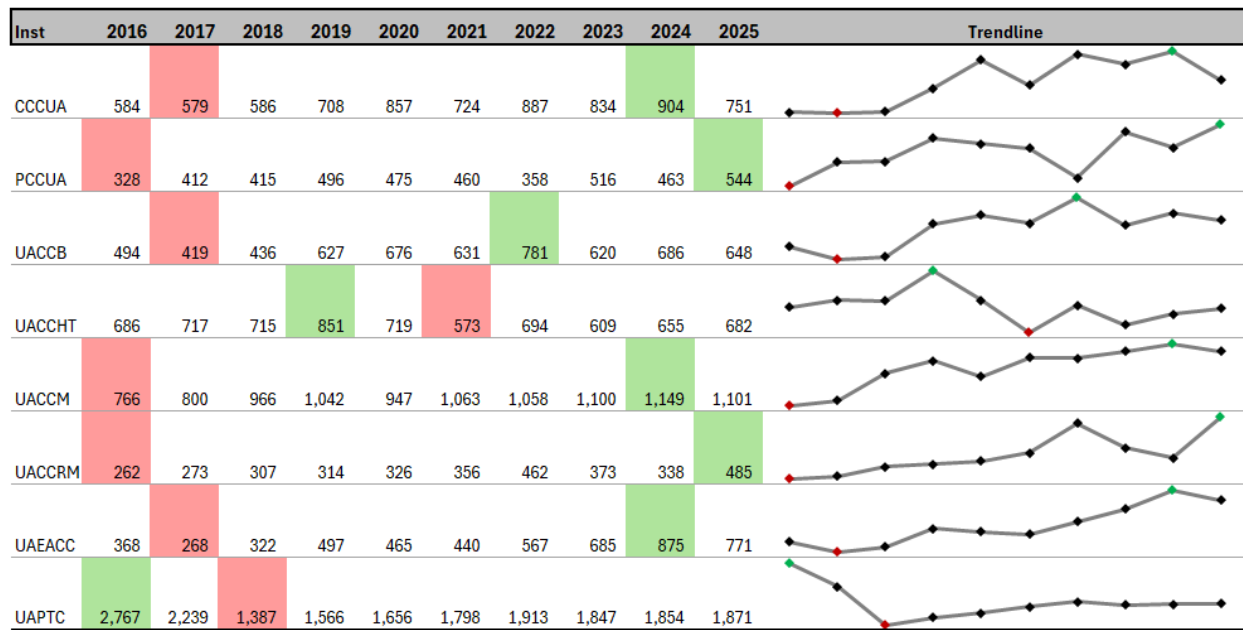


Chart 19-9: Ten-Year Trend of Total Credentials Awarded – 2-Year

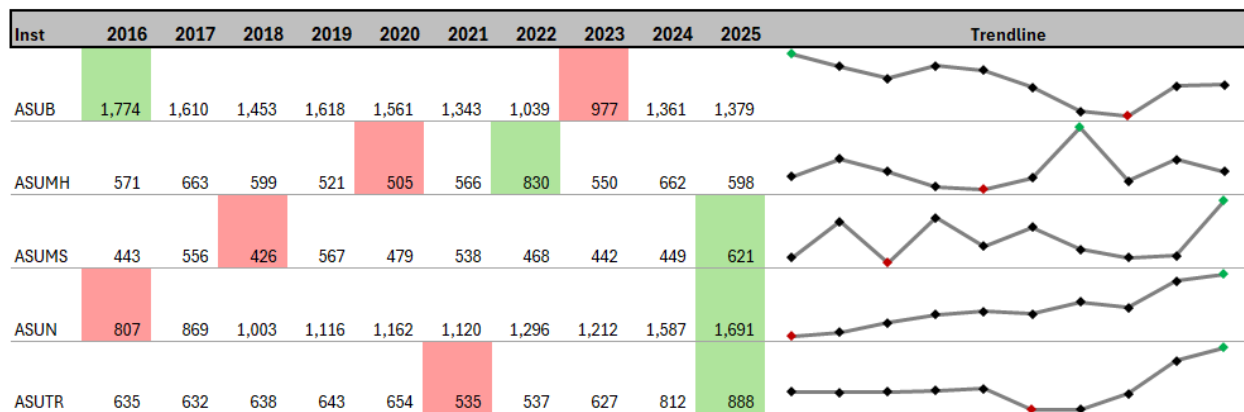


Chart 19-10: Ten-Year Trend of Total Credentials Awarded – 2-Year

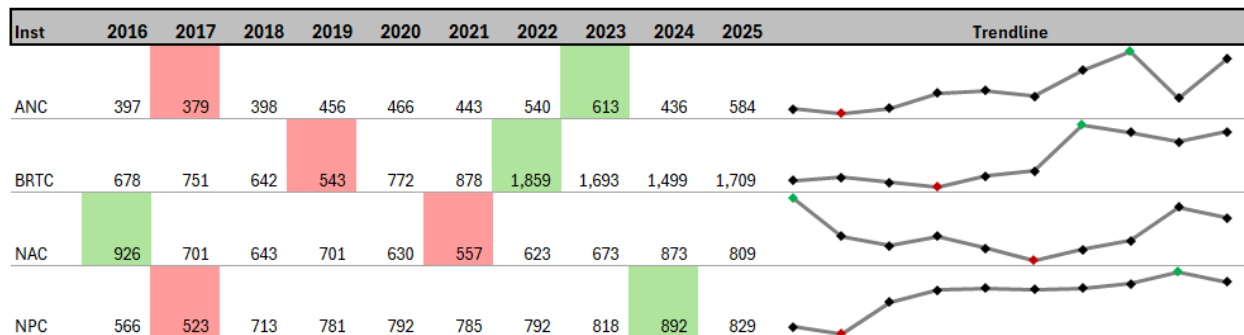


Chart 19-11: Ten-Year Trend of Total Credentials Awarded – 2-Year

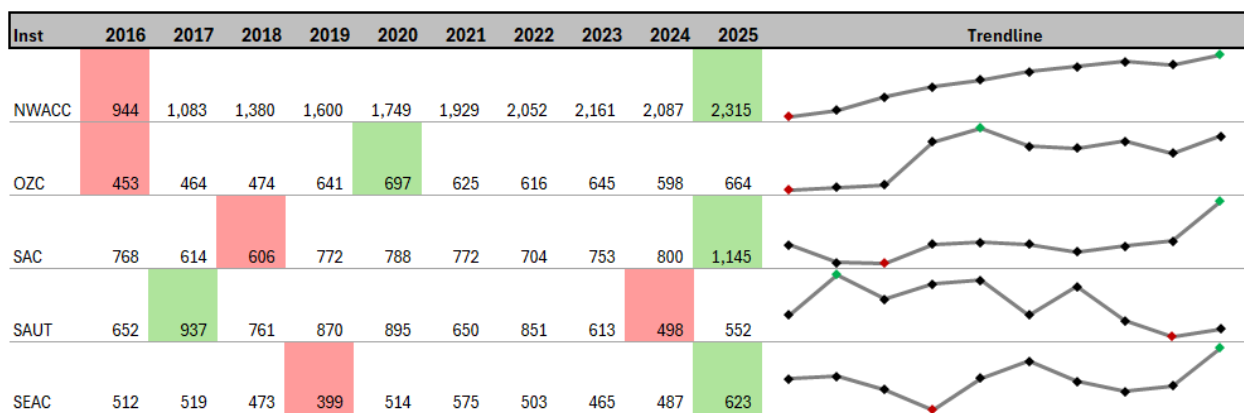


Chart 19-12: Ten-Year Trend of Total Credentials Awarded – 2-Year

The following charts show a 10-year trend for the private/independent institutions. The **green highlight** indicates the year with the highest number of credentials awarded and the **light red highlight** shows the lowest number of credentials awarded.

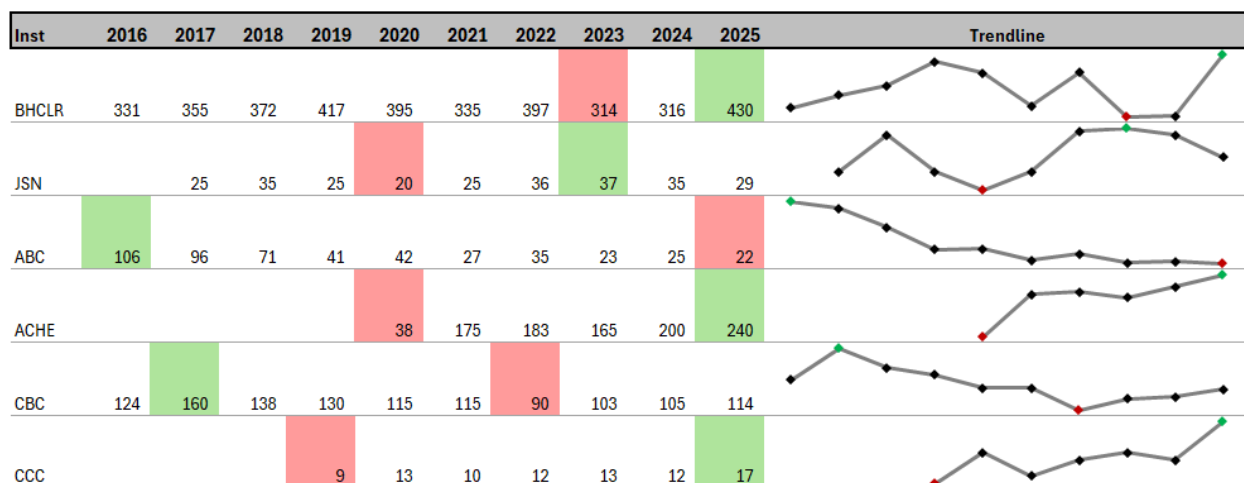


Chart 19-13: Ten-Year Trend of Total Credentials Awarded – Private

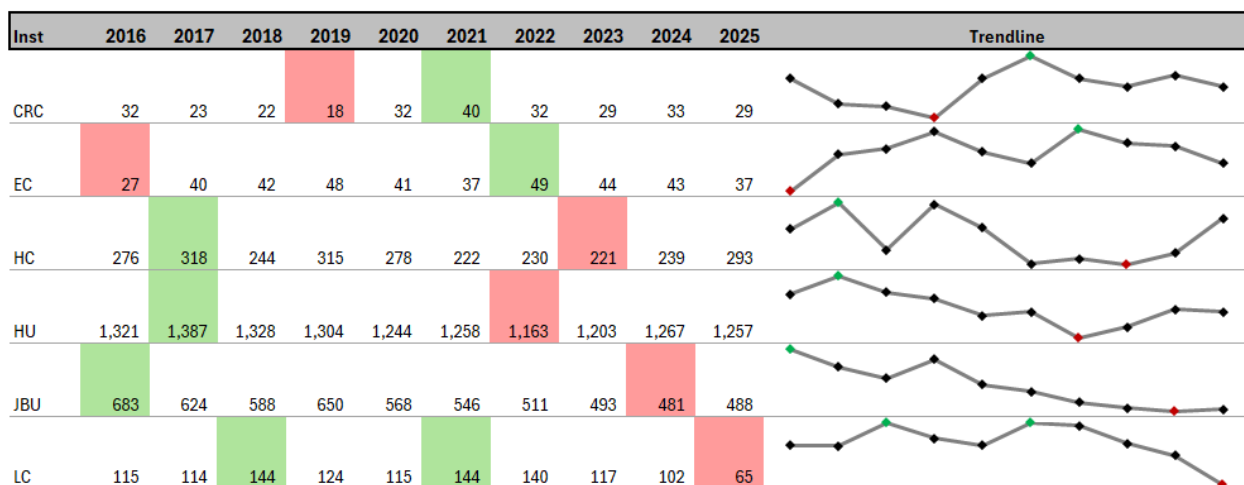


Chart 19-14: Ten-Year Trend of Total Credentials Awarded – Private

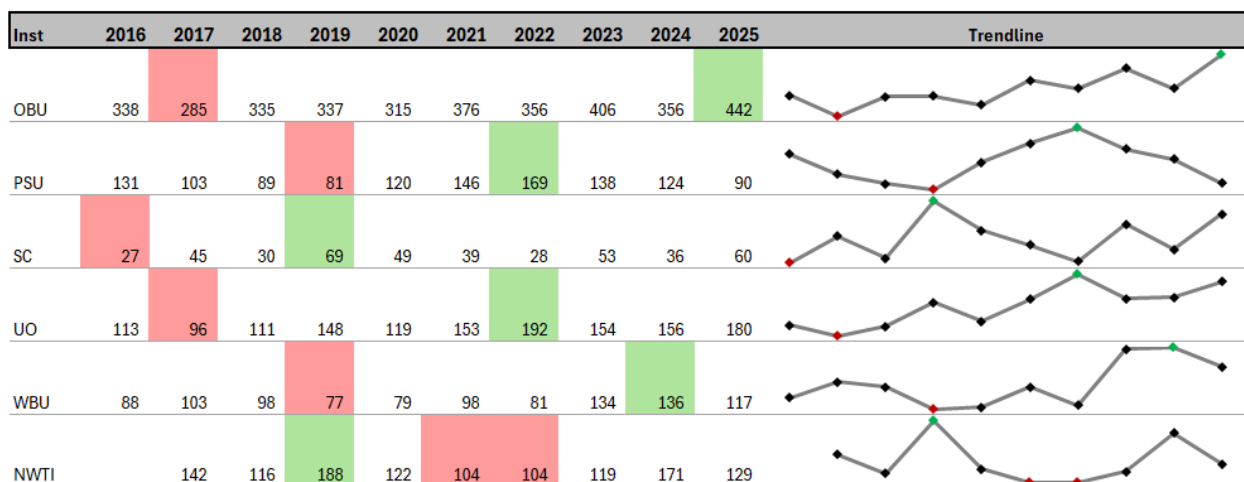


Chart 19-15: Ten-Year Trend of Total Credentials Awarded – Private