



REGULAR MEETING OF THE
ARKANSAS HIGHER EDUCATION
COORDINATING BOARD

April 24, 2026

AHECB Members

1. Dr. Jim Carr, Chair
2. Lucas Pointer, Vice Chair
3. Dr. Katherine Dudley, Secretary
4. Graycen Bigger
5. Dr. Jerry Cash
6. Carolyn Rhinehart

RECOGNITION OF SERVICE

Honoring Heather Maxey



In recognition and heartfelt appreciation for her dedicated service to the Higher Education Coordinating Board.

Her professionalism and commitment to advancing higher education have made a lasting impact.

INTRODUCTIONS



Dr. Josh Wilson, President
Ozarka College



Approval of Minutes

- January 23 Regular Meeting



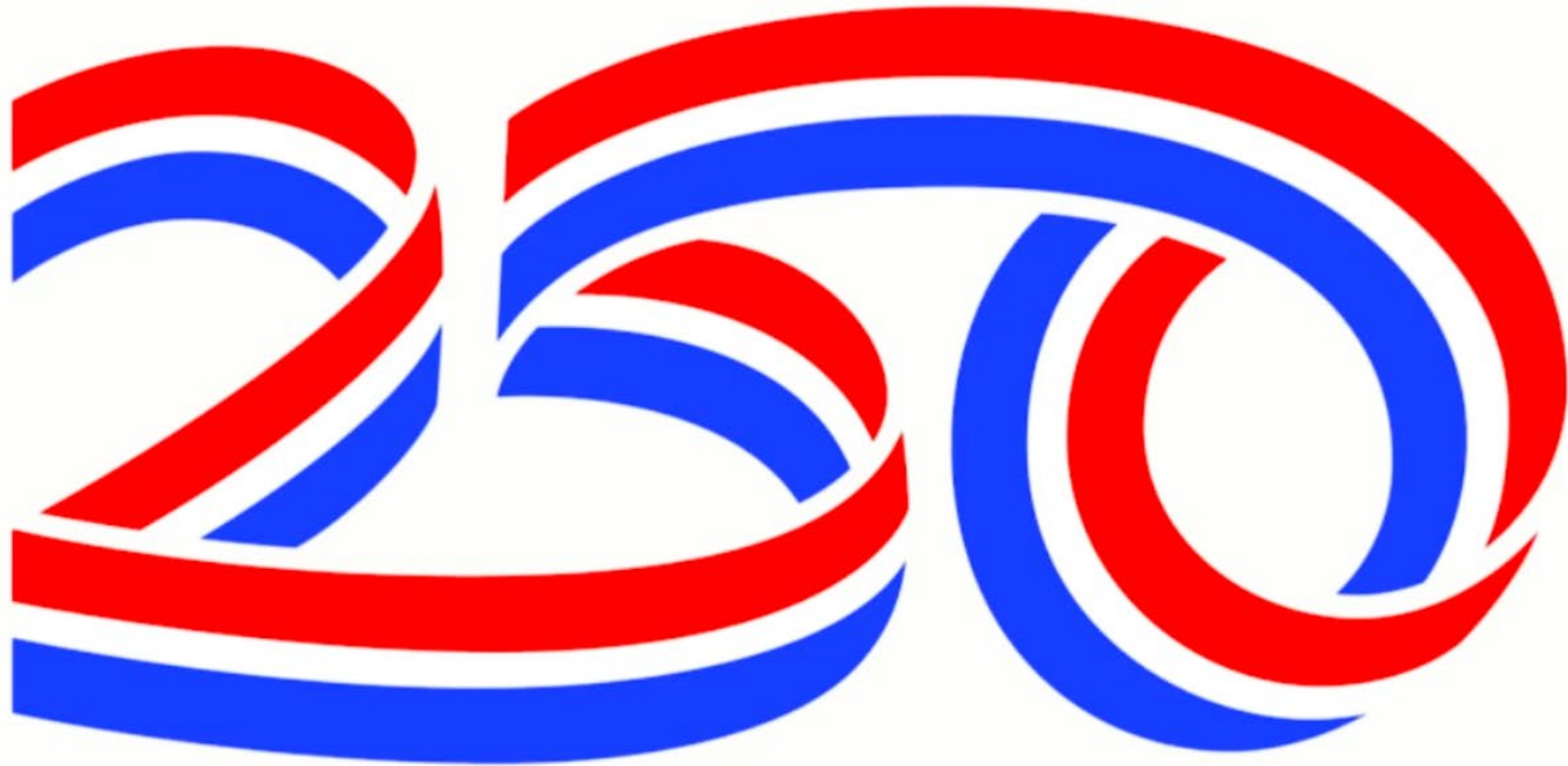
Dr. Ken Warden
Commissioner

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3: COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Fiscal Session Update



AMERICA



Website Accessibility

Ensuring inclusivity and usability for all



The Arkansas Division of Higher Education (ADHE) is committed to ensuring all website content meets accessibility standards under the ADA and Section 508. If you encounter inaccessible content, please contact us.



HIRED* Grants

Workforce Initiative Act of 2015

**Higher Industry Readiness through Educational Development*

HIRED: Two Tracks of Funding

Given the common intent and desired outcomes of the Workforce Initiative Act of 2015 and the 2024 Arkansas Workforce Strategy, a shared request for proposals and submission guidelines was utilized for two tracks of grant funding.

Track 1: Workforce Initiative Grant Program (T1WIG)

Up to \$51M over 5 years

- Planning Grant funding
(up to \$25,000 for up to three months)
- Implementation Grant funding
(up to \$4,000,000 over two years, not to exceed \$3,000,000 in Year 1)
- Potential Continuation Grant funding
(up to \$1 million per year for up to three years)

Track 2: Arkansas Workforce Strategy Grants (T2WSG)

Up to \$48M over 2 years

- Implementation Grant funding
(\$250,000 or more over two years)

Track 1 Allocated/Anticipated Funding

Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5
\$19,000,000	\$8,000,000	\$8,000,000	\$8,000,000	\$8,000,000

\$27,000,000



Planning and
Implementation Grants

\$24,000,000



Continuation Grants

Project Core Requirements

- Enhance, expand, or create employer-driven career pathways to fill a critical, demonstrable state and/or regional workforce need.
- Develop and implement collaborative training programs that prepare workers for rapid entry into the workforce, upskill incumbent workers, provide recognized industry certifications, support apprenticeships, and/or award degree or non-degree credentials aligned to state and/or regional workforce needs.
- Demonstrate employer needs and expected outcomes through labor market data and clearly defined, measurable performance and effectiveness objectives, including employment and labor participation rates.
- Include representation from the following workforce alliance partners:
 - Two+ employers representing critical workforce needs in the state and/or region
 - Public or private Arkansas college(s) or university(s) that provide(s) workforce education and training
 - K-12 education system
 - A high school or secondary center that awards concurrent credit for CTE programs

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Institution	Industry Focus	Award Amount
ASUB	Precision Agriculture	\$20,000.00
ASUJ/ASUN/ANC	Advanced Manufacturing: Food/Steel	\$25,000.00
ASUTR	Aerospace and Defense	\$20,000.00
ATU-O	Skilled Trades	\$9,700.00
BRTC/ADTEC	Advanced Manufacturing	\$15,000.00
OZC	Skilled Trades	\$12,300.00
SAUM	Emerging Tech: Lithium	\$20,000.00
UACCM	Advanced Manufacturing	\$20,000.00
UAF	Semiconductors	\$25,000.00
UAF	Data Science	\$10,000.00
UAFS	Advanced Manufacturing	\$25,000.00
UALR	Cybersecurity	\$10,000.00
UAM (Crossett)	Forestry Automation	\$20,000.00
UAPTC	Aerospace and Defense	\$16,640.00
TOTAL		\$273,640.00

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Institution	Industry Focus	Award Amount	Remaining Funds
ASUB	Precision Agriculture	\$2,300,000.00	\$1,222,730.44
ASUJ/ASUN/ANC	Advanced Manufacturing: Food/Steel	\$3,000,000.00	\$2,209,045.41
ASUTR	Aerospace and Defense	\$2,000,000.00	\$986,128.81
ATU-O	Skilled Trades	\$2,750,000.00	\$2,735,300.00
BRTC/ADTEC	Advanced Manufacturing	\$1,675,000.00	\$1,094,611.05
OZC	Skilled Trades	\$1,550,000.00	\$299,885.26
SAUM	Emerging Tech: Lithium	\$2,750,000.00	\$1,680,587.96
UACCM	Advanced Manufacturing	\$2,000,000.00	\$1,063,425.75
UAF	Semiconductors	\$1,000,000.00	\$684,040.65
UAF	Data Science	\$750,000.00	\$441,818.72
UAFS	Advanced Manufacturing	\$1,700,000.00	\$905,535.51
UALR	Cybersecurity	\$750,000.00	\$566,344.27
UAM (Crossett)	Forestry Automation	\$2,000,000.00	\$806,907.83
UAPTC	Aerospace and Defense	\$2,500,000.00	\$996,206.42
TOTAL		\$26,725,000.00	\$15,692,568.08

Reimbursement to Date: \$11,032,431.92

Continuation Grants

Continuation grants of up to \$1 million a year for up to three (3) years may be available for alliances that meet or exceed T1WIG Implementation grant outcome metrics and are selected by the state workforce development partners for continued support of state and regional workforce needs.

- Annually approved based on performance and continued justification of need
- Potential period(s) of performance – January 1, 2027 - December 31, 2029

Continuation Grant guidelines will be provided during the second year of performance of T1WIG Implementation grants.



SOUTHERN ARKANSAS UNIVERSITY



Energizing STEM education,
workforce development and
economic investment.



Talent Pipeline to Support Critical Mineral Industry Ecosystem

Stages		Skills and Competencies
<p>K- 8 (primarily 3-8)</p> <p>Support Existing STEM Educators</p> <p>Encourage Future STEM Educators</p> <p>Provide Engaging STEM Activities</p> <p>Career Awareness</p>	<p>9 – 12</p> <p>Preparation for STEM and Business Degrees</p>	<p>Career Awareness</p> <p>Basic STEM Skills</p>
	<p>13 – 14</p> <p>Associate Degrees</p>	<p>Strong STEM Skills</p> <p>Skill Based Options</p>
	<p>15 – 16</p> <p>Certifications</p> <p>Apprenticeships</p>	<p>Operators Reskilling</p> <p>Onboarding</p>
	<p>16 +</p> <p>Advanced Degrees</p>	<p>Technical Business Leadership Startup</p>
	<p>Workforce Entry</p> <p>Stackable Certificates</p> <p>Research</p> <p>Entrepreneurship</p>	<p>Research and Development</p> <p>Upskill</p> <p>Professional Skills Development</p>
	<p>Workforce Entry</p> <p>Workforce Entry</p>	<p>Workforce Entry</p>
<p>K- 8 School districts, SAU, SAU Tech, SouthArk, UAHT</p> <p>High Schools, SAU, SAU Tech, SouthArk, UAHT, Workforce Partners, Employers, Communities</p> <p>SAU Tech, SouthArk, UAHT, Apprenticely, The Venture Center</p> <p>SAU, The Venture Center, LRiC, Industry Partners</p> <p>SAU, UA</p>		

Building a Talent Pipeline for Arkansas' Critical Minerals Industry



Employer-driven talent pipeline:

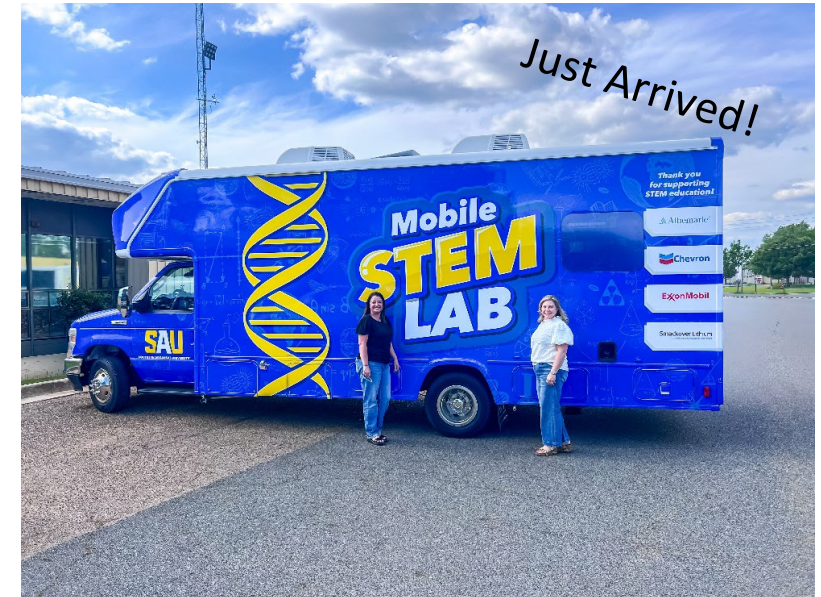
Begin in K-12 with enhanced STEM education programming and enhanced workforce development opportunities.



Expand Concurrent CTE programs. Increase participation in existing programs.



Provide professional development that connects K-12 educators with industry partners.



Generate interest in and exploration of STEM programs through interactive programming.



Building a Talent Pipeline for Arkansas' Critical Minerals Industry

Concurrent Career & Technical Education Academic Year 2025-2026 Pilot



- Industry-Driven Programs
- Pathway to H2 Job Opportunities
- Increase Credentials Awarded by Districts
- Increase Opportunity for Diploma of Merit or Diploma of Distinction
- Homegrown Talent Pipeline



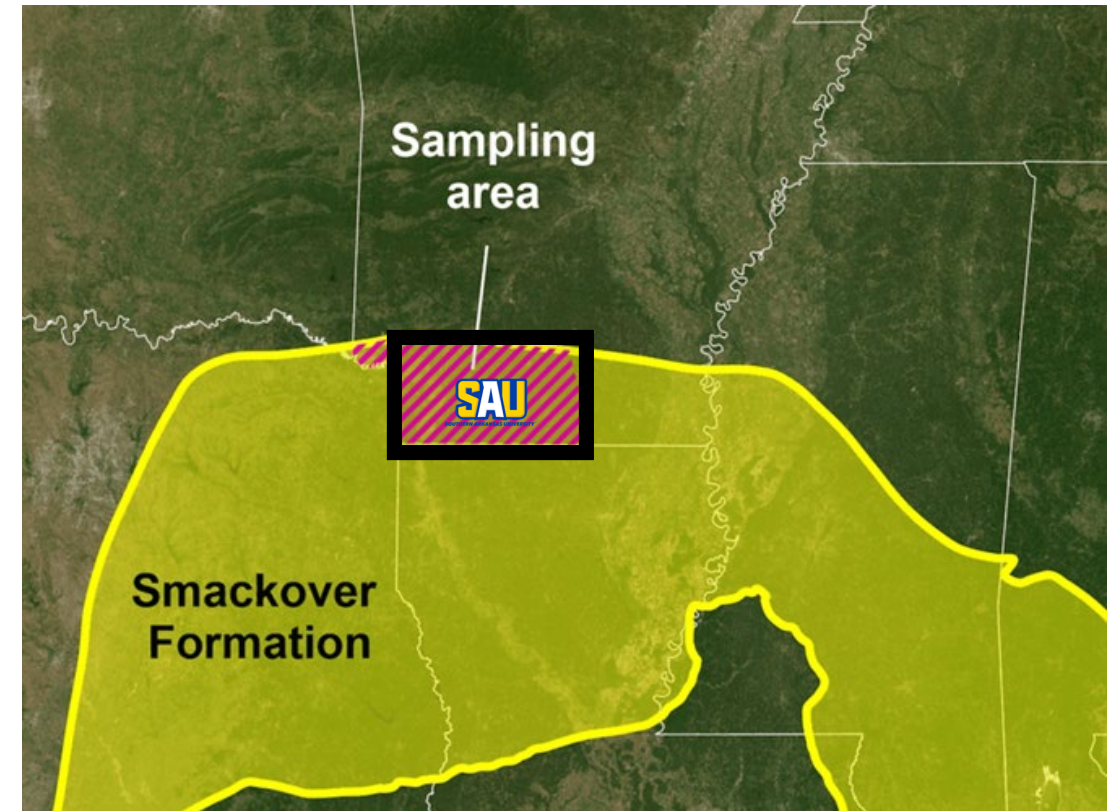
Concurrent Career & Technical Education Academic Year 2026-2027 Expansion



Industrial Engineering Technology Program



Construction Technology Program





PROJECT MANAGEMENT



CHEMICAL ENGINEERING



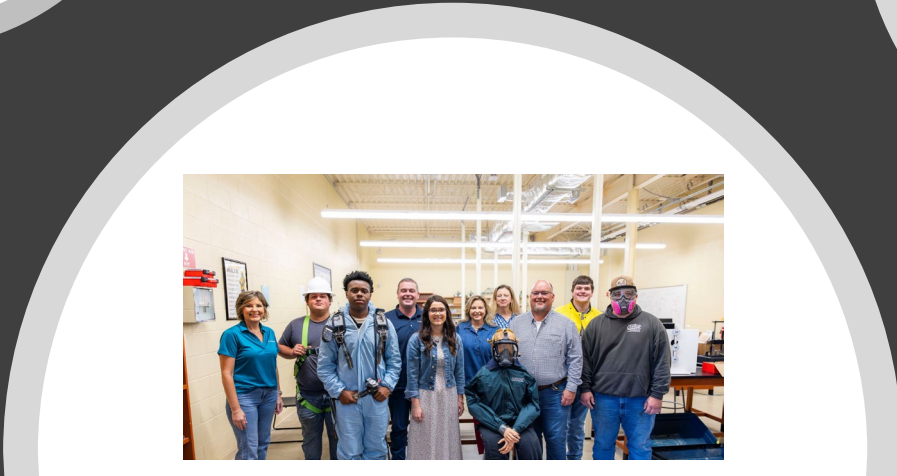
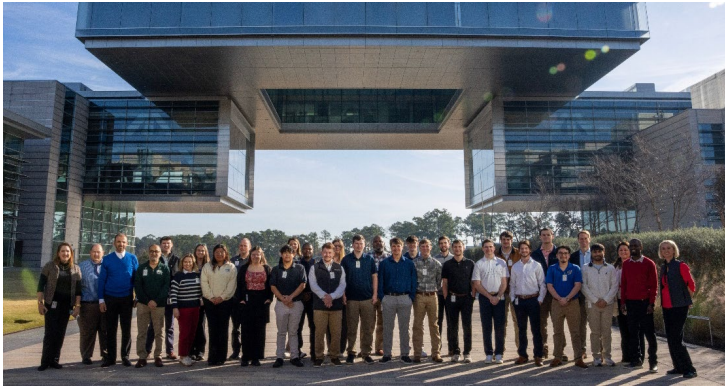
Building a Talent Pipeline for Arkansas' Critical Minerals Industry

STEM NIGHTS



Building a Talent Pipeline for
Arkansas' Critical Minerals Industry

Industry Engagement



Industry Engagement



Thank you!

Questions?



www.lilearnsliveworks.com





AHECB Meeting

April 24, 2026

Annual Report of Student Retention and Graduation

Sonia Hazelwood
Chief Data Officer / Assistant Commissioner

National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) National Retention Rates

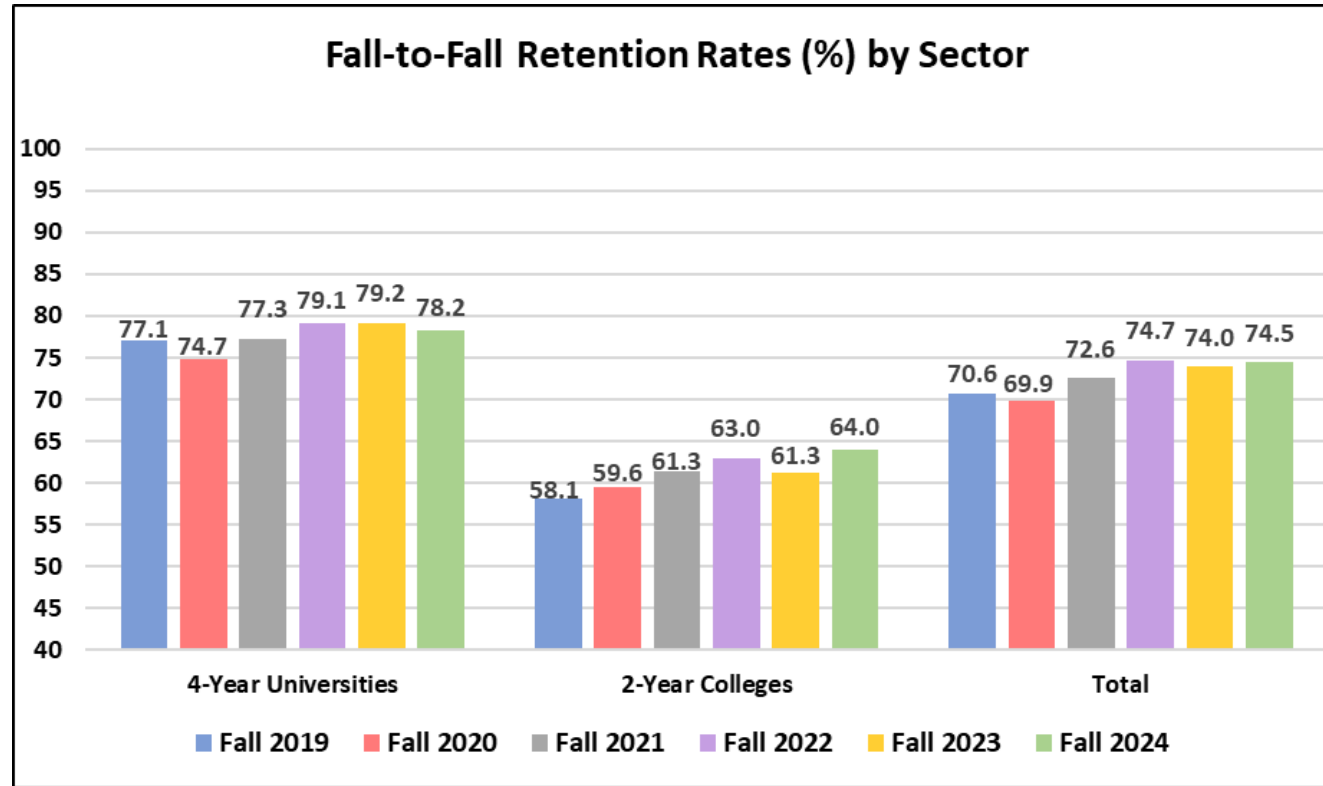
4-Year Institutions

National retention rates for public 4-year institutions consistently reported between 78% and 82% since 2007.

2-Year Colleges

National retention rates for the public 2-year colleges range from 58% and 63% since 2007.

Statewide Retention



The retention calculations for the 4-year institutions are based on students in the IPEDS cohort of fall term, first-time entering, full-time, and bachelor-seeking students returning to your institution the next fall term.

Retention rates for our 2-year colleges follows the IPEDS model and includes students receiving any credentials during the year.

Retention – Public 4-Year Institutions

- Six 4-year universities reported an increase in the fall-to-fall retention rate when comparing the Fall 2023 cohort to the Fall 2024 cohort.
- Southern Arkansas University reported the largest increase of almost 9%.
- UA Pine Bluff reported a percentage change increase of almost 4% over last year.
- Arkansas State University experienced an unusual 11.5% decline in their retention rate, which is specifically related to the uncertainties the international student population is experiencing nationwide.

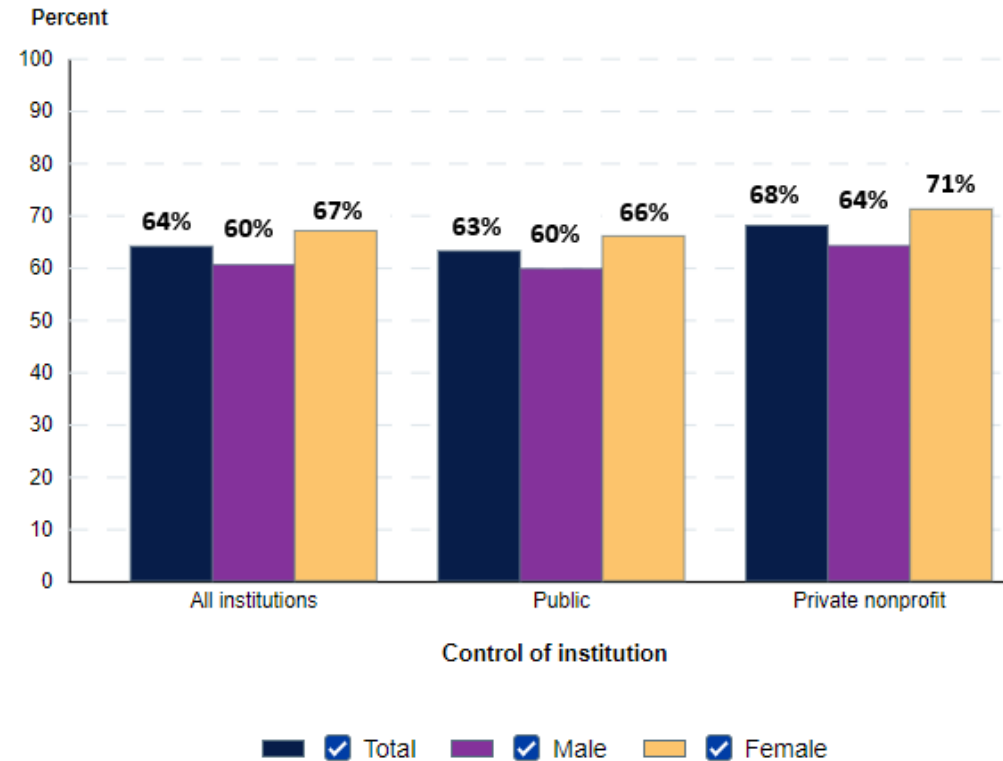
Retention – Public 2-Year Colleges

- For 2-year colleges, students who returned the next fall, as well as those who completed a credential by the next fall are included in the retention rate.
- Sixteen of the twenty-two 2-year colleges reported an increase in the fall-to-fall retention rate when comparing the Fall 2023 cohort to the Fall 2024 cohort.
- For the Arkansas State University System, four of five colleges reported a higher retention rate for the most recent cohort, including ASU-Mid-South which showed an almost 10% increase in their retention rate.
- Four of eight of the University of Arkansas System colleges reported retention rate increases including a 15% increase for UA Cossatot. UA Hope-Texarkana showed a 5.6% increase in their retention rate.
- For the other nine non-system colleges, eight reported an increase in retention rates including double-digit increases for Ozarka College at 15%, South Arkansas College at 13.8% and Arkansas Northeastern College at 12.8%.

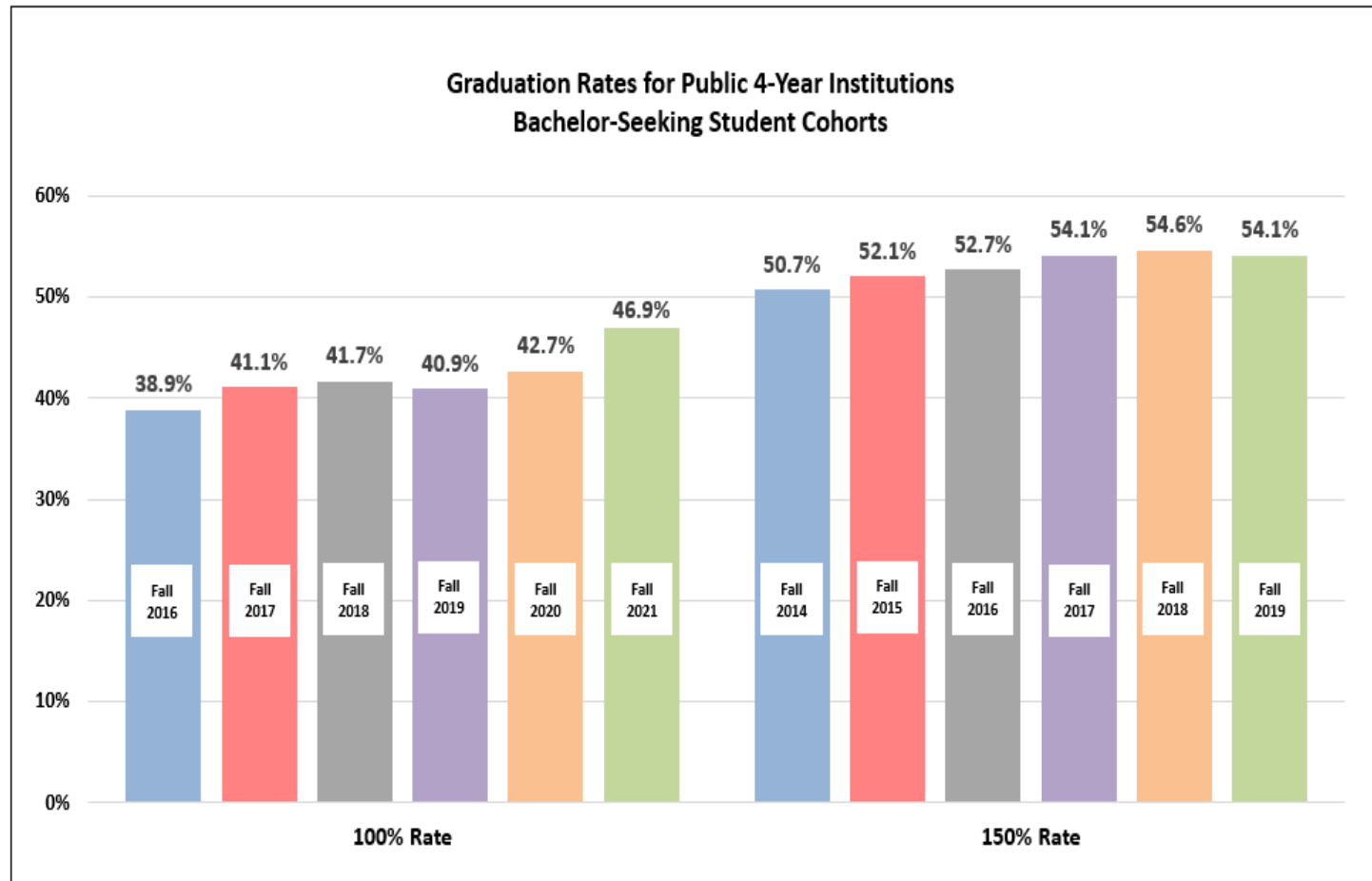
National Center for Education Statistics (NCES)

National Graduation Rates – 4-Year Institutions

Graduation rate within 150 percent of normal time (within 6 years) for degree completion from first institution attended for first-time, full-time bachelor's degree-seeking students at 4-year postsecondary institutions, by control of institution and sex: Cohort entry year 2014



4-Year Public Graduation Rates



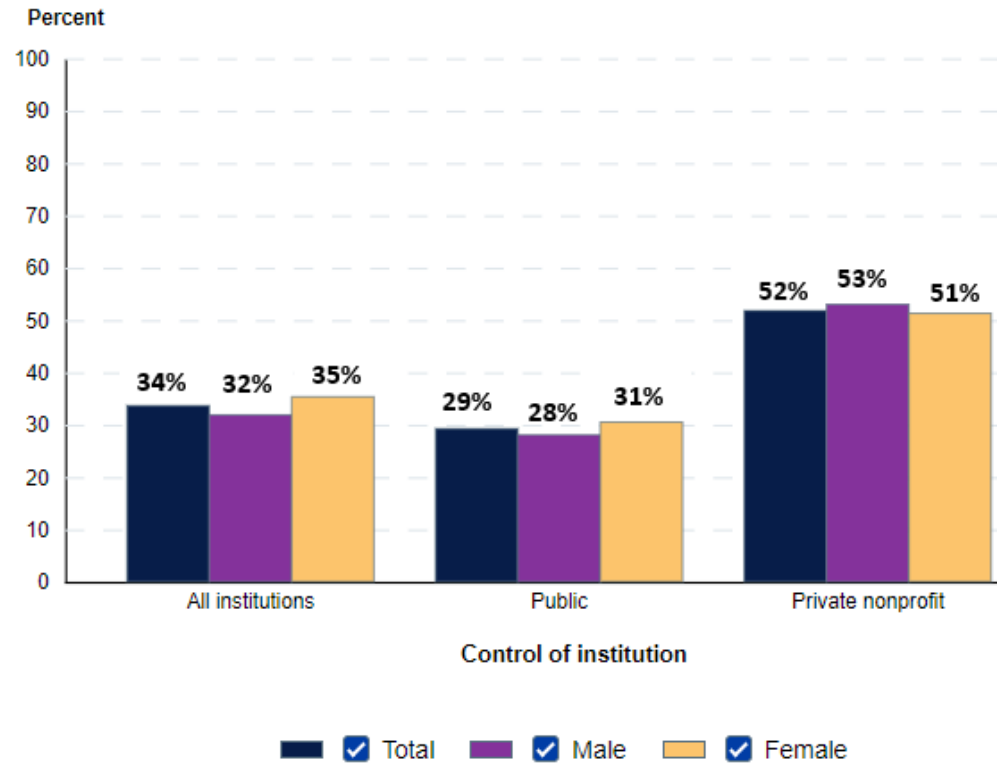
The 100% on-time graduation rate improved more than 4% for the Fall 2021 entering student cohort and is the highest reported 100% graduation rate.

The 150% graduation rate of 54.1% is slightly lower than last year but has consistently remained at 54% the past three cohorts.

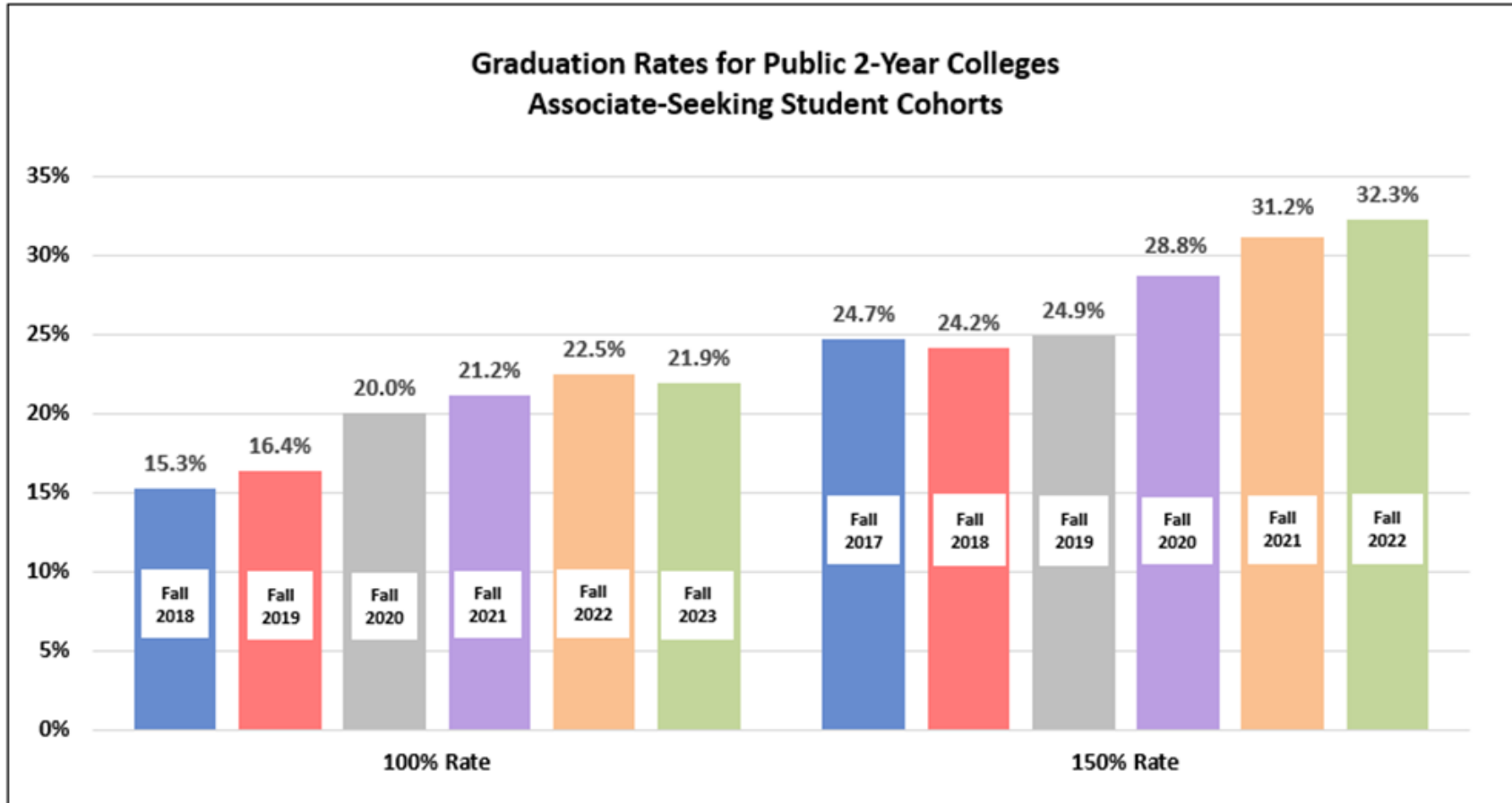
National Center for Education Statistics (NCES)

National Graduation Rates – 2-Year Colleges

Graduation rate within 150 percent of normal time for degree completion from first institution attended for first-time, full-time degree/certificate-seeking students at 2-year postsecondary institutions, by control of institution and sex: Cohort entry year 2017



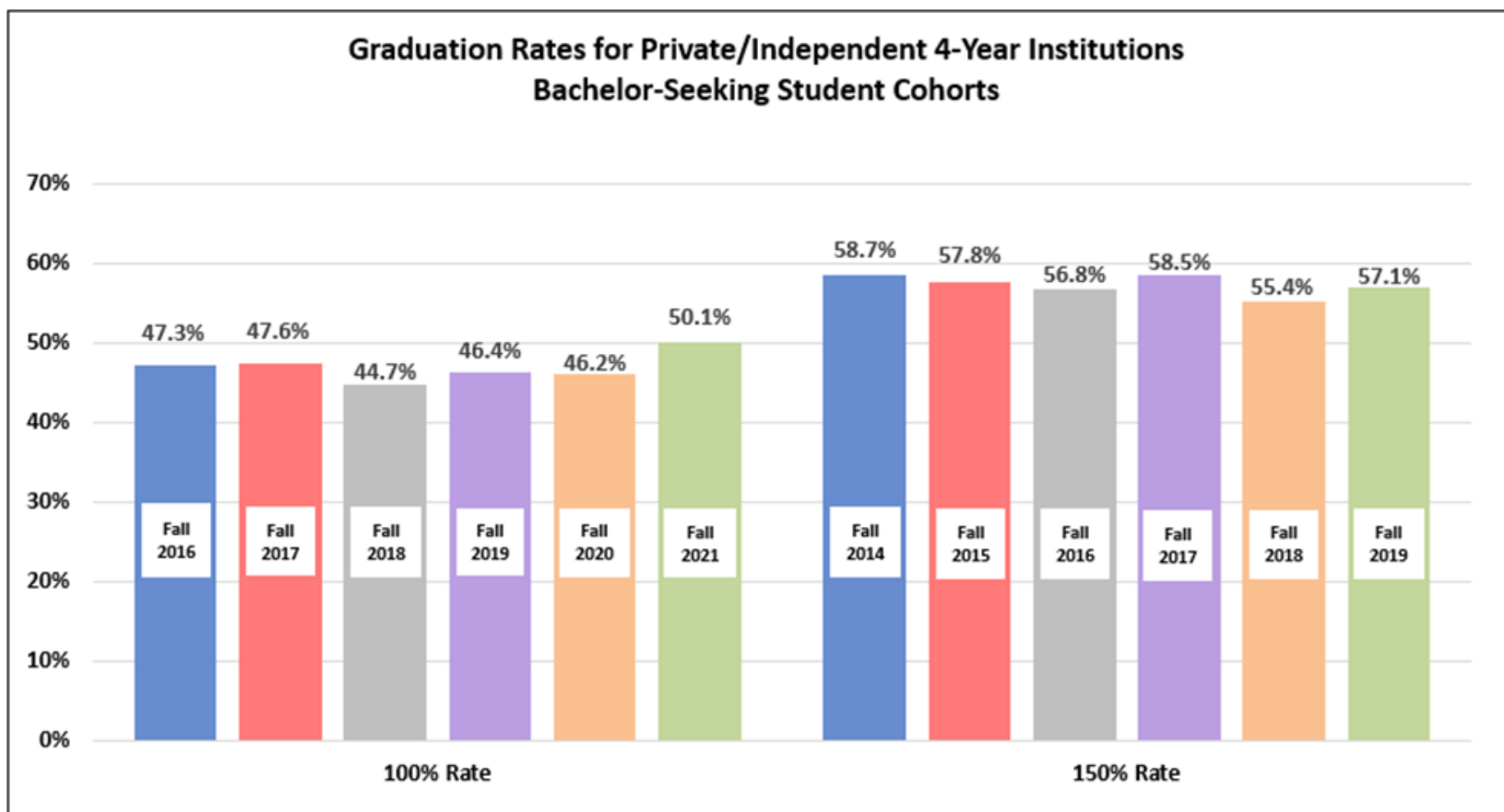
2-Year Public Graduation Rates



The 100% on-time graduation rate of 21.9% declined slightly for the Fall 2023 entering cohort.

The 150% graduation rate showed improvement for four years in a row.

4-Year Private/Independent Graduation Rates



Similar to the public 4-year institutions, the 100% on-time graduation rate for the private institutions improved about 4% for the Fall 2021 entering student cohort and is the highest reported 100% graduation rate for the private institutions.

The 150% graduation rate of 57.1% for the Fall 2019 entering cohort is almost 2% higher than last year's cohort.



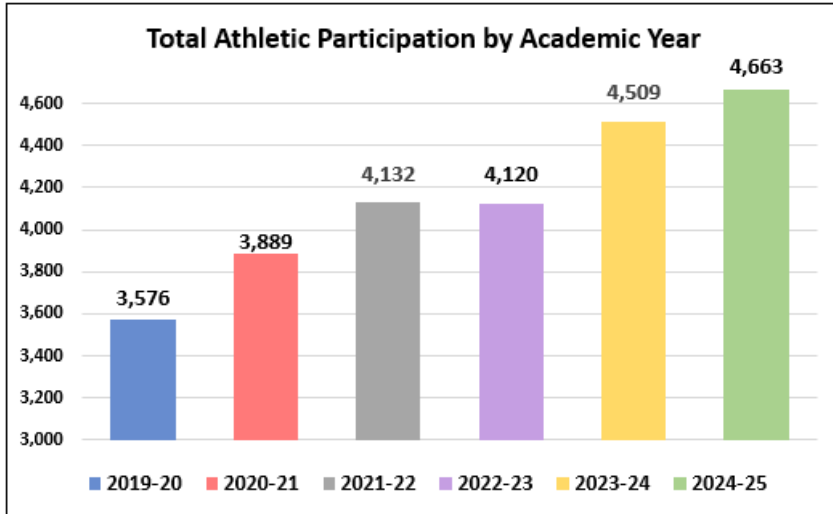
AHECB Meeting

April 24, 2026

Annual Report of Student Retention and Graduation of Student-Athletes

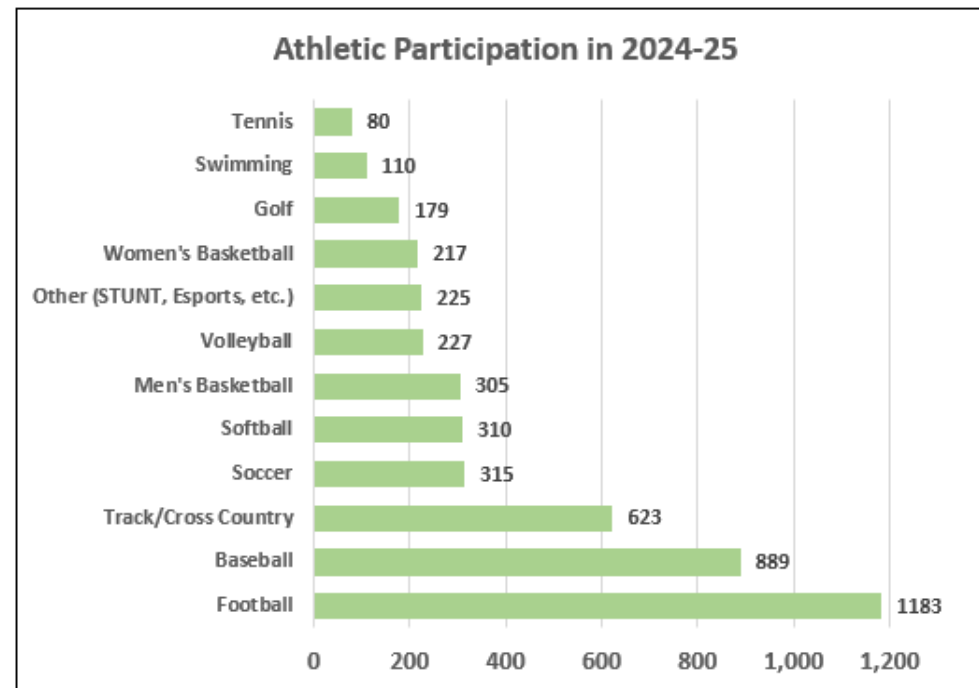
Sonia Hazelwood
Chief Data Officer / Assistant Commissioner

Student-Athlete Participation



Athletic participation increased more than 150 student-athletes for 2025. Another 2-year colleges reported for the first time and several others reported an increase in participation.

More than 4,600 student-athletes participated in over 12 sports. Football, Baseball, and Track comprised almost 58% of the total athletic participation.



Student-Athlete Retention Rates



ADHE Calculated Retention Rates for Student-Athletes

Institution	% Fall Term Cohort Returning Next Fall Term				College	2021	2022	2023	2024
	2021	2022	2023	2024					
ASU	75.7%	70.1%	77.5%	59.6%	ASUMH	71.4%	65.0%	73.1%	50.0%
ATU	64.6%	68.8%	78.0%	63.3%	ASUMS	N/A	75.0%	40.0%	62.5%
HSU	68.8%	73.0%	79.2%	76.7%	ASUN	N/A	N/A	70.0%	50.0%
SAUM	62.8%	73.3%	76.5%	77.0%	ASUTR	N/A	N/A	46.9%	60.6%
UAF	85.0%	83.5%	79.8%	71.7%	CCCUA	63.6%	50.0%	42.5%	75.0%
UAFS	83.3%	77.1%	71.4%	71.4%	NAC	65.1%	71.7%	32.7%	55.3%
UALR	78.6%	74.2%	86.4%	72.0%	NPC	53.3%	52.5%	53.5%	66.3%
UAM	62.7%	71.2%	64.6%	64.1%	NWACC	77.8%	80.0%	100.0%	75.0%
UAPB	66.1%	78.2%	64.8%	66.0%	PCCUA	-	-	-	47.4%
UCA	78.9%	78.5%	71.8%	77.8%	SAC	55.9%	47.9%	56.4%	63.9%
					SAUT	63.6%	47.7%	61.3%	51.4%
					UACCRM	56.4%	41.7%	50.6%	52.1%

Student-Athlete Graduation Rates



ADHE Calculated On-Time (100%) Graduation Rates for Student-Athletes

Institution	Fall Term Cohort - On-Time (100%) Graduation Rates									
	2018	2019	2020	2021	College	2020	2021	2022	2023	
ASU	40.0%	26.5%	37.7%	37.8%	ASUMH	-	-	45.0%	53.8%	
ATU	31.0%	29.2%	39.7%	43.0%	ASUMS	42.9%	57.1%	50.0%	40.0%	
HSU	30.2%	42.3%	39.6%	39.0%	ASUN	-	-	-	50.0%	
SAUM	33.8%	29.3%	35.2%	31.4%	ASUTR	-	-	-	21.9%	
UAF	41.5%	41.8%	30.4%	48.0%	CCCUA	16.7%	18.2%	11.1%	27.5%	
UAFS	33.3%	41.0%	41.2%	40.0%	NAC	20.7%	41.9%	43.4%	20.4%	
UALR	45.9%	26.1%	39.2%	44.6%	NPC	26.2%	18.7%	17.5%	15.5%	
UAM	29.0%	30.6%	33.8%	34.3%	SAC	6.3%	32.2%	33.3%	46.2%	
UAPB	30.5%	22.5%	20.3%	22.6%	SAUT	46.2%	54.5%	38.6%	48.4%	
UCA	52.1%	41.7%	34.3%	40.4%	UACCRM	66.0%	53.8%	63.3%	41.8%	

Student-Athlete Graduation Rates



ADHE Calculated 150% Graduation Rates for Student-Athletes

University	Fall Term Cohort - 150% Graduation Rates									
	2016	2017	2018	2019	College	2019	2020	2021	2022	
ASU	67.7%	58.5%	53.0%	44.1%	ASUMH	-	-	-	60.0%	
ATU	50.8%	56.9%	51.7%	38.9%	ASUMS	60.0%	42.9%	57.1%	50.0%	
HSU	42.0%	40.2%	45.0%	55.0%	CCCUA	11.8%	16.7%	36.4%	22.2%	
SAUM	43.6%	43.1%	53.2%	44.3%	NAC	56.1%	34.5%	53.5%	52.8%	
UAF	60.5%	60.2%	50.0%	50.9%	NPC	21.6%	26.2%	29.3%	22.5%	
UAFS	45.7%	48.1%	57.2%	48.7%	SAC	31.6%	25.0%	39.0%	43.8%	
UALR	53.7%	52.9%	59.5%	46.7%	SAUT	31.3%	69.2%	63.6%	43.2%	
UAM	48.5%	40.7%	43.5%	38.7%	UACCRM	36.8%	67.0%	59.0%	65.0%	
UAPB	58.2%	49.0%	42.4%	36.3%						
UCA	66.4%	50.5%	63.6%	52.8%						



Alisha Lewis

Assistant Commissioner
Operations and Communications

Agenda Item No. 6

Rule: Residency Classification for State-Funded Scholarships

- Amendments as a result of Act 341 of 2025
- No known opposition
- No fiscal impact
- Substantive changes include:
 - Establishing a minimum criteria for in-state resident classification for the purposes of state scholarship eligibility

Agenda Item No. 7

Rule Amendment: Workforce Challenge Scholarship Program

- Amendments as a result of Act 341 of 2025
- No known opposition
- Fiscal Impact: \$9,062,982
- Substantive changes include:
 - Addition of Ballot Initiative #1 of 2024 to include private career vocational schools
 - Include clarifying language on covered programs
 - Allows a higher award amount

Agenda Item No. 8

Rule Amendment: Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program

- Amendments as a result of Act 341 of 2025
- No known opposition
- Fiscal impact: \$8,720,000
- Substantive changes include:
 - Change in Freshman award amount
 - Add eligibility opportunities for students

Agenda Item No. 9

Rule: Access to Acceleration Scholarship Program

- Amendments as a result of Act 341 of 2025
- No known opposition
- Fiscal impact: \$15,502,000 (Offset by \$3,875,974 reduction due to repeal of Concurrent Challenge)
- Substantive changes include:
 - Increases the amount awarded to students
 - Establishes continuing eligibility criteria
 - Establishes a process for extraordinary circumstances

Agenda Item No. 10

Policy Amendment: Uniform Course Credit for Institutions of Higher Education

- Amendments as a result of Act 413 of 2023 and Act 341 of 2025
- No known opposition
- No anticipated fiscal impact
- Substantive changes include:
 - Requires the Division to establish uniform postsecondary criteria for awarding credit
 - Includes “accelerated learning” definition as established in the Arkansas ACCESS Act

Agenda Item No. 11

Rule Amendment: Arkansas Teacher Opportunity Program

- Amendments as a result of Act 341 of 2025
- No known opposition
- No fiscal impact
- Substantive change include:
 - Shifts the program to a scholarship in place of a reimbursement

Agenda Item No. 12

Rule Amendment: Arkansas Teacher Academy Program

- Amendments as a result of Act 341 of 2025
- No known opposition
- No fiscal impact
- Substantive changes include:
 - Changing eligibility from semesters to hours
 - Establishing eligibility requirements



ANY QUESTIONS?



Arkansas Workforce Challenge Scholarship Program Policy

Pending rules promulgation

Legislation

- **House Joint Resolution 1006 of the 2023 Arkansas Legislative Session:** constitutional amendment to allow lottery proceeds to fund or provide scholarships and grants to Arkansas citizens enrolled in vocational-technical schools and technical institutes.
- **Act 341 of the 2025 Arkansas Legislative Session, ACCESS Act:** amended existing code related to the Arkansas Workforce Challenge Scholarship Program.

ACCESS Act: Workforce Challenge Scholarship

(2) "Approved institution of higher education" means an institution of higher education approved by the Division of Higher Education to participate in the Arkansas Workforce Challenge Scholarship Program that is a:

(A) State-supported two-year or four-year institution of higher education;

(B) Private, nonprofit two-year or four-year institution of higher education with its primary headquarters located in Arkansas that is eligible to receive Title IV federal student aid funds; or

(continued on next slide)

ACCESS Act: Workforce Challenge Scholarship

(C) A public or private vocational-technical school with its primary headquarters located in Arkansas that is:

- (i) Included on the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act eligible training provider list;
- (ii) Qualified to receive approval for veterans' education benefits from the United States Department of Veteran Affairs; or
- (iii) Included on the division's Private Career Education list;

ACCESS Act:

Workforce Challenge Scholarship

(a)

(1) If funds are available, the Division of Higher Education shall distribute Arkansas Workforce Challenge Scholarships to all students who meet the scholarship eligibility requirements and attend an institution of higher education described in § 403-103(2)(A) and (B).

(2) Subject to the availability of funds, up to five million dollars (\$5,000,000) for scholarships shall be distributed to students who attend a certificate program described in § 403-103(2)(C).

(b)

(1) The maximum scholarship award a student may receive in an academic year shall be the lesser of program of study or certificate program costs, or three thousand dollars (\$3,000).

WFC Policy: Defining "noncredit"

Professional Skills Training: non-credit postsecondary courses that develop or enhance occupational, technical, and/or durable skills of individuals – whether employed, underemployed, or unemployed – to meet the needs of employers and/or increase individual opportunity in the labor market. Courses may include methods such as lecture, workshop, customized training, apprenticeship, etc. While these courses carry no institutional credit applicable toward a degree, diploma, or certificate, the competencies and skills attained through Professional Skills Training could apply toward a prior learning credit.

Per Pending Rules: 6 CAR § 403-201. Eligibility requirements.

(c)(1) The program eligibility of institutions of higher education under § 403-103(2) of this part shall be determined by the division in collaboration with the Office of Skills Development.

- Program Minimum Requirements
 - Professional Skills Training: 80 clock hours
 - Credit: Certificate of Proficiency (6 hours)
- Funding Award Amounts:
 - Up to \$1500 for professional skills training programs 80-179 clock hours
 - Up to \$3000 for professional skills training programs 180+ clock hours or credit programs CP (6 credit hours) and above (not to exceed the standard tuition rate and fee structure of the IHE providing the instruction)
- Stackable programs with a combined duration of 179 clock hours or fewer will qualify for funding not to exceed \$1,500, unless otherwise authorized by the Division of Higher Education, subject to the application of exceptional qualifying criteria.

CIPs in High-Demand Fields

ADHE will approve Classification of Instructional Program (CIP) codes aligned with Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) codes in the high-demand fields of:

- Advanced Manufacturing
- Health Care
- Information Technology
- Construction Trades
- Logistics, Distribution, and Transportation

Per Pending Rules 6 CAR § 403-203. Institutional responsibilities — College and university responsibilities. (g) Reporting requirements.

Individual Student Completer Information Required to Report:

- Student First Name
- Student Last Name
- Student SSN
- Student DOB
- Student Race
- Student Ethnicity
- Student Sex
- # Contact or Credit Hours Completed
- Academic Year
- Program or Degree Name
- Credential Completion Type(s) or Degree Level
- Program CIP Code
- Program SOC Code
- Program Start Date
- Program Completion Date
- Instructional Weeks

Failure to report student completer information may result in loss of program eligibility. The ADHE financial aid office reserves the right to require additional information, if required for the Arkansas Scholarship Lottery.

Workforce Challenge Scholarship Program Applications Submitted March 1-31, 2026

- **1,372** programs were submitted.
 - **1236** (A) State-supported two-year or four-year institution of higher education
 - **23** (B) Private, nonprofit two-year or four-year institution of higher education with its primary headquarters located in Arkansas that is eligible to receive Title IV federal student aid funds
 - **113** (C) A public or private vocational-technical school
- Goal: Review by end of April and announce approved programs in May.



General Education Core

Agenda Item #14



General Education Core

The Requisite Core and State Minimum General Education Core serve as the intellectual cornerstone for every undergraduate degree granted within the State of Arkansas. Rather than a collection of introductory coursework, the State Minimum General Education Core represents a unified educational philosophy intended to transform students into versatile thinkers and engaged participants in a free society.

- I. Definitions
- II. Purpose
- III. Operational Intent
- IV. State Requisite Core
- V. State Minimum General Education Core



State Minimum General Education Core

State Minimum General Education Core	Credit Hours
English Composition	6
Speech Communication	0-3
Mathematics <i>A comprehensive mathematics course such as College Algebra, Statistics, Quantitative Literacy/Mathematical Reasoning or any higher-level mathematics course.</i>	3
Science <i>Courses must include laboratories.</i>	8
Fine Arts/Humanities <i>Must be broad survey courses.</i>	6-9
U.S. History I or U.S. History II	3
American Government	3
Social Sciences	6-9 3-6
Total Credit Hours:	35



Certificate of General Studies (CGS)

Agenda Item #15



Certificate of General Studies (CGS)

Policy for the Approval or Revision of Academic Programs
and Organizational Units

(Update to Appendix B – Definitions)

Certificate of General Studies	Credit Hours
English Composition	6
Lab Science	4
College Algebra, Quantitative Literacy, or Statistics	3
U.S. History	3
American Government	3
Social Science Elective	3
Fine Arts or Humanities Elective	3
<i>Choose two of the following:</i>	6-7
Oral Communication or Speech (3 credit hours)	
Social Science Elective (3 credit hours)	
Fine Arts or Humanities Elective (3 credit hours)	
Lab Science (4 credit hours)	
Total Credit Hours:	31-32
CGS Approved: February 3, 2006, Agenda Item No. 3 CGS Updated: <u>April 24, 2026, Agenda Item No. 15</u>	

Nick Fuller
Assistant Commissioner



**AGENDA ITEM NO. 16:
DISTRIBUTION OF MINERAL
LEASE FUNDS FOR 2025-2026**

Distribution of Mineral Lease Funds

It is recommended that up to \$475,000 be allocated (from the H.E. Research Development Fund) to the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville for continuing personal services and operating expenses associated with ARE-ON.

\$13,831,461.96 has been distributed since May 2007, the first transfer of funds.

The current balance of the Research Development Fund is \$193,618.53.

Nick Fuller
Assistant Commissioner



**AGENDA ITEM NO. 17:
ECONOMIC FEASIBILITY OF A
BOND ISSUE FOR THE
UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS AT
FAYETTEVILLE**

Relevant Information

- \$132 million with a term of up to thirty (30) years @ a rate not to exceed 5.5%
- Educational and General (E&G) and Auxiliary (AUX) purposes
- Revenue Funding Source: Tuition and Fee Revenue / Housing Revenue

Relevant Information

- Proceeds from the bond issue will be used for:
 - The acquisition, construction, equipping, and expansion of district heating distribution material and equipment to serve the Maple Hill District and other related campus district heating capacity improvements and utility infrastructure upgrades (the "Utility Project"); and
 - The acquisition, construction, improvement, renovation, equipping and/or furnishing of other capital improvements and infrastructure and the acquisition of various equipment and/or real property for the Fayetteville Campus.
- In Accordance with Board Policy, \$244,625 in auxiliary revenue will be transferred into a building maintenance fund as the auxiliary facilities will add 195,700 square feet. The Educational and General projects provide no additional square footage, so no additional revenue will be transferred for that bond issue.



Mason Campbell

Assistant Commissioner
of Academic Affairs

Arkansas Public Institutions New Program



**NORTHWEST ARKANSAS
COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

**Associate of Applied Science in
Artificial Intelligence**



**NORTHWEST ARKANSAS
COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

AAS in Artificial Intelligence

nwacc.edu

Description

The Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.) in Artificial Intelligence is a workforce-focused academic program designed to prepare students for roles in which AI tools and systems are used to improve productivity, decision-making, automation, and service delivery across industries. The program provides an applied foundation in core AI concepts, data-driven decision support, generative AI, responsible and ethical AI use, and AI-enabled workflow design. Instruction emphasizes hands-on, project-based learning using widely adopted platforms and tools, with structured opportunities for students to build portfolios that demonstrate job-ready skills.

Skills/Jobs

The market outlook for AI-related skills is strong and expanding. Employers across business, healthcare, manufacturing, logistics, education, and government increasingly expect workers to understand and use AI tools safely and effectively. This program addresses broad “AI-enabled” job demand—roles that may not be titled “AI Engineer” but require AI literacy, analytics awareness, automation support, and responsible tool use to improve operational performance.

Demand

- Between 2020-2025 38,001 AI-related and AI-enabled job postings
- Currently employers post approximately 230 new job openings per month with only 136 hires.

Curriculum

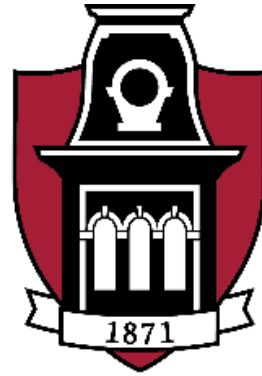
WFAI 1003	Survey of Artificial Intelligence
WFAI 1303	Prompt Engineering and Generative AI
WFAI 1403	Data Literacy for Artificial Intelligence
WFAI 2103	Responsible and Trustworthy AI
WFAI 2203	Cloud AI Tools & Services
WFAI 2303	Machine Learning Fundamentals
WFAI 2403	Computer Vision and Natural Language Processing
WFAI 2503	Automation and AI Agents
WFAI 2603	Machine Learning Operations and AI Deployment
WFAI 2703	Applied Programming for AI (Python and APIs)
WFAI 2803	AI Capstone / Work-Based Learning

Arkansas Public Institutions New Program



Associate of Applied Science in Nursing (Traditional)

Arkansas Public Institutions New Program



UNIVERSITY OF
ARKANSAS®

Master of Library and Information Studies

Arkansas Public Institutions New Program



UNIVERSITY OF
ARKANSAS®

Master of Science in Outdoor Recreation and Sport Tourism

Academic Affairs Agenda Item No. 21

Arkansas Public Institutions New Program



Bachelor of Science in Artificial Intelligence

Academic Affairs Agenda Item No. 22



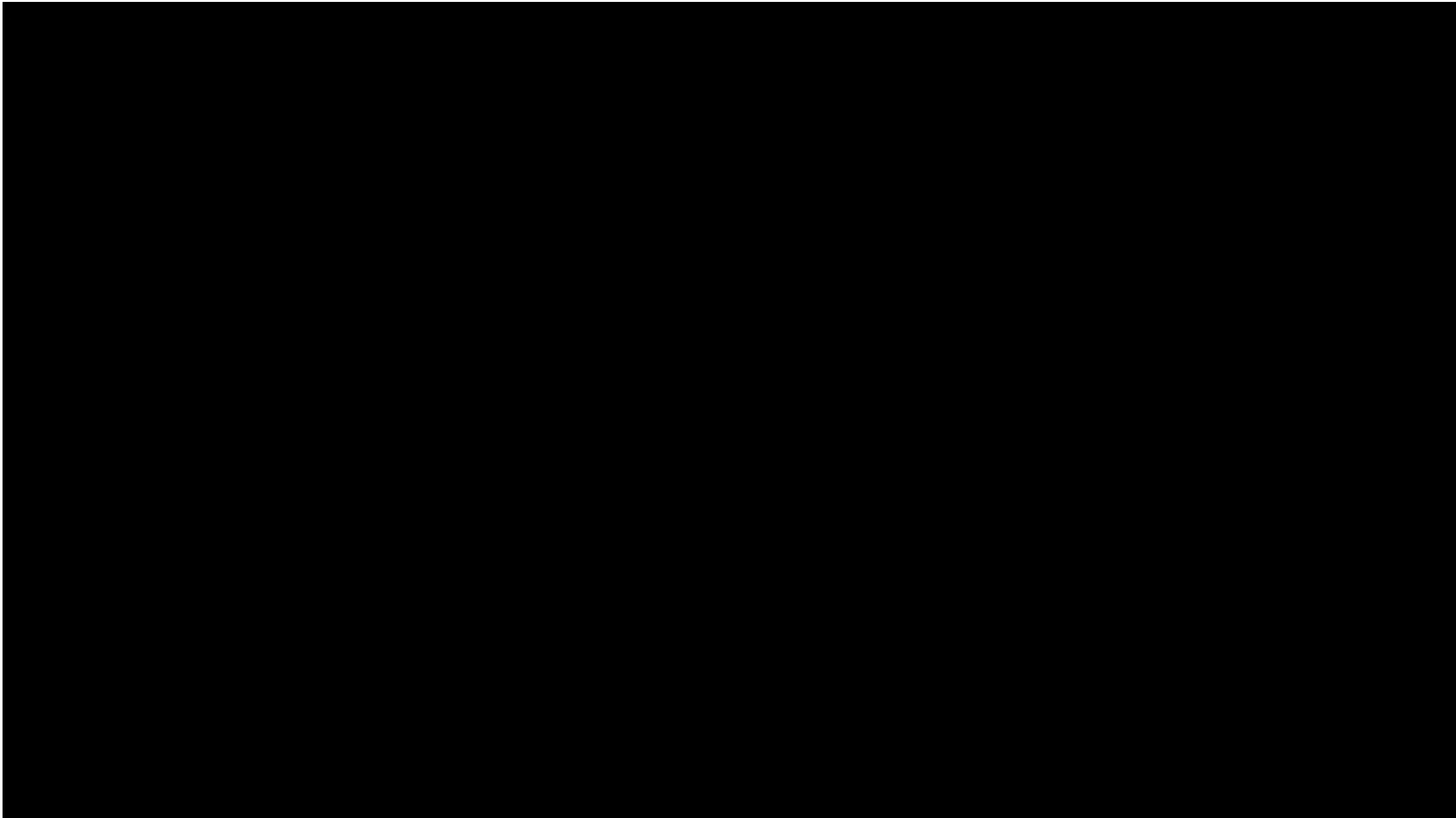
Academic Affairs Agenda Item No. 22

Arkansas Public Institutions New Program



Master of Science in Cybersecurity

Academic Affairs Agenda Item No. 23



Arkansas Public Institutions New Program



CyberLearn



Certificate of Proficiency and Technical Certificate in Artificial Intelligence
Certificate of Proficiency and Technical Certificate in Software Engineering
Certificate of Proficiency in Cyber-Informed Engineering

Building a Statewide Cybersecurity Pipeline:

A Replicable Ecosystem Model for Capacity, Access, and Sustainability



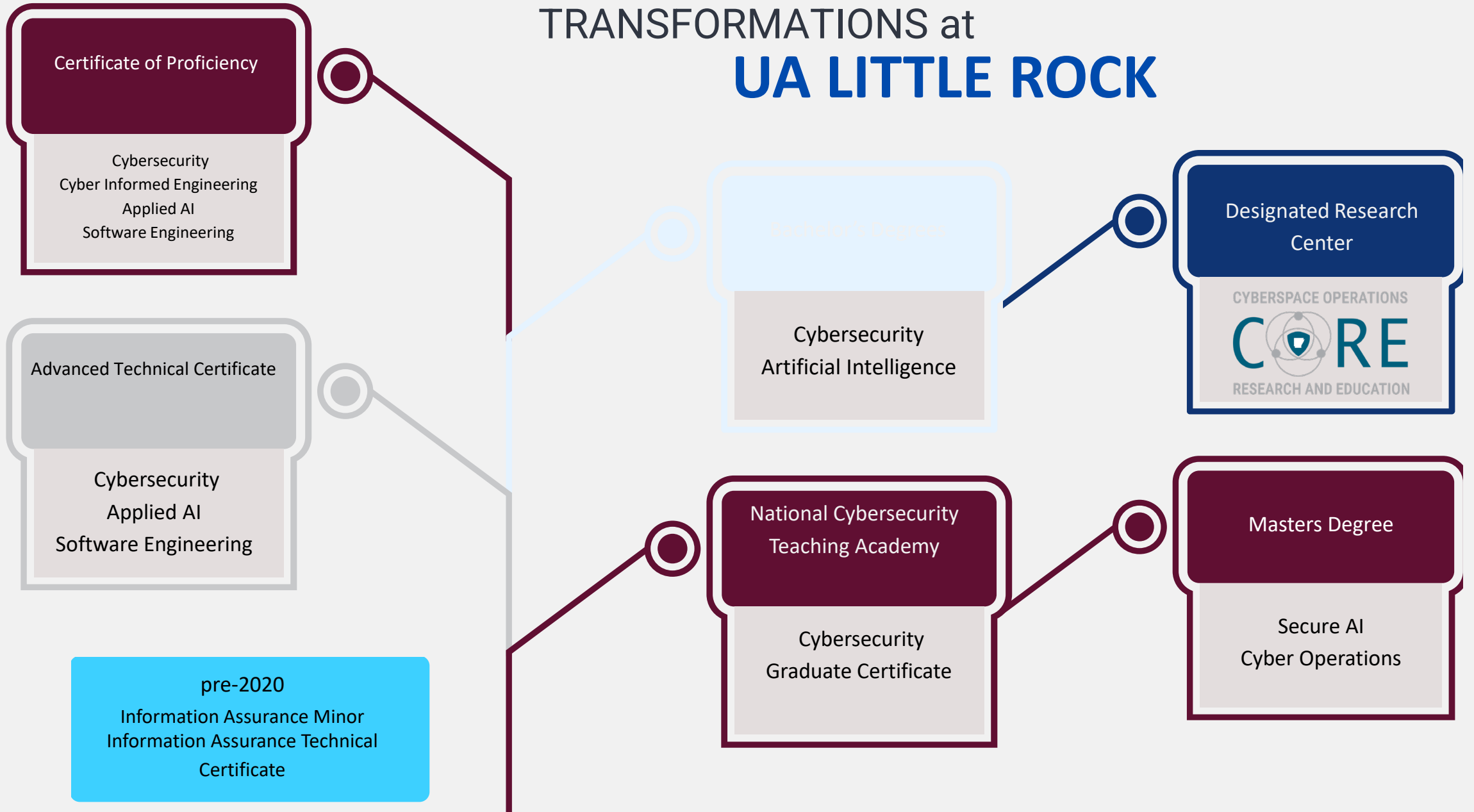


About Us

UA Little Rock is a small urban university with a student population of about 8700. We have been a CAE-CD since 2018. Our Cybersecurity department consists of 4 full-time faculty, 4 adjunct instructors, 30 student research employees, 2 admin (shared) and myself.



TRANSFORMATIONS at UA LITTLE ROCK



CHALLENGE LANDSCAPE

“There is a critical shortage of cybersecurity professionals available to teach and perform faculty duties in cybersecurity” ~ CAE
Community, Cybersecurity Faculty Development Initiative

500K

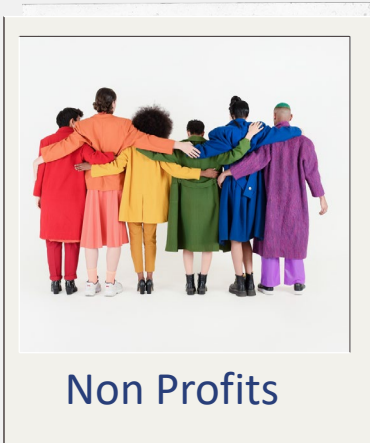
Cybersecurity Workforce
Shortage

13

Average number of credits
lost when a student transfers
from CC to University without
aligned pathways

40%

Number of students who
receive no or “empty” credits
on transfer



Non Profits



Government



Industry



UALR



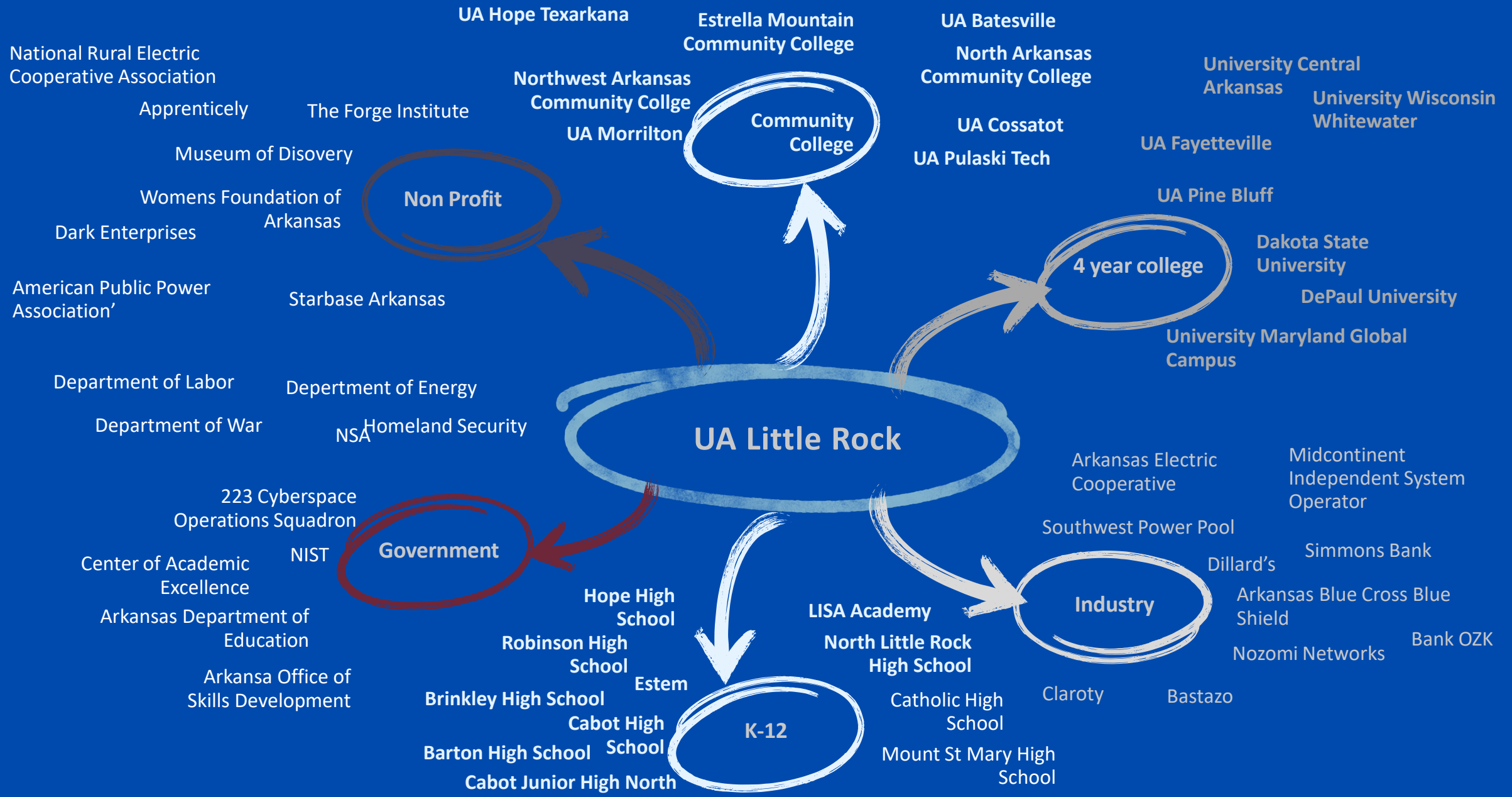
Community College



Four Year College



K-12





CyberLearn



ONE NETWORK MANY INSTITUTIONS

*Same credentials. Any campus.
Full credit — guaranteed.*

BUILT FROM NEED

FUNDED FOR IMPACT

Arkansas Workforce Initiative Act (2015) state-funded, industry-driven

1

Office of Skills Development Workforce Development Initiatives Grant 2022

2

HIRED Grants Higher Industry Readiness through Educational Development 2024

3

Current Offering

Certificate of Proficiency
CYBER FUNDAMENTALS
14 credits stacks into TC

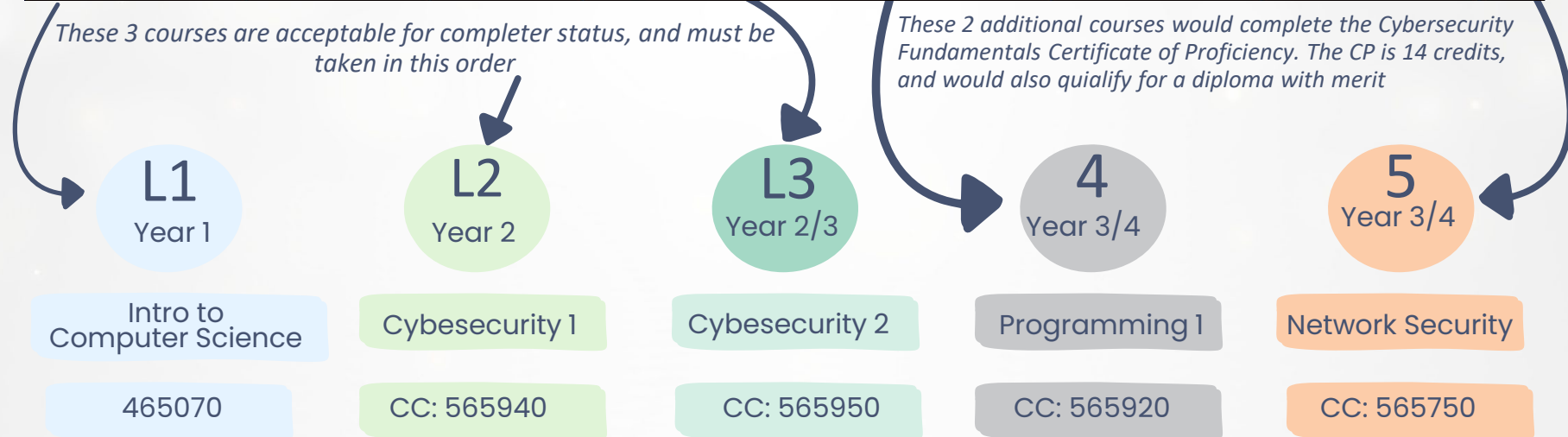
Technical Certificate
ADVANCED CYBERSECURITY
27-33 credits → stacks into BS

Bachelor's Degree
BS CYBERSECURITY
Early Entry to MS Degree

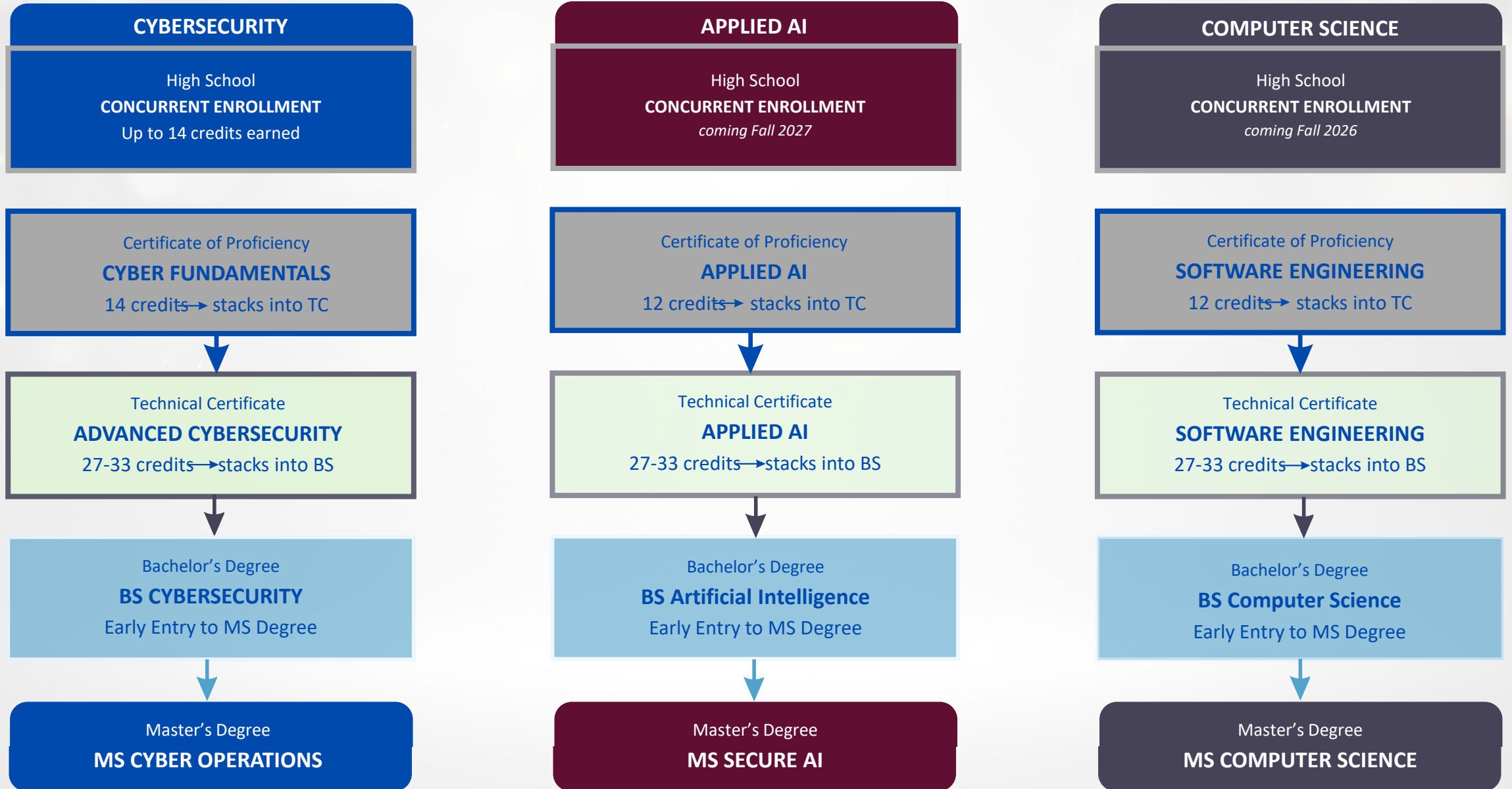
Arkansas Career and Technical Education

Success-Ready Pathway Chart : Information Technology and

Cluster	Pathway	H2 Designation	Sequence	Security	Course Number	Concurrent Course Number	
Digital Technology (Computer Science)	Information Technology and Security	YES	L1: Introduction to Computer Science		465070	565910	8-12
			L1: AP Computer Science Principles		565030	None	8-12
			L2: Information Technology and Security		465180	565940	9-12
			L3: Networking		465190	565950	9-12
			L3: Cybersecurity		465290	565750	9-12



Proposed Expansion Credentials stack. Every entry point counts.



EARLY OUTCOMES

Community College Graduates

45

Community colleges graduated their first students in Spring 2024

CC to UA Little Rock Transfers

15

Students transferring to UA Little Rock with full credit articulation and no credits lost.

Cross institutional enrollment

~ 10

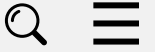
average number of CC students enrolled in UA Little Rock Course

High School Pipeline

17

Students in 4 high schools piloted semester Cybersecurity concurrent courses

Contact



SALEITERMAN@UALR.EDU

@saleiterman





Arkansas Public Letters of Notification & Letters of Intent

Agenda Items #25 & #26

Arkansas Public Institutions Letters of Notification

24 institutions submitted
Letters of Notification
affecting 145
unique programs of
study

Received by February 2, 2026

<i>n</i>	Requested Action
12	Approved Programs List Correction
4	CIP Code Change
40	Curriculum Revision
22	Deletion of Certificate or Degree Program
55	Deletion of Concentration or Minor
1	Deletion of Organizational Unit
7	Existing Program Offered by Distance Education
2	Inactivation of Certificate or Degree Program
19	New Certificate or Degree Program
13	New Concentration or Minor
15	New Off-Campus Location - Concurrent Education
3	New Off-Campus Location - Instruction Center
3	Reorganization of Organizational Unit
13	Title Change

209

Arkansas Public Institutions Letters of Intent

2 Arkansas public institutions submitted Letters of Intent

Received by April 1, 2026

<i>n</i>	Reason of Intent
4	New Program

4



Out-of-State Institutions

Agenda Items #27, #28, & #29

Out-of-State Institutions

New Programs

Initial Program Certifications

Certification to offer the degree programs via distance education to Arkansas students for 3 years through December 31, 2029

All programs meet the requirements of Arkansas law and AHECB policy

Academy of Art University, San Francisco, California

Bachelor of Fine Arts in Game Art

Walden University, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Master of Science in Clinical Psychology

University of Southern California, Los Angeles, California

Master of Arts in Gerontology

The Chicago School, Los Angeles, California

Bachelor of Arts in Psychology

Master of Arts in Applied Forensic Psychology

Master of Arts in Marriage, Couples, & Family Therapy

Master of Science in Biomedical Sciences

Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine

Southwestern Law School, Los Angeles, California

Juris Doctor

Private Institution New Program

Initial Program Certification

***Certification to offer the program at the
Little Rock Campus for 3 years through December 31, 2029***

Program meets the requirements of Arkansas law and AHECB policy

Baptist Health College Little Rock, Little Rock, Arkansas
RN to Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Out-of-State and Arkansas Private Institutions Letters of Notification

6 Out-of-State and/or Private Institutions submitted Recertification Requests

6 Out-of-State and/or Private Institutions submitted Letters of Notification

4 Institutions submitted requests for Exemption from Certification

Received by April 1, 2026

<i>n</i>	Summary of Requested Actions
69	Recertifications
1	Decertification
13	Church-Related Training Exemptions
1	Institutional Change
4	New Certificates
4	New Degree Specializations
21	Programmatic Changes

Out-of-State and Arkansas Private Institutions Letters of Intent

26 Out-of-State Institutions and 1 Arkansas Private Institution
submitted Letters of Intent
Received by April 1, 2026

<i>n</i>	Requested Actions
96	Initial Program Certifications
119	Program Recertifications

PUBLIC COMMENTS/ ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Follow-up questions can be sent to: Nichole.Abernathy@adhe.edu
- Presentations will be posted on the ADHE website at: <https://www.adhe.edu/about-adhe/coordinating-board/board-presentations>