

Arkansas Division of Higher Education

Credentials Awarded Academic Year 2022-2023



Research & Analytics

December 2023

Arkansas Division of Higher Education
101 E. Capitol Ave., Suite 300 Little Rock, AR 72201

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 2023 credentials awarded between July 1, 2022 and June 30, 2023.

Statewide Trends

Arkansas higher education institutions reported little change in 2023 when compared to 2022 in both the number of students receiving credentials and the number of credentials awarded. The number of students receiving credentials has remained consistent for the past five years with slightly more than 40,000 unduplicated students receiving awards. However, since 2014 the number of credentials awarded each year has increased at a much higher rate. 41,360 total credentials were awarded in 2014 and more than 50,000 credentials were awarded in 2023, which is a 21% increase.

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.

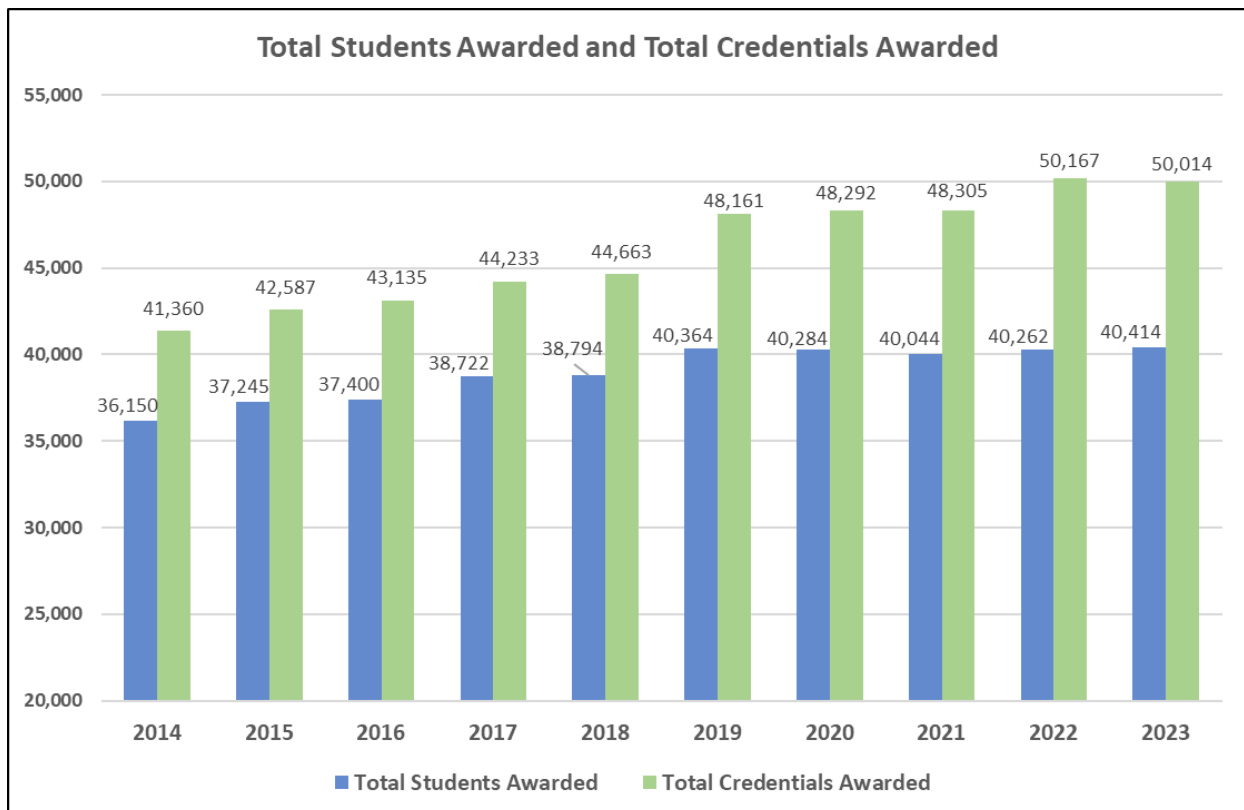


Chart 16-1: Statewide Trends

When looking at statewide undergraduate credential trends for the past five years, there have been some notable shifts in several degree levels. Chart 16-2 includes awards from both public and private/independent colleges and universities.

- The number of Certificates of Proficiency awarded across the state has increased significantly in the past two years, increasing more than 2,000 awards in 2023 over the 2021 Covid affected year.
- Technical Certificate awards in 2023 declined more than 5% compared to 2022 and in 2023, 5,882 is the fewest TCs awarded since the 2018 academic year.
- For the past five years, Arkansas has awarded approximately 10,000 Associate Degrees each year, except for the 2021 Covid affected year that dropped the number of Associate degree awards to 9,515.
- In 2021, 16,947 Bachelor’s Degrees were awarded, which is the most ever, however, serious declines were reported for both 2022 and 2023.
- Undergraduate Credentials awarded statewide represent about 82% of total credentials awarded each academic year.

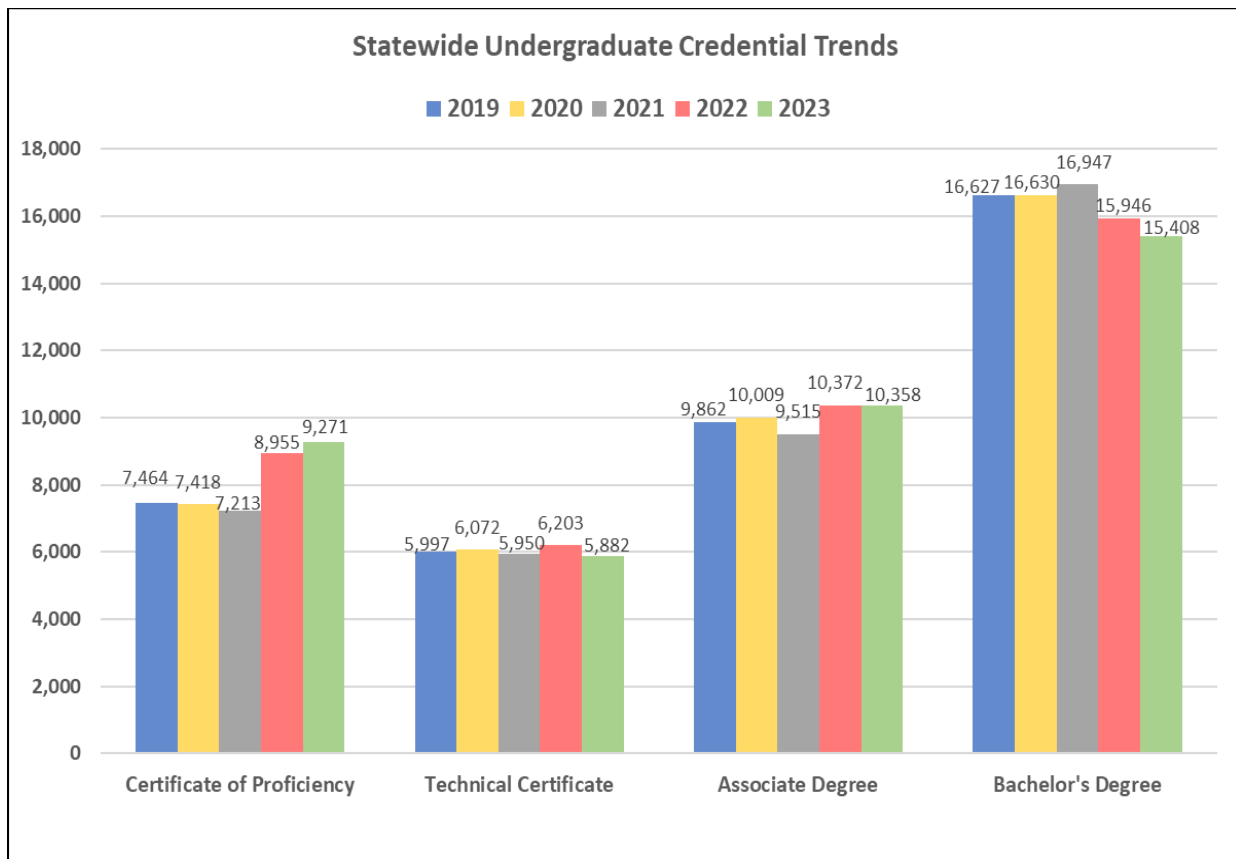


Chart 16-2: Statewide Undergraduate Credential Trends

Chart 16-3 below includes graduate level awards for the past five years from both public and private/independent universities. 6,141 Masters Degrees were awarded in 2023, which is the largest number ever and the first time since 2017 to hit that over 6,000 credentials mark.

- The most significant change at the graduate level is in the Masters Degree category that experienced an 11.5% increase in awards from 2022 to 2023.
- Both Post-Baccalaureate Certificates and Doctoral – Professional Practice credential levels remained constant from 2022 to 2023.
- Post-Masters/Specialist and Doctoral – Research awards experienced declines from 2022 to 2023.
- Graduate Credentials awarded statewide represent about 18% of total credentials awarded each academic year.

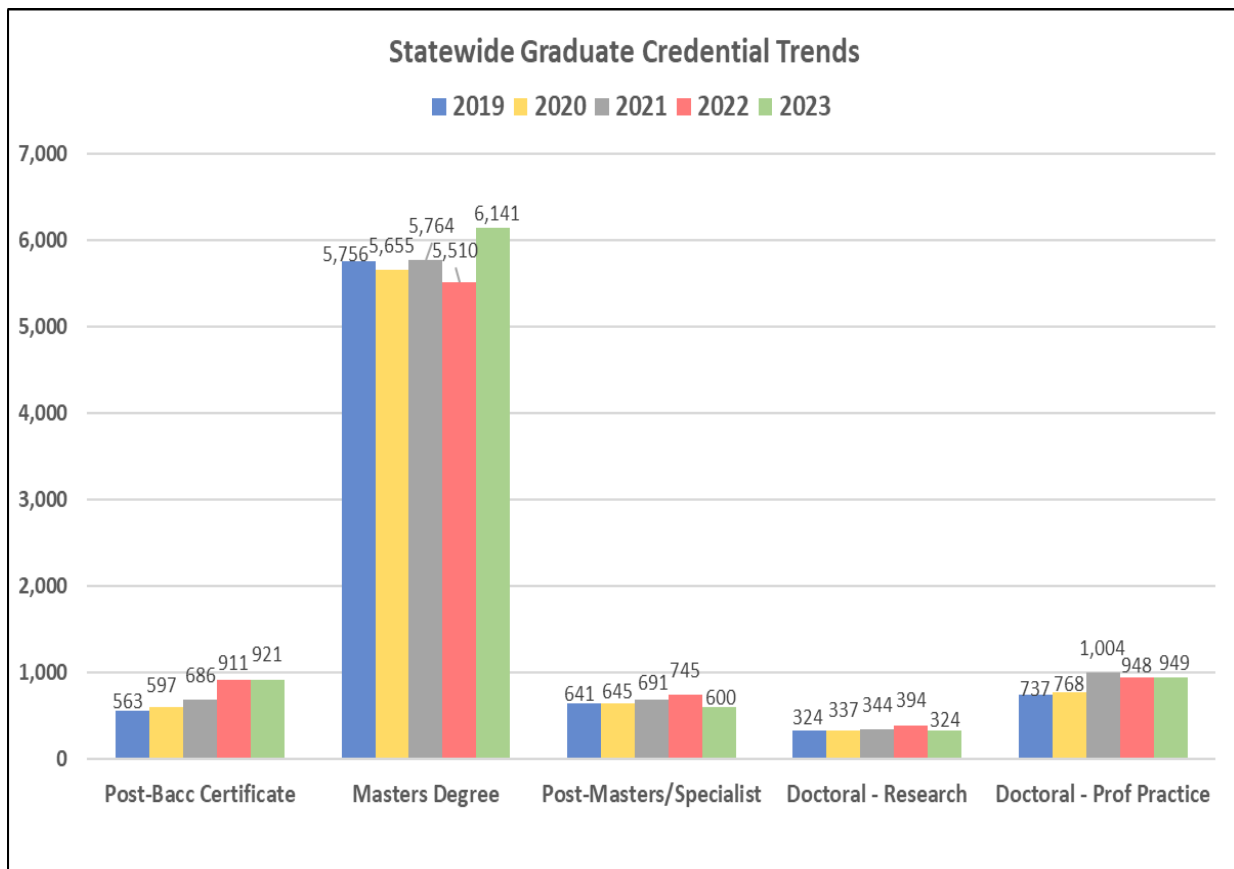


Chart 16-3: Statewide Graduate Credential Trends

Trends by Institution Type

Chart 16-4 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 7% and the two nursing schools and one technical institute about 1% of the total statewide credentials.

- Public 4-year universities reported a slight increase of 2% from 2022 to 2023.
- Public 2-year colleges reported a 3.3% decrease in total awards from 2022 to 2023.
- Private/Independent institutions reported a slight .8% increase in total awards from 2022 to 2023.
- The two nursing schools and one technical institute reported a 12.5% decline in total awards from 2022 to 2023.

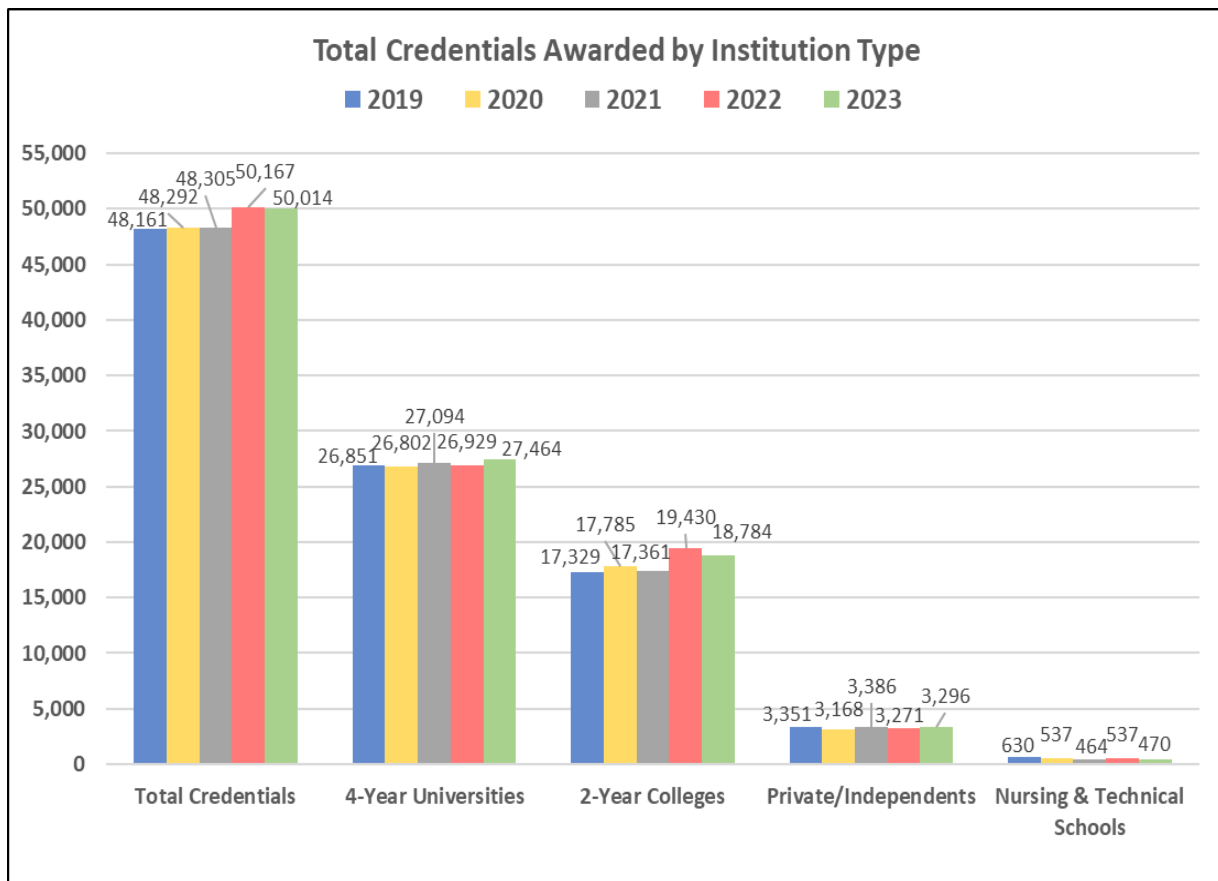


Chart 16-4: Five-Year History of Credentials Awarded by Institution Type

Charts 16-5 through charts 16-8 provide ten-year trends of degrees awarded by our Public 4-Year Universities.

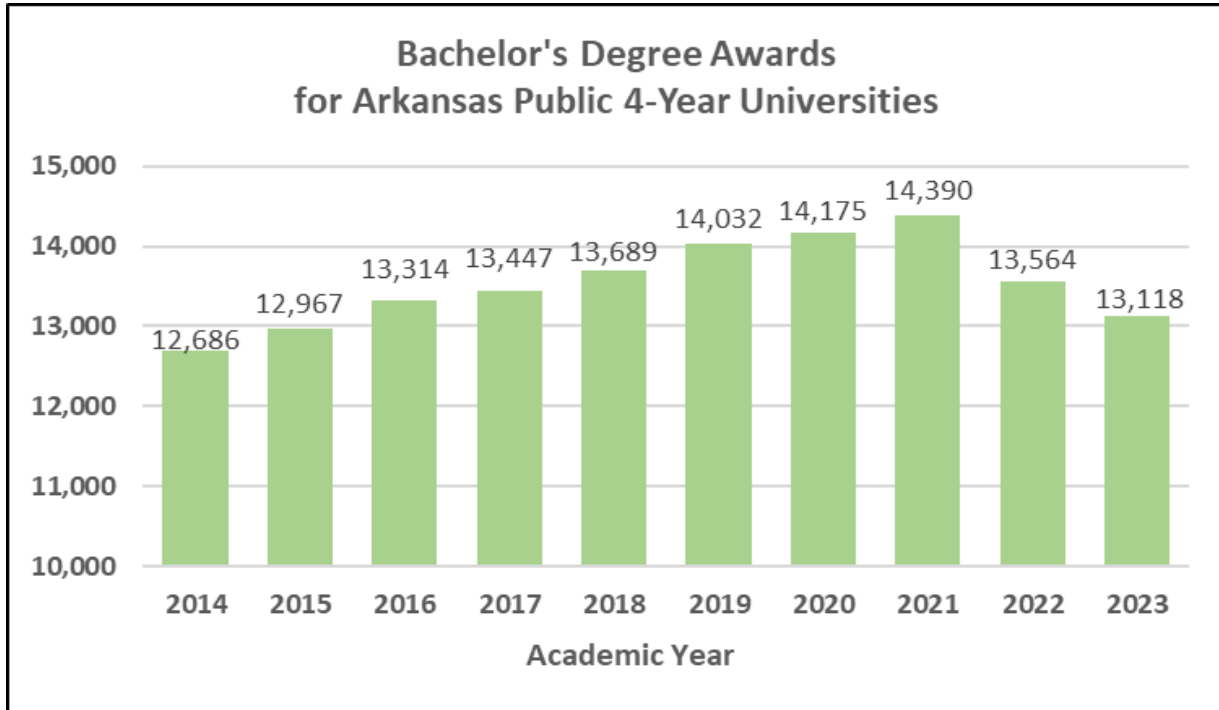


Chart 16-5: Ten-Year Trend of Bachelor's Degrees

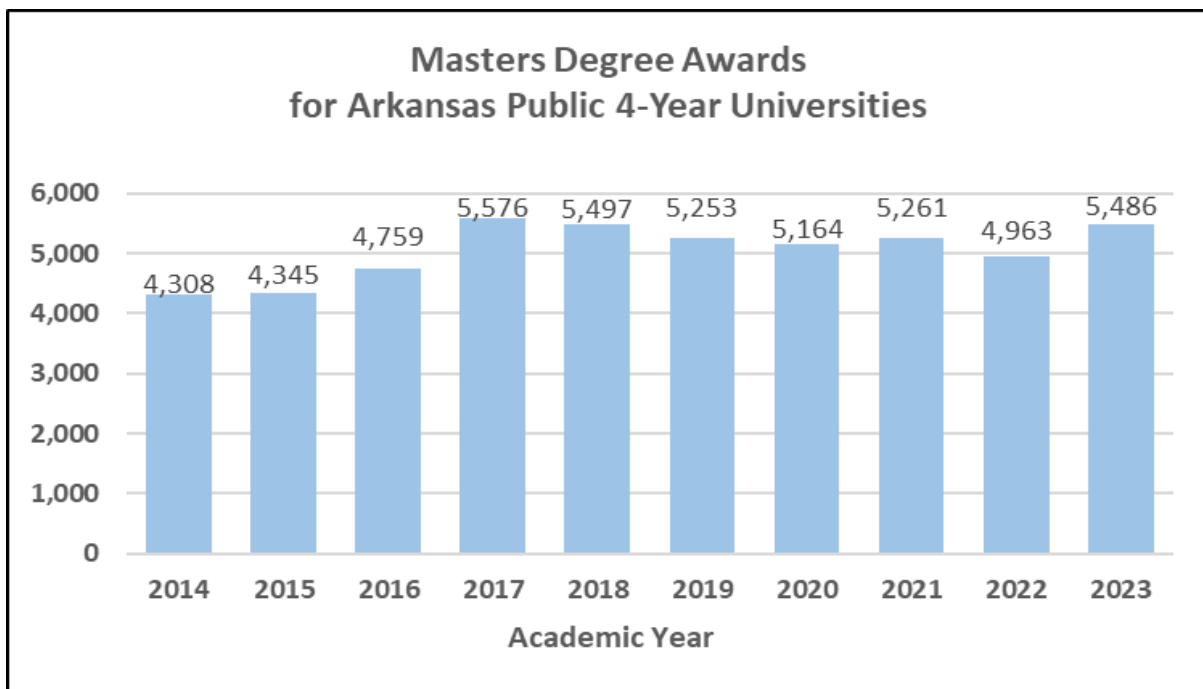


Chart 16-6: Ten-Year Trend of Masters Degrees

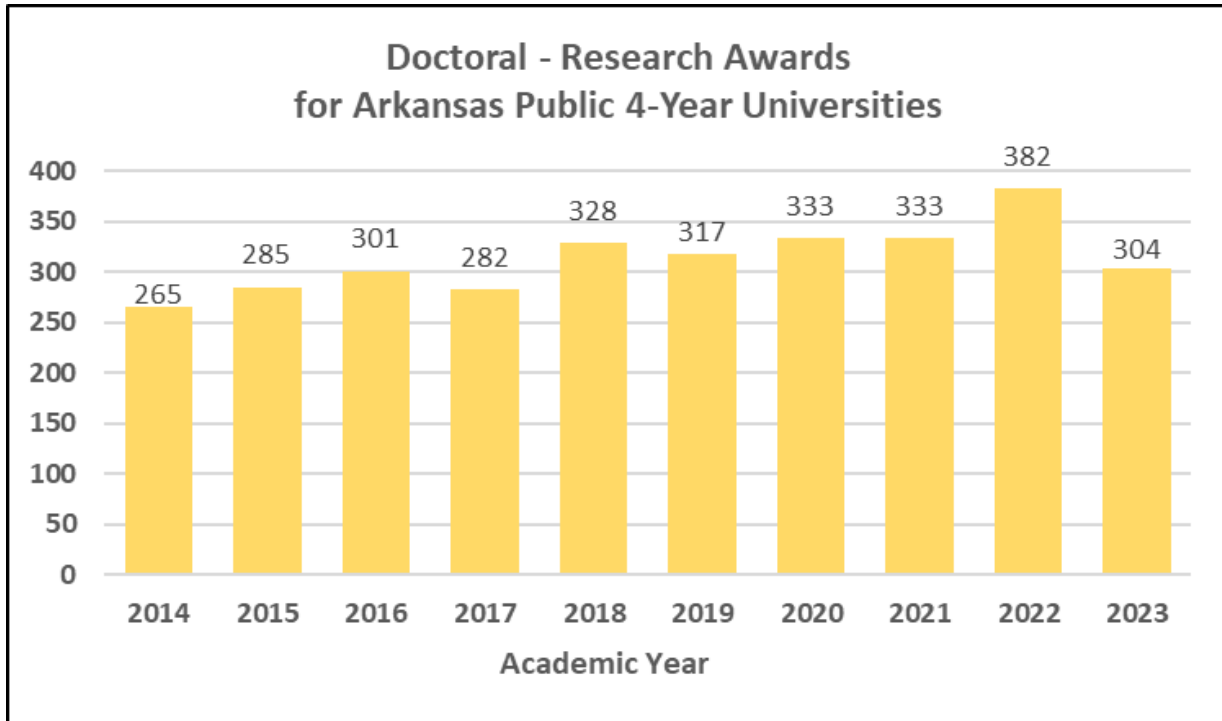


Chart 16-7: Ten-Year Trend of Doctoral – Research Degrees

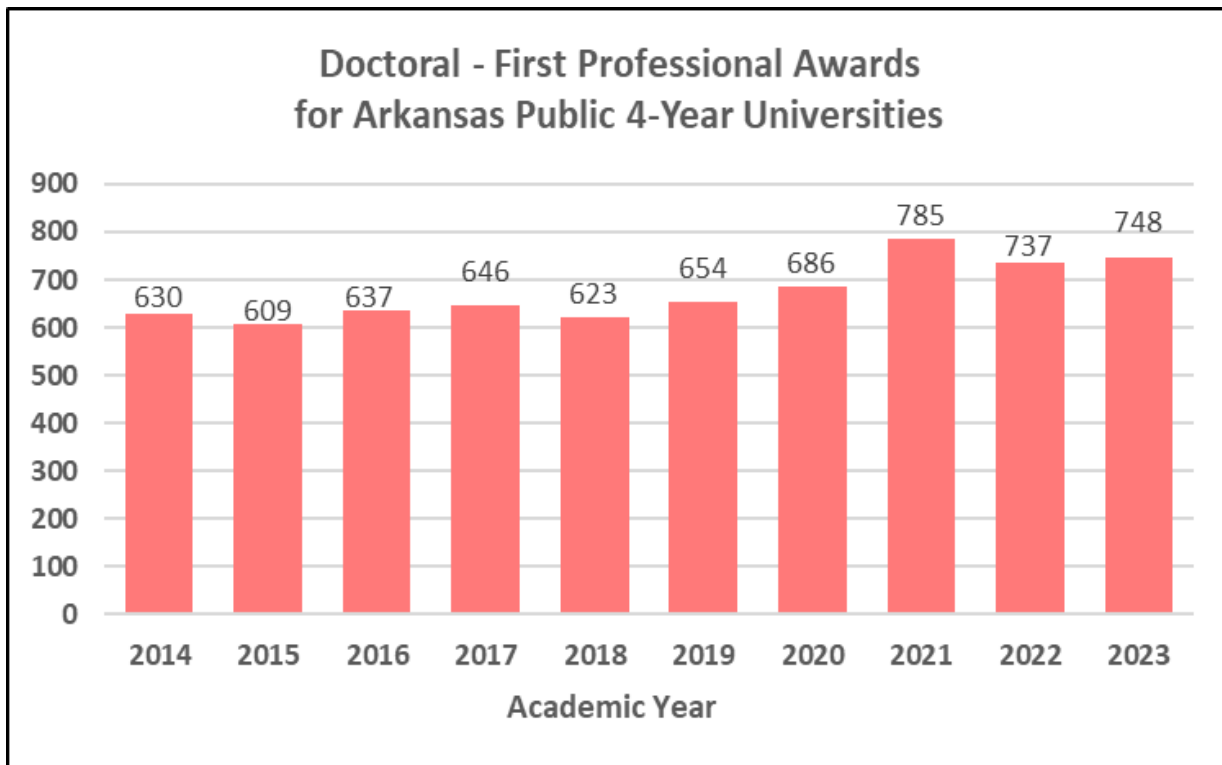


Chart 16-8: Ten-Year Trend of Doctoral – First-Professional Degrees

Agenda Item No. 16
 AHECB Quarterly Meeting
 October 27, 2023

The following chart depicts how many students are receiving multiple awards during 2023 for each public 4-year institution.

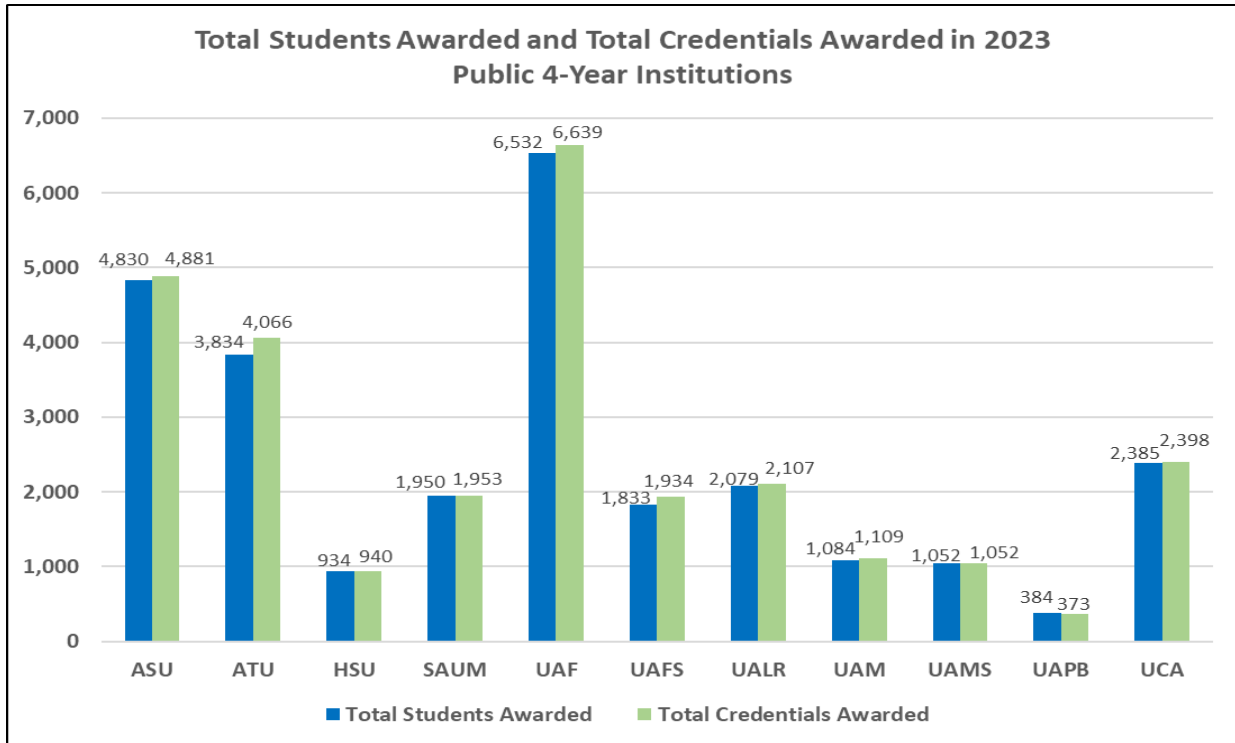


Chart 16-9: Total Students Awarded and Total Credentials Awarded in 2023

Charts 16-10 through 16-12 provide ten-year trends for the Public 2-Year Colleges.

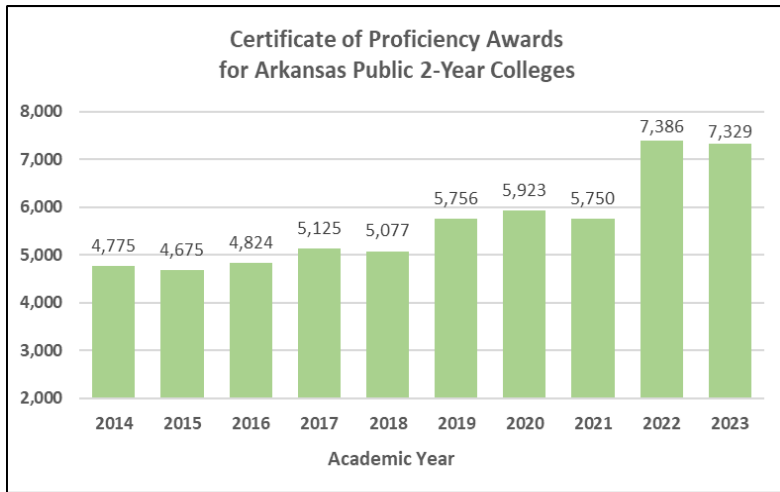


Chart 16-10: Ten-Year Trend of Certificates of Proficiency

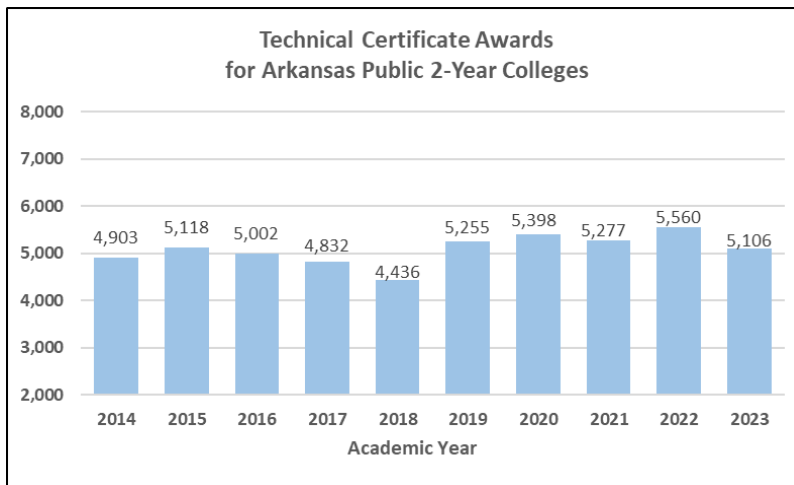


Chart 16-11: Ten-Year Trend of Technical Certificates

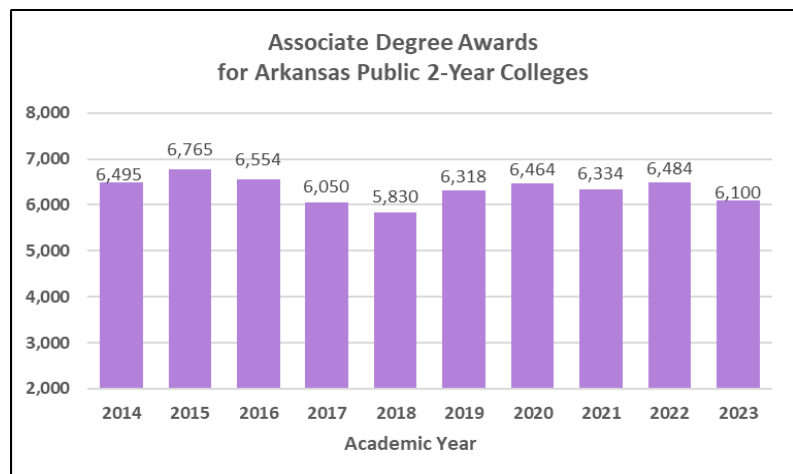


Chart 16-12: Ten-Year Trend of Associate Degrees

The charts below show a comparison between the number of credentials awarded in 2023 compared to the unduplicated number of students receiving those credentials.

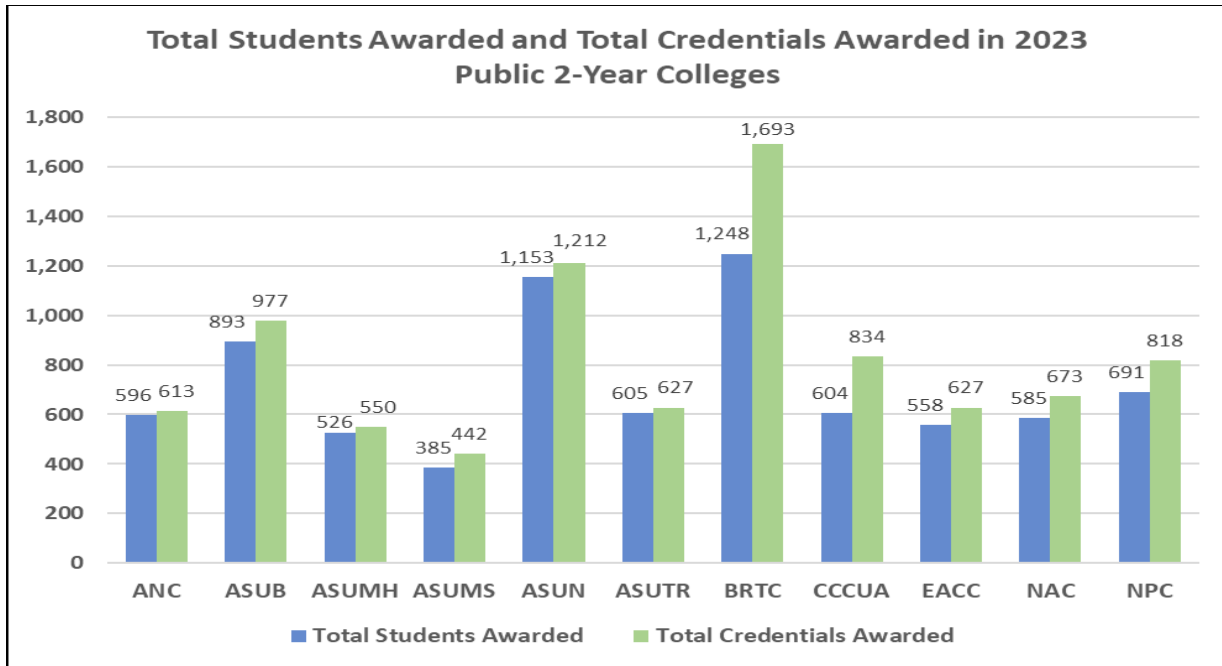


Chart 16-13: Total Students Awarded and Total Credentials Awarded

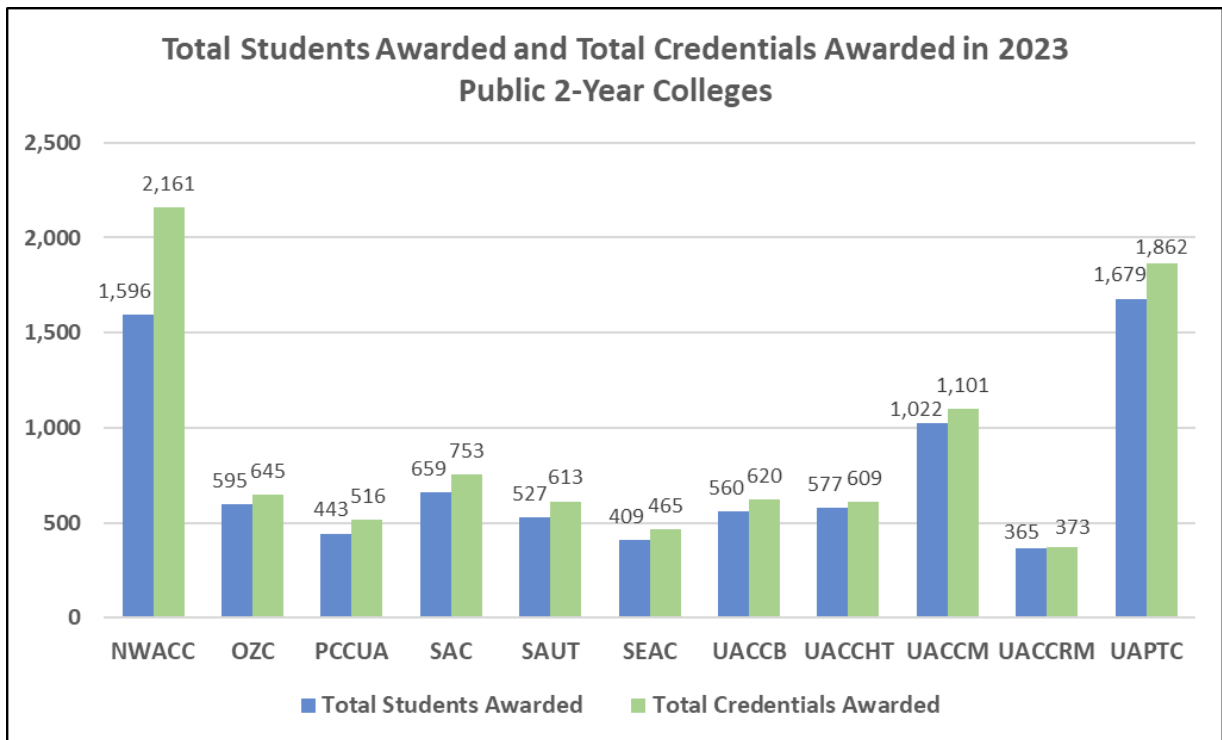


Chart 16-14: Total Students Awarded and Total Credentials Awarded

Credential Trends by Institution

Charts 16-15 through 16-24 provide a five-year history of total credit credentials awarded by each Arkansas institution.

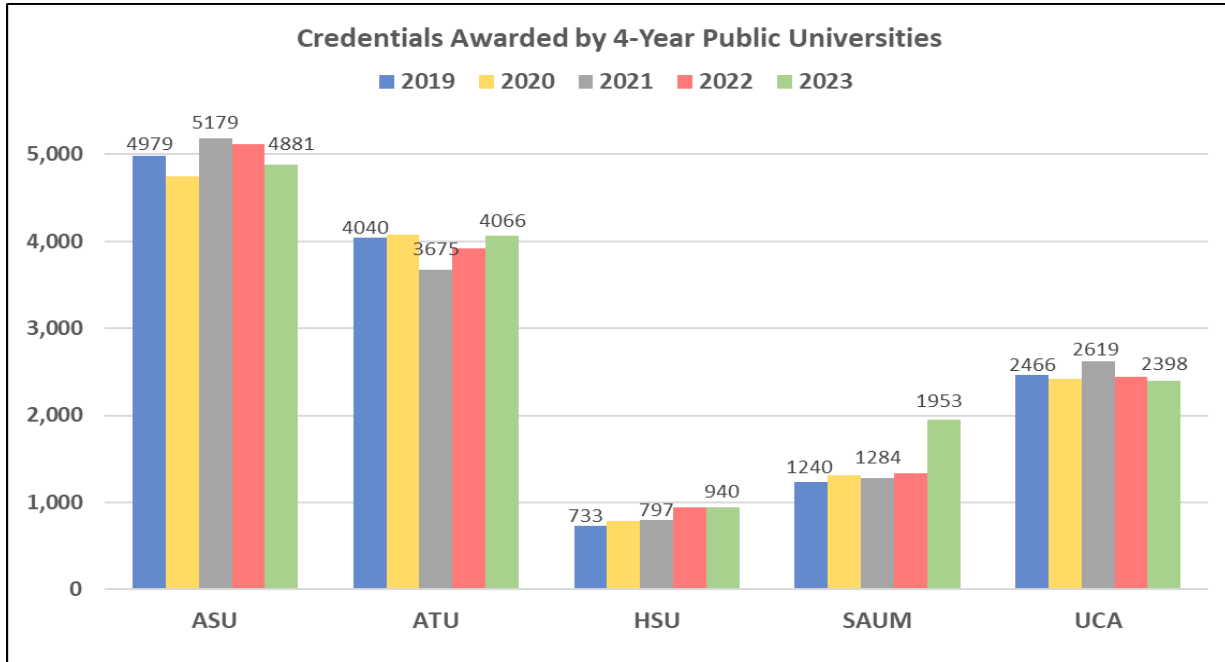


Chart 16-15: Credentials Awarded by 4-Year Public Universities

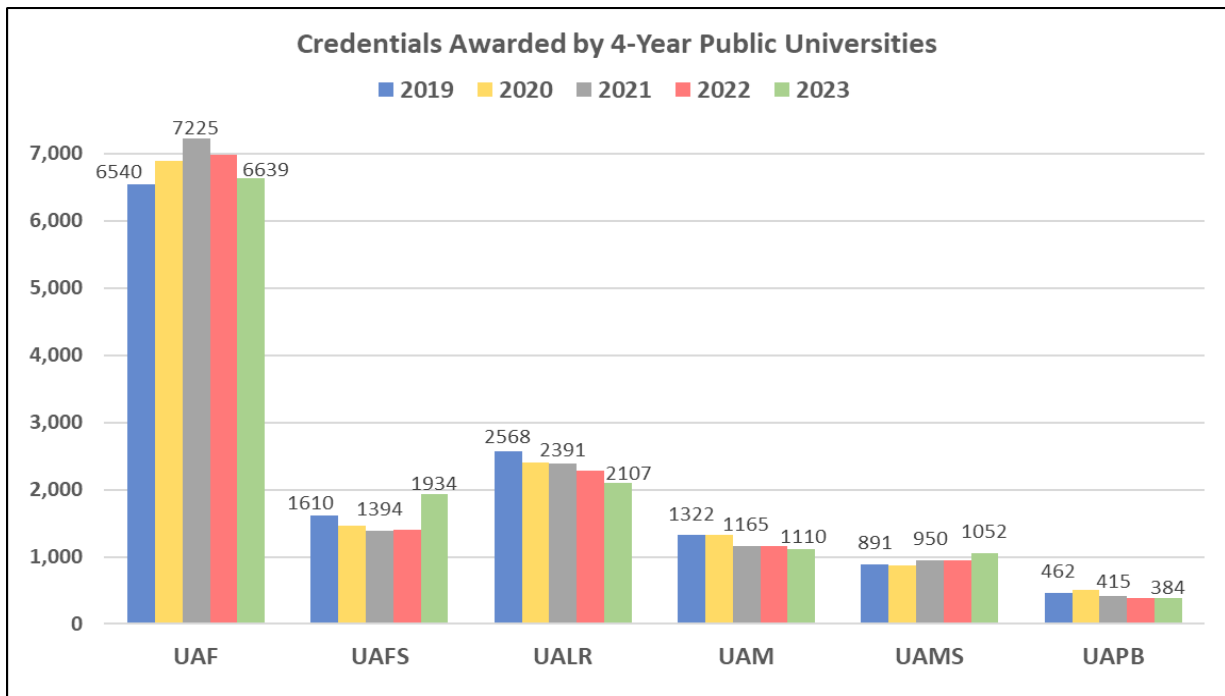


Chart 16-16: Credentials Awarded by 4-Year Public Universities

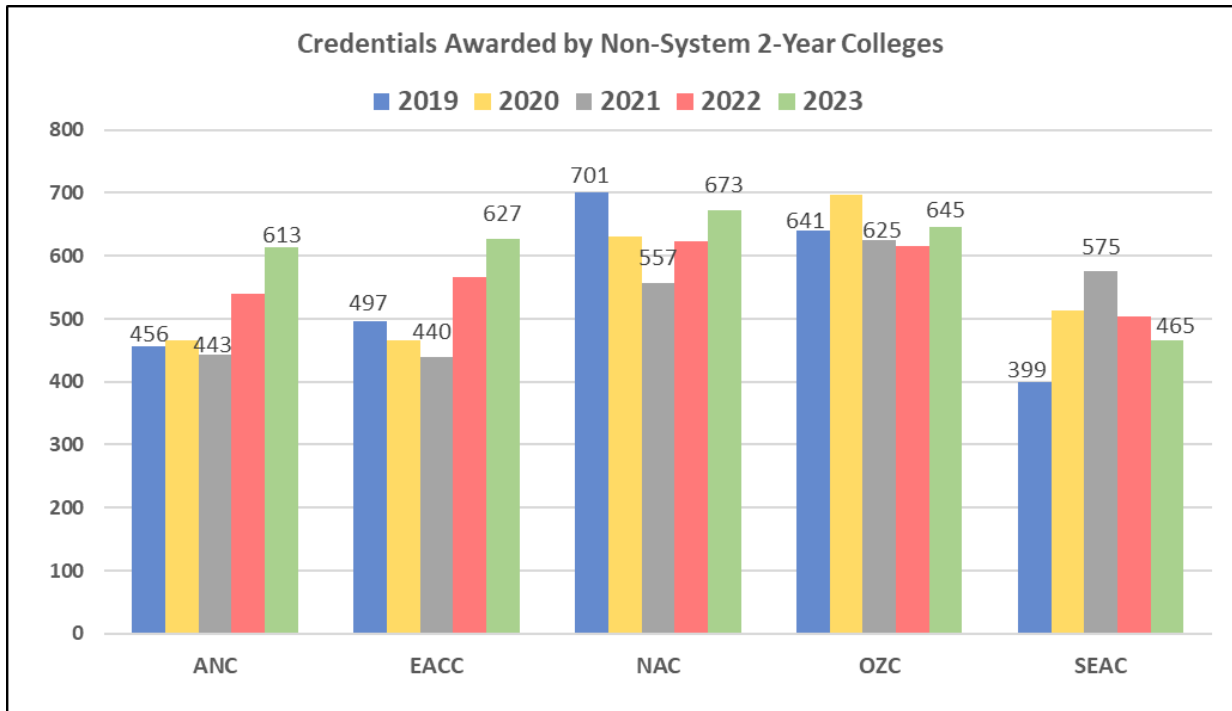


Chart 16-17: Credentials Awarded by 2-Year Colleges

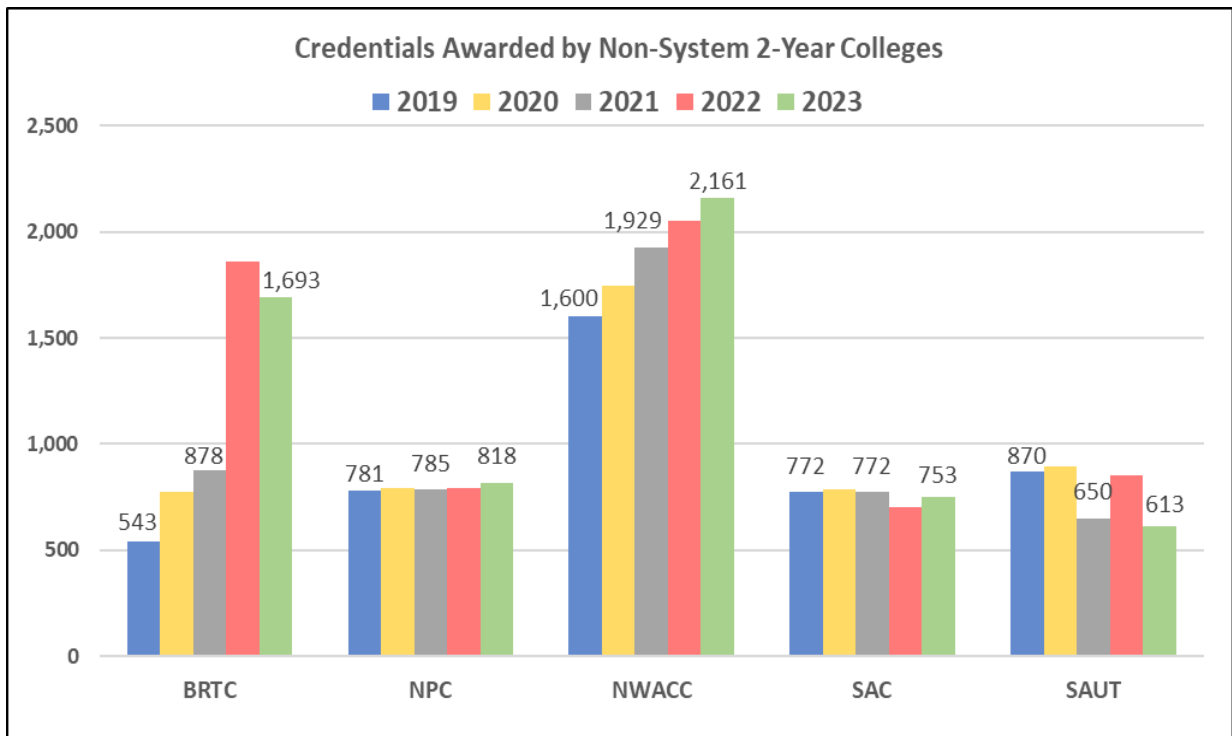


Chart 16-18: Credentials Awarded by 2-Year Colleges

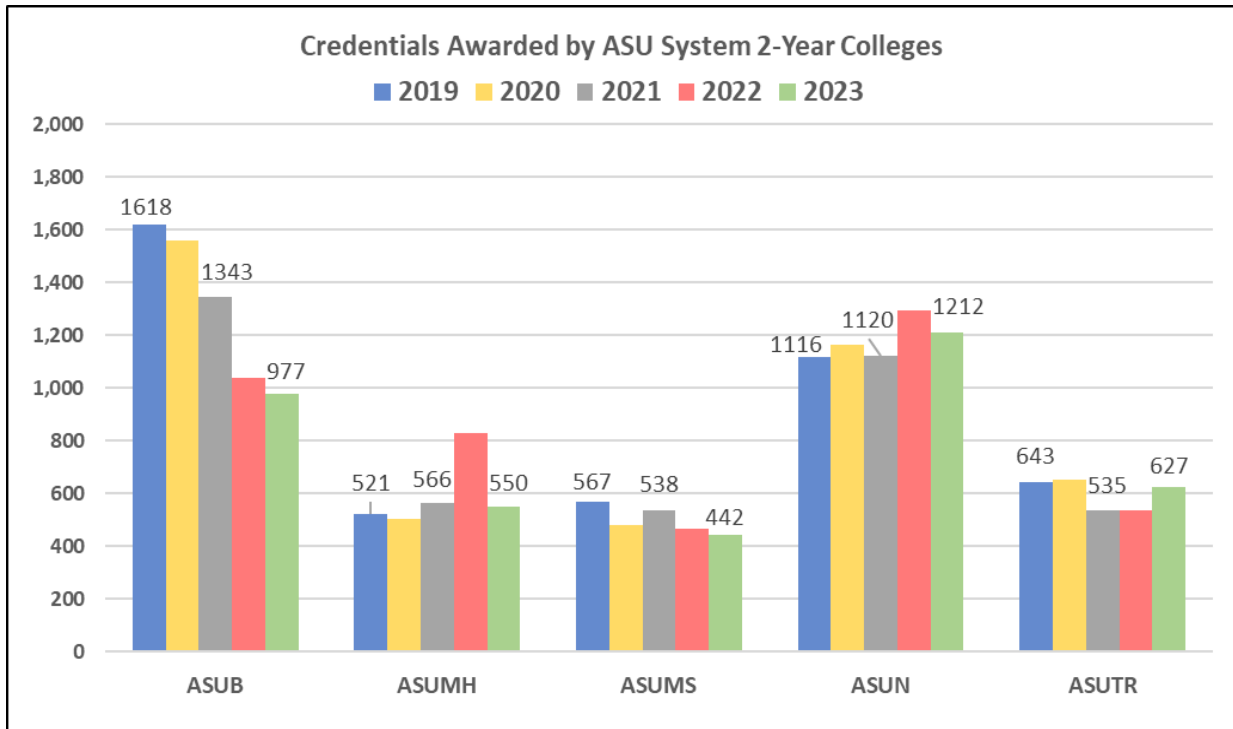


Chart 16-19: Credentials Awarded by ASU System 2-Year Colleges

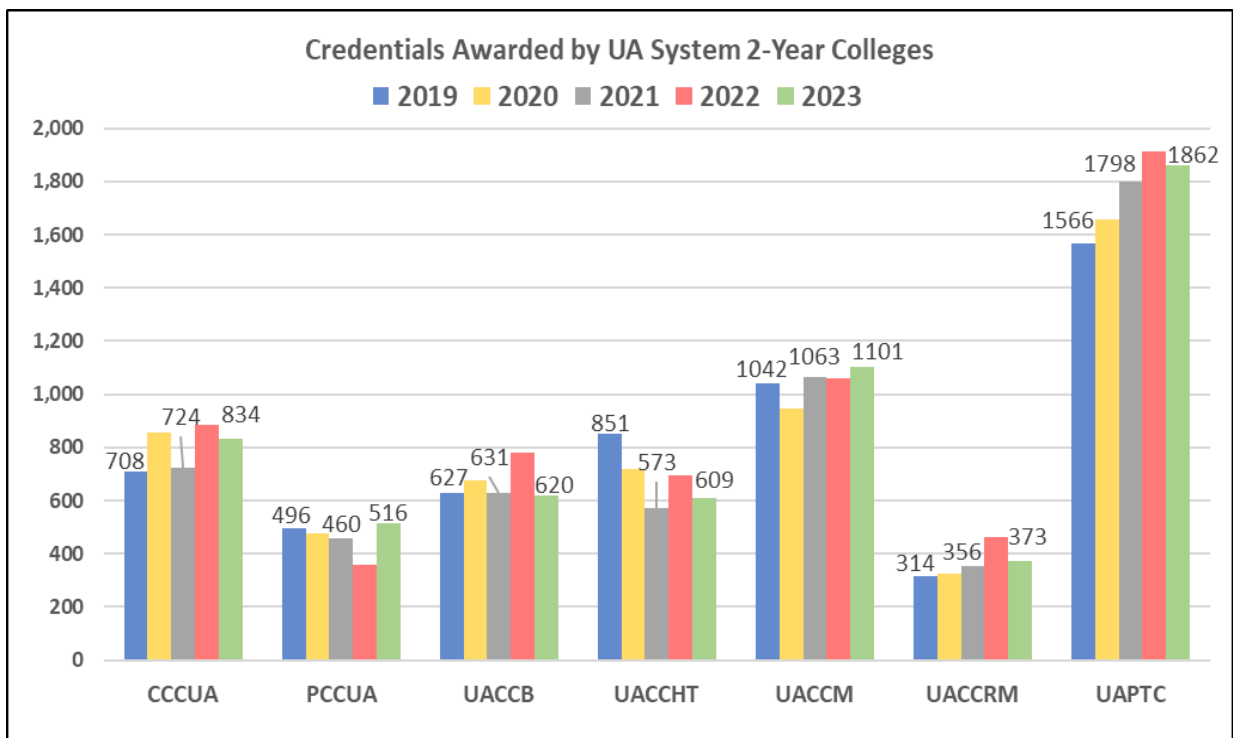


Chart 16-20: Credentials Awarded by UA System 2-Year Colleges

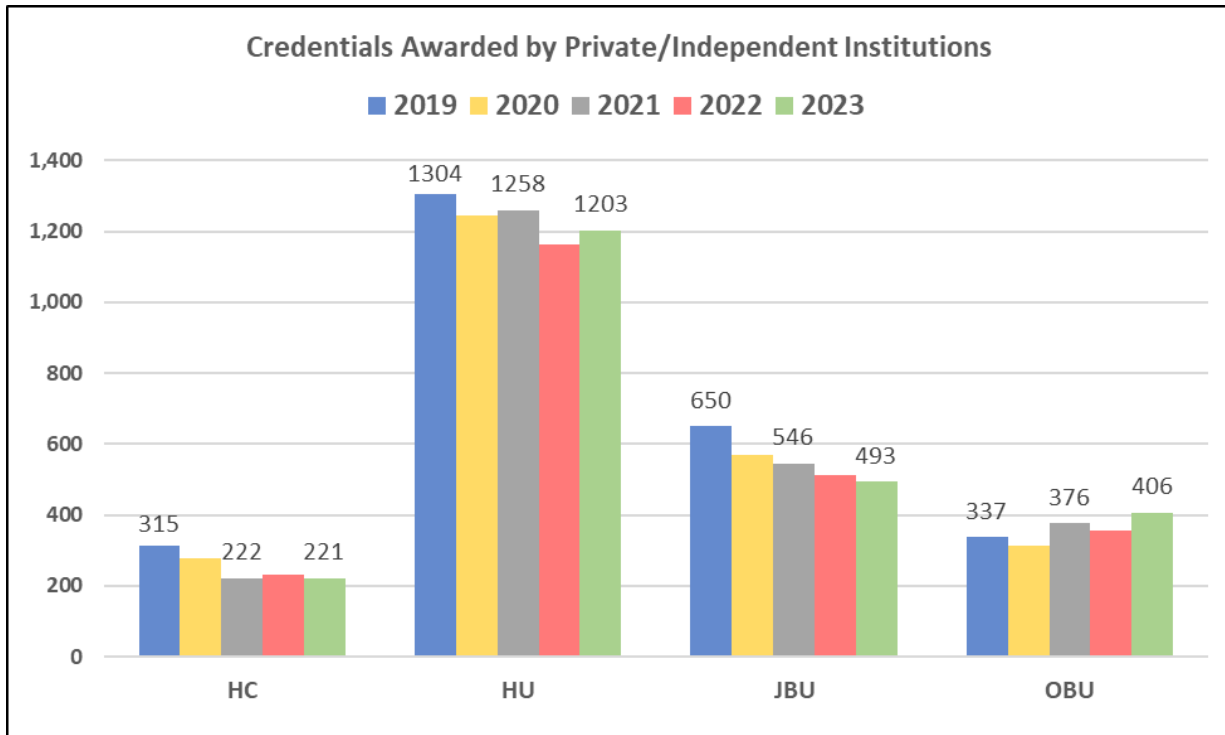


Chart 16-21: Credentials Awarded by Private/Independent Institutions

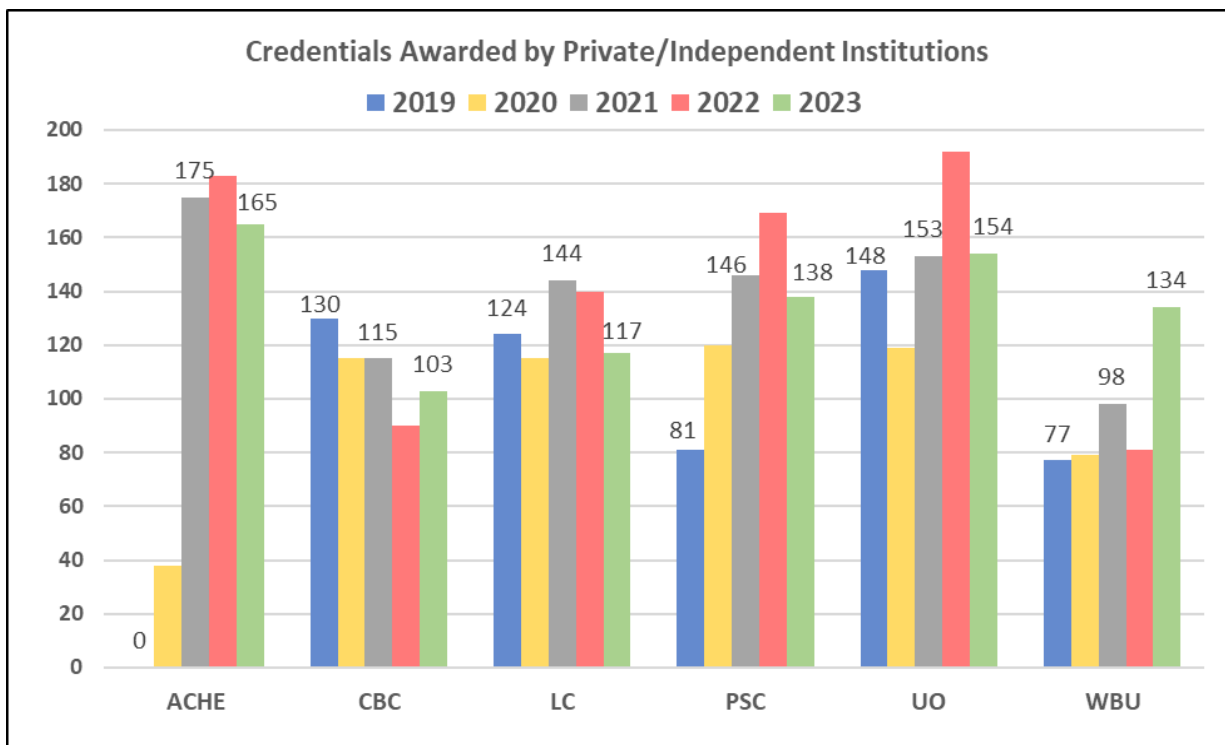


Chart 16-22: Credentials Awarded by Private/Independent Institutions

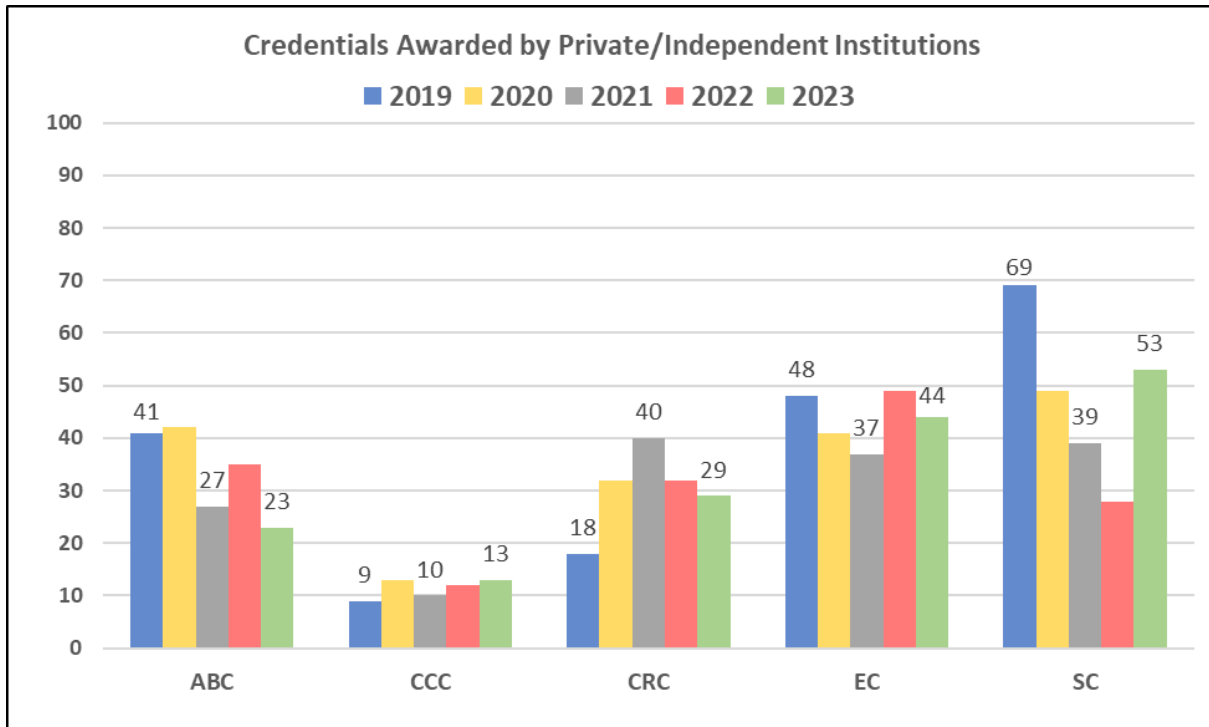


Chart 16-23: Credentials Awarded by Private/Independent Institutions

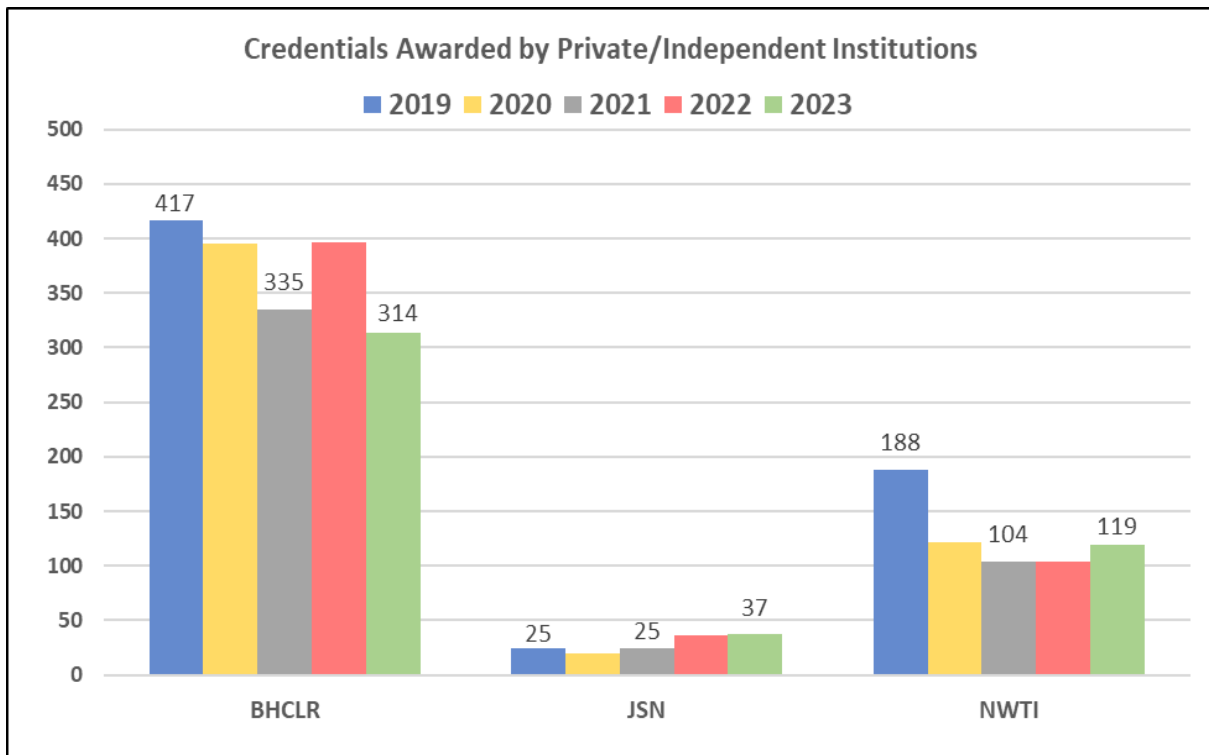


Chart 16-24: Credentials Awarded by Nursing Schools and Technical Institute