

Arkansas Higher Education 2017 Annual Comprehensive Report

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**Annual Report on College-going Rate of Public
School Graduates**



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REPORT ON THE COLLEGE-GOING RATE OF PUBLIC SCHOOL GRADUATES

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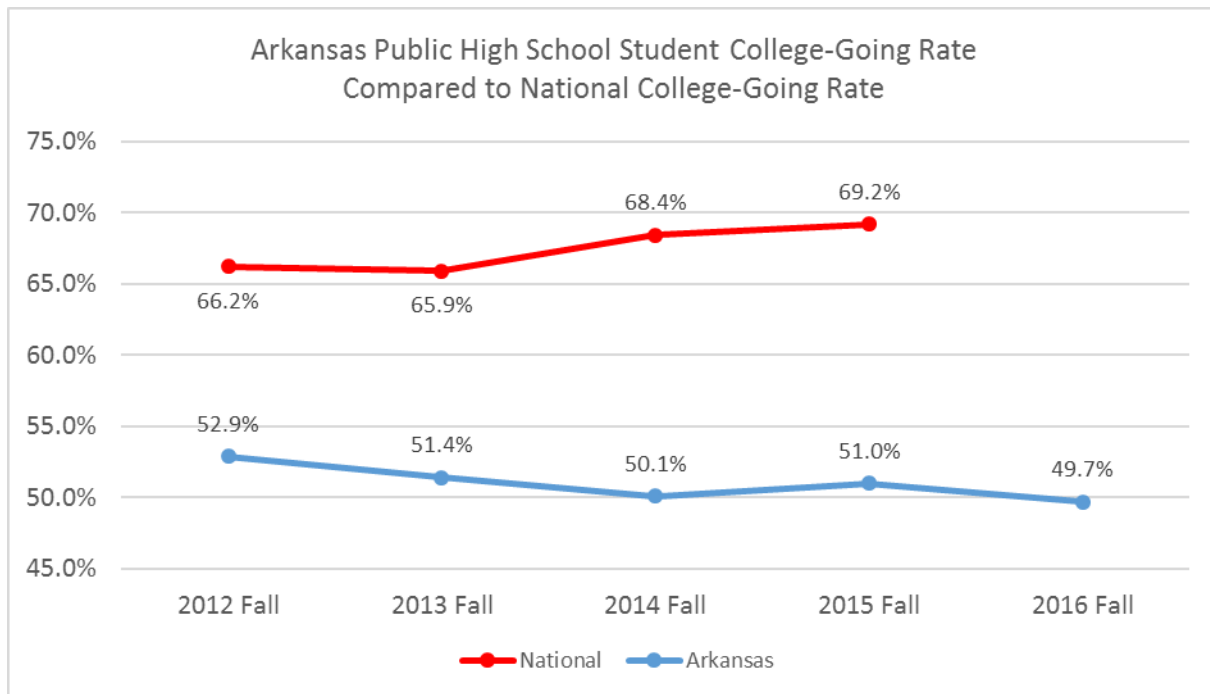
The college-going rate measures the proportion of students enrolling in postsecondary education in the fall semester after finishing high school, in most cases, immediately after high school. Since most students enrolling in postsecondary education do so immediately after completing high school, the college-going rate is an indicator of the total proportion that will or did enroll in postsecondary education. The percentage, therefore, reflects the accessibility of higher education as well as students' assessment of the value of attending college when compared to working, entering the military, traveling, or following other pursuits.

This methodology began with the 2010 Fall College-Going Rate report. It focuses on students who (1) graduated from an Arkansas public school district in Academic Year 2015-2016, (2) are first-time entering students in the 2016 Fall term, and (3) are Arkansas residents. This methodology more closely follows that used by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). However, there are three (3) differences:

- NCES filters by the age range of 16-24. ADHE ignores age but focuses on high school graduates from the previous year as most all high school graduates are between the ages of 16 and 24;
- NCES includes GED students as their report is based on a survey. ADHE does not have data on annual graduating classes of GED students, therefore,
- GED students are excluded; and
- Since the NCES report is a survey, it may include private high schools and home schooled students. ADHE has no data on annual graduating classes of private high schools or home schooled students.

ADHE obtains data on graduating classes of Arkansas public high schools (from the Arkansas Department of Education). **Therefore, the College-Going Rate calculation is for Arkansas public high school graduates only.**

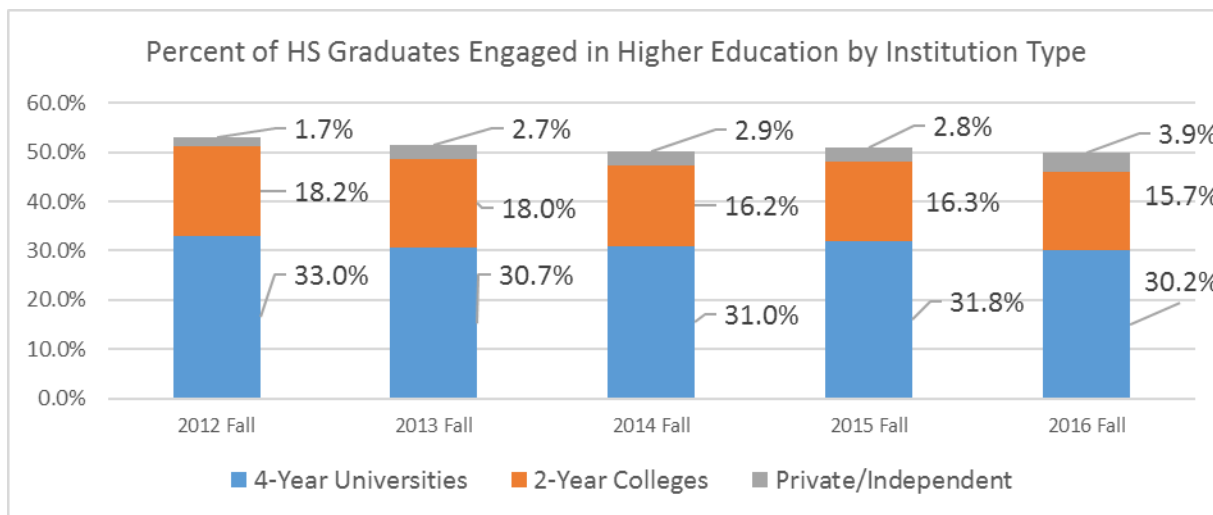
The public high school student college-going rate for all Arkansas **public and independent institutions** for the 2016 Fall term was **49.7 percent**. This represents a decrease of 1.3 percentage points from the previous fall term.



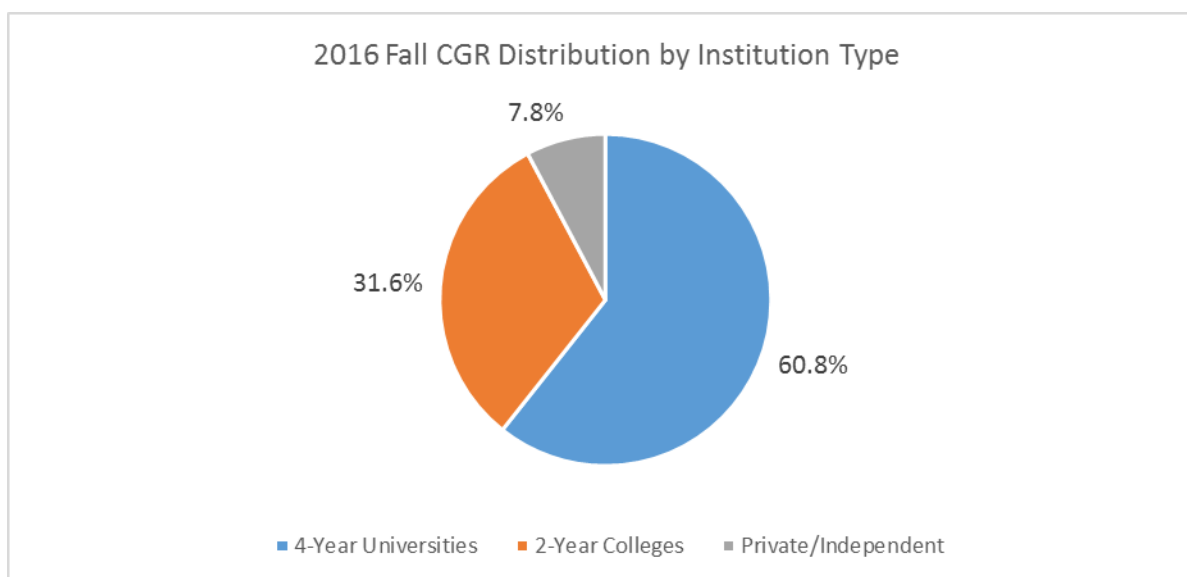
Arkansas experienced a 1.3% decrease (from 51.0% to 49.7%) in the 2016 College-Going Rate of public high school graduates. It should be noted that almost half of these are due to the number of public high school graduates dropping by 0.7% (equivalent to 218 students).

Term	Public HS Graduates	Those Entering College	CGR
2012 Fall	28,896	15,286	52.9%
2013 Fall	29,714	15,263	51.4%
2014 Fall	30,800	15,419	50.1%
2015 Fall	30,370	15,479	51.0%
2016 Fall	30,152	14,984	49.7%

Over five years, the share of CGR students at 4-Year Universities has decreased from 33.0 percent (2012) to 30.2 percent (a decrease of 2.8 percentage points). The share of CGR students at 2-Year Colleges has decreased from 18.2 percent (2012) to 15.7 percent (a decrease of 2.5 percentage points). The share of CGR students at Private/Independent Institutions has increased from 1.7 percent to 3.9 percent (an increase of 1.2 percentage points).



Of all CGR students (2016 public high school graduates), the majority enrolled in public 4-Year Universities. These represent a decrease of 1.7% for 4-Year Universities, a decrease of 0.4% for 2-Year Colleges, and an increase of 2.3% for Private/Independent institutions from last year's CGR by Institution Type.



Gender: As shown below, females go to college at higher rates than males.

Race/Ethnicity	AY2017 HS Graduates	College Going Rate	
		First-Time Students	Percent
Male	14,898	6,644	44.6%
Female	15,254	8,340	54.7%

Race/Ethnicity: As shown below, White and Asian student populations have the highest college-going rates.

Race/Ethnicity	AY2017 HS Graduates	College Going Rate	
		First-Time Students	Percent
Asian	533	313	58.7%
Black/African American	6,273	2,860	45.6%
Hispanic	3,041	1,163	38.2%
Native American/Alaskan Native	228	95	41.7%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	136	18	13.2%
Two or More Races	551	268	48.6%
White	19390	10267	52.9%

NOTE: This report does not take into account students who go to college out-of-state, out-of-country, or to institutions that do not participate in the AHEIS/SISDB reporting system.

Per NCES¹, students from the Low and Middle income groups do not go to college at rates comparable to students from the High income group.

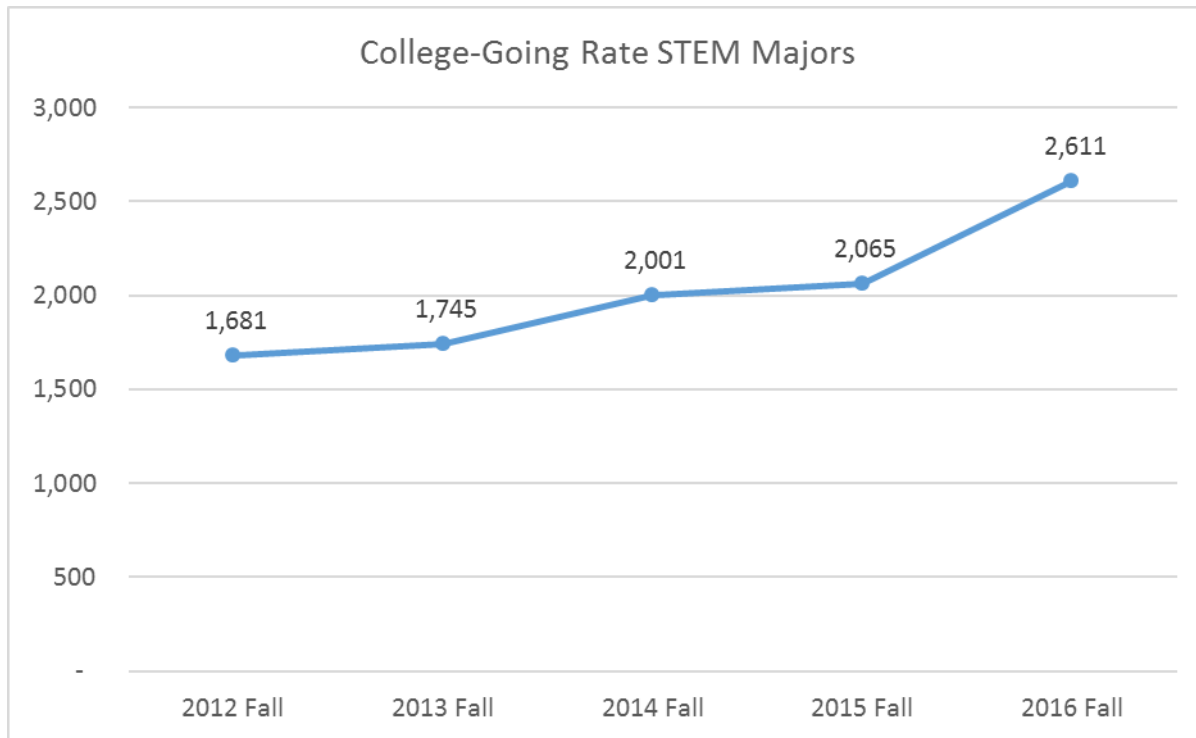
Income Group	2015
Low Income	69.2%
Middle Income	62.2%
High Income	83.2%
Total	69.2%

The below table shows the number of public high school graduates entering into their institution of choice for the 2016 Fall term. The top three 4-Year Universities were UAF, ATU, and UCA. The top three 2-Year Colleges were NWACC, PTC, and ASUB. The top three Private/Independent Institutions were OBU, HU, and HC.

ASUJ	ATU	HSU	SAUM	UAF	UAFS	UALR	UAM	UAMS	UAPB	UCA
1,153	1,484	568	564	1,900	782	579	330	FERPA	388	1,368
ANC	ASUB	ASUMH	ASUMS	ASUN	BRTC	CCCUA	CotO	EACC	NAC	NPC
148	396	148	120	229	204	185	101	100	299	197
NWACC	OZC	PCCUA	SACC	SAUT	SEAC	UACCB	UACCH	UACCM	UACCRM	UAPTC
836	85	127	41	164	103	211	185	369	83	404
ABC	CBC	CRC	EC	HC	HU	JBU	LC	OBU	PSC	SC
75	75	38	15	155	165	78	125	182	107	FERPA
UO	WBC									
86	60									

¹ National Center for Education Statistics, Digest of Education Statistics, 2015, Table 302.30: Percentage of recent high school completers enrolled in 2-year and 4-year colleges, by income level: 1975 through 2015.

Many first-time entering students major in STEM fields. The following graph illustrates the growth of first-time entering STEM majors who recently graduated from a public high school.



While most institutions have students seeking STEM degrees, a few institutions attract the majority of STEM students. Shown below are the top six 4-Year Universities and 2-Year Colleges that attract the majority of new STEM students.

STEM Majors at 4-Year Universities					STEM Majors at 2-Year Colleges				
Inst.	Last 5 Years		2016 Fall		Inst.	Last 5 Years		2016 Fall	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
ATU	1,855	19.0%	385	16.9%	UACCM	266	16.4%	23	9.7%
UAF	1,628	16.7%	418	18.3%	NWACC	231	14.2%	34	14.4%
UCA	1,489	15.3%	352	15.4%	UAPTC	177	10.9%	74	31.4%
ASUJ	1,368	14.0%	283	12.4%	SAUT	158	9.7%	37	15.7%
UAFS	881	9.0%	206	9.0%	ASUB	137	8.4%	24	10.2%
HSU	738	7.6%	168	7.4%	NAC	108	6.7%	27	11.4%
Total	7,959	81.7%	1812	79.4%	Total	1,077	66.4%	219	92.8%

The following table shows that Arkansas has returned from #14 to #11 out of 16 SREB states for the percentage of 18-24 year olds attending higher education institutions. This is noted in the increase from 37.2% in 2015 to 38.5% in 2016.

Percentage of 18- to 24-year-olds enrolled in degree-granting postsecondary institutions: 2015 SREB States Only		
State	Percent	Rank
United States	42.5	NA
Maryland	47.5	1
Delaware	47.2	2
Virginia	43.6	3
Florida	42.1	4
Alabama	41.5	5
West Virginia	40.8	6
Mississippi	40.5	7
West Virginia	39.8	8
South Carolina	39.6	9
Tennessee	39.4	10
Arkansas	38.5	11
Louisiana	38.0	12
Georgia	37.7	13
Kentucky	37.7	14
Texas	37.1	15
Oklahoma	36.8	16
Source: NCES, Digest of Education Statistics, Table 302.65.(12/16)		

ADHE Executive Staff recommends that the AHECB accept this report.