

Arkansas Division of Higher Education

Annual Report of College-Going Rate at Arkansas Institutions of Higher Education

Academic Year 2018-19



Research & Analytics

December 2019

Arkansas Division of Higher Education

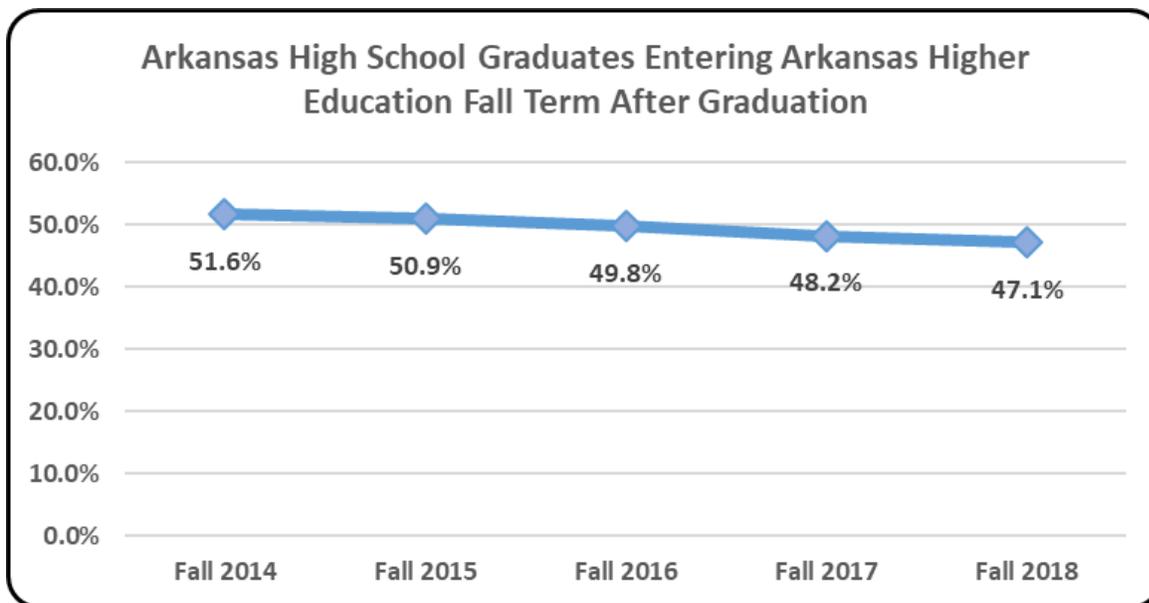
423 Main Street, Little Rock, AR 72201

ANNUAL REPORT OF ARKANSAS PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES ENROLLING IN ARKANSAS PUBLIC OR PRIVATE HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

The college-going rate measures the proportion of students enrolling in postsecondary education in the fall semester after finishing high school. 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 or following other pursuits.

This report is a collaboration between the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and the Division of Higher Education (ADHE) of the Arkansas Department of Education. ADHE received 2018 public high school graduate data from DESE and combined it with Fall 2018 data submitted to ADHE from all Arkansas public and private institutions. The College-Going Rate calculations provided include only students graduating from an Arkansas Public High School or Public Charter High School.

Of the 31,745 public high school students graduating from an Arkansas public high school in 2018, 14,965 enrolled at an Arkansas public or private/independent institution in Fall 2018, the fall term immediately following their high school graduation. This represents a College-Going Rate of 47.1%, which is a 1.1% decrease from the previous year of 48.2%.



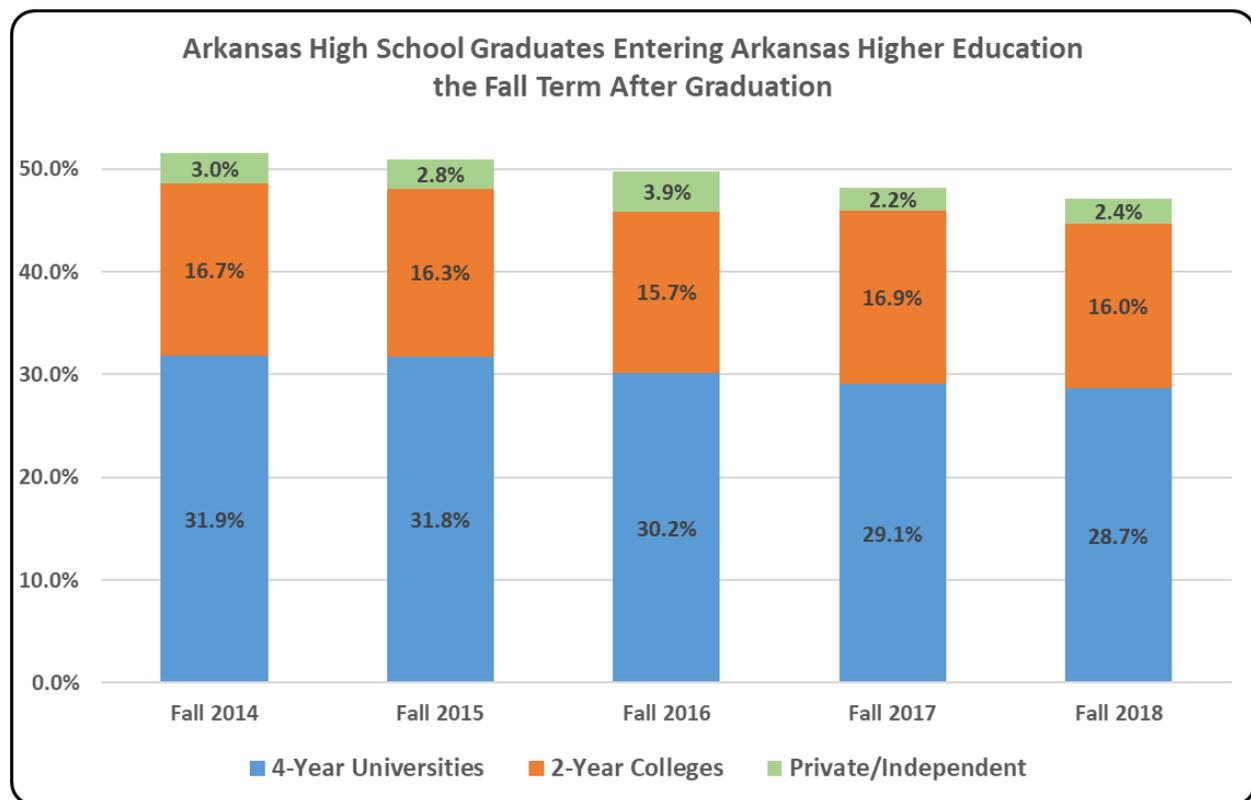
Arkansas experienced a 4.5% decline (from 51.6% to 47.1%) in the College-Going Rate of public high school graduates over the past five years.

The table below provides the actual number of Arkansas public high school graduates along with the total number of students entering Arkansas public and private higher education. The CGR column represents the college-going rate for that year.

Term	Public HS Graduates	Those Entering College	CGR
Fall 2014	30,800	15,889	51.6%
Fall 2015	30,370	15,470	50.9%
Fall 2016	30,152	15,001	49.8%
Fall 2017	31,315	15,094	48.2%
Fall 2018	31,745	14,965	47.1%

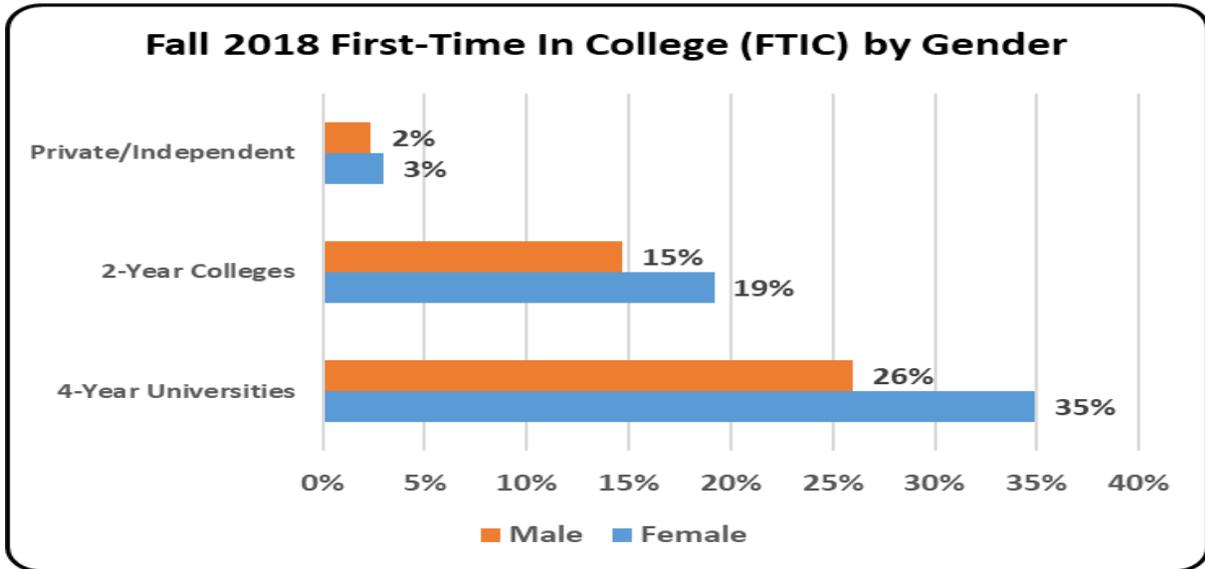
Our college-going rate has been on a steady, but slight decline for the past four years, and it is important to note that the current economy does not affect our traditional aged students who attend college right after high school like it does our non-traditional aged students. The enrollment declines experienced by many of our colleges has been in the non-traditional, adult student population.

Over five years, the share of students who did enroll in college at 4-Year Universities decreased from 31.9% in Fall 2014 to 28.7% in Fall 2018. The share of enrolled students at 2-Year Colleges has held steady at around 16%. The share of students attending our Private/Independent Institutions ranges from 2.2% to 3.9%.

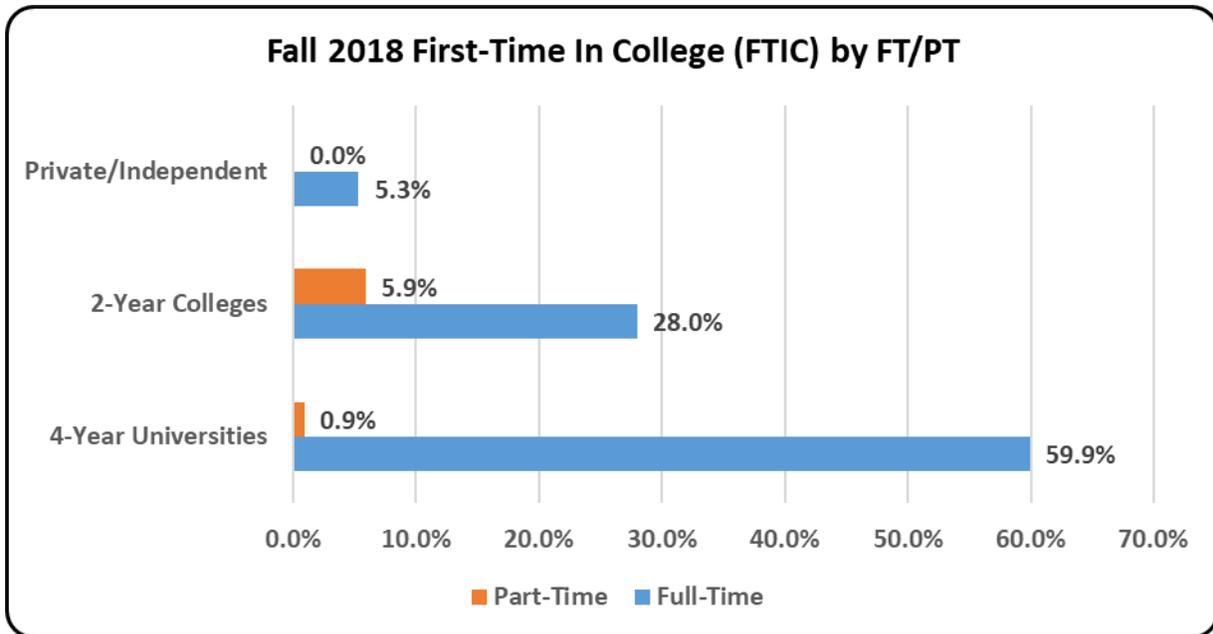


The following charts provide demographic information for the Spring 2018 High School Graduate cohort who entered Arkansas Public and Private/Independent institutions in Arkansas in the fall 2018 semester.

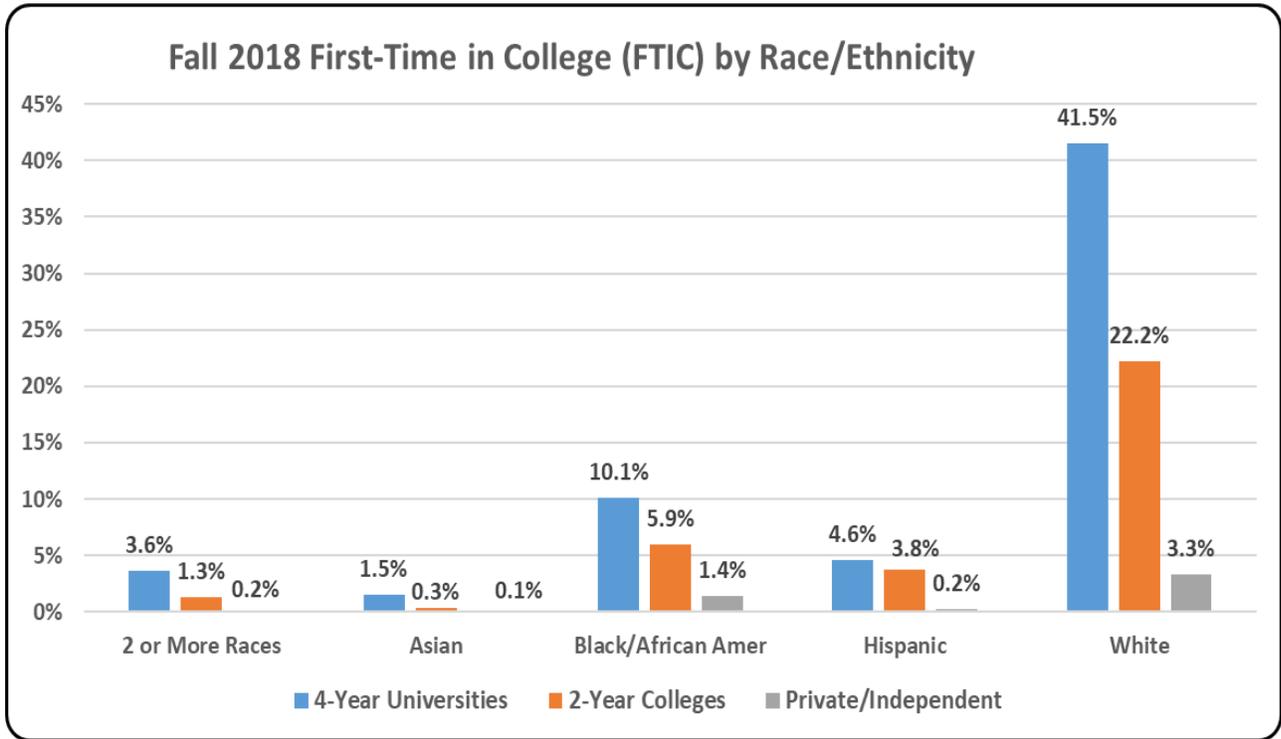
Gender: As shown below, of the Spring 2018 High School Graduate cohort, females go to college at higher rates than males. These percentages are consistent with prior year percentages.



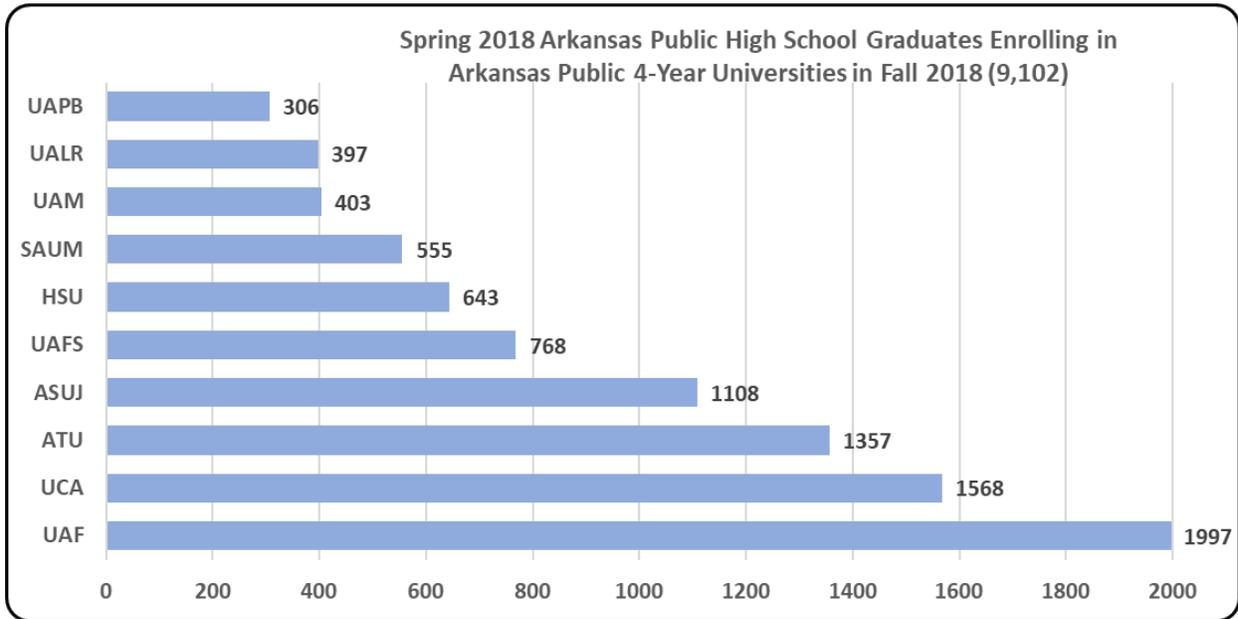
Attendance Status: Only 6.8% of students entering college immediately after high school enrolled part-time. This is typical for students enrolling in higher education the semester after graduating high school.



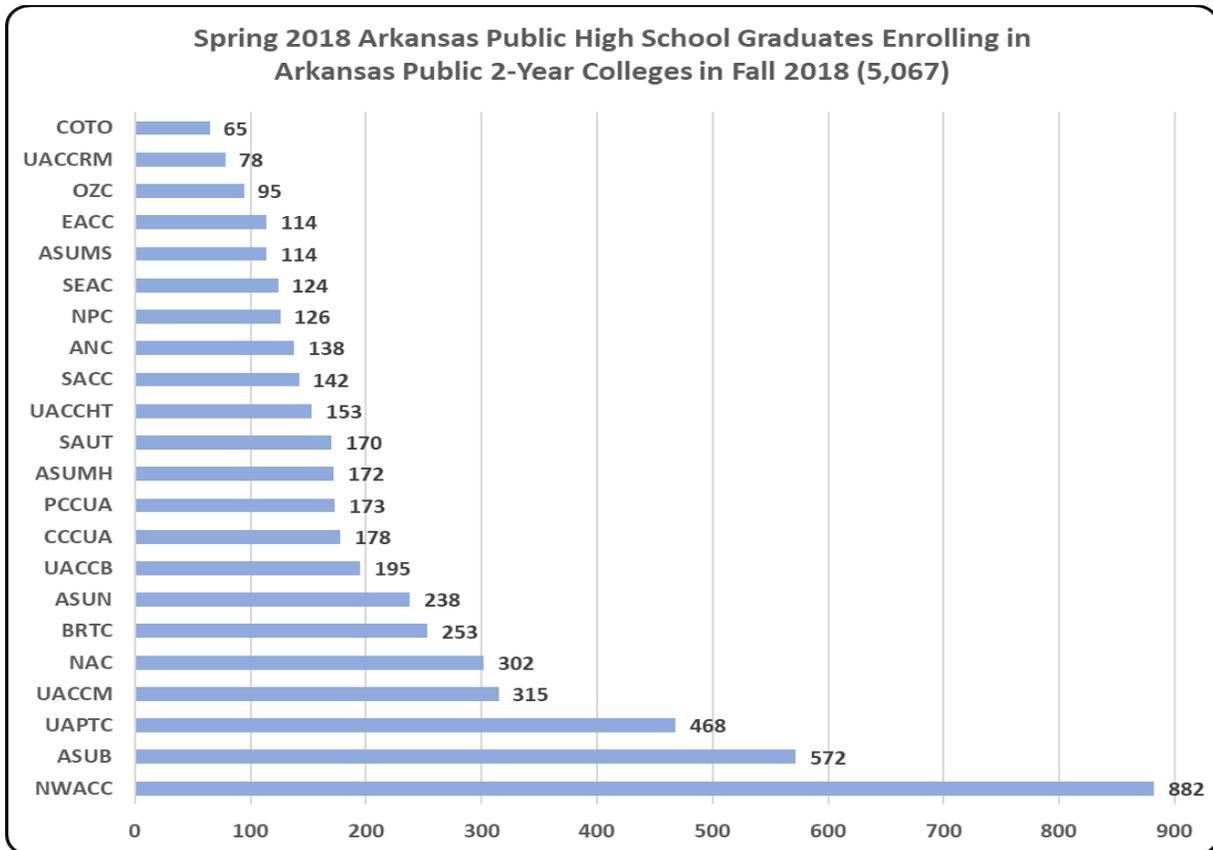
Race/Ethnicity: The race/ethnicity percentages below represent the proportion of the students who entered an Arkansas Higher Education college or university.



The table below shows the number of Spring 2018 public high school graduates entering into their 4-Year university of choice for the Fall 2018 term. The UAF enrolled almost 2,000 students, followed by UCA, ATU and ASUJ.

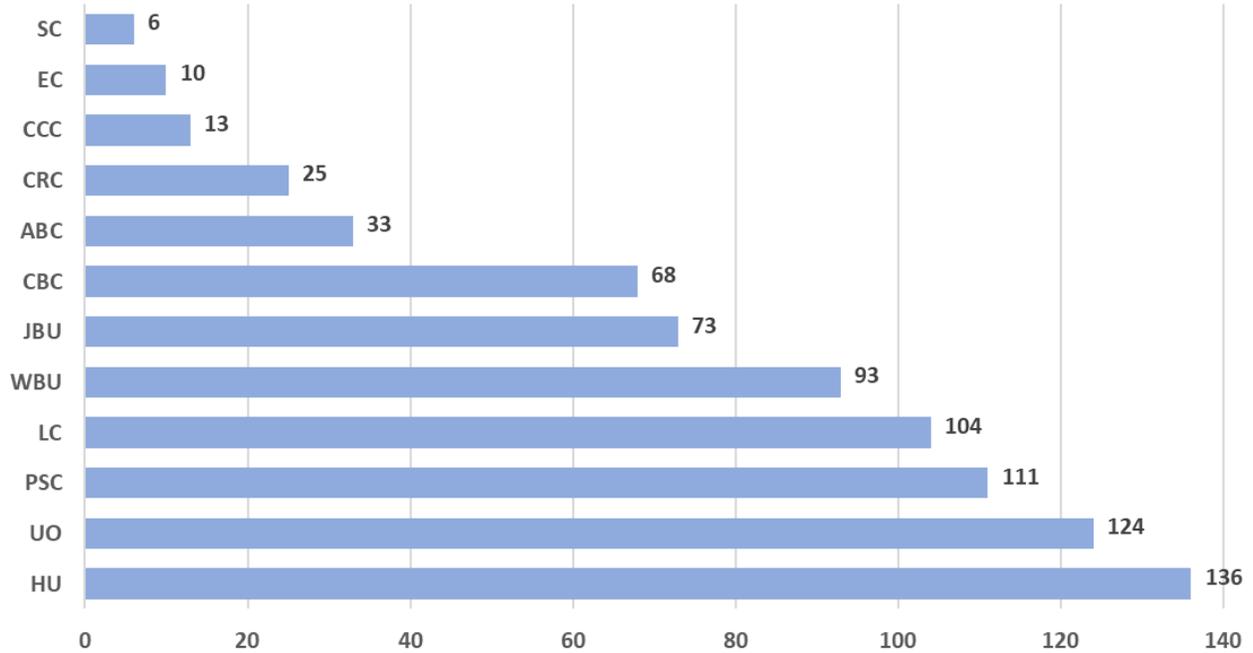


The top three 2-Year Colleges were NWACC, ASUB, and UAPTC.



The following data represents the first time in college students entering our private and independent institutions in Fall 2018. The top three Private/Independent Institutions were HU, UO and PSC.

Spring 2018 Arkansas Public High School Graduates Enrolling in
Arkansas Private Colleges in Fall 2018 (796)



State government transformation will allow for additional analysis and a more detailed college-going rate report next year. Data are being collected from the National Student Clearinghouse, which will provide insight into the colleges and universities our public high school graduates are attending out of state. It is anticipated that the Spring 2019 public high school graduates college going rate report will include the out of state college attendance information.

ADHE Executive Staff recommends that the AHECB accept this report.