



## Division of Higher Education

423 Main Street, Suite 400 • Little Rock, Arkansas • 72201-3818 • (501) 371-2000 • Fax (501) 371-2001

Johnny Key  
Secretary

Maria Markham, Ph.D.  
Director

December 8, 2021

The Honorable Ronald Caldwell, Chair  
The Honorable Gary Deffenbaugh, Chair  
ALC - Lottery Oversight Committee  
State Capitol Building  
Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Senator Caldwell and Representative Deffenbaugh:

Pursuant to Arkansas Code Annotated 6-85-205 (g) (1) (A), I am submitting for your review the enclosed report on the status of Academic Challenge students for fiscal Year 2021. Students had until October 1, 2021 to provide documentation that they had completed summer coursework to maintain their eligibility.

The attached report shows the current status of all students who received an Academic Challenge award in the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2021.

Should you require additional information, please let me know and we will be happy to provide.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Maria Markham".

Dr. Maria Markham  
Director



**Arkansas Department of Education - Division of Higher Education  
Academic Challenge Scholarship Program  
Award Data**

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022 Projected
<b>TOTAL</b>	34,969	34,654	33,225	33,010	32,486	31,649	30,580	31,000
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	\$ 99,775,110	\$ 96,488,723	\$ 86,199,891	\$ 91,957,592	\$ 92,601,611	\$ 90,631,361	\$ 87,659,121	\$ 91,000,000

**Arkansas Department of Education - Division of Higher Education**  
**Academic Challenge Scholarship Program**  
**Student Statuses – All Cohorts**  
**FISCAL 2021**

**Students by Status – All Cohorts**

	Current Status	Student Count	Average High School GPA	Average ACT	Average College GPA	Average Attempted Hours	Average Earned Hours	Average Student Income	Average Parent Income
Traditional	Completed	4,788	3.71	24.1	3.47	28	28	\$ 3,483	\$ 68,613
	Dropped	6,371	3.50	22.7	2.53	21	16	\$ 1,568	\$ 66,959
	Eligible	2,912	3.68	23.3	3.44	30	30	\$ 1,817	\$ 74,285
	Overall-Summary	14,071	3.63	23.4	3.14	27	24	\$ 2,290	\$ 69,953
Non-Traditional	Completed	1,071	3.33	21.5	3.33	24	24	\$ 17,104	\$ 39,449
	Dropped	709	3.03	20.8	2.65	17	12	\$ 12,096	\$ 33,346
	Eligible	404	3.00	19.6	3.37	25	25	\$ 16,890	\$ 26,246
	Overall-Summary	2,184	3.12	20.6	3.12	22	20	\$ 15,364	\$ 33,014
All Categories	Completed	5,859	3.66	23.8	3.44	28	27	\$ 5,973	\$ 63,282
	Dropped	7,080	3.46	22.6	2.54	21	15	\$ 2,623	\$ 63,593
	Eligible	3,316	3.62	23.0	3.43	30	29	\$ 3,654	\$ 68,432
	Overall-Summary	16,255	3.58	23.1	3.14	26	24	\$ 4,083	\$ 65,103

**Student Status by Gender – All Cohorts**

	Current Status	Student Count	
		#	%
All Categories	Completed	5,859	36.0%
	Dropped	7,080	43.6%
	Eligible	3,316	20.4%
	Overall-Summary	16,255	100.0%

Male		Female		Unknown Gender	
#	%	#	%	#	%
2,131	33.0%	3,674	37.8%	54	58.7%
3,137	48.6%	3,922	40.4%	21	22.8%
1,185	18.4%	2,114	21.8%	17	18.5%
6,453	100.0%	9,710	100.0%	92	100.0%

*Note: Counts of 10 or fewer are not shown due to FERPA restrictions.*

**Student Status by Race/Ethnicity – All Cohorts**

	Current Status	Student Count	American Indian or		Asian/Pacific		Black (Non-		Hispanic		White (Non-		2 or More Races		Unknown Race	
			#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%		
All Categories	Completed	5,859	32	35.2%	121	36.2%	538	26.0%	400	30.1%	4,320	38.2%	187	30.7%	261	50.2%
	Dropped	7,080	34	37.4%	103	30.8%	922	44.5%	655	49.3%	4,903	43.4%	301	49.4%	162	31.2%
	Eligible	3,316	25	27.5%	110	32.9%	612	29.5%	274	20.6%	2,077	18.4%	121	19.9%	97	18.7%
	Overall-Summary	16,255	91	100.0%	334	100.0%	2,072	100.0%	1,329	100.0%	11,300	100.0%	609	100.0%	520	100.0%

*Note: Counts of 10 or fewer are not shown due to FERPA restrictions.*

**Arkansas Department of Education – Division Higher Education**  
**Academic Challenge Scholarship Program**  
**Student Statuses – 2020-2021 Cohort**  
**FISCAL 2021**

**Students by Status – 2021 Cohort**

	Current Status	Student Count	Average High School GPA	Average ACT	Average College GPA	Average Attempted Hours	Average Earned Hours	Average Student Income	Average Parent Income
Traditional	Completed	18	3.65	22.3	0.00	0	0	\$ 848	\$ 76,002
	Dropped	3,045	3.40	22.5	2.22	20	14	\$ 1,126	\$ 79,883
	Eligible	1,033	3.72	23.6	3.46	30	29	\$ 864	\$ 86,429
	Overall-Summary	4,096	3.59	22.8	1.90	17	15	\$ 946	\$ 80,771
Non-Traditional	Completed	182	3.13	21.2	0.00	0	0	\$ 21,519	\$ 45,564
	Dropped	293	2.99	19.8	2.60	19	14	\$ 11,854	\$ 40,930
	Eligible	166	2.94	18.6	3.42	26	25	\$ 18,131	\$ 27,243
	Overall-Summary	641	3.02	19.9	2.01	15	13	\$ 17,168	\$ 37,912
All Categories	Completed	200	3.21	21.4	0.00	0	0	\$ 19,659	\$ 48,303
	Dropped	3,338	3.37	22.3	2.26	20	14	\$ 2,068	\$ 76,464
	Eligible	1,199	3.64	23.2	3.46	29	29	\$ 3,254	\$ 78,235
	Overall-Summary	4,737	3.41	22.3	1.90	16	14	\$ 8,327	\$ 67,667

*Note: Counts of 10 or fewer are not shown due to FERPA restrictions.*

**Student Status by Gender – 2021 Cohort**

	Current Status	Student Count	
		#	%
All Categories	Completed	200	4.2%
	Dropped	3,338	70.5%
	Eligible	1,199	25.3%
	Overall-Summary	4,737	100.0%

Male		Female		Unknown Gender	
#	%	#	%	#	%
80	3.9%	116	4.3%	4	18.2%
1,492	73.6%	1,837	68.4%	9	40.9%
456	22.5%	734	27.3%	9	40.9%
2,028	100.0%	2,687	100.0%	22	100.0%

*Note: Counts of 10 or fewer are not shown due to FERPA restrictions.*

**Student Status by Race/Ethnicity – 2020 Cohort**

	Current Status	Student Count	American Indian or		Asian/Pacific		Black (Non-		Hispanic		White (Non-		2 or More Races		Unknown Race	
			#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
All Categories	Completed	200	3	12.5%	3	3.5%	33	5.3%	19	4.2%	116	3.6%	11	6.1%	15	14.0%
	Dropped	3,338	15	62.5%	46	53.5%	387	61.9%	311	69.0%	2,391	73.2%	129	72.1%	59	55.1%
	Eligible	1,199	6	25.0%	37	43.0%	205	32.8%	121	26.8%	758	23.2%	39	21.8%	33	30.8%
	Overall-Summary	4,737	24	100.0%	86	100.0%	625	100.0%	451	100.0%	3,265	100.0%	179	100.0%	107	100.0%

*Note: Counts of 10 or fewer are not shown due to FERPA restrictions.*