



**Division of Higher Education**

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Johnny Key  
Secretary

Maria Markham, Ph.D.  
Director

November 5, 2020

The Honorable Joyce Elliott, Chair  
The Honorable Laurie Rushing, Chair  
ALC - Lottery Oversight Committee  
State Capitol Building  
Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Senator Elliott and Representative Rushing:

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 2020. Students had until October 1, 2020 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, 2020.

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**

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021 Projected
<b>TOTAL</b>	35,303	34,969	34,654	33,225	33,010	32,486	31,649	31,000
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	\$ 112,775,702	\$ 99,775,110	\$ 96,488,723	\$ 86,199,891	\$ 91,957,592	\$ 92,601,611	\$ 90,631,361	\$ 91,000,000

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

**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	5,122	3.64	24.8	3.42	30	29	\$ 4,506	\$ 73,894
	Dropped	3,917	3.32	22.3	2.42	22	16	\$ 2,012	\$ 73,141
	Eligible	19,003	3.62	23.8	3.37	30	30	\$ 2,290	\$ 89,748
	Overall-Summary	28,042	3.53	23.7	3.07	27	25	\$ 2,936	\$ 78,928
Non-Traditional	Completed	1,082	3.18	21.6	3.32	25	25	\$ 17,333	\$ 42,366
	Dropped	518	2.99	21.0	2.73	17	13	\$ 16,675	\$ 36,102
	Eligible	2,007	3.10	20.8	3.32	26	25	\$ 18,343	\$ 39,140
	Overall-Summary	3,607	3.09	21.1	3.12	23	21	\$ 17,450	\$ 39,203
All Categories	Completed	6,204	3.58	24.5	3.40	29	29	\$ 6,743	\$ 68,396
	Dropped	4,435	3.29	22.2	2.45	21	16	\$ 3,724	\$ 68,815
	Eligible	21,010	3.59	23.7	3.36	30	29	\$ 3,824	\$ 84,914
	Overall-Summary	31,649	3.49	23.4	3.07	27	25	\$ 4,764	\$ 74,041

Student Status by Gender – All Cohorts

	Current Status	Student Count	
		#	%
Traditional	Completed	5,122	18.3%
	Dropped	3,917	14.0%
	Eligible	19,003	67.8%
	Overall-Summary	28,042	100.0%
Non-Traditional	Completed	1,082	30.0%
	Dropped	518	14.4%
	Eligible	2,007	55.6%
	Overall-Summary	3,607	100.0%
All Categories	Completed	6,204	19.6%
	Dropped	4,435	14.0%
	Eligible	21,010	66.4%
	Overall-Summary	31,649	100.0%

Male		Female		Unknown Gender	
#	%	#	%	#	%
1,904	17.5%	3,078	18.2%	140	FERPA
1,765	16.2%	2,142	12.7%	FERPA	FERPA
7,220	66.3%	11,698	69.1%	85	FERPA
10,889	100.0%	16,918	100.0%	FERPA	FERPA
371	29.2%	676	30.2%	35	36.5%
200	15.7%	304	13.6%	14	14.6%
699	55.0%	1,261	56.3%	47	49.0%
1,270	100.0%	2,241	100.0%	96	100.0%
2,275	18.7%	3,754	19.6%	175	52.9%
1,965	16.2%	2,446	12.8%	24	7.3%
7,919	65.1%	12,959	67.6%	132	39.9%
12,159	100.0%	19,159	100.0%	331	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	
			#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%		
Traditional	Completed	5,122	28	17.9%	117	19.0%	344	14.3%	320	15.6%	3,512	17.1%	217	20.5%	584	49.7%
	Dropped	3,917	29	18.6%	56	9.1%	380	15.8%	320	15.6%	2,875	14.0%	173	16.4%	84	7.1%
	Eligible	19,003	99	63.5%	443	71.9%	1,683	69.9%	1,412	68.8%	14,190	69.0%	668	63.1%	508	43.2%
	Overall-Summary	28,042	156	100.0%	616	100.0%	2,407	100.0%	2,052	100.0%	20,577	100.0%	1,058	100.0%	1,176	100.0%
Non-Traditional	Completed	1,082	FERPA	FERPA	15	FERPA	171	26.1%	73	27.5%	631	31.1%	37	25.2%	145	33.7%
	Dropped	518	FERPA	FERPA	FERPA	FERPA	108	16.5%	54	20.4%	270	13.3%	23	15.6%	59	13.7%
	Eligible	2,007	13	FERPA	37	FERPA	375	57.3%	138	52.1%	1,131	55.7%	87	59.2%	226	52.6%
	Overall-Summary	3,607	FERPA	FERPA	FERPA	FERPA	654	100.0%	265	100.0%	2,032	100.0%	147	100.0%	430	100.0%
All Categories	Completed	6,204	38	21.0%	132	19.7%	515	16.8%	393	17.0%	4,143	18.3%	254	21.1%	729	45.4%
	Dropped	4,435	31	17.1%	58	8.7%	488	15.9%	374	16.1%	3,145	13.9%	196	16.3%	143	8.9%
	Eligible	21,010	112	61.9%	480	71.6%	2,058	67.2%	1,550	66.9%	15,321	67.8%	755	62.7%	734	45.7%
	Overall-Summary	31,649	181	100.0%	670	100.0%	3,061	100.0%	2,317	100.0%	22,609	100.0%	1,205	100.0%	1,606	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 – 2019-2020 Cohort  
FISCAL 2020**

**Students by Status – 2020 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	27	3.41	22.4	0.00	0	0	\$ 1,077	\$ 49,079
	Dropped	2,369	3.22	21.9	2.09	21	14	\$ 1,594	\$ 70,869
	Eligible	8,271	3.58	23.3	3.29	30	29	\$ 1,662	\$ 97,290
	Overall-Summary	10,667	3.40	22.6	1.79	17	14	\$ 1,444	\$ 72,413
Non-Traditional	Completed	206	3.10	20.4	0.00	0	0	\$22,555	\$ 39,741
	Dropped	208	2.87	19.5	2.51	17	13	\$17,660	\$ 27,354
	Eligible	949	3.02	20.3	3.36	27	26	\$20,122	\$ 44,997
	Overall-Summary	1,363	3.00	20.1	1.95	14	13	\$20,112	\$ 37,364
All Categories	Completed	233	3.16	20.9	0.00	0	0	\$20,066	\$ 40,823
	Dropped	2,577	3.20	21.8	2.12	20	14	\$ 2,891	\$ 67,356
	Eligible	9,220	3.54	23.2	3.30	30	28	\$ 3,562	\$ 91,908
	Overall-Summary	12,030	3.30	22.0	1.80	17	14	\$ 8,840	\$ 66,696

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

**Student Status by Gender – 2020 Cohort**

	Current Status	Student Count	
		#	%
Traditional	Completed	27	0.3%
	Dropped	2,369	22.2%
	Eligible	8,271	77.5%
	Overall-Summary	10,667	100.0%
Non-Traditional	Completed	206	15.1%
	Dropped	208	15.3%
	Eligible	949	69.6%
	Overall-Summary	1,363	100.0%
All Categories	Completed	233	1.9%
	Dropped	2,577	21.4%
	Eligible	9,220	76.6%
	Overall-Summary	12,030	100.0%

Male		Female		Unknown Gender	
#	%	#	%	#	%
12	0.3%	15	0.2%	FERPA	FERPA
1,140	25.8%	1,226	19.7%	FERPA	FERPA
3,270	73.9%	4,974	80.0%	27	FERPA
4,422	100.0%	6,215	100.0%	FERPA	FERPA
51	10.9%	146	17.0%	FERPA	FERPA
79	16.9%	125	14.5%	FERPA	FERPA
337	72.2%	589	68.5%	23	FERPA
467	100.0%	860	100.0%	FERPA	FERPA
63	1.3%	161	2.3%	FERPA	FERPA
1,219	24.9%	1,351	19.1%	FERPA	FERPA
3,607	73.8%	5,563	78.6%	50	FERPA
4,889	100.0%	7,075	100.0%	FERPA	FERPA

*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	
			#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Traditional	Completed	27	FERPA	FERPA	FERPA	FERPA	-	0.0%	FERPA	FERPA	21	0.3%	FERPA	FERPA	-	0.0%
	Dropped	2,369	14	FERPA	29	FERPA	224	21.7%	205	FERPA	1,756	22.4%	102	FERPA	39	17.0%
	Eligible	8,271	46	FERPA	182	FERPA	810	78.3%	669	FERPA	6,063	77.3%	311	FERPA	190	83.0%
	Overall-Summary	10,667	FERPA	FERPA	FERPA	FERPA	1,034	100.0%	FERPA	FERPA	7,840	100.0%	FERPA	FERPA	229	100.0%
Non-Traditional	Completed	206	FERPA	FERPA	FERPA	FERPA	38	13.9%	14	15.7%	112	14.8%	FERPA	FERPA	32	20.4%
	Dropped	208	FERPA	FERPA	FERPA	FERPA	51	18.6%	24	27.0%	97	12.8%	FERPA	FERPA	24	15.3%
	Eligible	949	FERPA	FERPA	16	FERPA	185	67.5%	51	57.3%	546	72.3%	45	FERPA	101	64.3%
	Overall-Summary	1,363	FERPA	FERPA	FERPA	FERPA	274	100.0%	89	100.0%	755	100.0%	FERPA	FERPA	157	100.0%
All Categories	Completed	233	FERPA	FERPA	FERPA	FERPA	38	2.9%	16	1.7%	133	1.5%	FERPA	FERPA	32	8.3%
	Dropped	2,577	15	FERPA	30	FERPA	275	21.0%	229	23.7%	1,853	21.6%	112	FERPA	63	16.3%
	Eligible	9,220	51	FERPA	198	FERPA	995	76.1%	720	74.6%	6,609	76.9%	356	FERPA	291	75.4%
	Overall-Summary	12,030	FERPA	FERPA	FERPA	FERPA	1,308	100.0%	965	100.0%	8,595	100.0%	FERPA	FERPA	386	100.0%

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