



2023 Annual Institutional Report

Key Data Point Trends

Released: April 2024

The purpose to the annual institutional report is to provide the initial set of trend data on enrollment, session to session persistence rate, year-over-year retention rate, graduation rate for undergraduate, and the 3-year cohort default rate. In addition, a glossary of terminologies is included to provide AU with the basic common term usage and their definition.

Highlights

- Enrollment 6,790 (Fall I 2021) to 3,435 (Fall I 2023) = 49.4% decrease
 - ✚ SARA loss, individual state authorizations, low market spend, high completions
 - ✚ Average Age increased from 40 to 43 in same time period
- Persistence: 56% (Sum I-Fall I 2021), 61% (Sum I-Fall I 2022), 59% (Sum I-Fall I 2023)
 - ✚ Holding steady considering loss of students
- Retention: 46% (Fall I 2020-2021), 46% (Fall I 2021-2022), 54% (Fall I 2022-2023)
 - ✚ 17.4% improvement related to multi-departmental efforts

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Glossary of Terms

The following definition of term is based from Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) and AU catalog.

Term	Description
Calendar Year (CY)	A 12-month period from January 1 to December 31.
Cohort	A specific group of students established for tracking purposes.
Completer/Graduate	A student who completed the program requirements and received a degree. The degree must be conferred in order to be a completer/graduate.
Graduation Rate	The percentage of students in an established cohort that graduated within a specified time length.
Headcount (HC)	An unduplicated count of enrolled student, faculty, or staff.
On-Time Completion	A student completes the degree program on-time if he/she completed it within the amount of time that the program was advertised for.
Session to Session Persistence Rate	A measure of the percentage of students re-enroll from one session to the next. Students that have graduated are excluded from the calculation.
Race/ethnicity	Categories used to describe groups to which individuals identify with. The categories do not denote scientific definitions or anthropological origins. Ethnicity is self-reported and a student is counted in only one group. The categories of race or ethnicity are: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● American Indian or Alaskan Native● Asian● Black or African American● Hispanic● Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander● White● Two or more races● Nonresident alien● Unknown
One Year Retention Rate	A measure of the percentage of students re-enrolled one year later. For example, students re-enrolled from fall term to the fall term of the following year.
Session	Instructional period within the semester term. For example, fall semester has fall I and fall II sessions.

Table 1: Enrollment Headcount by Level and Program

Degree Level	Program	2019 Fall I	2020 Fall I	2021 Fall I	2022 Fall I	2023 Fall I
Undergraduate	Associate of Applied Science in Early Childhood Education	22	13	8	2	9
	Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and Addiction Studies	108	131	94	68	57
	Bachelor of Science in Business Administration	105	128	89	62	75
	Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, (Completion Program)	126	150	117	96	78
	Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice	37	28	5	4	0
	Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice, (Completion Program)	29	24	8	3	1
	Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Education	33	41	26	20	17
	Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Education, (Completion Program)	67	77	62	44	28
	Bachelor of Science in Health Care Administration	63	102	88	99	99
	Bachelor of Science in Nursing (Completion Program)	2,752	3,448	2,220	1,529	1,059
	Bachelor of Science in Nursing (Pre-Licensure)	741	1,856	1,587	628	124
Undergrad Total		4,083	5,998	4,304	2,555	1,547
Graduate/Post-Baccalaureate	Certificate in Project Management	2	3	-	-	1
	Education Specialist	-	-	-	-	1
	Doctor of Education in Leadership and Learning	229	328	266	244	225
	Doctor of Nursing Practice	133	510	716	723	561
	Doctor of Science in Computer Science	46	63	31	33	29
	Master in Business Administration	99	136	86	62	55
	Master in Education	41	37	26	21	26
	Master of Arts in Psychology and Addiction Studies	70	71	51	35	31
	Master of Science in Criminal Justice	55	39	11	1	1
	Master of Science in Information Management	7	7	4	1	0
	Master of Science in Information Systems	18	24	13	5	0
	Master of Science in Information Technology	9	13	6	6	0
	Master of Science in Nursing	970	1328	1020	896	155
	Master of Science in Nursing: RN to MSN Bridge Program	373	408	250	210	788
	Master of Science in Technology and Innovation	7	4	6	7	6
Master of Public Health	-	-	-	3	9	
Graduate Total		2,059	2,971	2,486	2,247	1,888

Total **6,142** **8,969** **6,790** **4,802** **3,435**

Table 2: Enrollment Headcount by Level and Gender

Level	Gender	2019 Fall I	2020 Fall I	2021 Fall I	2022 Fall I	2023 Fall I
Undergrad	Male	581	827	543	344	234
	Female	3,500	5,169	3,761	2,211	1,313
	Unknown	4	2	0	0	0
Undergrad Total		4,085	5,998	4,304	2,555	1,547
Graduate	Male	398	557	407	365	299
	Female	1,655	2,413	2,079	1,882	1,589
	Unknown	4	1	0	0	0
Graduate Total		2,057	2,971	2,486	2,247	1,888
Total	Male	979	1,384	5,840	709	533
	Female	5,155	7,582	950	4,093	2,902
	Unknown	8	3	0	0	0
Total		6,142	8,969	6,790	4,802	3,435

Table 3: Enrollment Headcount by Level and Race/Ethnicity

Level	Race/Ethnicity	2019 Fall I	2020 Fall I	2021 Fall I	2022 Fall I	2023 Fall I
Undergrad	American Indian or Alaska Native	40	71	36	29	13
	Asian	151	268	168	124	90
	Black or African American	611	1,092	818	481	329
	Hispanic	446	892	745	0	86
	International Students	-	-	38	42	29
	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	19	39	28	23	12
	White	1,659	2,887	2,152	1,574	872
	Two or more races	106	209	145	93	48
	Not Specified	1,053	540	173	189	68
Undergrad Total		4,085	5,998	4,304	2,555	1,547
Graduate	American Indian or Alaska Native	10	24	18	25	12
	Asian	115	230	204	175	163
	Black or African American	379	640	598	552	481
	Hispanic	109	179	178	1	63
	International Students	-	-	125	152	134
	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	15	19	22	18	19
	White	784	1370	1,185	1,165	906
	Two or more races	45	87	80	84	59
	Not Specified	600	422	76	75	51
Graduate		2,057	2,971	2,486	2,247	1,888
Total	American Indian or Alaska Native	50	95	54	54	25
	Asian	266	498	372	301	253
	Black or African American	990	1,732	1,416	1037	810
	Hispanic	555	1,071	924	1	149
	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	34	58	50	41	31
	White	2,443	4,257	3,337	2,739	1778
	Two or more races	151	296	225	178	107
	Not Specified	1653	962	249	451	282
Total		5,321	8,969	6,790	4,802	3,435

Table 4: Age Statistics by Level

Level	Age Statistics	2019 Fall I	2020 Fall I	2021 Fall I	2022 Fall I	2023 Fall I
Undergrad	Average	40	38	38	39	40
	Min	19	17	17	18	18
	Max	74	77	77	70	70
Graduate	Average	44	44	45	45	46
	Min	23	22	22	22	22
	Max	79	78	79	80	79
Total Average		42	40	40	42	43
Total Min		19	17	17	18	18
Total Max		79	78	79	80	79

Table 5: Session to Session Persistence Rate by Program

Traditionally, persistence rates are session over session (Example: Summer II to Fall II). Due to Aspen University’s rolling admissions (26 starts/year), a full 8-weeks after the last start in the period is required to know if students persist. Graduates are excluded.

Session Dates:

Summer I: May 1 - June 30 (all starts in May/June)

Fall I: September 1 - October 31 (all starts in Sept/Oct)

		(2021 Summer I to 2021 Fall I)				(2022 Summer I to 2022 Fall I)				(2023 Summer I to 2023 Fall I)			
		Persistence		Attrition		Persistence		Attrition		Persistence		Attrition	
Degree Level	Program	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Count	Rate
Undergrad	Associate of Applied Science in Early Childhood Studies	4	36%	7	64%	1	20%	4	80%	3	50%	3	50%
	Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and Addiction Studies	58	52%	53	48%	42	62%	26	38%	35	64%	20	36%
	Bachelor of Science in Business Administration	44	50%	44	50%	30	57%	23	43%	37	66%	19	34%
	Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, (Comp.)	61	52%	56	48%	61	62%	37	38%	45	78%	13	22%
	Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice	4	33%	8	67%	3	60%	2	40%	0	0%	1	100%
	Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice, (Comp.)	7	78%	2	22%	3	75%	1	25%	1	100%	0	0%
	Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Studies	18	56%	14	44%	12	60%	8	40%	10	48%	11	52%
	Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Studies, (Comp.)	33	65%	18	35%	25	64%	14	36%	14	52%	13	48%
	Bachelor of Science in Health Care Administration	43	48%	47	52%	62	67%	30	33%	62	62%	38	38%
	Bachelor of Science in Nursing (Comp. RN-BSN)	1285	56%	1009	44%	737	57%	561	43%	435	52%	399	48%
Bachelor of Science in Nursing Pre-Licensure	837	53%	734	47%	584	63%	346	37%	112	91%	11	9%	
Undergrad Total		2,394	55%	1,992	45%	1,560	60%	1,052	40%	754	59%	528	41%
Graduate	Doctor of Education in Leadership and Learning	155	55%	125	45%	146	62%	89	38%	143	69%	64	31%
	Doctor of Nursing Practice	344	58%	253	42%	456	67%	224	33%	315	62%	194	38%
	Doctor of Science in Computer Science	18	45%	22	55%	22	65%	12	35%	17	57%	13	43%
	Master in Business Administration	49	64%	28	36%	32	59%	22	41%	24	60%	16	40%
	Master in Education	15	54%	13	46%	14	78%	4	22%	14	64%	8	36%
	Master of Arts in Psychology and Addiction Studies	32	67%	16	33%	25	69%	11	31%	21	64%	12	36%
	Master of Public Health	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	56%	4	44%
	Master of Science in Criminal Justice	6	43%	8	57%	1	17%	5	83%	1	100%	0	0%
	Master of Science in Information Management	2	50%	2	50%	1	50%	1	50%	0	0%	1	100%
	Master of Science in Information Systems	11	73%	4	27%	1	50%	1	50%	0	0%	2	100%
	Master of Science in Information Technology	3	43%	4	57%	3	100%	0	0%	0	0%	1	100%
	Master of Science in Nursing	585	61%	380	39%	444	60%	300	40%	342	55%	275	45%
Master of Science in Nursing: RN-MSN Bridge Program	161	56%	124	44%	118	58%	87	42%	79	56%	63	44%	
Master of Science in Technology and Innovation	2	100%	0	0%	1	25%	3	75%	2	25%	6	75%	
Graduate Total		1,383	59%	979	41%	1,264	62%	759	38%	963	59%	659	41%
Total		3,777	56%	2,971	44%	2,824	61%	1,811	39%	1,717	59%	1,187	41%

Table 6: Year-Over-Year Retention Rate by Program

This is the unique student body enrolled in a class at Day 8 in one session and in a class on Day 8 in the same session a year later. Graduates are excluded. Session dates for Fall I are always September 1 - October 31 (all starts in Sept/Oct)

		<i>(2020 Fall I to 2021 Fall I)</i>				<i>(2021 Fall I to 2022 Fall I)</i>				<i>(2022 Fall I to 2023 Fall I)</i>			
		Retention		Attrition		Retention		Attrition		Retention		Attrition	
Level	Program	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Count	Rate
Undergrad	Associate of Applied Science in Early Childhood Studies	2	22%	7	78%	1	17%	5	83%	1	50%	1	50%
	Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and Addiction Studies	39	41%	55	59%	37	46%	43	54%	28	50%	28	50%
	Bachelor of Science in Business Administration	39	38%	64	62%	31	39%	49	61%	30	53%	27	47%
	Bachelor of Science in Business Administration(Comp.)	46	48%	49	52%	42	47%	47	53%	37	70%	16	30%
	Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice	4	22%	14	78%	2	67%	1	33%	0	0%	3	100%
	Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice, (Comp.)	7	47%	8	53%	2	67%	1	33%	1	100%	0	0%
	Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Studies	16	47%	18	53%	10	50%	10	50%	9	60%	6	40%
	Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Studies (Comp.)	25	56%	20	44%	15	38%	24	62%	10	37%	17	63%
	Bachelor of Science in Health Care Administration	29	38%	47	62%	32	41%	46	59%	47	55%	39	45%
	Bachelor of Science in Nursing (Comp. RN-BSN)	865	46%	1031	54%	600	46%	711	54%	379	51%	371	49%
	Bachelor of Science in Nursing Pre-Licensure	638	43%	852	57%	494	37%	834	63%	127	52%	117	48%
Undergraduate Total		1,710	44%	2,165	56%	1,266	42%	1,771	58%	669	52%	625	48%
Graduate	Education Specialist	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	100%	0	0%
	Doctor of Education in Leadership and Learning	126	50%	125	50%	117	48%	129	52%	118	53%	105	47%
	Doctor of Nursing Practice	204	47%	227	53%	365	55%	293	45%	305	62%	189	38%
	Doctor of Science in Computer Science	16	39%	25	61%	16	57%	12	43%	13	46%	15	54%
	Master in Business Administration	40	53%	36	47%	27	50%	27	50%	14	54%	12	46%
	Master in Education	10	42%	14	58%	7	41%	10	59%	6	55%	5	45%
	Master of Arts in Psychology and Addiction Studies	27	55%	22	45%	22	55%	18	45%	17	89%	2	11%
	Master of Public Health	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	33%	2	67%
	Master of Science in Criminal Justice	9	56%	7	44%	1	17%	5	83%	0	0%	0	0%
	Master of Science in Information Management	2	50%	2	50%	1	50%	1	50%	0	0%	1	100%
	Master of Science in Information Systems	9	60%	6	40%	3	75%	1	25%	0	0%	1	100%
	Master of Science in Information Technology	3	50%	3	50%	3	75%	1	25%	0	0%	1	100%
	Master of Science in Nursing	424	51%	409	49%	379	51%	366	49%	323	55%	263	45%
	Master of Science in Nursing: RN-MSN Bridge Program	147	53%	132	47%	107	51%	103	49%	75	50%	75	50%
Master of Science in Technology and Innovation	1	100%	0	0%	2	50%	2	50%	2	40%	3	60%	
Graduate Total		1,018	50%	1,008	50%	1,050	52%	968	48%	876	57%	674	43%
Total		2,728	46%	3,173	54%	2,316	46%	2,739	54%	1,545	54%	1,299	46%

Table 7: Graduation Rate by Program

The graduation rate accounts for allowable exclusions by DEAC. For example, students who have identified factors such as: active duty military service, approved leave of absence, personal illness, death, financial difficulties, family emergencies, or transfer to another location. Date range follows a calendar year.

Degree Level	CY2019			CY2020			CY2021			CY2022			CY2023		
	# Students Available to Graduate	# Graduated	Rate	# Students Available to Graduate	# Graduated	Rate	# Students Available to Graduate	# Graduated	Rate	# Students Available to Graduate	# Graduated	Rate	# Students Available to Graduate	# Graduated	Rate
Associate of Applied Science in Early Childhood Studies	25	4	80%	34	13	62%	48	14	58%	18	6	60%	18	4	29%
Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and Addiction Studies	5	0	0%	6	3	33%	5	1	25%	55	11	26%	79	29	54%
Bachelor of Science in Business Administration	5	1	20%	11	4	0%	2	0	0%	32	6	20%	32	6	29%
Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, (Comp.)	52	19	73%	58	23	54%	138	56	69%	90	43	72%	93	35	55%
Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice	2	0	0%	3	0	0%	1	0	0%	6	0	0%	14	2	40%
Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice, (Comp.)	28	15	75%	22	1	43%	44	22	76%	33	17	65%	28	9	47%
Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Studies	2	0	0%	4	1	67%	3	1	50%	17	5	38%	23	7	50%
Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Studies, (Comp.)	42	20	91%	77	27	66%	89	46	77%	55	34	85%	39	14	56%
Bachelor of Science in Health Care Administration	204	18	90%	239	153	33%	3	2	67%	11	2	29%	23	4	33%
Bachelor of Science in Nursing, (Comp.)	773	446	99%	1175	362	82%	2004	1141	85%	2,375	1,301	77%	1972	1114	75%
Certificate in Project Management	5	2	100%	6	1	60%	5	2	40%	3	3	100%	0	N/A	N/A
Doctor of Science in Computer Science	6	0	0%	8	3	60%	6	0	0%	17	2	17%	13	2	40%
Doctorate in Education Leadership and Learning	20	4	24%	20	8	25%	25	9	53%	50	15	42%	26	5	45%
Doctor of Nursing Practice	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	60	37	77%	90	36	64%
Master in Business Administration	101	60	65%	60	13	78%	87	49	88%	97	52	64%	58	25	57%
Master in Education	15	3	23%	11	2	56%	22	9	82%	35	21	75%	21	6	46%
Master of Arts in Psychology and Addiction Studies	86	18	49%	50	18	63%	76	26	74%	60	22	44%	27	10	59%
Master of Science in Criminal Justice	24	9	38%	22	4	72%	36	18	82%	47	24	62%	39	17	59%
Master of Science in Information Management	6	3	50%	4	0	50%	3	2	100%	6	3	75%	5	3	60%
Master of Science in Information Systems	11	5	56%	11	2	67%	17	10	83%	10	6	60%	10	9	90%
Master of Science in Information Technology	6	4	67%	7	1	83%	3	2	100%	10	3	43%	6	4	80%
Master of Science in Nursing	222	136	70%	264	67	78%	418	236	83%	645	344	67%	658	299	67%
Master of Science in Nursing – RN to MSN	285	75	47%	152	42	44%	185	101	81%	433	187	51%	252	68	58%
Master of Science in Technology and Innovation	15	8	57%	1	0	0%	1	0	0%	2	2	100%	5	5	100%

Table 8: Time-to-Degree

The following table is only for students that have graduated from the degree program for the defined year period. The defined year period is calendar year to align with external reporting. Time to degree is the elapsed time from the student’s expected start date and graduated date.

Degree Level	2019		2020		2021		2022		2023	
	Count	Avg. Years to Complete	Count	Avg. Years to Complete	Count	Avg. Years to Complete	Count	Avg. Years to Complete	Count	Avg. Years to Complete
Associate of Applied Science in Early Childhood Studies	4	2.17	11	2.36	14	1.91	18	1.79	18	1.50
Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and Addiction Studies	0	0	19	3.37	1	3.93	55	3.78	79	3.30
Bachelor of Science in Business Administration	1	4.16	7	3.14	-	-	32	4.38	32	3.33
Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, (Comp.)	19	2.79	43	1.95	56	1.71	90	2.13	93	2.20
Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice	0	0	4	3	0	0	6	0	14	4.00
Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice, (Comp.)	16	2.36	18	1.94	22	2.20	33	1.89	28	2.66
Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Studies	0	0	7	3.85	1	-	17	4.74	23	3.85
Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Studies, (Comp.)	20	2.44	37	2	46	1.87	55	1.59	39	2.07
Bachelor of Science in Health Care Administration	18	2.77	8	2.75	2	2.63	11	2.92	23	3.25
Bachelor of Science in Nursing, (Comp.)	446	2.42	1087	2.25	1141	2.33	2375	2.25	1972	2.04
Certificate in Project Management	2	1.54	4	1	2	0.93	3	1.60	0	N/A
Doctor of Nursing Practice	-	-	12	2.42	-	-	17	2.82	90	3.03
Doctor of Science in Computer Science	0	0	2	4	2	4.99	50	4.57	13	3.00
Doctorate in Education Leadership and Learning	4	5.57	12	4.75	8	4.10	97	4.84	26	5.00
Master in Business Administration	60	2.59	57	3.14	49	2.65	35	2.57	58	2.36
Master in Education	3	1.82	19	2.05	9	2.54	60	2.44	21	1.66
Master of Arts in Psychology and Addiction Studies	18	2.49	25	2.76	26	3.04	47	2.58	27	2.75
Master of Science in Criminal Justice	9	2.5	19	2.26	18	2.36	6	2.13	39	2.00
Master of Science in Information Management	3	3.05	2	1.50	2	1.98	10	1.38	5	1.66
Master of Science in Information Systems	5	1.69	5	2.20	10	2.59	10	2.52	10	2.55
Master of Science in Information Technology	4	2.07	3	1.33	2	2.03	645	3.39	6	2.75
Master of Science in Nursing	137	2.84	256	2.42	236	2.60	433	2.75	658	2.49
Master of Science in Nursing – RN to MSN	74	3.68	63	3.71	101	3.60	2	3.48	252	3.36
Master of Science in Technology and Innovation	8	2.46	7	2.29	-	-	18	3.03	5	2.20

Table 9: Three-year Official Cohort Default Rate

A 3-year cohort default rate is the percentage of a school's borrowers who enter repayment on certain Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) Program or William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan (Direct Loan) Program loans during a particular federal fiscal year (FY), October 1 to September 30, and default or meet other specified conditions prior to the end of the second following fiscal year. CDR database:

<http://www2.ed.gov/offices/OSFAP/defaultmanagement/cdr.html>

		FY2018	FY2019	FY2020 ¹
Aspen University	<i>Default rate</i>	5	0.4	0
	No. in default	17	2	0
	No. in repayment	338	468	707
Proprietary – 4 years +	<i>Default rate</i>	9.8	2.6	0
	No. in default	45,221	11,426	20
	No. in repayment	458,645	424,988	395,361
<i>National</i>	<i>Default rate</i>	7.3	2.3	0

¹ FY2020 is the most current data available on the NSLDS website