Founded in 1900, the Association of American Universities is composed of America’s leading research universities. AAU’s 65 research universities transform lives through education, research, and innovation. Our member universities earn the majority of competitively awarded federal funding for research that improves public health, seeks to address national challenges, and contributes significantly to our economic strength, while educating and training tomorrow’s visionary leaders and innovators.

**ECONOMIC IMPACT**

- **4,826** Patents in 2018
- **5,134** Technology license agreements in 2018
- **4,039** Total operational startups in 2018
- **64** Current Fortune 100 CEOs*

**VALUE**

- **83%** of students graduate within 6 years**
- **57%** AAU students who graduate debt-free

**EDUCATION 2017 Data**

- **AAU universities make up only 2% of all 4-year universities in the U.S., yet award nearly 43% of all research doctorate degrees.***

- **50%** of all doctoral degrees awarded by AAU universities
- **18%** of all undergrad degrees in STEM and Social Sciences

- **2%** Degrees awarded by AAU member universities
- **43%** Research doctorates awarded by AAU member universities
- **53%** of all doctoral degrees in Arts, Humanities, and Music
- **14%** of all undergrad degrees in Arts, Humanities, and Music

**RESEARCH**

- **$25.6 BILLION** Federal research dollars awarded in 2018

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*CEOs who attended an AAU university as of 2019.
**2018 graduation rate at AAU universities.
***Not including professional doctoral degrees.
780,060
Total employees at AAU universities in 2018

$82.4 Billion
Total salaries paid by AAU universities in 2018

25 in Top 10
25 AAU universities were among the top 10 employers in their state as of 2018

41 in Top 50
41 AAU universities were in the top 50 for producing venture capital backed entrepreneurs as of 2019

ECONOMIC IMPACT OVER TIME (2008–18)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Patents</th>
<th>Licenses</th>
<th>Total operational startups</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>4,039</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2009</td>
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<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>4,039</td>
<td>5,134</td>
<td>5,134</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PATENTS
4,826 Patents issued in 2018

LICENSES
5,134 Technology license agreements in 2018

TOTAL STARTUPS
4,039 Cumulative operational startup companies formed as of 2018

STARTUPS IN 2018
663 Startup companies formed in 2018

HOME STATE COs
427 Startup companies created in home state in 2018
In 2017, AAU institutions awarded 50% of all research doctoral degrees and 18% of all undergraduate degrees in STEM and Social Sciences.

**DEGREES AWARDED BY AAU UNIVERSITIES IN THE U.S. AS OF 2018**

- **531,026** Total Degrees
- **31,132** Research Doctorates
- **25,288** Professional Practice or Other Doctorates
- **166,155** Master’s Degrees
- **307,831** Bachelor’s Degrees

**In 2017, AAU institutions awarded 50% of all research doctoral degrees and 18% of all undergraduate degrees in STEM and Social Sciences.**

**RESEARCH DOCTORAL DEGREES** in STEM out of National Total (2017)

- 59% Physical Sciences
- 58% Engineering
- 54% Math & Computer Sciences
- 46% Life Sciences
- 39% Psychology & Social Sciences

**BACHELOR DEGREES** in STEM out of National Total (2017)

- 30% Engineering
- 25% Physical Sciences
- 21% Psychology & Social Sciences
- 14% Life Sciences
- 9% Math and Computer Sciences

**STUDENTS AT AAU UNIVERSITIES IN 2018**

- 12% of all Undergraduates*
- 21% of all Graduate Students*
- 68% of all Postdocs**
- 36% of all International Students
- 28% of all Study Abroad Students

*For all 4-year U.S. institutions. **Number of Postdocs in 2017.

**GRADUATES OF AAU UNIVERSITIES**

- 24 Governors in 2019
- 268 Members of Congress in 2019
- 5 Joint Chiefs of Staff in 2019
- 13 U.S. Presidents 1900–2019
- 9 All 9 current U.S. Supreme Court Justices
- 45 Supreme Court Justices 1900–2019
- 64 Fortune 100 CEOs in 2019
- 8,890 Teachers in 2018
- 6,667 Medical Degrees in 2019
- 2,497 Dental Degrees in 2018
- 9,382 Nursing Degrees in 2018

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### FEDERALLY FUNDED ACADEMIC RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT IN 2018*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Total Federal R&amp;D at AAU universities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>$25B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Defense</td>
<td>$20B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy</td>
<td>$15B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health and Human Services (including NIH)</td>
<td>$10B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aeronautics and Space Administration</td>
<td>$5B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science Foundation</td>
<td>$5B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Federal Departments and Agencies</td>
<td>$5B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$25.6 Billion</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*% of total amount awarded to AAU universities / total dollar amount received by AAU universities

### HONORS & AWARDS

- **54,836** Members of the National Academies at AAU universities (54% of all National Academy Members)
- **3,486** Elected American Academy of Arts and Sciences Fellows affiliated with AAU universities (70% of all American Academy of Arts and Sciences Fellows)
- **56** National Academy of Inventors Member Institutions (89% of all National Academy of Inventors)

### SCHOLARLY OUTPUT

- **21.4 Million** Citations (2014-2018)*
- **2.4 Million** Publications (2014-2018)*
- **60,945** Books (2009-2018)**

*Thomson-Reuters InCites **2018 Academic Analytics

### RESOURCES

- **22** research parks
- **65** startup and early stage technology investment programs
- **73** university accelerator programs
- **$10.8 Billion** in institutional contributions to research and development

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AAU2020
## 2018 AAU Graduation Rate

- **65%** in 4 years
- **81%** in 5 years
- **83%** in 6 years for Pell Grant Recipients

## 2018 National Graduation Rate

- **44%** in 4 years
- **59%** in 5 years
- **63%** in 6 years for Pell Grant Recipients

## Student Debt

- **Only 4 out of 10** AAU seniors with debt
- **7 out of 10** Non-AAU seniors with debt

In 2018, only 4 out of 10 graduating seniors from AAU universities had debt, while 7 out of 10 graduating seniors from non-AAU universities had debt.

## Student Debt Default Rates

- **2.8%** AAU Universities
- **6.9%** Non-Profit Universities
- **14.3%** For-Profit Universities

In 2018, Institutional Grant Aid made up 73% of an AAU student’s total financial aid.