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.
794,947
Total employees at AAU universities in 2020

$100.4 Billion
Total salaries paid by AAU universities in 2020

25 in Top 10
25 AAU universities were among the top 10 employers in their state as of 2020

38 in Top 50
38 AAU universities were in the top 50 for producing venture-capital-backed entrepreneurs as of 2020

$100.4 Billion
Total salaries paid by AAU universities in 2020

5,583
Patents issued in 2020

5,241
Technology license agreements in 2020

5,583
Patents issued in 2020

5,241
Technology license agreements in 2020

4,268
Cumulative operational startup companies formed as of 2020

676
Startup companies formed in 2020

453
Startup companies created in home state in 2020

ECONOMIC IMPACT OVER TIME (2010–20)


5,583
Patents

5,241
Licenses

4,268
Total operational startups

AAU America’s Leading Research Universities aau.edu @AAUniversities
DEGREES AWARDED BY AAU UNIVERSITIES IN THE U.S. AS OF 2020

- **Total Degrees** 560,239
- **Research Doctorates** 30,358
- **Professional Practice Doctorates** 26,194
- **Master’s Degrees** 177,899
- **Bachelor’s Degrees** 325,437

GRADUATES OF AAU UNIVERSITIES

- **Governors** 24 (in 2021)
- **Members of Congress** 265 (in 2022)
- **Joint Chiefs of Staff** 5 (in 2021)
- **U.S. Presidents 1900–2021** 13
- **Current U.S. Supreme Court Justices** 8
- **Supreme Court Justices 1900–2021** 45
- **Fortune 100 CEOs in 2021** 60
- **Teaching Degrees in 2020** 8,902
- **Medical Degrees in 2021** 7,222
- **Dental Degrees in 2020** 2,649
- **Nursing Degrees in 2020** 9,909

In 2020, AAU institutions awarded 48% of all research doctoral degrees and 20% of all undergraduate degrees in STEM and Social Sciences.

RESEARCH DOCTORAL DEGREES in STEM out of National Total (2020)

- **59%** Physical Sciences
- **56%** Engineering
- **53%** Math & Computer Sciences
- **42%** Life Sciences
- **37%** Psychology & Social Sciences

BACHELOR’S DEGREES in STEM out of National Total (2020)

- **28%** Engineering
- **27%** Physical Sciences
- **27%** Math & Computer Sciences
- **22%** Psychology & Social Sciences
- **13%** Life Sciences

STUDENTS AT AAU UNIVERSITIES IN 2020

- **14%** of all Undergraduates
  - **1.9 million** Undergraduates
- **21%** of all Graduate Students
  - **668,824** Graduate Students
- **68%** of all Postdocs
  - **45,793** Total Postdocs
- **40%** of all International Students
  - **347,582** International Students
- **29%** of all Study Abroad Students
  - **44,451** Study Abroad

1 For all 4-year U.S. institutions. 2 Number of Postdocs in 2019. 3 Number of International Students in 2021.
### Institutional Grant Aid in 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Institutional Grants</td>
<td>$2.46 Billion</td>
<td>$2.53 Billion</td>
<td>$2.63 Billion</td>
<td>$2.76 Billion</td>
<td>$2.94 Billion</td>
<td>$3.1 Billion</td>
<td>$3.0 Billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Loans</td>
<td>$0.9 Billion</td>
<td>$1.1 Billion</td>
<td>$1.2 Billion</td>
<td>$1.2 Billion</td>
<td>$1.2 Billion</td>
<td>$1.2 Billion</td>
<td>$1.2 Billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Grants</td>
<td>$0.6 Billion</td>
<td>$0.6 Billion</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Student Debt

- **Only 4 out of 10 AAU seniors with debt**
- **6 out of 10 Public and private non-profit seniors with debt**

In 2020, only 4 out of 10 graduating seniors from AAU universities had debt, while 6 out of 10 graduating seniors from public and non-profit universities had debt.

### 2020 AAU Graduation Rate

- **66%** in 4 years
- **82%** in 5 years
- **84%** in 6 years
- **77%** in 6 years for Pell Grant Recipients

### 2020 Graduation Rate at All U.S. Bachelor’s Degree Granting Institutions

- **46%** in 4 years
- **60%** in 5 years
- **64%** in 6 years
- **53%** in 6 years for Pell Grant Recipients

### Student Debt Default Rates

- **12.4%** for-profit universities
- **6.3%** non-profit universities
- **2.3%** AAU universities
# RESEARCH

## Federally Funded Academic Research and Development in 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Total Federal R&amp;D at AAU Universities</th>
<th>% of Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Department of Agriculture</td>
<td>$409.7 Million</td>
<td>62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Defense</td>
<td>$4.69 Billion</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Energy</td>
<td>$1.29 Billion</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Health and Human Services (including NIH)</td>
<td>$16.4 Billion</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Aeronautics and Space Administration</td>
<td>$1.18 Billion</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Science Foundation</td>
<td>$3.24 Billion</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Federal Departments and Agencies</td>
<td>$1.52 Billion</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$28.8 Billion</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 % of total amount awarded to AAU Universities / total dollar amount received by AAU Universities

## Scholarly Output

- 27 Million Citations (2017-2021)
- 2.6 Million Publications (2017-2021)
- 55,447 Books Published (2011-2020)

## Honors & Awards

- 48% of all National Academies Members
- 62% of all American Academy of Arts and Sciences Fellows
- 95% of all National Academy of Inventors

## Resources

- 23 research parks
- 78 university accelerator programs
- $11.4 B in institutional contributions to research and development