

69 LEADING RESEARCH UNIVERSITIES IN THE U.S.



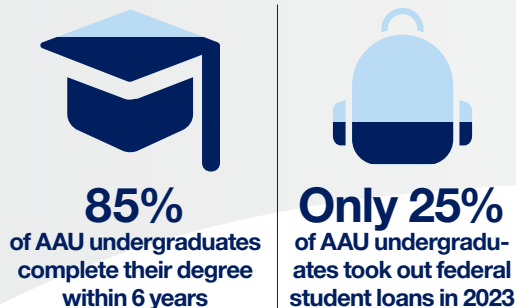
Founded in 1900, the Association of American Universities is composed of America's leading research universities. AAU's 71 research universities* (69 in the United States and 2 in Canada) transform lives through education, research, and innovation. Our member universities earn the majority of competitively awarded federal funding for research that improves public health, addresses national challenges, and contributes significantly to our economic strength, while educating and training tomorrow's visionary leaders and innovators.

* All figures in this document represent the U.S. institutions.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

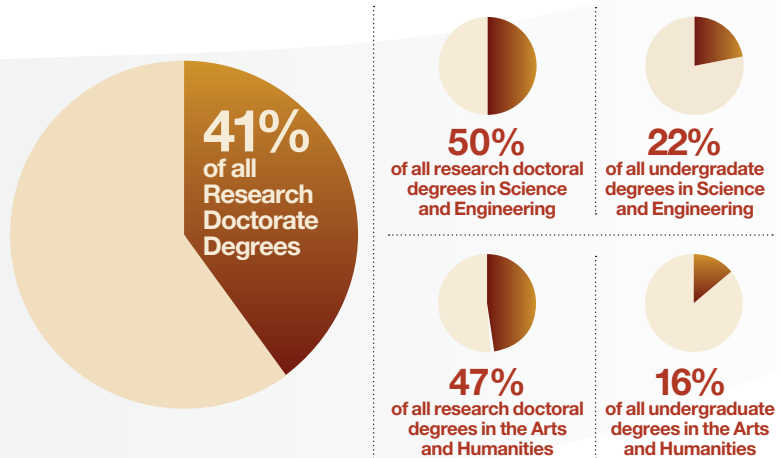


VALUE



EDUCATION 2024 Data

AAU universities make up only 3% of all 4-year universities in the U.S., yet award:

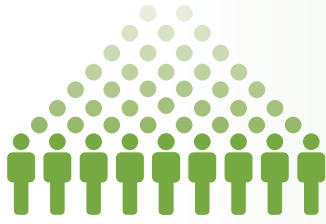


RESEARCH

\$38.2 BILLION Federal research dollars competitively awarded to AAU universities in 2023

ECONOMIC IMPACT

EMPLOYEES



912,626
Total employees
at AAU universities in 2023

SALARIES



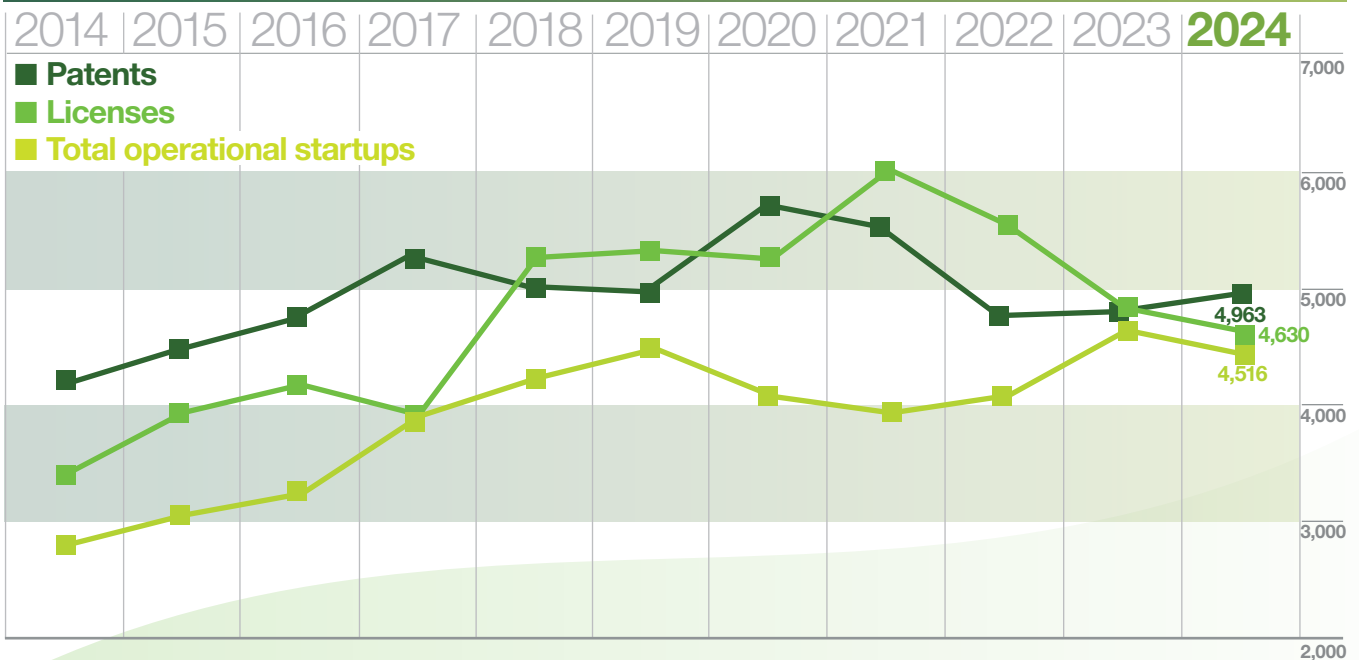
\$127.5 Billion
Total salaries
paid by AAU universities in FY2023

ENTREPRENEURS



33 in Top 50
33 U.S. AAU universities were
in the top 50 **worldwide** for
producing venture-capital
backed entrepreneurs in 2024

ECONOMIC IMPACT OF RESEARCH AT AAU MEMBER UNIVERSITIES



PATENTS



4,963
U.S. patents issued
in 2024

LICENSES



4,630
Technology
license agreements
in 2024

TOTAL STARTUPS



4,516
Cumulative operational
startup companies
formed as of 2024

STARTUPS IN 2024



592
Startup companies
formed in 2024

HOME STATE COs



407
Startup companies
created in home state
in 2024

DEGREES AWARDED BY AAU UNIVERSITIES IN THE U.S. IN 2024



645,780
Total Degrees



34,666
Research Doctorates



31,098
Professional Practice
Doctorates



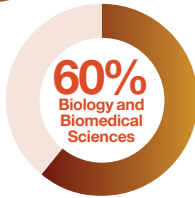
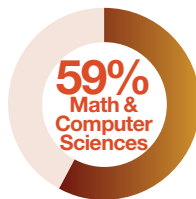
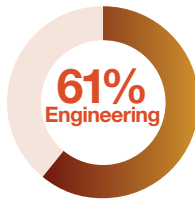
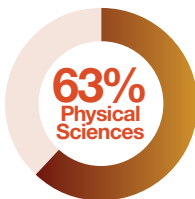
217,856
Master's Degrees



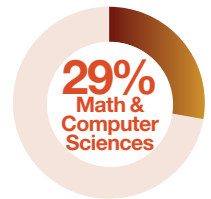
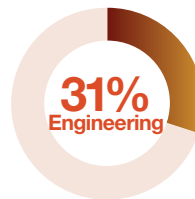
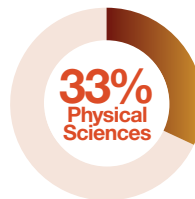
361,273
Bachelor's Degrees

In 2024, AAU institutions awarded 50% of all research doctoral degrees and 22% of all undergraduate degrees in Science and Engineering

RESEARCH DOCTORAL DEGREES in Science and Engineering out of National Total



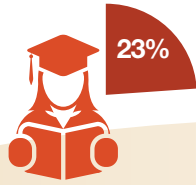
BACHELOR'S DEGREES in Science and Engineering out of National Total



STUDENTS AT AAU UNIVERSITIES IN 2023



13%
of Undergraduates¹
1.51 million
Undergraduates



23%
of Graduate Students¹
756,289
Graduate Students



70% of all
Postdocs
46,334
Total Postdocs



38% of all
International Students
360,814
International Students



34% of all
Study Abroad Students
92,971
Study Abroad

¹ At all 4-year U.S. institutions.

GRADUATES OF AAU UNIVERSITIES



24
Governors
in 2025



275
Members
of Congress
in 2025



3
Joint Chiefs
of Staff
in 2025



13
U.S.
Presidents
1900–2025



9
Current
U.S. Supreme
Court
Justices



21,850
Education
Degrees and
Certificates
in 2024



7,804
Medical
Degrees
in 2024

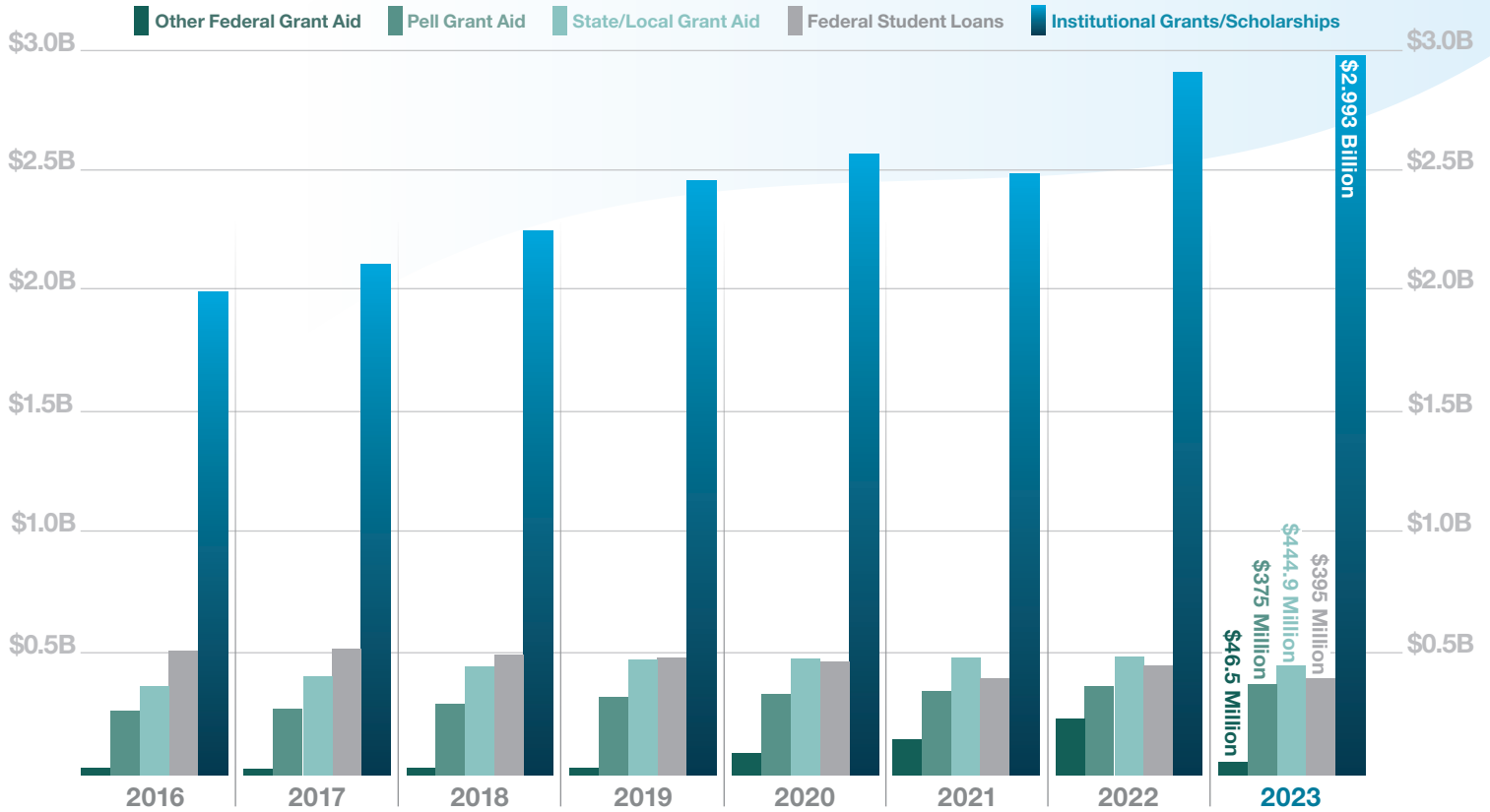


2,739
Dentistry
degrees in
2024

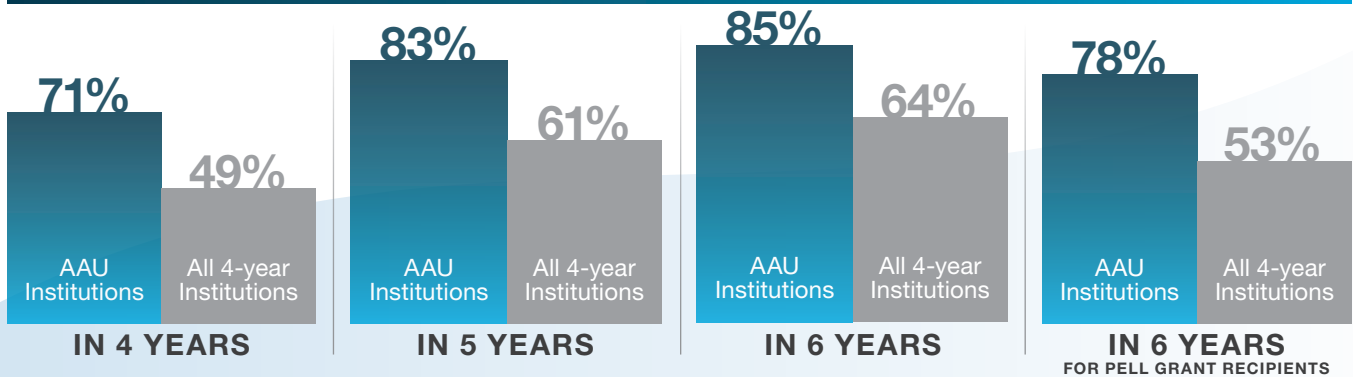


13,498
Nursing
Degrees
in 2024

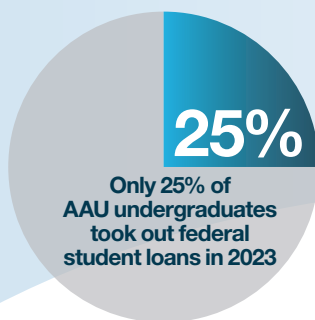
UNDERGRADUATE FINANCIAL AID FUNDING SOURCES AT AAU UNIVERSITIES



2023 AAU GRADUATION RATES VS. ALL 4-YEAR U.S. INSTITUTIONS



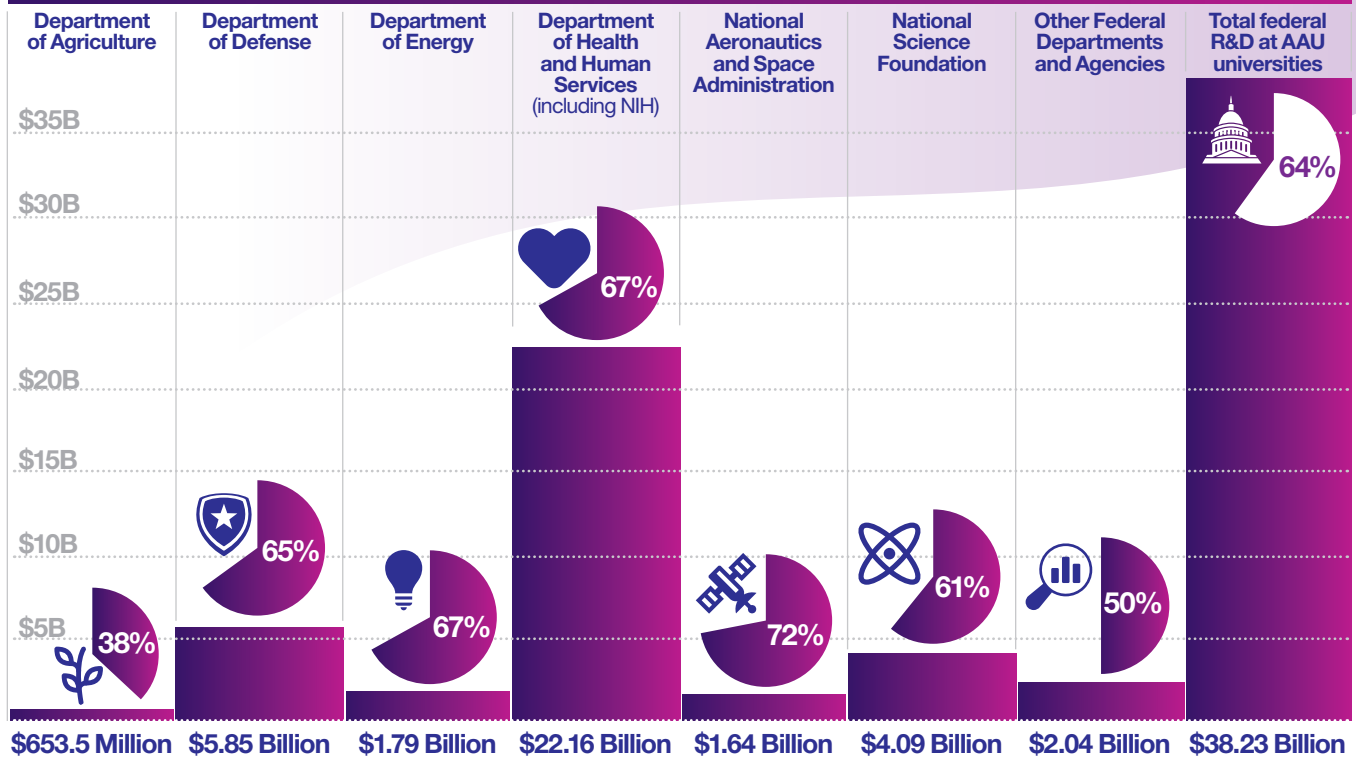
STUDENT DEBT



STUDENT DEBT: 3-YEAR DEFAULT RATES (FY2018)



FEDERALLY FUNDED ACADEMIC R&D EXPENDITURES AT AAU UNIVERSITIES IN 2023¹



¹ Dollar amount of R&D expenditures by AAU Universities and share of total amount awarded to universities by each agency, NCSES Higher Education Research and Development (HERD) Survey.

HONORS & AWARDS



SCHOLARLY OUTPUT



^{2,3} Thomson-Reuters InCites
⁴ Academic Analytics

RESOURCES

