

Arkansas State Profile

November 1, 2020

State profiles for the 50-State Comparison on postsecondary governance structures summarize information about coordinating boards/agencies and governing boards, administrative/service agencies, advisory groups and membership organizations. The most in-depth information is provided for statewide and major postsecondary systemwide coordinating boards/agencies and governing boards.

Note: This resource does not include information related to setting tuition rates, administering funding formulas or allocating funds. The state profile information is based primarily on statutes, codes and state and postsecondary system board/agency policies. To the extent possible, Education Commission of the States reached out to state and system officials to verify our information.

State Overview

The Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board is a statewide coordinating board for public postsecondary education. The Department of Education – Division of Higher Education is the administrative office charged with carrying out the board’s policies and overseeing federal, academic and student financial aid programs, conducting research and analysis, collecting and disseminating data, and publishing higher education reports. Legislation enacted in 2019 merged the K-12 and higher education departments and other offices into one agency and created a secretary of education position. The higher education division director reports to the secretary of education and is appointed by the coordinating board with input from the Presidents Council and confirmed by the governor. Individual boards govern Arkansas State University, the University of Arkansas and other institutions.

Data Point	Description
Single Statewide Coordinating Board/Agency or Governing Board and State Postsecondary Governance Models	
Single Statewide Coordinating Board (or Agency) or Governing Board for All Public Higher Education	Yes
State Postsecondary Governance Model	Single, statewide coordinating board/agency



Data Point	Description
Statewide and Major Systemwide Coordinating Boards (or Agency) or Governing Boards	
Entity Name	Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board
Entity Function	Coordinating
Scope of Authority	Statewide
Legal Authority	Statutory
Type of Institutions Coordinated, Governed, Represented or Served by Entity	Public four-year and public two-year
Primary Responsibilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Administer federal programs - Advise and/or provide recommendations to state policy and education leaders - Approve institutional missions - Conduct policy research and analysis - Determine and/or regulate courses of study - Develop and/or administer academic policies or programs (e.g., admissions, transfer) - Develop master/strategic plans for state or system - Engage in statewide or systemwide policy planning - Recommend or approve establishing, merging or closing institutions - Review existing academic programs
Budget Role for Institutions	Review and recommend
New Academic Program Role	Review and approve
Appointing/Hiring Authority of Higher Education Executive Officer	Coordinating board with approval of governor
Appointing/Hiring Authority of Higher Education Executive Officer Notes	Arkansas's Higher Education Coordinating Board appoints the executive director, who is confirmed by and serves at pleasure of governor. The Presidents Council provides input on the selection process. The director reports to the secretary of the department of education.



Data Point	Description
Number of Board Members (Voting and Non-voting)	12
Number of Board Members Appointed Based on Role or Selected	12
Number of Board Members Elected through General Election	0
Board Member Composition and Selection	12 members appointed by governor. 6 members must be qualified electors of the state and graduates of public two-year or four-year state postsecondary institutions. 6 members must be selected from business, industry, education, agriculturally related industry, and medical services and must not be current members of a public postsecondary institution board. At least 1 appointee must have a strong interest in and commitment to economic and workforce development. At least 1 appointee must have experience in the knowledge-based technology field. No more than 4 members can be from any one Congressional district.
Do Institutions Governed (or Coordinated) by a Postsecondary System Board have Individual Governing Boards?	Not applicable
Type of Institutions with Individual Governing Boards	Not applicable
Type of Institutions without Individual Governing Boards	Not applicable
General Notes	Arkansas's Higher Education Coordinating Board appoints the executive director, who is confirmed by and serves at pleasure of governor. The Presidents Council provides input on the selection process. The director reports to the secretary of the department of education.
Website	http://www.adhe.edu/about-adhe/coordinating-board/



Data Point	Description
Citations	Ark. Code Ann. §6-61 Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board Policies
Agencies and System Offices Affiliated with Coordinating and Governing Boards	
Entity Name	Arkansas Department of Education -- Division of Higher Education
Entity Function	Administrative/service
Type of Institutions Coordinated, Governed, Represented or Served by Entity	Public four-year and public two-year
Website	http://www.adhe.edu/
Administrative and Advisory Entities	
Entity Name	Not applicable
Other Postsecondary System and Multi-Campus Institutional Boards	
Entity Name	Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas
Entity Function	Governing
Type of Institutions Coordinated, Governed, Represented or Served by Entity	Public four-year and public two-year
Website	http://www.uasys.edu/
Other Postsecondary System and Multi-Campus Institutional Boards	
Entity Name	Arkansas State University Board of Trustees
Entity Function	Governing



Data Point	Description
Type of Institutions Coordinated, Governed, Represented or Served by Entity	Public four-year and public two-year
Website	https://www.asusystem.edu/
Membership Organizations	
Entity Name	Arkansas Community Colleges
Entity Function	Membership
Type of Institutions Coordinated, Governed, Represented or Served by Entity	Public two-year
Website	http://www.arkansascc.org/
Membership Organizations	
Entity Name	Arkansas Independent Colleges and Universities, Inc.
Entity Function	Membership
Type of Institutions Coordinated, Governed, Represented or Served by Entity	Independent/non-profit
Website	http://www.arkindcolleges.org/