



Arkansas: Parent PLUS Median Debt at Independent Colleges

College Scorecard Planning Screen | Debt Originated at the Reporting Institution

Prepared by Campus Access Partners | July 2026

This report uses College Scorecard Parent PLUS median-debt data to identify where parent borrowing has historically functioned as a multi-year financing tool at independent colleges in Arkansas. The principal planning marker is the new **\$65,000 Parent PLUS aggregate maximum**. Because these figures are medians, roughly half of measured completer borrower files are at or above the reported amount.

The primary measure is Parent PLUS debt originated at the reporting institution for students who completed. The figures reflect AY 2021-2023 public data and should be validated against current campus records before operational decisions.

Arkansas: Statewide Planning Information

Metric	Read	Metric	Read
New Parent PLUS aggregate maximum	\$65,000	Independent colleges represented	17
Reported completer medians	7	Median of reported medians	\$24,220
At or above \$65K	0	Near \$65K (\$55K-\$64,999)	0
Highest reported median	\$42,066	Highest institution	Hendrix College

Independent Colleges

Rows are sorted by median Parent PLUS debt at the institution for completers. The completer median is the primary planning signal; the all-borrower median is included as secondary context. N/A indicates that a field was suppressed or not reported.

Institution	All Borrowers at Institution	Completers at Institution	Completer Files	Parent PLUS Share	Planning Signal
Hendrix College	\$26,964	\$42,066	66	5-15%	Elevated
Harding University	\$26,930	\$30,408	457	10-20%	Monitor
Ouachita Baptist University	\$20,655	\$25,052	98	5-15%	Monitor
John Brown University	\$19,000	\$24,220	116	5-15%	Monitor
Williams Baptist University	\$11,589	\$19,157	30	10-15%	Lower signal
Central Baptist College	\$12,547	\$14,764	41	10-15%	Lower signal
Philander Smith University	\$14,468	\$14,110	46	15-20%	Lower signal
Arkansas Baptist College	\$8,500	N/A	N/A	0-5%	Suppressed
Baptist Health College Little Rock	\$8,000	N/A	37	0-5%	Suppressed
Champion Christian College	N/A	N/A	N/A	5-10%	Suppressed
Crowley's Ridge College	\$10,276	N/A	18	15-25%	Suppressed
Ecclesia College	N/A	N/A	N/A	0-10%	Suppressed
Jackson Theological Seminary	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Suppressed
Jefferson Regional School of Nursing	N/A	N/A	N/A	0-5%	Suppressed
Lyon College	\$14,925	N/A	15	10-15%	Suppressed
Shorter College	N/A	N/A	N/A	0-5%	Suppressed
University of the Ozarks	\$9,425	N/A	18	0-10%	Suppressed

Public Comparison Schools

The three largest public bachelor's-or-higher institutions in Arkansas by undergraduate enrollment are included for reference and are not part of the independent-college distribution.

Institution	All Borrowers at Institution	Completers at Institution	Completer Files	Parent PLUS Share	Planning Signal
University of Arkansas	\$24,038	\$33,338	1,159	5-10%	Monitor
Arkansas State University	\$11,000	\$12,000	299	0-10%	Lower signal
University of Central Arkansas	\$13,135	\$16,851	581	5-15%	Lower signal

Source and Method Note

Universe: Main-campus, private nonprofit colleges with reported undergraduate enrollment, plus the three largest main-campus public bachelor's-or-higher institutions by undergraduate enrollment. **Data:** U.S. Department of Education College Scorecard Most Recent Cohorts Institution file uploaded for this project. **Primary field:** Parent PLUS debt at the institution for completers. **Timing:** Figures reflect AY 2021-2023 public data. N/A indicates that a field was suppressed or not reported.