

Academic Pathways	Present in the State		Special Efforts to Reach Underserved Students		State Support	
<b>Advanced Placement (AP)</b>	Yes	AP courses available in 188 schools in 2004. Beginning in 2005, every high school is required to offer one AP course in a core area. By 2008, each school will be required to offer 4 courses, one in each of the 4 core areas.	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low-income students</li> <li>• Rural students</li> <li>• Urban students</li> </ul>	Yes	High schools are required to offer at least 4 AP classes; funding is available to pay for exams for low-income students.
<b>Bridge Programs</b>	Yes	The <a href="#">University of Central Arkansas</a> has a program linked with Upward Bound.	Yes	Students from 4 targeted high schools are eligible.	Yes	State-supported summer bridge program
<b><u>Career Academies</u></b>	Yes	These have linkages to colleges and offer students opportunities for taking college courses.	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low-achieving students</li> <li>• Low-income students</li> <li>• Racial and ethnic minority students</li> </ul>	Yes	Supported by the Arkansas Department of Workforce Education
<b>College Level Exam Program (CLEP)</b>	Yes	Most four-year colleges use CLEP.	No		No	
<b><u>Distance Learning/ Virtual School</u></b>	Yes	Includes dual credit and concurrent enrollment opportunities	Yes	Rural students	Yes	Some funding for equipment
<b>Dual Credit/ Dual Enrollment</b>	Yes	Called concurrent enrollment. Availability of concurrent enrollment is geographically uneven.	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Latino(a) students</li> <li>• Low-income students</li> <li>• Rural students</li> </ul>	Yes	Discussions are underway among 3 state agencies to formulate policy on dual credit; it is also being explored by a subcommittee of the House. Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board Policy 5.16.1 (2003): concurrent enrollment policy
<b>Early or Middle College High Schools</b>	Yes	Early college high school program has begun in 2006.	Yes		Yes	
<b><u>GED in College Settings</u></b>	Yes	GED programs are located in most 2-year colleges	Yes	All programs emphasize outreach to underserved students.	Yes	State funding

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<b>High School Vocational Programs on College Campuses</b>	Yes	14 sites offer ½ day vocational programs	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low-income students</li> <li>• Racial and ethnic minority students</li> </ul>	Yes	Student funding available
<b>International Baccalaureate (IB)</b>	Yes	3 high schools participating	No		No	
<b><u>Tech Prep</u></b>	Yes	248 high schools, 29 colleges, 254 employers, and 24,073 students participating in 2004	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low-income students</li> <li>• Non-traditional students by gender</li> </ul>	Yes	State policy guidelines and some funding provided
<b><u>Youth Opportunities Unlimited (YOU)</u></b>	Yes	Students spend 4-5 weeks on a college campus after sophomore year of high school; follow-up advising offered	Yes	Low-income students	Yes	Federal and state policy

**Summary of academic pathways:**

Arkansas has a range of academic pathways including several unique to the state. In Arkansas, dual credit and dual enrollment is referred to “concurrent enrollment”; it is a particular priority within the state and is considered a key aspect of school reform. The state is currently exploring the possibility of encouraging high school students to work toward or earn an Associates Degree concurrently with graduation from high school. Arkansas is particularly active in workforce education, as evidenced by the presence of a separate, dedicated state agency.

**Interesting or unique models identified by state officials:**

- Career academies with college course-taking opportunities
- High school vocational programs in which students spend one-half of each day on a college campus
- The YOU program, in which high school students spend 4-5 weeks on a college campus after the sophomore year of high school

**Observations by state officials about special efforts to reach underserved students:**

Opportunities are available to low-income students to participate in AP courses and take the AP exam. Distance and online learning is offered to increase opportunities for rural students. Efforts are made by workforce development programs to educate students for non-traditional (by gender) careers.



Observations by state officials about state support for pathways:

The state is especially interested in promoting college attendance by involving students in early college-going opportunities through concurrent enrollment. Some funding is available for Tech Prep, AP, distance/online education, and other special programs.

Lessons learned by state officials:

- Officials have discussed the merits of concurrent enrollment versus AP. Since no one pathway meets the needs of all students, it is helpful to have multiple options.
Traditional barriers disrupt communication among educational levels. A P-16 framework and a commitment to open communication are helpful for mutual understanding and collaboration.

Programs recommended by state officials:

Table with 5 columns: Pathways, Educational Institution, Contact person, E-mail, Phone. Rows include Concurrent Enrollment, International Baccalaureate, and YOU.

State official's contact information:

Table with 5 columns: Name, Title, Agency, E-mail, Phone. Rows include \*John Davidson and \*Steve Floyd.

(Prepared by Elisabeth Barnett and Eunyoung Kim/ Updated January, 2006/ \*State official reviewed this state profile.)