

Distance Education State Almanac

ALABAMA



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National setting

Student enrollment in higher education institutions has undergone fundamental changes over the last decade, a condition only exacerbated by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Between 2012 and 2019, the total number of students enrolled at U.S. degree-granting institutions dropped by almost 1.1 million. At the same time, the number of students taking at least one online course grew by 2 million, from 5.4 million to 7.4 million, representing 37.2% of all students in 2019. The net result of these two changes was far fewer students studying on campus, from 18.3 million in 2012 to 16.4 million by 2019.

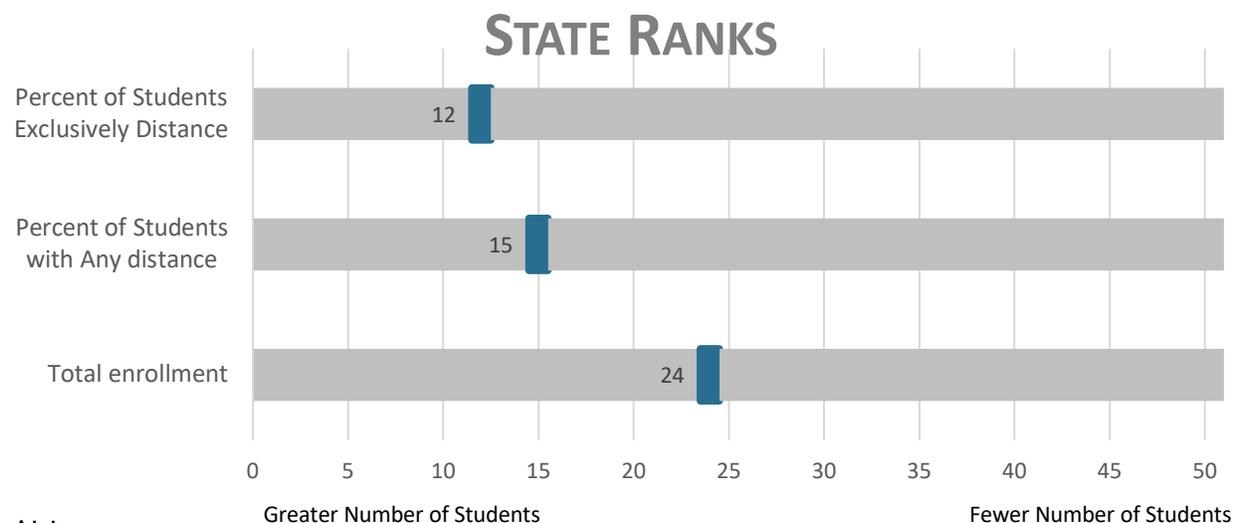
The information presented in this report represent the classifications and enrollments for Fall 2019 and were measured before the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. National totals include all 50 states, District of Columbia, America Samoa, Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, Marshall Islands, Northern Marianas, Palau, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.

Alabama

Alabama has 63 degree-granting higher education institutions, representing 1.5% of all such institutions in the United States. Of these institutions, 38 are classified as public, 20 as private not-for-profit, and 5 as private for-profit. Of these 63 institutions, 37 offer four-year programs, and 26 offer two-year programs.

The state has 303,353 students enrolled across its institutions and ranks 24th in terms of total higher education student enrollment. Between 2012 and 2019, the total number of students enrolled nationally declined by 5.0%. For Alabama, the enrollment decreased by 6,836 students, or -2.2%. Alabama has 253,524 students studying at the undergraduate level, a loss of 12,271 students from 2012 (-4.6%), compared to a 6.8% national decline. There are 49,829 students studying at the graduate level, which is 5,435 greater than in 2012; this represents a change of 12.2%, where the national data showed an increase of 5.7%.

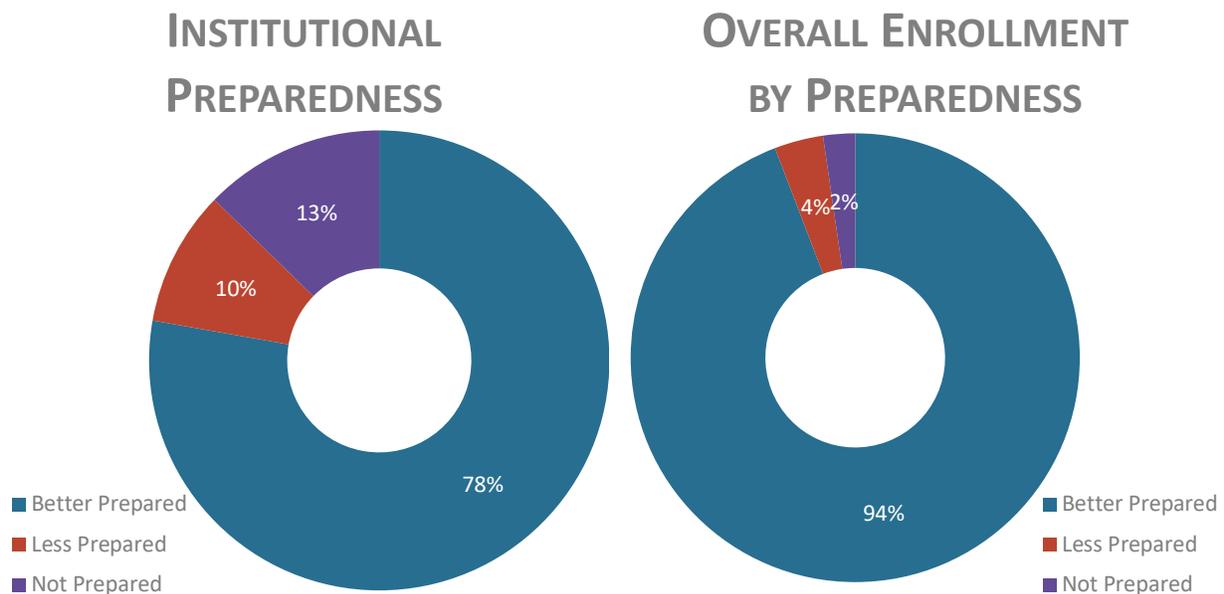
There are 132,661 students in Alabama that take at least one distance course. The state is ranked 15th for the proportion of students taking at least one distance course (43.7%). In 2019, there were 69,876 students taking all of their courses at a distance, a growth of 19,868 students (39.7%) from 2012. Alabama ranks 12th in the proportion of students (23.0%) taking exclusively distance courses in the nation.



COVID-19 Distance Learning Preparedness

Not all higher education institutions were equally prepared to move courses online. Those institutions with a substantial number of students studying at a distance (1,000 or more), or a substantial percentage of their students taking at least one distance course (25% or more), can be expected to have the experience and infrastructure to better support a transition to online learning. Likewise, institutions with no distance students will have the least experience and infrastructure to support such a transition.

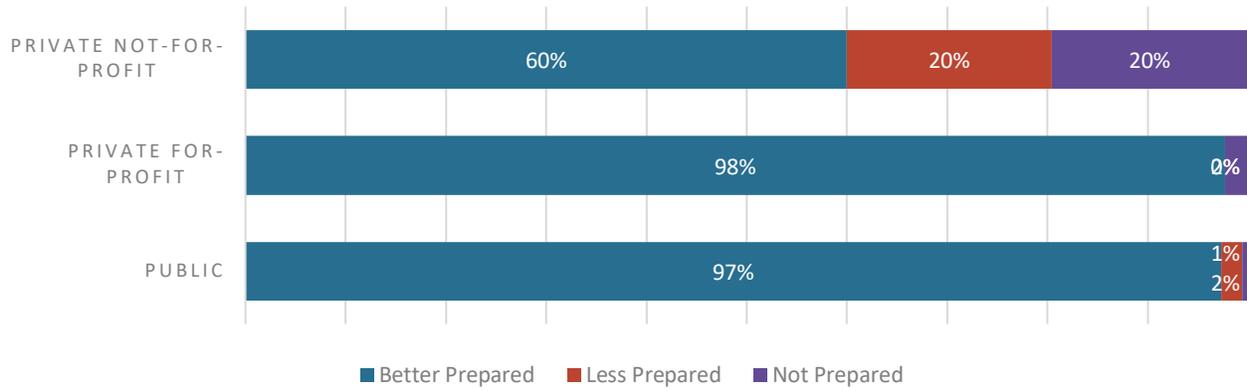
Nationally, 59.3% of all degree-granting institutions meet the criteria of having 25% or more or over 1,000 of their students taking distance courses. In Alabama, 77.8% of institutions are better prepared for moving completely online. These institutions enroll 285,709 students, or 94.2% of all students in the state. There are 8 institutions in Alabama with no distance students (representing 12.7% of the total in state institutions) that were likely not well prepared for a rapid transition to distance learning.



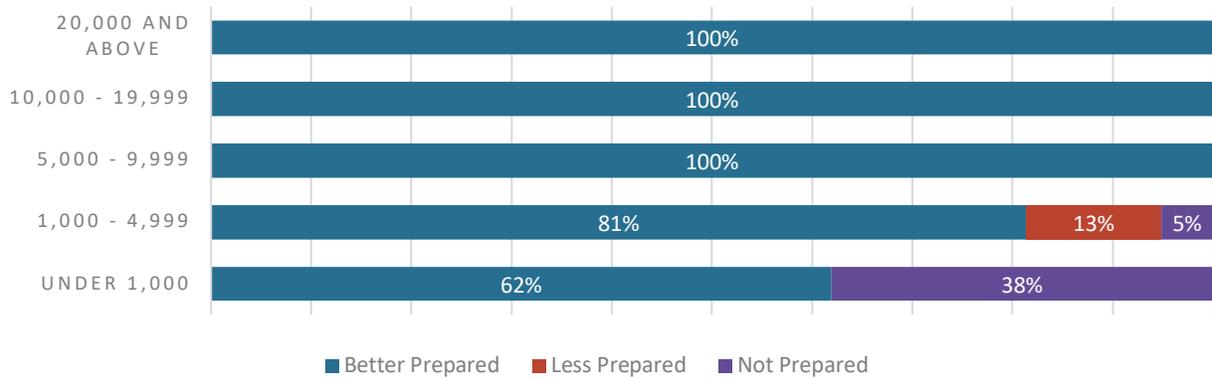
Preparedness Definitions:

- BETTER PREPARED:** Schools with more than 1,000 online students (thus extensive support staff) or having 25 percent or more of their students online
- LESS PREPARED:** Large schools with less than 1,000 online students (thus some support staff) or having less than 25 percent of their students online
- NOT PREPARED:** Schools with no distance enrollment

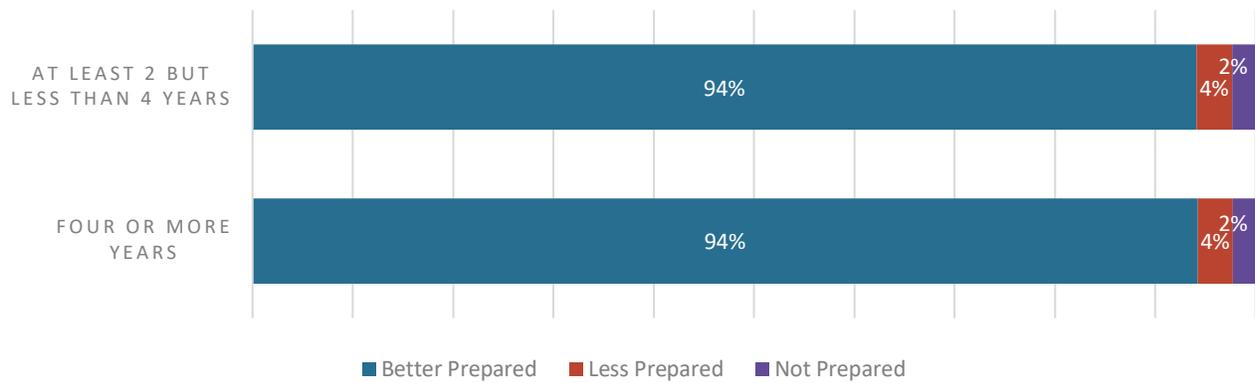
PREPAREDNESS BY CONTROL



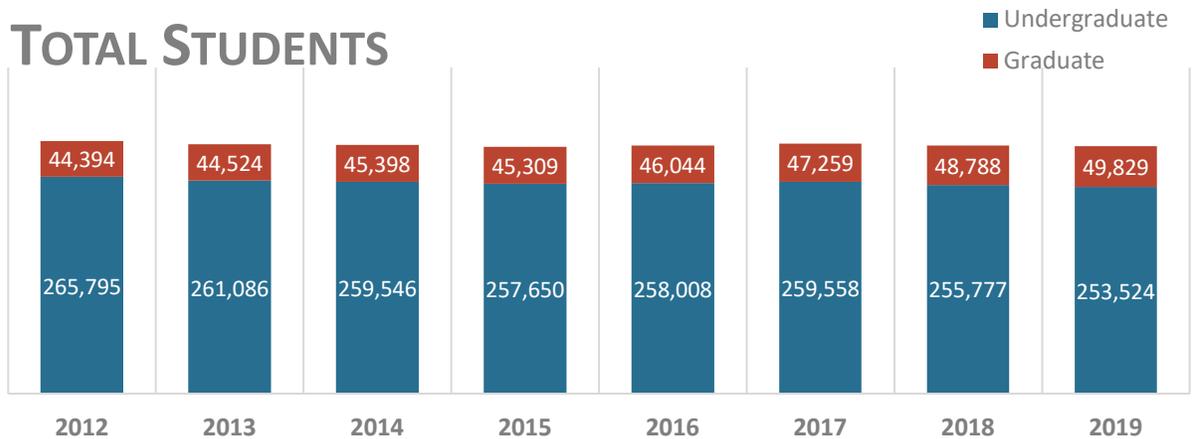
PREPAREDNESS BY SIZE



PREPAREDNESS BY TYPE



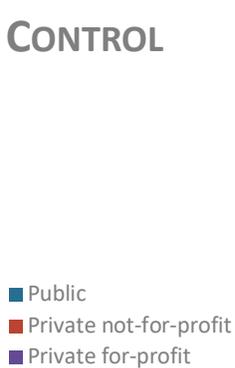
State Enrollment



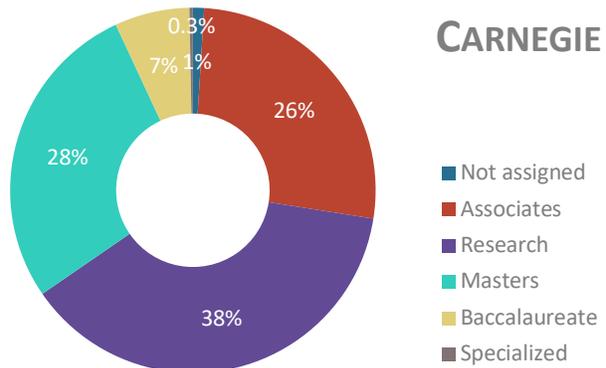
Institutions in Alabama enrolled a total of 303,353 students in the of Fall 2019; 253,524 students were enrolled at the undergraduate level, and 49,829 enrolled at the graduate level. The Fall 2019 figure represents a decrease of 6,836 students (-2.2%) from the number enrolled in the fall of 2012. The number of undergraduate students decreased by 12,271 during this period, from 265,795 in 2012 to 253,524 in 2019 (-4.6%). The number of graduate students increased from 44,394 to 49,829 (12.2%) in the same period.

Enrollments in Fall 2019 totaled 254,803 students at public institutions (84% of all students), 25,870 students at private not-for-profit institutions (8.5%), and 22,680 students at private for-profit institutions (7.5%). Enrollments at public institutions increased by 3,758 students between 2012 and 2019, while those at private not-for-profit institutions decreased by 239 students, and those at private for-profit institutions decreased by 10,355 students.

CONTROL



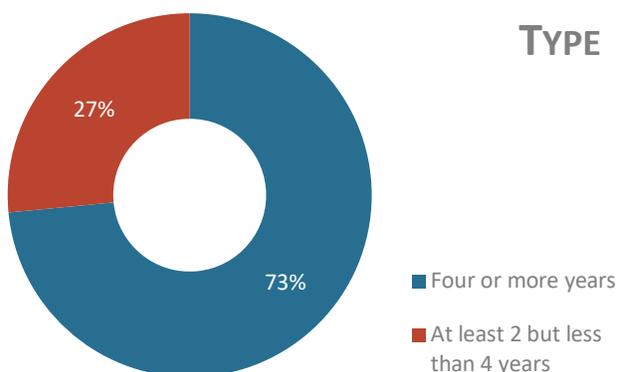
CARNEGIE



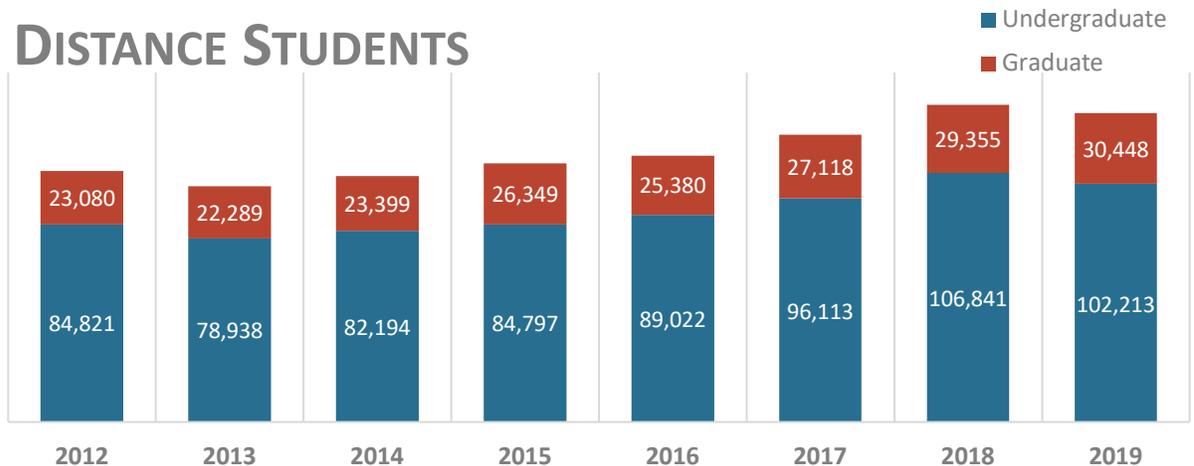
SIZE



TYPE



DISTANCE STUDENTS

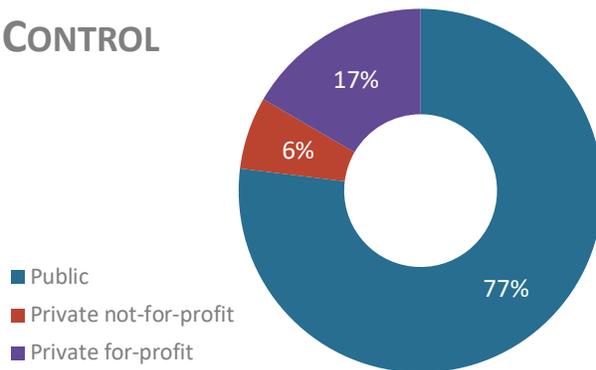


In 2019, a total of 132,661 students took at least one distance course from Alabama institutions; 102,213 (40.3% of all undergraduate students) were enrolled at the undergraduate level, and 30,448 (61.1% of all graduate students) were enrolled at the graduate level.

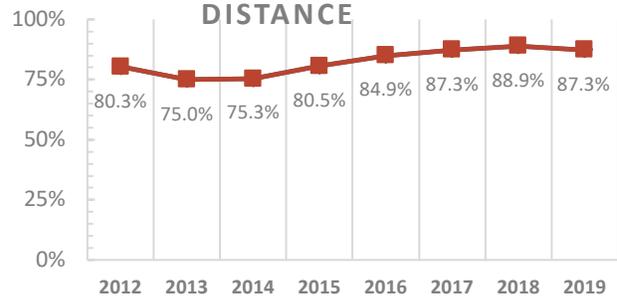
Among undergraduate level distance students, 80,362 were enrolled at institutions classified as public, 5,809 as private not-for-profit, and 16,042 as private for profit. At the graduate-level, 21,714 distance students were enrolled at institutions classified as public, 2,734 as private not-for-profit, and 6,000 as private for profit.

The number of undergraduate distance enrollments at Alabama institutions increased by 17,392 (20.5%) between Fall 2012 and Fall 2019, while the number of graduate distance enrollments grew by 7,368 (31.9%) during this same period.

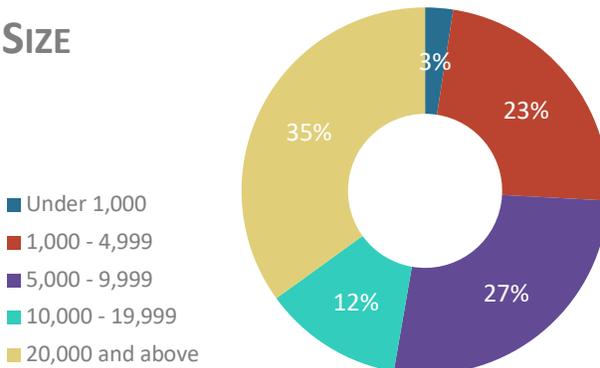
CONTROL



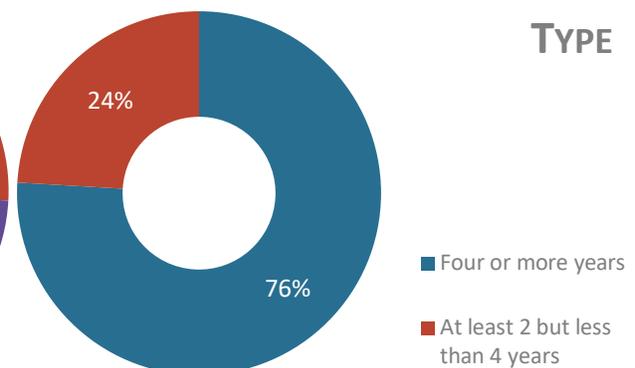
% INSTITUTIONS WITH DISTANCE



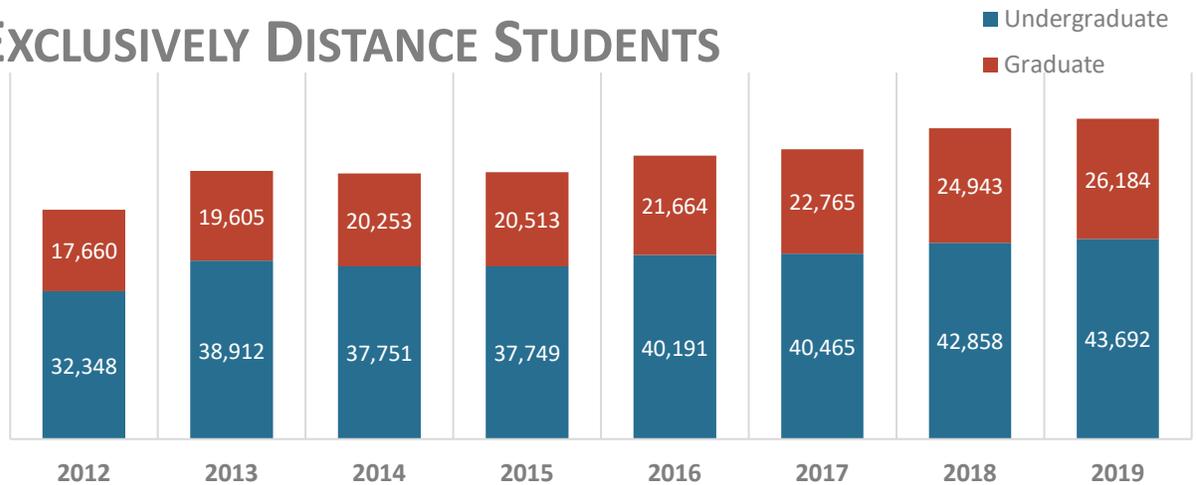
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TYPE

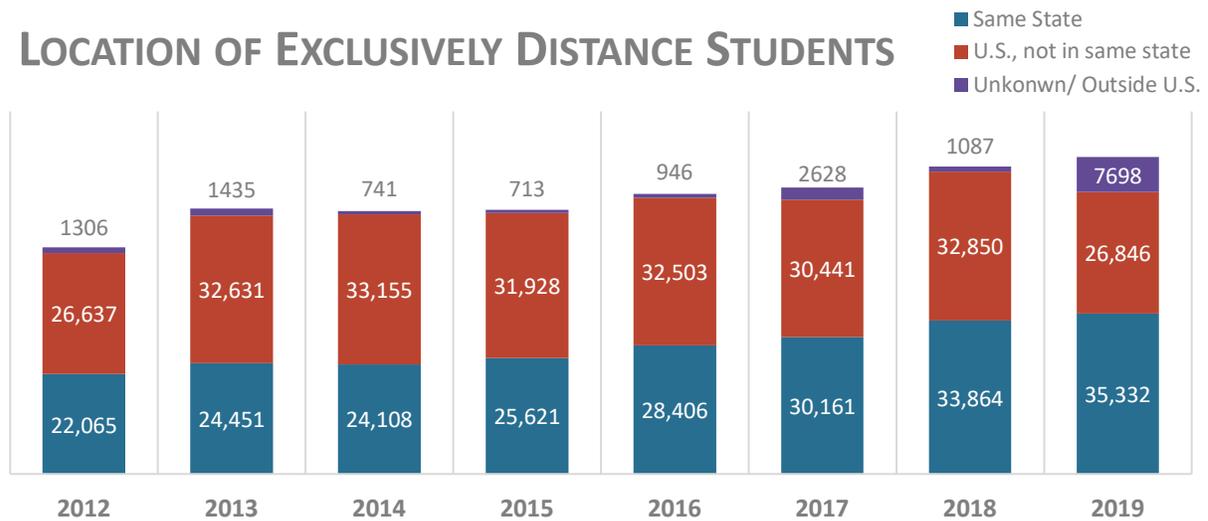


EXCLUSIVELY DISTANCE STUDENTS

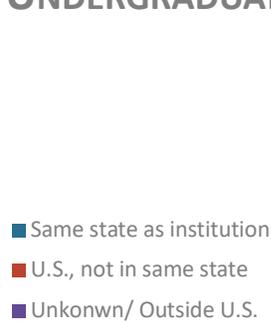


A total of 69,876 students were taking all of their courses at a distance from Alabama institutions in the fall of 2019. This represents 23.0% of the enrolled students in the state, which ranks the state at number 12 in the U.S. The number of exclusively distance students who reside in Alabama while taking courses from an institution in Alabama was 22,065 in 2012 and grew to 35,332 by 2019. There are 34,544 students enrolled as exclusively distance students in Alabama institutions who reside outside Alabama, or whose place of residence is unknown.

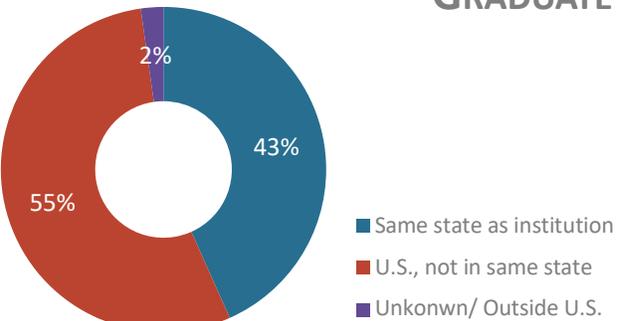
LOCATION OF EXCLUSIVELY DISTANCE STUDENTS



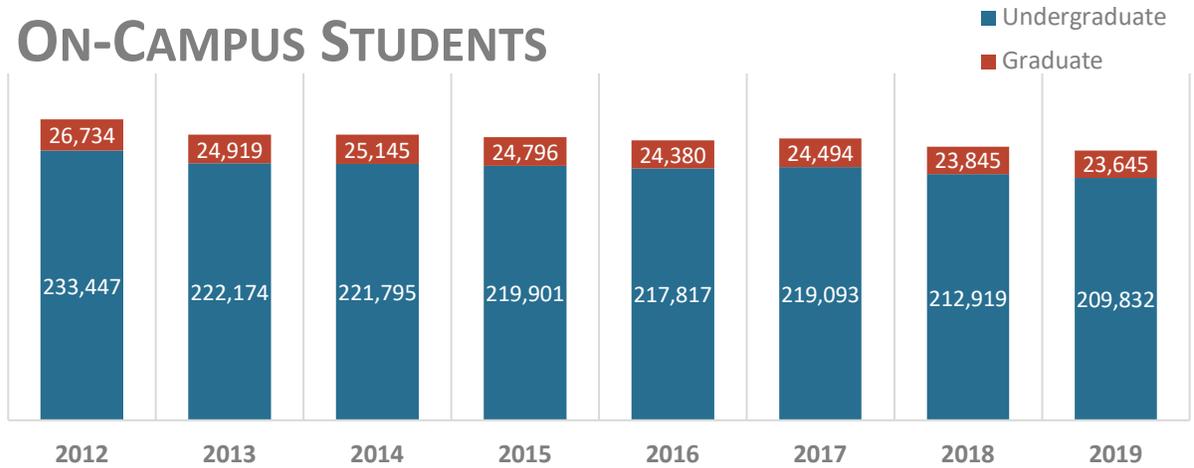
UNDERGRADUATE



GRADUATE

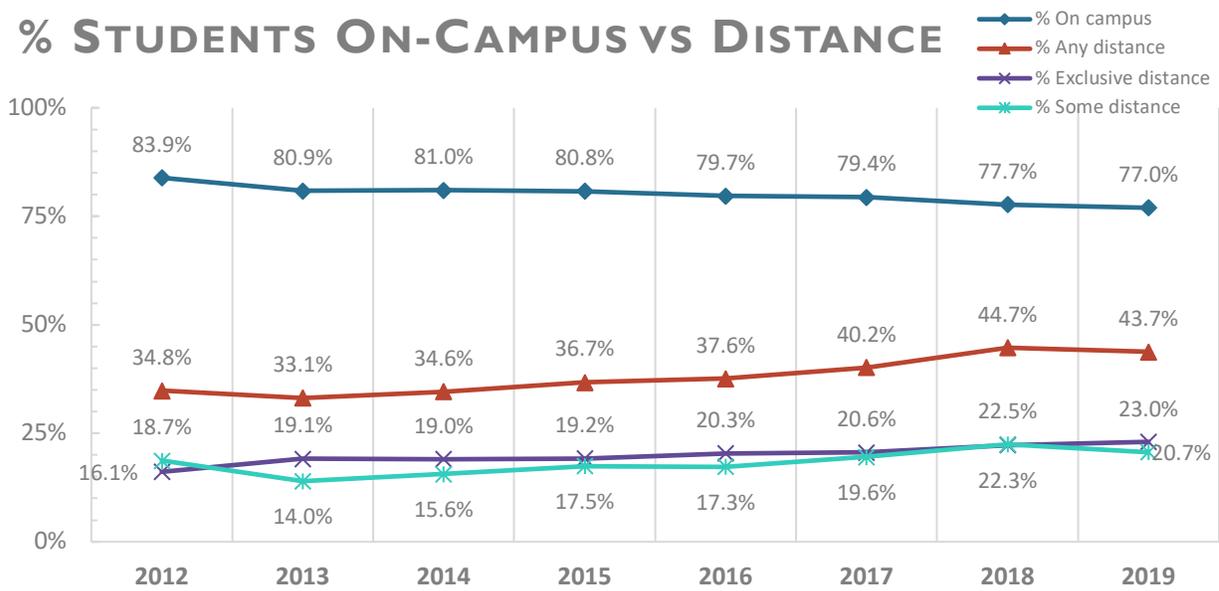


ON-CAMPUS STUDENTS

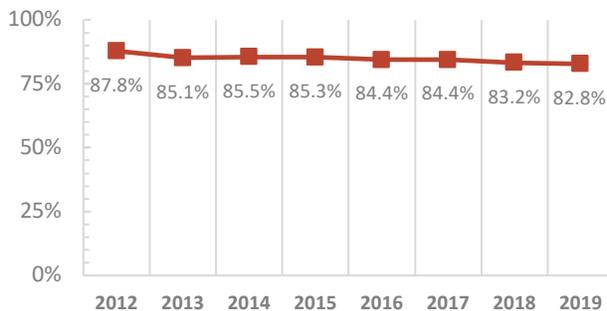


On-campus students are those who take one or more of their courses physically on-campus. The number of students studying on campus declined from 260,181 to 233,477 between 2012 and 2019 in Alabama, representing a reduction of 10.3%. This compares to a national decrease of 10.3% for the same period. In 2019, 82.8% of undergraduate students and 47.5% of graduate students in Alabama were taking at least one on-campus course.

% STUDENTS ON-CAMPUS VS DISTANCE



% ON-CAMPUS: UNDERGRADUATE



% ON-CAMPUS: GRADUATE



INSTITUTIONS

	Alabama	National	State Rank	State as % of National
Total institutions	63	4,089	24	1.5%
Institutions w/ distance	55	3,161	21	1.7%
% Institution w/ distance	87.3%	77.3%	20	

ENROLLMENTS

Alabama		Total	Any Distance	Exclusive Distance	On Campus
Total		303,353	132,661	69,876	233,477
Size	Under 1,000	7,565	3,260	1,835	5,730
	1,000 - 4,999	79,304	31,035	11,625	67,679
	5,000 - 9,999	74,977	35,661	14,181	60,796
	10,000 - 19,999	30,833	16,323	10,254	20,579
	20,000 and above	110,674	46,382	31,981	78,693
Carnegie	Not assigned	2,999	1,824	1,761	1,238
	Associates	80,373	32,249	10,337	70,036
	Research	115,025	36,735	16,227	98,798
	Masters	83,931	52,765	36,207	47,724
	Baccalaureate	20,117	8,523	4,790	15,327
	Specialized	908	565	554	354
Control	Public	254,803	102,076	44,042	210,761
	Private not-for-profit	25,870	8,543	4,039	21,831
	Private for-profit	22,680	22,042	21,795	885
Type	Four or more years	222,894	100,733	59,563	163,331
	At least 2 but less than 4 years	80,459	31,928	10,313	70,146