

Distance Education State Almanac

ARIZONA



Julia E. Seaman, Ph.D.

Research Director, Bay View Analytics

Jeff Seaman, Ph.D.

Director, Bay View Analytics



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.

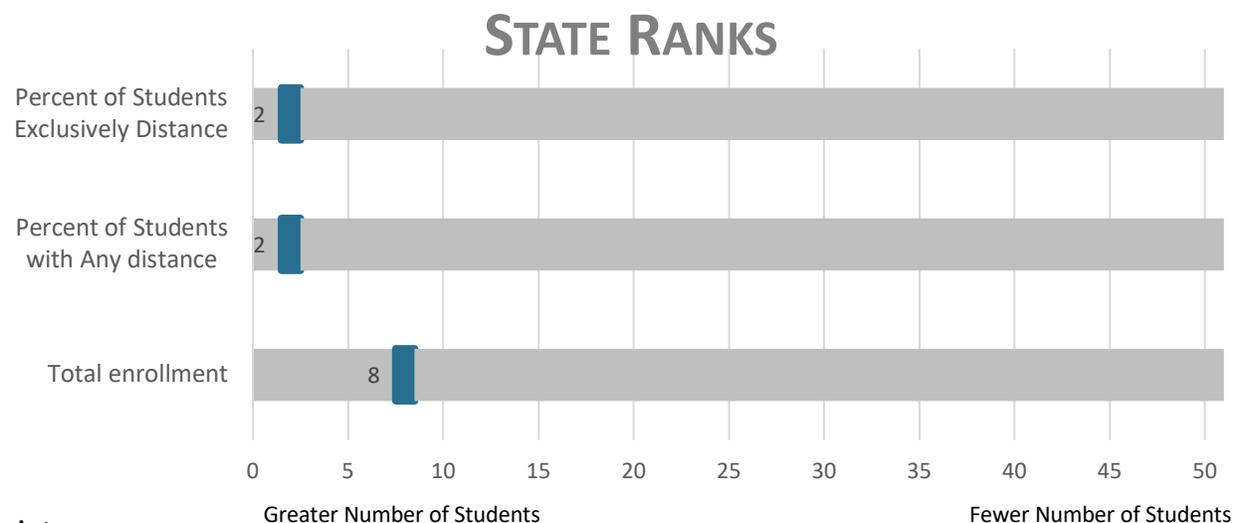
The information presented in the report represent the classifications and enrollments for Fall 2019 and were measured before the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. National totals include all 50 states, District of Columbia, America Samoa, Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, Marshall Islands, Northern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

Arizona

Arizona has 69 degree-granting higher education institutions, representing 1.7% of all such institutions in the United States. Of these institutions, 29 are classified as public, 13 as private not-for-profit, and 27 as private for-profit. Of these 69 institutions, 36 offer four-year programs, and 33 offer two-year programs.

The state has 609,159 students enrolled across its institutions and ranks 8th in terms of total higher education student enrollment. Between 2012 and 2019, the total number of students enrolled nationally declined by 5.0%. For Arizona, the enrollment decreased by 127,306 students, or -17.3%. Arizona has 505,181 students studying at the undergraduate level, a loss of 116,503 students from 2012 (-18.7%), compared to a 6.8% national decline. There are 103,978 students studying at the graduate level, which is 10,803 fewer than in 2012; this represents a change of -9.4%, where the national data showed an increase of 5.7%.

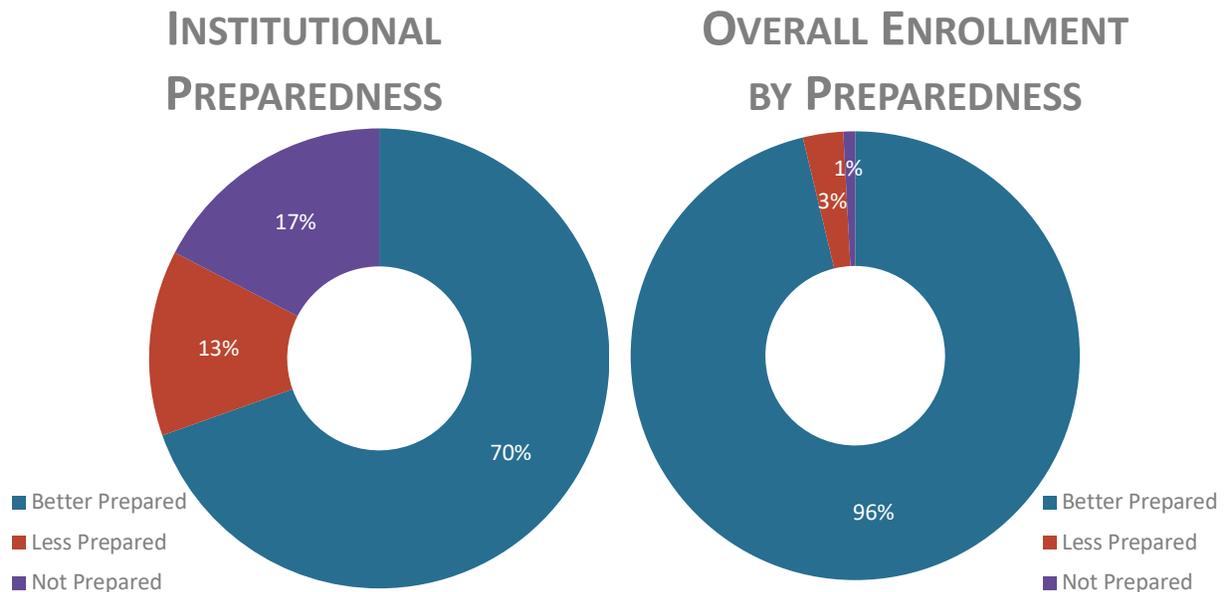
There are 382,461 students in Arizona that take at least one distance course. The state is ranked 2nd for the proportion of students taking at least one distance course (62.8%). In 2019, there were 274,295 students taking all of their courses at a distance, a loss of -85,919 students (-23.9%) from 2012. Arizona ranks 2nd in the proportion of students (45.0%) 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.

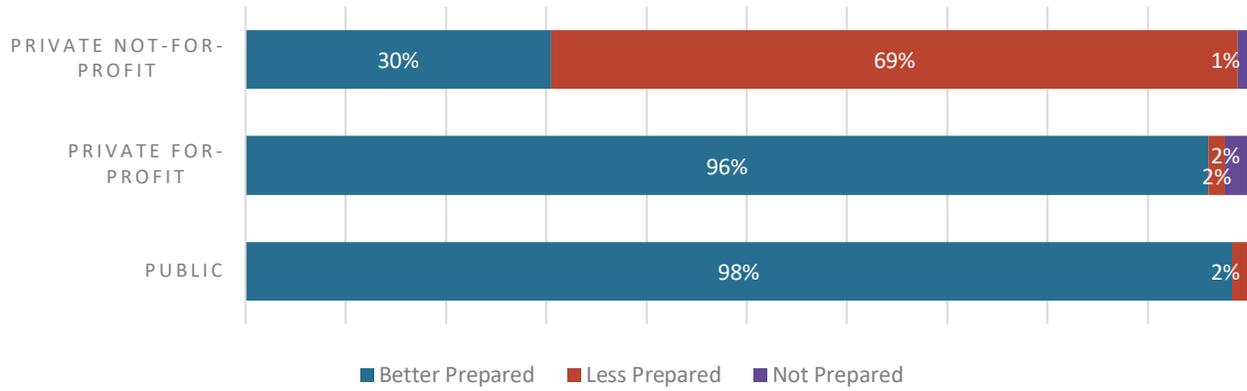
Nationally, 59.3% of all degree-granting institutions meet the criteria of having 25% or more or over 1,000 of their students taking distance courses. In Arizona, 69.6% of institutions are better prepared for moving completely online. These institutions enroll 586,296 students, or 96.2% of all students in the state. There are 12 institutions in Arizona with no distance students (representing 17.4% of the total in state institutions) that were likely not well prepared for a rapid transition to distance learning.



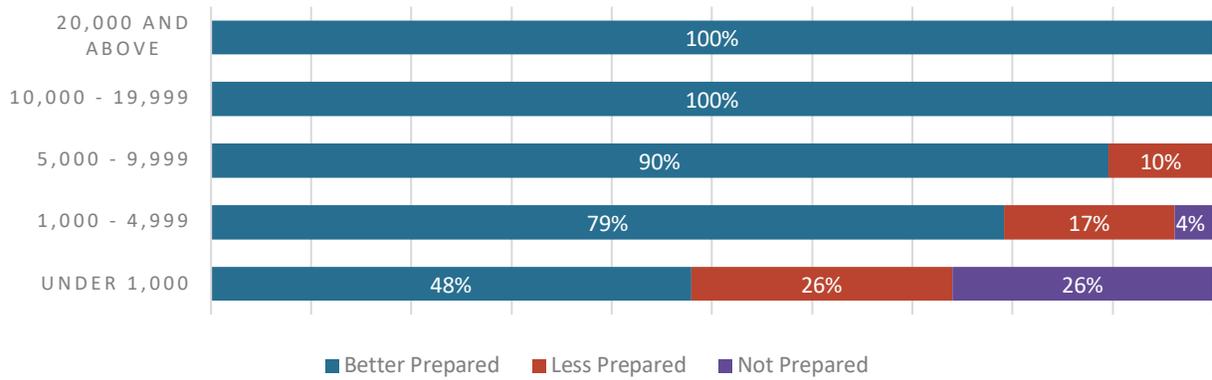
Preparedness Definitions:

- 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

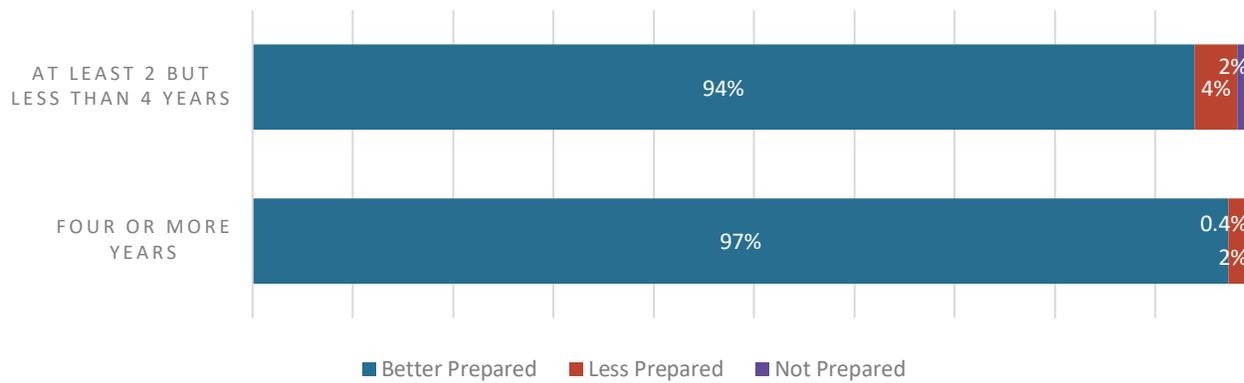
PREPAREDNESS BY CONTROL



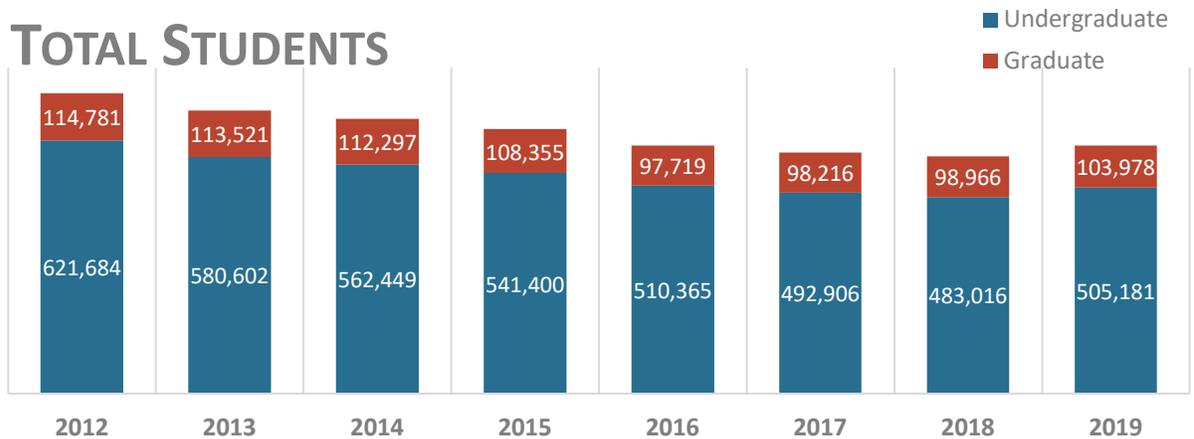
PREPAREDNESS BY SIZE



PREPAREDNESS BY TYPE



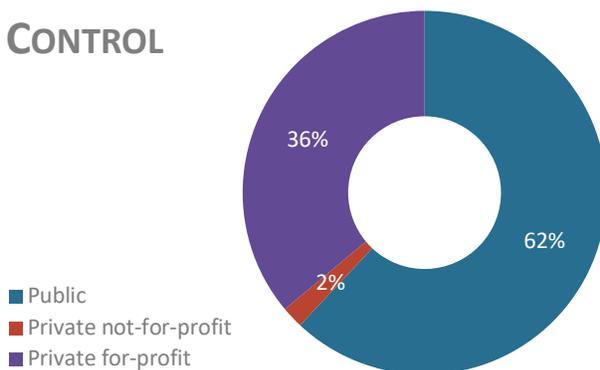
State Enrollment



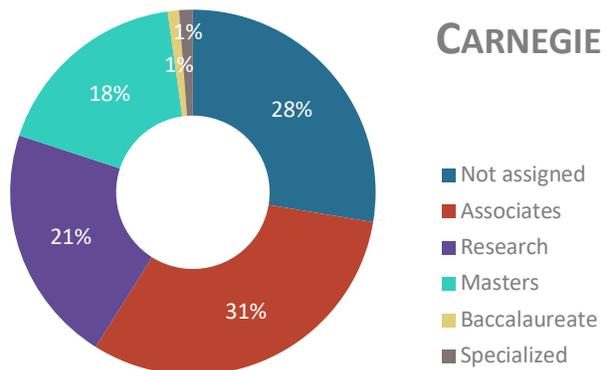
Institutions in Arizona enrolled a total of 609,159 students in the of Fall 2019; 505,181 students were enrolled at the undergraduate level, and 103,978 enrolled at the graduate level. The Fall 2019 figure represents a decrease of 127,306 students (-17.3%) from the number enrolled in the fall of 2012. The number of undergraduate students decreased by 116,503 during this period, from 621,684 in 2012 to 505,181 in 2019 (-18.7%). The number of graduate students decreased from 114,781 to 103,978 (-9.4%) in the same period.

Enrollments in Fall 2019 totaled 377,648 students at public institutions (62% of all students), 11,780 students at private not-for-profit institutions (1.9%), and 219,731 students at private for-profit institutions (36.1%). Enrollments at public institutions increased by 18,419 students between 2012 and 2019, while those at private not-for-profit institutions increased by 2,593 students, and those at private for-profit institutions decreased by 148,318 students.

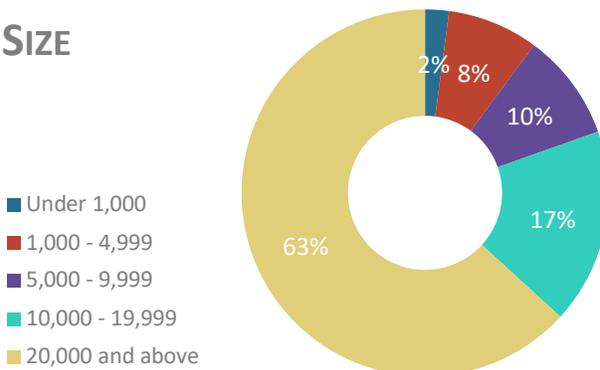
CONTROL



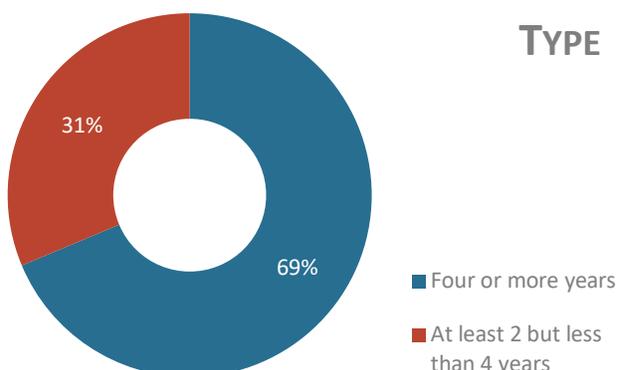
CARNEGIE



SIZE

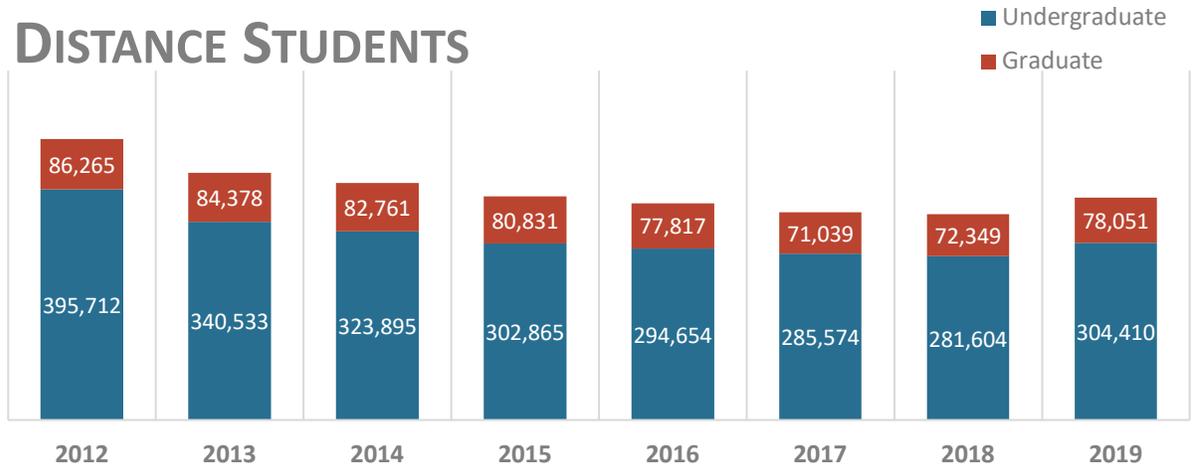


TYPE



State Enrollment

DISTANCE STUDENTS

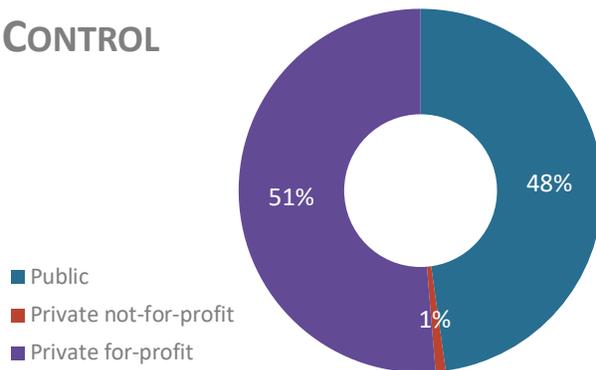


In 2019, a total of 382,461 students took at least one distance course from Arizona institutions; 304,410 (60.3% of all undergraduate students) were enrolled at the undergraduate level, and 78,051 (75.1% of all graduate students) were enrolled at the graduate level.

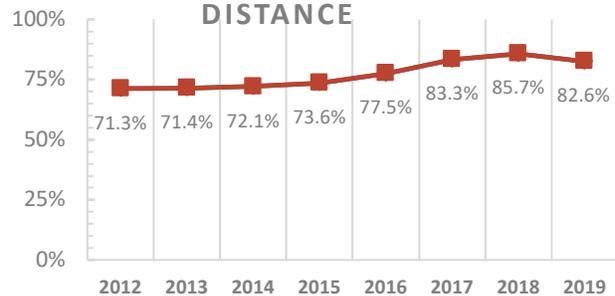
Among undergraduate level distance students, 164,487 were enrolled at institutions classified as public, 1,936 as private not-for-profit, and 137,987 as private for profit. At the graduate-level, 18,300 distance students were enrolled at institutions classified as public, 1,474 as private not-for-profit, and 58,277 as private for profit.

The number of undergraduate distance enrollments at Arizona institutions decreased by -91,302 (-23.1%) between Fall 2012 and Fall 2019, while the number of graduate distance enrollments fell by -8,214 (-9.5%) during this same period.

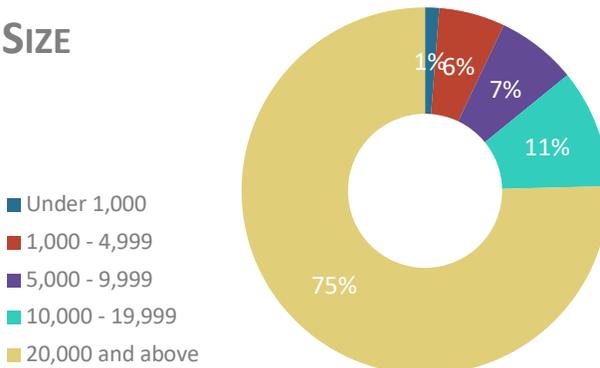
CONTROL



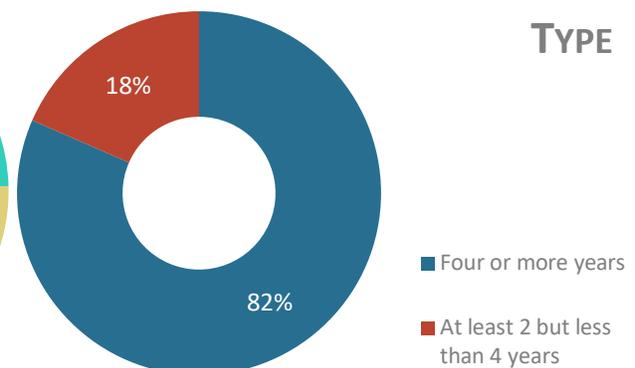
% INSTITUTIONS WITH DISTANCE



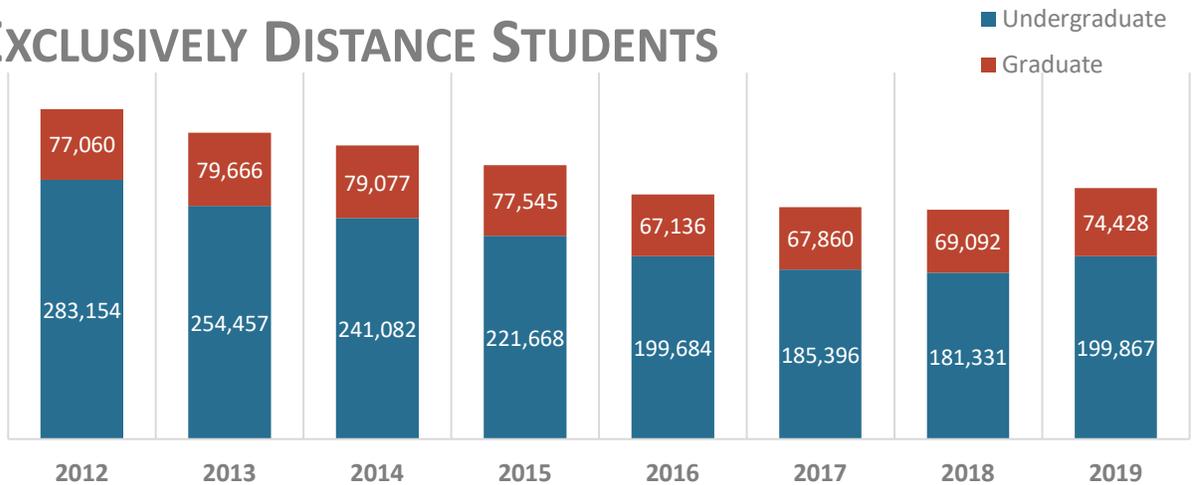
SIZE



TYPE

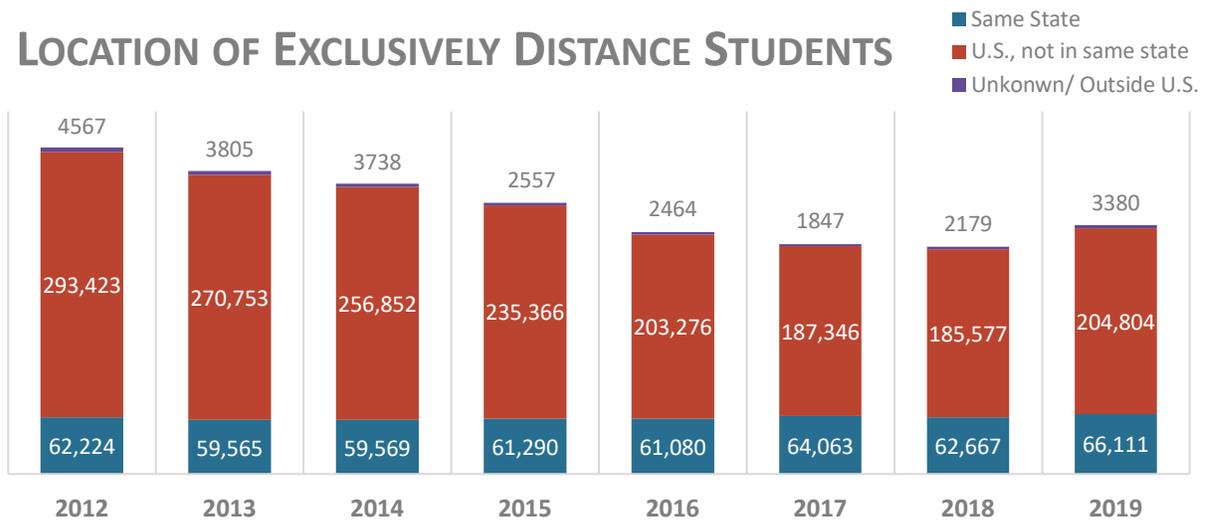


EXCLUSIVELY DISTANCE STUDENTS

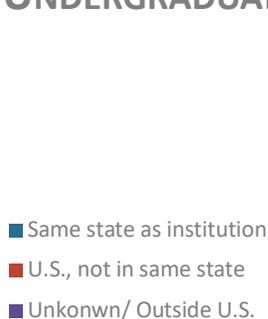


A total of 274,295 students were taking all of their courses at a distance from Arizona institutions in the fall of 2019. This represents 45.0% of the enrolled students in the state, which ranks the state at number 2 in the U.S. The number of exclusively distance students who reside in Arizona while taking courses from an institution in Arizona was 62,224 in 2012 and fell to 66,111 by 2019. There are 208,184 students enrolled as exclusively distance students in Arizona institutions who reside outside Arizona, or whose place of residence is unknown.

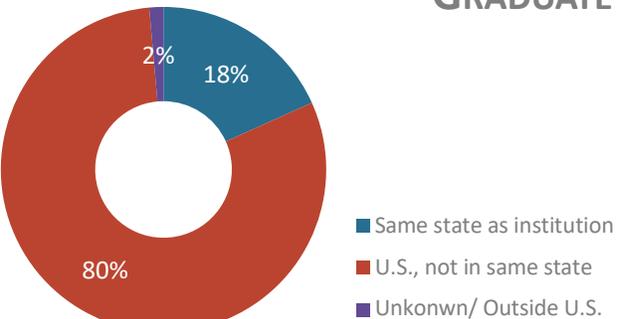
LOCATION OF EXCLUSIVELY DISTANCE STUDENTS



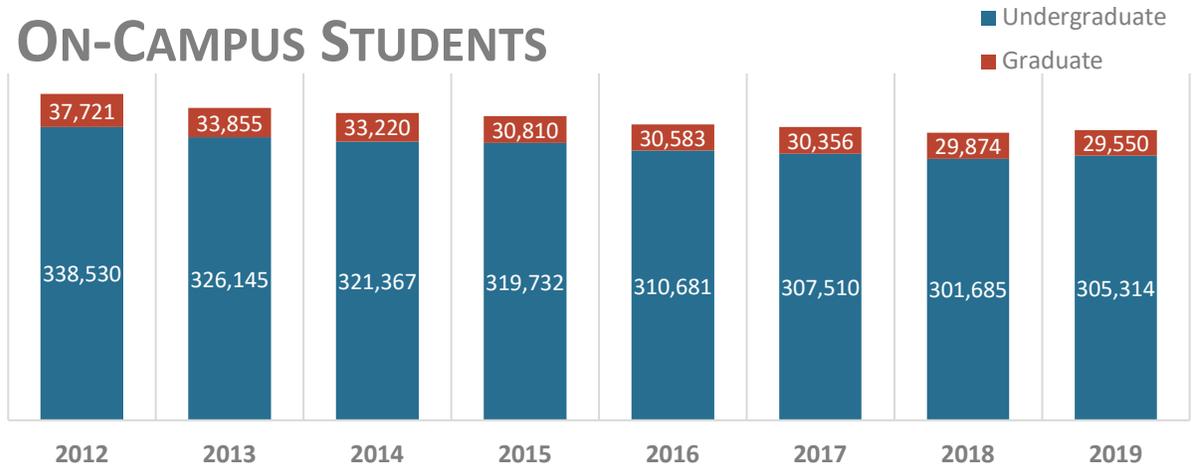
UNDERGRADUATE



GRADUATE

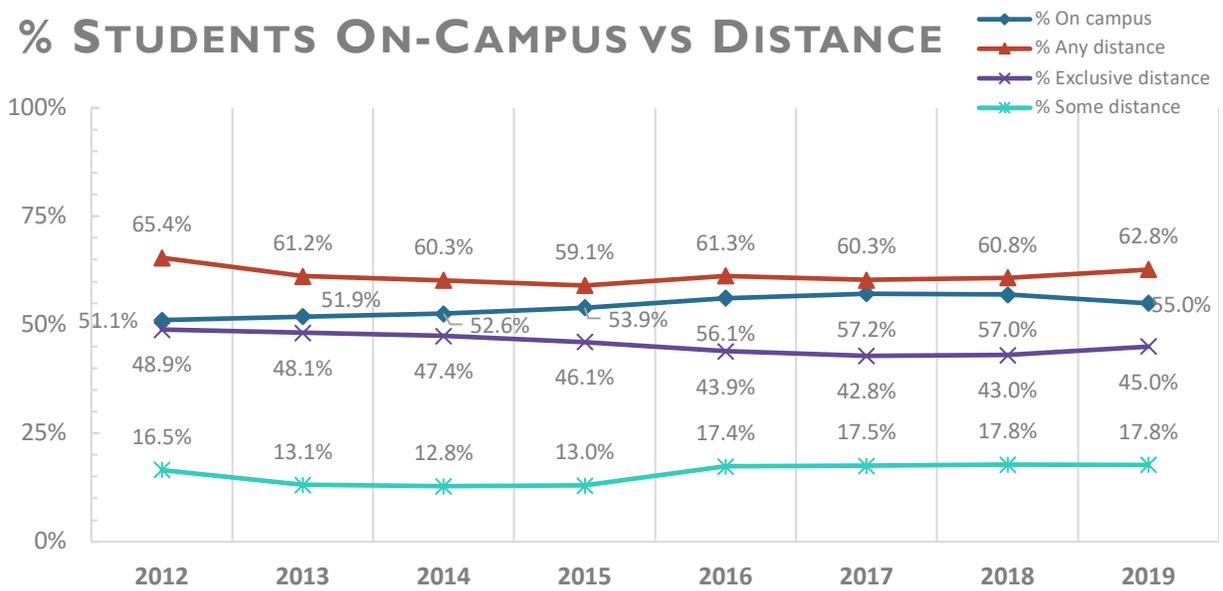


ON-CAMPUS STUDENTS

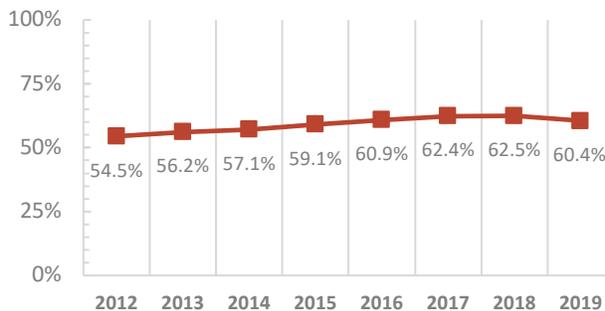


On-campus students are those who take one or more of their courses physically on-campus. The number of students studying on campus declined from 376,251 to 334,864 between 2012 and 2019 in Arizona, representing a reduction of 11.0%. This compares to a national decrease of 10.3% for the same period. In 2019, 60.4% of undergraduate students and 28.4% of graduate students in Arizona were taking at least one on-campus course.

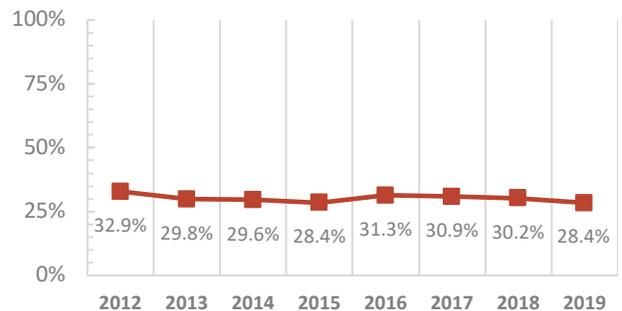
% STUDENTS ON-CAMPUS VS DISTANCE



% ON-CAMPUS: UNDERGRADUATE



% ON-CAMPUS: GRADUATE



INSTITUTIONS

	Arizona	National	State Rank	State as % of National
Total institutions	69	4,089	19	1.7%
Institutions w/ distance	57	3,161	19	1.8%
% Institution w/ distance	82.6%	77.3%	22	

ENROLLMENTS

Arizona		Total	Any Distance	Exclusive Distance	On Campus
Total		609,159	382,461	274,295	334,864
Size	Under 1,000	12,778	4,749	2,624	10,154
	1,000 - 4,999	48,804	22,249	9,503	39,301
	5,000 - 9,999	57,719	27,058	15,509	42,210
	10,000 - 19,999	104,903	40,017	18,892	86,011
	20,000 and above	384,955	288,388	227,767	157,188
Carnegie	Not assigned	168,228	155,116	141,148	27,080
	Associates	190,717	70,418	34,040	156,677
	Research	128,596	57,583	11,578	117,018
	Masters	108,179	96,691	86,646	21,533
	Baccalaureate	6,056	873	729	5,327
	Specialized	7,383	1,780	154	7,229
Control	Public	377,648	182,787	87,602	290,046
	Private not-for-profit	11,780	3,410	1,660	10,120
	Private for-profit	219,731	196,264	185,033	34,698
Type	Four or more years	418,405	311,918	240,225	178,180
	At least 2 but less than 4 years	190,754	70,543	34,070	156,684