

Distance Education State Almanac

COLORADO



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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.

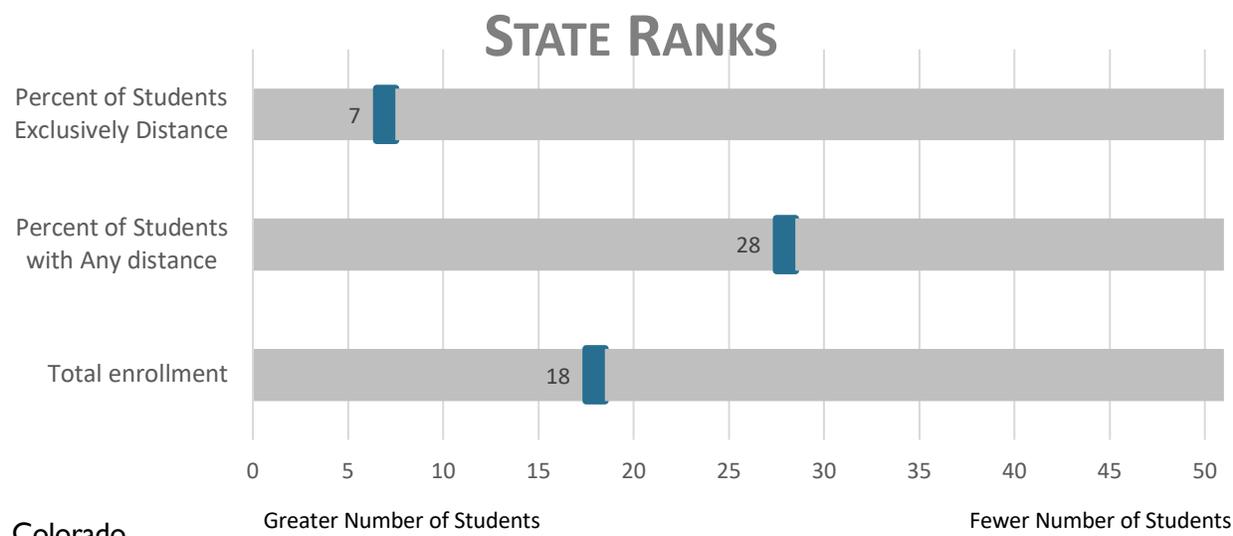
The information presented in the report represent the classifications and enrollments for Fall 2019 and were measured before the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. National totals include all 50 states, District of Columbia, American Samoa, Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, Marshall Islands, Northern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

Colorado

Colorado has 67 degree-granting higher education institutions, representing 1.6% of all such institutions in the United States. Of these institutions, 29 are classified as public, 13 as private not-for-profit, and 25 as private for-profit. Of these 67 institutions, 46 offer four-year programs, and 21 offer two-year programs.

The state has 372,427 students enrolled across its institutions and ranks 18th in terms of total higher education student enrollment. Between 2012 and 2019, the total number of students enrolled nationally declined by 5.0%. For Colorado, the enrollment increased by 4,449 students, or 1.2%. Colorado has 309,453 students studying at the undergraduate level, a loss of 154 students from 2012 (0.0%), compared to a 6.8% national decline. There are 62,974 students studying at the graduate level, which is 4,603 greater than in 2012; this represents a change of 7.9%, where the national data showed an increase of 5.7%.

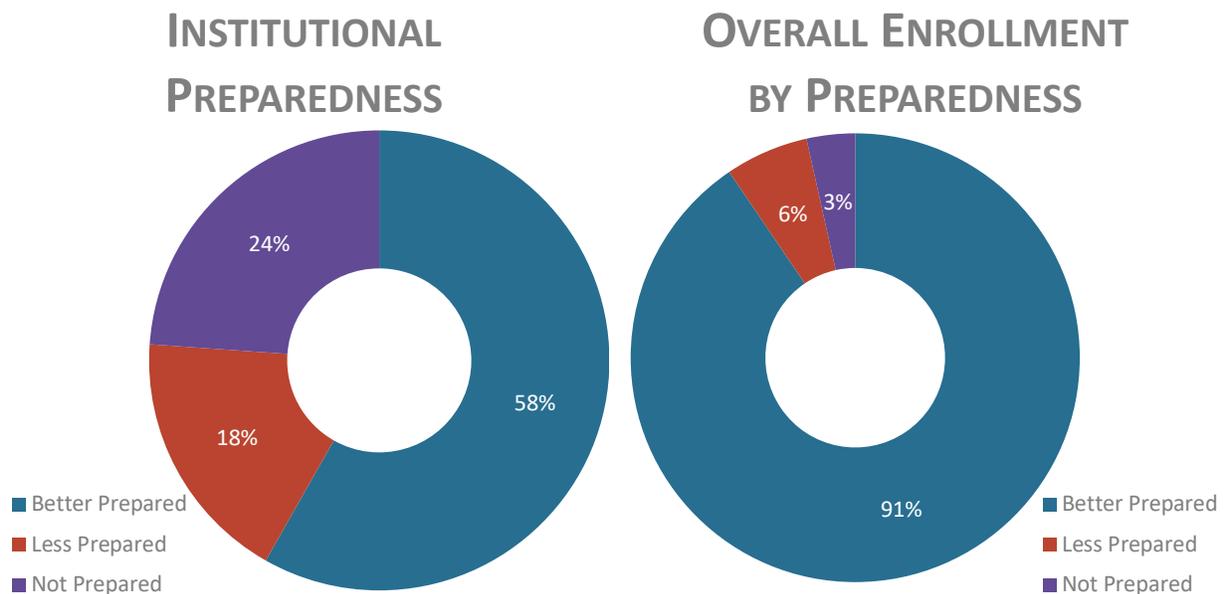
There are 142,492 students in Colorado that take at least one distance course. The state is ranked 28th for the proportion of students taking at least one distance course (38.3%). In 2019, there were 92,907 students taking all of their courses at a distance, a growth of 19,440 students (26.5%) from 2012. Colorado ranks 7th in the proportion of students (24.9%) 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.

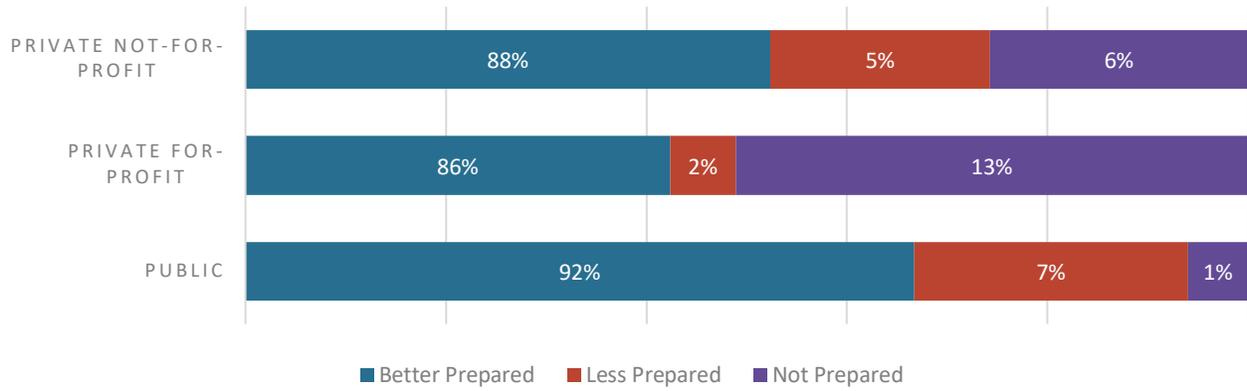
Nationally, 59.3% of all degree-granting institutions meet the criteria of having 25% or more or over 1,000 of their students taking distance courses. In Colorado, 58.2% of institutions are better prepared for moving completely online. These institutions enroll 337,106 students, or 90.5% of all students in the state. There are 16 institutions in Colorado with no distance students (representing 23.9% of the total in state institutions) that were likely not well prepared for a rapid transition to distance learning.



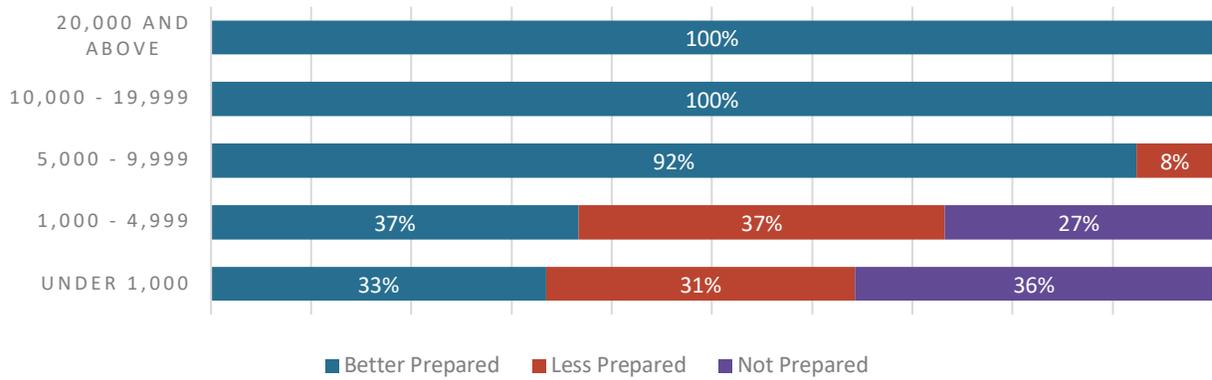
Preparedness Definitions:

- 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

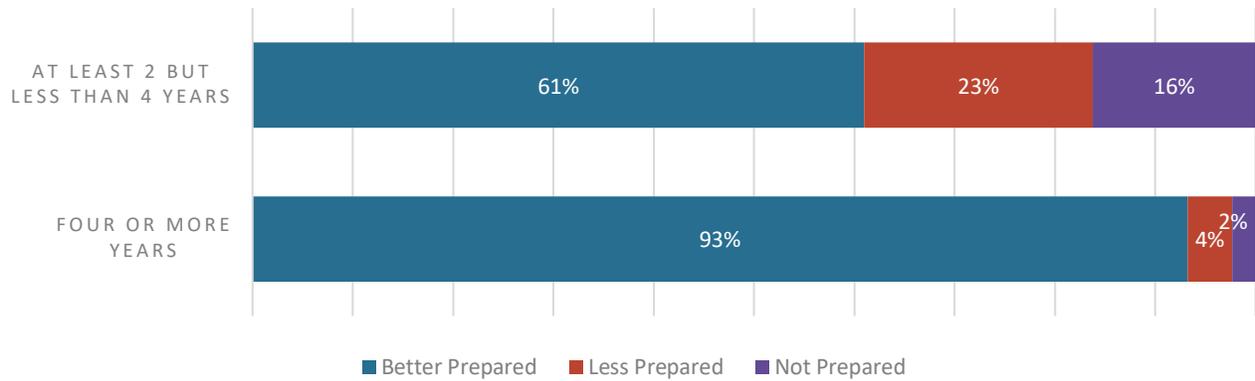
PREPAREDNESS BY CONTROL



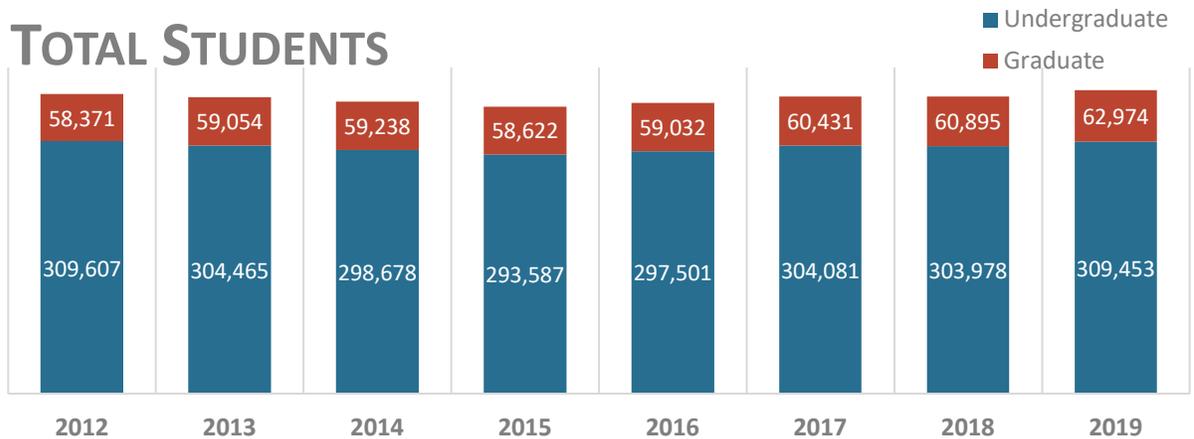
PREPAREDNESS BY SIZE



PREPAREDNESS BY TYPE



State Enrollment



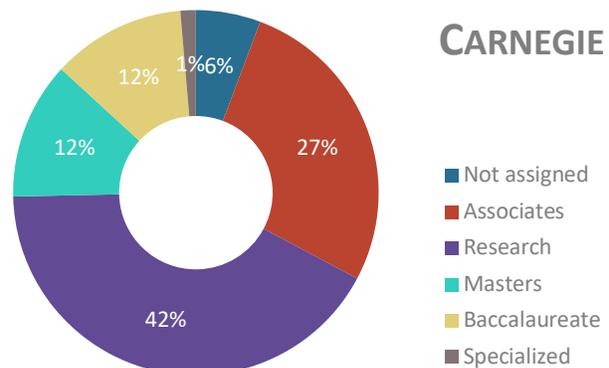
Institutions in Colorado enrolled a total of 372,427 students in the of Fall 2019; 309,453 students were enrolled at the undergraduate level, and 62,974 enrolled at the graduate level. The Fall 2019 figure represents an increase of 4,449 students (1.2%) from the number enrolled in the fall of 2012. The number of undergraduate students decreased by 154 during this period, from 309,607 in 2012 to 309,453 in 2019 (0.0%). The number of graduate students increased from 58,371 to 62,974 (7.9%) in the same period.

Enrollments in Fall 2019 totaled 287,859 students at public institutions (77% of all students), 33,427 students at private not-for-profit institutions (9.0%), and 51,141 students at private for-profit institutions (13.7%). Enrollments at public institutions increased by 11,295 students between 2012 and 2019, while those at private not-for-profit institutions decreased by 360 students, and those at private for-profit institutions decreased by 6,486 students.

CONTROL



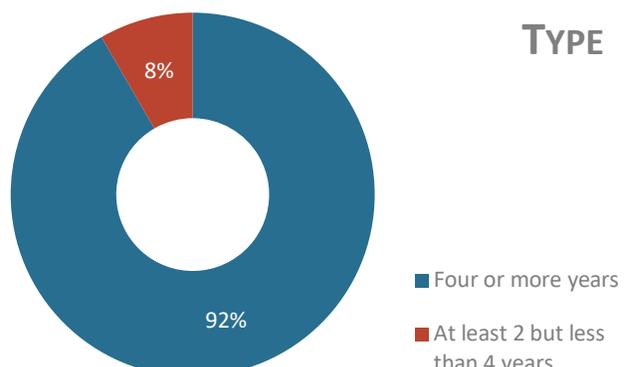
CARNEGIE



SIZE

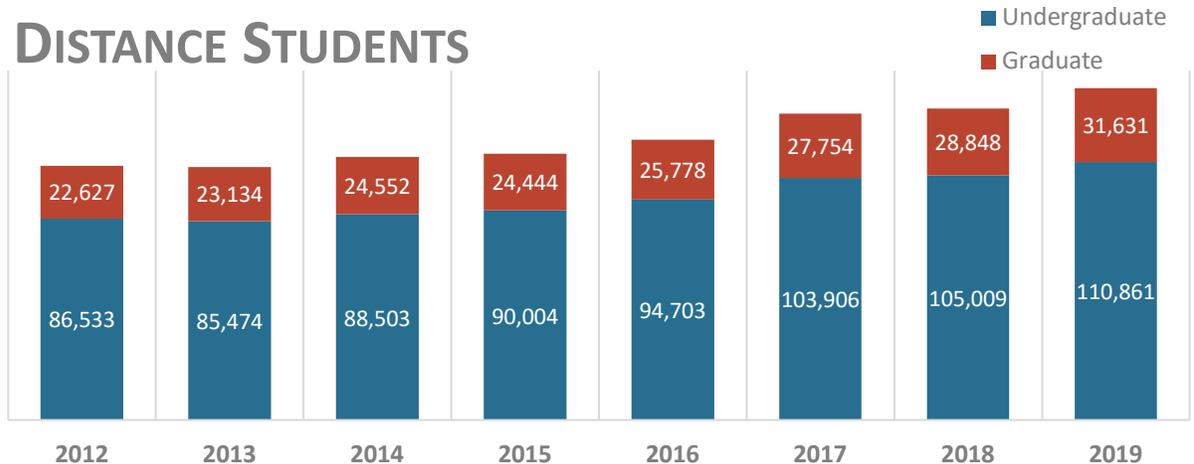


TYPE



State Enrollment

DISTANCE STUDENTS

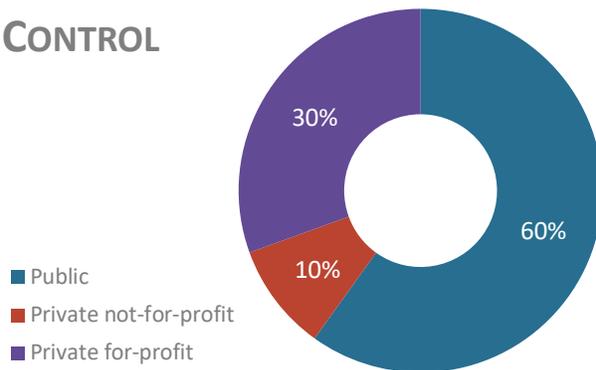


In 2019, a total of 142,492 students took at least one distance course from Colorado institutions; 110,861 (35.8% of all undergraduate students) were enrolled at the undergraduate level, and 31,631 (50.2% of all graduate students) were enrolled at the graduate level.

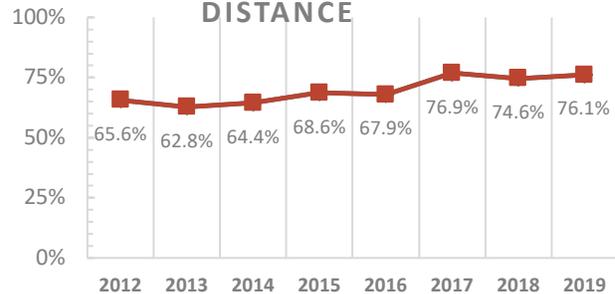
Among undergraduate level distance students, 68,922 were enrolled at institutions classified as public, 6,518 as private not-for-profit, and 35,421 as private for profit. At the graduate-level, 16,430 distance students were enrolled at institutions classified as public, 7,120 as private not-for-profit, and 8,081 as private for profit.

The number of undergraduate distance enrollments at Colorado institutions increased by 24,328 (28.1%) between Fall 2012 and Fall 2019, while the number of graduate distance enrollments grew by 9,004 (39.8%) during this same period.

CONTROL



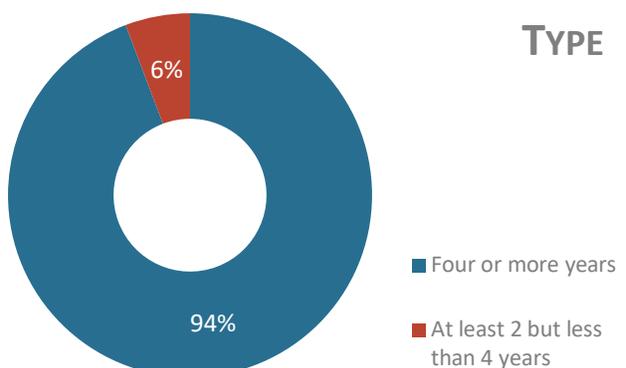
% INSTITUTIONS WITH DISTANCE



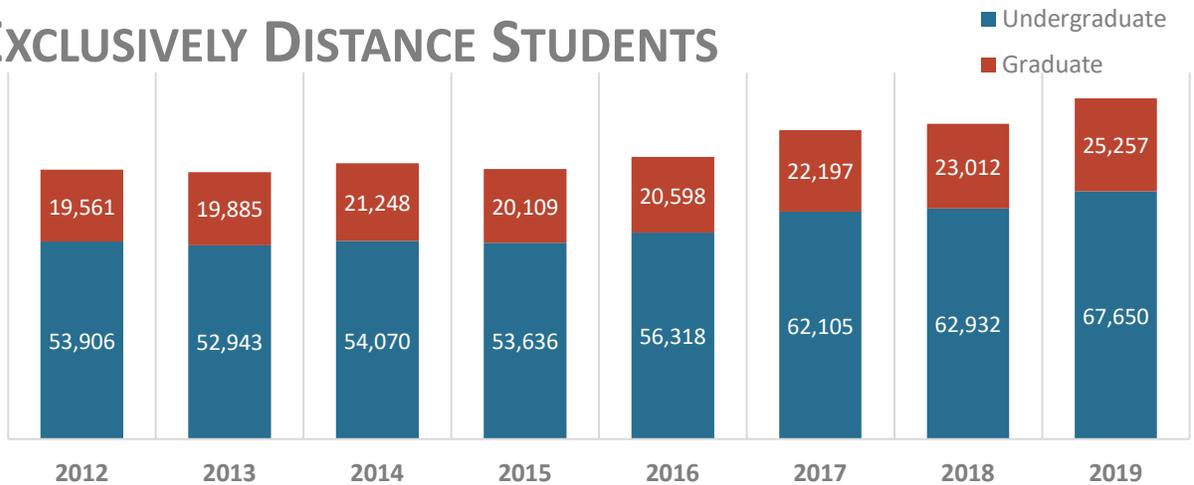
SIZE



TYPE

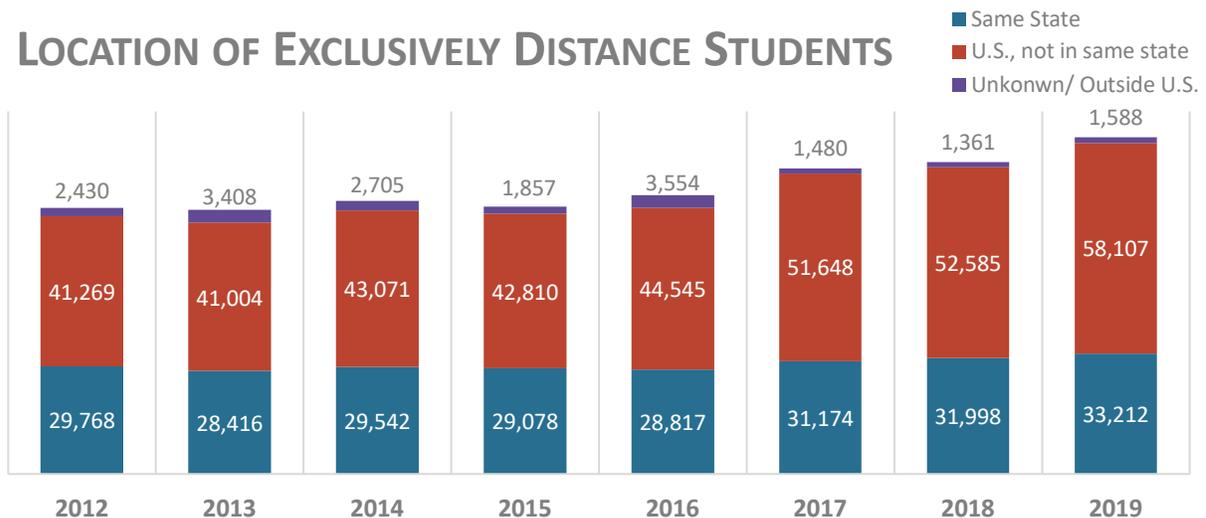


EXCLUSIVELY DISTANCE STUDENTS

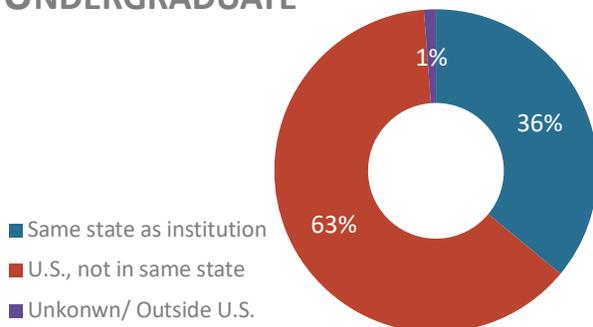


A total of 92,907 students were taking all of their courses at a distance from Colorado institutions in the fall of 2019. This represents 24.9% of the enrolled students in the state, which ranks the state at number 7 in the U.S. The number of exclusively distance students who reside in Colorado while taking courses from an institution in Colorado was 29,768 in 2012 and grew to 33,212 by 2019. There are 59,695 students enrolled as exclusively distance students in Colorado institutions who reside outside Colorado, or whose place of residence is unknown.

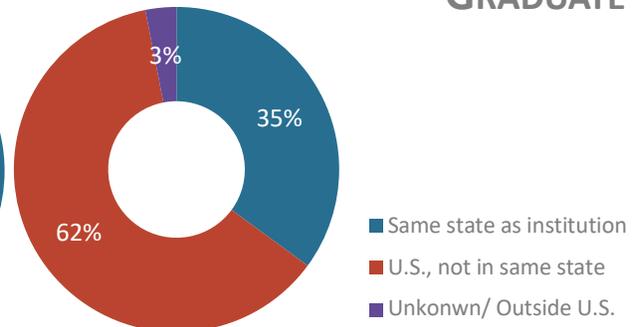
LOCATION OF EXCLUSIVELY DISTANCE STUDENTS



UNDERGRADUATE

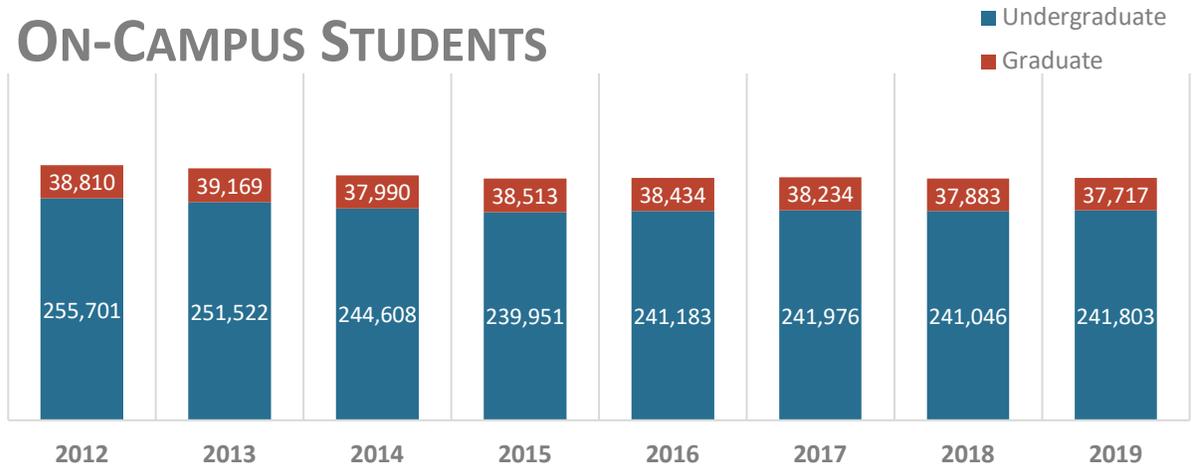


GRADUATE



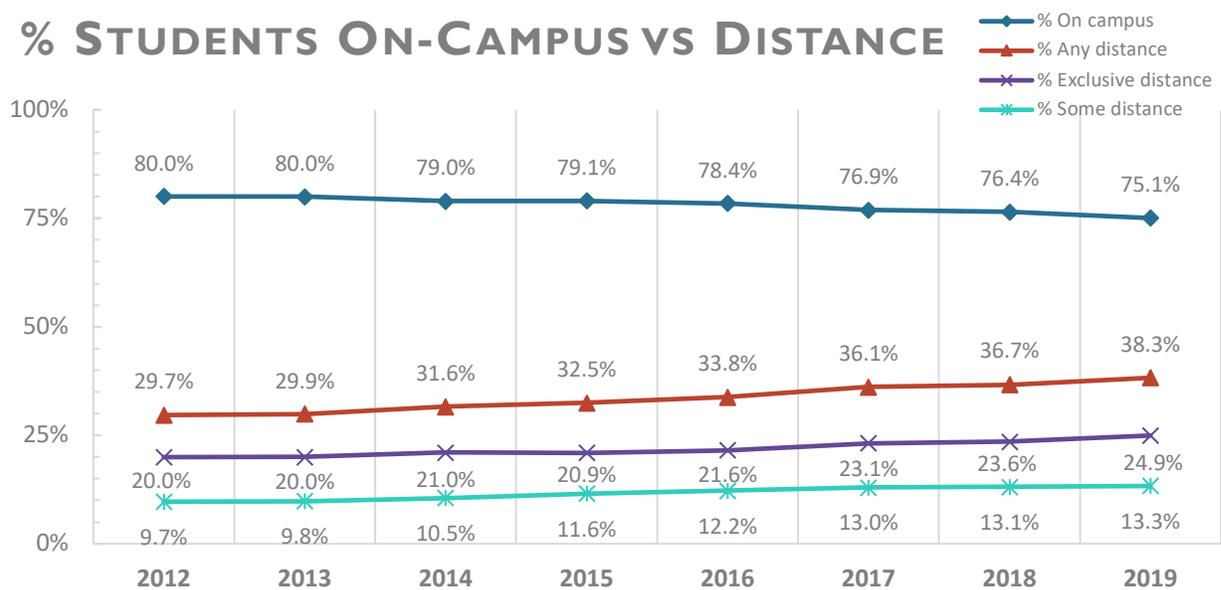
On-Campus Enrollment

ON-CAMPUS STUDENTS

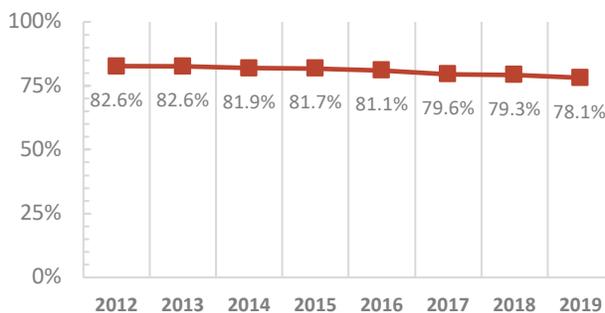


On-campus students are those who take one or more of their courses physically on-campus. The number of students studying on campus declined from 294,511 to 279,520 between 2012 and 2019 in Colorado, representing a reduction of 5.1%. This compares to a national decrease of 10.3% for the same period. In 2019, 78.1% of undergraduate students and 59.9% of graduate students in Colorado were taking at least one on-campus course.

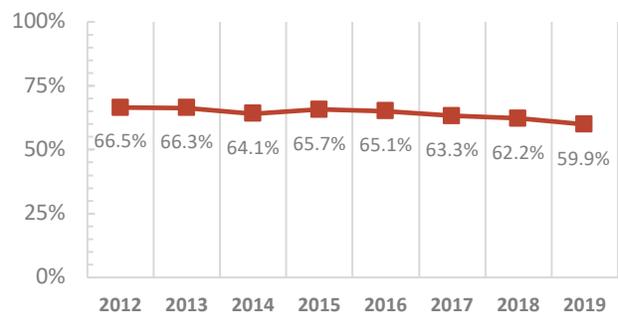
% STUDENTS ON-CAMPUS VS DISTANCE



% ON-CAMPUS: UNDERGRADUATE



% ON-CAMPUS: GRADUATE



INSTITUTIONS

	Colorado	National	State Rank	State as % of National
Total institutions	67	4,089	21	1.6%
Institutions w/ distance	51	3,161	24	1.6%
% Institution w/ distance	76.1%	77.3%	26	

ENROLLMENTS

Colorado		Total	Any Distance	Exclusive Distance	On Campus
	Total	372,427	142,492	92,907	279,520
Size	Under 1,000	11,405	3,546	1,954	9,451
	1,000 - 4,999	33,334	12,186	9,702	23,632
	5,000 - 9,999	87,122	30,389	18,440	68,682
	10,000 - 19,999	97,035	40,430	27,315	69,720
	20,000 and above	143,531	55,941	35,496	108,035
Carnegie	Not assigned	21,306	19,212	18,896	2,410
	Associates	100,812	27,418	14,780	86,032
	Research	155,940	55,726	38,244	117,696
	Masters	45,294	22,864	15,715	29,579
	Baccalaureate	44,003	12,892	2,667	41,336
	Specialized	5,072	4,380	2,605	2,467
Control	Public	287,859	85,352	42,706	245,153
	Private not-for-profit	33,427	13,638	9,422	24,005
	Private for-profit	51,141	43,502	40,779	10,362
Type	Four or more years	341,318	134,290	87,595	253,723
	At least 2 but less than 4 years	31,109	8,202	5,312	25,797