

Distance Education State Almanac

CONNECTICUT



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.

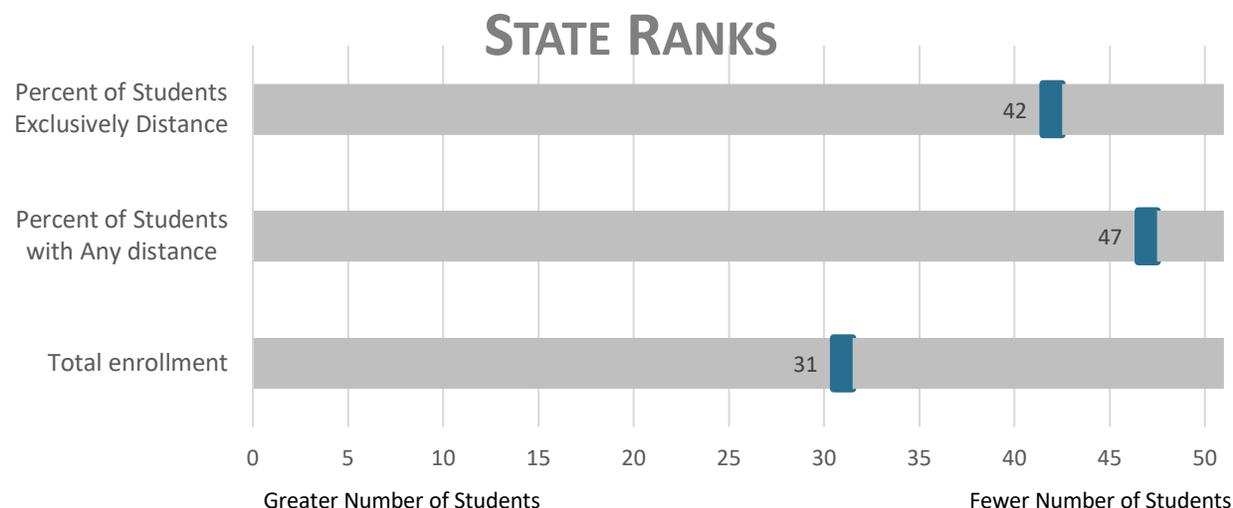
The information presented in the report represent the classifications and enrollments for Fall 2019 and were measured before the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. National totals include all 50 states, District of Columbia, American Samoa, Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, Marshall Islands, Northern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

Connecticut

Connecticut has 42 degree-granting higher education institutions, representing 1.0% of all such institutions in the United States. Of these institutions, 23 are classified as public, 17 as private not-for-profit, and 2 as private for-profit. Of these 42 institutions, 30 offer four-year programs, and 12 offer two-year programs.

The state has 194,844 students enrolled across its institutions and ranks 31st in terms of total higher education student enrollment. Between 2012 and 2019, the total number of students enrolled nationally declined by 5.0%. For Connecticut, the enrollment decreased by 7,781 students, or -3.8%. Connecticut has 157,753 students studying at the undergraduate level, a loss of 10,026 students from 2012 (-6.0%), compared to a 6.8% national decline. There are 37,091 students studying at the graduate level, which is 2,245 greater than in 2012; this represents a change of 6.4%, where the national data showed an increase of 5.7%.

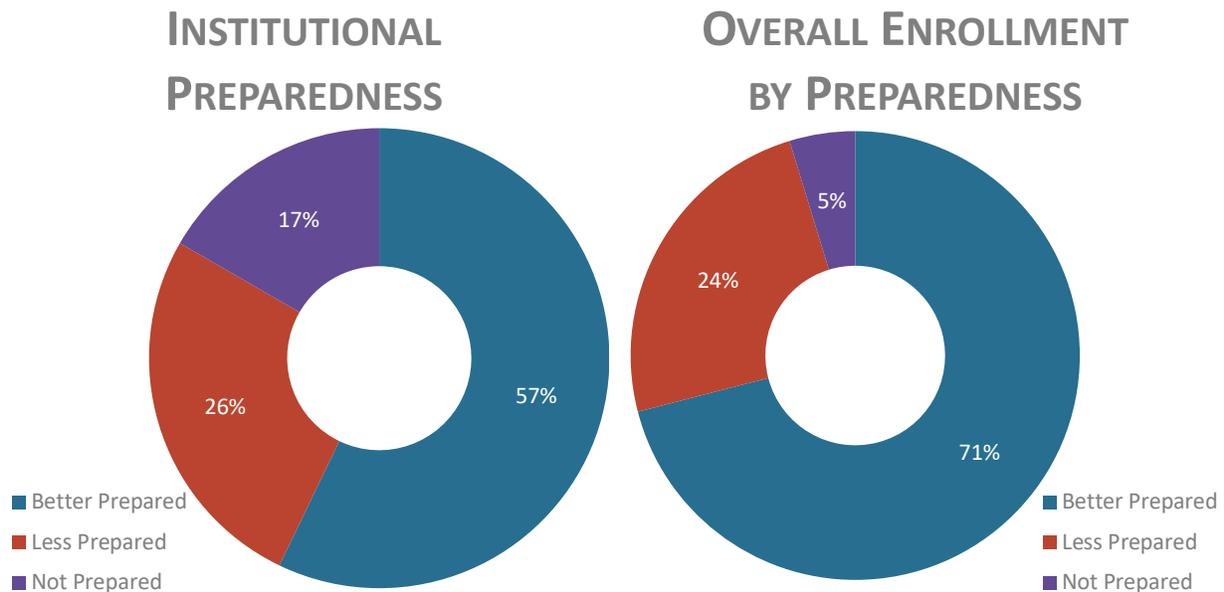
There are 46,607 students in Connecticut that take at least one distance course. The state is ranked 47th for the proportion of students taking at least one distance course (23.9%). In 2019, there were 22,232 students taking all of their courses at a distance, a growth of 7,531 students (51.2%) from 2012. Connecticut ranks 42nd in the proportion of students (11.4%) 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.

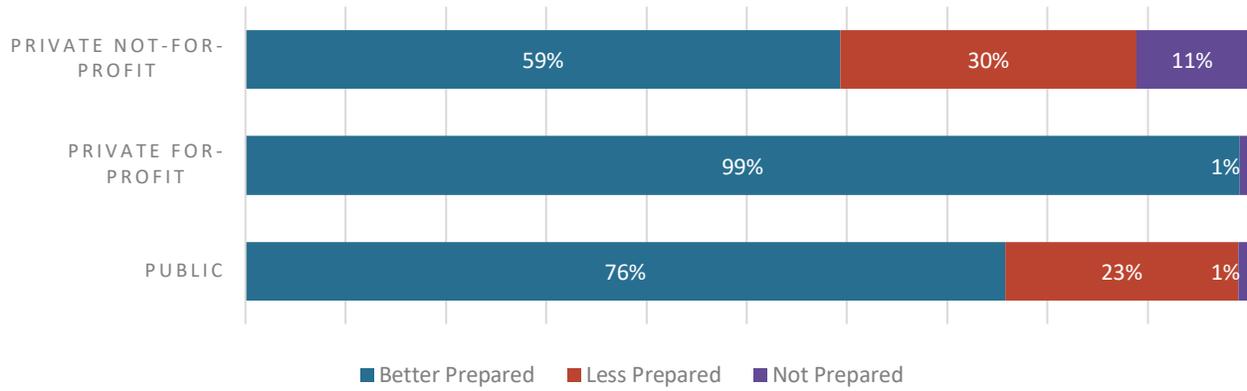
Nationally, 59.3% of all degree-granting institutions meet the criteria of having 25% or more or over 1,000 of their students taking distance courses. In Connecticut, 57.1% of institutions are better prepared for moving completely online. These institutions enroll 138,276 students, or 71.0% of all students in the state. There are 7 institutions in Connecticut with no distance students (representing 16.7% of the total in state institutions) that were likely not well prepared for a rapid transition to distance learning.



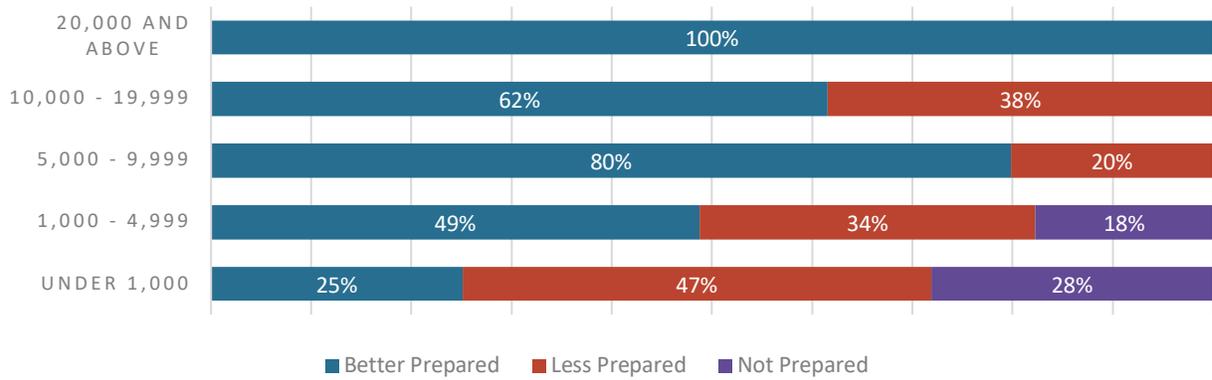
Preparedness Definitions:

- 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

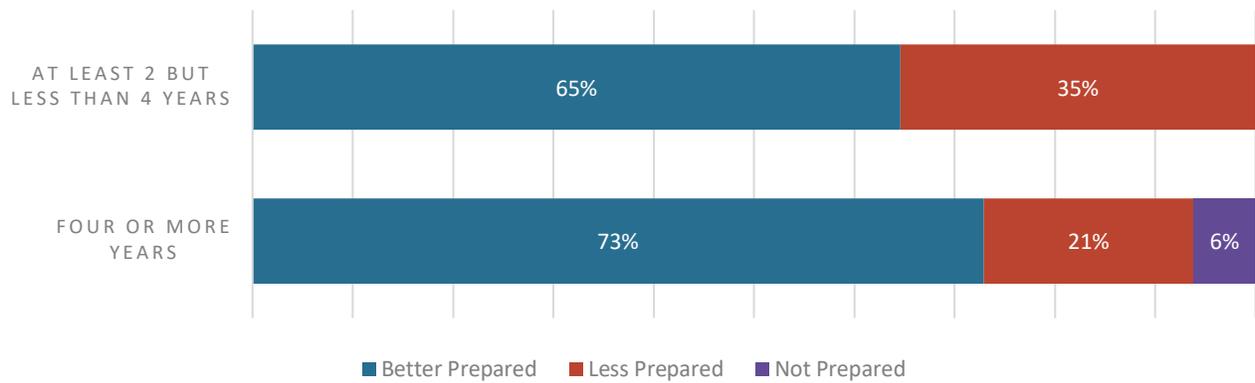
PREPAREDNESS BY CONTROL



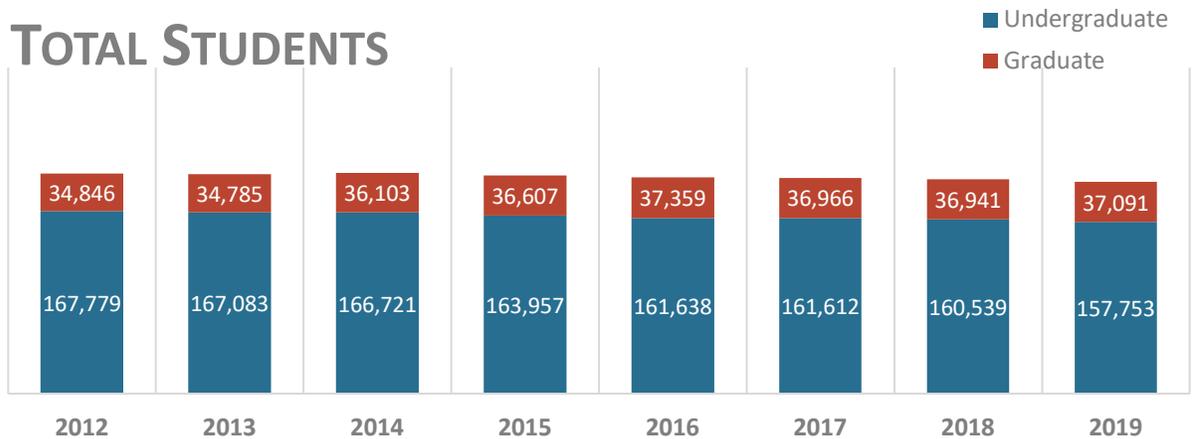
PREPAREDNESS BY SIZE



PREPAREDNESS BY TYPE



State Enrollment



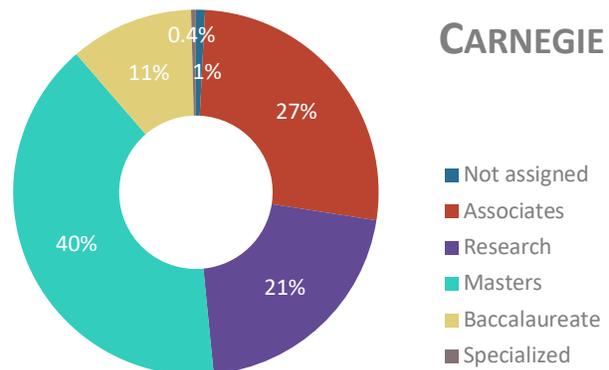
Institutions in Connecticut enrolled a total of 194,844 students in the fall of 2019; 157,753 students were enrolled at the undergraduate level, and 37,091 enrolled at the graduate level. The Fall 2019 figure represents a decrease of 7,781 students (-3.8%) from the number enrolled in the fall of 2012. The number of undergraduate students decreased by 10,026 during this period, from 167,779 in 2012 to 157,753 in 2019 (-6.0%). The number of graduate students increased from 34,846 to 37,091 (6.4%) in the same period.

Enrollments in Fall 2019 totaled 111,734 students at public institutions (57% of all students), 72,379 students at private not-for-profit institutions (37.1%), and 10,731 students at private for-profit institutions (5.5%). Enrollments at public institutions decreased by 14,185 students between 2012 and 2019, while those at private not-for-profit institutions increased by 4,614 students, and those at private for-profit institutions increased by 1,790 students.

CONTROL



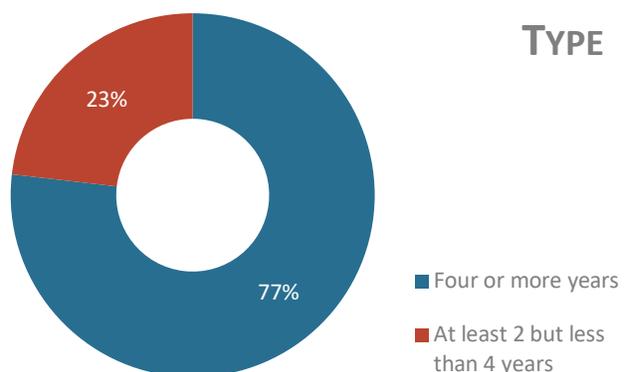
CARNEGIE



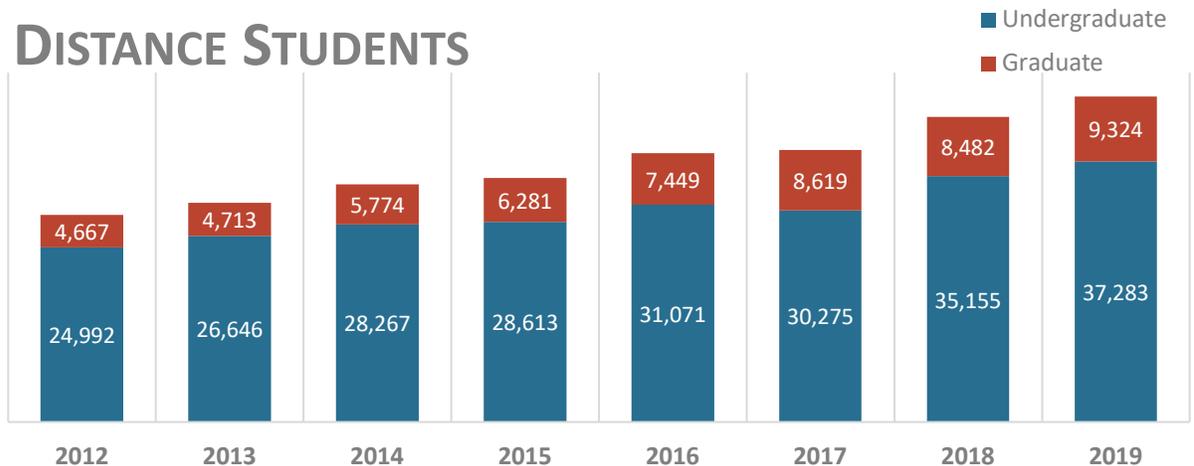
SIZE



TYPE



DISTANCE STUDENTS

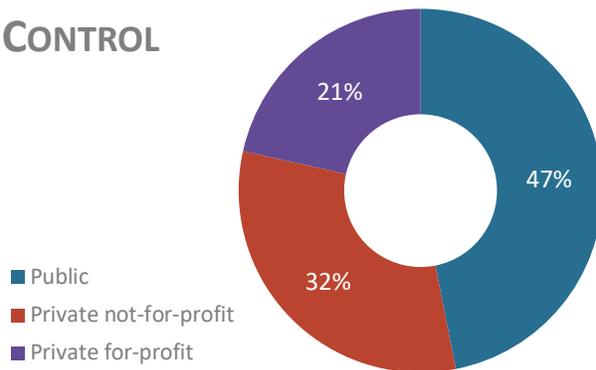


In 2019, a total of 46,607 students took at least one distance course from Connecticut institutions; 37,283 (23.6% of all undergraduate students) were enrolled at the undergraduate level, and 9,324 (25.1% of all graduate students) were enrolled at the graduate level.

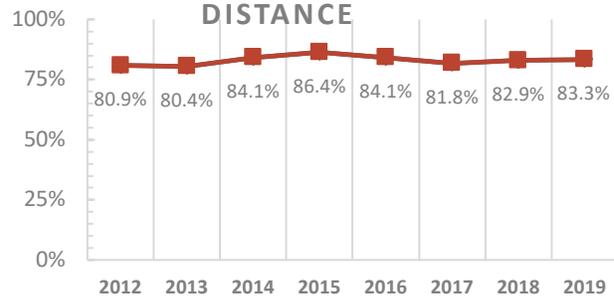
Among undergraduate level distance students, 19,281 were enrolled at institutions classified as public, 8,894 as private not-for-profit, and 9,108 as private for profit. At the graduate-level, 2,578 distance students were enrolled at institutions classified as public, 5,833 as private not-for-profit, and 913 as private for profit.

The number of undergraduate distance enrollments at Connecticut institutions increased by 12,291 (49.2%) between Fall 2012 and Fall 2019, while the number of graduate distance enrollments grew by 4,657 (99.8%) during this same period.

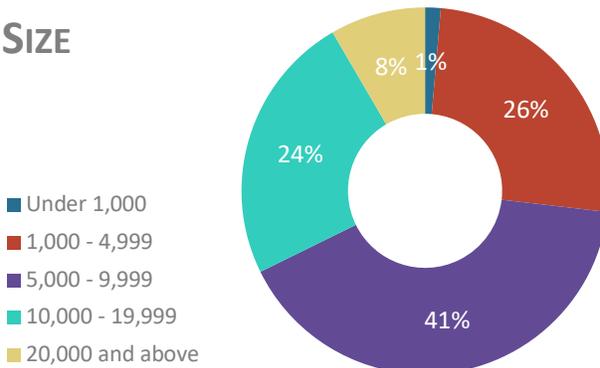
CONTROL



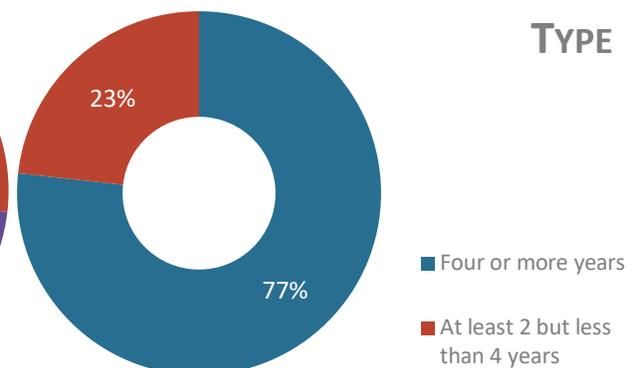
% INSTITUTIONS WITH DISTANCE



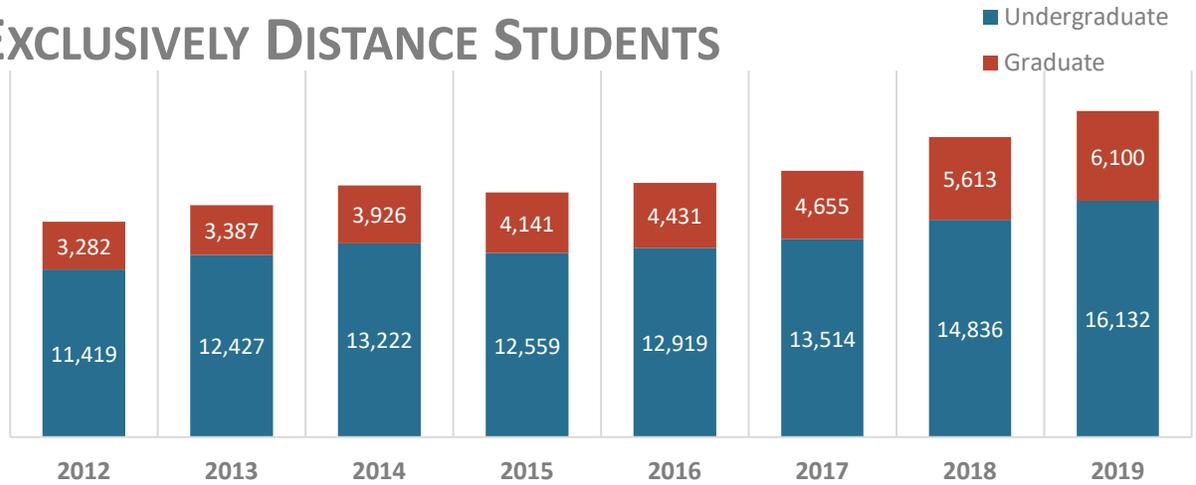
SIZE



TYPE

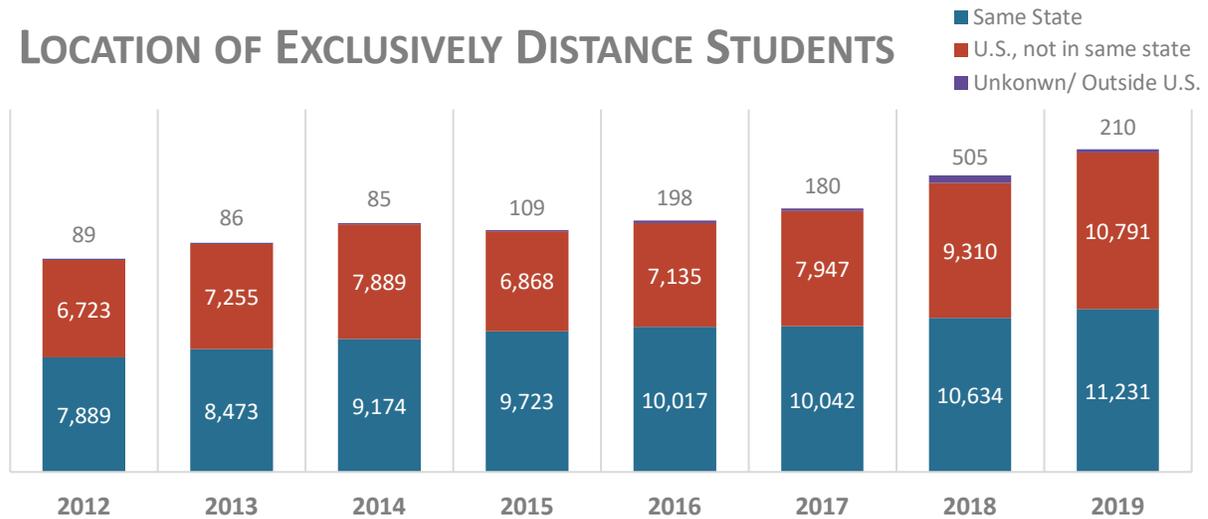


EXCLUSIVELY DISTANCE STUDENTS

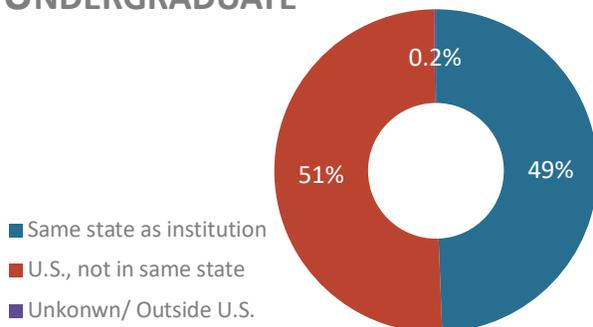


A total of 22,232 students were taking all of their courses at a distance from Connecticut institutions in the fall of 2019. This represents 11.4% of the enrolled students in the state, which ranks the state at number 42 in the U.S. The number of exclusively distance students who reside in Connecticut while taking courses from an institution in Connecticut was 7,889 in 2012 and grew to 11,231 by 2019. There are 11,001 students enrolled as exclusively distance students in Connecticut institutions who reside outside Connecticut, or whose place of residence is unknown.

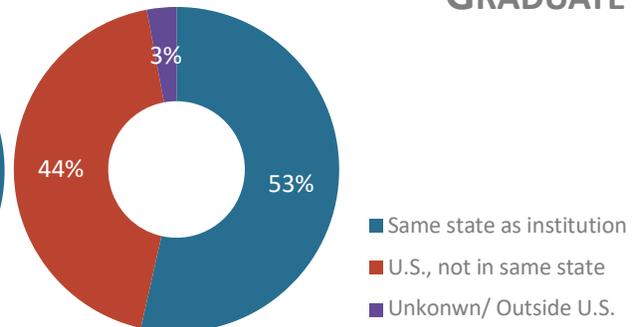
LOCATION OF EXCLUSIVELY DISTANCE STUDENTS



UNDERGRADUATE

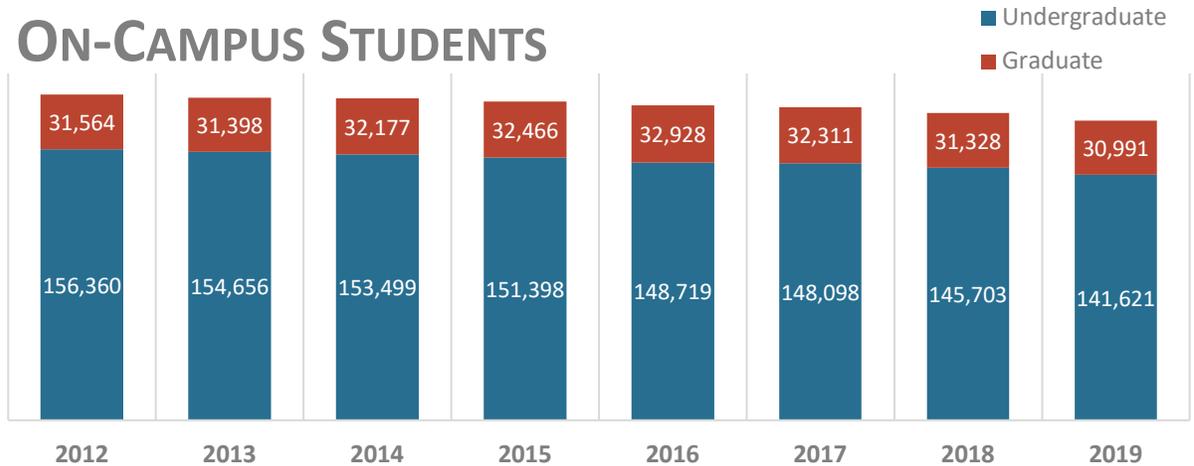


GRADUATE



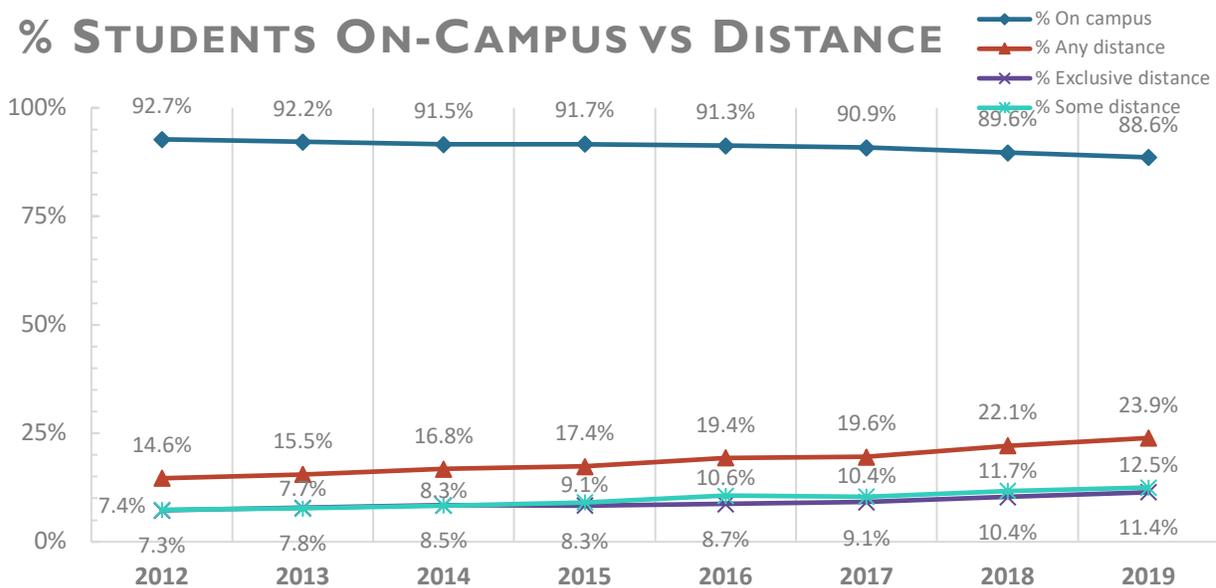
On-Campus Enrollment

ON-CAMPUS STUDENTS

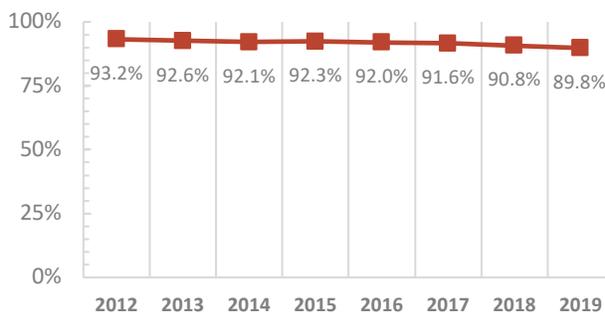


On-campus students are those who take one or more of their courses physically on-campus. The number of students studying on campus declined from 187,924 to 172,612 between 2012 and 2019 in Connecticut, representing a reduction of 8.1%. This compares to a national decrease of 10.3% for the same period. In 2019, 89.8% of undergraduate students and 83.6% of graduate students in Connecticut were taking at least one on-campus course.

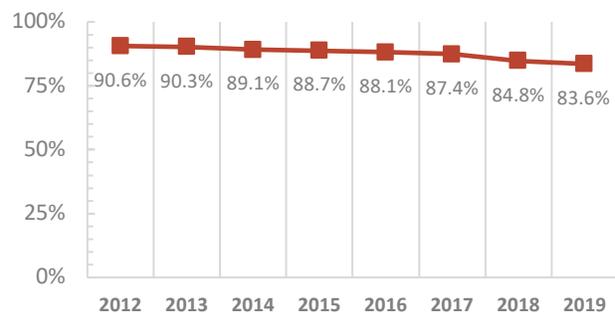
% STUDENTS ON-CAMPUS VS DISTANCE



% ON-CAMPUS: UNDERGRADUATE



% ON-CAMPUS: GRADUATE



INSTITUTIONS

	Connecticut	National	State Rank	State as % of National
Total institutions	42	4,089	32	1.0%
Institutions w/ distance	35	3,161	33	1.1%
% Institution w/ distance	83.3%	77.3%	33	

ENROLLMENTS

Connecticut		Total	Any Distance	Exclusive Distance	On Campus
	Total	194,844	46,607	22,232	172,612
Size	Under 1,000	2,917	640	535	2,382
	1,000 - 4,999	47,413	11,870	5,126	42,287
	5,000 - 9,999	81,829	19,053	5,946	75,883
	10,000 - 19,999	35,405	11,127	9,983	25,422
	20,000 and above	27,280	3,917	642	26,638
Carnegie	Not assigned	1,562	139	4	1,558
	Associates	51,936	12,998	4,183	47,753
	Research	40,889	3,974	642	40,247
	Masters	78,347	17,299	5,503	72,844
	Baccalaureate	21,289	11,632	11,371	9,918
	Specialized	821	565	529	292
Control	Public	111,734	21,859	6,402	105,332
	Private not-for-profit	72,379	14,727	6,070	66,309
	Private for-profit	10,731	10,021	9,760	971
Type	Four or more years	149,696	35,771	18,887	130,809
	At least 2 but less than 4 years	45,148	10,836	3,345	41,803