Distance Education State Almanac

HAWAI'I

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Overview

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.

Hawaii

Hawaii has 18 degree-granting higher education institutions, representing 0.4% of all such institutions in the United States. Of these institutions, 10 are classified as public, 5 as private not-for-profit, and 3 as private for-profit. Of these 18 institutions, 11 offer four-year programs, and 7 offer two-year programs.

The state has 60,456 students enrolled across its institutions and ranks 43rd in terms of total higher education student enrollment. Between 2012 and 2019, the total number of students enrolled nationally declined by 5.0%. For Hawaii, the enrollment decreased by 18,000 students, or -22.9%. Hawaii has 53,879 students studying at the undergraduate level, a loss of 15,393 students from 2012 (-22.2%), compared to a 6.8% national decline. There are 6,577 students studying at the graduate level, which is 2,607 fewer than in 2012; this represents a change of -28.4%, where the national data showed an increase of 5.7%.

There are 21,973 students in Hawaii that take at least one distance course. The state is ranked 33rd for the proportion of students taking at least one distance course (36.3%). In 2019, there were 8,606 students taking all of their courses at a distance, a loss of -130 students (-1.5%) from 2012. Hawaii ranks 33rd in the proportion of students (14.2%) 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 Hawaii, 61.1% of institutions are better prepared for moving completely online. These institutions enroll 54,941 students, or 90.9% of all students in the state. There are 3 institutions in Hawaii 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
COVID-19 Distance Learning Preparedness

**Preparedness by Control**

- **Private Not-for-Profit**
  - Better Prepared: 66%
  - Less Prepared: 32%
  - Not Prepared: 2%

- **Private For-Profit**
  - Better Prepared: 94%
  - Less Prepared: 6%

- **Public**
  - Better Prepared: 97%
  - Less Prepared: 3%

**Preparedness by Size**

- **20,000 and Above**
  - Better Prepared: 100%

- **10,000 - 19,999**
  - Better Prepared: 100%

- **5,000 - 9,999**
  - Better Prepared: 100%

- **1,000 - 4,999**
  - Better Prepared: 85%
  - Less Prepared: 15%

- **Under 1,000**
  - Better Prepared: 79%
  - Less Prepared: 21%

**Preparedness by Type**

- **At Least 2 but Less Than 4 Years**
  - Better Prepared: 92%
  - Less Prepared: 8%

- **Four or More Years**
  - Better Prepared: 90%
  - Less Prepared: 1%
  - Not Prepared: 9%
Institutions in Hawaii enrolled a total of 60,456 students in the fall of 2019; 53,879 students were enrolled at the undergraduate level, and 6,577 enrolled at the graduate level. The Fall 2019 figure represents a decrease of 18,000 students (-22.9%) from the number enrolled in the fall of 2012. The number of undergraduate students decreased by 15,393 during this period, from 69,272 in 2012 to 53,879 in 2019 (-22.2%). The number of graduate students decreased from 9,184 to 6,577 (-28.4%) in the same period.

Enrollments in Fall 2019 totaled 49,977 students at public institutions (83% of all students), 9,600 students at private not-for-profit institutions (15.9%), and 879 students at private for-profit institutions (1.5%). Enrollments at public institutions decreased by 10,318 students between 2012 and 2019, while those at private not-for-profit institutions decreased by 4,692 students, and those at private for-profit institutions decreased by 2,990 students.
In 2019, a total of 21,973 students took at least one distance course from Hawaii institutions; 20,554 (38.1% of all undergraduate students) were enrolled at the undergraduate level, and 1,419 (21.6% of all graduate students) were enrolled at the graduate level.

Among undergraduate level distance students, 17,413 were enrolled at institutions classified as public, 3,003 as private not-for-profit, and 138 as private for profit. At the graduate-level, 946 distance students were enrolled at institutions classified as public, 471 as private not-for-profit, and 2 as private for profit.

The number of undergraduate distance enrollments at Hawaii institutions increased by 1,112 (5.7%) between Fall 2012 and Fall 2019, while the number of graduate distance enrollments fell by -369 (-20.6%) during this same period.
A total of 8,606 students were taking all of their courses at a distance from Hawaii institutions in the fall of 2019. This represents 14.2% of the enrolled students in the state, which ranks the state at number 33 in the U.S. The number of exclusively distance students who reside in Hawaii while taking courses from an institution in Hawaii was 7,415 in 2012 and fell to 7,759 by 2019. There are 847 students enrolled as exclusively distance students in Hawaii institutions who reside outside Hawaii, or whose place of residence is unknown.
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 69,720 to 51,850 between 2012 and 2019 in Hawaii, representing a reduction of 25.6%. This compares to a national decrease of 10.3% for the same period. In 2019, 85.5% of undergraduate students and 87.8% of graduate students in Hawaii were taking at least one on-campus course.
### Institutions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Hawaii</th>
<th>National</th>
<th>State Rank</th>
<th>State as % of National</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total institutions</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>4,089</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Institutions w/ distance</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>3,161</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>% Institution w/ distance</td>
<td>83.3%</td>
<td>77.3%</td>
<td>43</td>
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### Enrollments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hawaii</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Any Distance</th>
<th>Exclusive Distance</th>
<th>On Campus</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>60,456</td>
<td>21,973</td>
<td>8,606</td>
<td>51,850</td>
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<tr>
<td>Under 1,000</td>
<td>1,046</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>988</td>
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<td>1,000 - 4,999</td>
<td>28,864</td>
<td>11,475</td>
<td>4,434</td>
<td>24,430</td>
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<td>5,000 - 9,999</td>
<td>13,056</td>
<td>6,811</td>
<td>3,291</td>
<td>9,765</td>
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<td>10,000 - 19,999</td>
<td>17,490</td>
<td>3,547</td>
<td>823</td>
<td>16,667</td>
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<tr>
<td>20,000 and above</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Not assigned</td>
<td>771</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>746</td>
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<tr>
<td>Associates</td>
<td>26,066</td>
<td>11,550</td>
<td>5,649</td>
<td>20,417</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research</td>
<td>17,490</td>
<td>3,547</td>
<td>823</td>
<td>16,667</td>
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<td>Masters</td>
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<td>Specialized</td>
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<tr>
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<td>18,359</td>
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<td>8,612</td>
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<tr>
<td>Private for-profit</td>
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<td>821</td>
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<td>Type</td>
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<td>Four or more years</td>
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<td>11,491</td>
<td>3,381</td>
<td>33,375</td>
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<tr>
<td>At least 2 but less than 4 years</td>
<td>23,700</td>
<td>10,482</td>
<td>5,225</td>
<td>18,475</td>
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