

# Distance Education State Almanac

## ILLINOIS



**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.

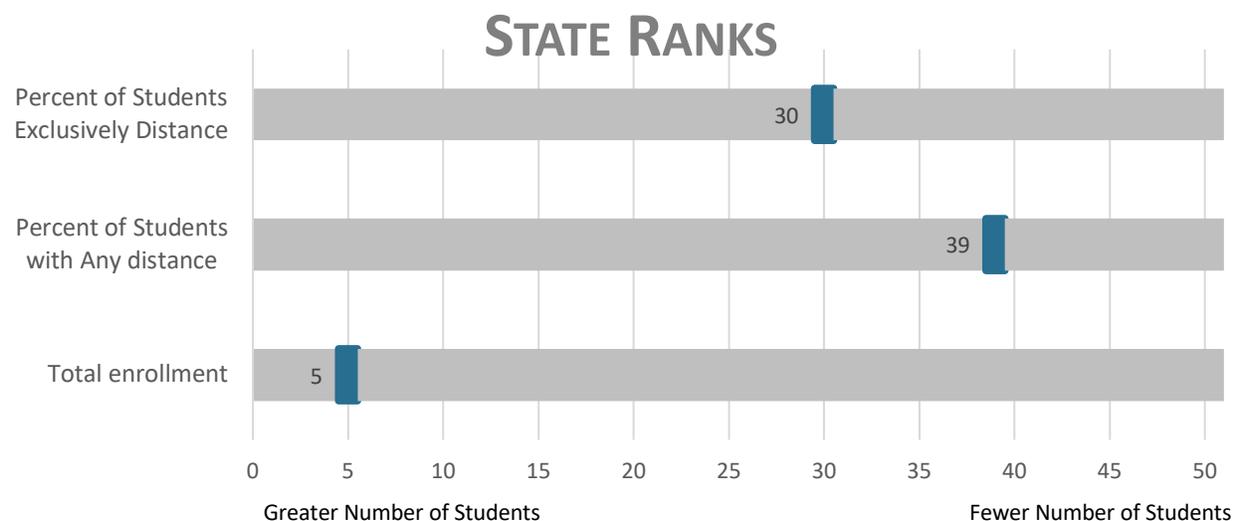
The information presented in the report represent the classifications and enrollments for Fall 2019 and were measured before the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. National totals include all 50 states, District of Columbia, American Samoa, Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, Marshall Islands, Northern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

## Illinois

Illinois has 159 degree-granting higher education institutions, representing 3.9% of all such institutions in the United States. Of these institutions, 60 are classified as public, 83 as private not-for-profit, and 16 as private for-profit. Of these 159 institutions, 101 offer four-year programs, and 58 offer two-year programs.

The state has 718,970 students enrolled across its institutions and ranks 5th in terms of total higher education student enrollment. Between 2012 and 2019, the total number of students enrolled nationally declined by 5.0%. For Illinois, the enrollment decreased by 148,666 students, or -17.1%. Illinois has 565,628 students studying at the undergraduate level, a loss of 148,570 students from 2012 (-20.8%), compared to a 6.8% national decline. There are 153,342 students studying at the graduate level, which is 96 fewer than in 2012; this represents a change of -0.1%, where the national data showed an increase of 5.7%.

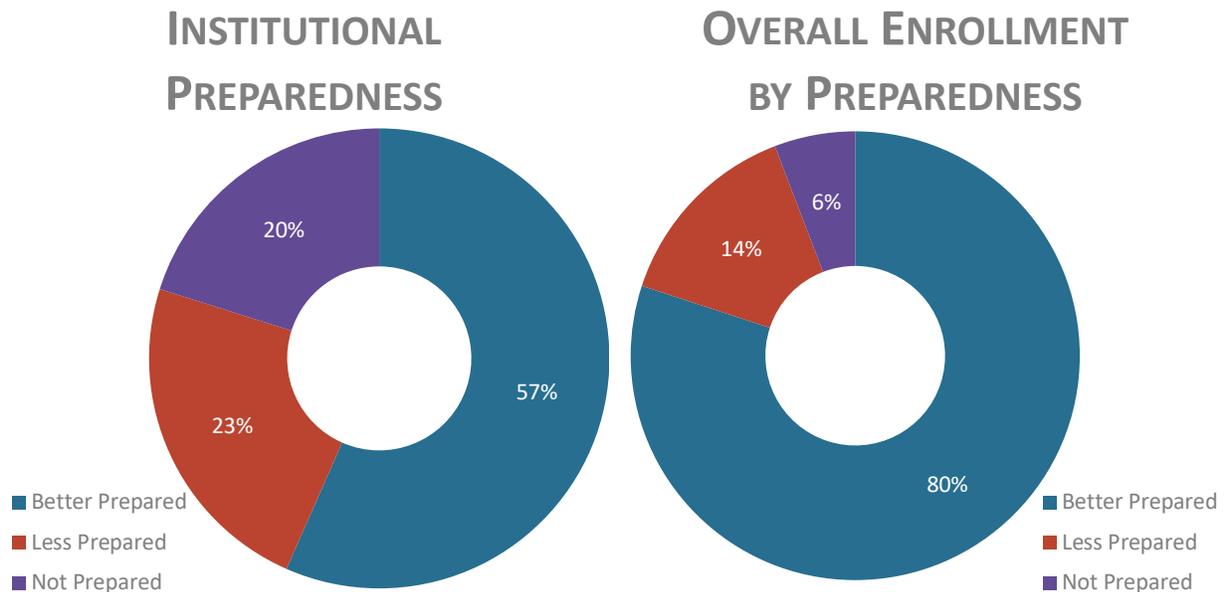
There are 219,288 students in Illinois that take at least one distance course. The state is ranked 39th for the proportion of students taking at least one distance course (30.5%). In 2019, there were 104,556 students taking all of their courses at a distance, a growth of 14,343 students (15.9%) from 2012. Illinois ranks 30th in the proportion of students (14.5%) 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.

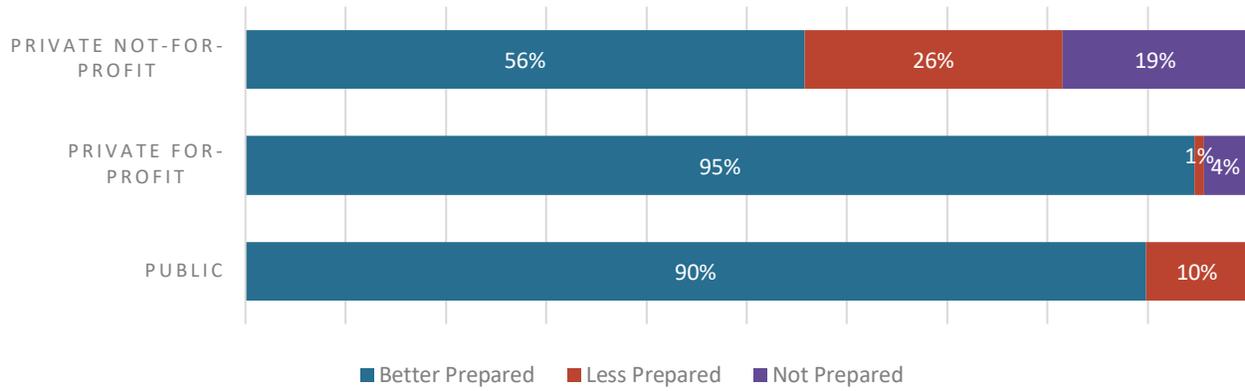
Nationally, 59.3% of all degree-granting institutions meet the criteria of having 25% or more or over 1,000 of their students taking distance courses. In Illinois, 56.6% of institutions are better prepared for moving completely online. These institutions enroll 575,472 students, or 80.0% of all students in the state. There are 32 institutions in Illinois with no distance students (representing 20.1% of the total in state institutions) that were likely not well prepared for a rapid transition to distance learning.



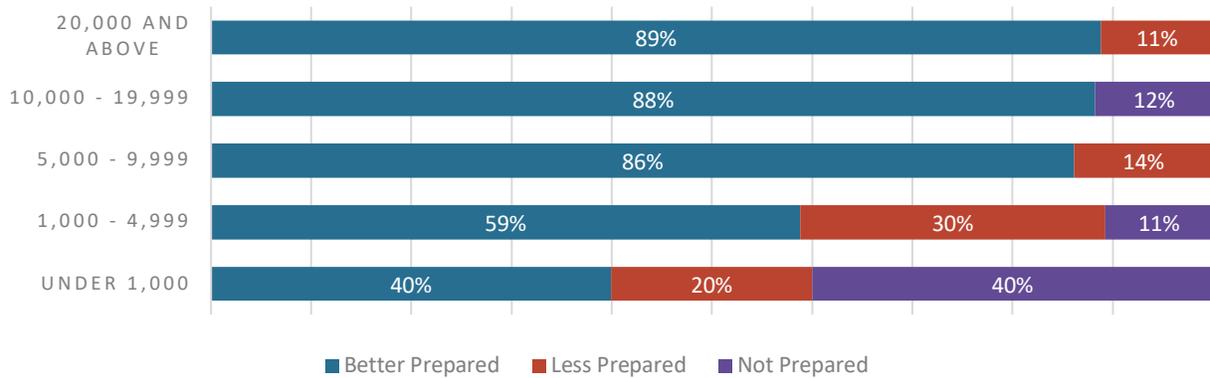
### Preparedness Definitions:

- 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

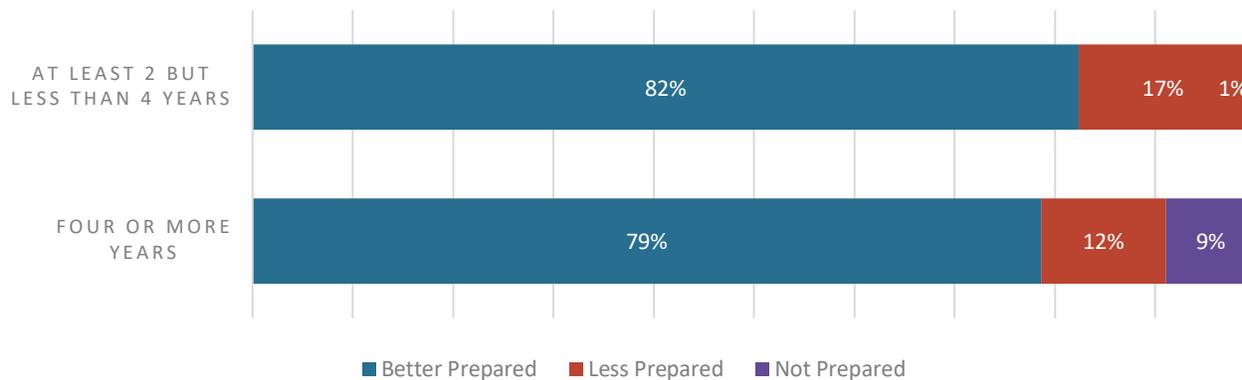
### PREPAREDNESS BY CONTROL



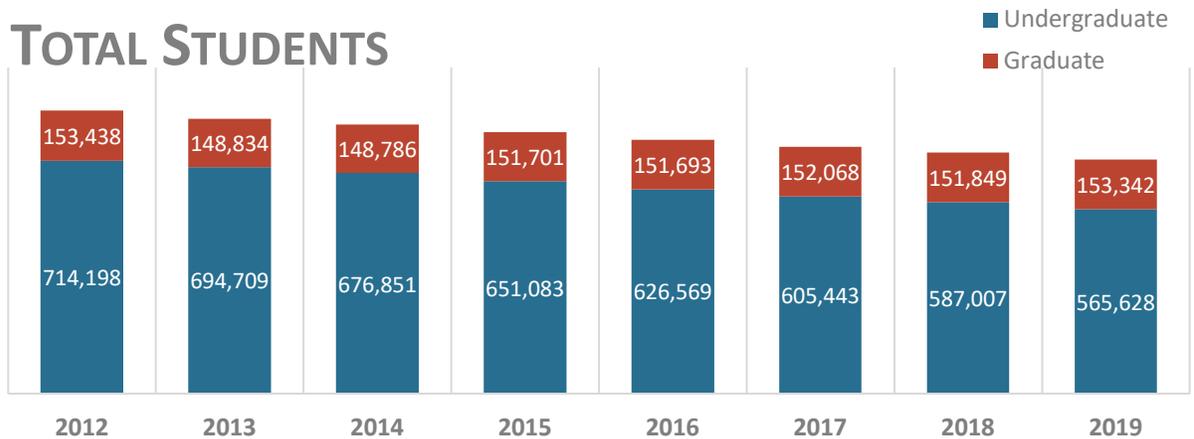
### PREPAREDNESS BY SIZE



### PREPAREDNESS BY TYPE



## State Enrollment



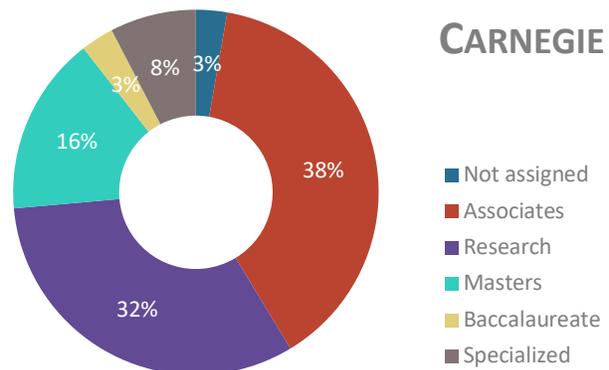
Institutions in Illinois enrolled a total of 718,970 students in the fall of 2019; 565,628 students were enrolled at the undergraduate level, and 153,342 enrolled at the graduate level. The Fall 2019 figure represents a decrease of 148,666 students (-17.1%) from the number enrolled in the fall of 2012. The number of undergraduate students decreased by 148,570 during this period, from 714,198 in 2012 to 565,628 in 2019 (-20.8%). The number of graduate students decreased from 153,438 to 153,342 (-0.1%) in the same period.

Enrollments in Fall 2019 totaled 452,464 students at public institutions (63% of all students), 213,993 students at private not-for-profit institutions (29.8%), and 52,513 students at private for-profit institutions (7.3%). Enrollments at public institutions decreased by 104,426 students between 2012 and 2019, while those at private not-for-profit institutions decreased by 14,393 students, and those at private for-profit institutions decreased by 29,847 students.

### CONTROL



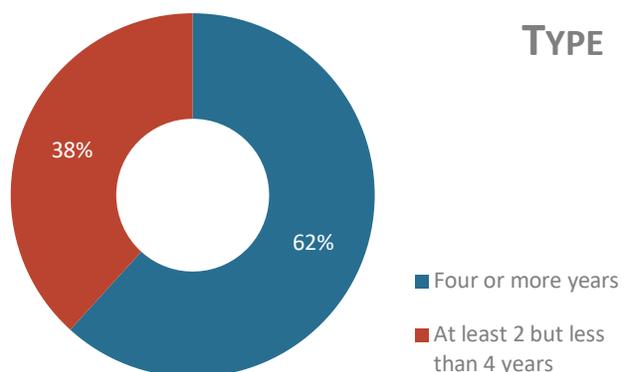
### CARNEGIE



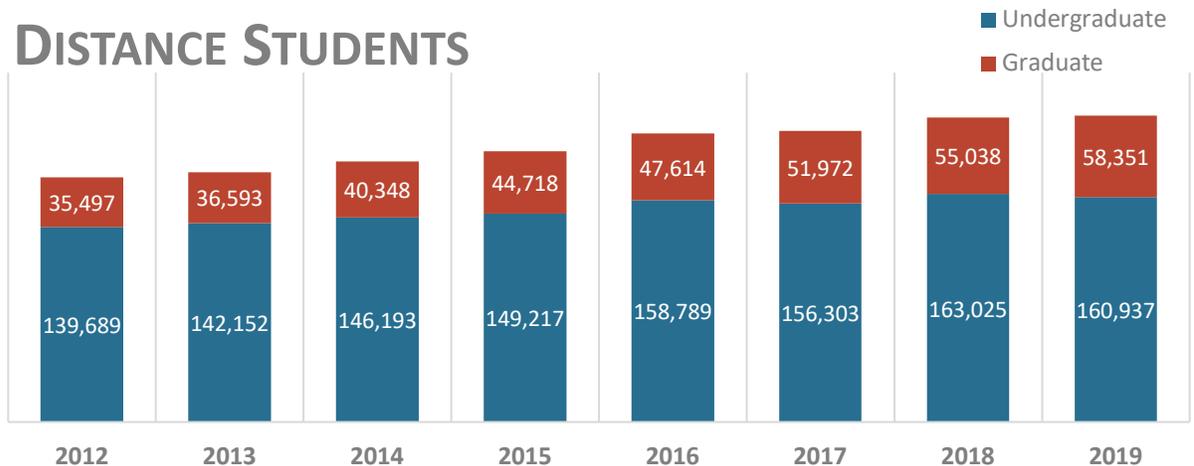
### SIZE



### TYPE



## DISTANCE STUDENTS

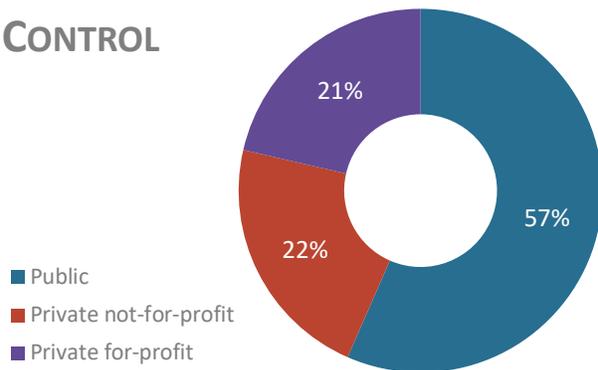


In 2019, a total of 219,288 students took at least one distance course from Illinois institutions; 160,937 (28.5% of all undergraduate students) were enrolled at the undergraduate level, and 58,351 (38.1% of all graduate students) were enrolled at the graduate level.

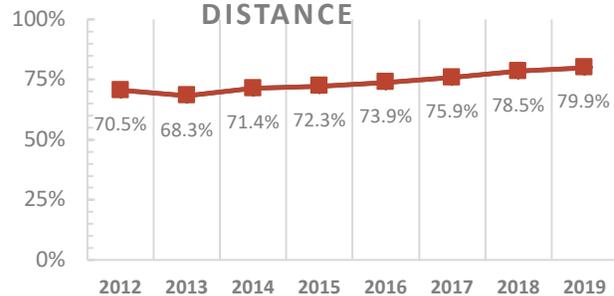
Among undergraduate level distance students, 108,008 were enrolled at institutions classified as public, 22,920 as private not-for-profit, and 30,009 as private for profit. At the graduate-level, 16,051 distance students were enrolled at institutions classified as public, 25,370 as private not-for-profit, and 16,930 as private for profit.

The number of undergraduate distance enrollments at Illinois institutions increased by 21,248 (15.2%) between Fall 2012 and Fall 2019, while the number of graduate distance enrollments grew by 22,854 (64.4%) during this same period.

### CONTROL



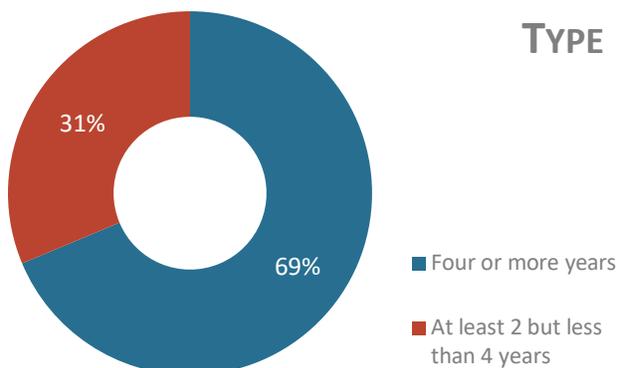
### % INSTITUTIONS WITH DISTANCE



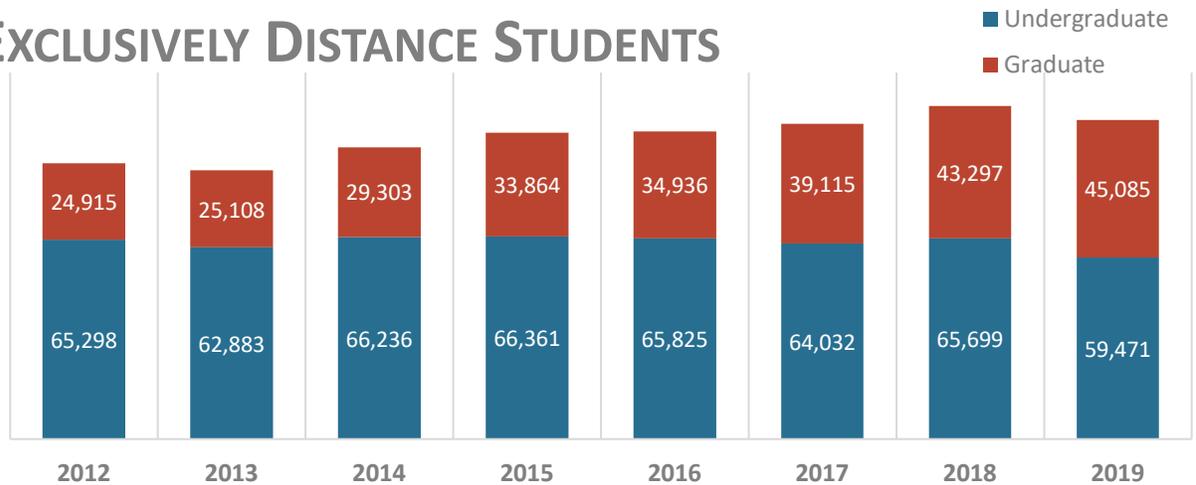
### SIZE



### TYPE

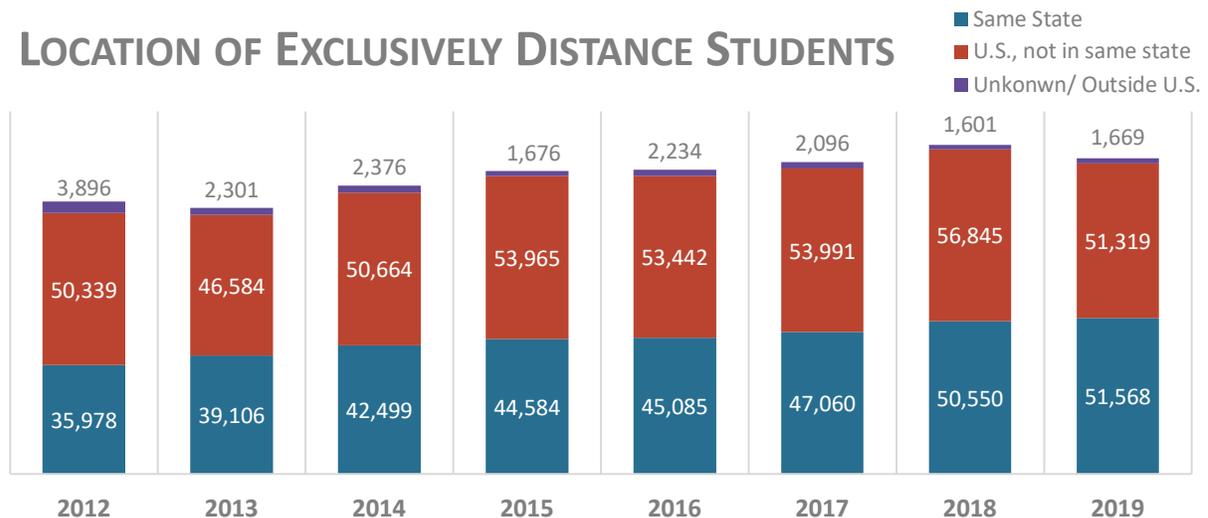


## EXCLUSIVELY DISTANCE STUDENTS

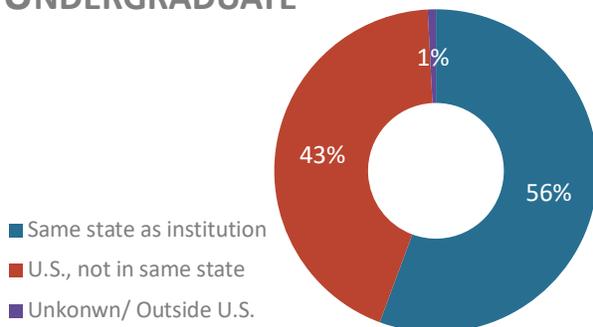


A total of 104,556 students were taking all of their courses at a distance from Illinois institutions in the fall of 2019. This represents 14.5% of the enrolled students in the state, which ranks the state at number 30 in the U.S. The number of exclusively distance students who reside in Illinois while taking courses from an institution in Illinois was 35,978 in 2012 and grew to 51,568 by 2019. There are 52,988 students enrolled as exclusively distance students in Illinois institutions who reside outside Illinois, or whose place of residence is unknown.

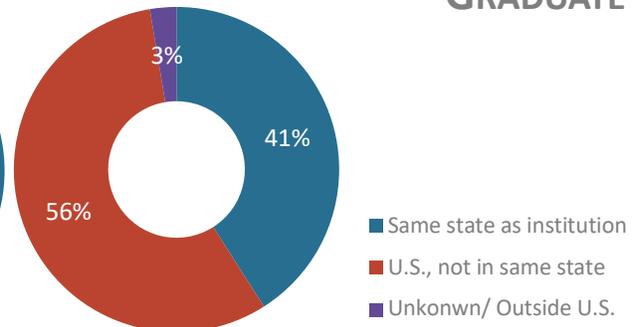
## LOCATION OF EXCLUSIVELY DISTANCE STUDENTS



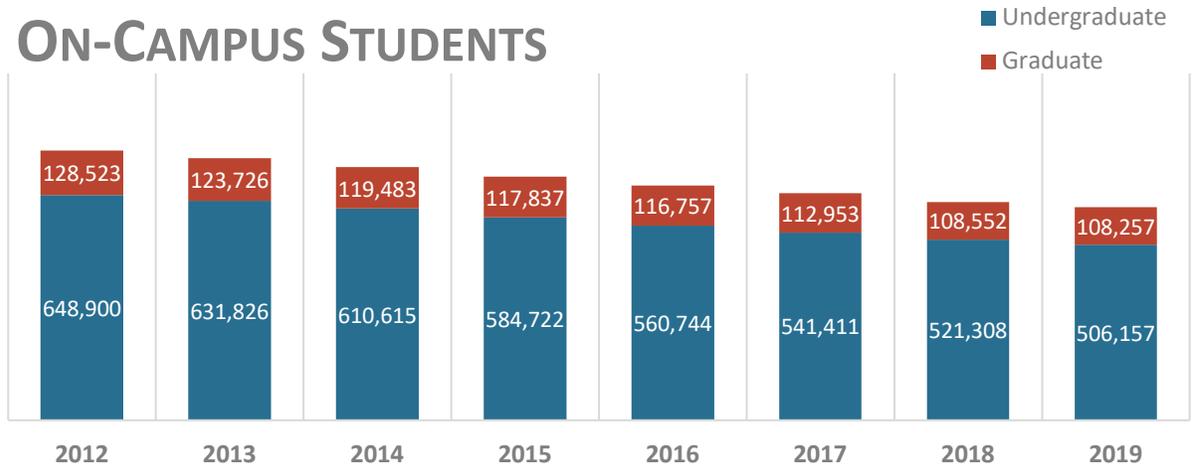
### UNDERGRADUATE



### GRADUATE

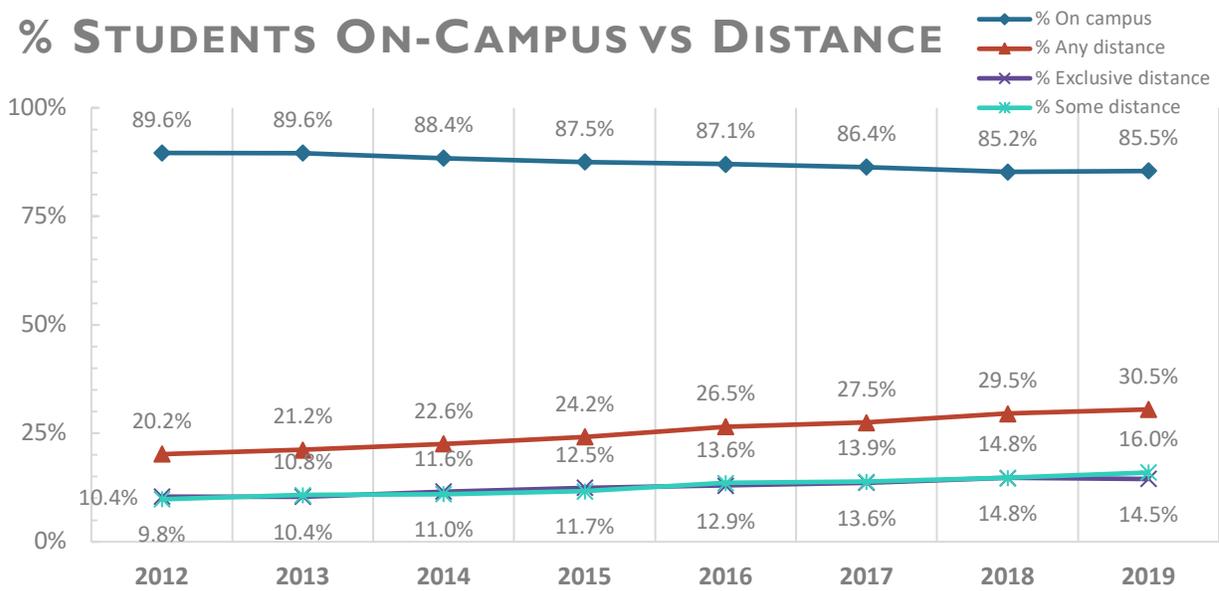


# ON-CAMPUS STUDENTS

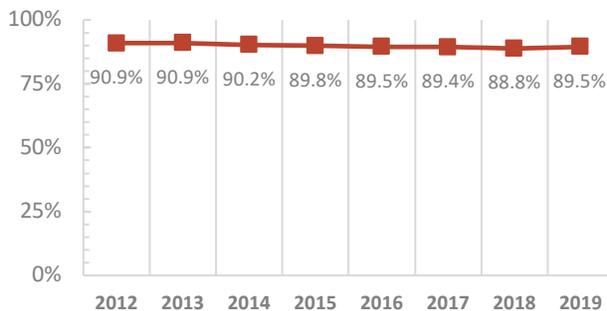


On-campus students are those who take one or more of their courses physically on-campus. The number of students studying on campus declined from 777,423 to 614,414 between 2012 and 2019 in Illinois, representing a reduction of 21.0%. This compares to a national decrease of 10.3% for the same period. In 2019, 89.5% of undergraduate students and 70.6% of graduate students in Illinois were taking at least one on-campus course.

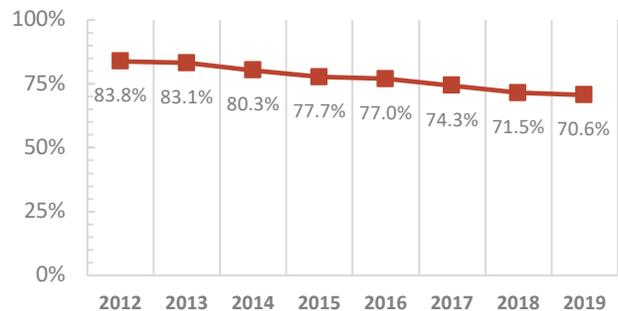
## % STUDENTS ON-CAMPUS VS DISTANCE



### % ON-CAMPUS: UNDERGRADUATE



### % ON-CAMPUS: GRADUATE



## INSTITUTIONS

	Illinois	National	State Rank	State as % of National
<b>Total institutions</b>	159	4,089	7	3.9%
<b>Institutions w/ distance</b>	127	3,161	6	4.0%
<b>% Institution w/ distance</b>	79.9%	77.3%	5	

## ENROLLMENTS

Illinois		Total	Any Distance	Exclusive Distance	On Campus
<b>Total</b>		718,970	219,288	104,556	614,414
<b>Size</b>	<b>Under 1,000</b>	17,361	4,147	1,251	16,110
	<b>1,000 - 4,999</b>	162,484	49,917	18,950	143,534
	<b>5,000 - 9,999</b>	189,421	49,985	20,400	169,021
	<b>10,000 - 19,999</b>	148,741	41,973	25,846	122,895
	<b>20,000 and above</b>	200,963	73,266	38,109	162,854
<b>Carnegie</b>	<b>Not assigned</b>	19,778	18,334	17,171	2,607
	<b>Associates</b>	277,437	70,076	22,436	255,001
	<b>Research</b>	231,877	55,218	17,943	213,934
	<b>Masters</b>	114,089	40,023	18,159	95,930
	<b>Baccalaureate</b>	20,985	2,190	523	20,462
<b>Control</b>	<b>Specialized</b>	54,804	33,447	28,324	26,480
	<b>Public</b>	452,464	124,059	38,582	413,882
	<b>Private not-for-profit</b>	213,993	48,290	22,554	191,439
<b>Type</b>	<b>Private for-profit</b>	52,513	46,939	43,420	9,093
	<b>Four or more years</b>	443,916	150,638	83,095	360,821
	<b>At least 2 but less than 4 years</b>	275,054	68,650	21,461	253,593