

Distance Education State Almanac

MAINE



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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.

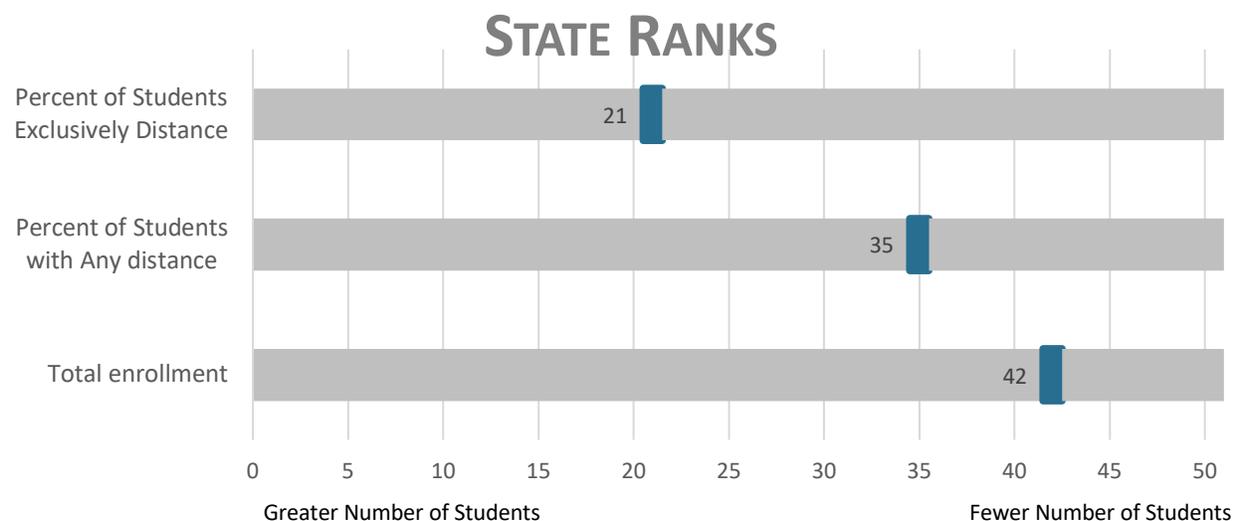
The information presented in the report represent the classifications and enrollments for Fall 2019 and were measured before the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. National totals include all 50 states, District of Columbia, American Samoa, Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, Marshall Islands, Northern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

Maine

Maine has 30 degree-granting higher education institutions, representing 0.7% of all such institutions in the United States. Of these institutions, 15 are classified as public, 14 as private not-for-profit, and 1 as private for-profit. Of these 30 institutions, 22 offer four-year programs, and 8 offer two-year programs.

The state has 71,658 students enrolled across its institutions and ranks 42nd in terms of total higher education student enrollment. Between 2012 and 2019, the total number of students enrolled nationally declined by 5.0%. For Maine, the enrollment decreased by 1,522 students, or -2.1%. Maine has 62,296 students studying at the undergraduate level, a loss of 1,157 students from 2012 (-1.8%), compared to a 6.8% national decline. There are 9,362 students studying at the graduate level, which is 365 fewer than in 2012; this represents a change of -3.8%, where the national data showed an increase of 5.7%.

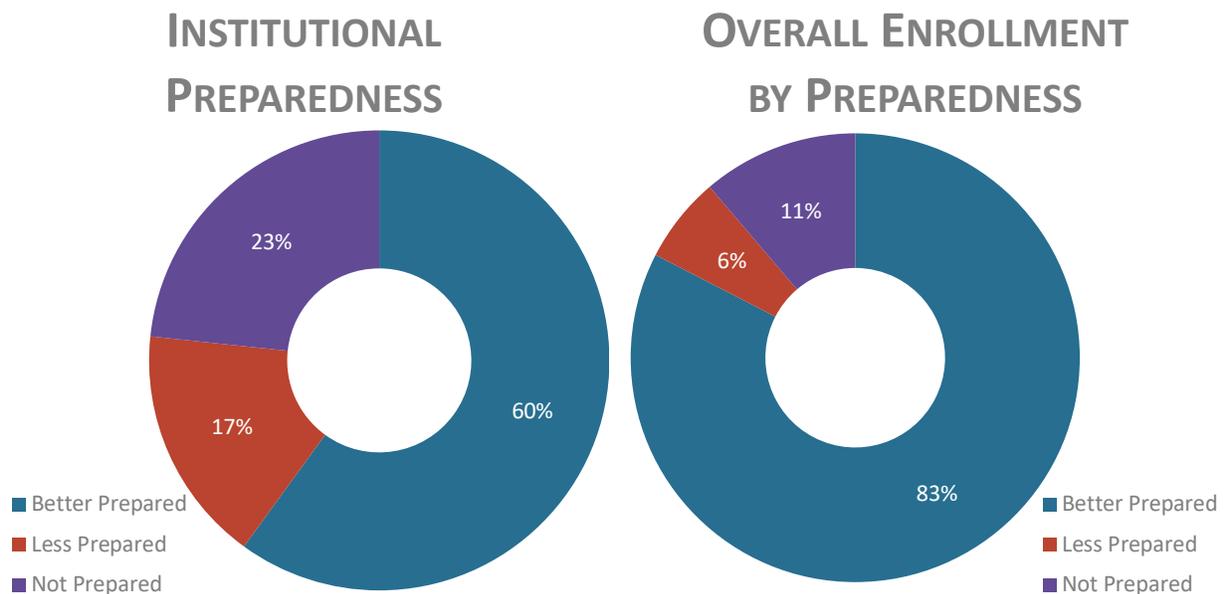
There are 25,671 students in Maine that take at least one distance course. The state is ranked 35th for the proportion of students taking at least one distance course (35.8%). In 2019, there were 13,273 students taking all of their courses at a distance, a growth of 3,149 students (31.1%) from 2012. Maine ranks 21st in the proportion of students (18.5%) 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.

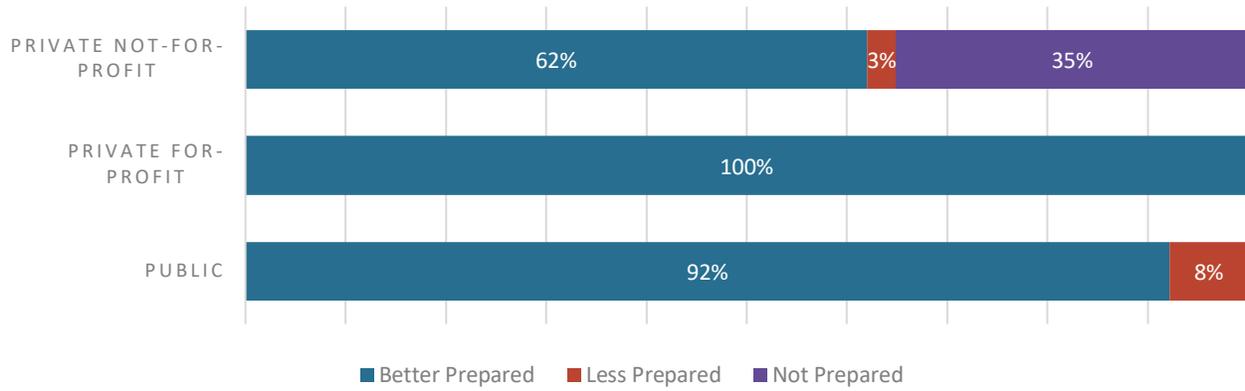
Nationally, 59.3% of all degree-granting institutions meet the criteria of having 25% or more or over 1,000 of their students taking distance courses. In Maine, 60.0% of institutions are better prepared for moving completely online. These institutions enroll 59,167 students, or 82.6% of all students in the state. There are 7 institutions in Maine with no distance students (representing 23.3% of the total in state institutions) that were likely not well prepared for a rapid transition to distance learning.



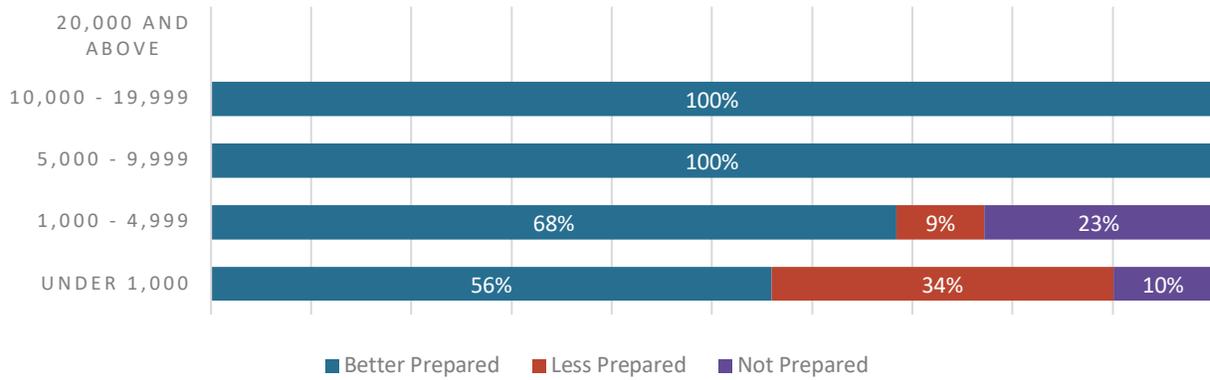
Preparedness Definitions:

- 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

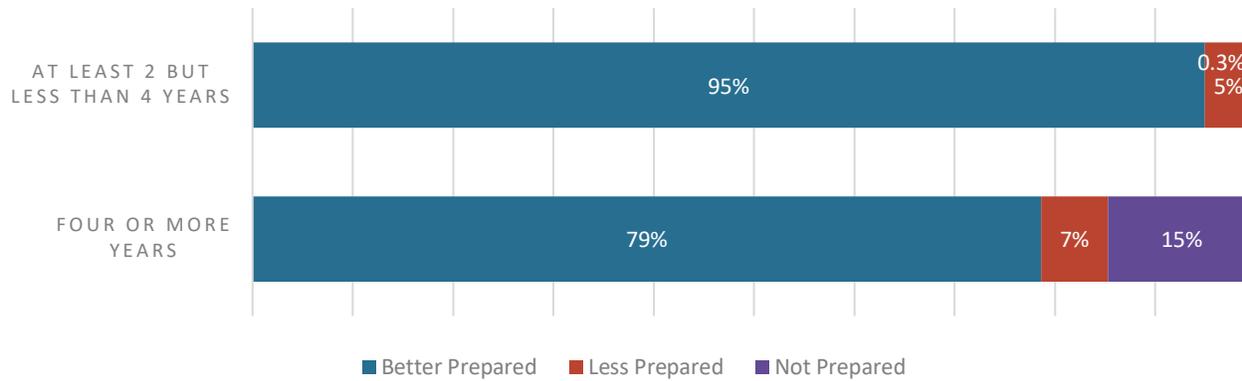
PREPAREDNESS BY CONTROL



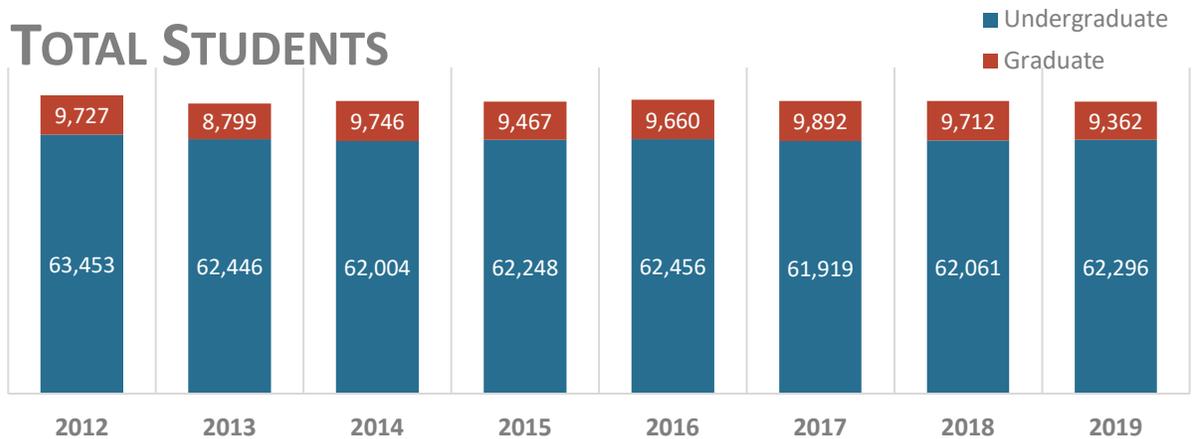
PREPAREDNESS BY SIZE



PREPAREDNESS BY TYPE



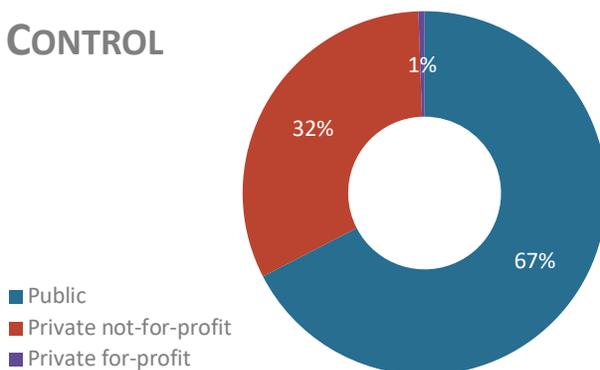
State Enrollment



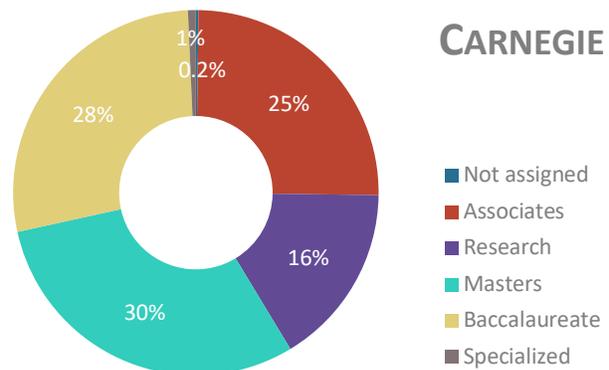
Institutions in Maine enrolled a total of 71,658 students in the fall of 2019; 62,296 students were enrolled at the undergraduate level, and 9,362 enrolled at the graduate level. The Fall 2019 figure represents a decrease of 1,522 students (-2.1%) from the number enrolled in the fall of 2012. The number of undergraduate students decreased by 1,157 during this period, from 63,453 in 2012 to 62,296 in 2019 (-1.8%). The number of graduate students decreased from 9,727 to 9,362 (-3.8%) in the same period.

Enrollments in Fall 2019 totaled 48,307 students at public institutions (67% of all students), 22,961 students at private not-for-profit institutions (32.0%), and 390 students at private for-profit institutions (0.5%). Enrollments at public institutions decreased by 2,248 students between 2012 and 2019, while those at private not-for-profit institutions increased by 1,840 students, and those at private for-profit institutions decreased by 1,114 students.

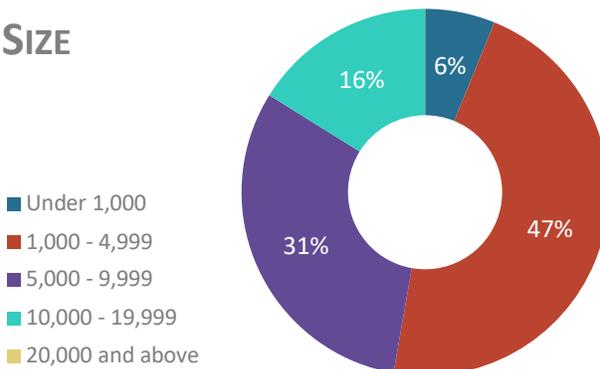
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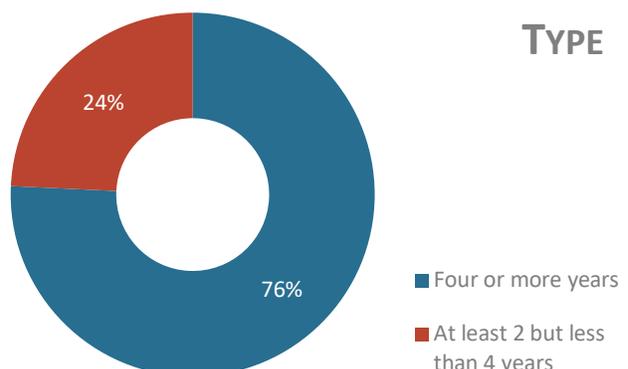
CARNEGIE



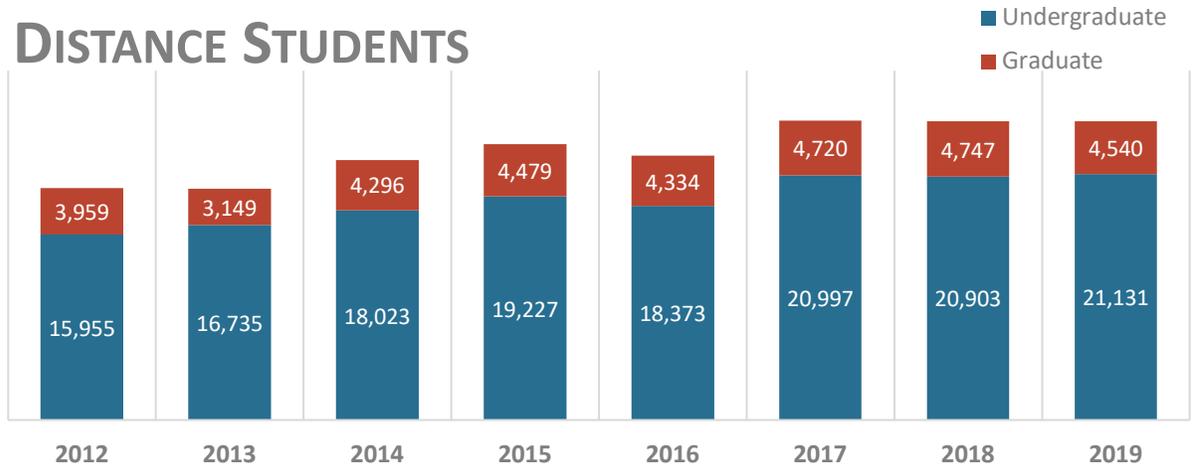
SIZE



TYPE



DISTANCE STUDENTS

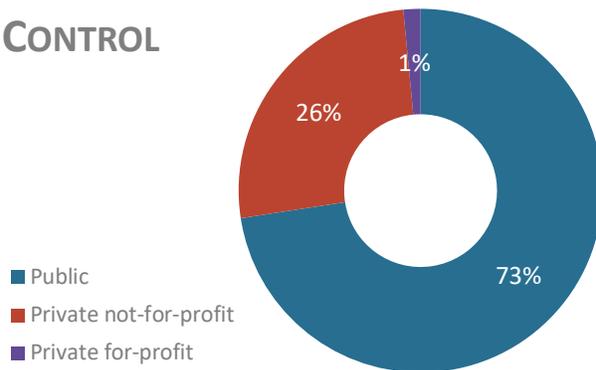


In 2019, a total of 25,671 students took at least one distance course from Maine institutions; 21,131 (33.9% of all undergraduate students) were enrolled at the undergraduate level, and 4,540 (48.5% of all graduate students) were enrolled at the graduate level.

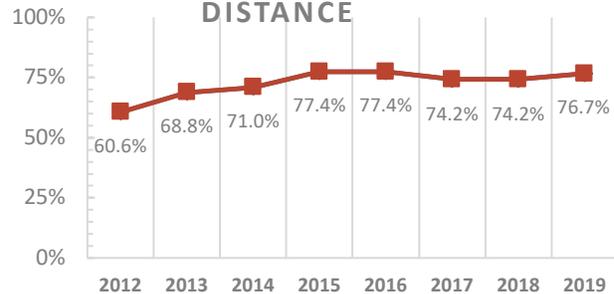
Among undergraduate level distance students, 16,950 were enrolled at institutions classified as public, 3,791 as private not-for-profit, and 390 as private for profit. At the graduate-level, 1,681 distance students were enrolled at institutions classified as public, 2,859 as private not-for-profit, and 0 as private for profit.

The number of undergraduate distance enrollments at Maine institutions increased by 5,176 (32.4%) between Fall 2012 and Fall 2019, while the number of graduate distance enrollments grew by 581 (14.7%) during this same period.

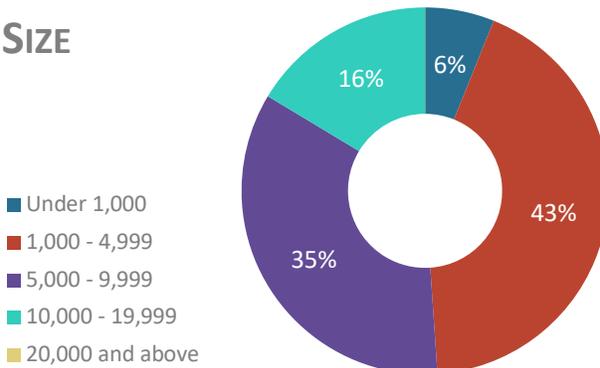
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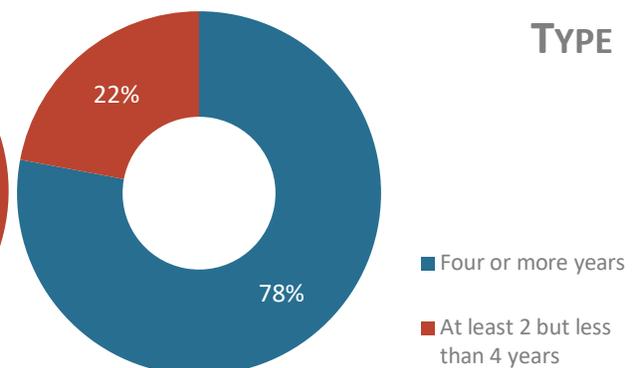
% INSTITUTIONS WITH DISTANCE



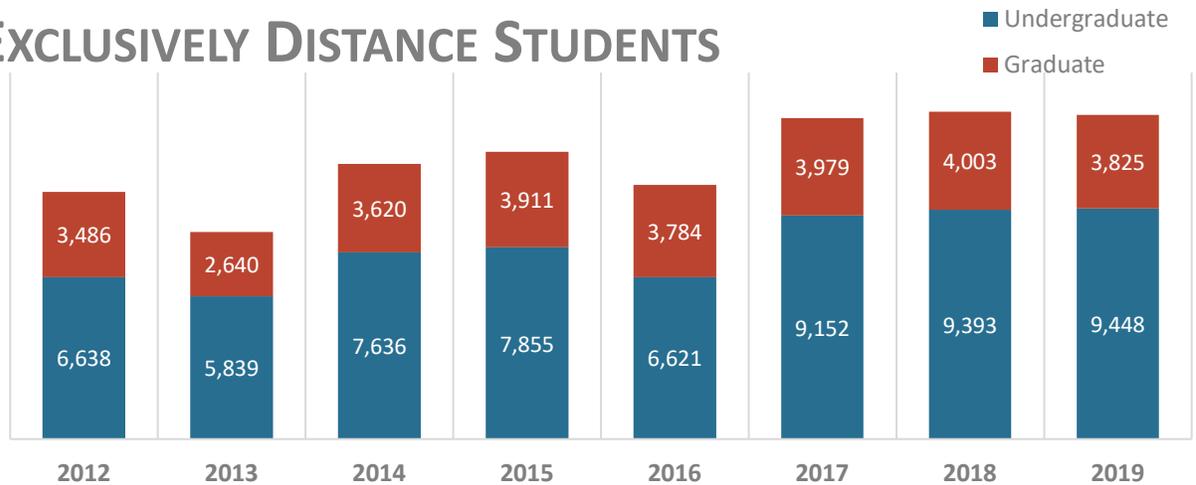
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TYPE

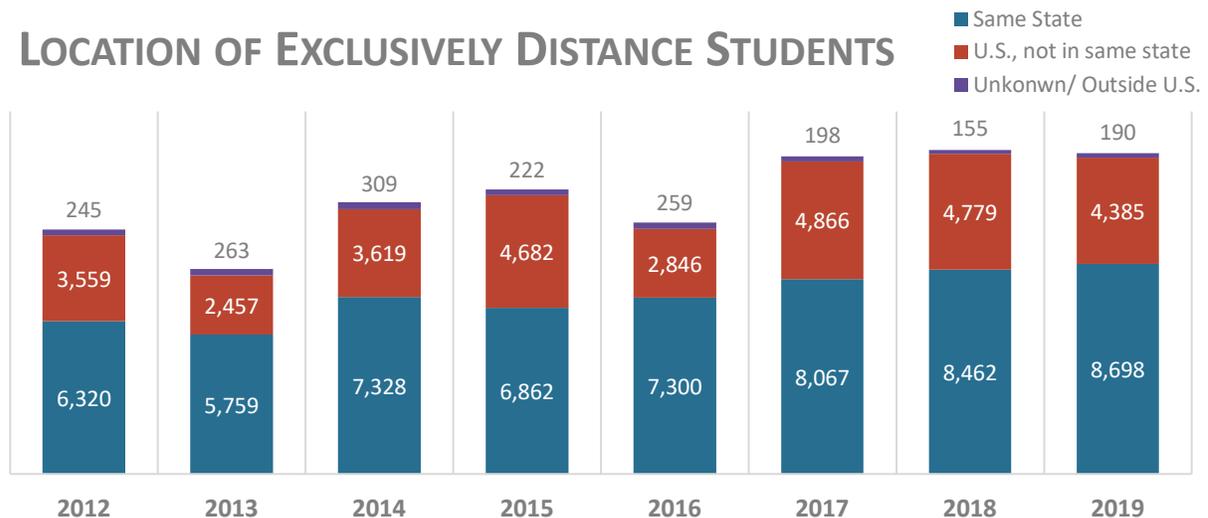


EXCLUSIVELY DISTANCE STUDENTS

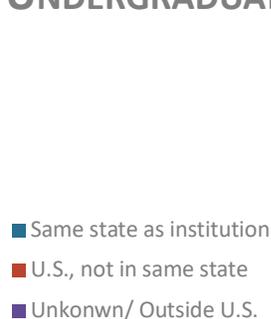


A total of 13,273 students were taking all of their courses at a distance from Maine institutions in the fall of 2019. This represents 18.5% of the enrolled students in the state, which ranks the state at number 21 in the U.S. The number of exclusively distance students who reside in Maine while taking courses from an institution in Maine was 6,320 in 2012 and grew to 8,698 by 2019. There are 4,575 students enrolled as exclusively distance students in Maine institutions who reside outside Maine, or whose place of residence is unknown.

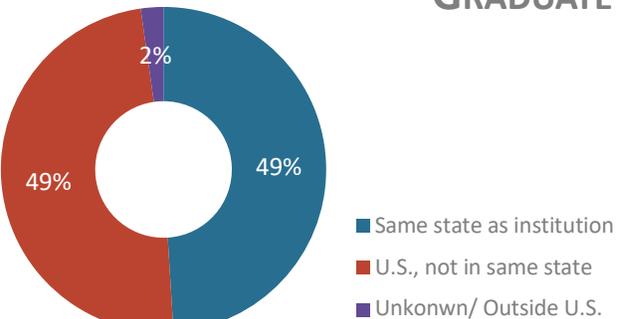
LOCATION OF EXCLUSIVELY DISTANCE STUDENTS



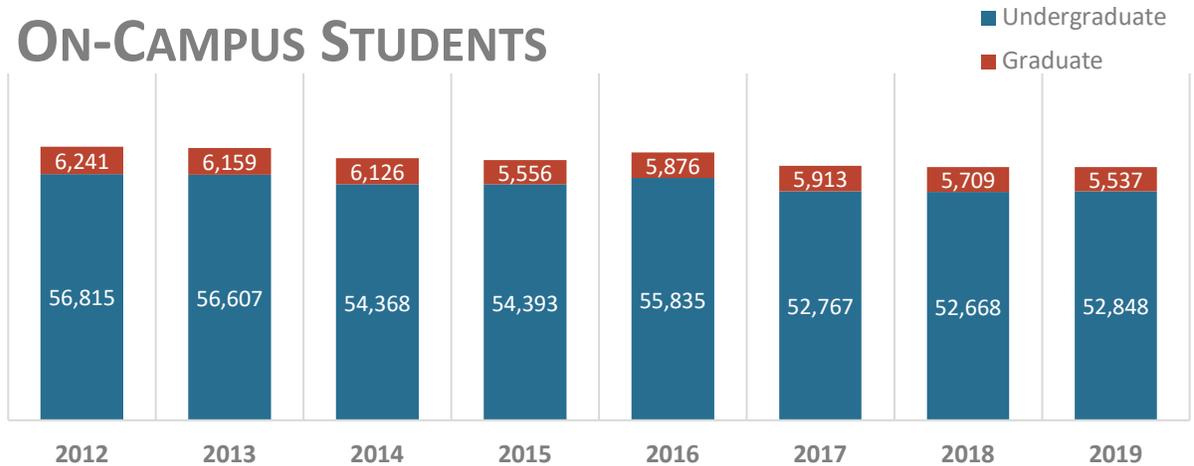
UNDERGRADUATE



GRADUATE

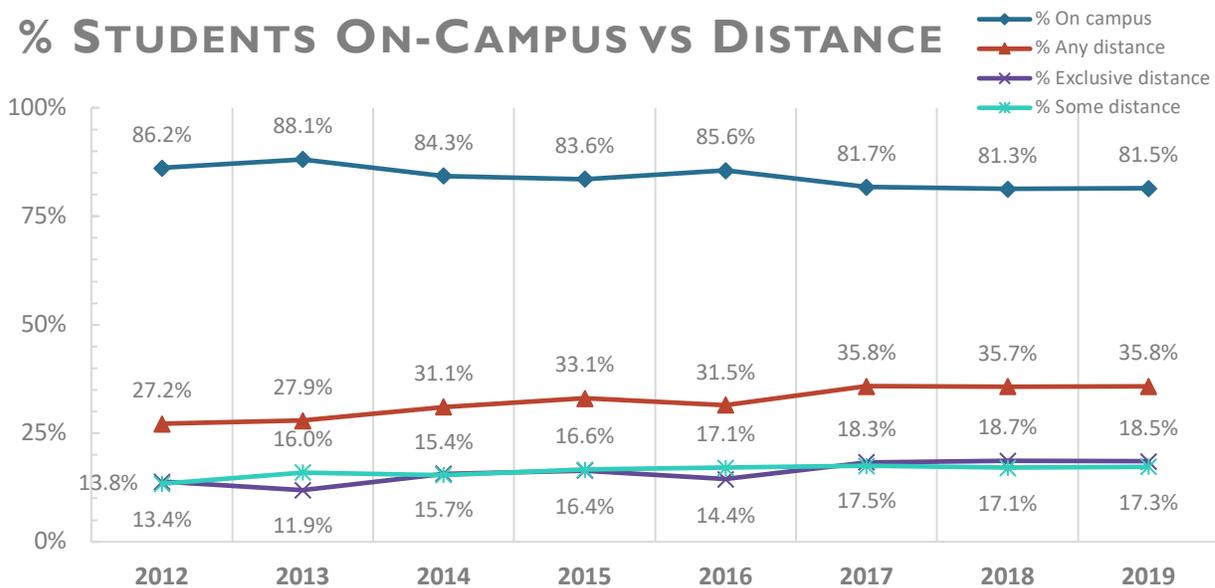


ON-CAMPUS STUDENTS

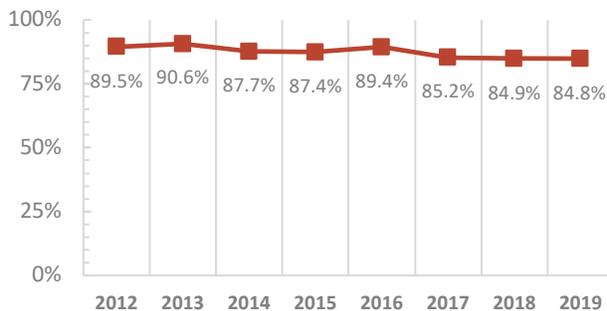


On-campus students are those who take one or more of their courses physically on-campus. The number of students studying on campus declined from 63,056 to 58,385 between 2012 and 2019 in Maine, representing a reduction of 7.4%. This compares to a national decrease of 10.3% for the same period. In 2019, 84.8% of undergraduate students and 59.1% of graduate students in Maine were taking at least one on-campus course.

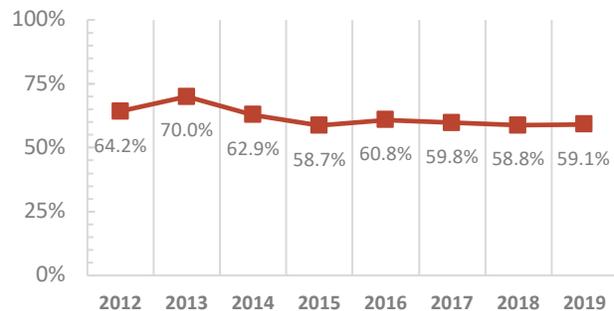
% STUDENTS ON-CAMPUS VS DISTANCE



% ON-CAMPUS: UNDERGRADUATE



% ON-CAMPUS: GRADUATE



INSTITUTIONS

	Maine	National	State Rank	State as % of National
Total institutions	30	4,089	36	0.7%
Institutions w/ distance	23	3,161	38	0.7%
% Institution w/ distance	76.7%	77.3%	37	

ENROLLMENTS

Maine		Total	Any Distance	Exclusive Distance	On Campus
Total		71,658	25,671	13,273	58,385
Size	Under 1,000	4,421	1,567	690	3,731
	1,000 - 4,999	33,380	10,992	6,186	27,194
	5,000 - 9,999	22,296	8,909	5,121	17,175
	10,000 - 19,999	11,561	4,203	1,276	10,285
	20,000 and above	-	-	-	-
Carnegie	Not assigned	169	90	90	79
	Associates	17,900	6,086	2,342	15,558
	Research	11,561	4,203	1,276	10,285
	Masters	21,643	9,620	5,788	15,855
	Baccalaureate	19,888	5,631	3,777	16,111
	Specialized	497	41	-	497
Control	Public	48,307	18,631	8,154	40,153
	Private not-for-profit	22,961	6,650	5,115	17,846
	Private for-profit	390	390	4	386
Type	Four or more years	54,277	20,010	10,935	43,342
	At least 2 but less than 4 years	17,381	5,661	2,338	15,043