

Distance Education State Almanac

MISSISSIPPI



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.

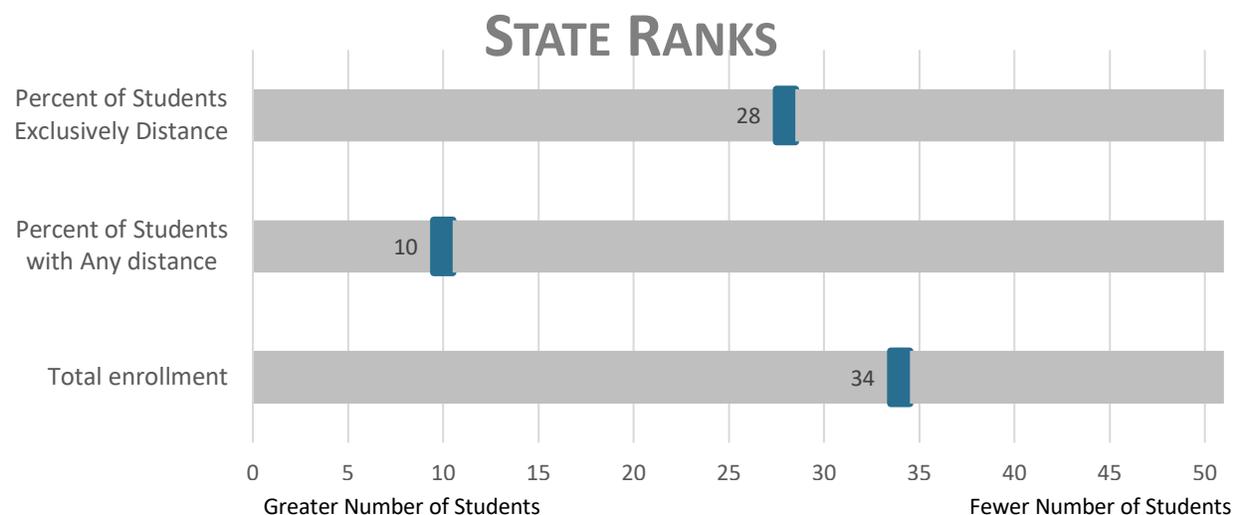
The information presented in the report represent the classifications and enrollments for Fall 2019 and were measured before the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. National totals include all 50 states, District of Columbia, America Samoa, Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, Marshall Islands, Northern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

Mississippi

Mississippi has 34 degree-granting higher education institutions, representing 0.8% of all such institutions in the United States. Of these institutions, 23 are classified as public, 9 as private not-for-profit, and 2 as private for-profit. Of these 34 institutions, 18 offer four-year programs, and 16 offer two-year programs.

The state has 166,969 students enrolled across its institutions and ranks 34th in terms of total higher education student enrollment. Between 2012 and 2019, the total number of students enrolled nationally declined by 5.0%. For Mississippi, the enrollment decreased by 9,649 students, or -5.5%. Mississippi has 146,940 students studying at the undergraduate level, a loss of 8,352 students from 2012 (-5.4%), compared to a 6.8% national decline. There are 20,029 students studying at the graduate level, which is 1,297 fewer than in 2012; this represents a change of -6.1%, where the national data showed an increase of 5.7%.

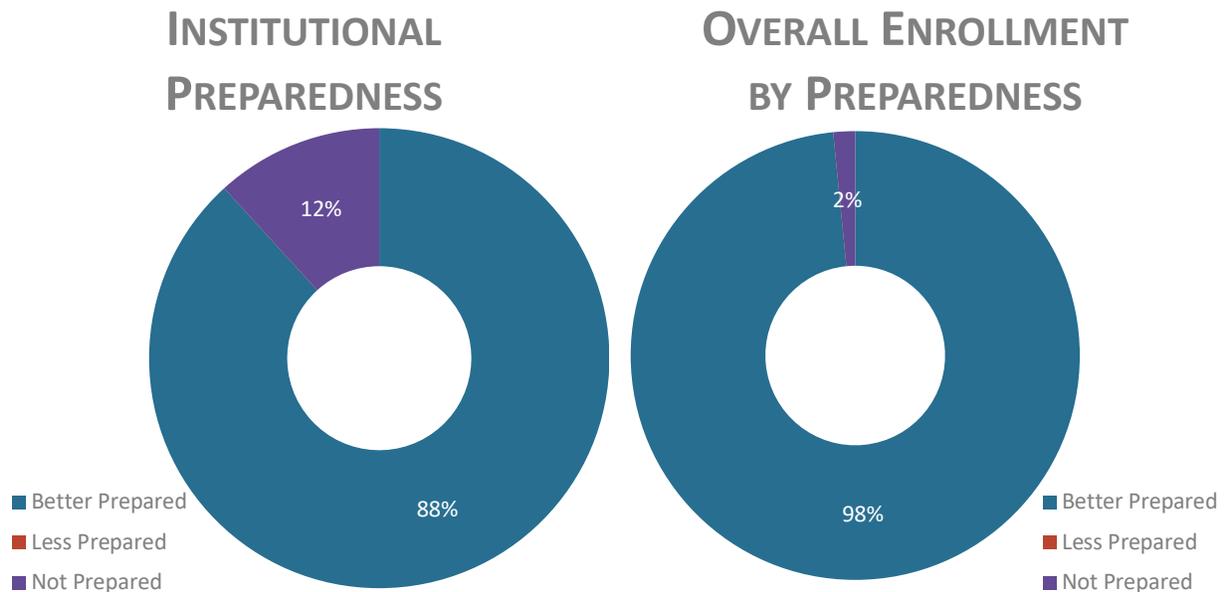
There are 76,347 students in Mississippi that take at least one distance course. The state is ranked 10th for the proportion of students taking at least one distance course (45.7%). In 2019, there were 26,073 students taking all of their courses at a distance, a growth of 9,564 students (57.9%) from 2012. Mississippi ranks 28th in the proportion of students (15.6%) 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.

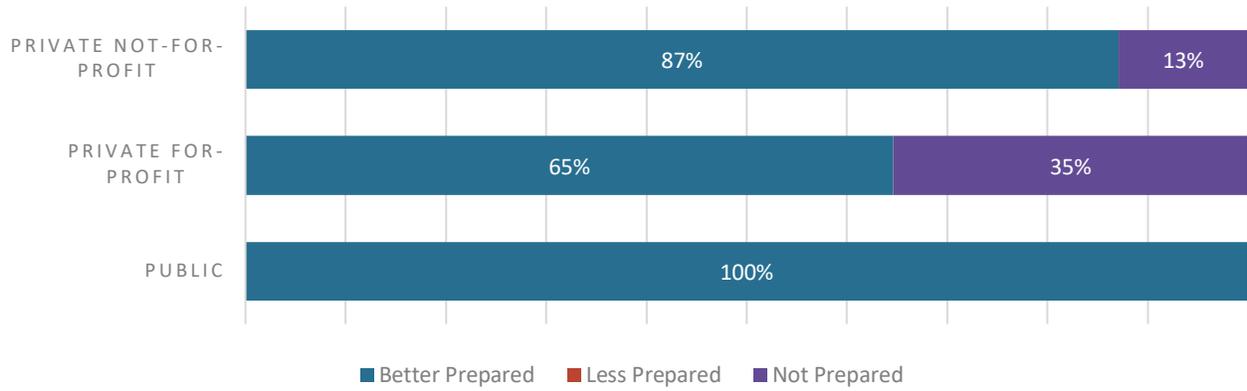
Nationally, 59.3% of all degree-granting institutions meet the criteria of having 25% or more or over 1,000 of their students taking distance courses. In Mississippi, 88.2% of institutions are better prepared for moving completely online. These institutions enroll 164,353 students, or 98.4% of all students in the state. There are 4 institutions in Mississippi with no distance students (representing 11.8% of the total in state institutions) that were likely not well prepared for a rapid transition to distance learning.



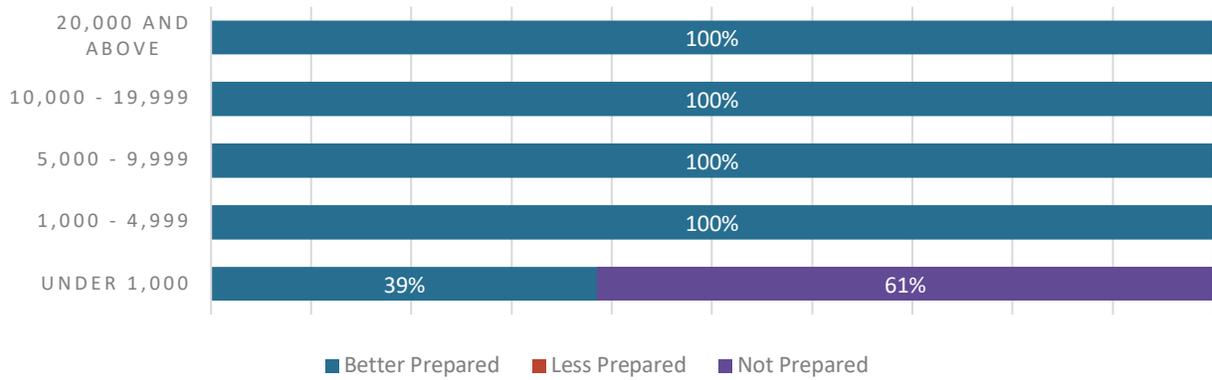
Preparedness Definitions:

- 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

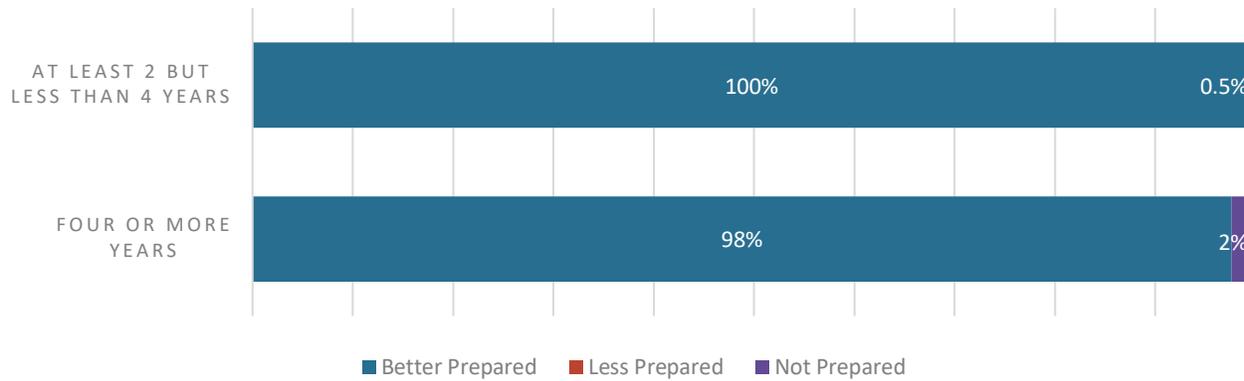
PREPAREDNESS BY CONTROL



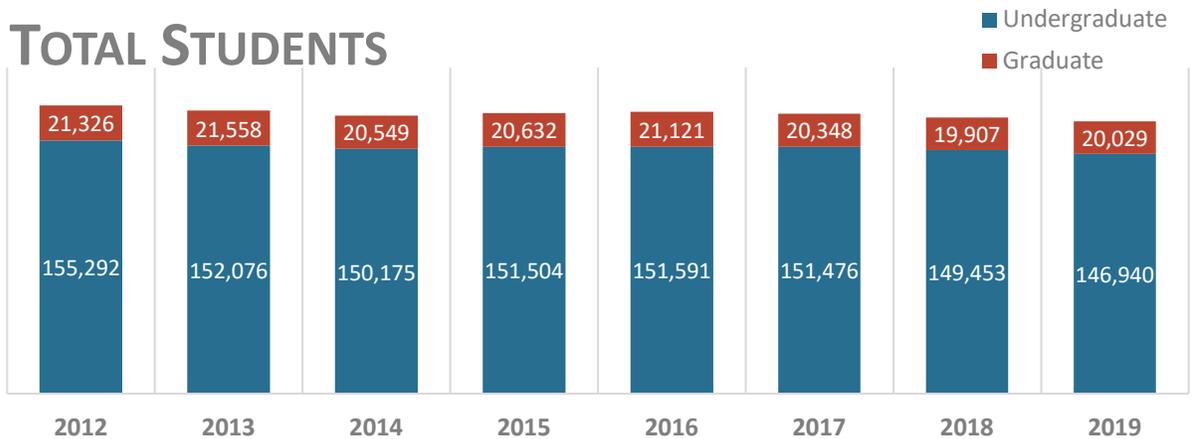
PREPAREDNESS BY SIZE



PREPAREDNESS BY TYPE



State Enrollment



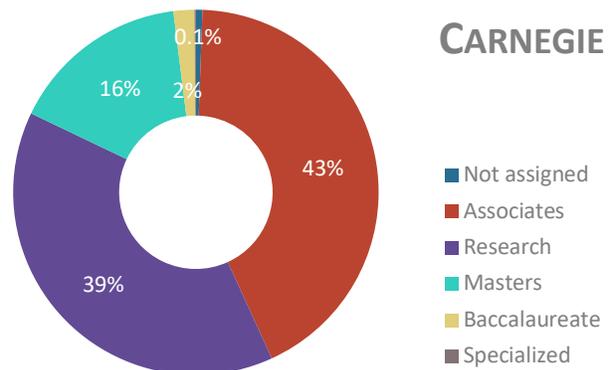
Institutions in Mississippi enrolled a total of 166,969 students in the of Fall 2019; 146,940 students were enrolled at the undergraduate level, and 20,029 enrolled at the graduate level. The Fall 2019 figure represents a decrease of 9,649 students (-5.5%) from the number enrolled in the fall of 2012. The number of undergraduate students decreased by 8,352 during this period, from 155,292 in 2012 to 146,940 in 2019 (-5.4%). The number of graduate students decreased from 21,326 to 20,029 (-6.1%) in the same period.

Enrollments in Fall 2019 totaled 148,360 students at public institutions (89% of all students), 17,642 students at private not-for-profit institutions (10.6%), and 967 students at private for-profit institutions (0.6%). Enrollments at public institutions decreased by 9,635 students between 2012 and 2019, while those at private not-for-profit institutions increased by 1,584 students, and those at private for-profit institutions decreased by 1,598 students.

CONTROL



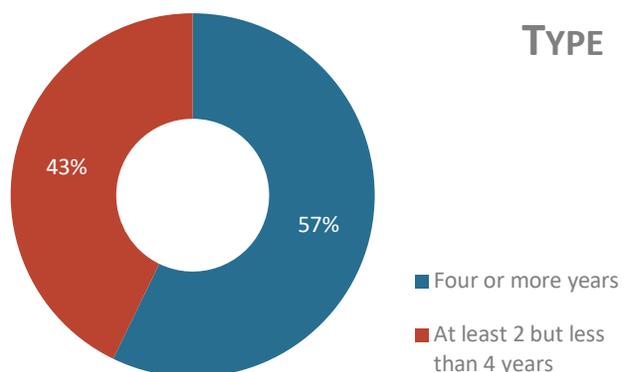
CARNEGIE



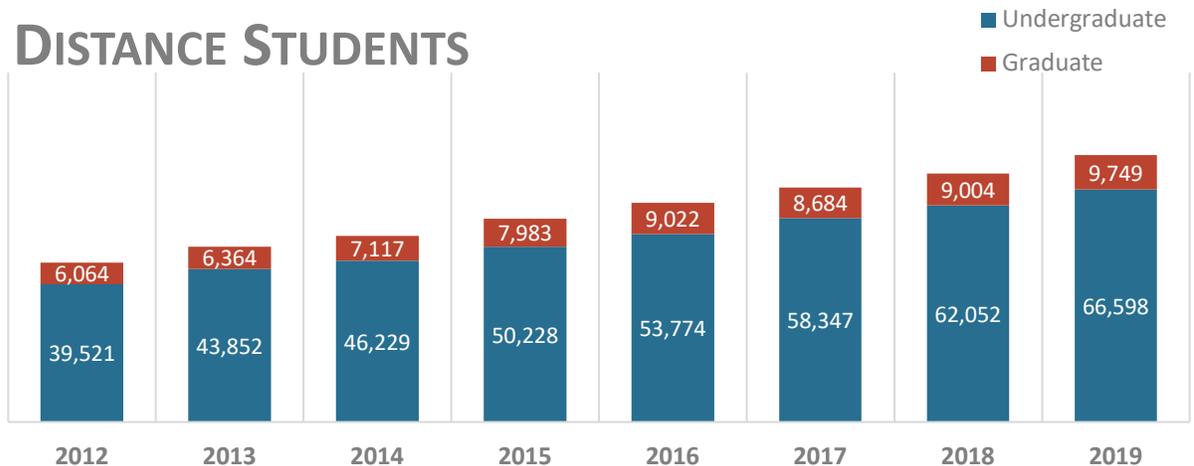
SIZE



TYPE



DISTANCE STUDENTS

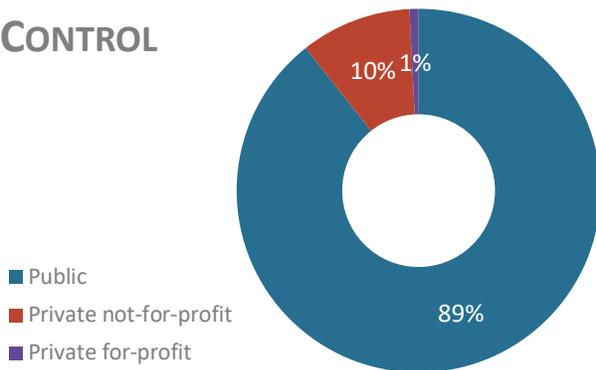


In 2019, a total of 76,347 students took at least one distance course from Mississippi institutions; 66,598 (45.3% of all undergraduate students) were enrolled at the undergraduate level, and 9,749 (48.7% of all graduate students) were enrolled at the graduate level.

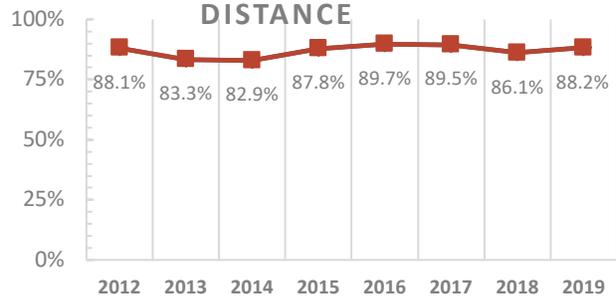
Among undergraduate level distance students, 62,611 were enrolled at institutions classified as public, 3,433 as private not-for-profit, and 554 as private for profit. At the graduate-level, 5,598 distance students were enrolled at institutions classified as public, 4,087 as private not-for-profit, and 64 as private for profit.

The number of undergraduate distance enrollments at Mississippi institutions increased by 27,077 (68.5%) between Fall 2012 and Fall 2019, while the number of graduate distance enrollments grew by 3,685 (60.8%) during this same period.

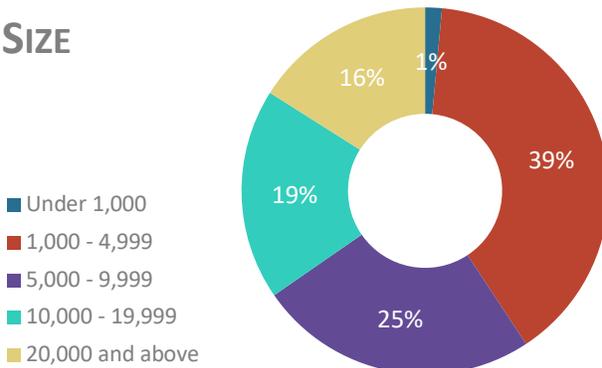
CONTROL



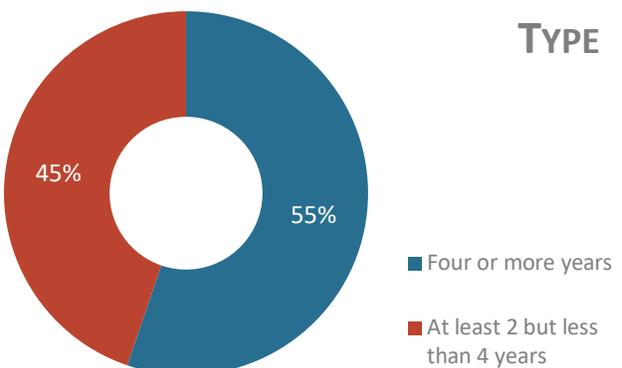
% INSTITUTIONS WITH DISTANCE



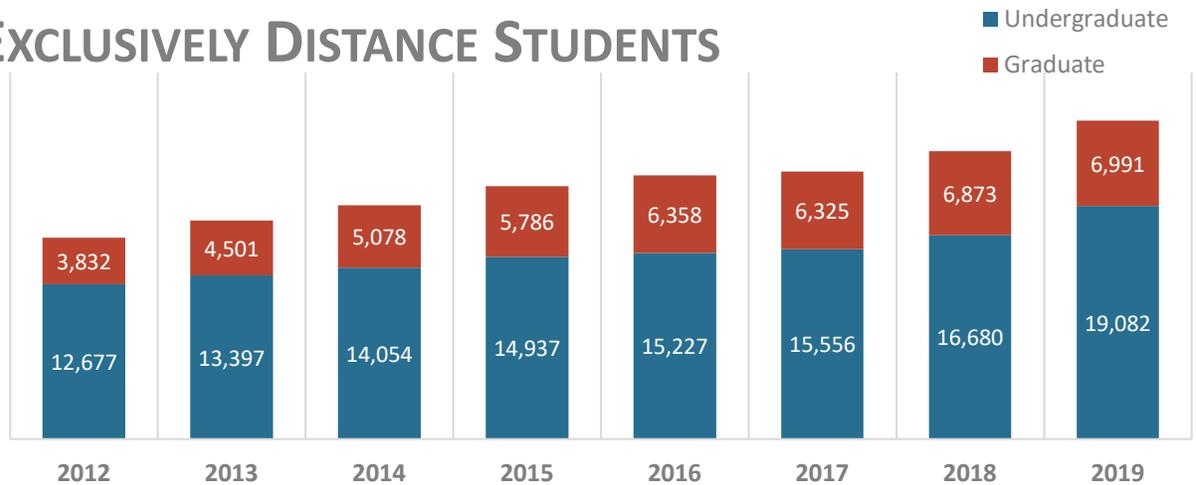
SIZE



TYPE

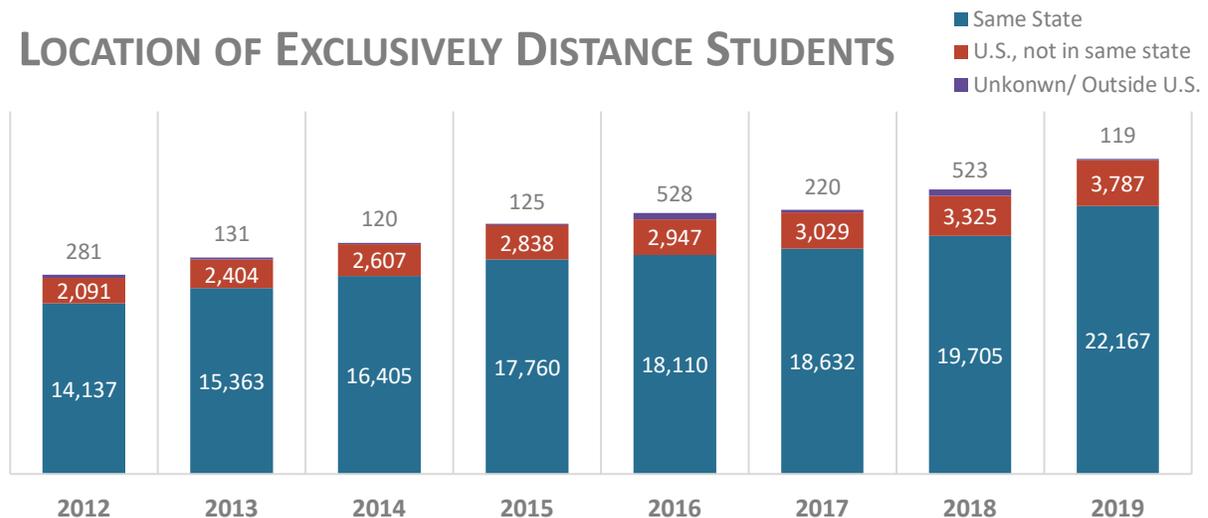


EXCLUSIVELY DISTANCE STUDENTS

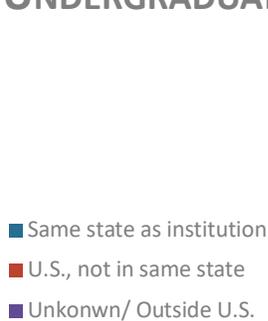


A total of 26,073 students were taking all of their courses at a distance from Mississippi institutions in the fall of 2019. This represents 15.6% of the enrolled students in the state, which ranks the state at number 28 in the U.S. The number of exclusively distance students who reside in Mississippi while taking courses from an institution in Mississippi was 14,137 in 2012 and grew to 22,167 by 2019. There are 3,906 students enrolled as exclusively distance students in Mississippi institutions who reside outside Mississippi, or whose place of residence is unknown.

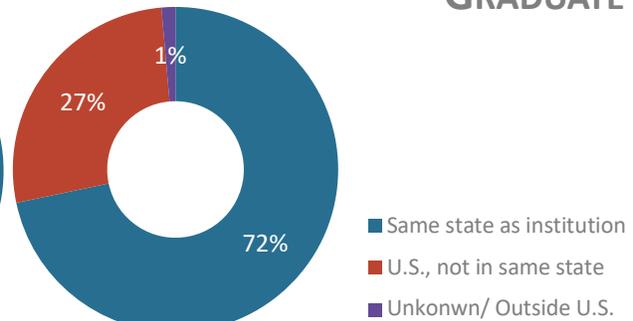
LOCATION OF EXCLUSIVELY DISTANCE STUDENTS



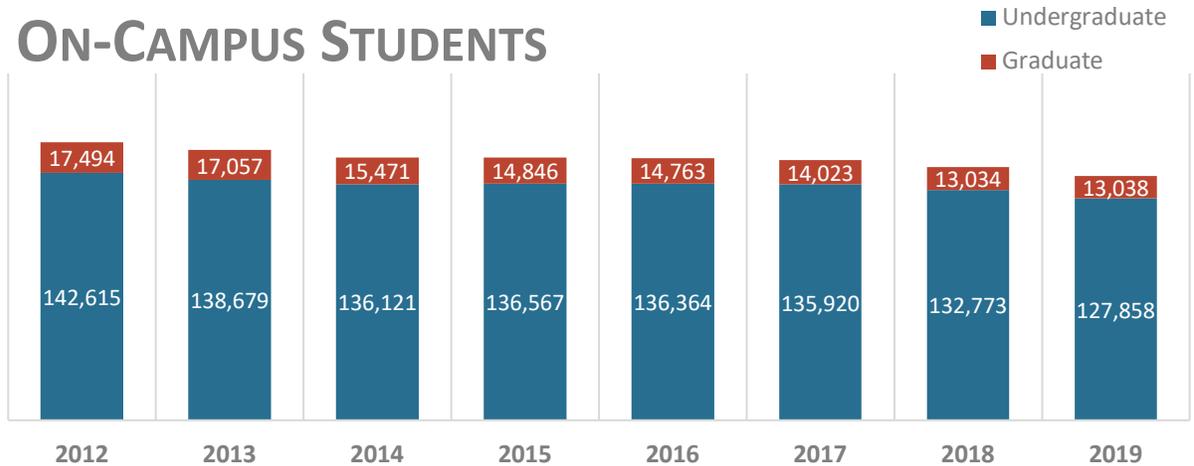
UNDERGRADUATE



GRADUATE

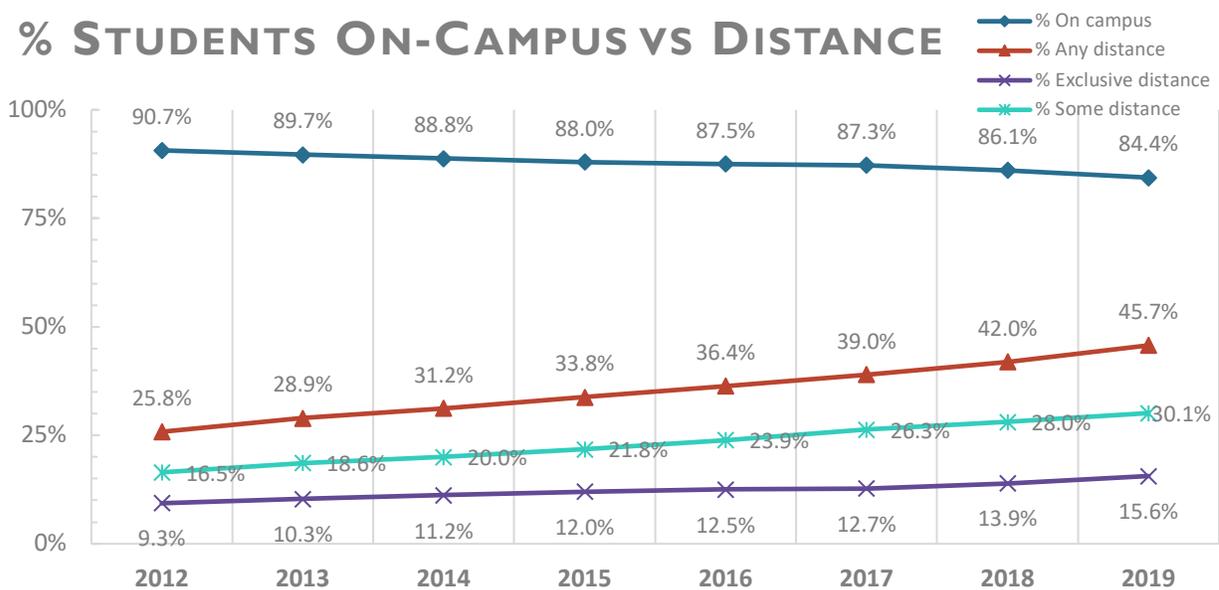


ON-CAMPUS STUDENTS

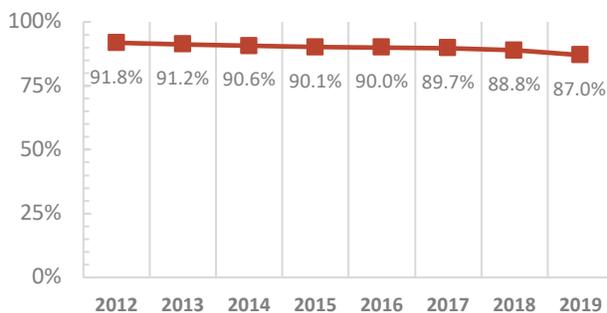


On-campus students are those who take one or more of their courses physically on-campus. The number of students studying on campus declined from 160,109 to 140,896 between 2012 and 2019 in Mississippi, representing a reduction of 12.0%. This compares to a national decrease of 10.3% for the same period. In 2019, 87.0% of undergraduate students and 65.1% of graduate students in Mississippi were taking at least one on-campus course.

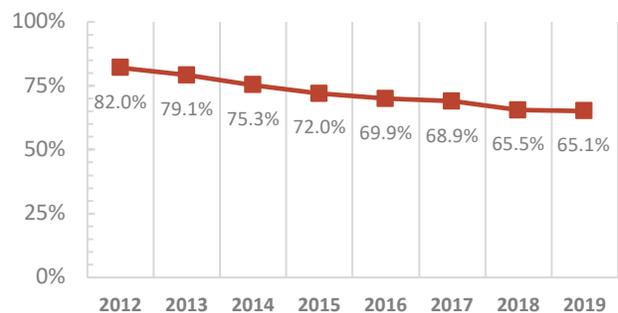
% STUDENTS ON-CAMPUS VS DISTANCE



% ON-CAMPUS: UNDERGRADUATE



% ON-CAMPUS: GRADUATE



INSTITUTIONS

	Mississippi	National	State Rank	State as % of National
Total institutions	34	4,089	35	0.8%
Institutions w/ distance	30	3,161	36	0.9%
% Institution w/ distance	88.2%	77.3%	34	

ENROLLMENTS

Mississippi		Total	Any Distance	Exclusive Distance	On Campus
	Total	166,969	76,347	26,073	140,896
Size	Under 1,000	4,262	1,126	795	3,467
	1,000 - 4,999	53,667	29,965	11,249	42,418
	5,000 - 9,999	39,237	18,812	7,082	32,155
	10,000 - 19,999	25,960	14,210	4,324	21,636
	20,000 and above	43,843	12,234	2,623	41,220
Carnegie	Not assigned	967	618	592	375
	Associates	71,132	34,177	12,398	58,734
	Research	64,996	26,362	6,676	58,320
	Masters	26,579	14,682	6,204	20,375
	Baccalaureate	3,095	326	94	3,001
	Specialized	200	182	109	91
Control	Public	148,360	68,209	21,507	126,853
	Private not-for-profit	17,642	7,520	3,974	13,668
	Private for-profit	967	618	592	375
Type	Four or more years	95,495	42,170	13,675	81,820
	At least 2 but less than 4 years	71,474	34,177	12,398	59,076