

Distance Education State Almanac

NEBRASKA



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.

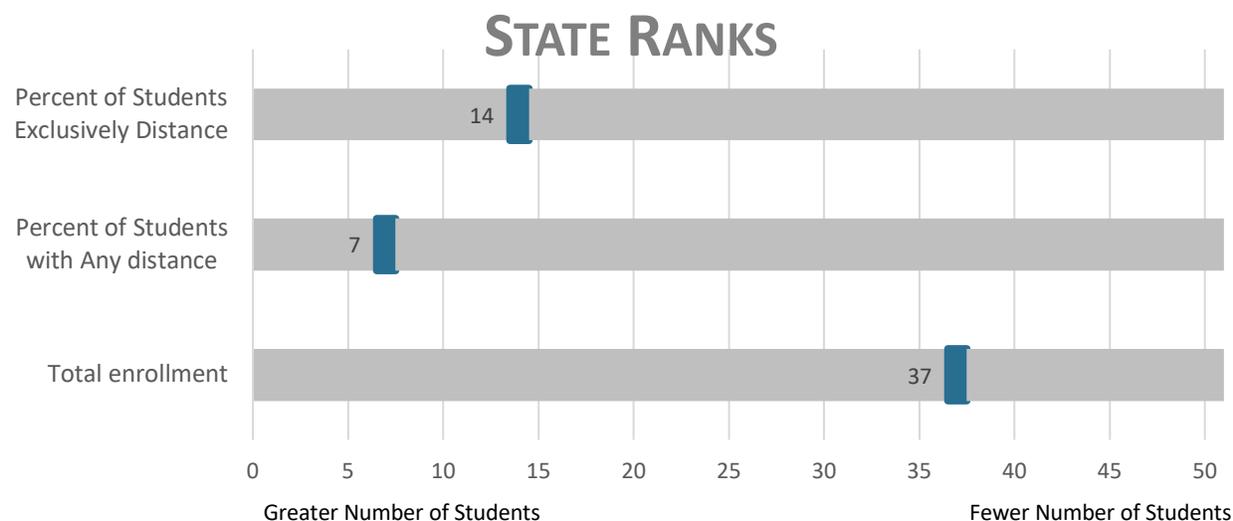
The information presented in the report represent the classifications and enrollments for Fall 2019 and were measured before the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. National totals include all 50 states, District of Columbia, America Samoa, Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, Marshall Islands, Northern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

Nebraska

Nebraska has 35 degree-granting higher education institutions, representing 0.9% of all such institutions in the United States. Of these institutions, 16 are classified as public, 16 as private not-for-profit, and 3 as private for-profit. Of these 35 institutions, 23 offer four-year programs, and 12 offer two-year programs.

The state has 135,509 students enrolled across its institutions and ranks 37th in terms of total higher education student enrollment. Between 2012 and 2019, the total number of students enrolled nationally declined by 5.0%. For Nebraska, the enrollment decreased by 4,088 students, or -2.9%. Nebraska has 110,119 students studying at the undergraduate level, a loss of 5,621 students from 2012 (-4.9%), compared to a 6.8% national decline. There are 25,390 students studying at the graduate level, which is 1,533 greater than in 2012; this represents a change of 6.4%, where the national data showed an increase of 5.7%.

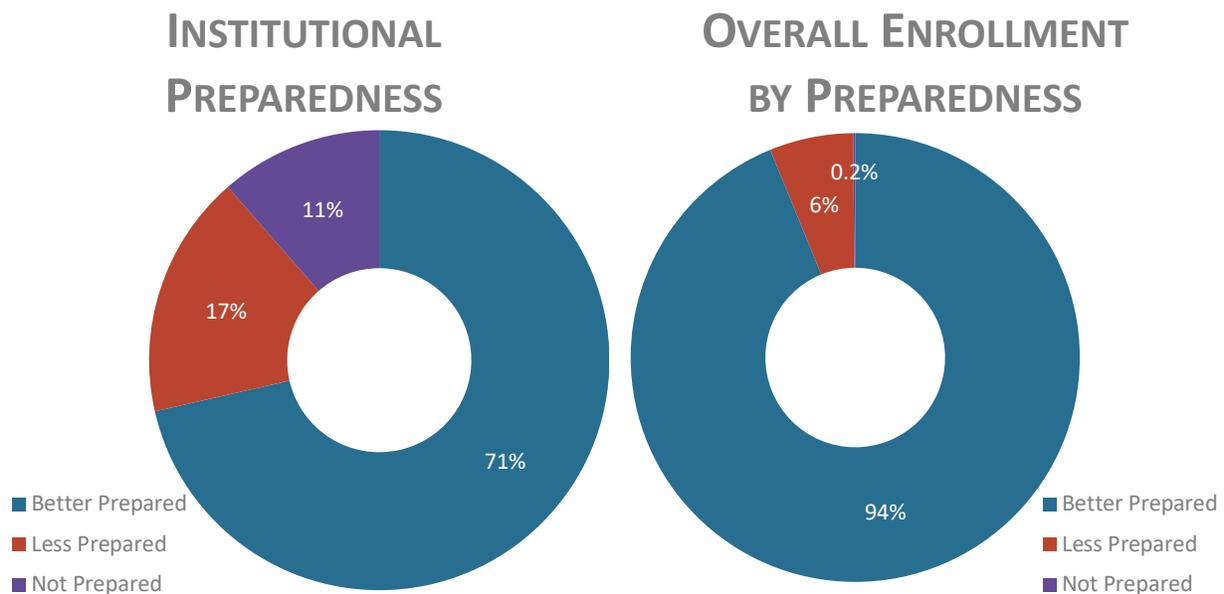
There are 66,776 students in Nebraska that take at least one distance course. The state is ranked 7th for the proportion of students taking at least one distance course (49.3%). In 2019, there were 30,903 students taking all of their courses at a distance, a growth of 6,995 students (29.3%) from 2012. Nebraska ranks 14th in the proportion of students (22.8%) 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.

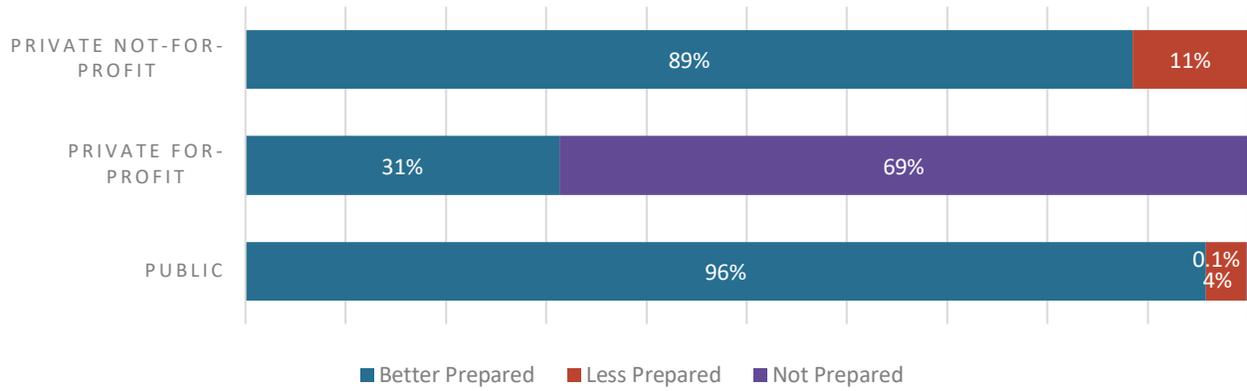
Nationally, 59.3% of all degree-granting institutions meet the criteria of having 25% or more or over 1,000 of their students taking distance courses. In Nebraska, 71.4% of institutions are better prepared for moving completely online. These institutions enroll 127,139 students, or 93.8% of all students in the state. There are 4 institutions in Nebraska with no distance students (representing 11.4% of the total in state institutions) that were likely not well prepared for a rapid transition to distance learning.



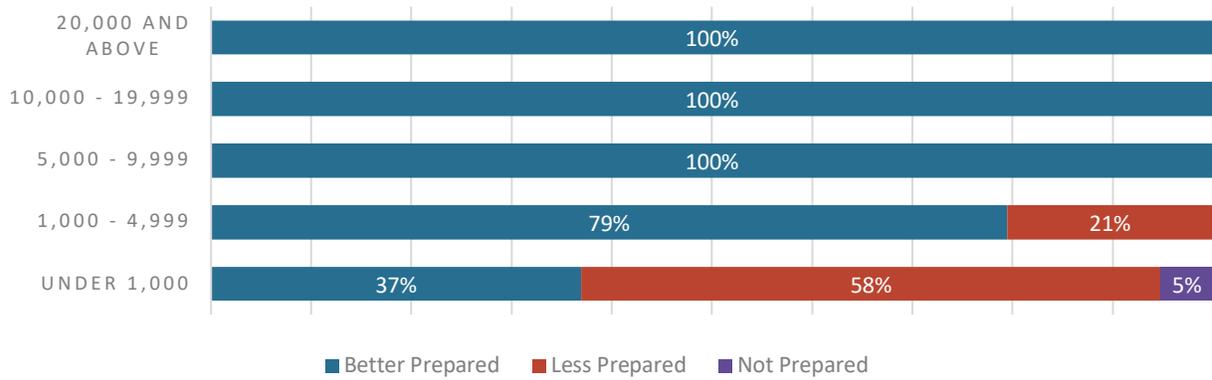
Preparedness Definitions:

- 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

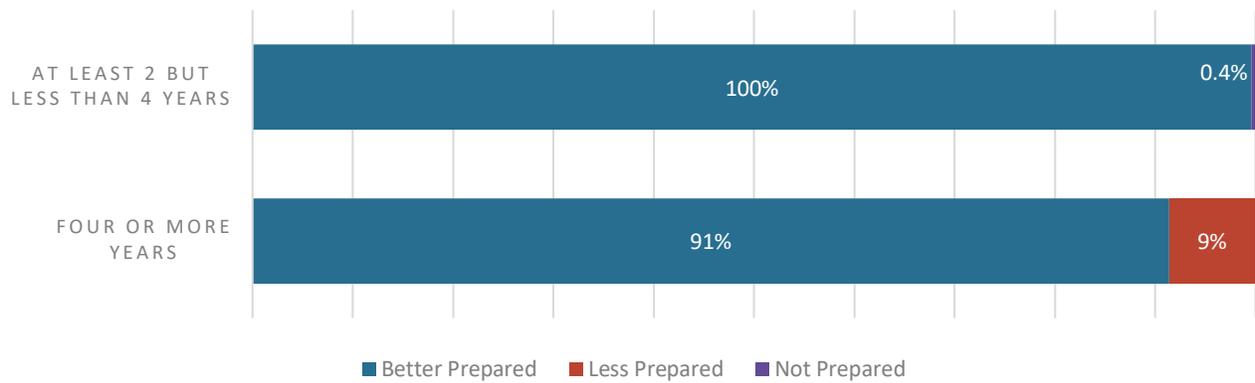
PREPAREDNESS BY CONTROL



PREPAREDNESS BY SIZE



PREPAREDNESS BY TYPE



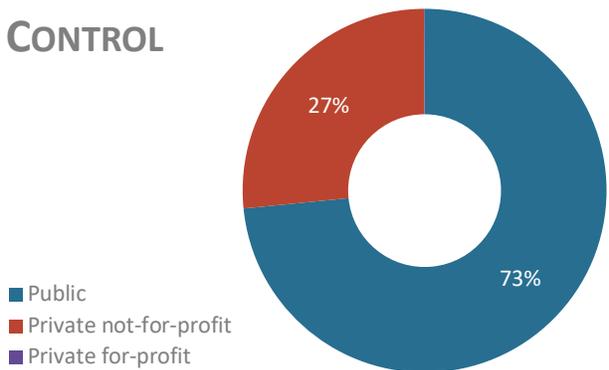
State Enrollment



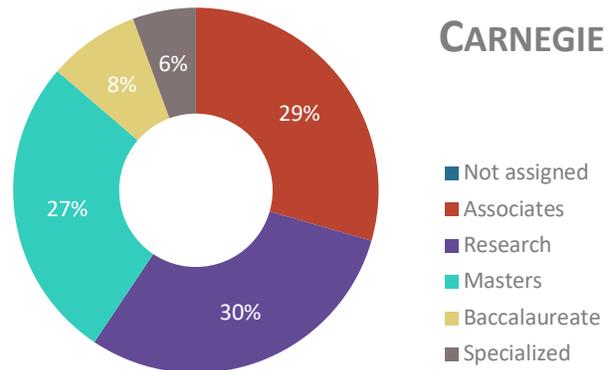
Institutions in Nebraska enrolled a total of 135,509 students in the of Fall 2019; 110,119 students were enrolled at the undergraduate level, and 25,390 enrolled at the graduate level. The Fall 2019 figure represents a decrease of 4,088 students (-2.9%) from the number enrolled in the fall of 2012. The number of undergraduate students decreased by 5,621 during this period, from 115,740 in 2012 to 110,119 in 2019 (-4.9%). The number of graduate students increased from 23,857 to 25,390 (6.4%) in the same period.

Enrollments in Fall 2019 totaled 99,502 students at public institutions (73% of all students), 35,924 students at private not-for-profit institutions (26.5%), and 83 students at private for-profit institutions (0.1%). Enrollments at public institutions decreased by 4,664 students between 2012 and 2019, while those at private not-for-profit institutions increased by 3,102 students, and those at private for-profit institutions decreased by 2,526 students.

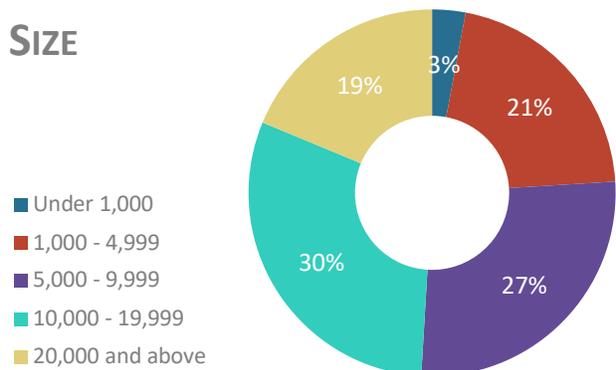
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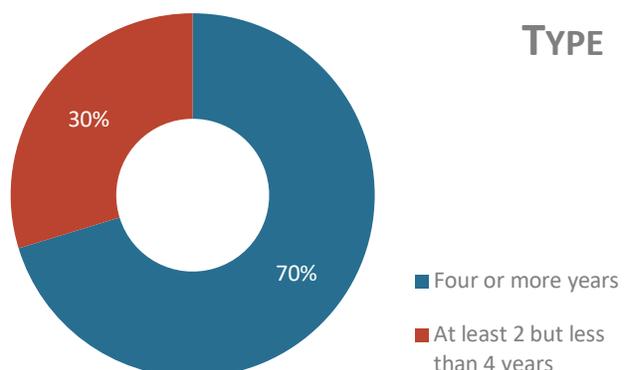
CARNEGIE



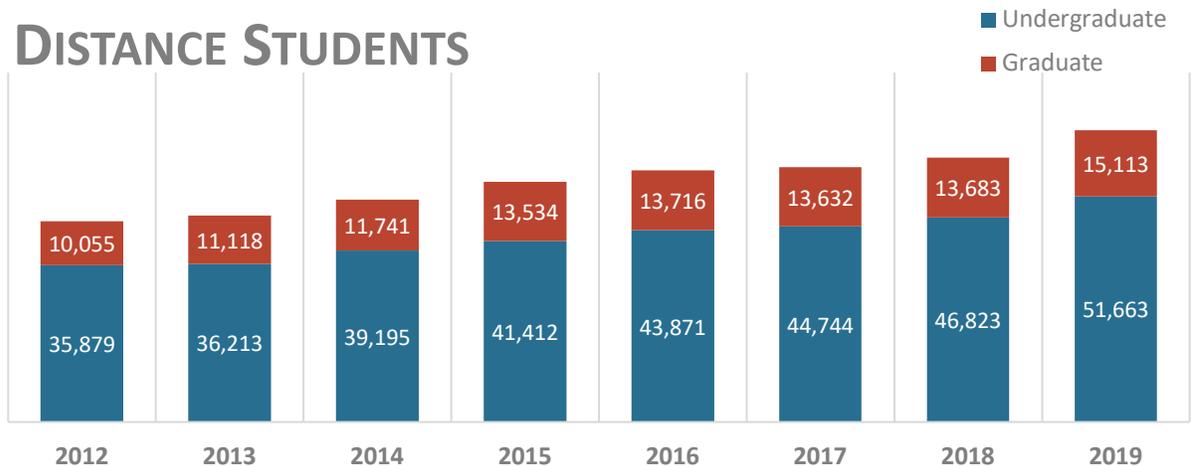
SIZE



TYPE



DISTANCE STUDENTS

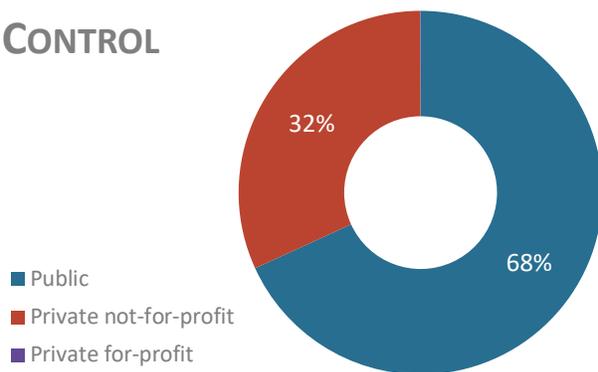


In 2019, a total of 66,776 students took at least one distance course from Nebraska institutions; 51,663 (46.9% of all undergraduate students) were enrolled at the undergraduate level, and 15,113 (59.5% of all graduate students) were enrolled at the graduate level.

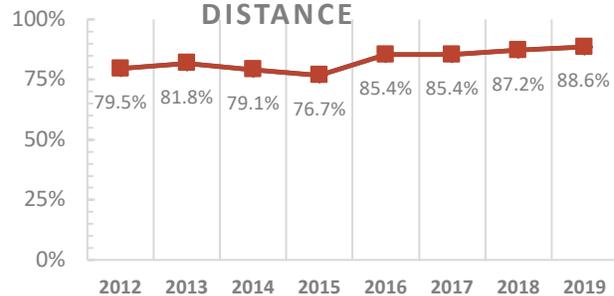
Among undergraduate level distance students, 38,433 were enrolled at institutions classified as public, 13,204 as private not-for-profit, and 26 as private for profit. At the graduate-level, 7,090 distance students were enrolled at institutions classified as public, 8,023 as private not-for-profit, and 0 as private for profit.

The number of undergraduate distance enrollments at Nebraska institutions increased by 15,784 (44.0%) between Fall 2012 and Fall 2019, while the number of graduate distance enrollments grew by 5,058 (50.3%) during this same period.

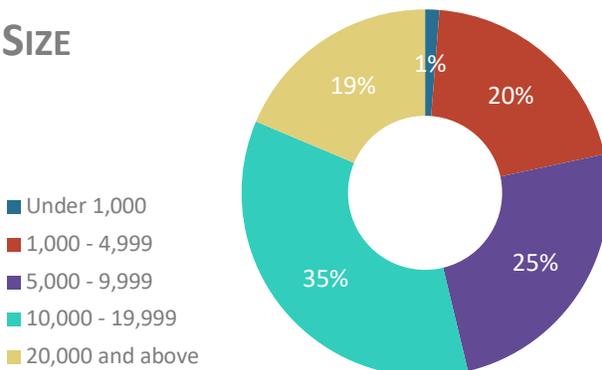
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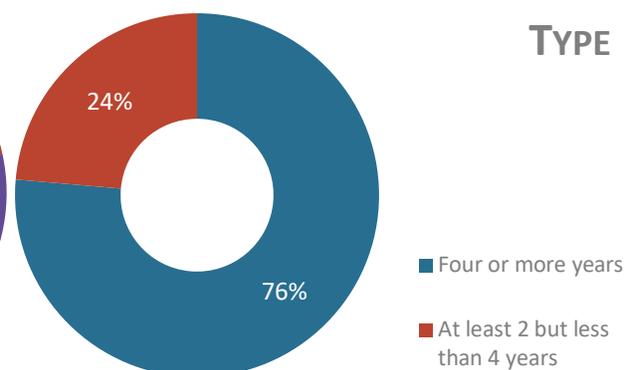
% INSTITUTIONS WITH DISTANCE



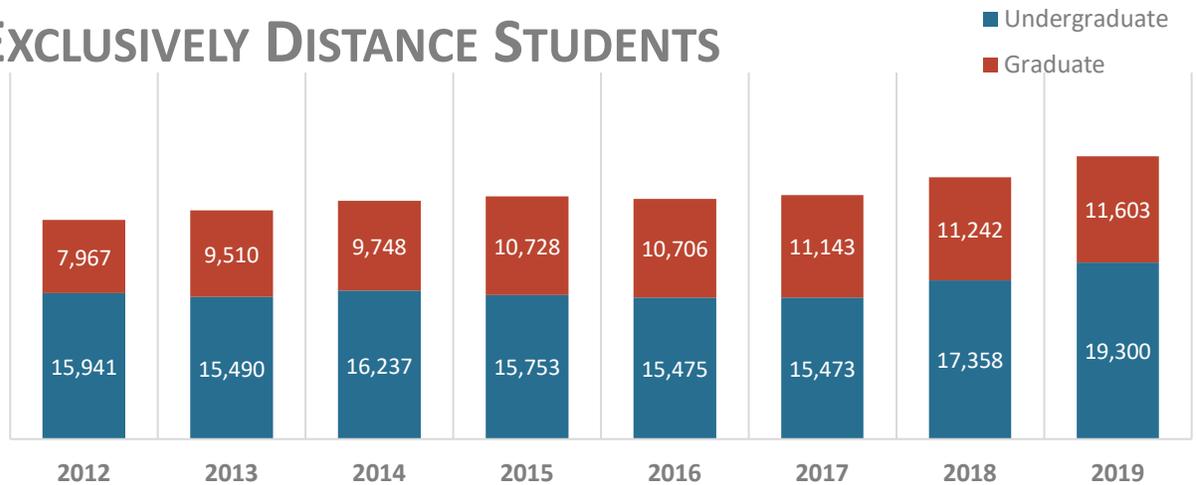
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TYPE

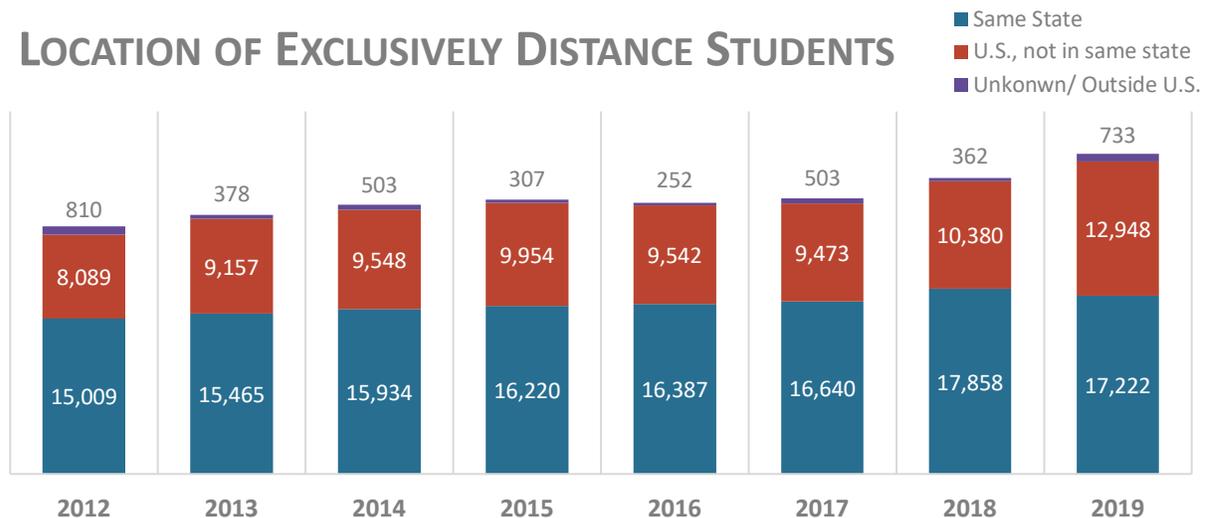


EXCLUSIVELY DISTANCE STUDENTS

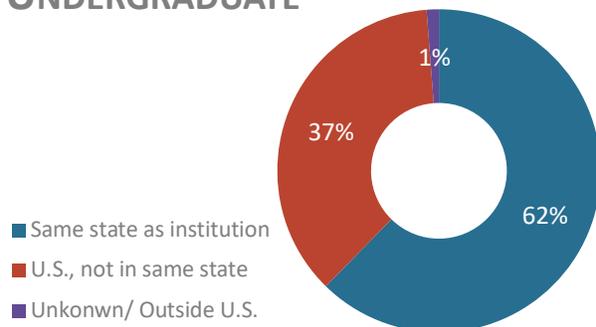


A total of 30,903 students were taking all of their courses at a distance from Nebraska institutions in the fall of 2019. This represents 22.8% of the enrolled students in the state, which ranks the state at number 14 in the U.S. The number of exclusively distance students who reside in Nebraska while taking courses from an institution in Nebraska was 15,009 in 2012 and grew to 17,222 by 2019. There are 13,681 students enrolled as exclusively distance students in Nebraska institutions who reside outside Nebraska, or whose place of residence is unknown.

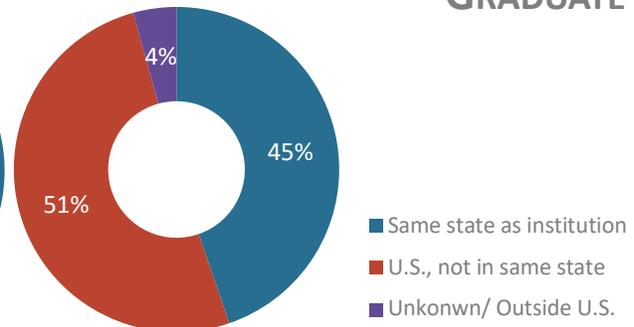
LOCATION OF EXCLUSIVELY DISTANCE STUDENTS



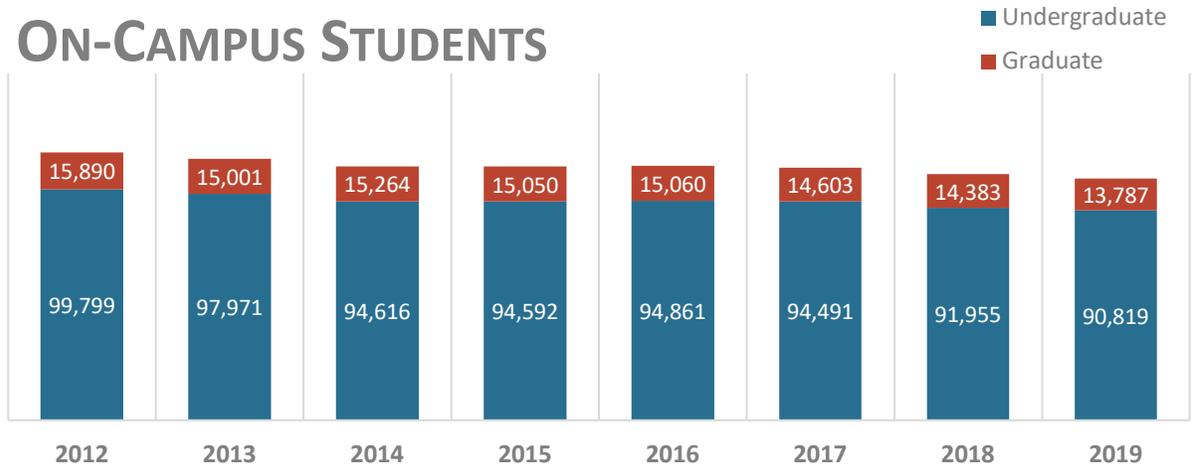
UNDERGRADUATE



GRADUATE

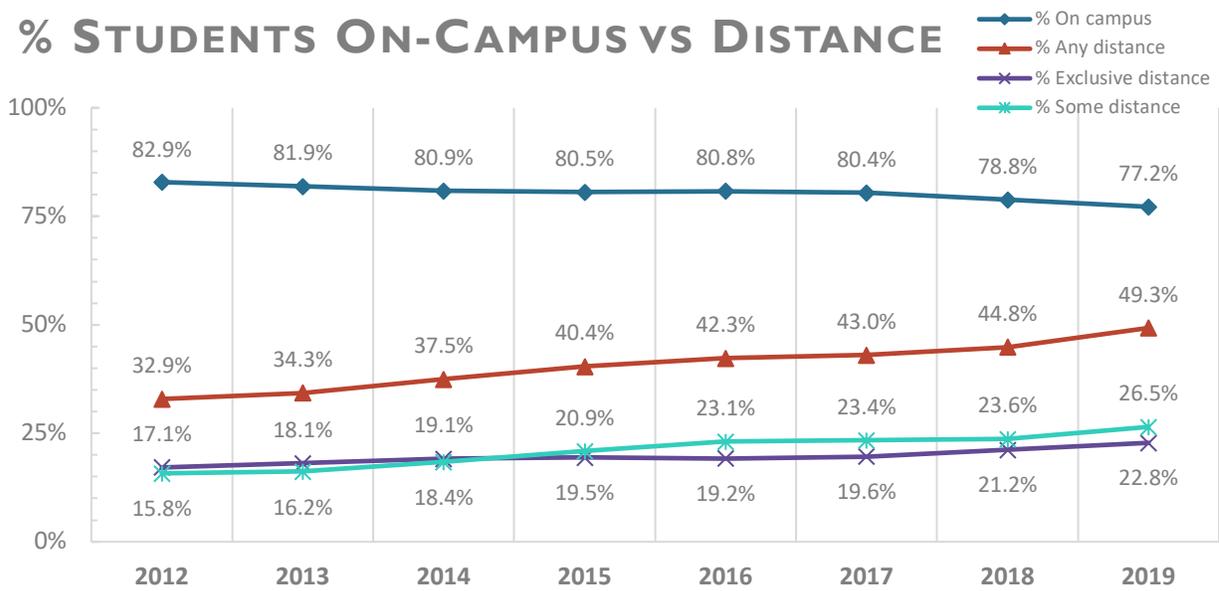


ON-CAMPUS STUDENTS

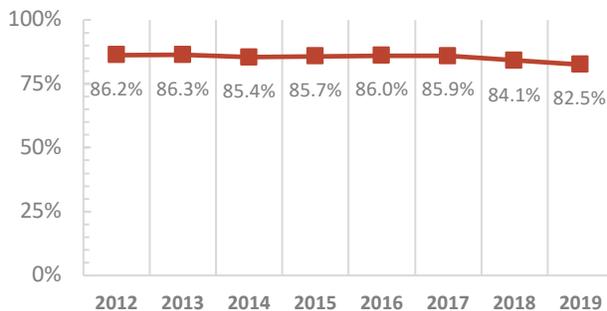


On-campus students are those who take one or more of their courses physically on-campus. The number of students studying on campus declined from 115,689 to 104,606 between 2012 and 2019 in Nebraska, representing a reduction of 9.6%. This compares to a national decrease of 10.3% for the same period. In 2019, 82.5% of undergraduate students and 54.3% of graduate students in Nebraska were taking at least one on-campus course.

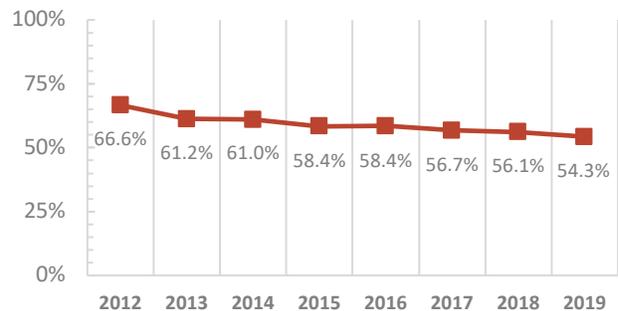
% STUDENTS ON-CAMPUS VS DISTANCE



% ON-CAMPUS: UNDERGRADUATE



% ON-CAMPUS: GRADUATE



INSTITUTIONS

	Nebraska	National	State Rank	State as % of National
Total institutions	35	4,089	40	0.9%
Institutions w/ distance	31	3,161	35	1.0%
% Institution w/ distance	88.6%	77.3%	36	

ENROLLMENTS

Nebraska		Total	Any Distance	Exclusive Distance	On Campus
Total		135,509	66,776	30,903	104,606
Size	Under 1,000	3,975	835	334	3,641
	1,000 - 4,999	28,572	13,599	5,503	23,069
	5,000 - 9,999	36,482	16,445	8,792	27,690
	10,000 - 19,999	41,090	23,448	14,646	26,444
	20,000 and above	25,390	12,449	1,628	23,762
		Not assigned	-	-	-
Carnegie	Associates	39,919	15,668	8,275	31,644
	Research	40,543	20,445	3,062	37,481
	Masters	36,489	22,216	16,435	20,054
	Baccalaureate	10,982	5,339	1,305	9,677
	Specialized	7,576	3,108	1,826	5,750
Control	Public	99,502	45,523	16,818	82,684
	Private not-for-profit	35,924	21,227	14,085	21,839
	Private for-profit	83	26	-	83
Type	Four or more years	95,231	50,998	22,534	72,697
	At least 2 but less than 4 years	40,278	15,778	8,369	31,909