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.

New Jersey

New Jersey has 87 degree-granting higher education institutions, representing 2.1% of all such institutions in the United States. Of these institutions, 32 are classified as public, 42 as private not-for-profit, and 13 as private for-profit. Of these 87 institutions, 62 offer four-year programs, and 25 offer two-year programs.

The state has 413,230 students enrolled across its institutions and ranks 15th in terms of total higher education student enrollment. Between 2012 and 2019, the total number of students enrolled nationally declined by 5.0%. For New Jersey, the enrollment decreased by 26,779 students, or -6.1%. New Jersey has 349,672 students studying at the undergraduate level, a loss of 27,272 students from 2012 (-7.2%), compared to a 6.8% national decline. There are 63,558 students studying at the graduate level, which is 493 greater than in 2012; this represents a change of 0.8%, where the national data showed an increase of 5.7%.

There are 104,834 students in New Jersey that take at least one distance course. The state is ranked 45th for the proportion of students taking at least one distance course (25.4%). In 2019, there were 34,239 students taking all of their courses at a distance, a loss of -182 students (-0.5%) from 2012. New Jersey ranks 48th in the proportion of students (8.3%) 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 New Jersey, 48.3% of institutions are better prepared for moving completely online. These institutions enroll 339,182 students, or 82.1% of all students in the state. There are 33 institutions in New Jersey with no distance students (representing 37.9% 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

**INSTITUTIONAL PREPAREDNESS**

- Better Prepared: 38%
- Less Prepared: 14%
- Not Prepared: 8%

**OVERALL ENROLLMENT BY PREPAREDNESS**

- Better Prepared: 82%
- Less Prepared: 10%
- Not Prepared: 8%
COVID-19 Distance Learning Preparedness

**Preparedness by Control**

- **Public**
  - Better Prepared: 90%
  - Less Prepared: 8%
  - Not Prepared: 3%

- **Private Nonprofit**
  - Better Prepared: 53%
  - Less Prepared: 23%
  - Not Prepared: 23%

- **Private Profit**
  - Better Prepared: 45%
  - Less Prepared: 3%
  - Not Prepared: 52%

**Preparedness by Size**

- **Under 1,000**
  - Better Prepared: 37%
  - Less Prepared: 11%
  - Not Prepared: 53%

- **1,000 - 4,999**
  - Better Prepared: 56%
  - Less Prepared: 35%
  - Not Prepared: 9%

- **5,000 - 9,999**
  - Better Prepared: 70%
  - Less Prepared: 16%
  - Not Prepared: 14%

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

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

**Preparedness by Type**

- **At Least 2 But Less Than 4 Years**
  - Better Prepared: 83%
  - Less Prepared: 8%
  - Not Prepared: 9%

- **Four or More Years**
  - Better Prepared: 81%
  - Less Prepared: 12%
  - Not Prepared: 7%
Institutions in New Jersey enrolled a total of 413,230 students in the Fall of 2019; 349,672 students were enrolled at the undergraduate level, and 63,558 enrolled at the graduate level. The Fall 2019 figure represents a decrease of 26,779 students (-6.1%) from the number enrolled in the fall of 2012. The number of undergraduate students decreased by 27,272 during this period, from 376,944 in 2012 to 349,672 in 2019 (-7.2%). The number of graduate students increased from 63,065 to 63,558 (0.8%) in the same period.

Enrollments in Fall 2019 totaled 327,207 students at public institutions (79% of all students), 75,194 students at private not-for-profit institutions (18.2%), and 10,829 students at private for-profit institutions (2.6%). Enrollments at public institutions decreased by 29,250 students between 2012 and 2019, while those at private not-for-profit institutions increased by 760 students, and those at private for-profit institutions increased by 1,711 students.
In 2019, a total of 104,834 students took at least one distance course from New Jersey institutions; 87,588 (25.0% of all undergraduate students) were enrolled at the undergraduate level, and 17,246 (27.1% of all graduate students) were enrolled at the graduate level.

Among undergraduate level distance students, 77,397 were enrolled at institutions classified as public, 7,184 as private not-for-profit, and 3,007 as private for profit. At the graduate-level, 10,395 distance students were enrolled at institutions classified as public, 6,609 as private not-for-profit, and 242 as private for profit.

The number of undergraduate distance enrollments at New Jersey institutions increased by 15,714 (21.9%) between Fall 2012 and Fall 2019, while the number of graduate distance enrollments grew by 7,165 (71.1%) during this same period.
A total of 34,239 students were taking all of their courses at a distance from New Jersey institutions in the fall of 2019. This represents 8.3% of the enrolled students in the state, which ranks the state at number 48 in the U.S. The number of exclusively distance students who reside in New Jersey while taking courses from an institution in New Jersey was 20,789 in 2012 and fell to 22,003 by 2019. There are 12,236 students enrolled as exclusively distance students in New Jersey institutions who reside outside New Jersey, 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 405,588 to 378,991 between 2012 and 2019 in New Jersey, representing a reduction of 6.6%. This compares to a national decrease of 10.3% for the same period. In 2019, 93.3% of undergraduate students and 83.2% of graduate students in New Jersey were taking at least one on-campus course.
## INSTITUTIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>New Jersey</th>
<th>National</th>
<th>State Rank</th>
<th>State as % of National</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total institutions</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>4,089</td>
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<tr>
<td>Institutions w/ distance</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>3,161</td>
<td>22</td>
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<tr>
<td>% Institution w/ distance</td>
<td>62.1%</td>
<td>77.3%</td>
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## ENROLLMENTS

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>New Jersey</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Any Distance</th>
<th>Exclusive Distance</th>
<th>On Campus</th>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>413,230</td>
<td>104,834</td>
<td>34,239</td>
<td>378,991</td>
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<td>Size</td>
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<td>Carnegie</td>
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