

Distance Education State Almanac

PENNSYLVANIA



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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.

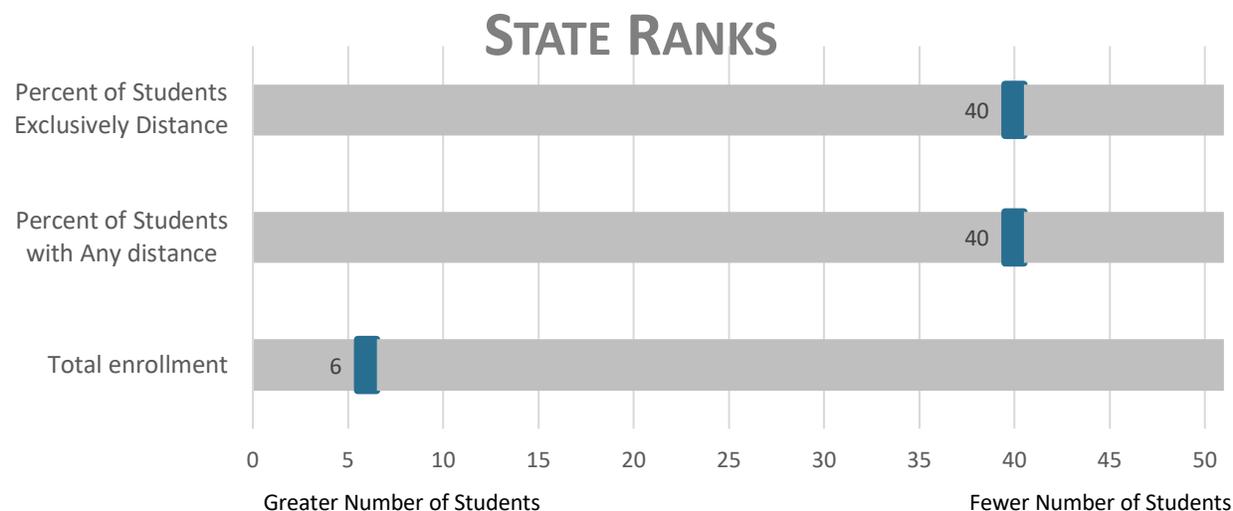
The information presented in the report represent the classifications and enrollments for Fall 2019 and were measured before the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. National totals include all 50 states, District of Columbia, America Samoa, Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, Marshall Islands, Northern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

Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania has 199 degree-granting higher education institutions, representing 4.9% of all such institutions in the United States. Of these institutions, 40 are classified as public, 120 as private not-for-profit, and 39 as private for-profit. Of these 199 institutions, 135 offer four-year programs, and 64 offer two-year programs.

The state has 703,044 students enrolled across its institutions and ranks 6th in terms of total higher education student enrollment. Between 2012 and 2019, the total number of students enrolled nationally declined by 5.0%. For Pennsylvania, the enrollment decreased by 76,881 students, or -9.9%. Pennsylvania has 557,762 students studying at the undergraduate level, a loss of 85,236 students from 2012 (-13.3%), compared to a 6.8% national decline. There are 145,282 students studying at the graduate level, which is 8,355 greater than in 2012; this represents a change of 6.1%, where the national data showed an increase of 5.7%.

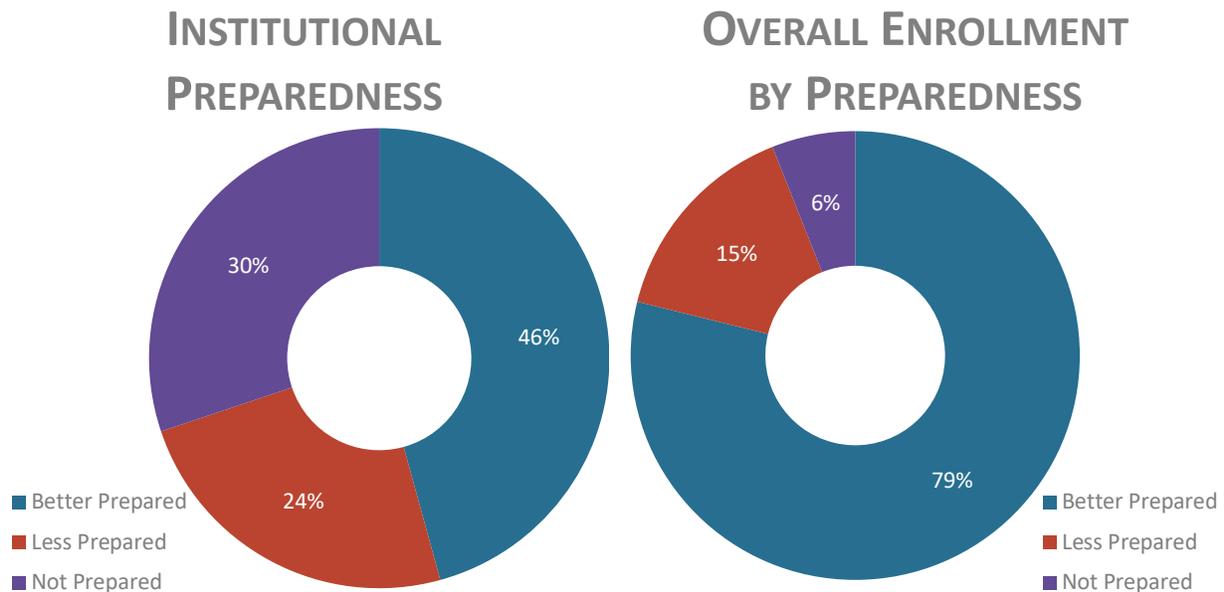
There are 206,838 students in Pennsylvania that take at least one distance course. The state is ranked 40th for the proportion of students taking at least one distance course (29.4%). In 2019, there were 87,302 students taking all of their courses at a distance, a growth of 24,739 students (39.5%) from 2012. Pennsylvania ranks 40th in the proportion of students (12.4%) 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.

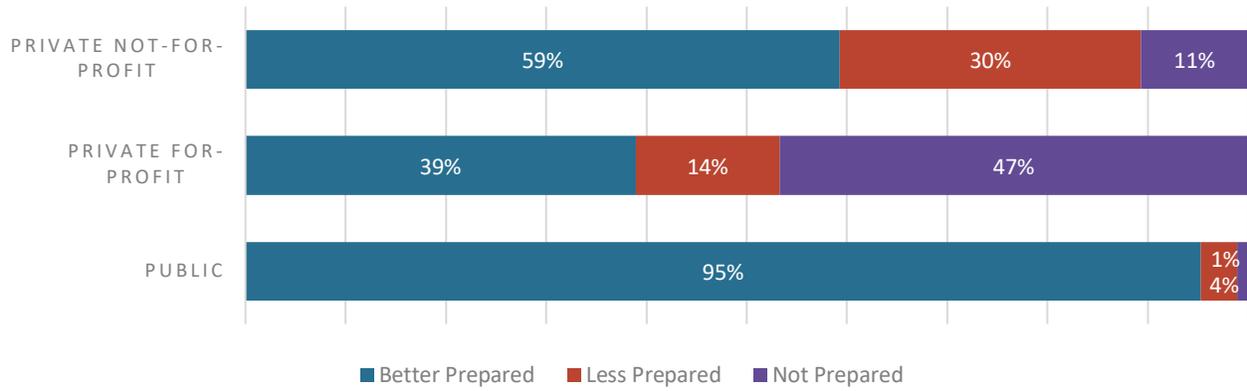
Nationally, 59.3% of all degree-granting institutions meet the criteria of having 25% or more or over 1,000 of their students taking distance courses. In Pennsylvania, 45.7% of institutions are better prepared for moving completely online. These institutions enroll 554,393 students, or 78.9% of all students in the state. There are 60 institutions in Pennsylvania with no distance students (representing 30.2% of the total in state institutions) that were likely not well prepared for a rapid transition to distance learning.



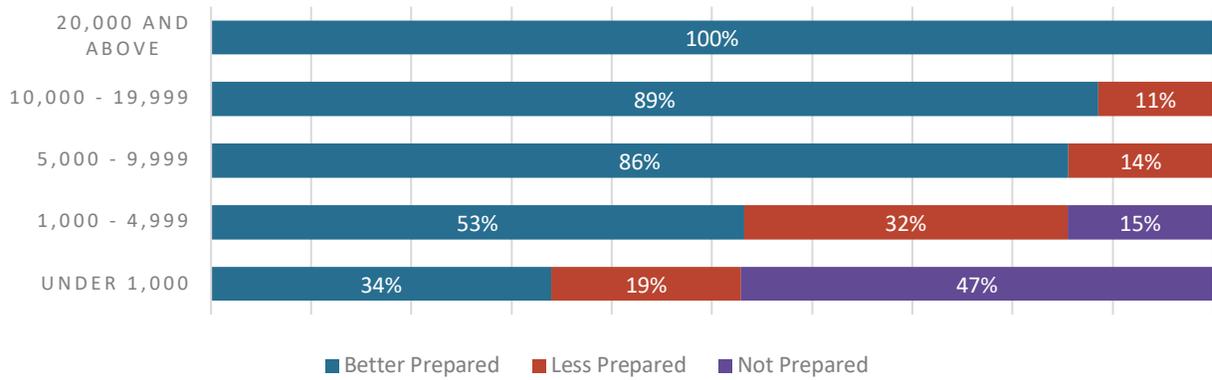
Preparedness Definitions:

- 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

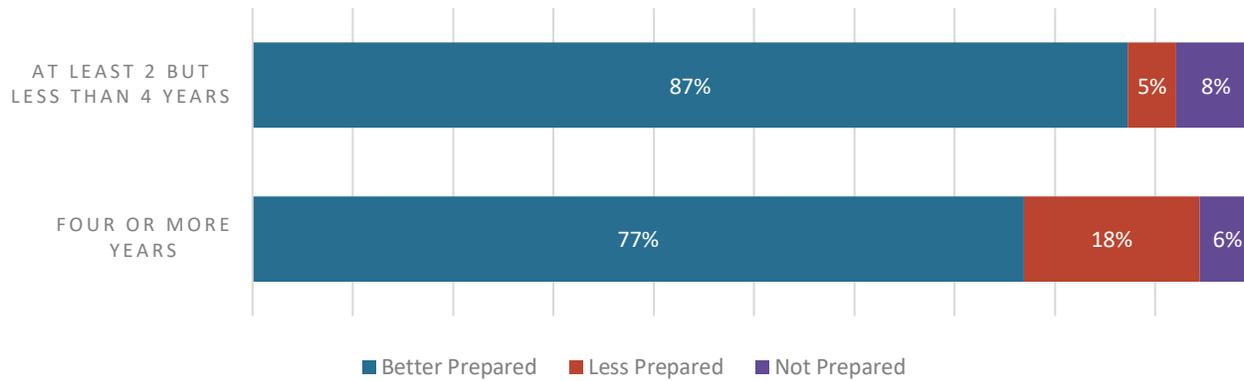
PREPAREDNESS BY CONTROL



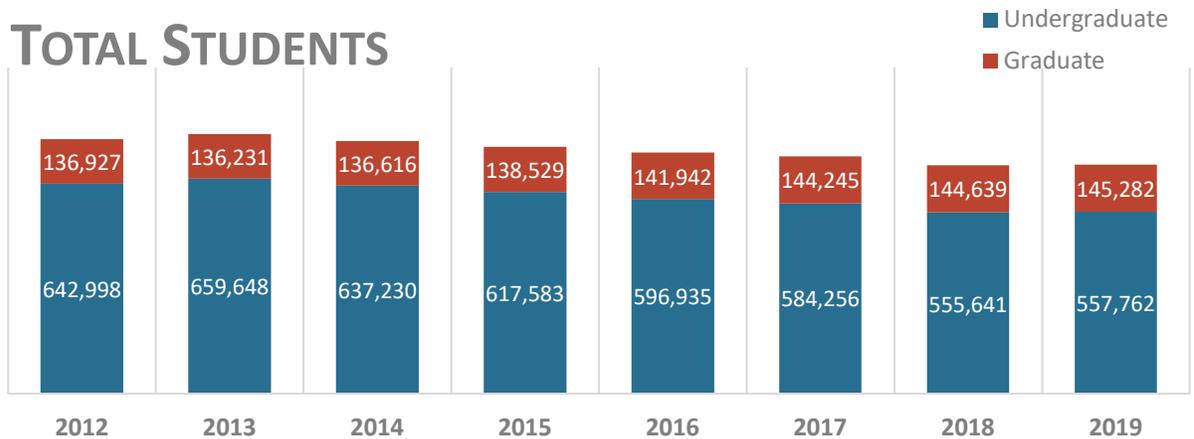
PREPAREDNESS BY SIZE



PREPAREDNESS BY TYPE



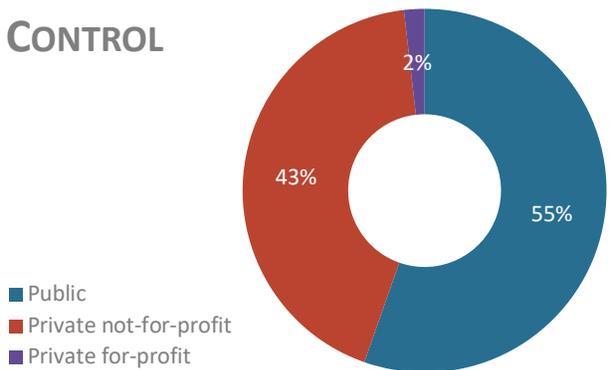
State Enrollment



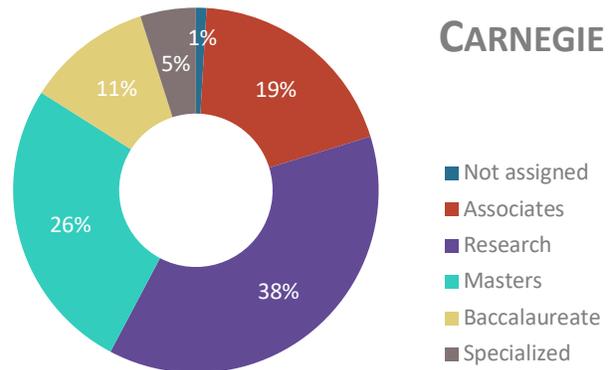
Institutions in Pennsylvania enrolled a total of 703,044 students in the fall of 2019; 557,762 students were enrolled at the undergraduate level, and 145,282 enrolled at the graduate level. The Fall 2019 figure represents a decrease of 76,881 students (-9.9%) from the number enrolled in the fall of 2012. The number of undergraduate students decreased by 85,236 during this period, from 642,998 in 2012 to 557,762 in 2019 (-13.3%). The number of graduate students increased from 136,927 to 145,282 (6.1%) in the same period.

Enrollments in Fall 2019 totaled 389,298 students at public institutions (55% of all students), 300,965 students at private not-for-profit institutions (42.8%), and 12,781 students at private for-profit institutions (1.8%). Enrollments at public institutions decreased by 36,592 students between 2012 and 2019, while those at private not-for-profit institutions increased by 1,738 students, and those at private for-profit institutions decreased by 42,027 students.

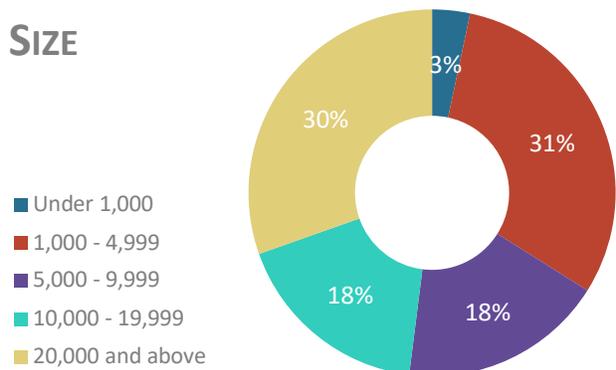
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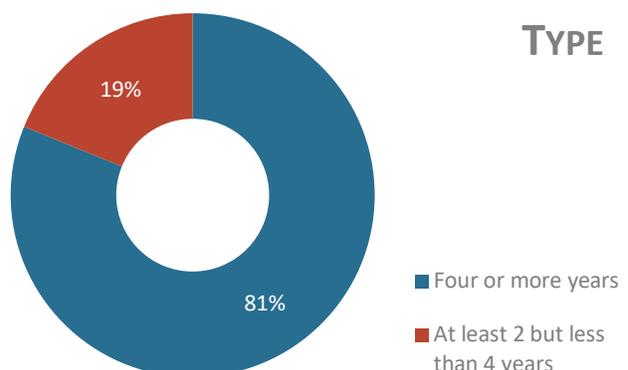
CARNEGIE



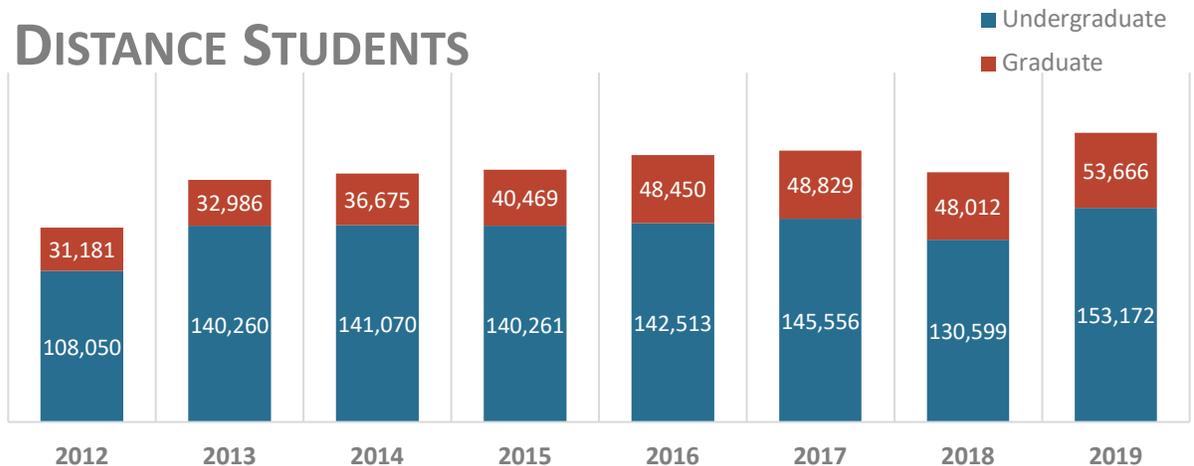
SIZE



TYPE



DISTANCE STUDENTS

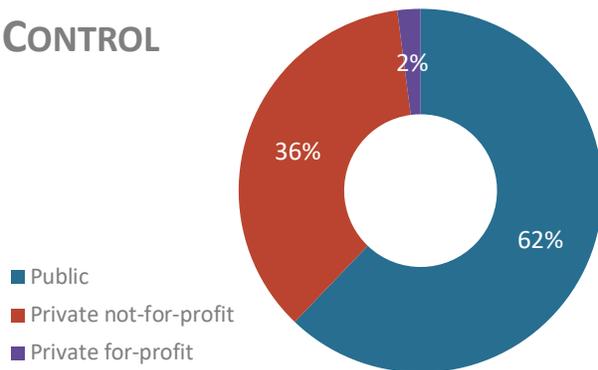


In 2019, a total of 206,838 students took at least one distance course from Pennsylvania institutions; 153,172 (27.5% of all undergraduate students) were enrolled at the undergraduate level, and 53,666 (36.9% of all graduate students) were enrolled at the graduate level.

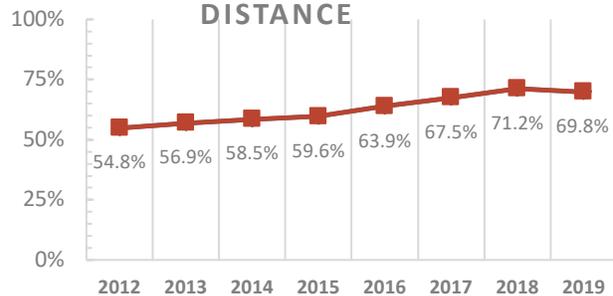
Among undergraduate level distance students, 109,543 were enrolled at institutions classified as public, 39,713 as private not-for-profit, and 3,916 as private for profit. At the graduate-level, 19,025 distance students were enrolled at institutions classified as public, 34,309 as private not-for-profit, and 332 as private for profit.

The number of undergraduate distance enrollments at Pennsylvania institutions increased by 45,122 (41.8%) between Fall 2012 and Fall 2019, while the number of graduate distance enrollments grew by 22,485 (72.1%) during this same period.

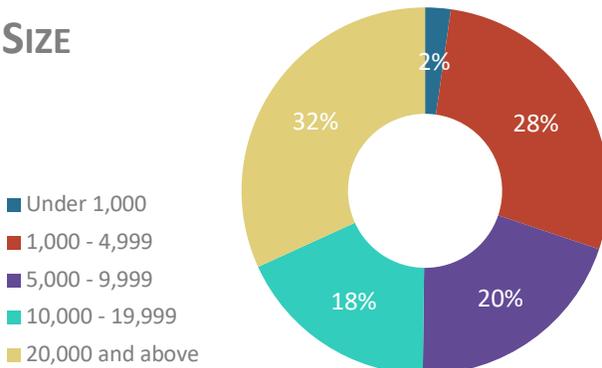
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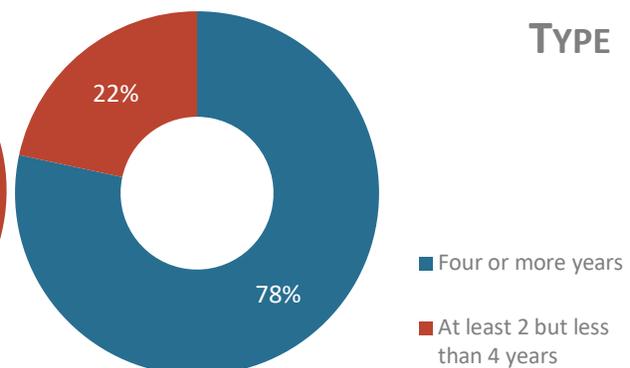
% INSTITUTIONS WITH DISTANCE



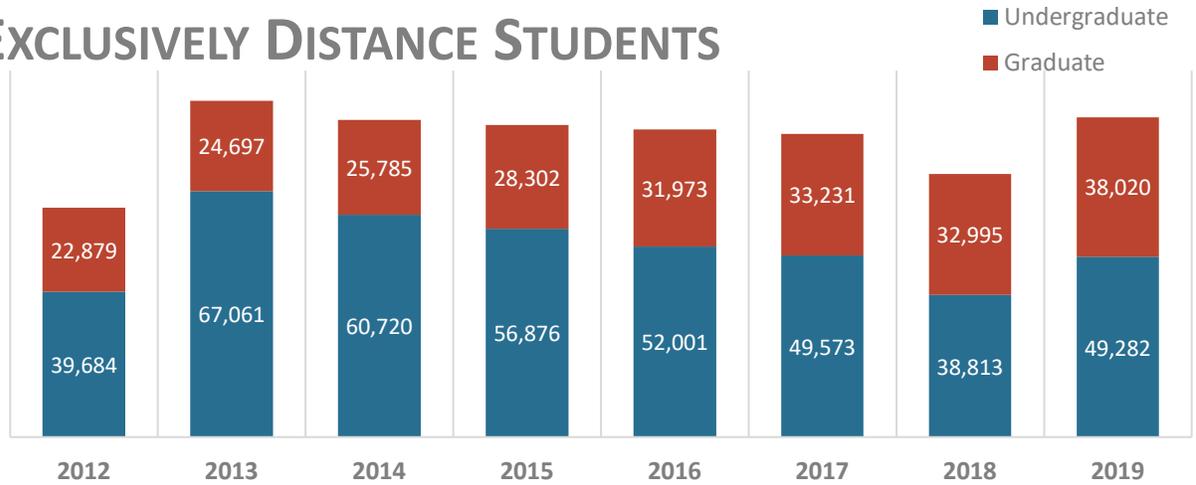
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TYPE

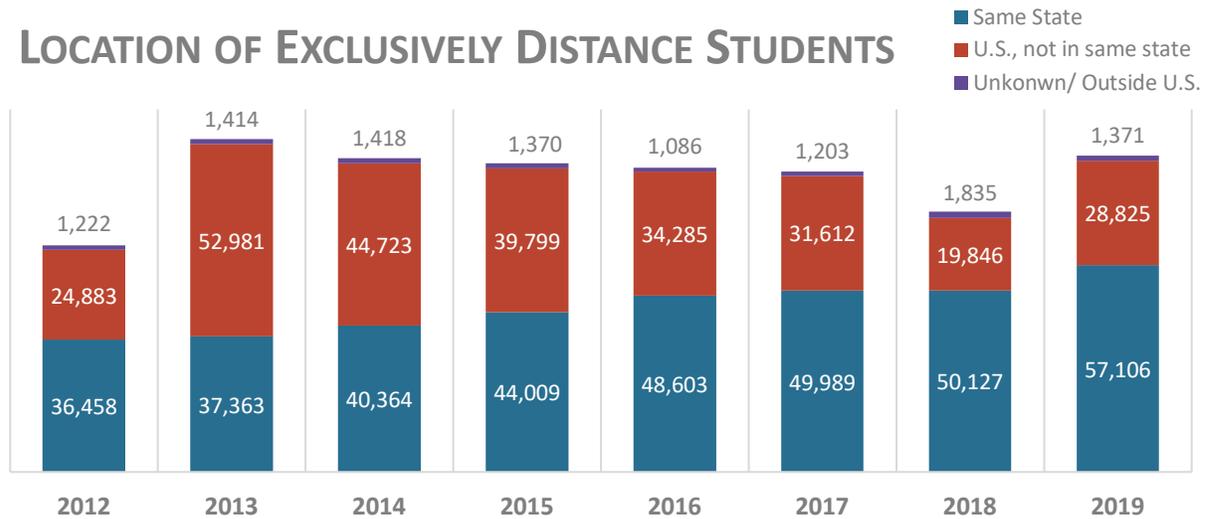


EXCLUSIVELY DISTANCE STUDENTS

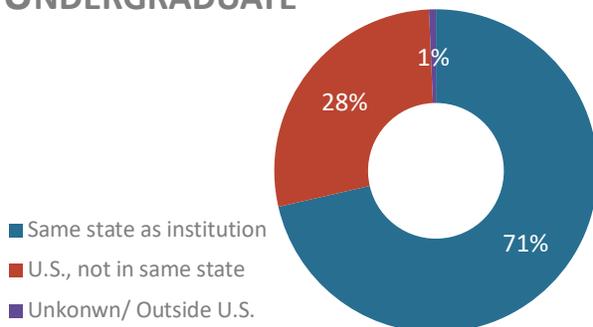


A total of 87,302 students were taking all of their courses at a distance from Pennsylvania institutions in the fall of 2019. This represents 12.4% of the enrolled students in the state, which ranks the state at number 40 in the U.S. The number of exclusively distance students who reside in Pennsylvania while taking courses from an institution in Pennsylvania was 36,458 in 2012 and grew to 57,106 by 2019. There are 30,196 students enrolled as exclusively distance students in Pennsylvania institutions who reside outside Pennsylvania, or whose place of residence is unknown.

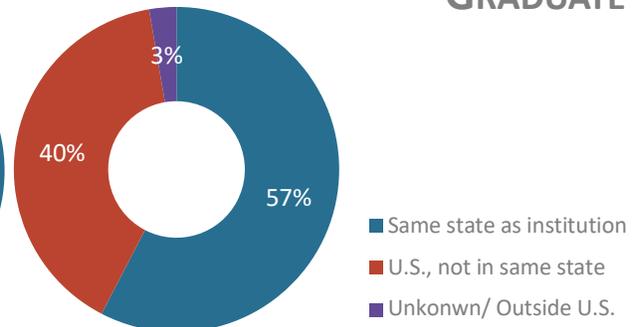
LOCATION OF EXCLUSIVELY DISTANCE STUDENTS



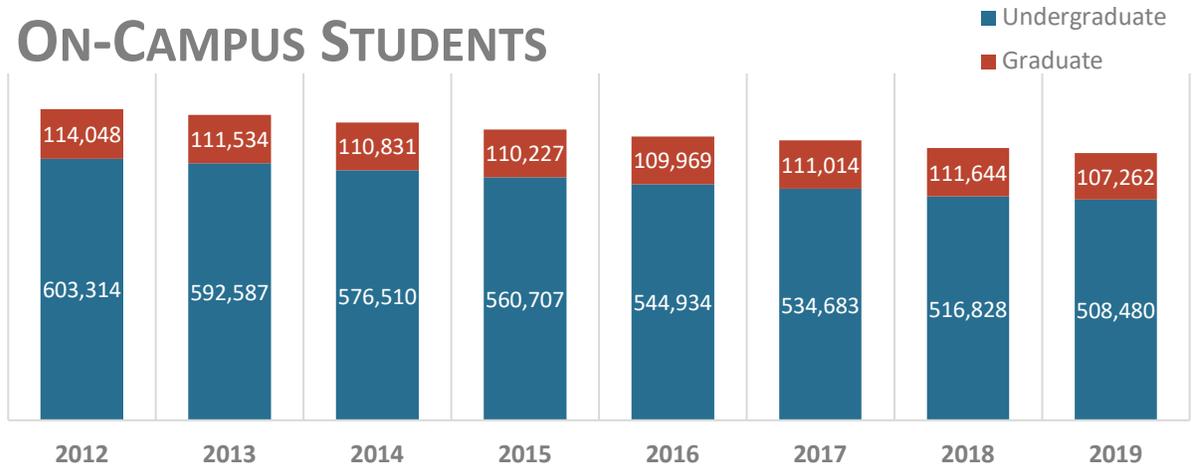
UNDERGRADUATE



GRADUATE

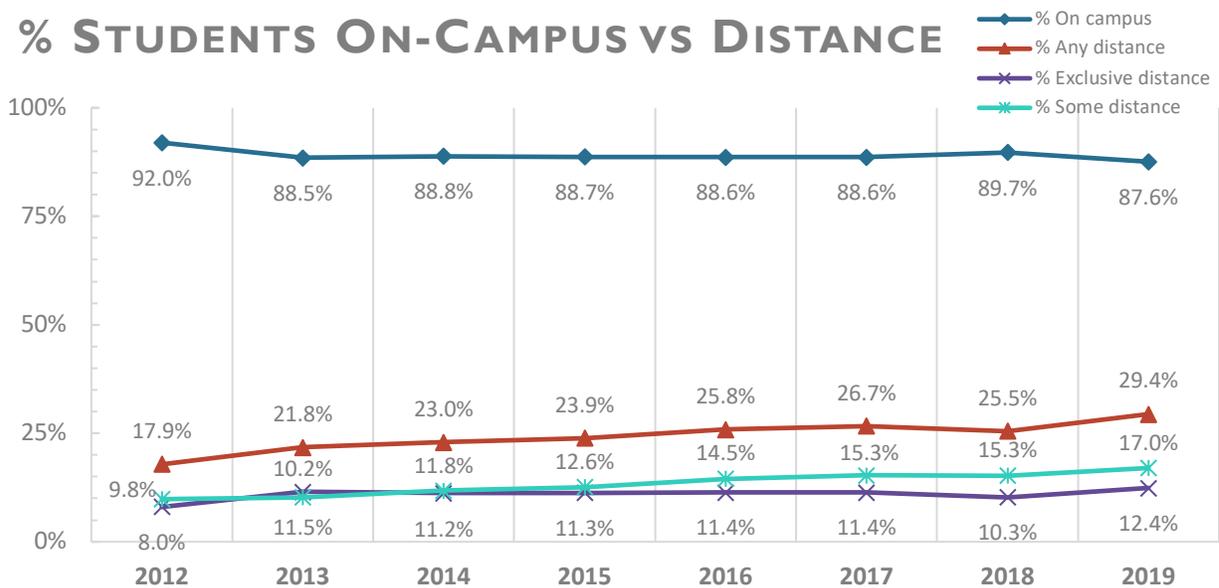


ON-CAMPUS STUDENTS

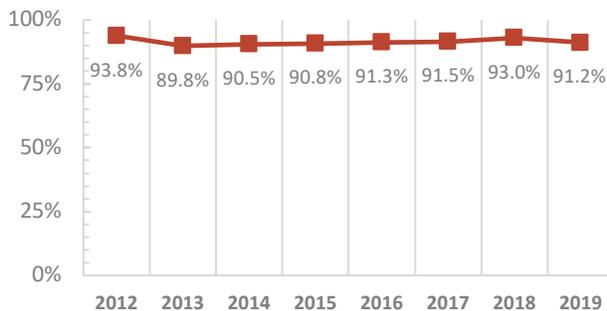


On-campus students are those who take one or more of their courses physically on-campus. The number of students studying on campus declined from 717,362 to 615,742 between 2012 and 2019 in Pennsylvania, representing a reduction of 14.2%. This compares to a national decrease of 10.3% for the same period. In 2019, 91.2% of undergraduate students and 73.8% of graduate students in Pennsylvania were taking at least one on-campus course.

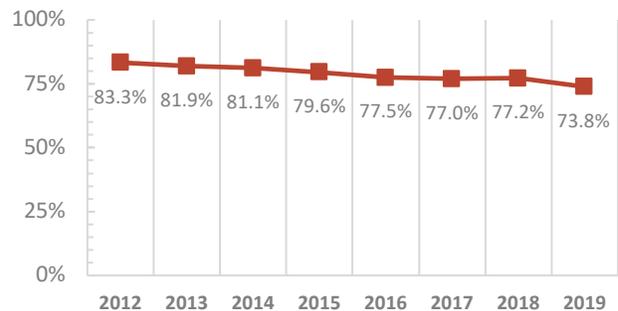
% STUDENTS ON-CAMPUS VS DISTANCE



% ON-CAMPUS: UNDERGRADUATE



% ON-CAMPUS: GRADUATE



INSTITUTIONS

	Pennsylvania	National	State Rank	State as % of National
Total institutions	199	4,089	46	4.9%
Institutions w/ distance	139	3,161	4	4.4%
% Institution w/ distance	69.8%	77.3%	4	

ENROLLMENTS

Pennsylvania		Total	Any Distance	Exclusive Distance	On Campus
	Total	703,044	206,838	87,302	615,742
Size	Under 1,000	23,410	4,656	2,169	21,241
	1,000 - 4,999	215,168	57,716	23,756	191,412
	5,000 - 9,999	126,962	41,454	22,604	104,358
	10,000 - 19,999	123,717	37,227	14,892	108,825
	20,000 and above	213,787	65,785	23,881	189,906
Carnegie	Not assigned	6,580	2,860	2,416	4,164
	Associates	135,722	47,462	19,138	116,584
	Research	263,651	75,687	26,933	236,718
	Masters	184,388	53,665	25,324	159,064
	Baccalaureate	78,180	14,642	4,076	74,104
	Specialized	34,523	12,522	9,415	25,108
Control	Public	389,298	128,568	46,589	342,709
	Private not-for-profit	300,965	74,022	37,781	263,184
	Private for-profit	12,781	4,248	2,932	9,849
Type	Four or more years	570,458	162,093	68,994	501,464
	At least 2 but less than 4 years	132,586	44,745	18,308	114,278