

Distance Education State Almanac

PUERTO RICO



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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.

Puerto Rico

Puerto Rico has 89 degree-granting higher education institutions, representing 2.2% of all such institutions in the United States. Of these institutions, 18 are classified as public, 50 as private not-for-profit, and 21 as private for-profit. Of these 89 institutions, 75 offer four-year programs, and 14 offer two-year programs.

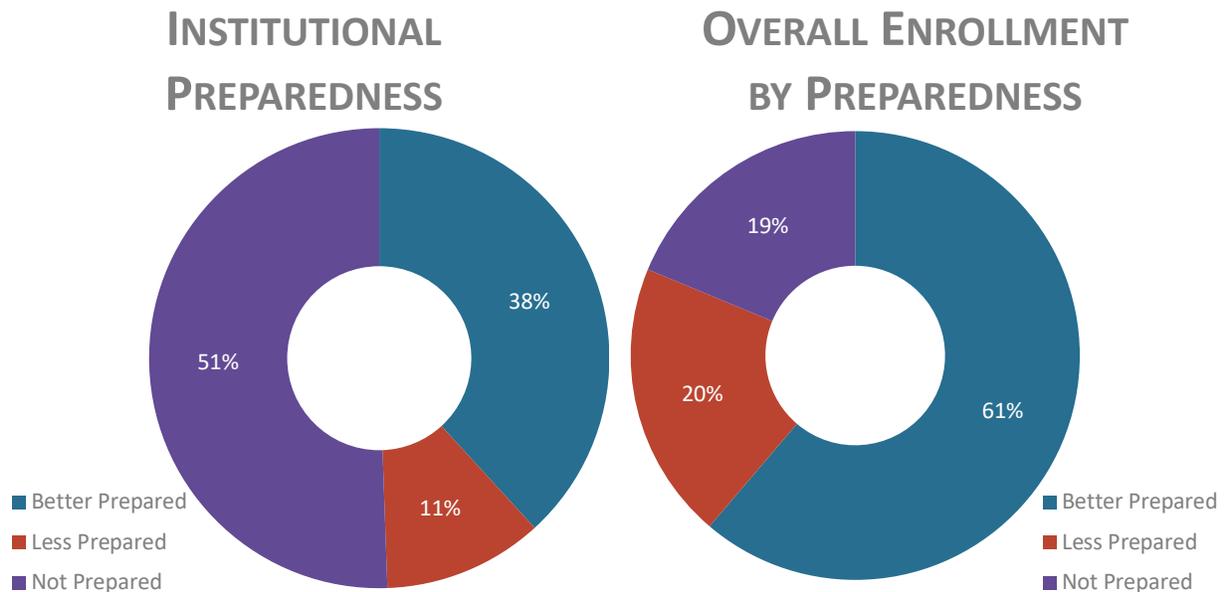
The territory has 187,210 students enrolled across its institutions. Between 2012 and 2019, the total number of students enrolled nationally declined by 5.0%. For Puerto Rico, the enrollment decreased by 56,932 students, or -23.3%. Puerto Rico has 158,713 students studying at the undergraduate level, a loss of 57,260 students from 2012 (-26.5%), compared to a 6.8% national decline. There are 28,497 students studying at the graduate level, which is 328 greater than in 2012; this represents a change of 1.2%, where the national data showed an increase of 5.7%.

There are 49,878 students in Puerto Rico that take at least one distance course (29.4%). In 2019, there were 11,469 students taking all of their courses at a distance, a growth of 5,804 students (102.5%) from 2012.

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.

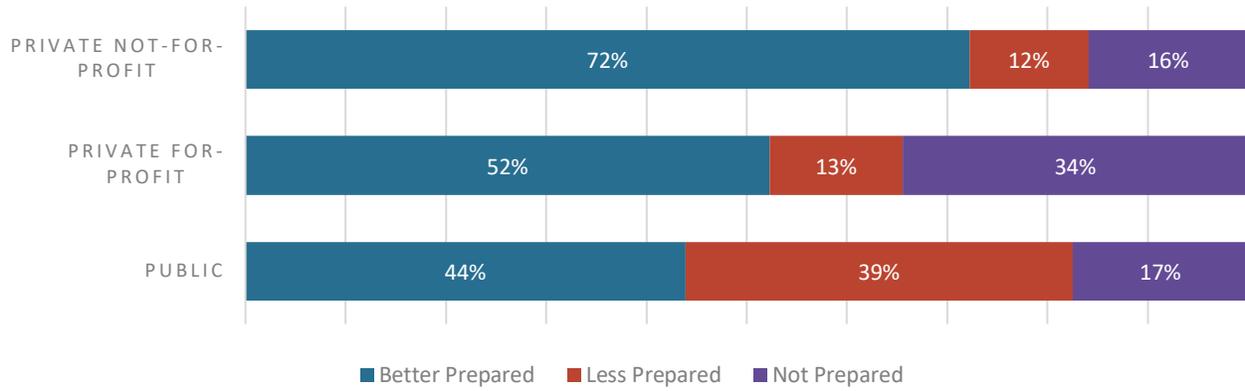
Nationally, 59.3% of all degree-granting institutions meet the criteria of having 25% or more or over 1,000 of their students taking distance courses. In Puerto Rico, 38.2% of institutions are better prepared for moving completely online. These institutions enroll 114,636 students, or 61.2% of all students in the territory. There are 45 institutions in Puerto Rico with no distance students (representing 50.6% of the total in territory institutions) that were likely not well prepared for a rapid transition to distance learning.



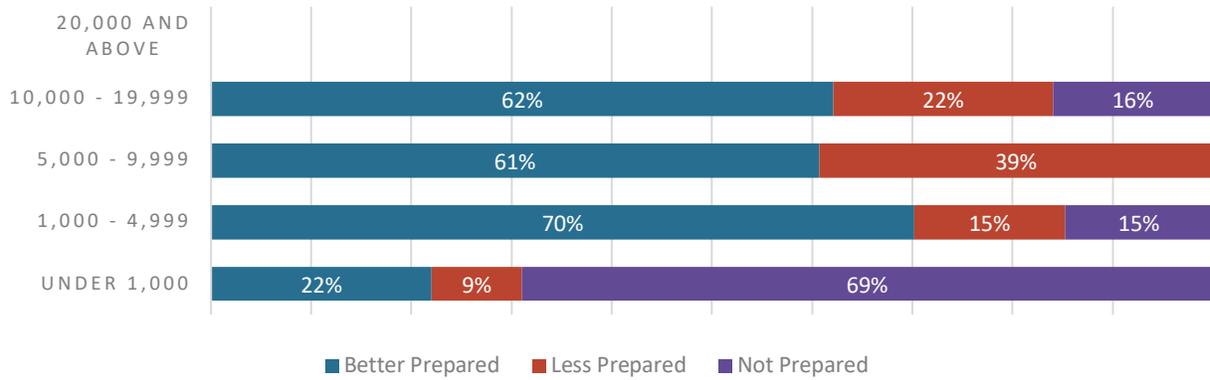
Preparedness Definitions:

- 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

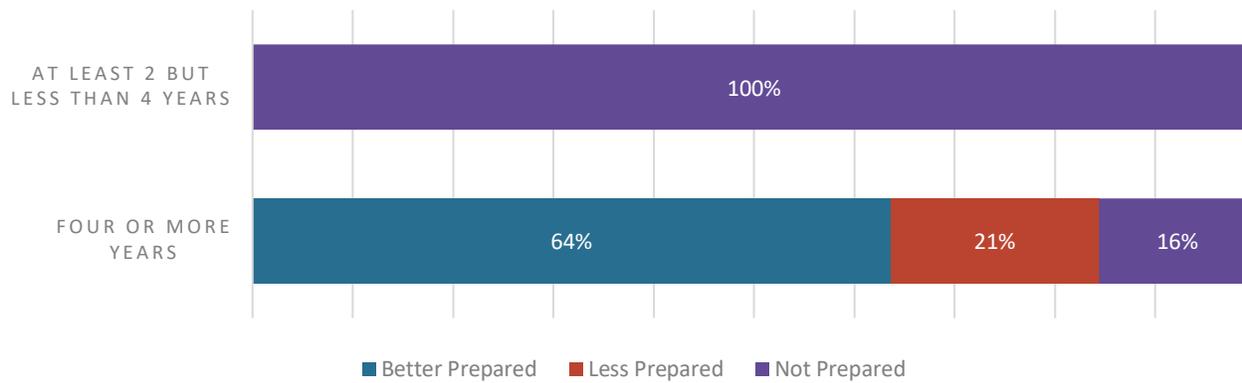
PREPAREDNESS BY CONTROL



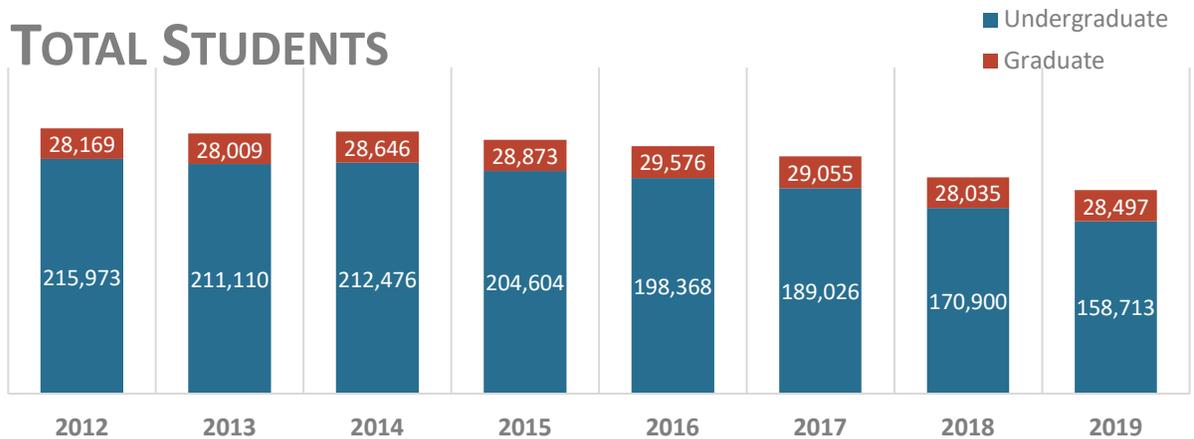
PREPAREDNESS BY SIZE



PREPAREDNESS BY TYPE



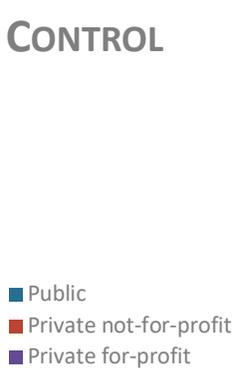
State Enrollment



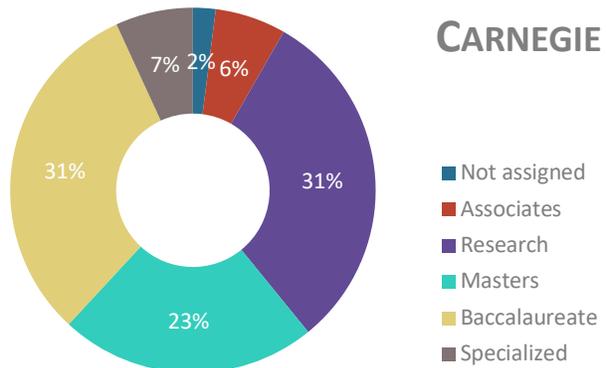
Institutions in Puerto Rico enrolled a total of 187,210 students in the of Fall 2019; 158,713 students were enrolled at the undergraduate level, and 28,497 enrolled at the graduate level. The Fall 2019 figure represents a decrease of 56,932 students (-23.3%) from the number enrolled in the fall of 2012. The number of undergraduate students decreased by 57,260 during this period, from 215,973 in 2012 to 158,713 in 2019 (-26.5%). The number of graduate students increased from 28,169 to 28,497 (1.2%) in the same period.

Enrollments in Fall 2019 totaled 55,774 students at public institutions (30% of all students), 107,585 students at private not-for-profit institutions (57.5%), and 23,851 students at private for-profit institutions (12.7%). Enrollments at public institutions decreased by 6,805 students between 2012 and 2019, while those at private not-for-profit institutions decreased by 31,064 students, and those at private for-profit institutions decreased by 19,063 students.

CONTROL



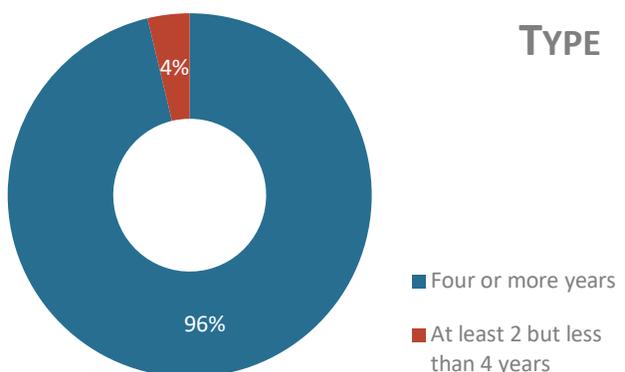
CARNEGIE



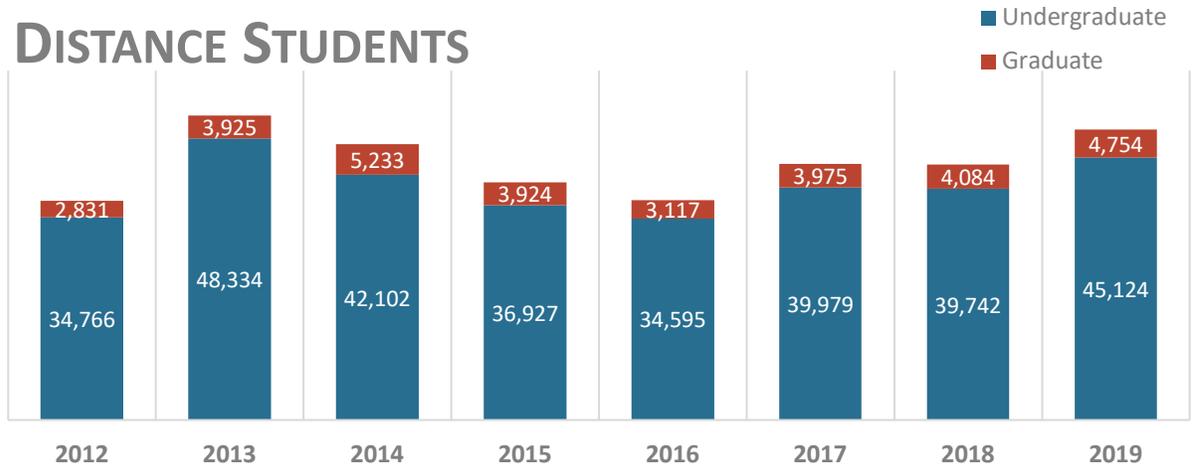
SIZE



TYPE



DISTANCE STUDENTS

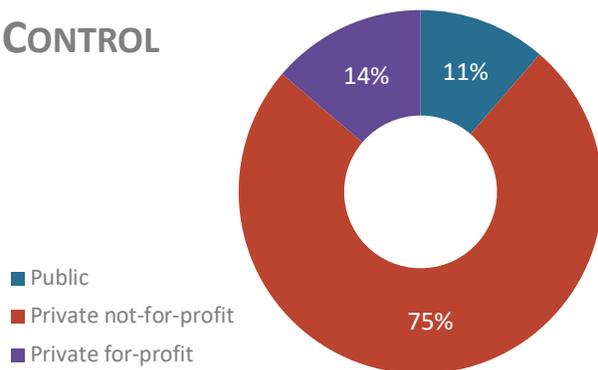


In 2019, a total of 49,878 students took at least one distance course from Puerto Rican institutions; 45,124 (28.4% of all undergraduate students) were enrolled at the undergraduate level, and 4,754 (16.7% of all graduate students) were enrolled at the graduate level.

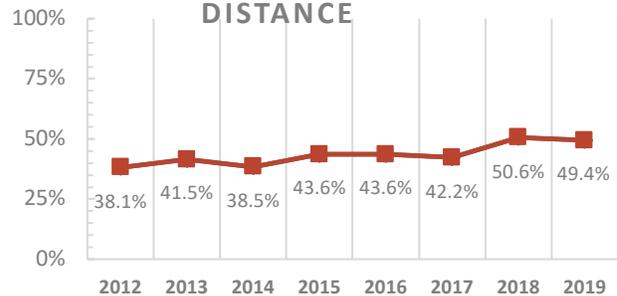
Among undergraduate level distance students, 5,039 were enrolled at institutions classified as public, 33,998 as private not-for-profit, and 6,087 as private for profit. At the graduate-level, 621 distance students were enrolled at institutions classified as public, 3,353 as private not-for-profit, and 780 as private for profit.

The number of undergraduate distance enrollments at Puerto Rican institutions increased by 10,358 (29.8%) between Fall 2012 and Fall 2019, while the number of graduate distance enrollments grew by 1,923 (67.9%) during this same period.

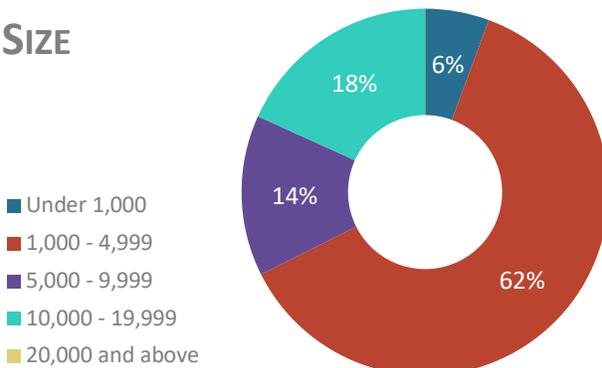
CONTROL



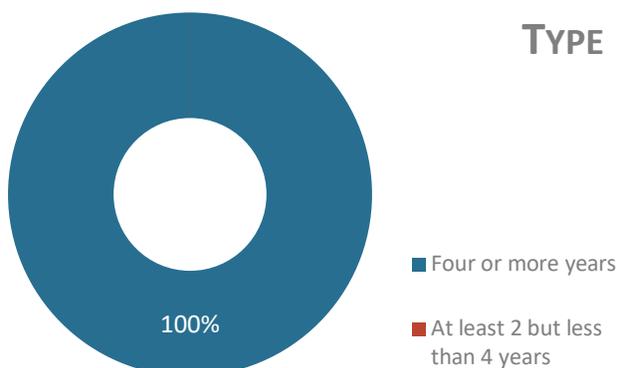
% INSTITUTIONS WITH DISTANCE



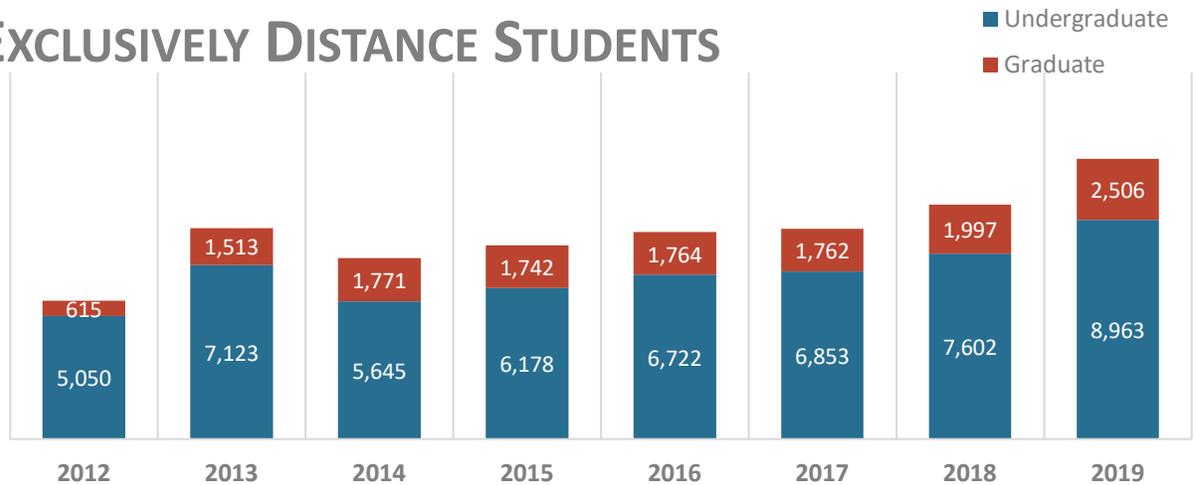
SIZE



TYPE

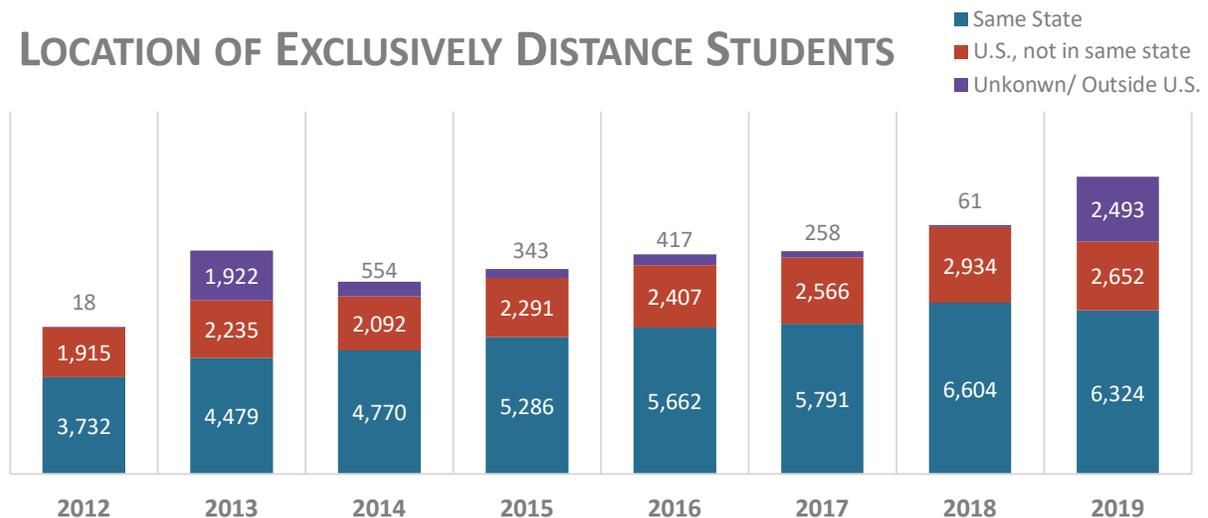


EXCLUSIVELY DISTANCE STUDENTS

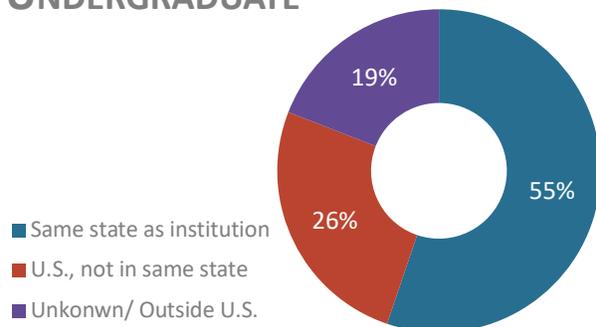


A total of 11,469 students were taking all of their courses at a distance from Puerto Rican institutions in the fall of 2019. This represents 6.1% of the enrolled students in the territory. The number of exclusively distance students who reside in Puerto Rico while taking courses from an institution in Puerto Rico was 3,732 in 2012 and grew to 6,324 by 2019. There are 5,145 students enrolled as exclusively distance students in Puerto Rican institutions who reside outside Puerto Rico, or whose place of residence is unknown.

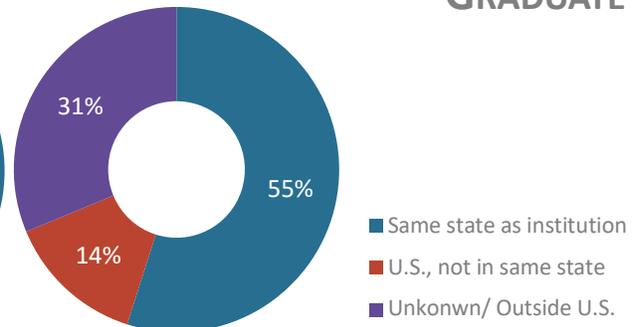
LOCATION OF EXCLUSIVELY DISTANCE STUDENTS



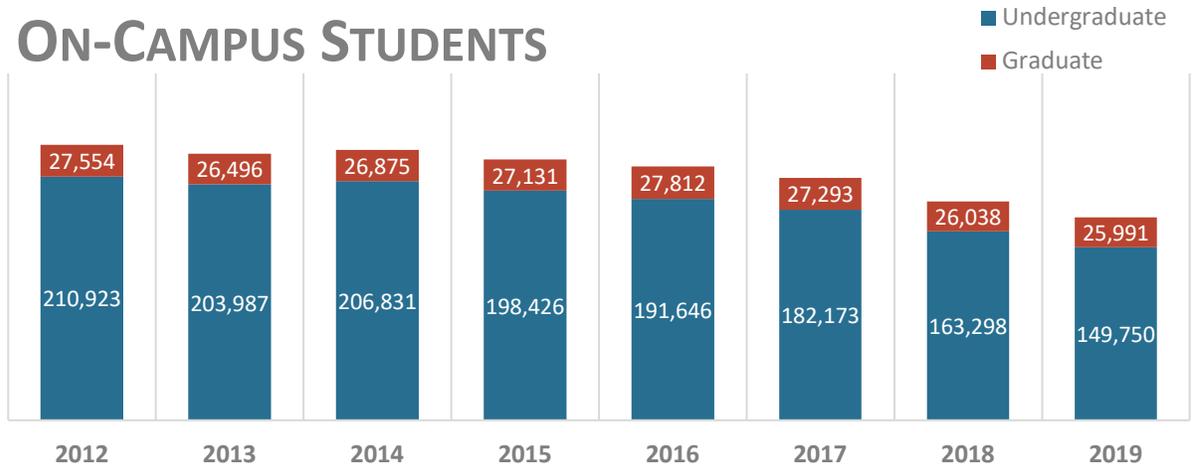
UNDERGRADUATE



GRADUATE

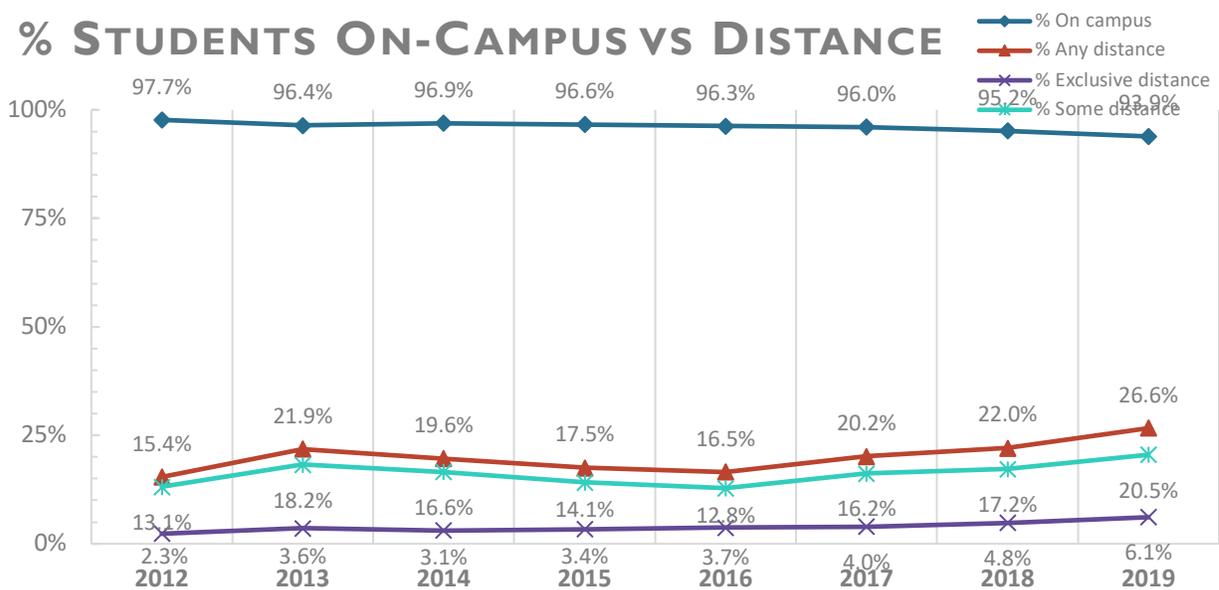


ON-CAMPUS STUDENTS

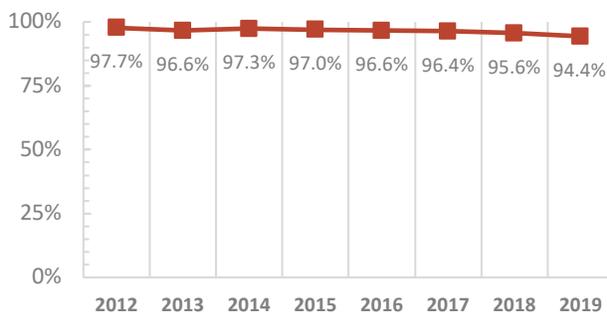


On-campus students are those who take one or more of their courses physically on-campus. The number of students studying on campus declined from 238,477 to 175,741 between 2012 and 2019 in Puerto Rico, representing a reduction of 26.3%. This compares to a national decrease of 10.3% for the same period. In 2019, 94.4% of undergraduate students and 91.2% of graduate students in Puerto Rico were taking at least one on-campus course.

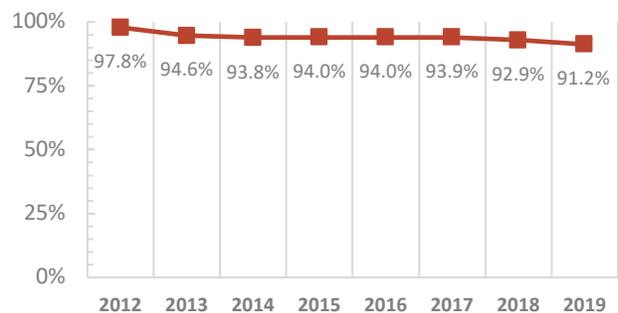
% STUDENTS ON-CAMPUS VS DISTANCE



% ON-CAMPUS: UNDERGRADUATE



% ON-CAMPUS: GRADUATE



INSTITUTIONS

	Puerto Rico	National	State as % of National
Total institutions	89	4,089	2.2%
Institutions w/ distance	44	3,161	1.4%
% Institution w/ distance	49.4%	77.3%	

ENROLLMENTS

Puerto Rico		Total	Any Distance	Exclusive Distance	On Campus
	Total	187,210	49,878	11,469	175,741
Size	Under 1,000	18,934	2,816	498	18,436
	1,000 - 4,999	77,859	30,898	5,509	72,350
	5,000 - 9,999	24,619	7,074	762	23,857
	10,000 - 19,999	65,798	9,090	4,700	61,098
	20,000 and above	-	-	-	-
Carnegie	Not assigned	3,754	1,483	1,391	2,363
	Associates	11,749	430	19	11,730
	Research	57,756	8,403	877	56,879
	Masters	42,603	14,623	1,495	41,108
	Baccalaureate	58,498	22,802	7,300	51,198
	Specialized	12,850	2,137	387	12,463
Control	Public	55,774	5,660	104	55,670
	Private not-for-profit	107,585	37,351	6,708	100,877
	Private for-profit	23,851	6,867	4,657	19,194
Type	Four or more years	180,226	49,878	11,469	168,757
	At least 2 but less than 4 years	6,984	-	-	6,984