

Distance Education State Almanac

RHODE ISLAND



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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.

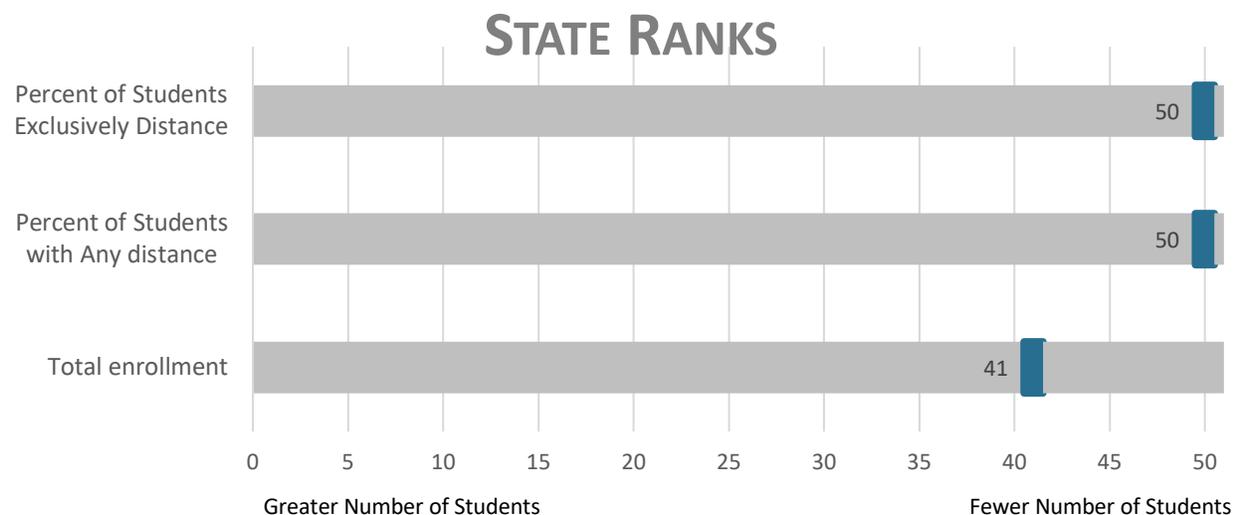
The information presented in the report represent the classifications and enrollments for Fall 2019 and were measured before the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. National totals include all 50 states, District of Columbia, America Samoa, Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, Marshall Islands, Northern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

Rhode Island

Rhode Island has 14 degree-granting higher education institutions, representing 0.3% of all such institutions in the United States. Of these institutions, 3 are classified as public, 11 as private not-for-profit, and 0 as private for-profit. Of these 14 institutions, 13 offer four-year programs, and 1 offers two-year programs.

The state has 80,077 students enrolled across its institutions and ranks 41st in terms of total higher education student enrollment. Between 2012 and 2019, the total number of students enrolled nationally declined by 5.0%. For Rhode Island, the enrollment decreased by 3,875 students, or -4.6%. Rhode Island has 68,651 students studying at the undergraduate level, a loss of 4,687 students from 2012 (-6.4%), compared to a 6.8% national decline. There are 11,426 students studying at the graduate level, which is 812 greater than in 2012; this represents a change of 7.7%, where the national data showed an increase of 5.7%.

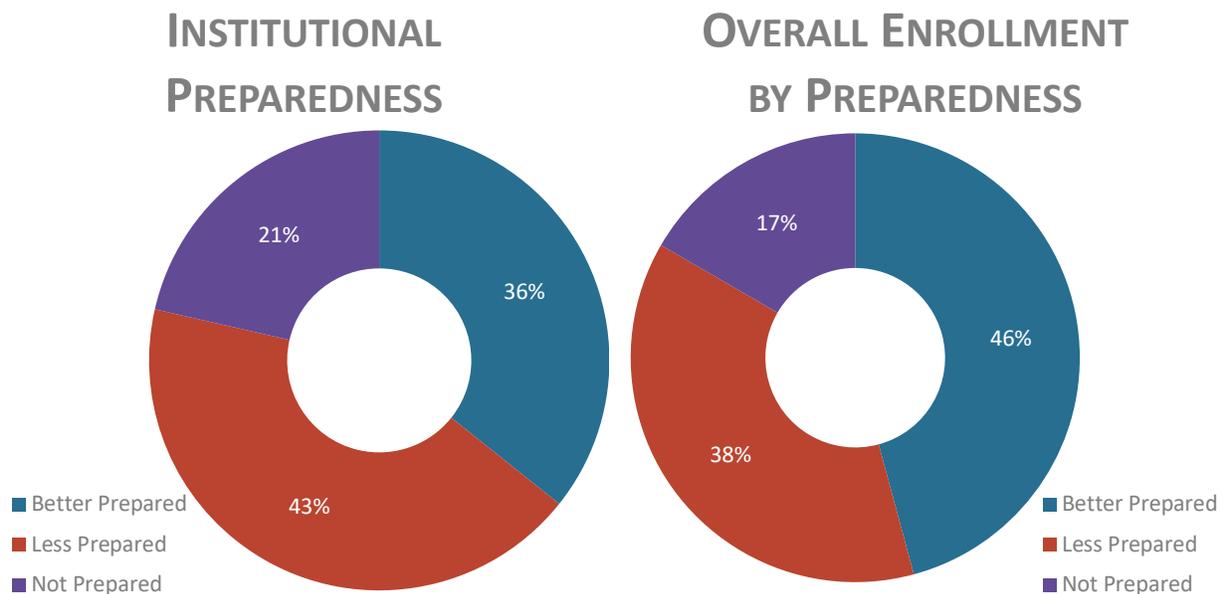
There are 12,300 students in Rhode Island that take at least one distance course. The state is ranked 50th for the proportion of students taking at least one distance course (15.4%). In 2019, there were 4,137 students taking all of their courses at a distance, a growth of 2,790 students (207.1%) from 2012. Rhode Island ranks 50th in the proportion of students (5.2%) 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.

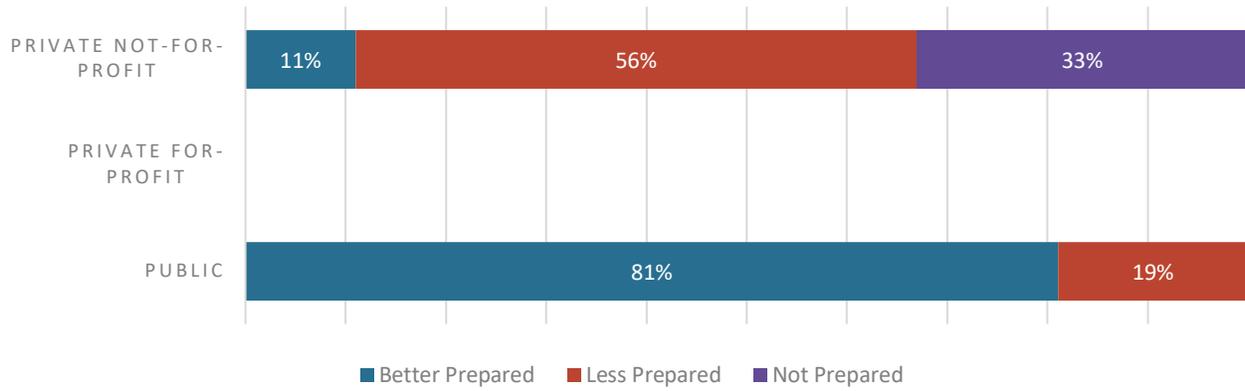
Nationally, 59.3% of all degree-granting institutions meet the criteria of having 25% or more or over 1,000 of their students taking distance courses. In Rhode Island, 35.7% of institutions are better prepared for moving completely online. These institutions enroll 36,671 students, or 45.8% of all students in the state. There are 3 institutions in Rhode Island with no distance students (representing 21.4% of the total in state institutions) that were likely not well prepared for a rapid transition to distance learning.



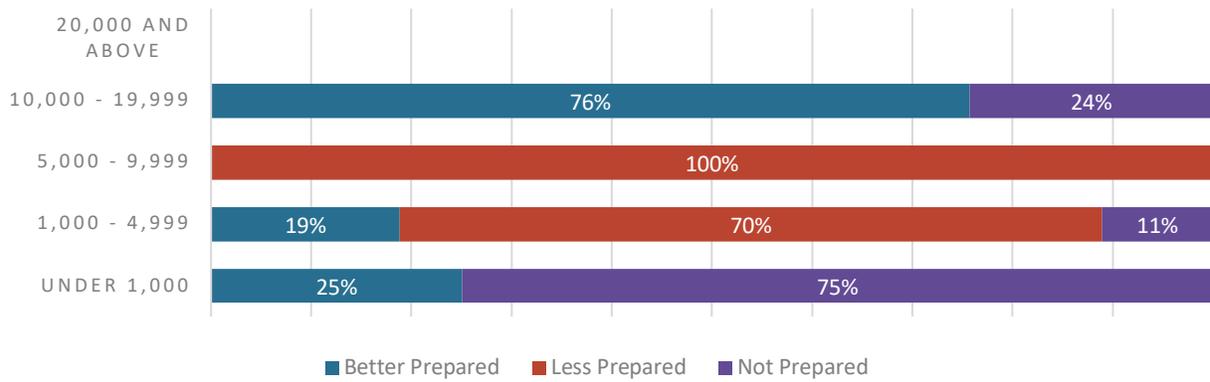
Preparedness Definitions:

- 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

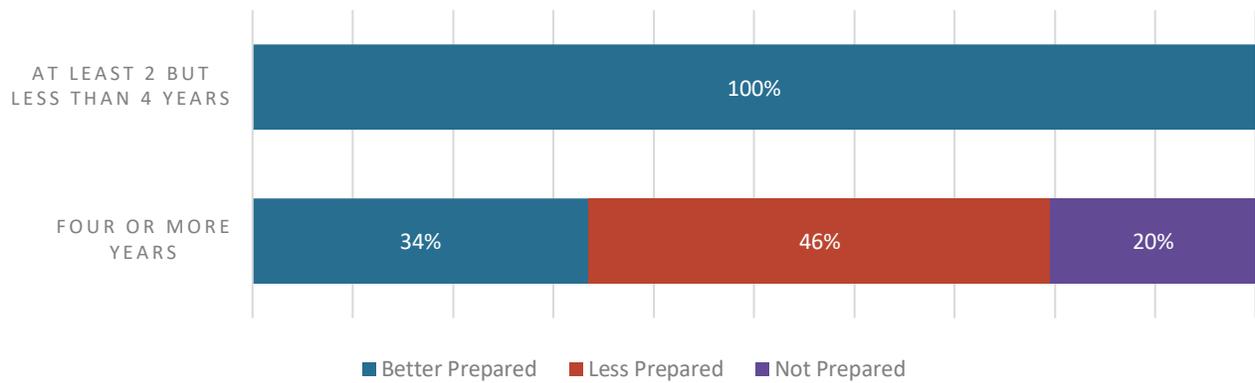
PREPAREDNESS BY CONTROL



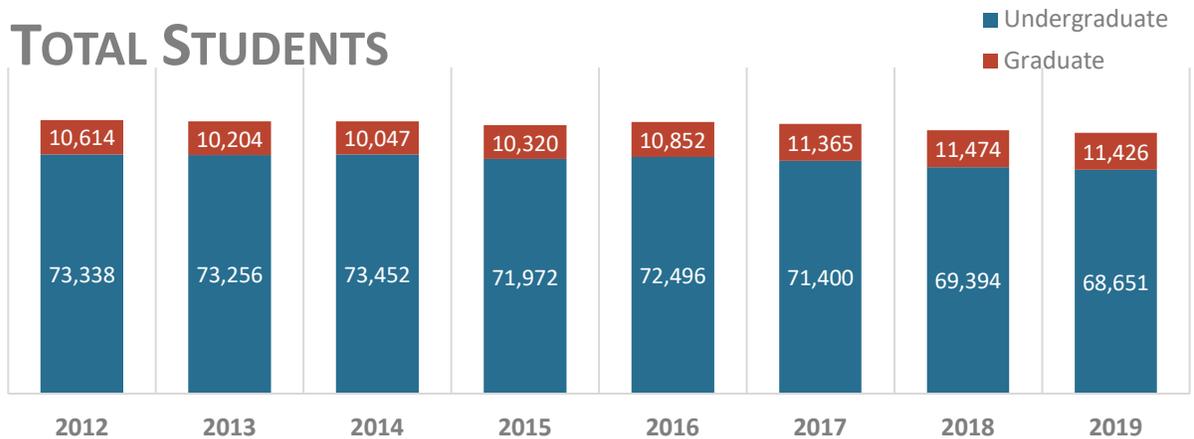
PREPAREDNESS BY SIZE



PREPAREDNESS BY TYPE



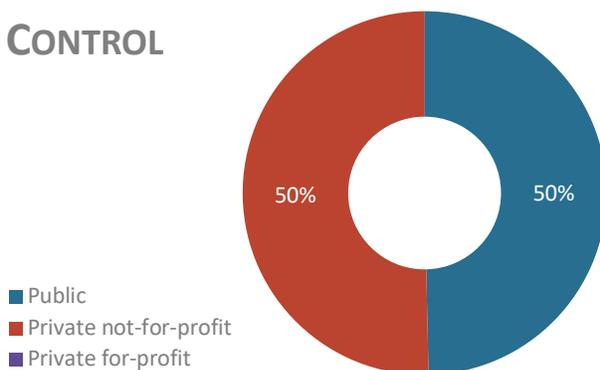
State Enrollment



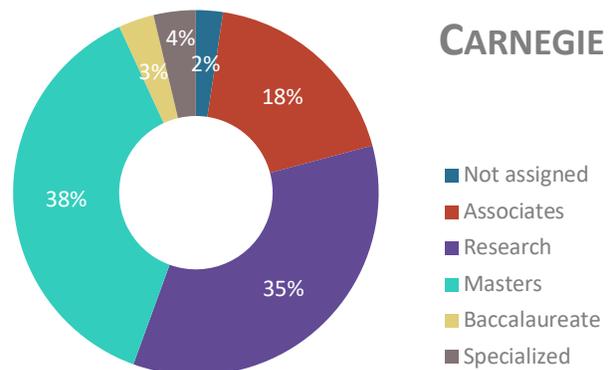
Institutions in Rhode Island enrolled a total of 80,077 students in the fall of 2019; 68,651 students were enrolled at the undergraduate level, and 11,426 enrolled at the graduate level. The Fall 2019 figure represents a decrease of 3,875 students (-4.6%) from the number enrolled in the fall of 2012. The number of undergraduate students decreased by 4,687 during this period, from 73,338 in 2012 to 68,651 in 2019 (-6.4%). The number of graduate students increased from 10,614 to 11,426 (7.7%) in the same period.

Enrollments in Fall 2019 totaled 39,763 students at public institutions (50% of all students), 40,314 students at private not-for-profit institutions (50.3%), and 0 students at private for-profit institutions (0.0%). Enrollments at public institutions decreased by 3,441 students between 2012 and 2019, while those at private not-for-profit institutions decreased by 434 students, and those at private for-profit institutions increased by 0 students.

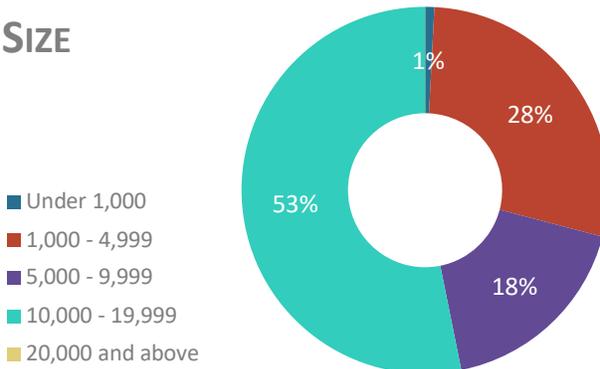
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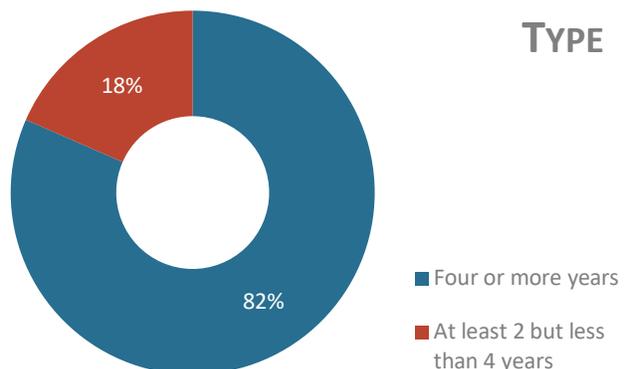
CARNEGIE



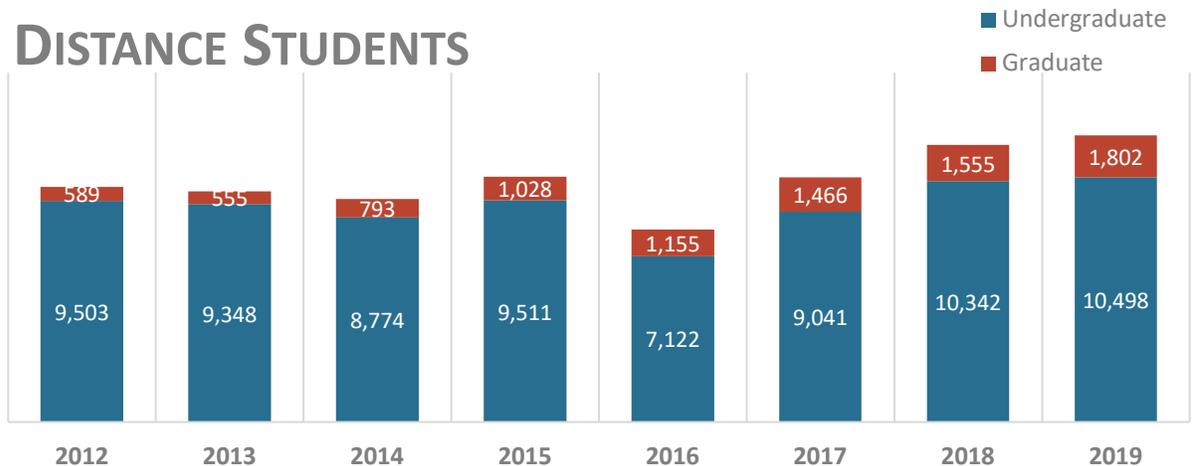
SIZE



TYPE



DISTANCE STUDENTS



In 2019, a total of 12,300 students took at least one distance course from Rhode Island institutions; 10,498 (15.3% of all undergraduate students) were enrolled at the undergraduate level, and 1,802 (15.8% of all graduate students) were enrolled at the graduate level.

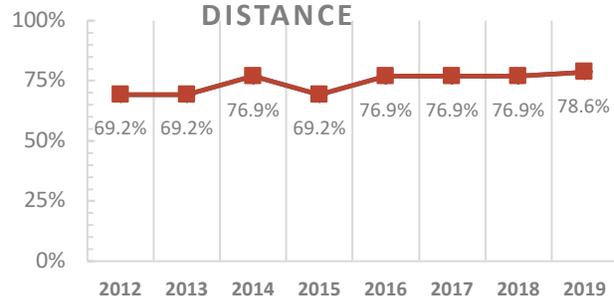
Among undergraduate level distance students, 6,913 were enrolled at institutions classified as public, 3,585 as private not-for-profit, and 0 as private for profit. At the graduate-level, 420 distance students were enrolled at institutions classified as public, 1,382 as private not-for-profit, and 0 as private for profit.

The number of undergraduate distance enrollments at Rhode Island institutions increased by 995 (10.5%) between Fall 2012 and Fall 2019, while the number of graduate distance enrollments grew by 1,213 (205.9%) during this same period.

CONTROL



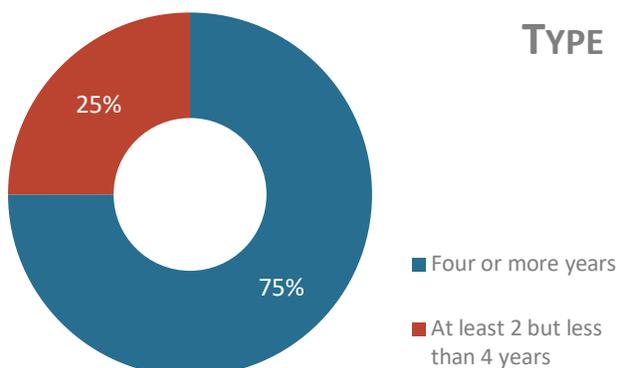
% INSTITUTIONS WITH DISTANCE



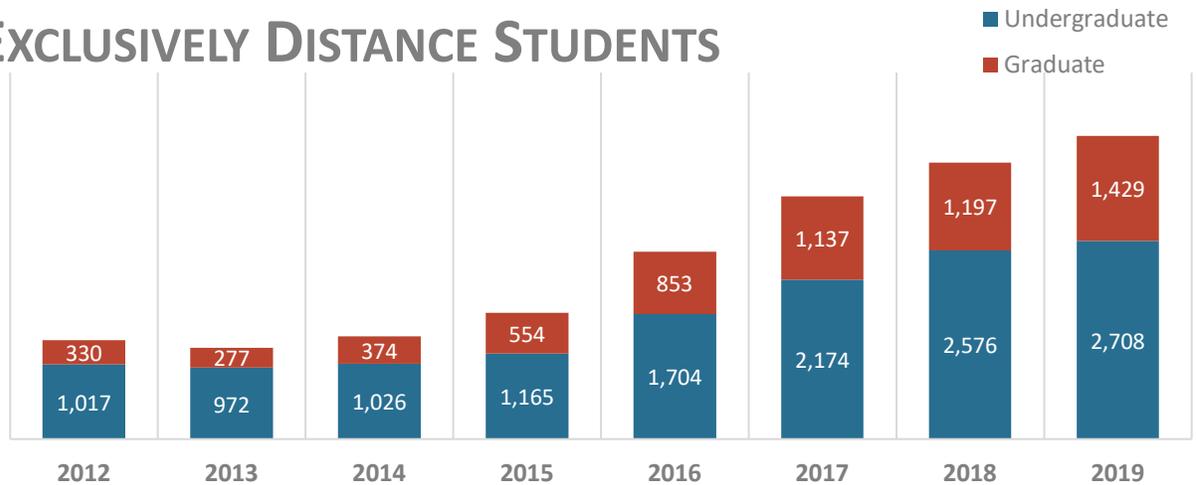
SIZE



TYPE

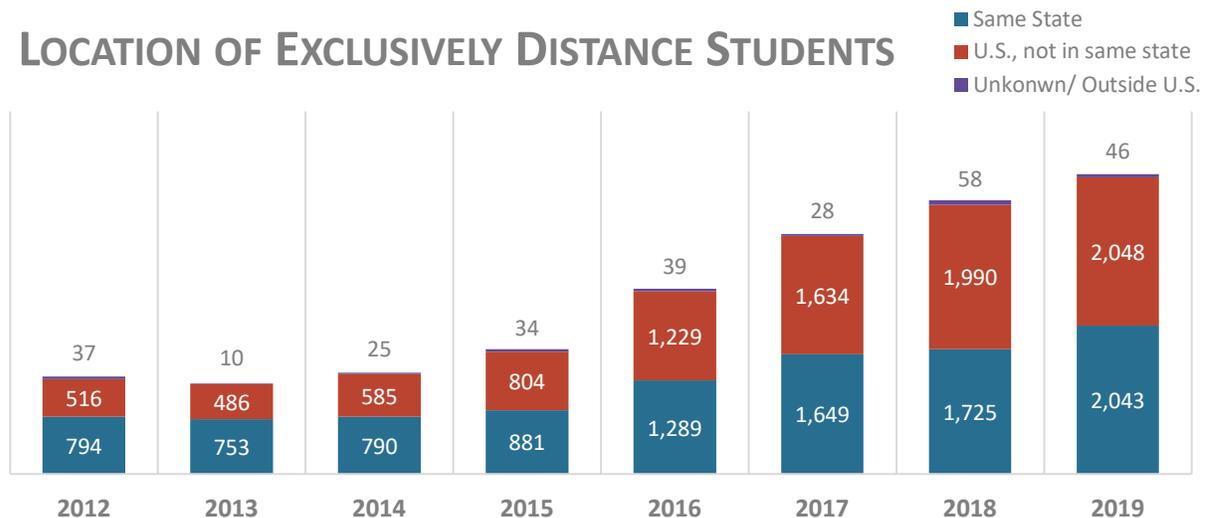


EXCLUSIVELY DISTANCE STUDENTS

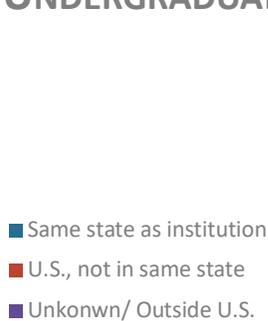


A total of 4,137 students were taking all of their courses at a distance from Rhode Island institutions in the fall of 2019. This represents 5.2% of the enrolled students in the state, which ranks the state at number 50 in the U.S. The number of exclusively distance students who reside in Rhode Island while taking courses from an institution in Rhode Island was 794 in 2012 and grew to 2,043 by 2019. There are 2,094 students enrolled as exclusively distance students in Rhode Island institutions who reside outside Rhode Island, or whose place of residence is unknown.

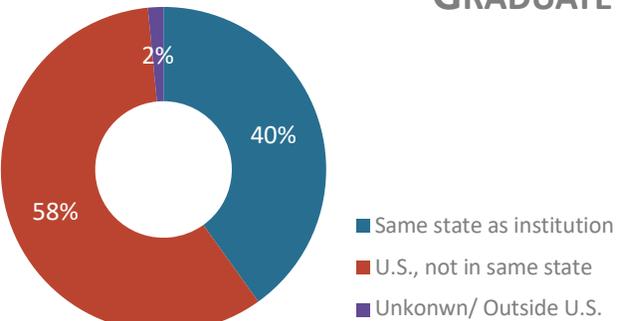
LOCATION OF EXCLUSIVELY DISTANCE STUDENTS



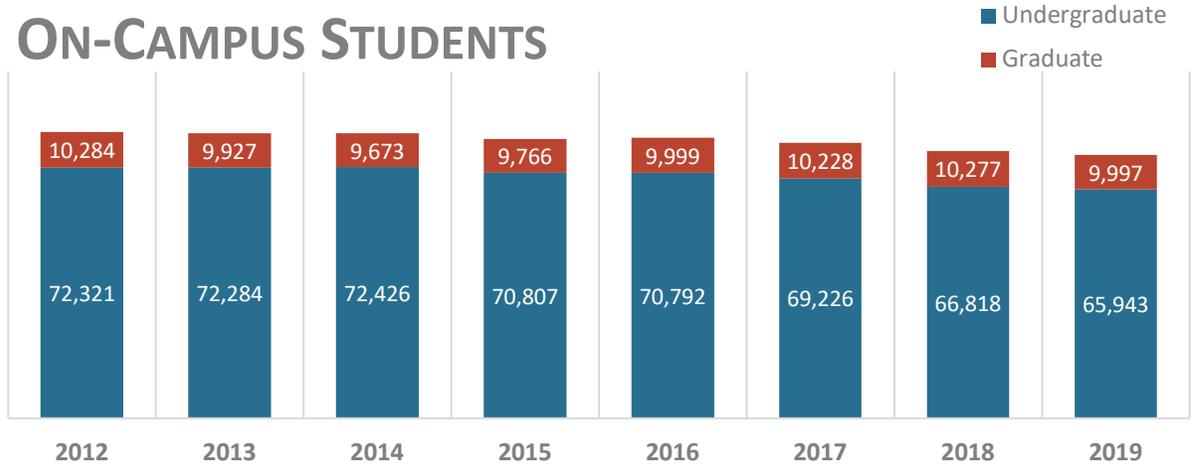
UNDERGRADUATE



GRADUATE

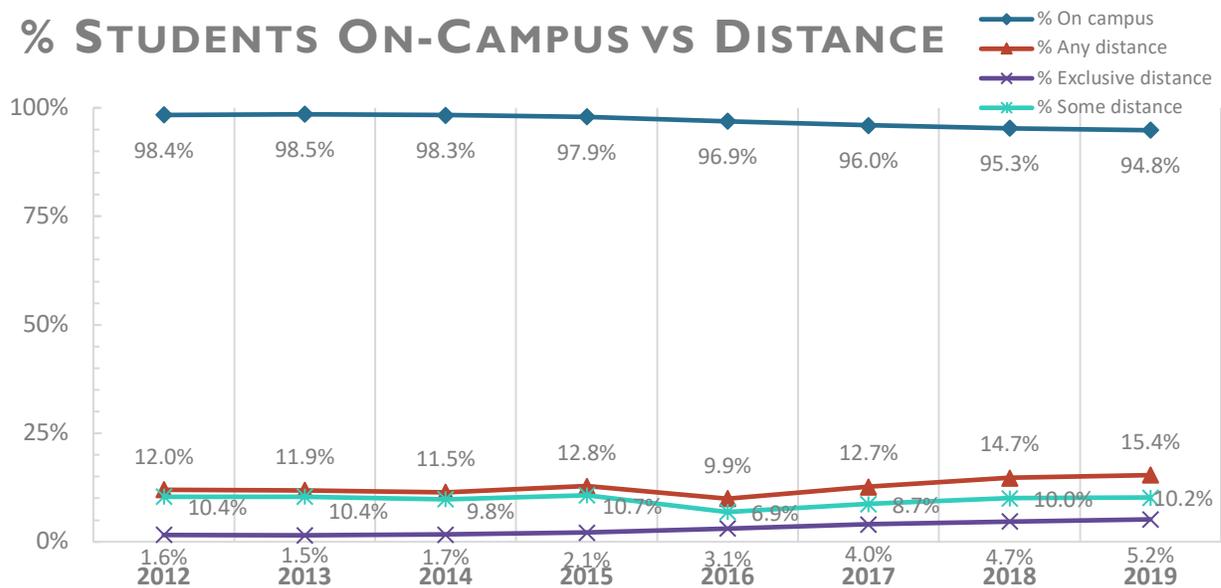


ON-CAMPUS STUDENTS

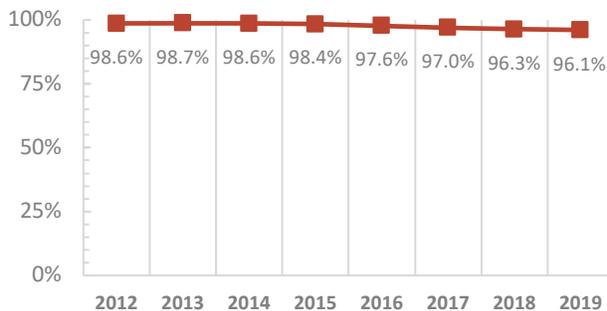


On-campus students are those who take one or more of their courses physically on-campus. The number of students studying on campus declined from 82,605 to 75,940 between 2012 and 2019 in Rhode Island, representing a reduction of 8.1%. This compares to a national decrease of 10.3% for the same period. In 2019, 96.1% of undergraduate students and 87.5% of graduate students in Rhode Island were taking at least one on-campus course.

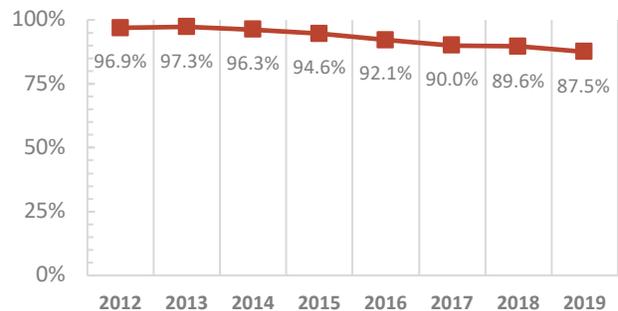
% STUDENTS ON-CAMPUS VS DISTANCE



% ON-CAMPUS: UNDERGRADUATE



% ON-CAMPUS: GRADUATE



INSTITUTIONS

	Rhode Island	National	State Rank	State as % of National
Total institutions	14	4,089	22	0.3%
Institutions w/ distance	11	3,161	47	0.3%
% Institution w/ distance	78.6%	77.3%	45	

ENROLLMENTS

Rhode Island		Total	Any Distance	Exclusive Distance	On Campus
	Total	80,077	12,300	4,137	75,940
Size	Under 1,000	650	112	5	645
	1,000 - 4,999	22,636	3,855	2,625	20,011
	5,000 - 9,999	14,218	1,296	110	14,108
	10,000 - 19,999	42,573	7,037	1,397	41,176
	20,000 and above	-	-	-	-
Carnegie	Not assigned	1,915	1,864	1,757	158
	Associates	14,775	3,077	751	14,024
	Research	27,798	3,960	646	27,152
	Masters	30,085	2,653	791	29,294
	Baccalaureate	2,516	746	192	2,324
	Specialized	2,988	-	-	2,988
Control	Public	39,763	7,333	1,416	38,347
	Private not-for-profit	40,314	4,967	2,721	37,593
	Private for-profit	-	-	-	-
Type	Four or more years	65,302	9,223	3,386	61,916
	At least 2 but less than 4 years	14,775	3,077	751	14,024