

*Distance Education State Almanac*

# WASHINGTON



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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.

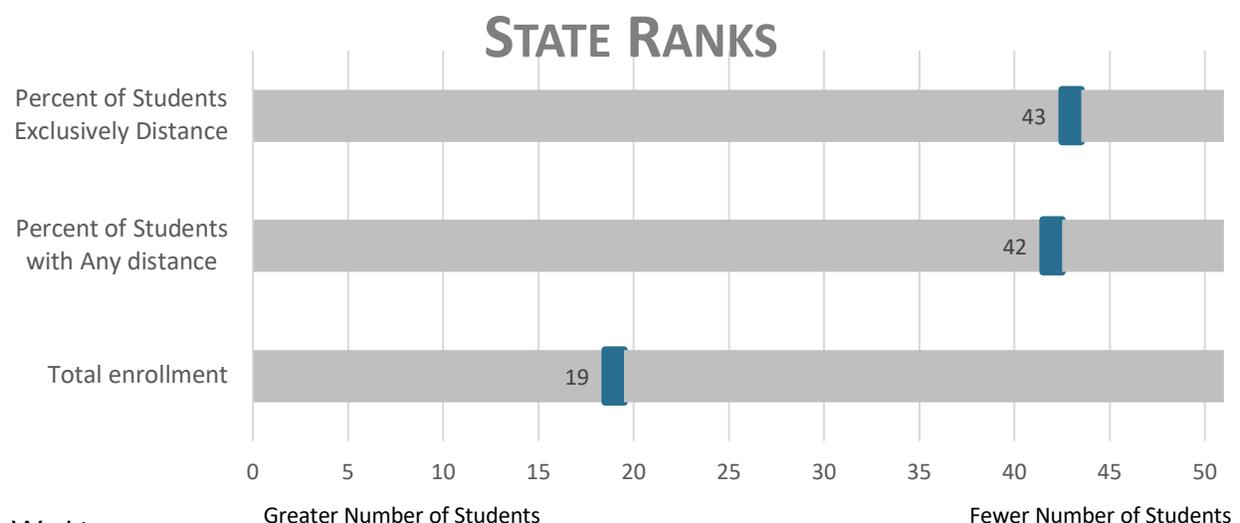
The information presented in the report represent the classifications and enrollments for Fall 2019 and were measured before the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. National totals include all 50 states, District of Columbia, America Samoa, Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, Marshall Islands, Northern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

## Washington

Washington has 74 degree-granting higher education institutions, representing 1.8% of all such institutions in the United States. Of these institutions, 43 are classified as public, 22 as private not-for-profit, and 9 as private for-profit. Of these 74 institutions, 63 offer four-year programs, and 11 offer two-year programs.

The state has 363,019 students enrolled across its institutions and ranks 19th in terms of total higher education student enrollment. Between 2012 and 2019, the total number of students enrolled nationally declined by 5.0%. For Washington, the enrollment decreased by 2,327 students, or -0.6%. Washington has 325,723 students studying at the undergraduate level, a loss of 3,915 students from 2012 (-1.2%), compared to a 6.8% national decline. There are 37,296 students studying at the graduate level, which is 1,588 greater than in 2012; this represents a change of 4.4%, where the national data showed an increase of 5.7%.

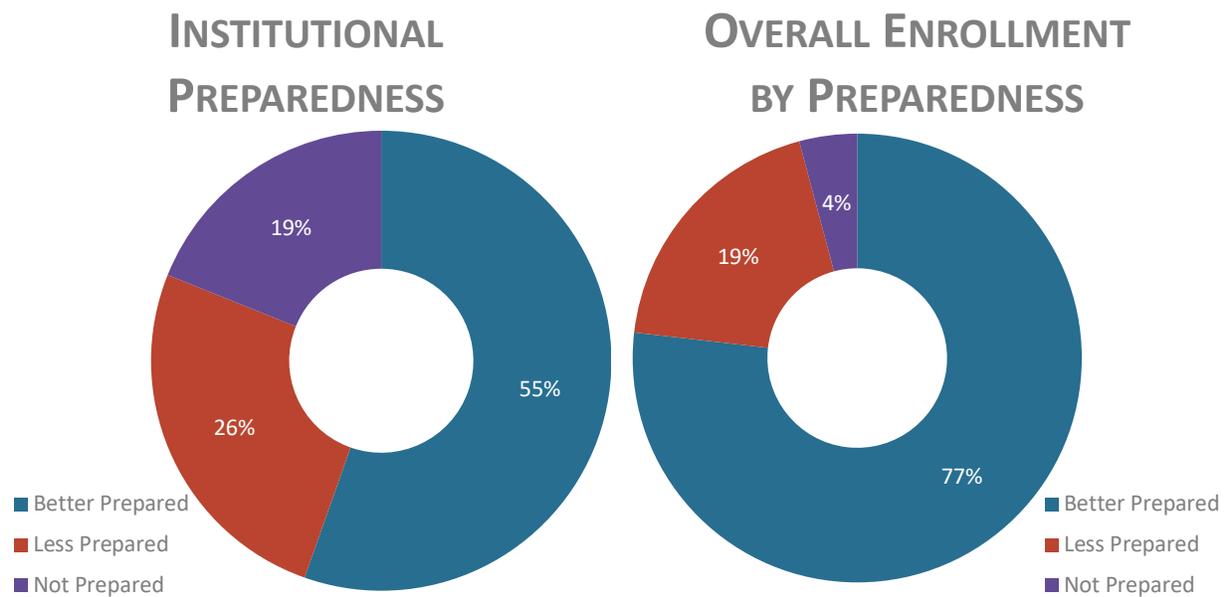
There are 102,855 students in Washington that take at least one distance course. The state is ranked 42nd for the proportion of students taking at least one distance course (28.3%). In 2019, there were 40,549 students taking all of their courses at a distance, a growth of 12,701 students (45.6%) from 2012. Washington ranks 43rd in the proportion of students (11.2%) 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.

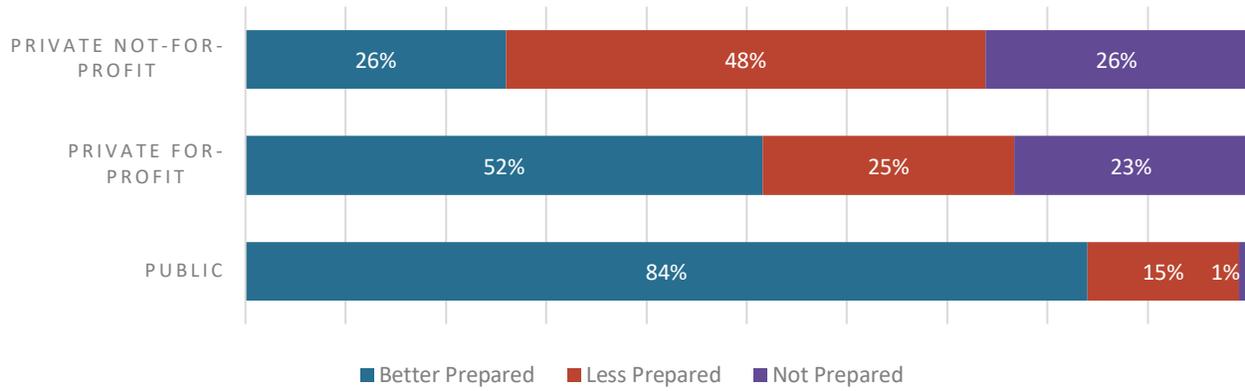
Nationally, 59.3% of all degree-granting institutions meet the criteria of having 25% or more or over 1,000 of their students taking distance courses. In Washington, 55.4% of institutions are better prepared for moving completely online. These institutions enroll 278,863 students, or 76.8% of all students in the state. There are 14 institutions in Washington with no distance students (representing 18.9% of the total in state institutions) that were likely not well prepared for a rapid transition to distance learning.



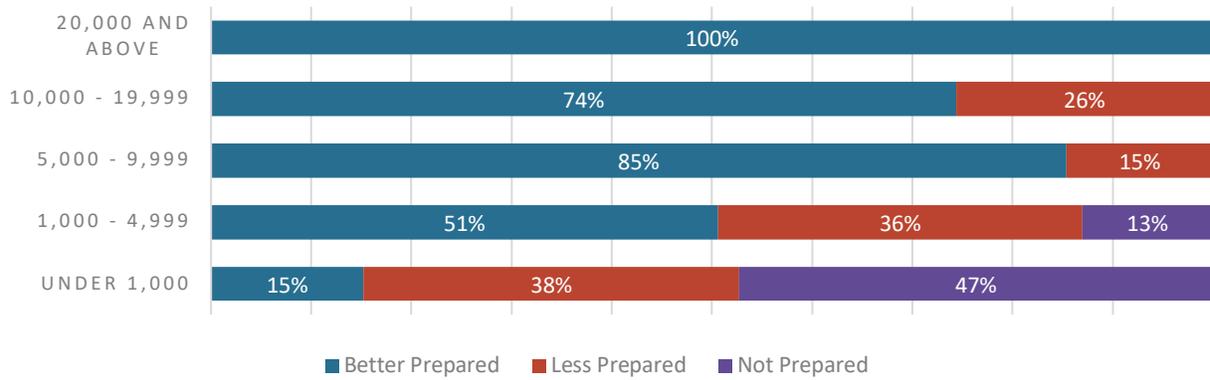
#### Preparedness Definitions:

- 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

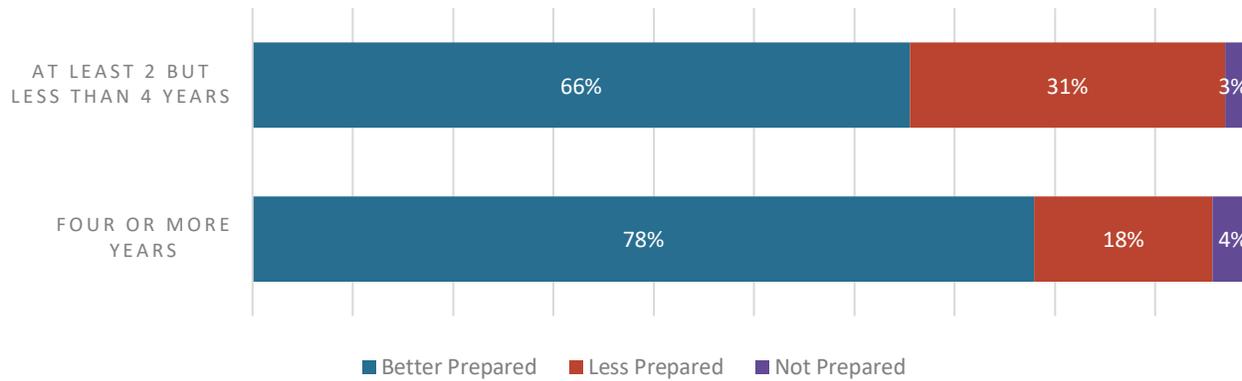
### PREPAREDNESS BY CONTROL



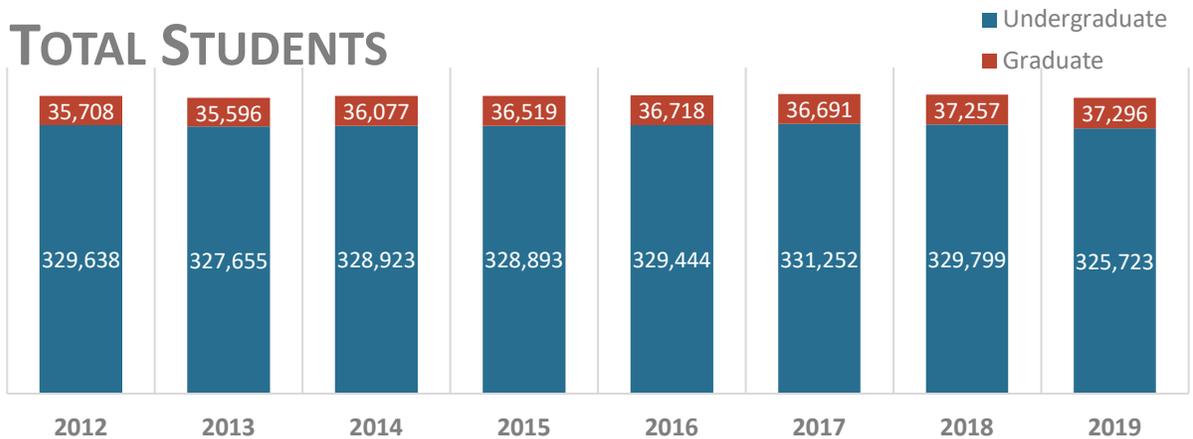
### PREPAREDNESS BY SIZE



### PREPAREDNESS BY TYPE



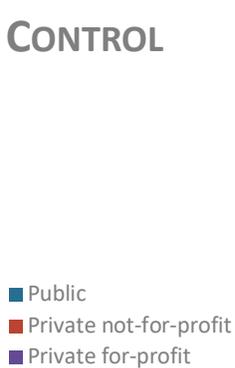
## State Enrollment



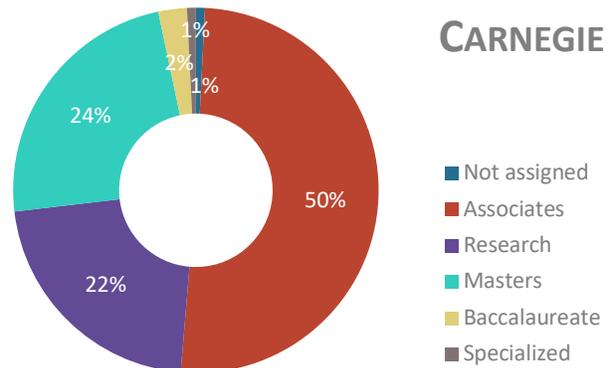
Institutions in Washington enrolled a total of 363,019 students in the fall of 2019; 325,723 students were enrolled at the undergraduate level, and 37,296 enrolled at the graduate level. The Fall 2019 figure represents a decrease of 2,327 students (-0.6%) from the number enrolled in the fall of 2012. The number of undergraduate students decreased by 3,915 during this period, from 329,638 in 2012 to 325,723 in 2019 (-1.2%). The number of graduate students increased from 35,708 to 37,296 (4.4%) in the same period.

Enrollments in Fall 2019 totaled 315,652 students at public institutions (87% of all students), 41,781 students at private not-for-profit institutions (11.5%), and 5,586 students at private for-profit institutions (1.5%). Enrollments at public institutions increased by 4,155 students between 2012 and 2019, while those at private not-for-profit institutions decreased by 1,213 students, and those at private for-profit institutions decreased by 5,269 students.

### CONTROL



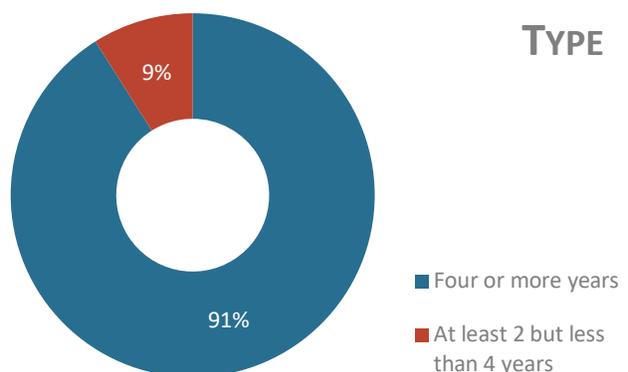
### CARNEGIE



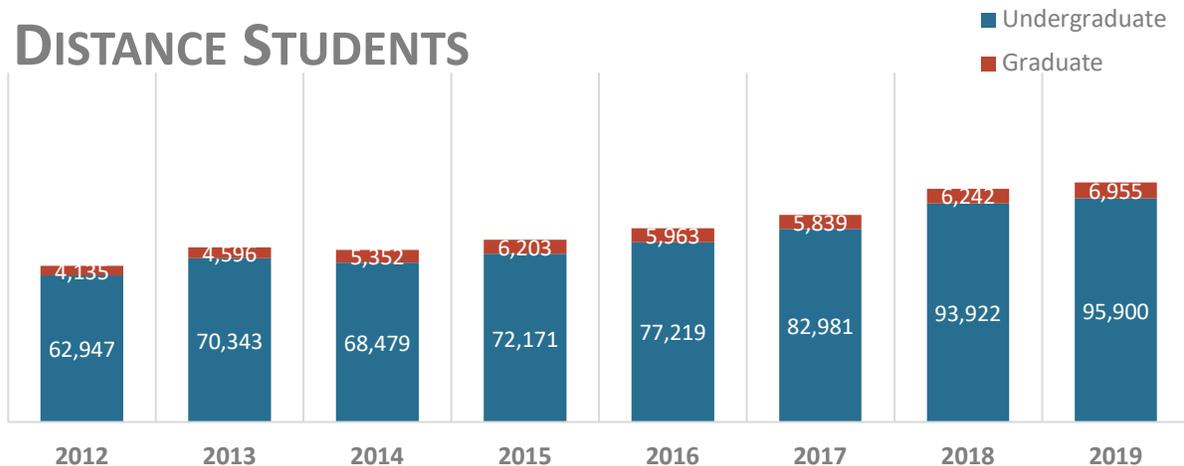
### SIZE



### TYPE



## DISTANCE STUDENTS

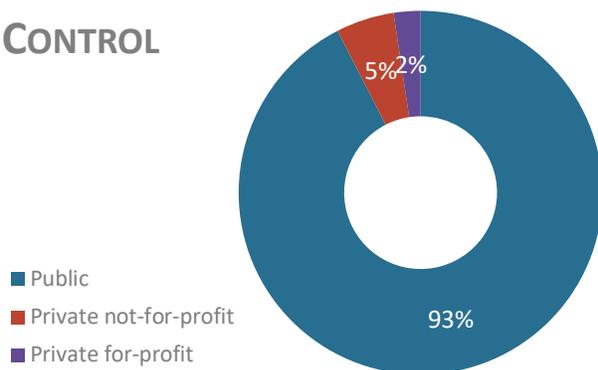


In 2019, a total of 102,855 students took at least one distance course from Washington institutions; 95,900 (29.4% of all undergraduate students) were enrolled at the undergraduate level, and 6,955 (18.6% of all graduate students) were enrolled at the graduate level.

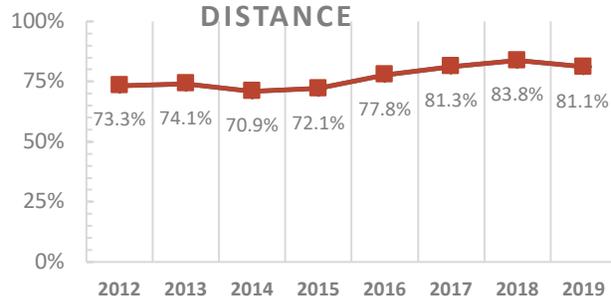
Among undergraduate level distance students, 91,244 were enrolled at institutions classified as public, 2,211 as private not-for-profit, and 2,445 as private for profit. At the graduate-level, 3,845 distance students were enrolled at institutions classified as public, 3,107 as private not-for-profit, and 3 as private for profit.

The number of undergraduate distance enrollments at Washington institutions increased by 32,953 (52.4%) between Fall 2012 and Fall 2019, while the number of graduate distance enrollments grew by 2,820 (68.2%) during this same period.

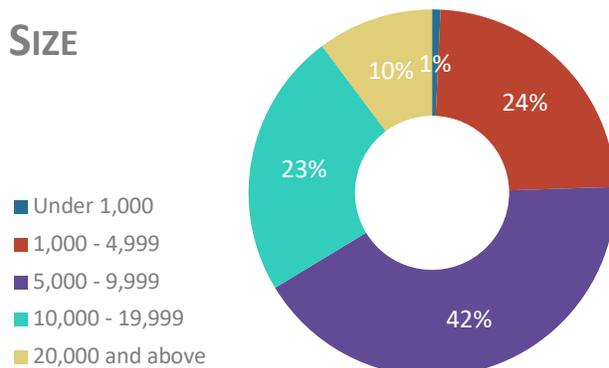
### CONTROL



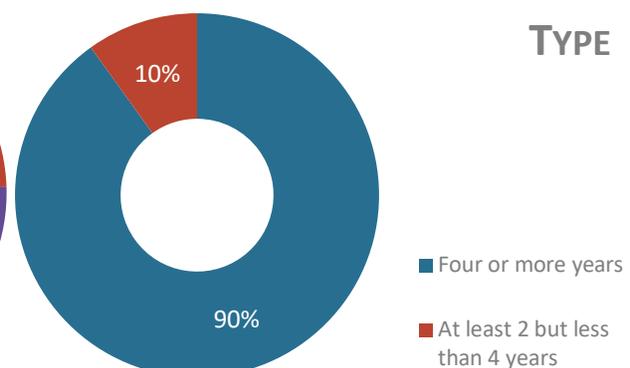
### % INSTITUTIONS WITH DISTANCE



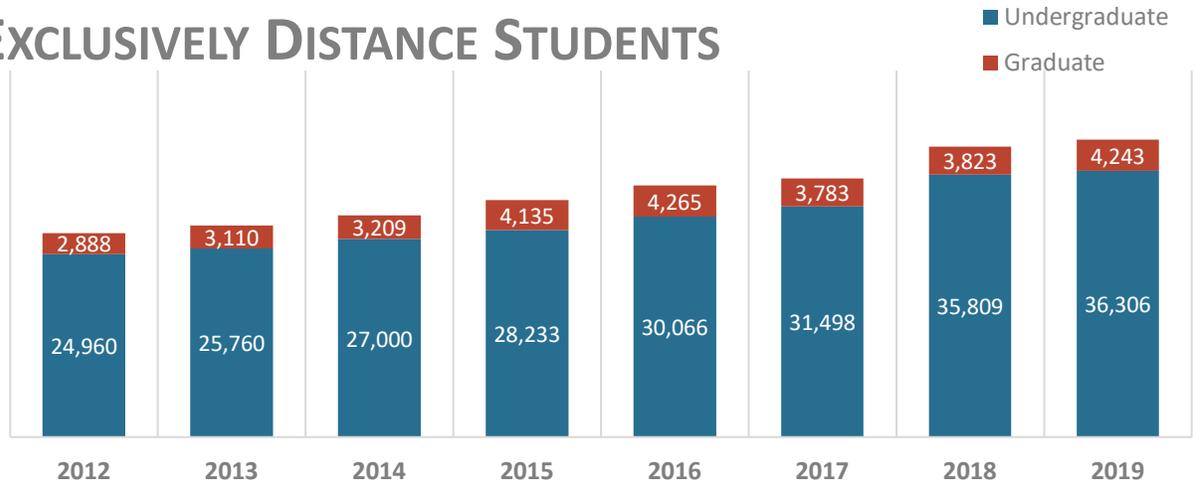
### SIZE



### TYPE

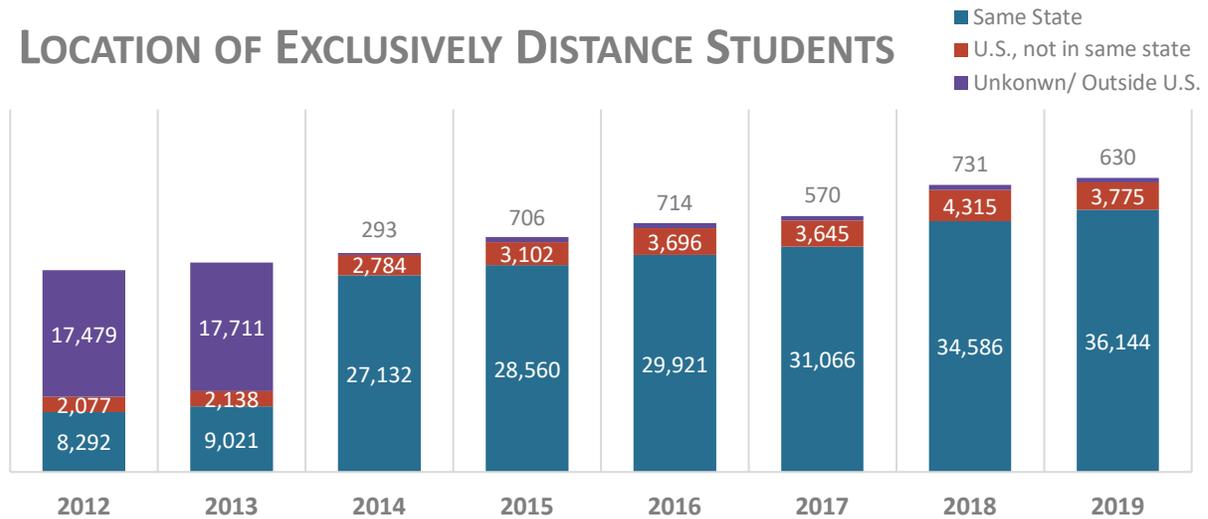


## EXCLUSIVELY DISTANCE STUDENTS

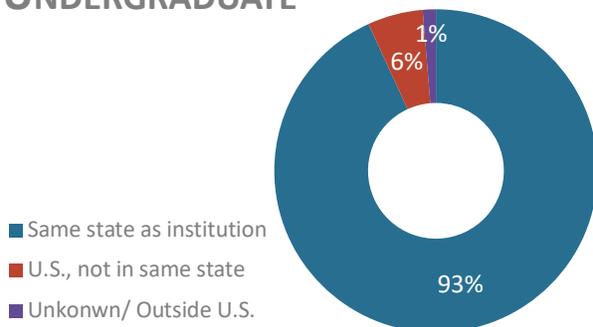


A total of 40,549 students were taking all of their courses at a distance from Washington institutions in the fall of 2019. This represents 11.2% of the enrolled students in the state, which ranks the state at number 43 in the U.S. The number of exclusively distance students who reside in Washington while taking courses from an institution in Washington was 8,292 in 2012 and grew to 36,144 by 2019. There are 4,405 students enrolled as exclusively distance students in Washington institutions who reside outside Washington, or whose place of residence is unknown.

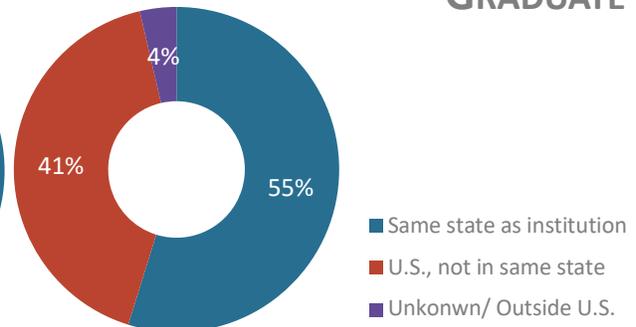
## LOCATION OF EXCLUSIVELY DISTANCE STUDENTS



### UNDERGRADUATE

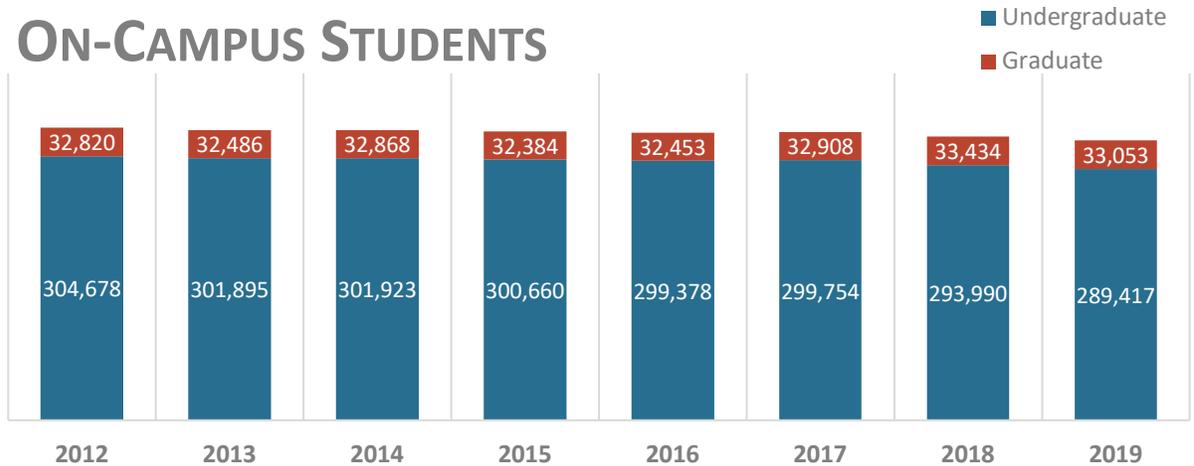


### GRADUATE



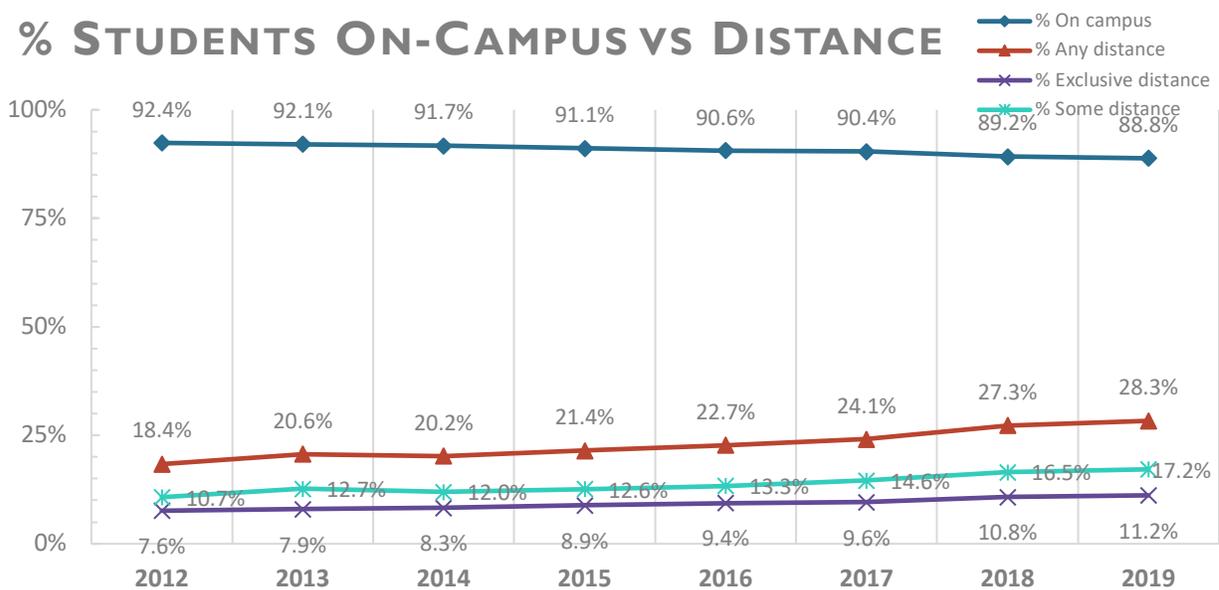
## On-Campus Enrollment

### ON-CAMPUS STUDENTS

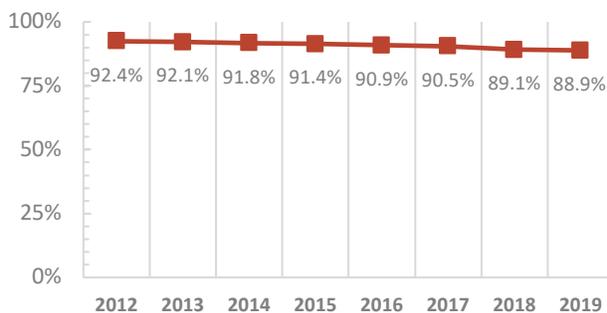


On-campus students are those who take one or more of their courses physically on-campus. The number of students studying on campus declined from 337,498 to 322,470 between 2012 and 2019 in Washington, representing a reduction of 4.5%. This compares to a national decrease of 10.3% for the same period. In 2019, 88.9% of undergraduate students and 88.6% of graduate students in Washington were taking at least one on-campus course.

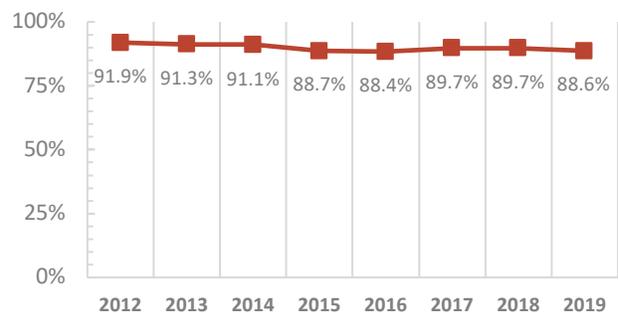
### % STUDENTS ON-CAMPUS VS DISTANCE



#### % ON-CAMPUS: UNDERGRADUATE



#### % ON-CAMPUS: GRADUATE



## INSTITUTIONS

	Washington	National	State Rank	State as % of National
<b>Total institutions</b>	74	4,089	32	1.8%
<b>Institutions w/ distance</b>	60	3,161	17	1.9%
<b>% Institution w/ distance</b>	81.1%	77.3%	17	

## ENROLLMENTS

Washington		Total	Any Distance	Exclusive Distance	On Campus
	<b>Total</b>	363,019	102,855	40,549	322,470
<b>Size</b>	<b>Under 1,000</b>	8,096	761	335	7,761
	<b>1,000 - 4,999</b>	86,515	24,428	8,923	77,592
	<b>5,000 - 9,999</b>	126,227	43,040	19,038	107,189
	<b>10,000 - 19,999</b>	62,998	24,103	7,911	55,087
	<b>20,000 and above</b>	79,183	10,523	4,342	74,841
<b>Carnegie</b>	<b>Not assigned</b>	2,890	860	706	2,184
	<b>Associates</b>	183,439	67,909	28,287	155,152
	<b>Research</b>	79,183	10,523	4,342	74,841
	<b>Masters</b>	85,503	20,491	6,312	79,191
	<b>Baccalaureate</b>	9,174	2,563	610	8,564
	<b>Specialized</b>	2,830	509	292	2,538
<b>Control</b>	<b>Public</b>	315,652	95,089	37,073	278,579
	<b>Private not-for-profit</b>	41,781	5,318	2,841	38,940
	<b>Private for-profit</b>	5,586	2,448	635	4,951
<b>Type</b>	<b>Four or more years</b>	330,437	92,653	36,043	294,394
	<b>At least 2 but less than 4 years</b>	32,582	10,202	4,506	28,076