

Distance Education State Almanac

CALIFORNIA



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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.

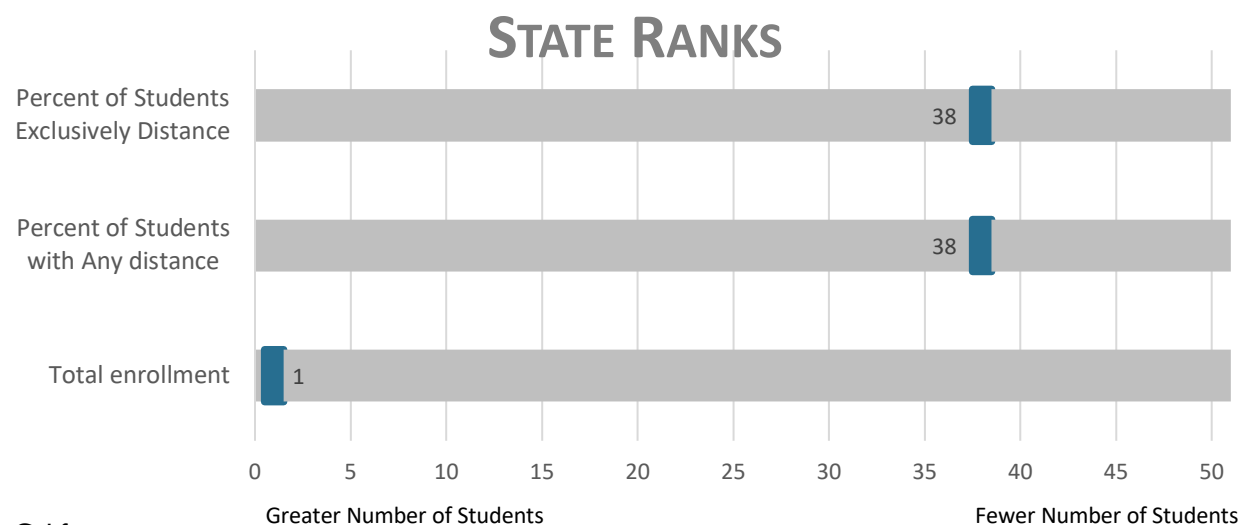
The information presented in the report represent the classifications and enrollments for Fall 2019 and were measured before the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. National totals include all 50 states, District of Columbia, American Samoa, Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, Marshall Islands, Northern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

California

California has 425 degree-granting higher education institutions, representing 10.4% of all such institutions in the United States. Of these institutions, 152 are classified as public, 155 as private not-for-profit, and 118 as private for-profit. Of these 425 institutions, 271 offer four-year programs, and 154 offer two-year programs.

The state has 2,722,512 students enrolled across its institutions and ranks 1st in terms of total higher education student enrollment. Between 2012 and 2019, the total number of students enrolled nationally declined by 5.0%. For California, the enrollment increased by 20,122 students, or 0.7%. California has 2,415,107 students studying at the undergraduate level, a loss of 13,992 students from 2012 (-0.6%), compared to a 6.8% national decline. There are 307,405 students studying at the graduate level, which is 34,114 greater than in 2012; this represents a change of 12.5%, where the national data showed an increase of 5.7%.

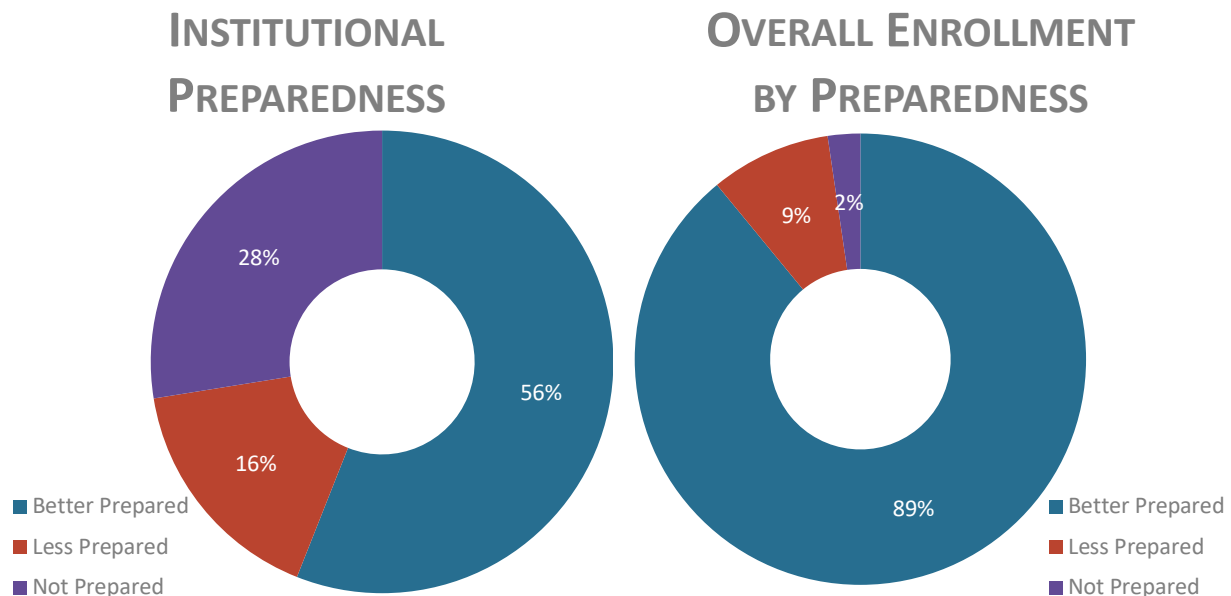
There are 890,950 students in California that take at least one distance course. The state is ranked 38th for the proportion of students taking at least one distance course (32.7%). In 2019, there were 353,781 students taking all of their courses at a distance, a growth of 106,755 students (43.2%) from 2012. California ranks 38th in the proportion of students (13.0%) 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.

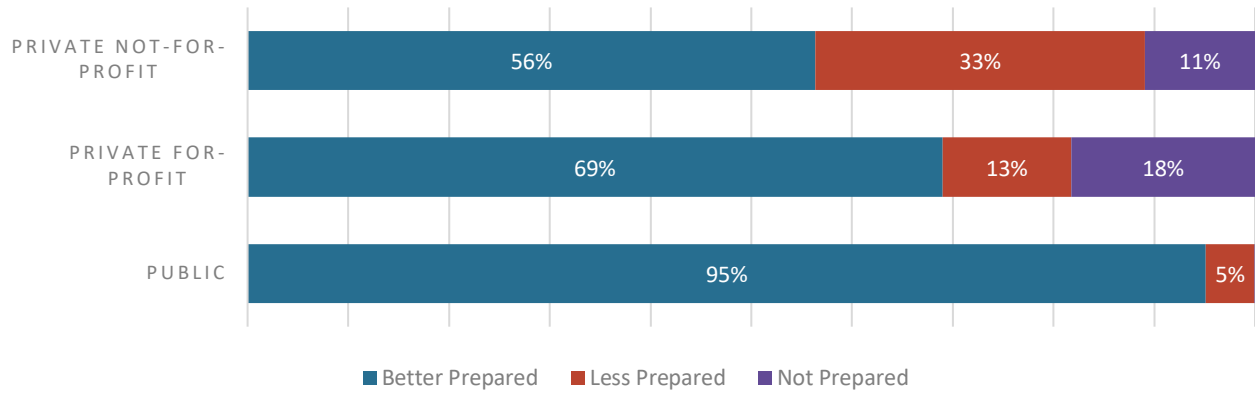
Nationally, 59.3% of all degree-granting institutions meet the criteria of having 25% or more or over 1,000 of their students taking distance courses. In California, 56.0% of institutions are better prepared for moving completely online. These institutions enroll 2,424,144 students, or 89.0% of all students in the state. There are 117 institutions in California with no distance students (representing 27.5% of the total in state institutions) that were likely not well prepared for a rapid transition to distance learning.



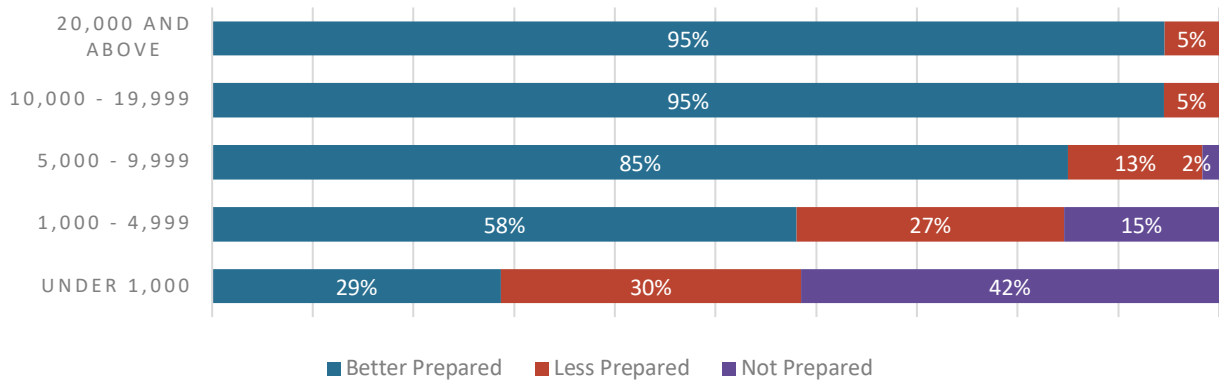
Preparedness Definitions:

- 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

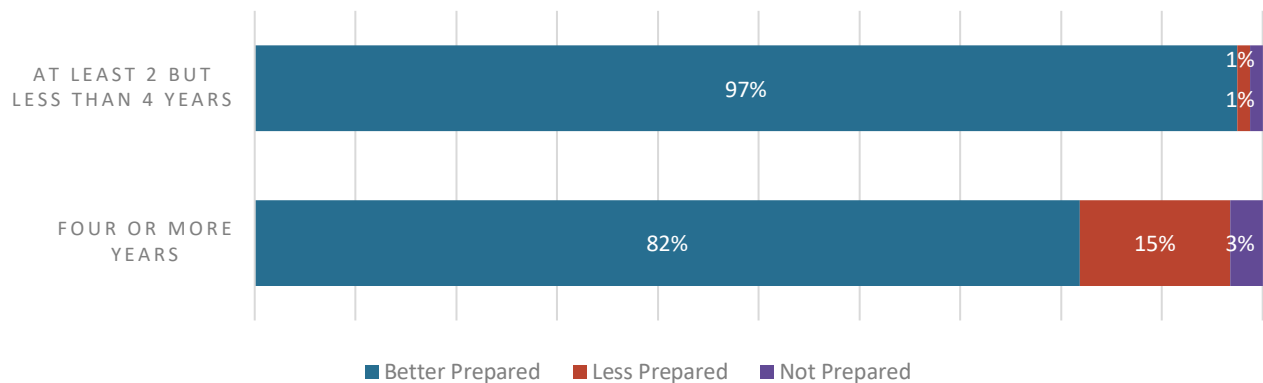
PREPAREDNESS BY CONTROL



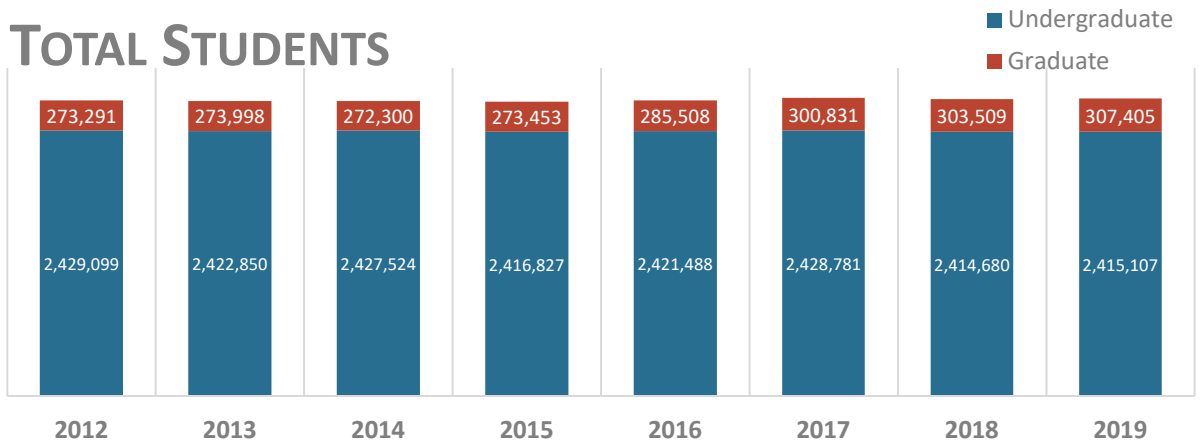
PREPAREDNESS BY SIZE



PREPAREDNESS BY TYPE



State Enrollment



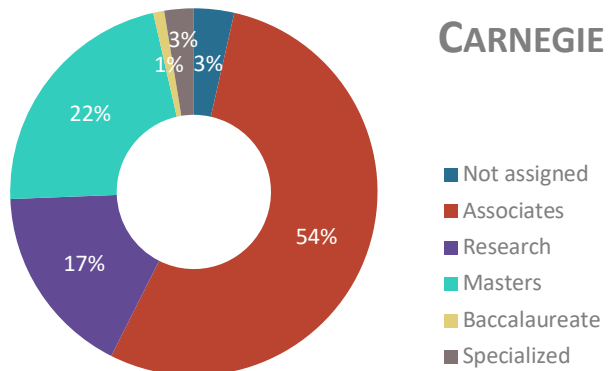
Institutions in California enrolled a total of 2,722,512 students in the fall of 2019; 2,415,107 students were enrolled at the undergraduate level, and 307,405 enrolled at the graduate level. The Fall 2019 figure represents an increase of 20,122 students (0.7%) from the number enrolled in the fall of 2012. The number of undergraduate students decreased by 13,992 during this period, from 2,429,099 in 2012 to 2,415,107 in 2019 (-0.6%). The number of graduate students increased from 273,291 to 307,405 (12.5%) in the same period.

Enrollments in Fall 2019 totaled 2,248,076 students at public institutions (83% of all students), 331,313 students at private not-for-profit institutions (12.2%), and 143,123 students at private for-profit institutions (5.3%). Enrollments at public institutions increased by 118,924 students between 2012 and 2019, while those at private not-for-profit institutions increased by 32,054 students, and those at private for-profit institutions decreased by 130,856 students.

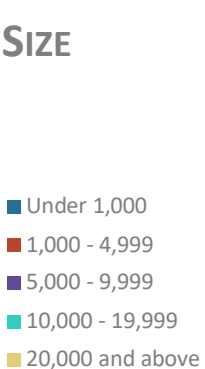
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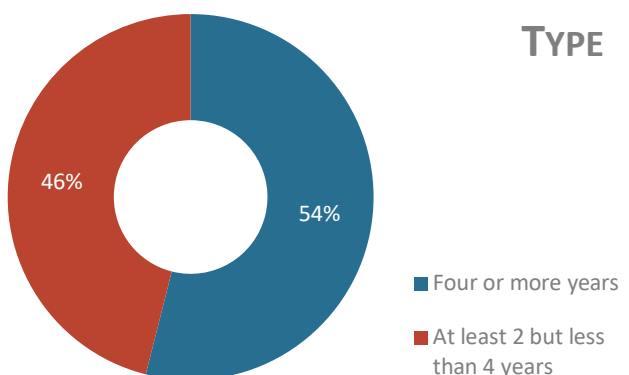
CARNEGIE



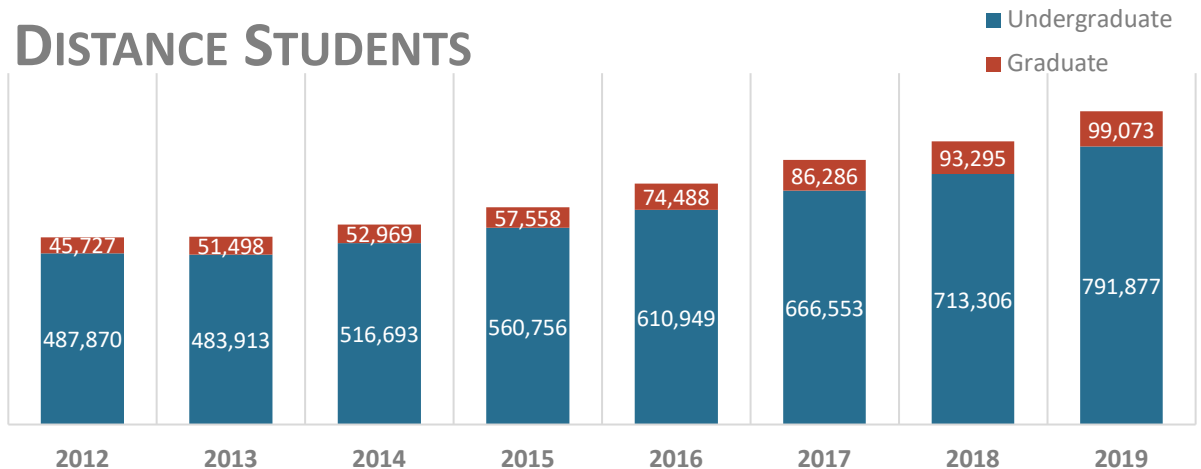
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TYPE



DISTANCE STUDENTS

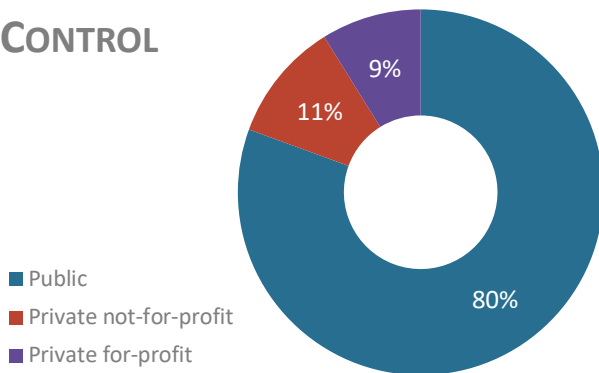


In 2019, a total of 890,950 students took at least one distance course from California institutions; 791,877 (32.8% of all undergraduate students) were enrolled at the undergraduate level, and 99,073 (32.2% of all graduate students) were enrolled at the graduate level.

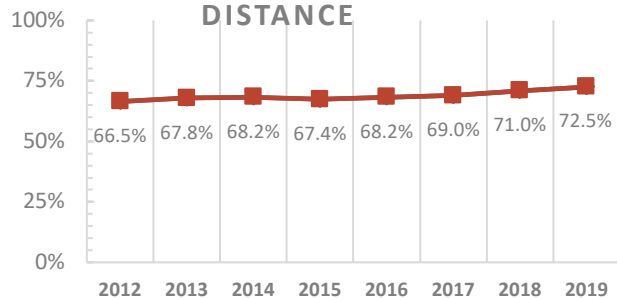
Among undergraduate level distance students, 697,233 were enrolled at institutions classified as public, 38,637 as private not-for-profit, and 56,007 as private for profit. At the graduate-level, 20,645 distance students were enrolled at institutions classified as public, 55,697 as private not-for-profit, and 22,731 as private for profit.

The number of undergraduate distance enrollments at California institutions increased by 304,007 (62.3%) between Fall 2012 and Fall 2019, while the number of graduate distance enrollments grew by 53,346 (116.7%) during this same period.

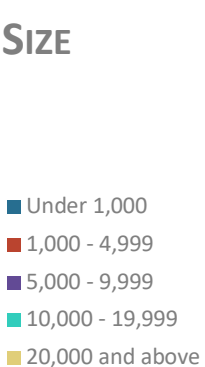
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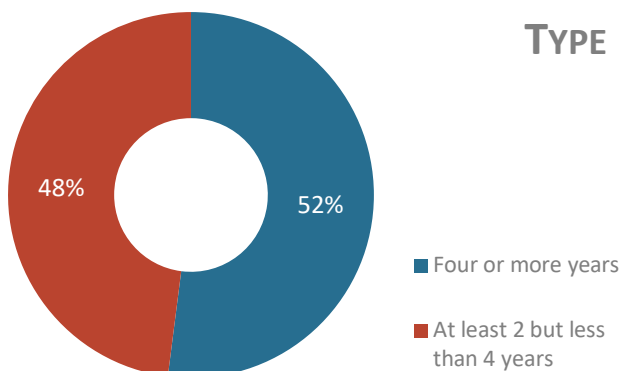
% INSTITUTIONS WITH DISTANCE



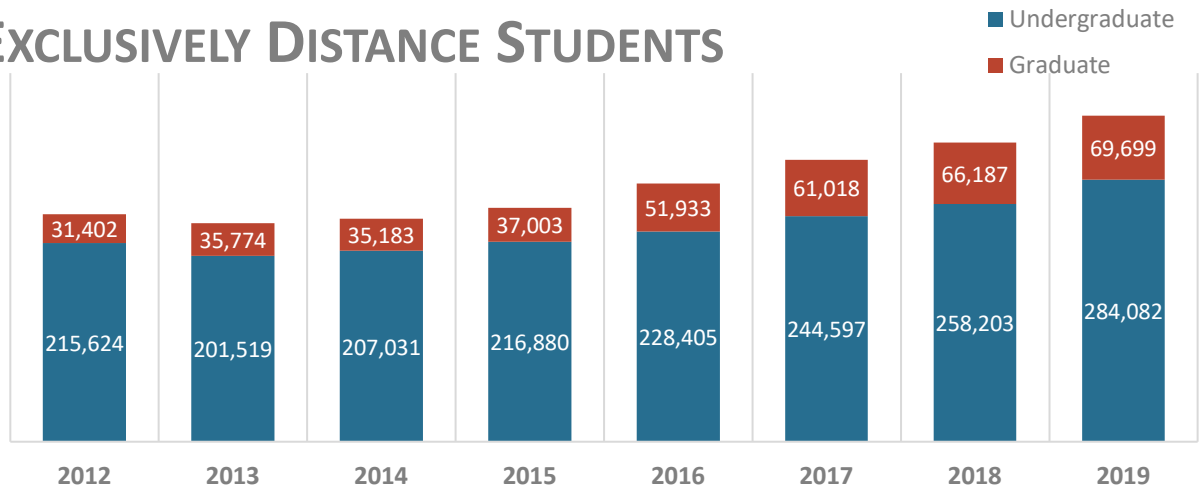
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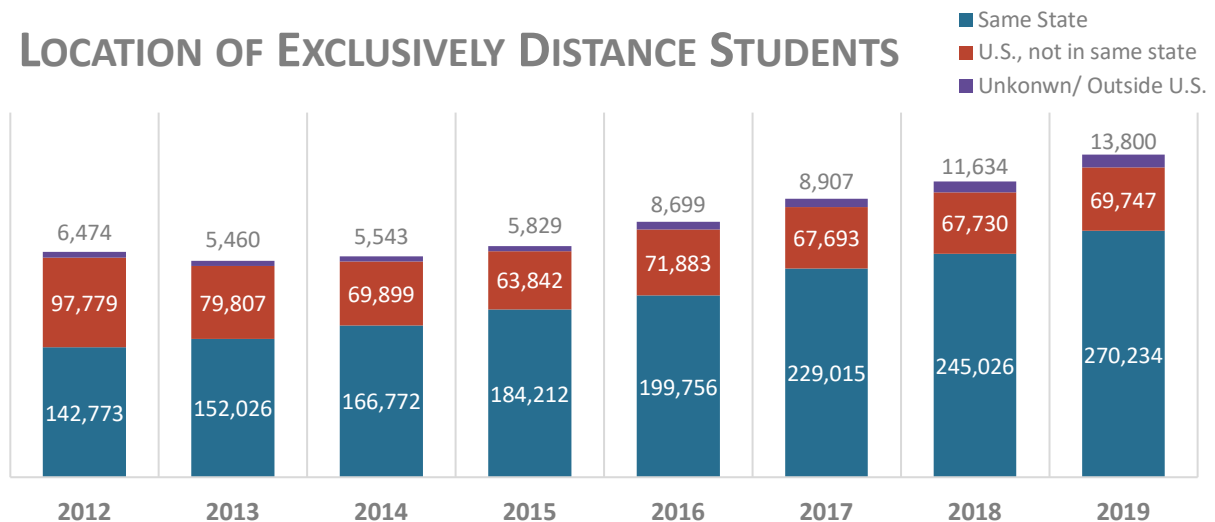


EXCLUSIVELY DISTANCE STUDENTS

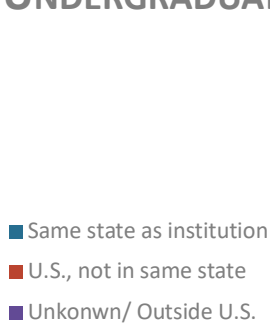


A total of 353,781 students were taking all of their courses at a distance from California institutions in the fall of 2019. This represents 13.0% of the enrolled students in the state, which ranks the state at number 38 in the U.S. The number of exclusively distance students who reside in California while taking courses from an institution in California was 142,773 in 2012 and fell to 270,234 by 2019. There are 83,547 students enrolled as exclusively distance students in California institutions who reside outside California, or whose place of residence is unknown.

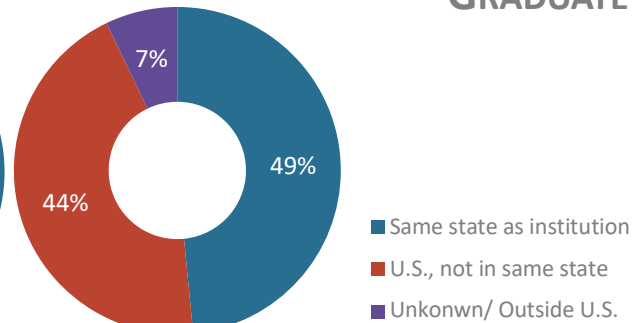
LOCATION OF EXCLUSIVELY DISTANCE STUDENTS



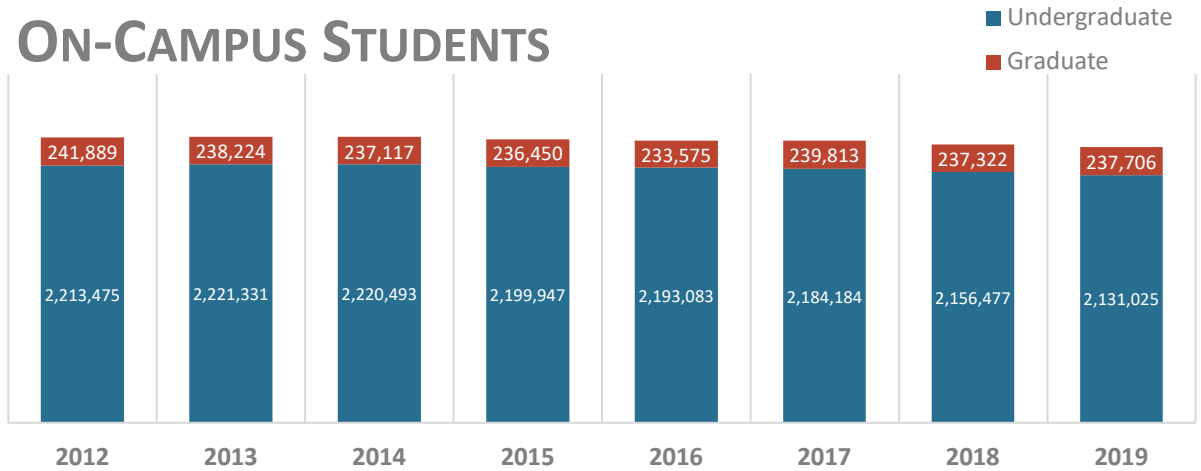
UNDERGRADUATE



GRADUATE

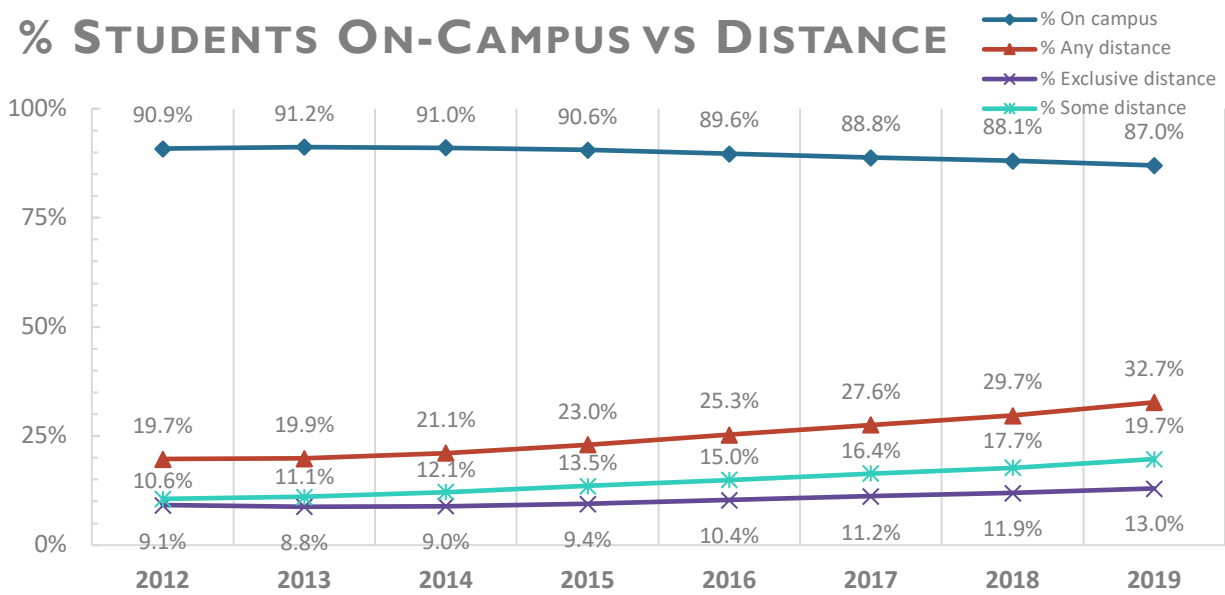


ON-CAMPUS STUDENTS

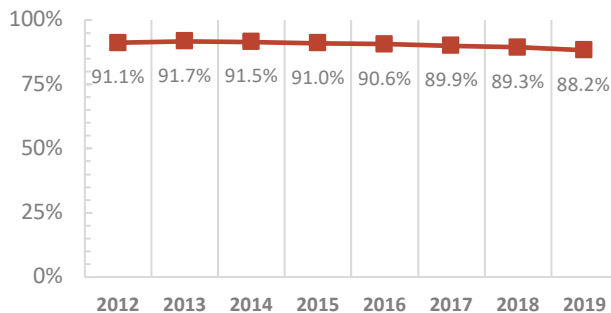


On-campus students are those who take one or more of their courses physically on-campus. The number of students studying on campus declined from 2,455,364 to 2,368,731 between 2012 and 2019 in California, representing a reduction of 3.5%. This compares to a national decrease of 10.3% for the same period. In 2019, 88.2% of undergraduate students and 77.3% of graduate students in California were taking at least one on-campus course.

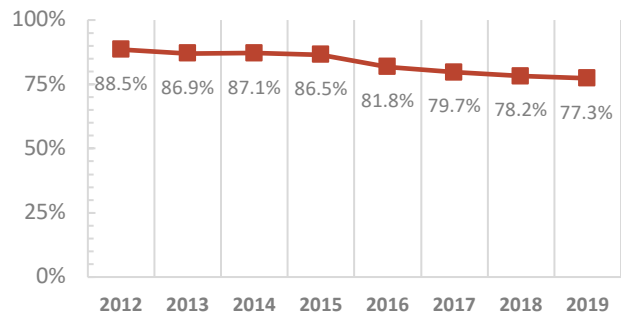
% STUDENTS ON-CAMPUS VS DISTANCE



% ON-CAMPUS: UNDERGRADUATE



% ON-CAMPUS: GRADUATE



INSTITUTIONS

	California	National	State Rank	State as % of National
Total institutions	425	4,089	1	10.4%
Institutions w/ distance	308	3,161	1	9.7%
% Institution w/ distance	72.5%	77.3%	1	

ENROLLMENTS

California		Total	Any Distance	Exclusive Distance	On Campus
	Total	2,722,512	890,950	353,781	2,368,731
Size	Under 1,000	64,337	15,123	5,577	58,760
	1,000 - 4,999	195,652	69,836	38,678	156,974
	5,000 - 9,999	387,340	131,501	64,841	322,499
	10,000 - 19,999	871,021	341,441	142,139	728,882
	20,000 and above	1,204,162	333,049	102,546	1,101,616
Carnegie	Not assigned	96,278	31,787	19,867	76,411
	Associates	1,467,069	514,239	212,275	1,254,794
	Research	461,717	72,870	34,665	427,052
	Masters	600,728	240,679	70,311	530,417
	Baccalaureate	26,273	4,403	2,739	23,534
	Specialized	70,447	26,972	13,924	56,523
Control	Public	2,248,076	717,878	230,388	2,017,688
	Private not-for-profit	331,313	94,334	63,313	268,000
	Private for-profit	143,123	78,738	60,080	83,043
Type	Four or more years	1,468,763	463,496	179,903	1,288,860
	At least 2 but less than 4 years	1,253,749	427,454	173,878	1,079,871