

*Distance Education State Almanac*

# SOUTH CAROLINA



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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.

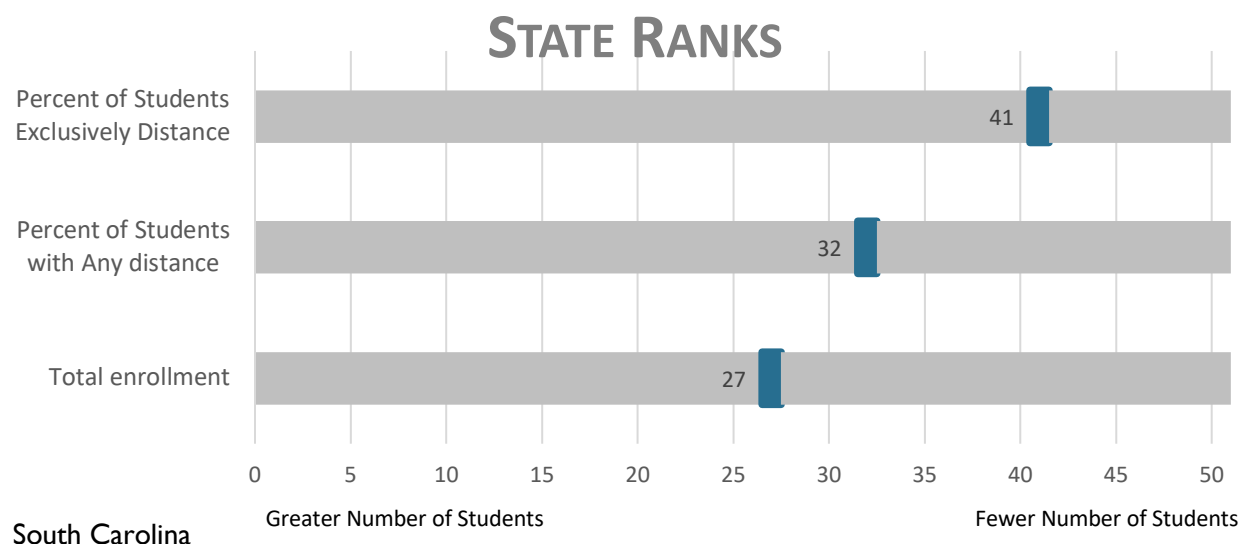
The information presented in the report represent the classifications and enrollments for Fall 2019 and were measured before the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. National totals include all 50 states, District of Columbia, America Samoa, Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, Marshall Islands, Northern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

## South Carolina

South Carolina has 66 degree-granting higher education institutions, representing 1.6% of all such institutions in the United States. Of these institutions, 33 are classified as public, 24 as private not-for-profit, and 9 as private for-profit. Of these 66 institutions, 41 offer four-year programs, and 25 offer two-year programs.

The state has 241,572 students enrolled across its institutions and ranks 27th in terms of total higher education student enrollment. Between 2012 and 2019, the total number of students enrolled nationally declined by 5.0%. For South Carolina, the enrollment decreased by 18,196 students, or -7.0%. South Carolina has 213,621 students studying at the undergraduate level, a loss of 20,333 students from 2012 (-8.7%), compared to a 6.8% national decline. There are 27,951 students studying at the graduate level, which is 2,137 greater than in 2012; this represents a change of 8.3%, where the national data showed an increase of 5.7%.

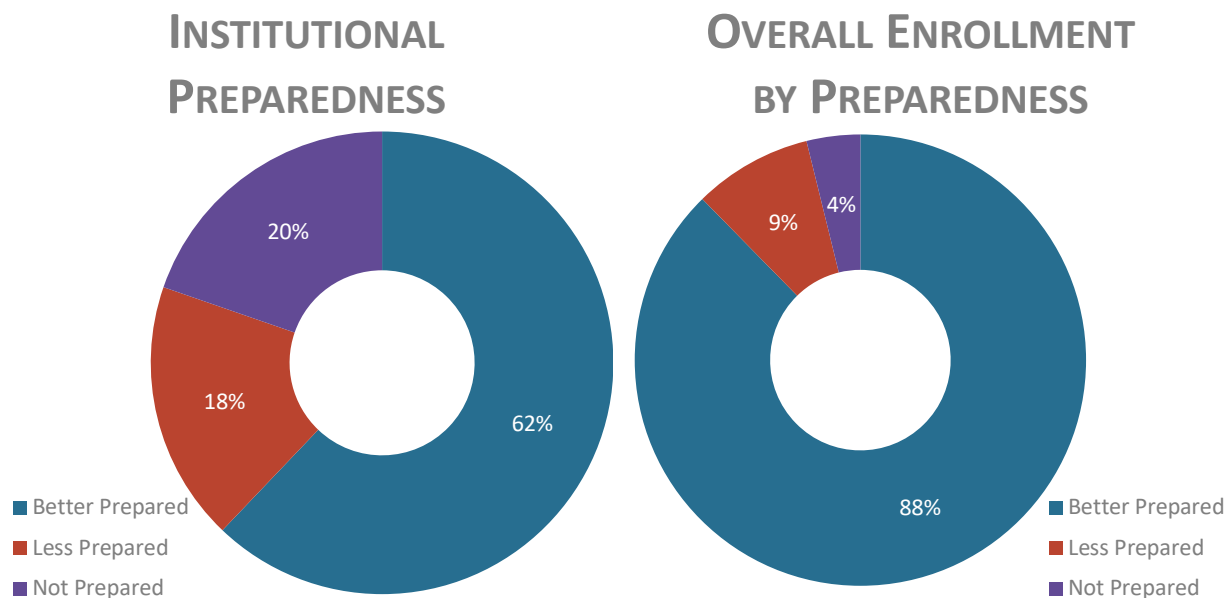
There are 88,202 students in South Carolina that take at least one distance course. The state is ranked 32nd for the proportion of students taking at least one distance course (36.5%). In 2019, there were 27,773 students taking all of their courses at a distance, a growth of 12,175 students (78.1%) from 2012. South Carolina ranks 41st in the proportion of students (11.5%) 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.

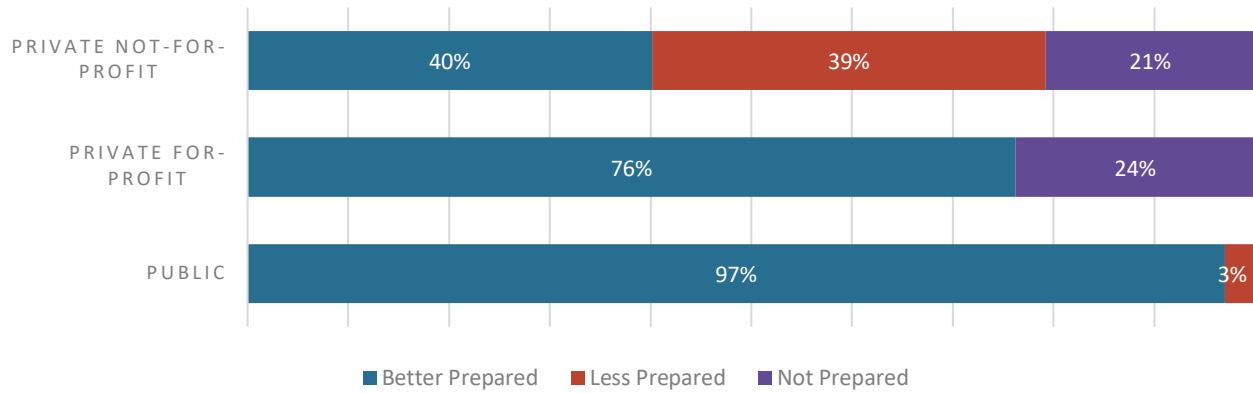
Nationally, 59.3% of all degree-granting institutions meet the criteria of having 25% or more or over 1,000 of their students taking distance courses. In South Carolina, 62.1% of institutions are better prepared for moving completely online. These institutions enroll 211,739 students, or 87.7% of all students in the state. There are 13 institutions in South Carolina with no distance students (representing 19.7% of the total in state institutions) that were likely not well prepared for a rapid transition to distance learning.



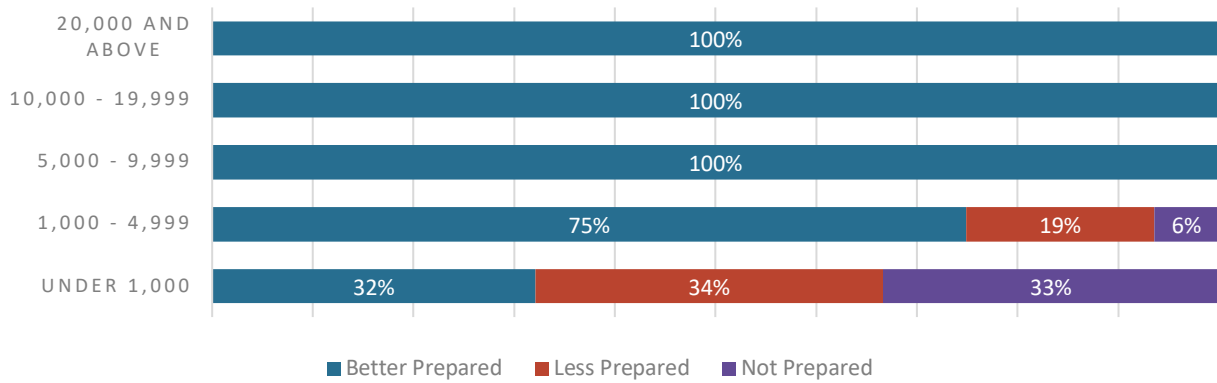
### Preparedness Definitions:

- 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

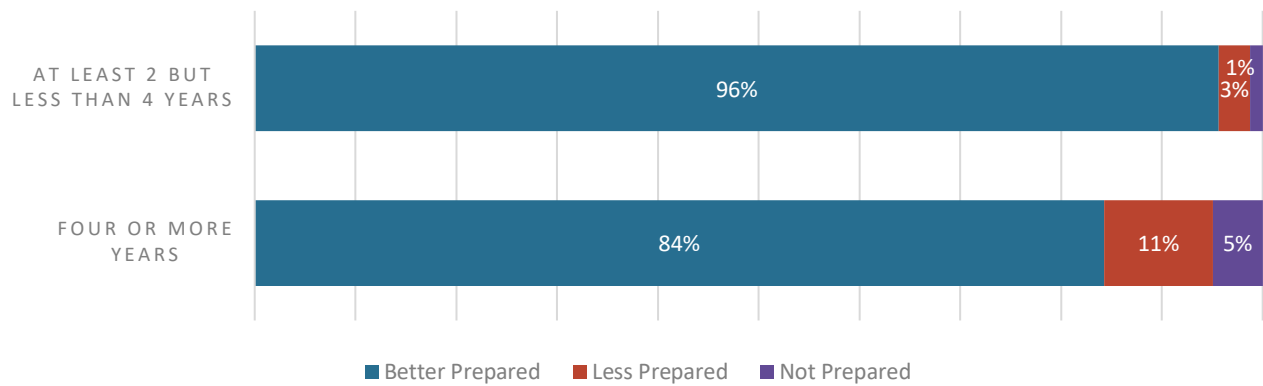
### PREPAREDNESS BY CONTROL



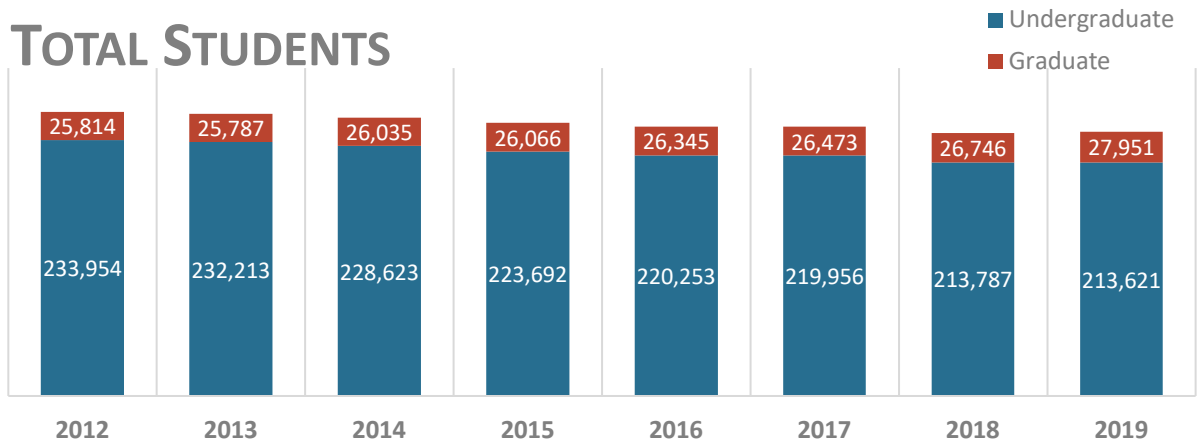
### PREPAREDNESS BY SIZE



### PREPAREDNESS BY TYPE



## State Enrollment



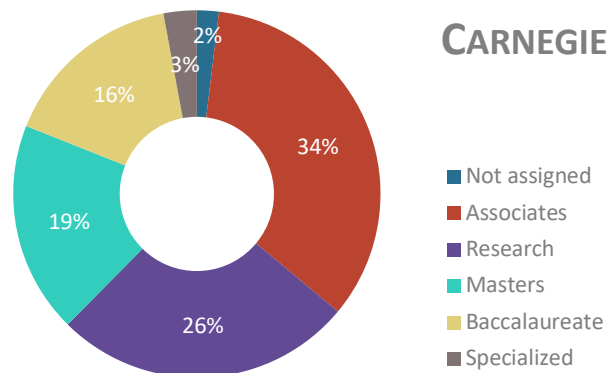
Institutions in South Carolina enrolled a total of 241,572 students in the fall of 2019; 213,621 students were enrolled at the undergraduate level, and 27,951 enrolled at the graduate level. The Fall 2019 figure represents a decrease of 18,196 students (-7.0%) from the number enrolled in the fall of 2012. The number of undergraduate students decreased by 20,333 during this period, from 233,954 in 2012 to 213,621 in 2019 (-8.7%). The number of graduate students increased from 25,814 to 27,951 (8.3%) in the same period.

Enrollments in Fall 2019 totaled 197,809 students at public institutions (82% of all students), 37,352 students at private not-for-profit institutions (15.5%), and 6,411 students at private for-profit institutions (2.7%). Enrollments at public institutions decreased by 11,214 students between 2012 and 2019, while those at private not-for-profit institutions increased by 2,600 students, and those at private for-profit institutions decreased by 9,582 students.

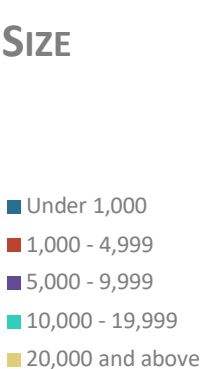
### CONTROL



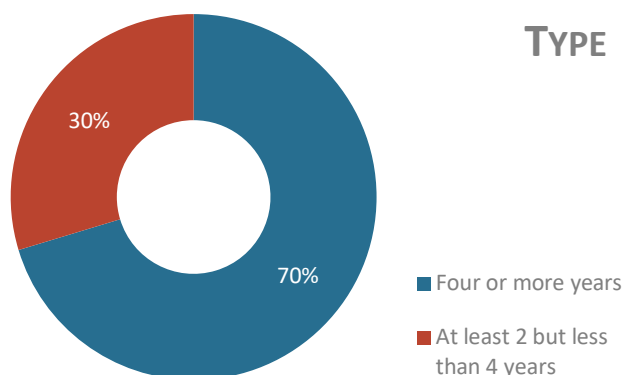
### CARNEGIE



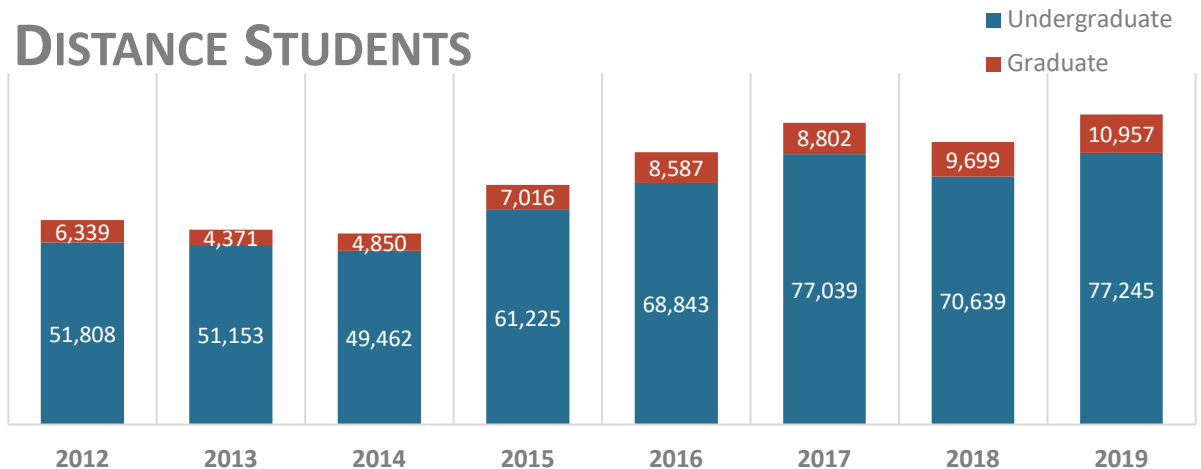
### SIZE



### TYPE



## DISTANCE STUDENTS

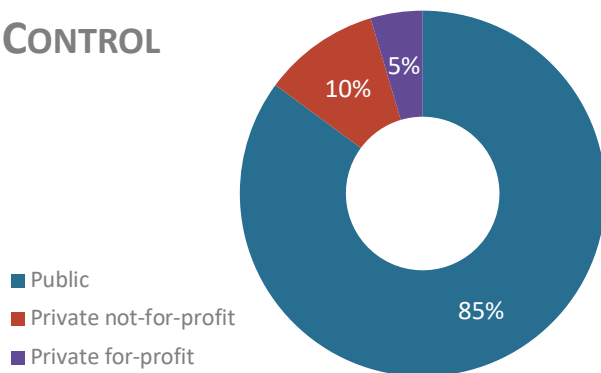


In 2019, a total of 88,202 students took at least one distance course from South Carolina institutions; 77,245 (36.2% of all undergraduate students) were enrolled at the undergraduate level, and 10,957 (39.2% of all graduate students) were enrolled at the graduate level.

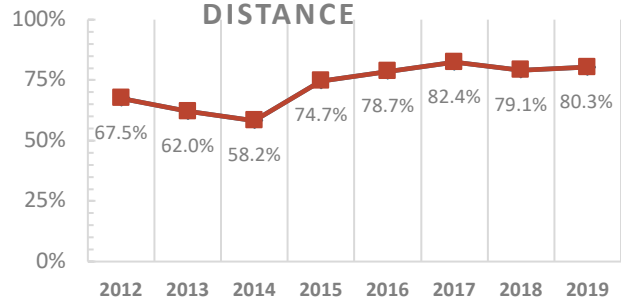
Among undergraduate level distance students, 67,601 were enrolled at institutions classified as public, 6,077 as private not-for-profit, and 3,567 as private for profit. At the graduate-level, 7,460 distance students were enrolled at institutions classified as public, 3,005 as private not-for-profit, and 492 as private for profit.

The number of undergraduate distance enrollments at South Carolina institutions increased by 25,437 (49.1%) between Fall 2012 and Fall 2019, while the number of graduate distance enrollments grew by 4,618 (72.9%) during this same period.

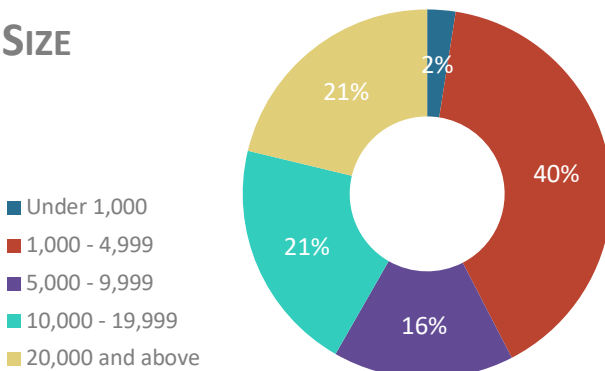
### CONTROL



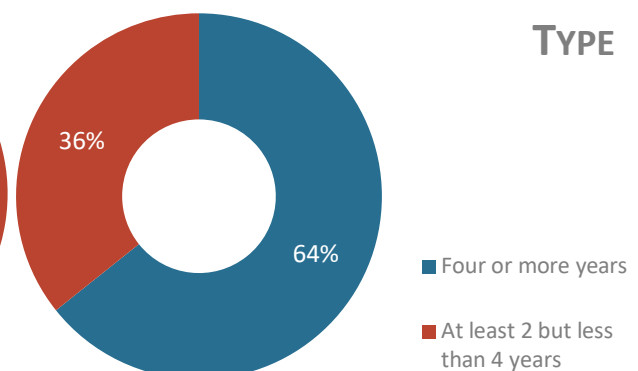
### % INSTITUTIONS WITH DISTANCE



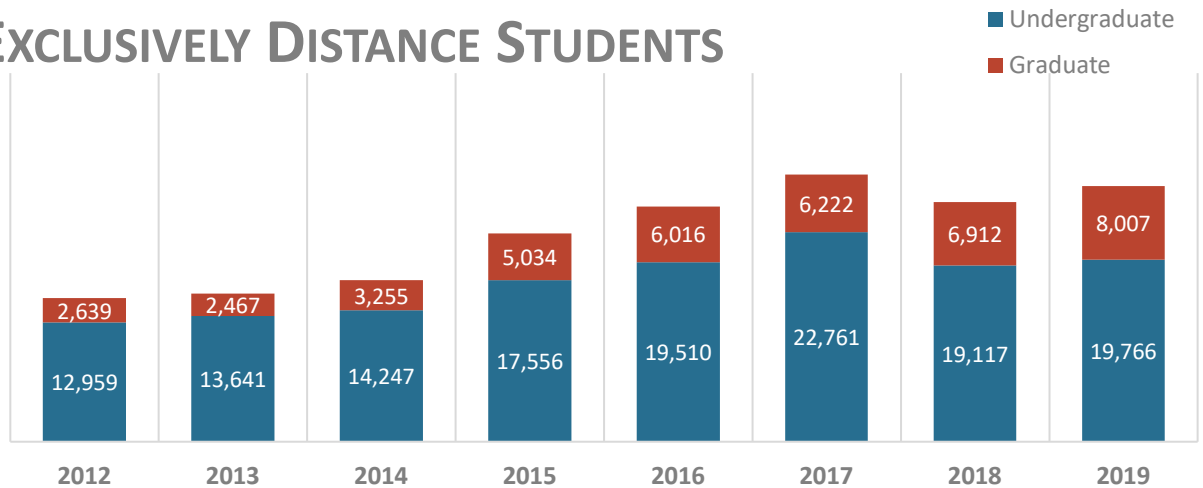
### SIZE



### TYPE

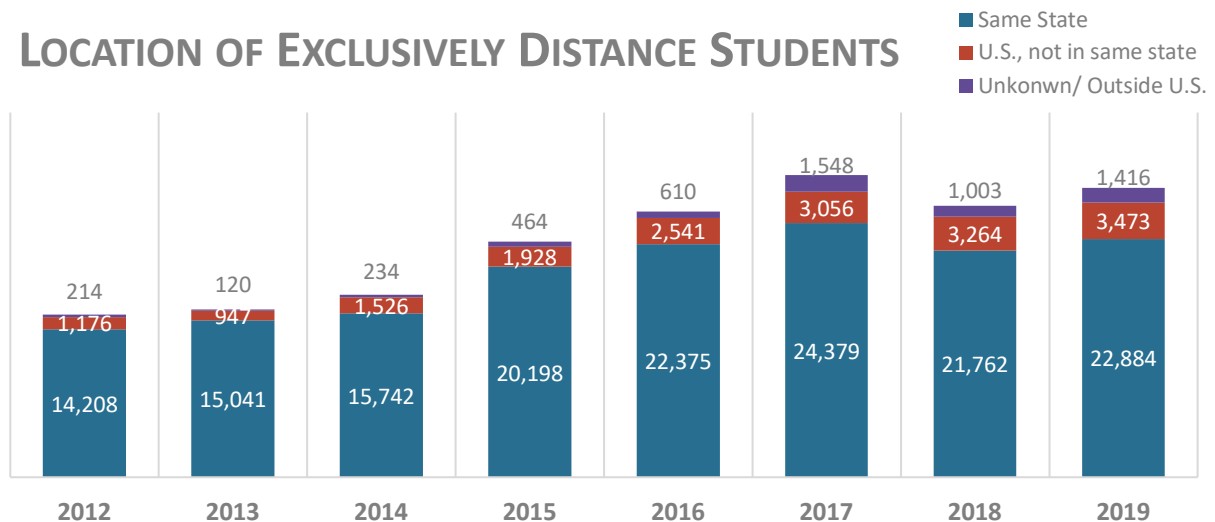


## EXCLUSIVELY DISTANCE STUDENTS

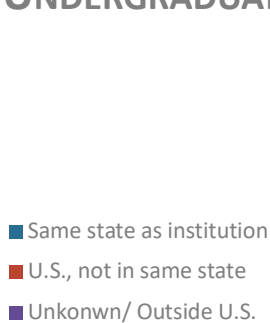


A total of 27,773 students were taking all of their courses at a distance from South Carolina institutions in the fall of 2019. This represents 11.5% of the enrolled students in the state, which ranks the state at number 41 in the U.S. The number of exclusively distance students who reside in South Carolina while taking courses from an institution in South Carolina was 14,208 in 2012 and grew to 22,884 by 2019. There are 4,889 students enrolled as exclusively distance students in South Carolina institutions who reside outside South Carolina, or whose place of residence is unknown.

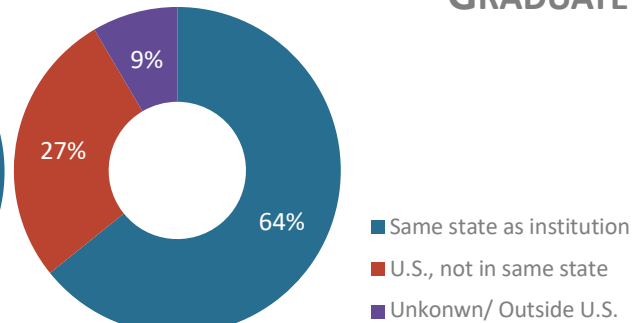
## LOCATION OF EXCLUSIVELY DISTANCE STUDENTS



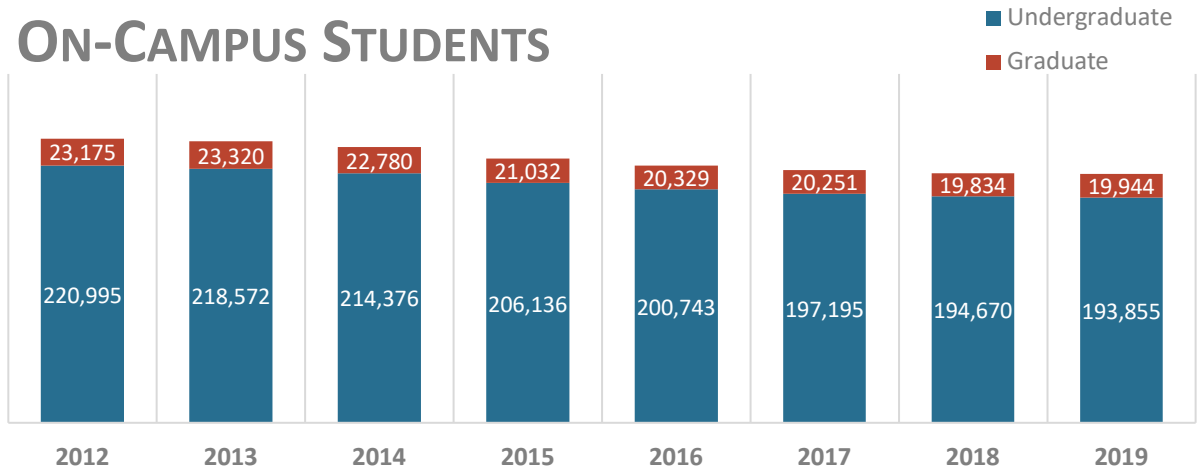
### UNDERGRADUATE



### GRADUATE

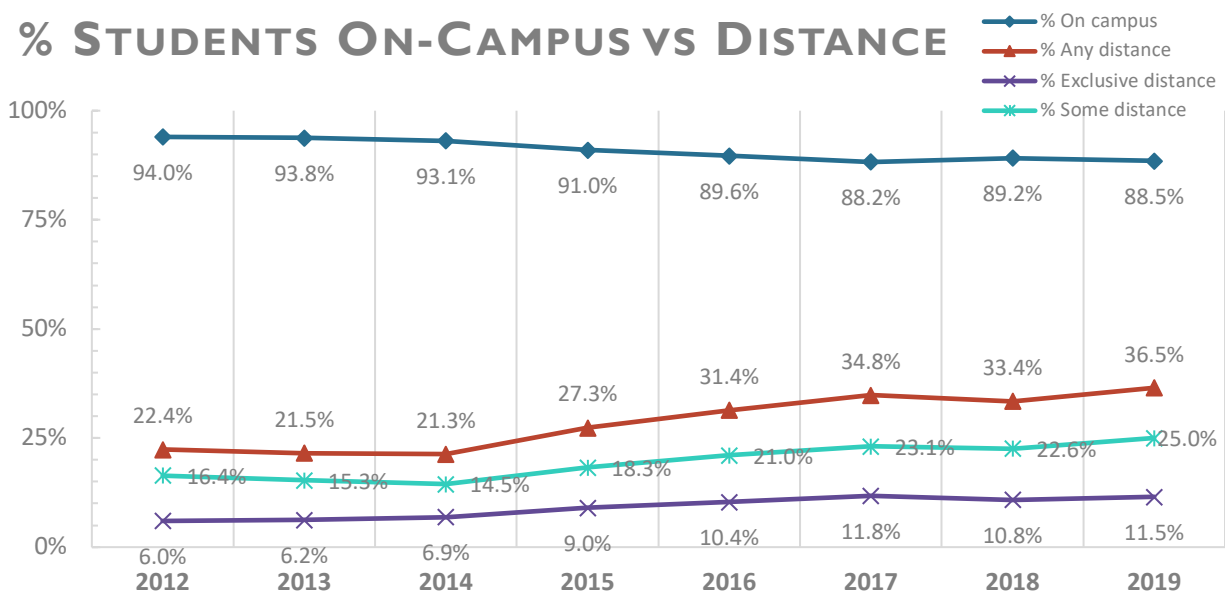


# ON-CAMPUS STUDENTS

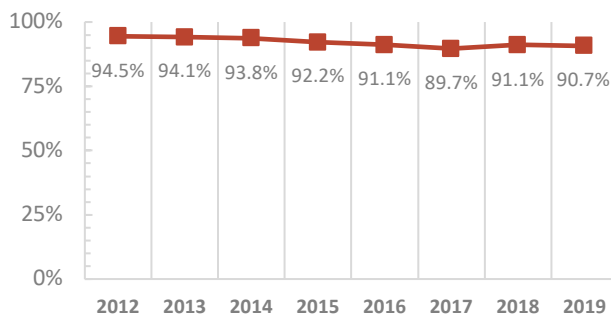


On-campus students are those who take one or more of their courses physically on-campus. The number of students studying on campus declined from 244,170 to 213,799 between 2012 and 2019 in South Carolina, representing a reduction of 12.4%. This compares to a national decrease of 10.3% for the same period. In 2019, 90.7% of undergraduate students and 71.4% of graduate students in South Carolina were taking at least one on-campus course.

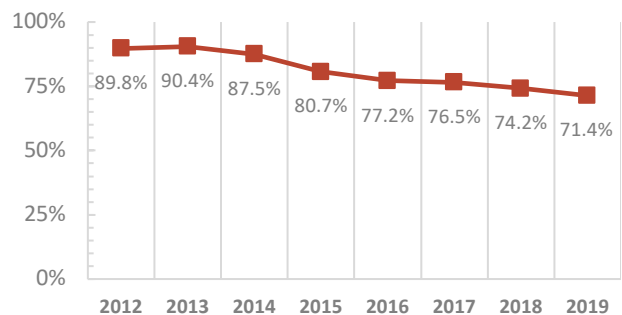
## % STUDENTS ON-CAMPUS VS DISTANCE



% ON-CAMPUS: UNDERGRADUATE



% ON-CAMPUS: GRADUATE





## INSTITUTIONS

	South Carolina	National	State Rank	State as % of National
<b>Total institutions</b>	66	4,089	41	1.6%
<b>Institutions w/ distance</b>	53	3,161	23	1.7%
<b>% Institution w/ distance</b>	80.3%	77.3%	24	

## ENROLLMENTS

South Carolina		Total	Any Distance	Exclusive Distance	On Campus
	<b>Total</b>	241,572	88,202	27,773	213,799
<b>Size</b>	<b>Under 1,000</b>	10,131	2,186	282	9,849
	<b>1,000 - 4,999</b>	91,533	35,222	15,671	75,862
	<b>5,000 - 9,999</b>	34,219	13,991	3,349	30,870
	<b>10,000 - 19,999</b>	44,503	18,067	4,933	39,570
	<b>20,000 and above</b>	61,186	18,736	3,538	57,648
<b>Carnegie</b>	<b>Not assigned</b>	4,658	3,438	3,020	1,638
	<b>Associates</b>	82,460	36,133	12,316	70,144
	<b>Research</b>	63,665	19,683	3,550	60,115
	<b>Masters</b>	44,952	17,018	4,409	40,543
	<b>Baccalaureate</b>	38,782	10,589	3,614	35,168
	<b>Specialized</b>	7,055	1,341	864	6,191
<b>Control</b>	<b>Public</b>	197,809	75,061	20,117	177,692
	<b>Private not-for-profit</b>	37,352	9,082	4,636	32,716
	<b>Private for-profit</b>	6,411	4,059	3,020	3,391
<b>Type</b>	<b>Four or more years</b>	169,873	56,699	17,119	152,754
	<b>At least 2 but less than 4 years</b>	71,699	31,503	10,654	61,045