

Distance Education State Almanac

TENNESSEE



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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.

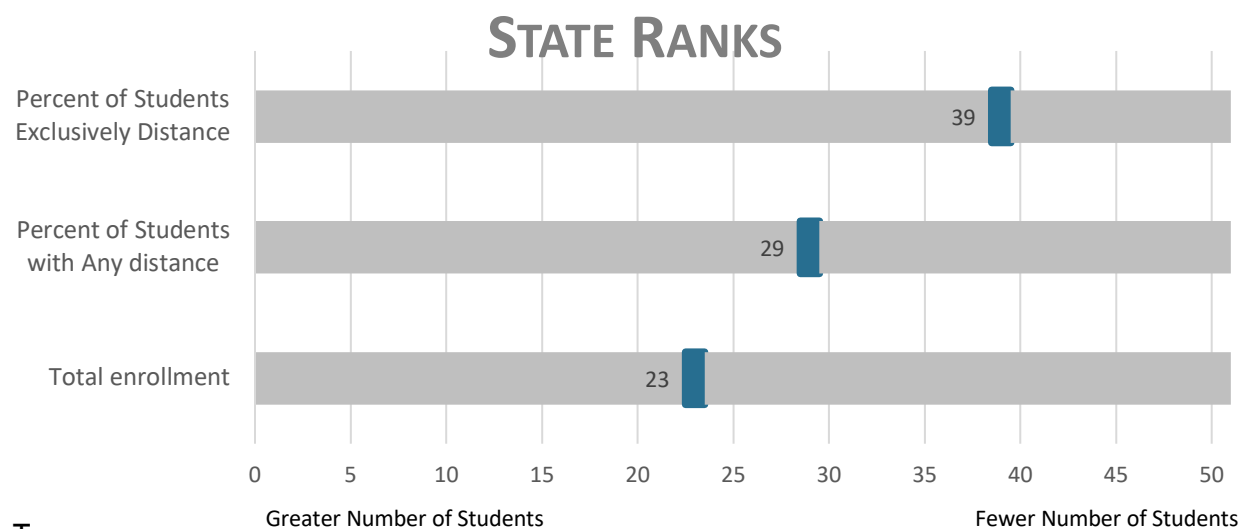
The information presented in the report represent the classifications and enrollments for Fall 2019 and were measured before the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. National totals include all 50 states, District of Columbia, America Samoa, Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, Marshall Islands, Northern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

Tennessee

Tennessee has 86 degree-granting higher education institutions, representing 2.1% of all such institutions in the United States. Of these institutions, 23 are classified as public, 45 as private not-for-profit, and 18 as private for-profit. Of these 86 institutions, 62 offer four-year programs, and 24 offer two-year programs.

The state has 323,086 students enrolled across its institutions and ranks 23rd in terms of total higher education student enrollment. Between 2012 and 2019, the total number of students enrolled nationally declined by 5.0%. For Tennessee, the enrollment decreased by 19,424 students, or -5.7%. Tennessee has 273,296 students studying at the undergraduate level, a loss of 21,160 students from 2012 (-7.2%), compared to a 6.8% national decline. There are 49,790 students studying at the graduate level, which is 1,736 greater than in 2012; this represents a change of 3.6%, where the national data showed an increase of 5.7%.

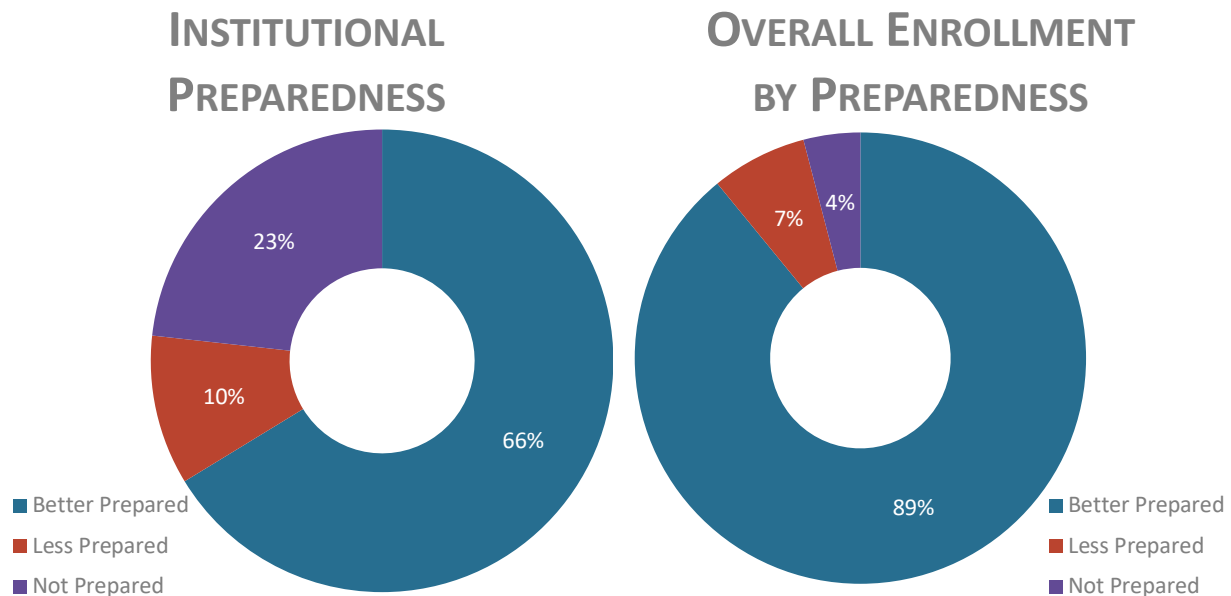
There are 123,356 students in Tennessee that take at least one distance course. The state is ranked 29th for the proportion of students taking at least one distance course (38.2%). In 2019, there were 41,319 students taking all of their courses at a distance, a growth of 20,640 students (99.8%) from 2012. Tennessee ranks 39th in the proportion of students (12.8%) 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.

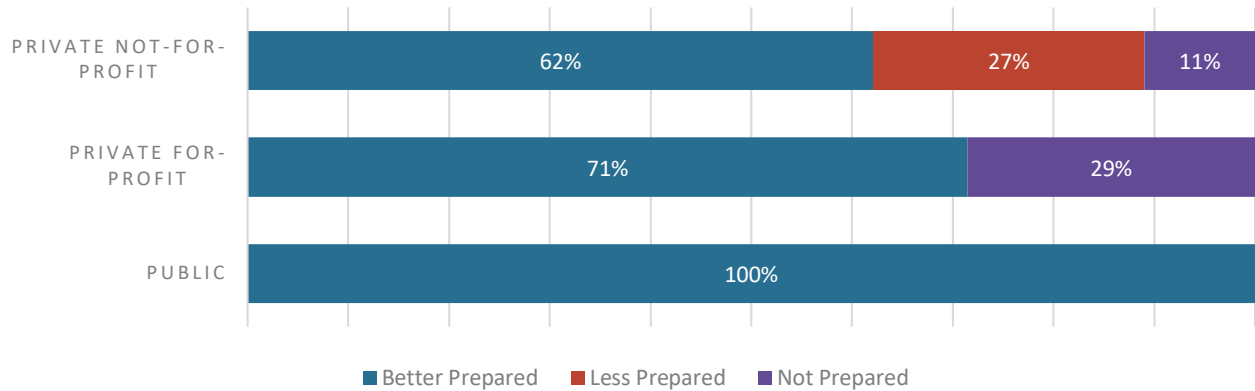
Nationally, 59.3% of all degree-granting institutions meet the criteria of having 25% or more or over 1,000 of their students taking distance courses. In Tennessee, 66.3% of institutions are better prepared for moving completely online. These institutions enroll 287,778 students, or 89.1% of all students in the state. There are 20 institutions in Tennessee with no distance students (representing 23.3% of the total in state institutions) that were likely not well prepared for a rapid transition to distance learning.



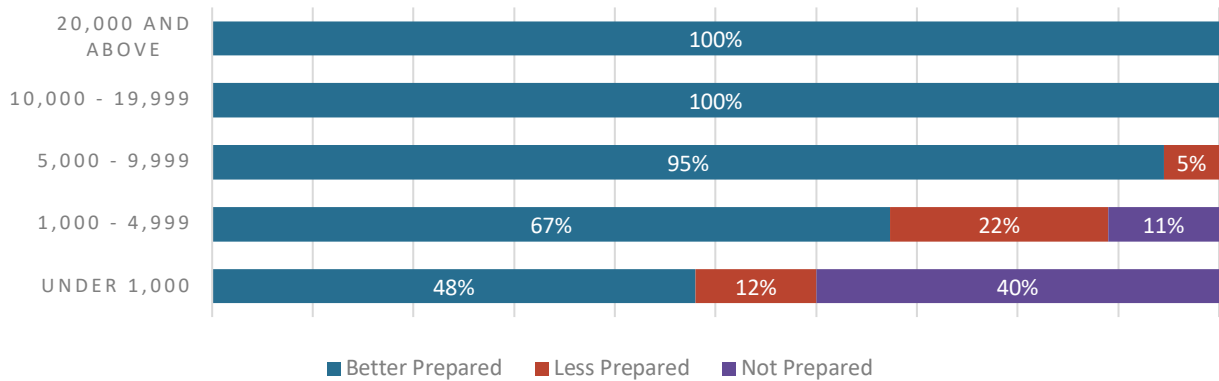
Preparedness Definitions:

- 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

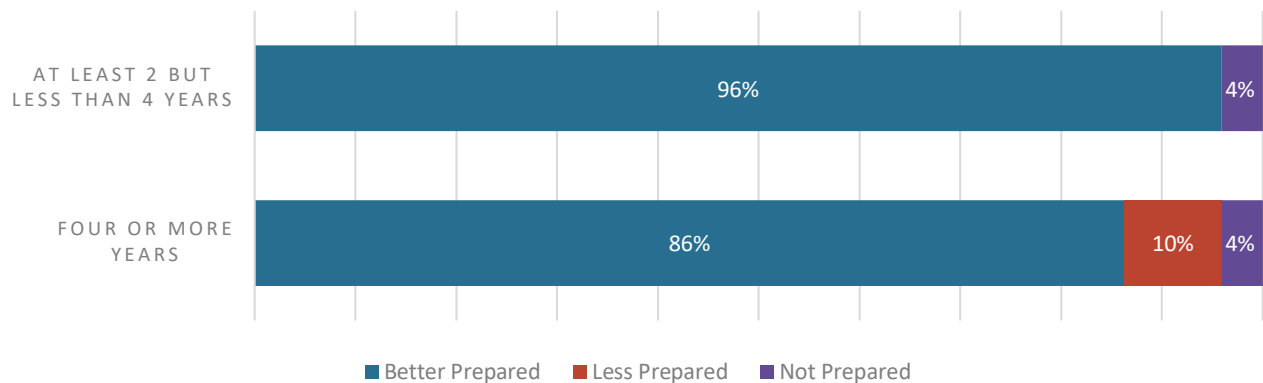
PREPAREDNESS BY CONTROL



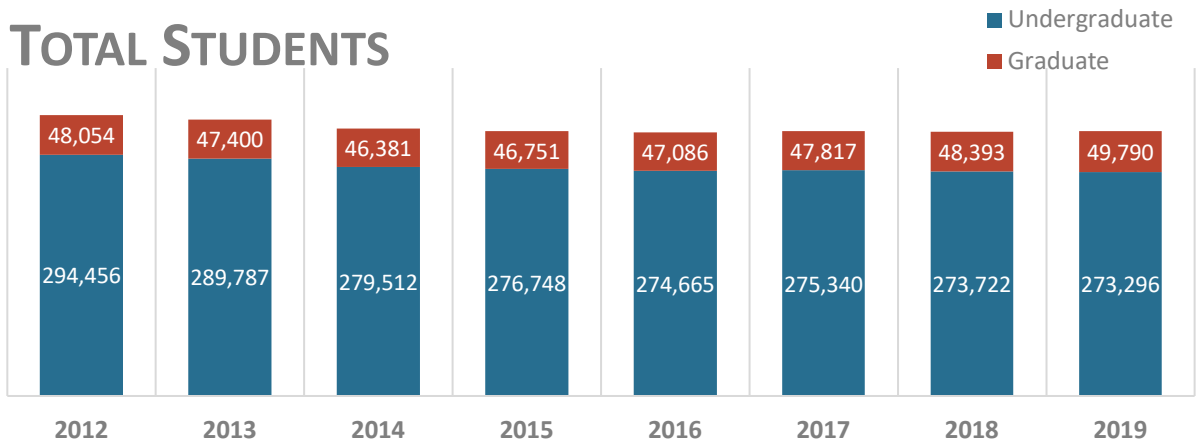
PREPAREDNESS BY SIZE



PREPAREDNESS BY TYPE



State Enrollment



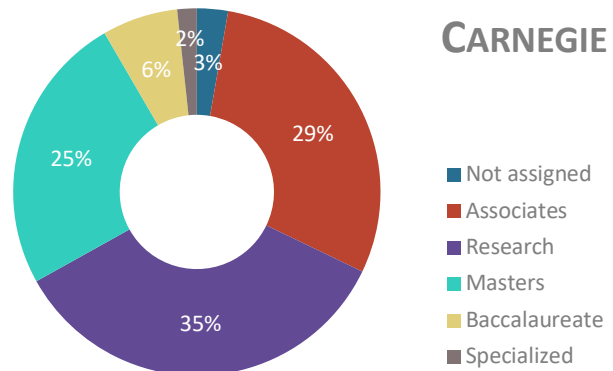
Institutions in Tennessee enrolled a total of 323,086 students in the of Fall 2019; 273,296 students were enrolled at the undergraduate level, and 49,790 enrolled at the graduate level. The Fall 2019 figure represents a decrease of 19,424 students (-5.7%) from the number enrolled in the fall of 2012. The number of undergraduate students decreased by 21,160 during this period, from 294,456 in 2012 to 273,296 in 2019 (-7.2%). The number of graduate students increased from 48,054 to 49,790 (3.6%) in the same period.

Enrollments in Fall 2019 totaled 226,346 students at public institutions (70% of all students), 82,380 students at private not-for-profit institutions (25.5%), and 14,360 students at private for-profit institutions (4.4%). Enrollments at public institutions decreased by 8,664 students between 2012 and 2019, while those at private not-for-profit institutions increased by 532 students, and those at private for-profit institutions decreased by 11,292 students.

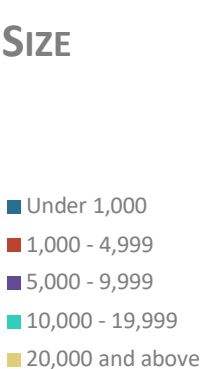
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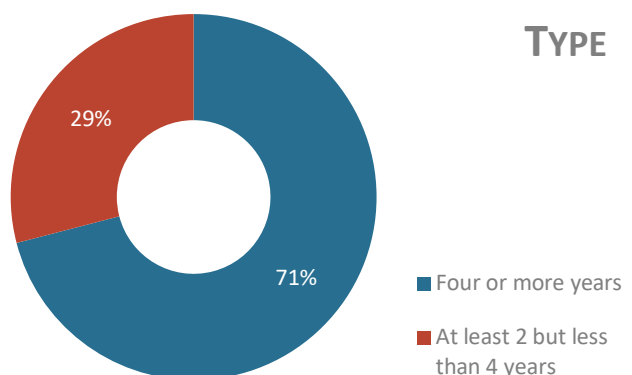
CARNEGIE



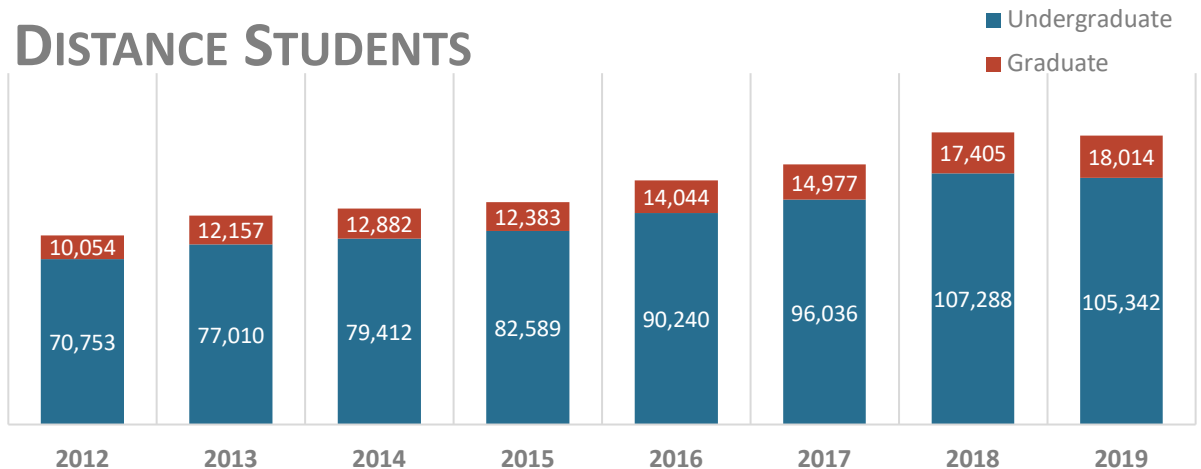
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TYPE



DISTANCE STUDENTS

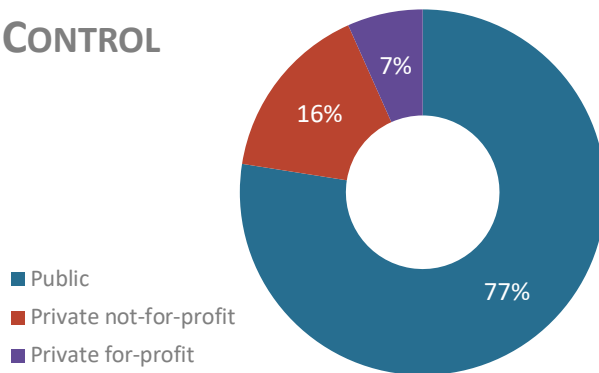


In 2019, a total of 123,356 students took at least one distance course from Tennessee institutions; 105,342 (38.5% of all undergraduate students) were enrolled at the undergraduate level, and 18,014 (36.2% of all graduate students) were enrolled at the graduate level.

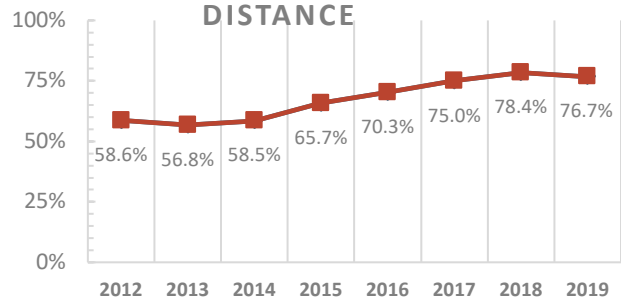
Among undergraduate level distance students, 85,159 were enrolled at institutions classified as public, 12,712 as private not-for-profit, and 7,471 as private for profit. At the graduate-level, 10,422 distance students were enrolled at institutions classified as public, 6,827 as private not-for-profit, and 765 as private for profit.

The number of undergraduate distance enrollments at Tennessee institutions increased by 34,589 (48.9%) between Fall 2012 and Fall 2019, while the number of graduate distance enrollments grew by 7,960 (79.2%) during this same period.

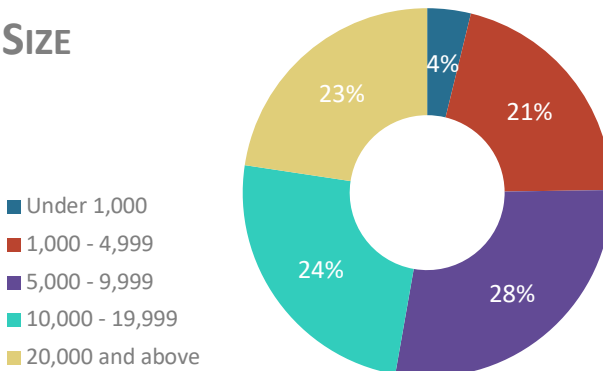
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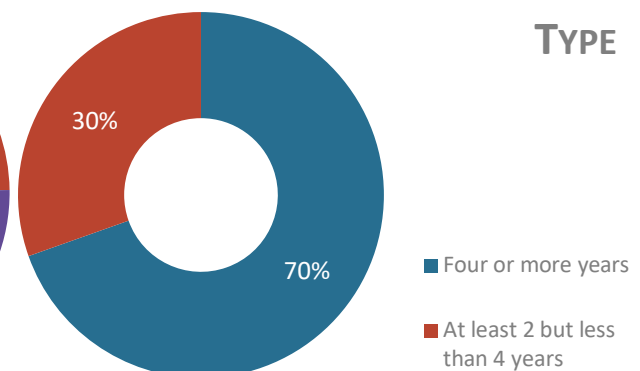
% INSTITUTIONS WITH DISTANCE



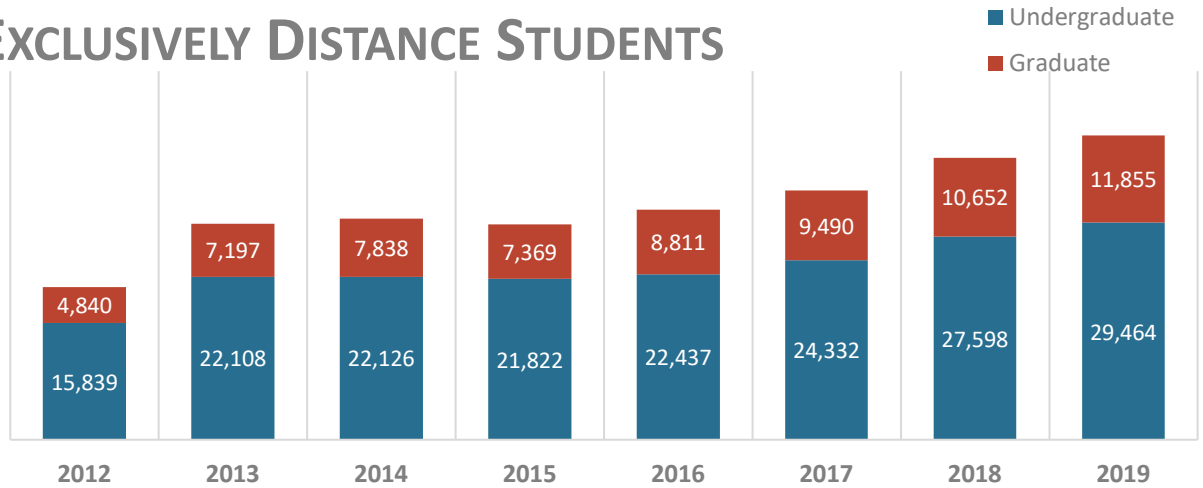
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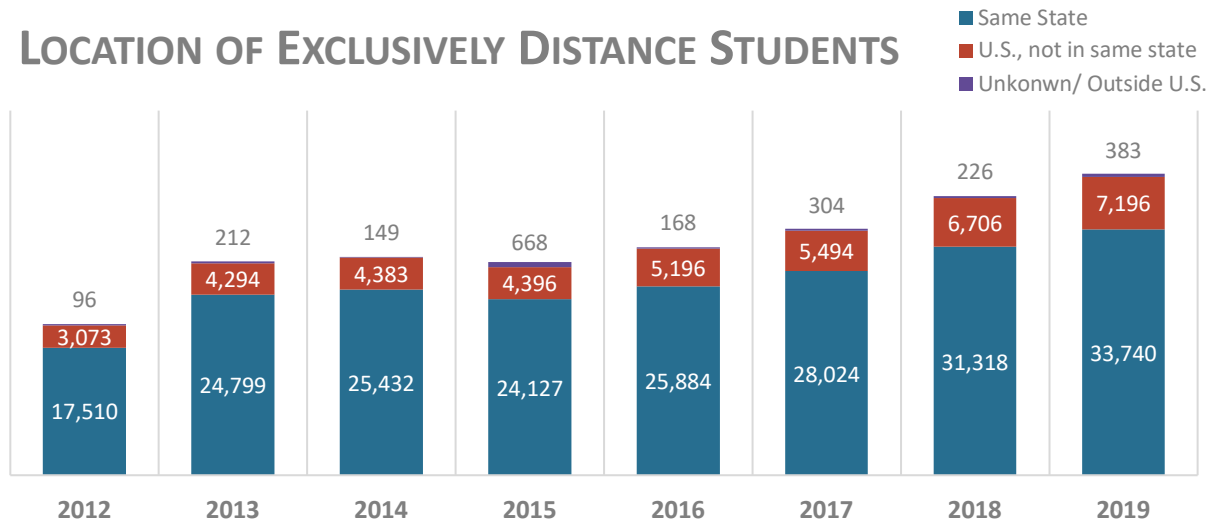


EXCLUSIVELY DISTANCE STUDENTS

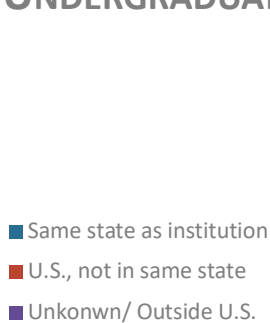


A total of 41,319 students were taking all of their courses at a distance from Tennessee institutions in the fall of 2019. This represents 12.8% of the enrolled students in the state, which ranks the state at number 39 in the U.S. The number of exclusively distance students who reside in Tennessee while taking courses from an institution in Tennessee was 17,510 in 2012 and grew to 33,740 by 2019. There are 7,579 students enrolled as exclusively distance students in Tennessee institutions who reside outside Tennessee, or whose place of residence is unknown.

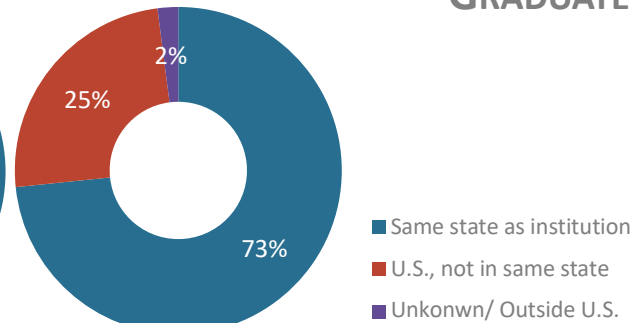
LOCATION OF EXCLUSIVELY DISTANCE STUDENTS



UNDERGRADUATE

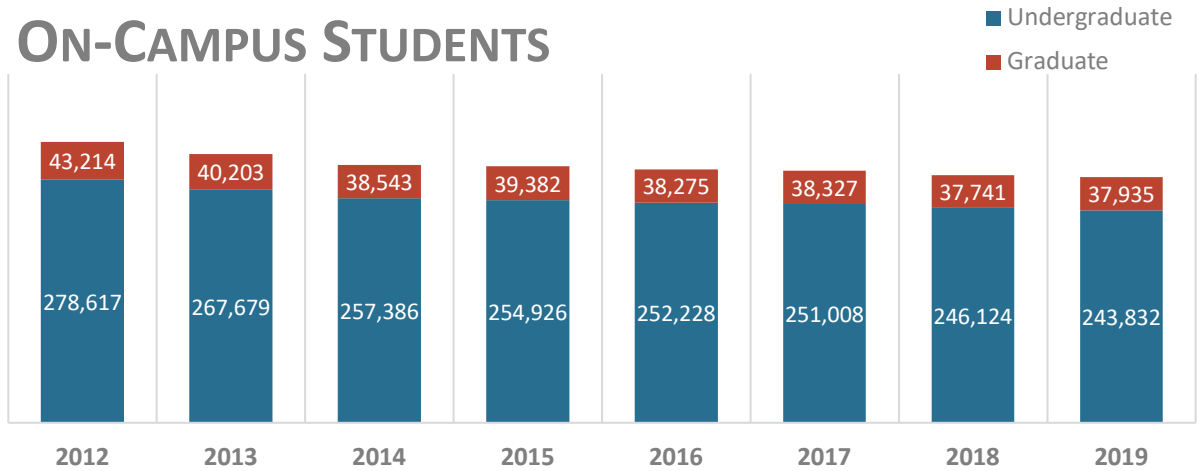


GRADUATE



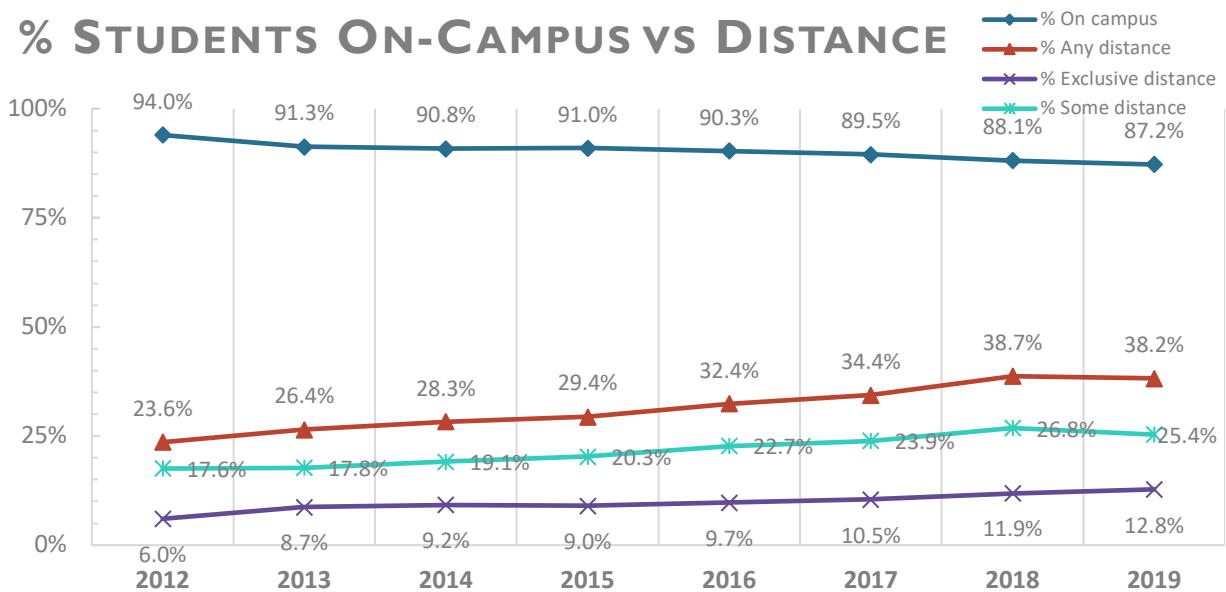
On-Campus Enrollment

ON-CAMPUS STUDENTS

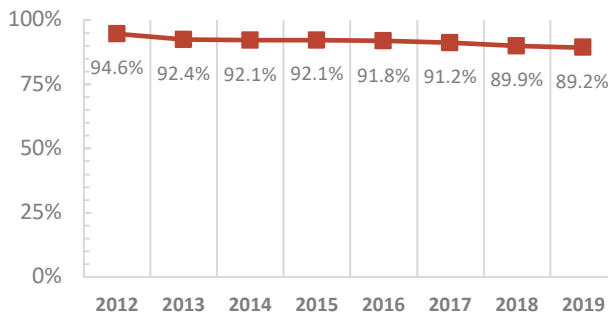


On-campus students are those who take one or more of their courses physically on-campus. The number of students studying on campus declined from 321,831 to 281,767 between 2012 and 2019 in Tennessee, representing a reduction of 12.4%. This compares to a national decrease of 10.3% for the same period. In 2019, 89.2% of undergraduate students and 76.2% of graduate students in Tennessee were taking at least one on-campus course.

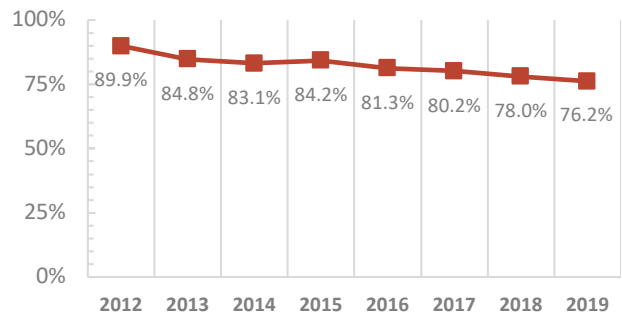
% STUDENTS ON-CAMPUS VS DISTANCE



% ON-CAMPUS: UNDERGRADUATE



% ON-CAMPUS: GRADUATE



INSTITUTIONS

	Tennessee	National	State Rank	State as % of National
Total institutions	86	4,089	3	2.1%
Institutions w/ distance	66	3,161	15	2.1%
% Institution w/ distance	76.7%	77.3%	15	

ENROLLMENTS

Tennessee		Total	Any Distance	Exclusive Distance	On Campus
	Total	323,086	123,356	41,319	281,767
Size	Under 1,000	13,269	4,707	1,561	11,708
	1,000 - 4,999	71,072	25,853	13,826	57,246
	5,000 - 9,999	95,024	34,534	12,155	82,869
	10,000 - 19,999	70,855	30,360	7,684	63,171
	20,000 and above	72,866	27,902	6,093	66,773
Carnegie	Not assigned	8,838	6,442	4,317	4,521
	Associates	94,997	38,632	13,347	81,650
	Research	112,357	40,575	10,837	101,520
	Masters	79,821	30,327	10,062	69,759
	Baccalaureate	21,527	5,725	1,895	19,632
	Specialized	5,546	1,655	861	4,685
Control	Public	226,346	95,581	26,614	199,732
	Private not-for-profit	82,380	19,539	9,560	72,820
	Private for-profit	14,360	8,236	5,145	9,215
Type	Four or more years	229,255	85,828	28,602	200,653
	At least 2 but less than 4 years	93,831	37,528	12,717	81,114