Distance Education State Almanac

VIRGINIA

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ONLINE LEARNING CONSORTIUM

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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.

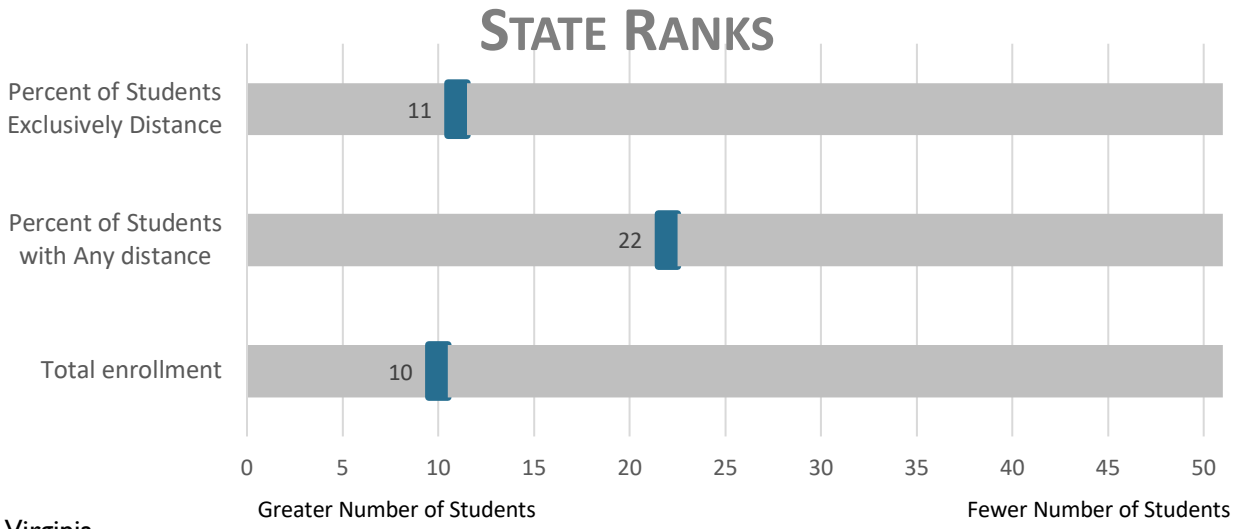
The information presented in the report represent the classifications and enrollments for Fall 2019 and were measured before the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. National totals include all 50 states, District of Columbia, America Samoa, Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, Marshall Islands, Northern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

Virginia

Virginia has 111 degree-granting higher education institutions, representing 2.7% of all such institutions in the United States. Of these institutions, 40 are classified as public, 41 as private not-for-profit, and 30 as private for-profit. Of these 111 institutions, 71 offer four-year programs, and 40 offer two-year programs.

The state has 557,368 students enrolled across its institutions and ranks 10th in terms of total higher education student enrollment. Between 2012 and 2019, the total number of students enrolled nationally declined by 5.0%. For Virginia, the enrollment decreased by 31,946 students, or -5.4%. Virginia has 449,343 students studying at the undergraduate level, a loss of 43,604 students from 2012 (-8.8%), compared to a 6.8% national decline. There are 108,025 students studying at the graduate level, which is 11,658 greater than in 2012; this represents a change of 12.1%, where the national data showed an increase of 5.7%.

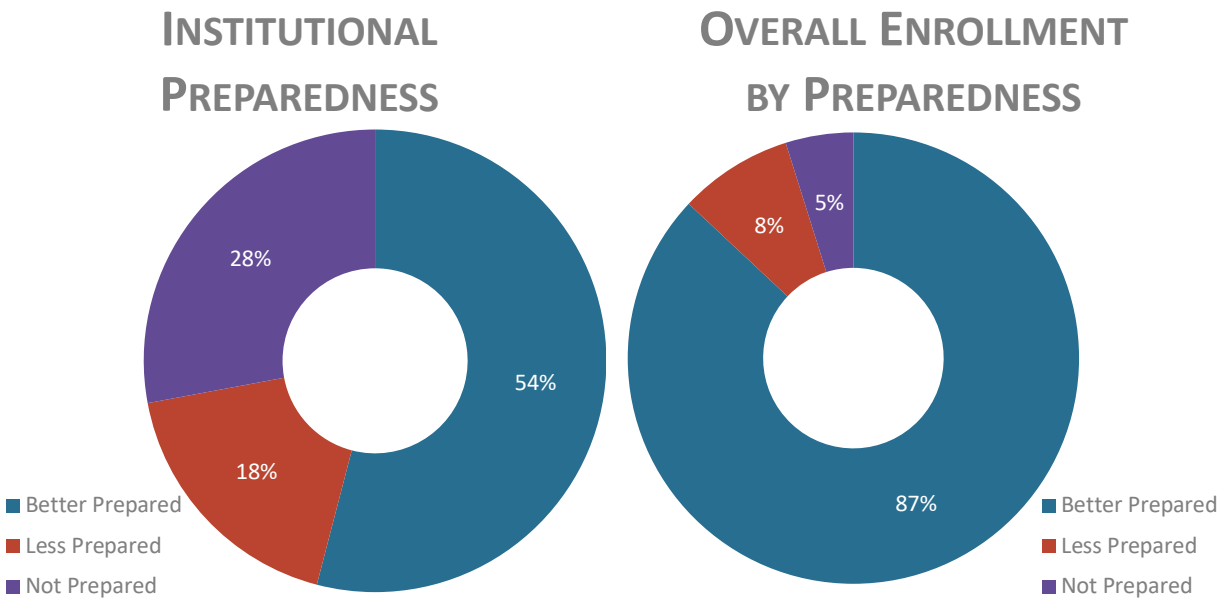
There are 233,105 students in Virginia that take at least one distance course. The state is ranked 22nd for the proportion of students taking at least one distance course (41.8%). In 2019, there were 131,492 students taking all of their courses at a distance, a growth of 21,565 students (19.6%) from 2012. Virginia ranks 11th in the proportion of students (23.6%) 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.

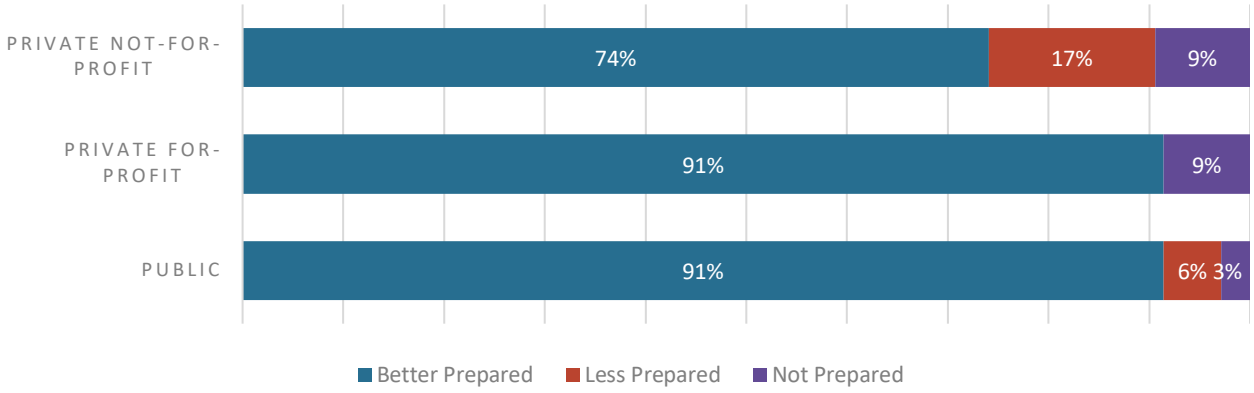
Nationally, 59.3% of all degree-granting institutions meet the criteria of having 25% or more or over 1,000 of their students taking distance courses. In Virginia, 54.1% of institutions are better prepared for moving completely online. These institutions enroll 484,819 students, or 87.0% of all students in the state. There are 31 institutions in Virginia with no distance students (representing 27.9% of the total in state institutions) that were likely not well prepared for a rapid transition to distance learning.



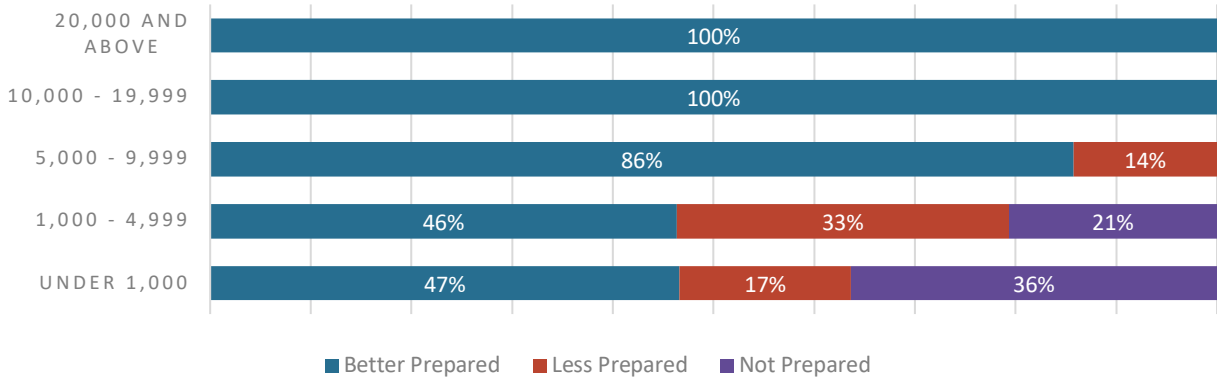
Preparedness Definitions:

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

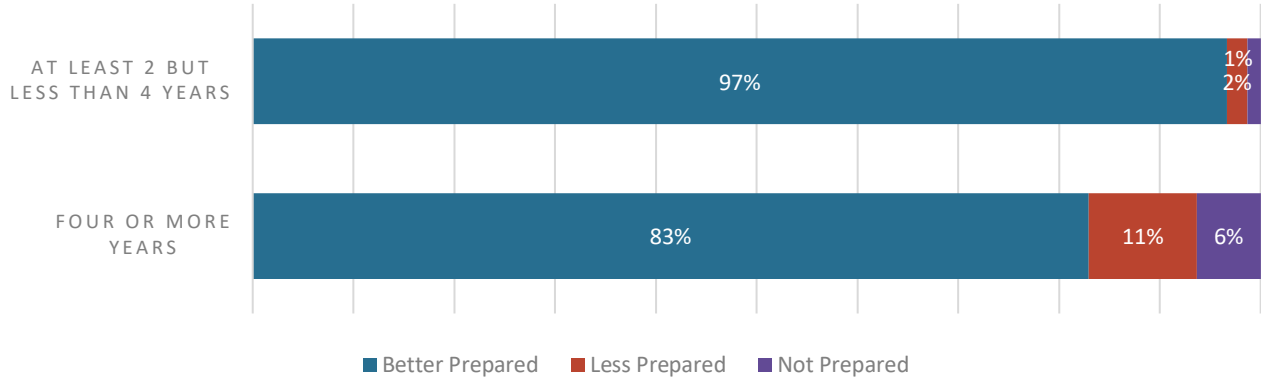
Preparedness by Control

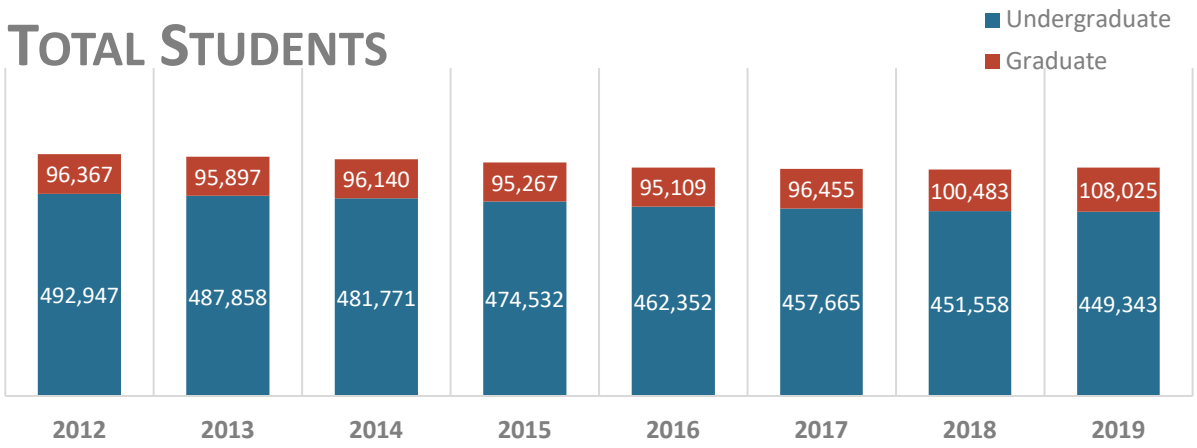


Preparedness by Size



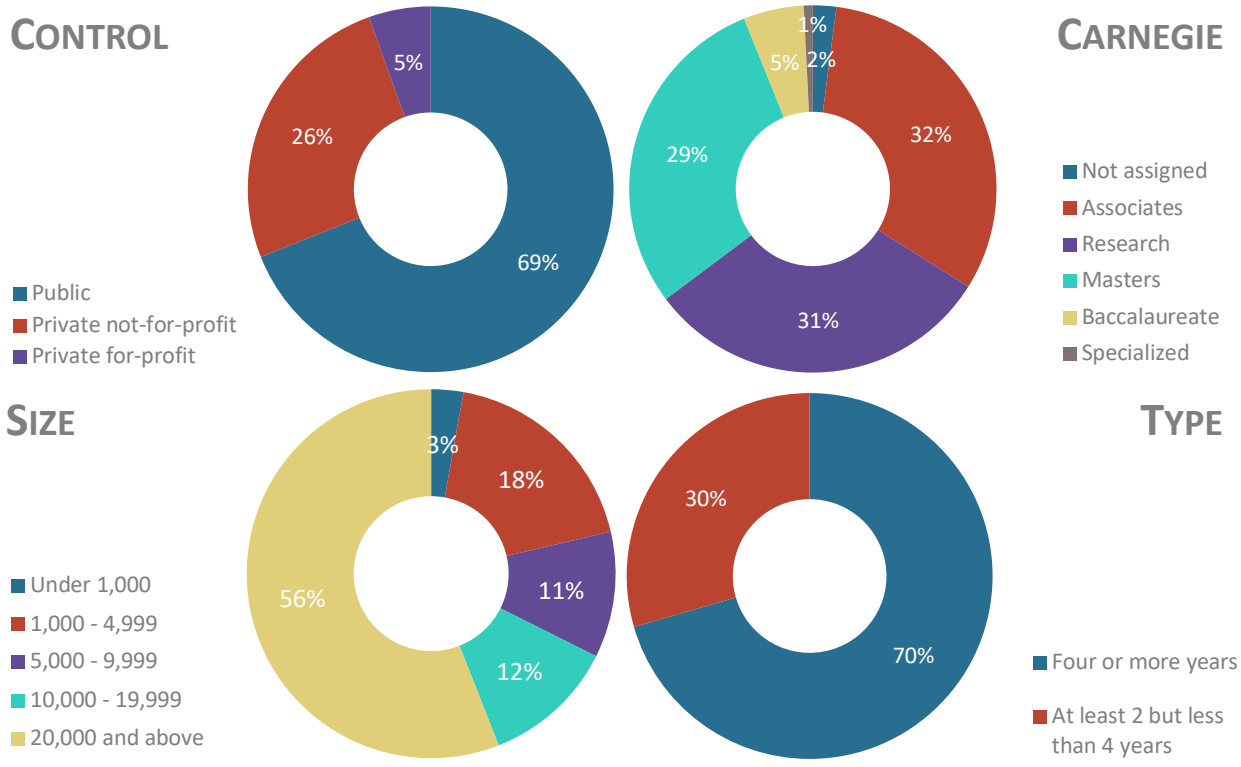
Preparedness by Type

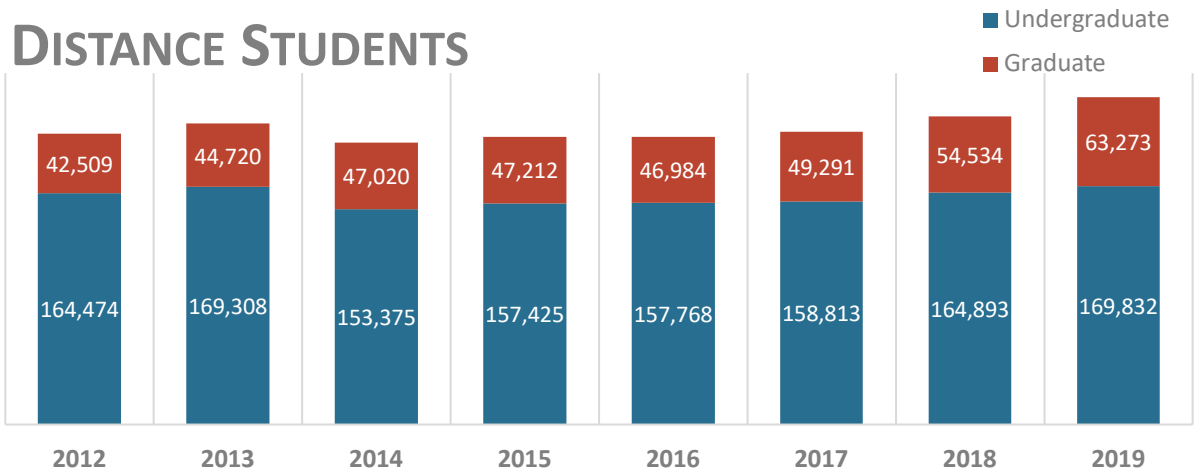




Institutions in Virginia enrolled a total of 557,368 students in the of Fall 2019; 449,343 students were enrolled at the undergraduate level, and 108,025 enrolled at the graduate level. The Fall 2019 figure represents a decrease of 31,946 students (-5.4%) from the number enrolled in the fall of 2012. The number of undergraduate students decreased by 43,604 during this period, from 492,947 in 2012 to 449,343 in 2019 (-8.8%). The number of graduate students increased from 96,367 to 108,025 (12.1%) in the same period.

Enrollments in Fall 2019 totaled 384,393 students at public institutions (69% of all students), 142,429 students at private not-for-profit institutions (25.6%), and 30,546 students at private for-profit institutions (5.5%). Enrollments at public institutions decreased by 25,360 students between 2012 and 2019, while those at private not-for-profit institutions increased by 13,883 students, and those at private for-profit institutions decreased by 20,469 students.

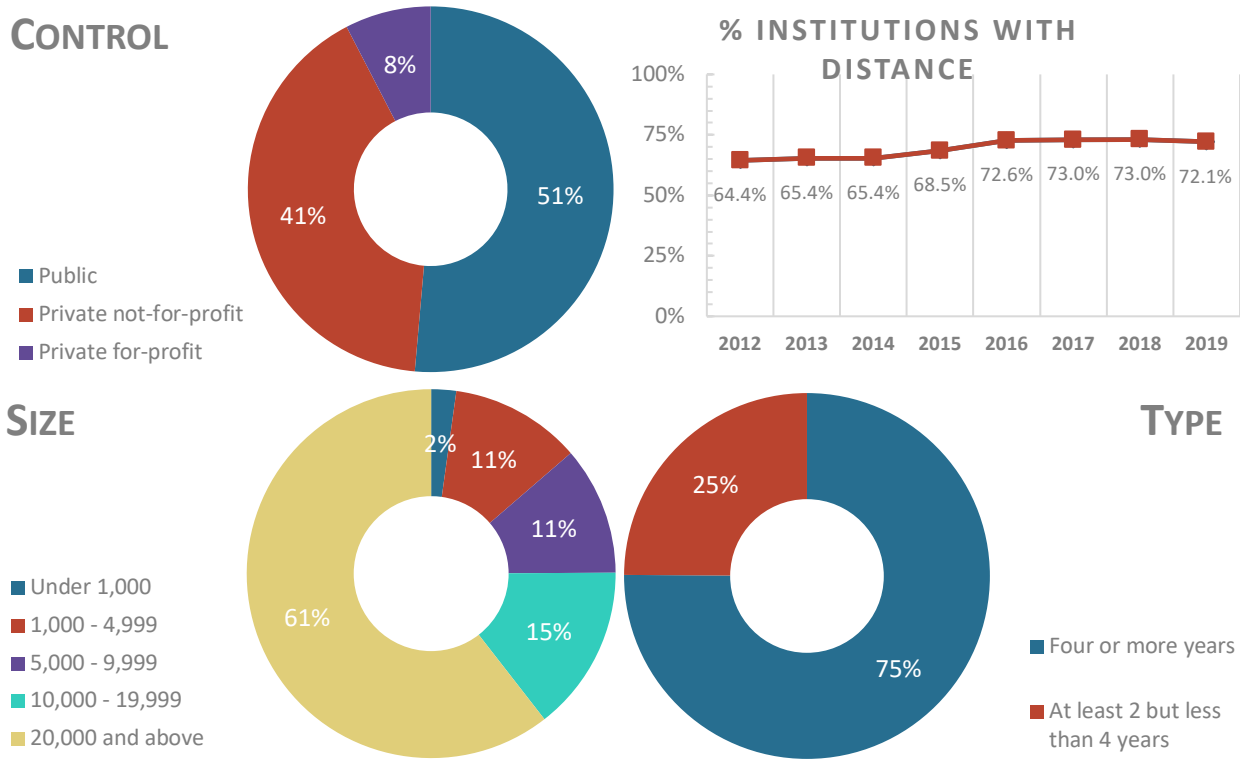




In 2019, a total of 233,105 students took at least one distance course from Virginia institutions; 169,832 (37.8% of all undergraduate students) were enrolled at the undergraduate level, and 63,273 (58.6% of all graduate students) were enrolled at the graduate level.

Among undergraduate level distance students, 104,832 were enrolled at institutions classified as public, 49,500 as private not-for-profit, and 15,500 as private for profit. At the graduate-level, 14,956 distance students were enrolled at institutions classified as public, 46,091 as private not-for-profit, and 2,226 as private for profit.

The number of undergraduate distance enrollments at Virginia institutions increased by 5,358 (3.3%) between Fall 2012 and Fall 2019, while the number of graduate distance enrollments grew by 20,764 (48.8%) during this same period.



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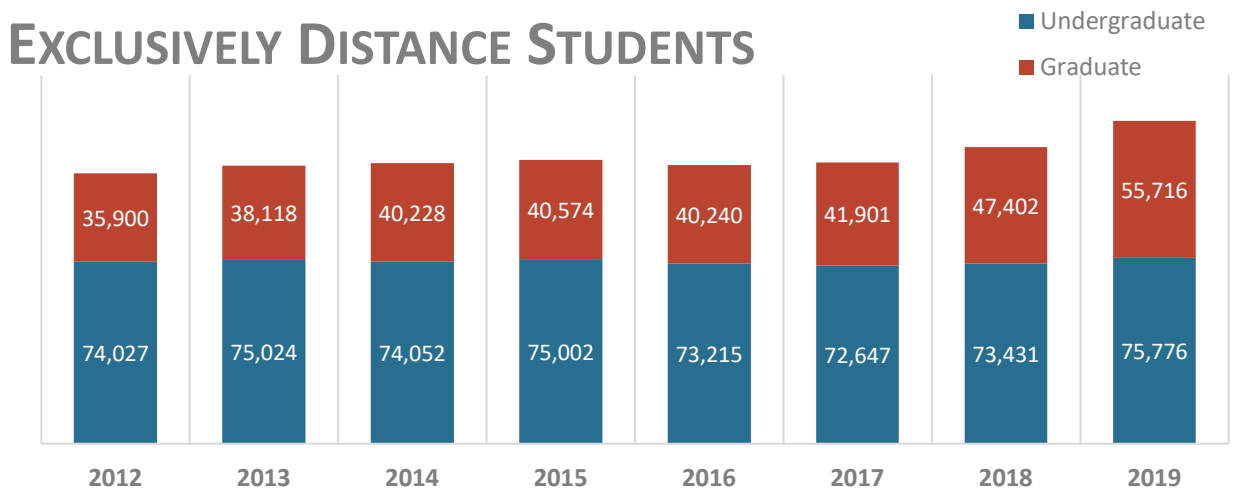
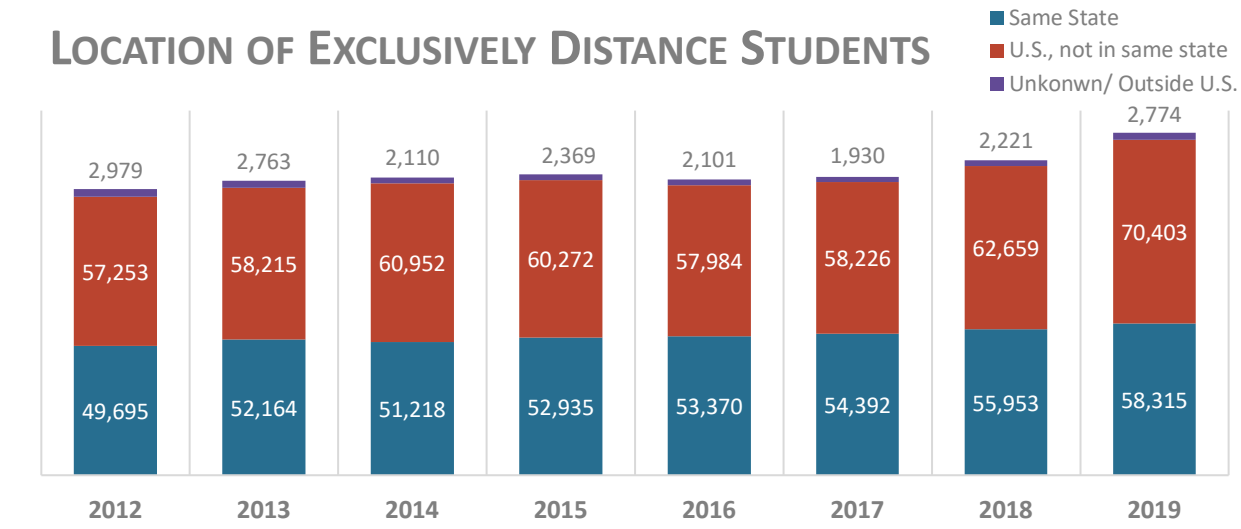
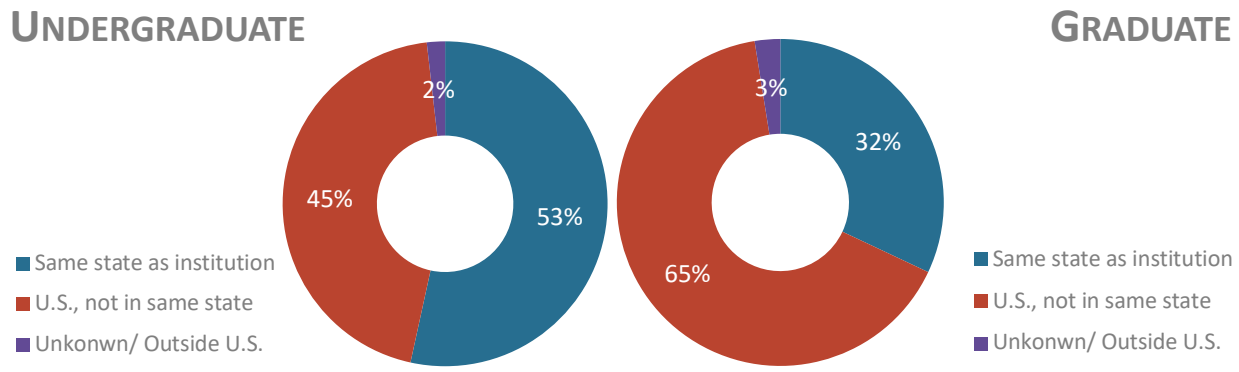
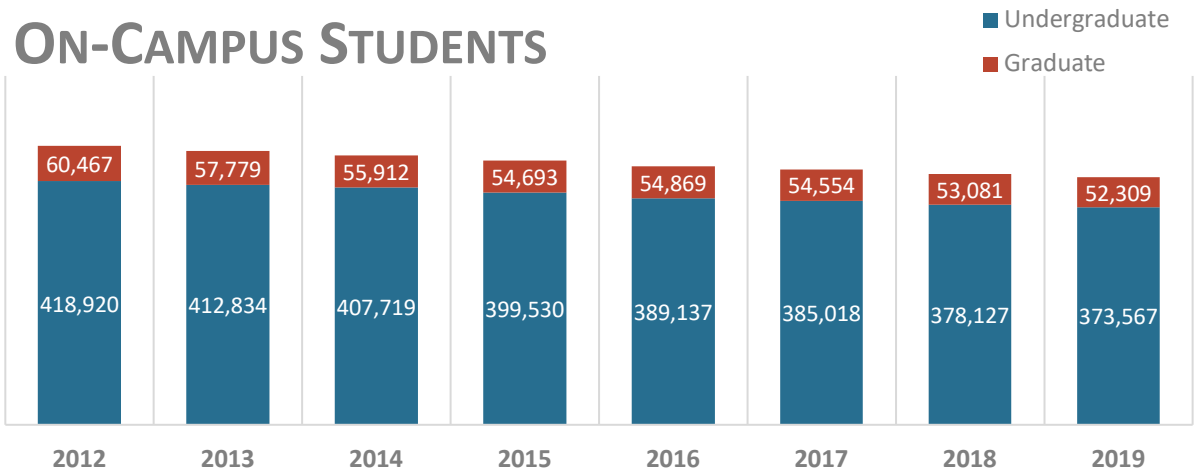


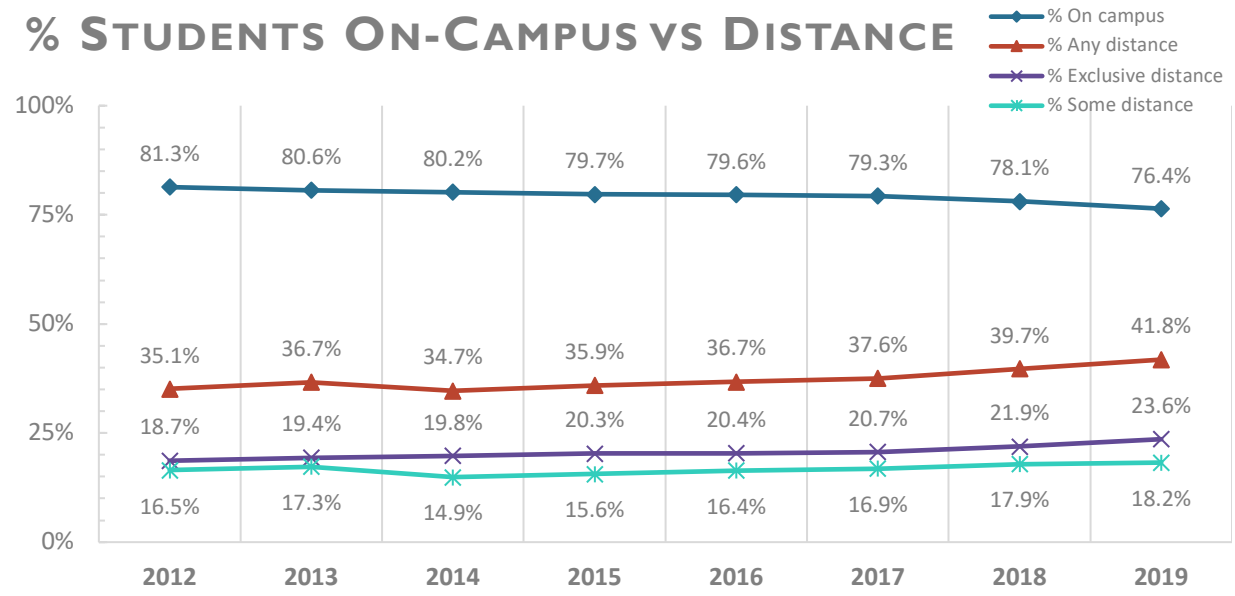
A total of 131,492 students were taking all of their courses at a distance from Virginia institutions in the fall of 2019. This represents 23.6% of the enrolled students in the state, which ranks the state at number 11 in the U.S. The number of exclusively distance students who reside in Virginia while taking courses from an institution in Virginia was 49,695 in 2012 and grew to 58,315 by 2019. There are 73,177 students enrolled as exclusively distance students in Virginia institutions who reside outside Virginia, or whose place of residence is unknown.

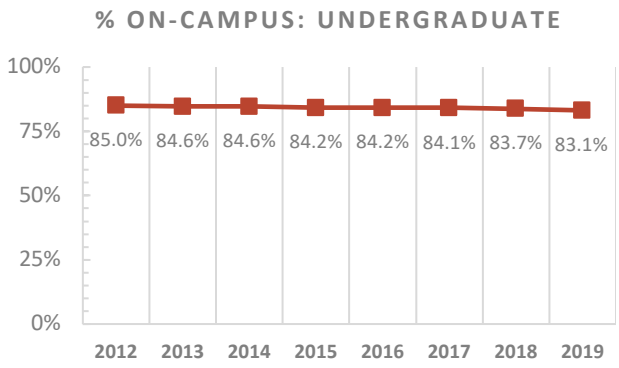


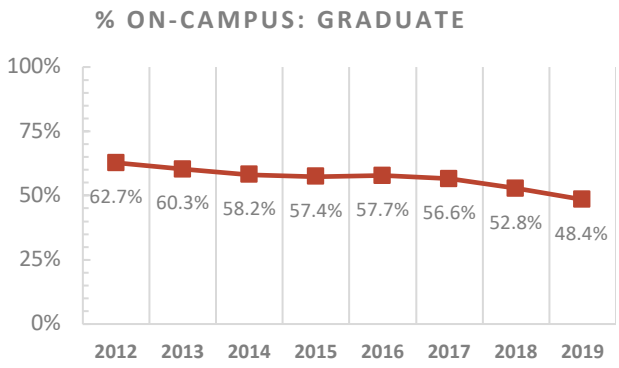




On-campus students are those who take one or more of their courses physically on-campus. The number of students studying on campus declined from 479,387 to 425,876 between 2012 and 2019 in Virginia, representing a reduction of 11.2%. This compares to a national decrease of 10.3% for the same period. In 2019, 83.1% of undergraduate students and 48.4% of graduate students in Virginia were taking at least one on-campus course.







INSTITUTIONS

	Virginia	National	State Rank	State as % of National
Total institutions	111	4,089	18	2.7%
Institutions w/ distance	80	3,161	12	2.5%
% Institution w/ distance	72.1%	77.3%	13	

ENROLLMENTS

Virginia		Total	Any Distance	Exclusive Distance	On Campus
Total		557,368	233,105	131,492	425,876
Size	**Under 1,000**	15,650	5,095	2,243	13,407
	1,000 - 4,999	103,301	26,755	10,642	92,659
	5,000 - 9,999	61,561	26,237	11,393	50,168
	10,000 - 19,999	64,938	33,927	19,383	45,555
	20,000 and above	311,918	141,091	87,831	224,087
Carnegie	**Not assigned**	11,452	7,655	5,246	6,206
	Associates	177,679	65,550	25,413	152,266
	Research	171,828	59,044	20,338	151,490
	Masters	162,364	96,301	78,230	84,134
	Baccalaureate	29,620	3,921	1,763	27,857
	Specialized	4,425	634	502	3,923
Control	**Public**	384,393	119,788	38,937	345,456
	Private not-for-profit	142,429	95,591	83,226	59,203
	Private for-profit	30,546	17,726	9,329	21,217
Type	**Four or more years**	392,940	175,046	109,536	283,404
	At least 2 but less than 4 years	164,428	58,059	21,956	142,472