NC-SARA’s 6th annual data report and dataset shed light on the ways higher education continues to evolve and change in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, resulting in more students enrolling in distance education courses during the Fall 2020. NC-SARA distance education enrollment reporting includes only students enrolled exclusively in distance education courses.

Almost a third (1,888,067) of students enrolled exclusively in distance education courses attended institutions out-of-state in Fall 2020 up from 1,395,756 in Fall 2019.

Most students (3,937,656) enrolled exclusively in distance education courses attended institutions in their own state – more than double the number of in-state enrollments in 2019 (1,621,188).

The number of out-of-state learning placements (OOSLP) for calendar year 2020 was 261,275, a decrease of 3.9% from 271,784 reported in 2019.

The number of institutions participating in SARA has continued to increase, with 113 more institutions reporting in 2020 than in 2019.
PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS CONTINUE TO COM普RISO MAJORITY OF EXCLUSIVELY DISTANCE EDUCATION ENROLLMENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Enrollments</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>Year Over Year Increase</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public</td>
<td>3,873,286</td>
<td>1,589,719</td>
<td>144%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tribal</td>
<td>1,034</td>
<td>499</td>
<td>107%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private Non-Profit</td>
<td>1,362,700</td>
<td>924,463</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private For-Profit</td>
<td>588,703</td>
<td>502,263</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

HEALTHCARE PROGRAMS REMAIN MOST PREVALENT OOSLP

The largest out-of-state learning placements (OOSLP) were in healthcare-related programs (56.5%), followed by education (10.3%) and business (5.2%). The remaining 28% of OOSLPs were in a variety of fields, such as engineering and social sciences.

SARA Institutions’ Perspectives on the Pandemic

NC-SARA issued a voluntary survey in 2021 to gather additional insights into how the distance education offerings at SARA-participating institutions may have evolved or changed as a result of the pandemic. The survey was delivered to all 2,201 SARA-participating institutions and had a response rate of 32%.

Some Students Able to Participate in Virtual Learning Placements

53% of survey respondents from SARA-participating institutions reported students were able to participate in virtual learning placements (e.g., internships, experiential learning programs, clinical placements) in 2020.

INSTITUTIONS REPORT DISTANCE EDUCATION LIKELY TO CONTINUE POST-PANDEMIC

85% Moved courses to emergency remote learning in Fall 2020 because of the pandemic
59% Plan to continue some or all of their emergency remote learning offerings via distance education after the pandemic

Only 15% Stayed In-Person

Just 15% of respondents did not move any classes online, the majority of which were small private non-profit institutions or whose offerings were already all online.

Interested in diving deeper into the data? Check out our interactive dashboards at www.nc-sara.org/data-dashboards.