

ONLINE HIGHER EDUCATION SERIES

DISTANCE EDUCATION ENROLLMENTS AT BIG TEN INSTITUTIONS AND IN WASHINGTON STATE

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INTRODUCTION

Meeting the educational needs of today's learners requires flexible, learner-centered options that align with their evolving expectations.¹ For institutions, online programs are not only a way to reach new students but also an avenue to provide flexibility for current learners and to remain competitive in an increasingly online landscape.

Across the United States (U.S.), distance education (DE), which is predominantly delivered online, is increasingly shaping how students participate in higher education. In Fall 2023, more than 53% of higher education students in the country were enrolled in at least one DE course, and over one-quarter were enrolled exclusively in DE.² These national figures, however, mask state-level variation. In Washington state, for example, only 42% of students were enrolled in at least one DE course in Fall 2023, while one-fifth were enrolled exclusively in DE.³

As the first publication in a broader series on online education, this research brief establishes a baseline for understanding enrollment trends. It draws on two complementary Fall 2023 data sources:

1. *National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (NC-SARA)*, which reports student-level enrollment in exclusively DE courses, distinguishing between in-state and out-of-state participation.
2. *Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS)*, which reports institution-level DE enrollment at both undergraduate and graduate levels, including students enrolled exclusively in DE and those taking only some DE courses.

After an overview of the national DE landscape, this brief turns to two areas of focus. The first area of focus is the Big Ten Academic Alliance (BTAA), a consortium of 18 large research-intensive public and private universities. The second focus is DE in Washington state, home to the University of Washington, a BTAA member institution. Together, these perspectives establish a baseline for understanding how distance education is reshaping enrollment patterns at the national, institutional, and state levels.

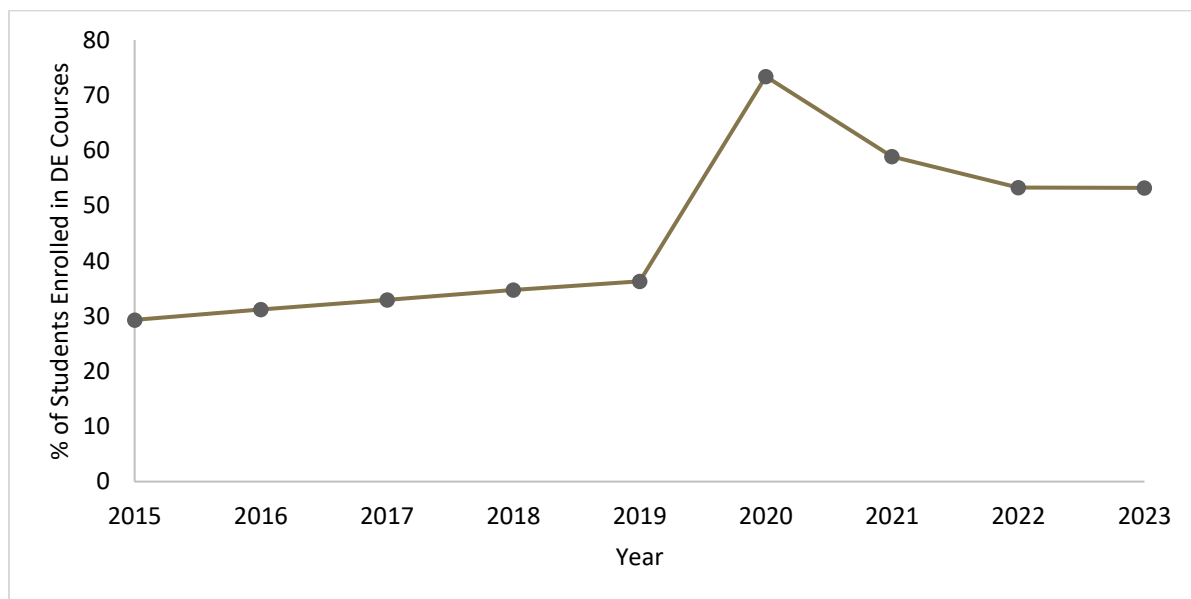
THE NATIONAL LANDSCAPE

Enrollment Trends in Distance Education Over Time

Over the past decade, DE enrollments have grown substantially. According to IPEDS data, the percentage of students enrolled in DE courses increased from 29% in 2015 to 73% in 2020 (a peak during the COVID-19 pandemic) and remained at 53% in 2022 and 2023 (see Figure 1).

Figure 1.

Percent of Students Enrolled in Distance Education Courses, 2015–2023



Source: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) (2025).⁴

Figure 1 shows national trends from 2015 to 2023 at State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA)⁵ participating institutions, distinguishing between in-state and out-of-state participation.

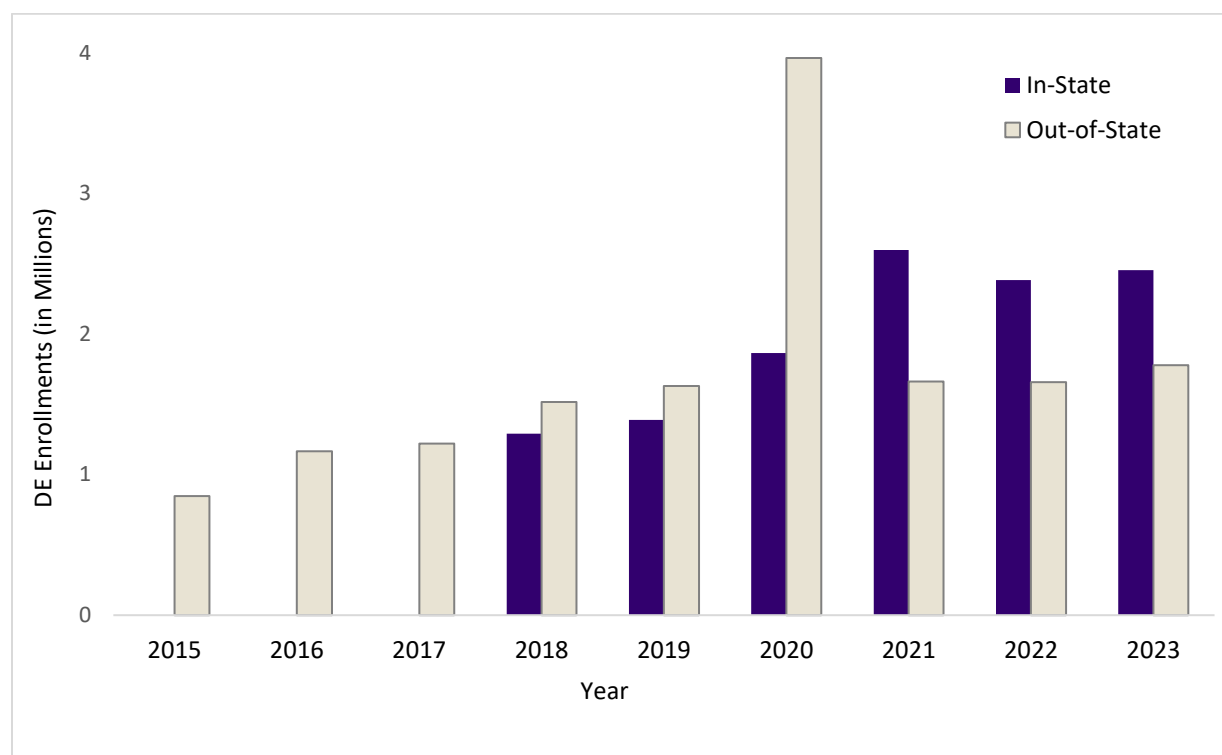
Total exclusively DE enrollments at SARA-participating institutions rose from about 0.85 million in 2015 to 3.02 million in 2019, followed by a sharp increase to 5.83 million in 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic shift to remote instruction. Since then, enrollments have stabilized at around 4 million per year from 2021 through 2023. It is important to note that the number of SARA-participating institutions nearly tripled over this period (from 846 in 2015 to 2,403 in 2023), contributing to the long-run growth in reported enrollments.⁶

The balance between in-state and out-of-state participation has also shifted over time. Between 2017 and 2019, in-state students accounted for roughly 54% of exclusively DE

enrollments. During the pandemic in 2020, that share jumped to 68%, before landing at 61% in 2023.⁷

Figure 2.

Exclusively Distance Education Enrollments at NC-SARA Institutions, 2015–2023 (In-state vs. Out-of-state, in millions)⁸



Source: Adapted from NC-SARA (2024, p. 17).⁹

Note: In 2015, NC-SARA included 846 institutions but by 2023 the number of SARA-participating institutions had risen to 2,403, almost tripling.¹⁰

Figure 2 highlights how distance education expanded nationally among SARA-participating institutions. DE enrollments at SARA-participating institutions have grown from approximately 850,000 in 2015 to more than 4 million in 2023, peaking in 2020 at 5.8 million. The next section examines how enrollment trends vary by institutional sector across the country, comparing DE participation at public and private institutions.

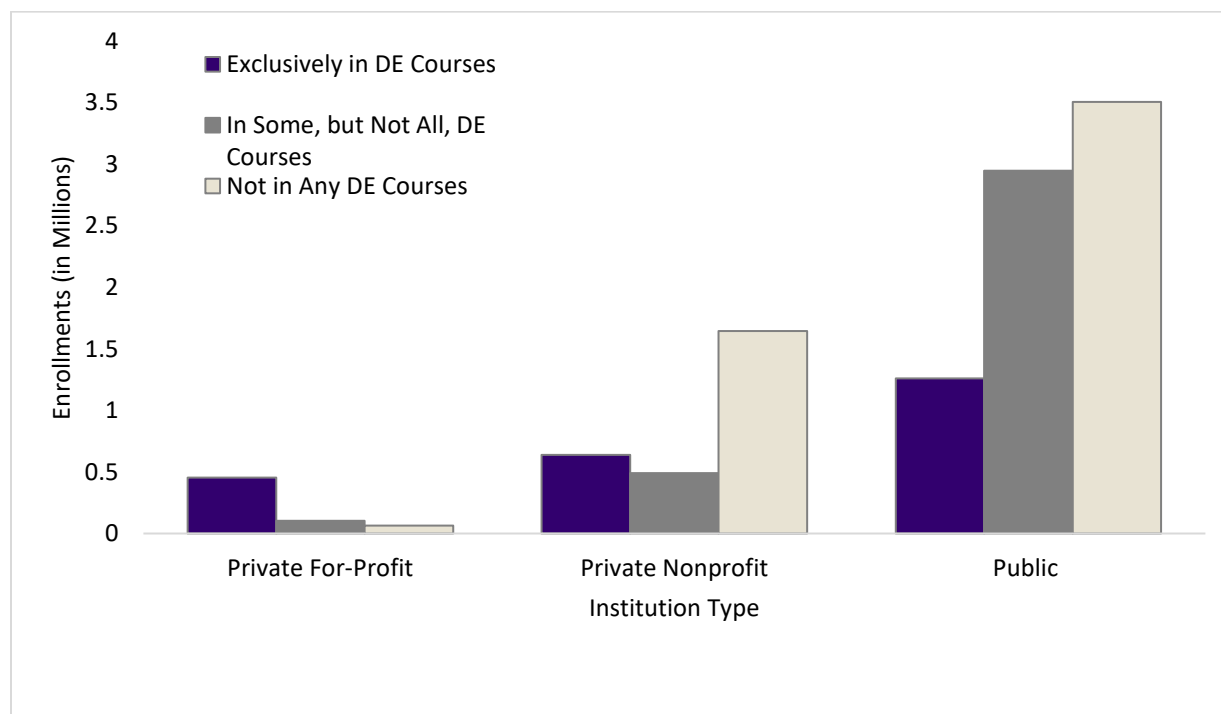
Distance Education: Public and Private Institutions

Beyond broad participation, DE enrollment rates differ across public, private nonprofit, and for-profit institutions. In terms of scale, Figures 3 and 4 show undergraduate and graduate enrollment counts, respectively. These reflect the overall magnitude of participation of DE within each category of institution. In Fall 2023, public institutions enrolled the largest number

of DE students overall, with approximately 1.3 million undergraduates enrolled exclusively in DE and 2.9 million enrolled in some, but not all, DE courses. At the graduate level, public institutions enrolled about 550,000 students exclusively in DE and about 250,000 in some DE.

Figure 3.

Distance Education Enrollments at 4-Year Undergraduate Higher Education Institutions in Millions (by Institution Type), Fall 2023

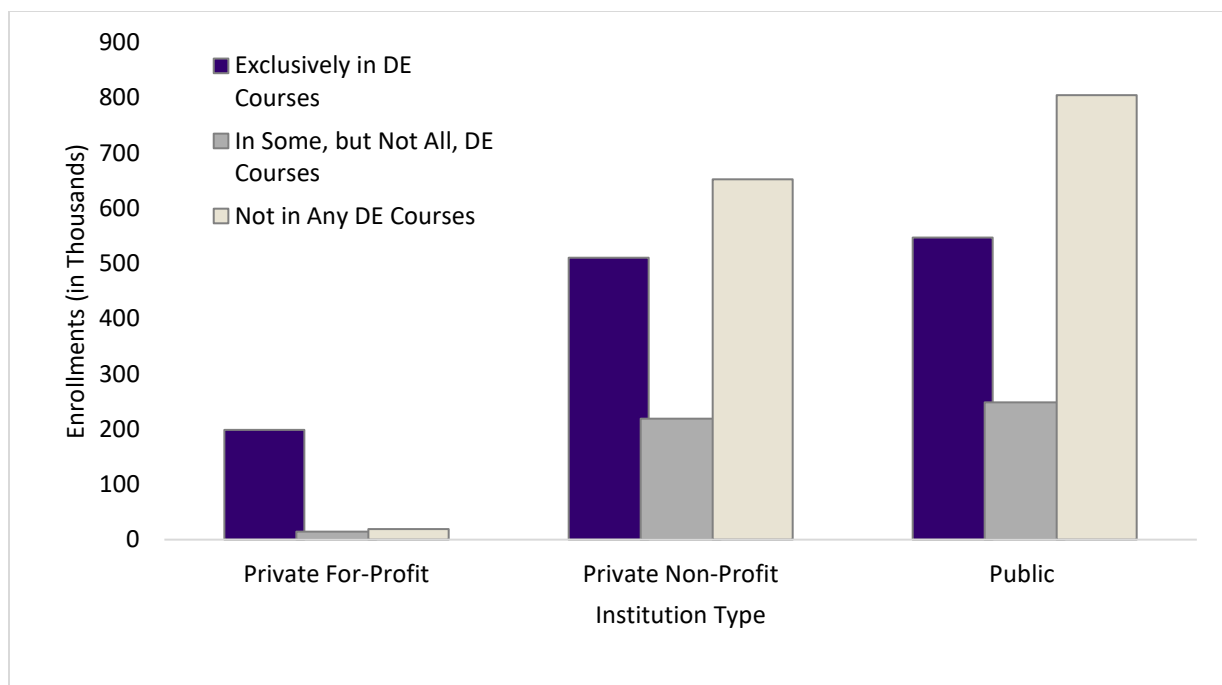


Source: U.S. Department of Education, NCES (2025).¹¹

At the same time, Figures 3 and 4 also show that for-profit institutions have a fewer number of enrollments overall, but higher proportions of their enrollments are in exclusively DE at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. In fact, in Fall 2023, at the undergraduate level, for-profit institutions had the highest share of exclusively DE enrollments within their institutions, at 53%, and the lowest share of some DE participation, at 15%.¹² Only 23% of enrollments at public four-year institutions were exclusively DE and 32% enrolled in some, but not all, DE courses.¹³ At private nonprofit four-year institutions, 28% of students were enrolled exclusively in DE courses and 17% were enrolled in some DE courses.¹⁴

Figure 4.

Distance Education Graduate Enrollments at Higher Education Institutions in Thousands (by Institution Type), Fall 2023



Source: U.S. Department of Education, NCES (2025).¹⁵

Note: Figures 3 and 4 use different scales (millions vs. thousands).

With this national perspective in view, the Big Ten Academic Alliance (BTAA) offers insight into large research universities. The next section explores enrollment trends at BTAA institutions.

THE BIG TEN ACADEMIC ALLIANCE

The Big Ten is a well-known collegiate athletic conference that brings together 18 large universities with nationally recognized sports programs and broad public visibility.¹⁶ Beyond athletics, these institutions also collaborate academically through the Big Ten Academic Alliance (BTAA), a consortium that facilitates cooperation in areas such as research, library resources, professional development and online learning.¹⁷

Given its membership of large, research-intensive universities, the BTAA offers insight into how major institutions approach online education. Across BTAA institutions, a wide range of online credentials are offered, including bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees, as well as stackable certificates.

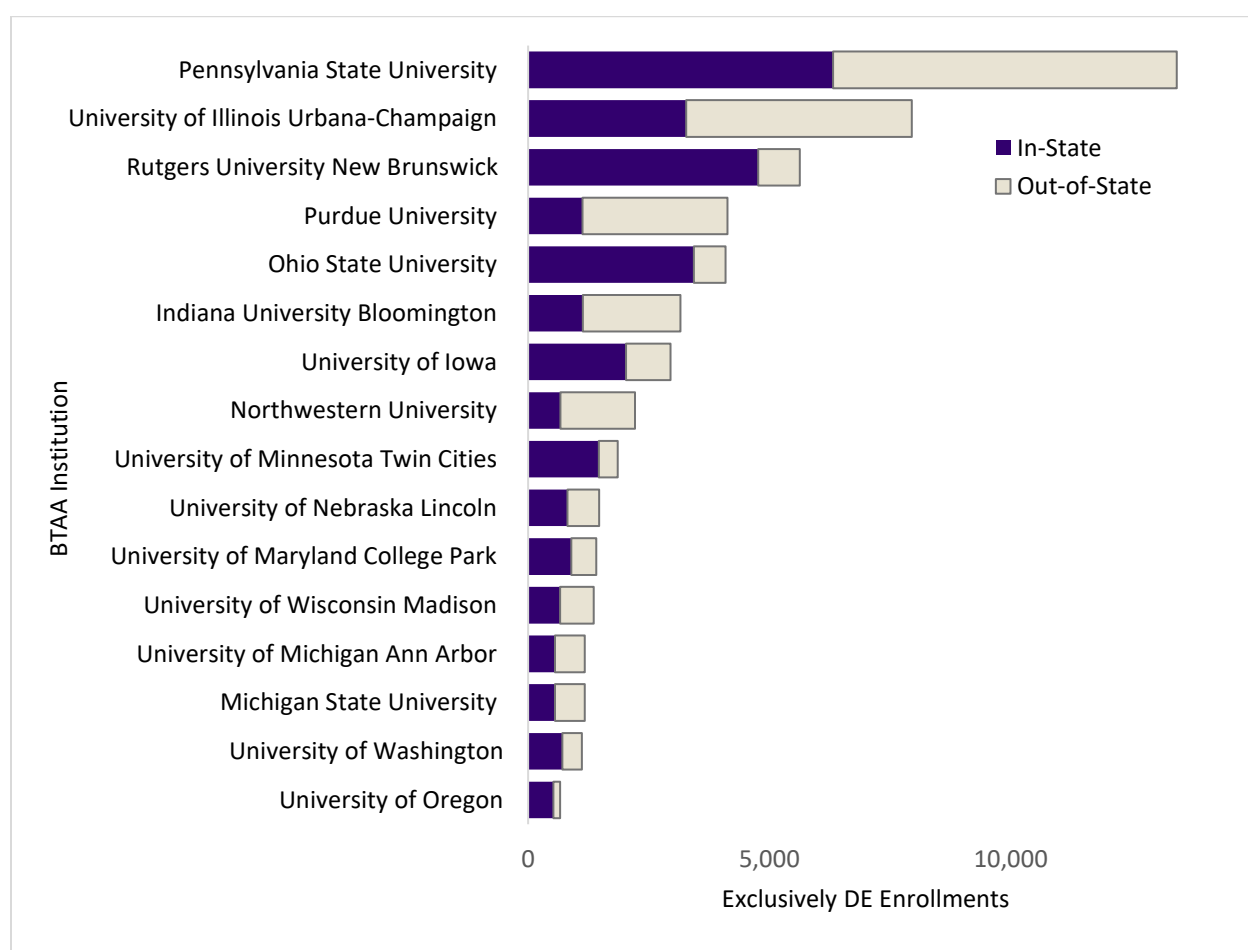
The following sub-section is divided into two parts, the first examines exclusively DE enrollments at BTAA institutions based on NC-SARA data. The second section examines BTAA undergraduate and graduate DE figures as reported by IPEDS.

Exclusively Distance Education Enrollments

BTAA institutions vary widely in their share of their state's exclusively DE enrollment. In Fall 2023, exclusively DE enrollment at BTAA institutions ranged from 2% to 12% of the state total, as shown in Figure 5. At the high end, Pennsylvania State University had over 13,400 exclusively DE enrollments, representing 12% of Pennsylvania's total. By contrast, institutions such as Michigan State University and the University of Maryland, College Park reported under 2,000 exclusively DE enrollments, accounting for only 1% and 2% of their state's total DE enrollment, respectively.

Figure 5.

Big Ten Academic Alliance institutions - Exclusively Distance Education Enrollments, Fall 2023



Source: NC-SARA (2025).¹⁸

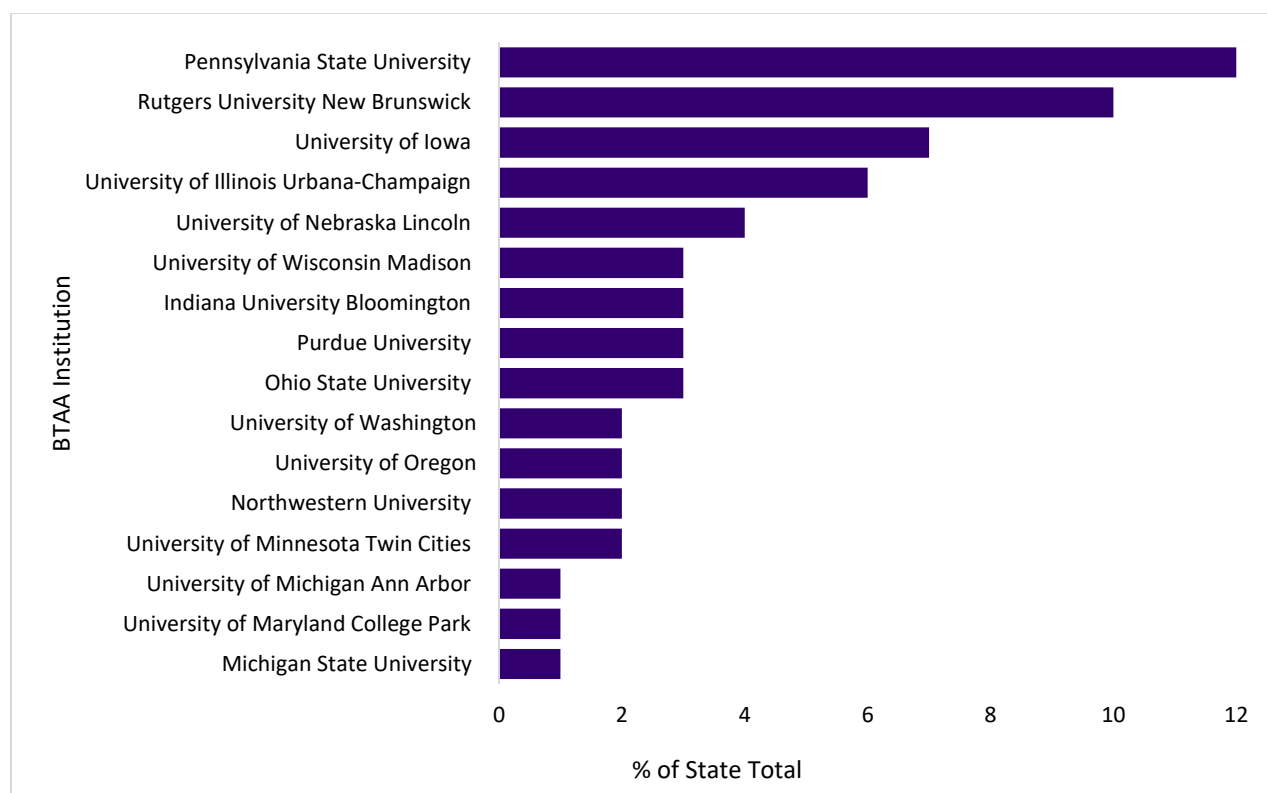
Note: Data for the University of California, Los Angeles and the University of Southern California are not included, as California is the only state that does not participate in SARA.

Looking only at raw numbers risks obscuring each institution's role in its state context. To better understand these figures in context, Figure 6 compares exclusive DE enrollments at BTAA

institutions as a percentage of their state total. Only Pennsylvania State University, Rutgers University New Brunswick, University of Iowa, and University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign enroll more than five percent of all DE students within their respective states.

Figure 6.

Exclusively DE Enrollments at Big Ten Academic Alliance Institutions by Percentage of State Total, Fall 2023



Source: NC-SARA (2025).¹⁹

Note: Data for the University of California, Los Angeles and the University of Southern California are not included, as California is the only state that does not participate in SARA.

Within the BTAA, institutions affiliated with BTAA member universities add further complexity. This is because they often report on DE separately from their flagship campuses yet, in some cases, enroll tens of thousands of additional DE learners. For example, Purdue University Global, with its strong online focus, had nearly 44,000 exclusively DE enrollments in Fall 2023, representing 36% of Indiana’s enrollment in that category. By contrast, Purdue University only had approximately 4,100 exclusively DE enrollments, about 3% of the state total.²⁰

While exclusively DE enrollments show one dimension of BTAA activity, student-level patterns reveal differences in how undergraduate and graduate students participate in DE learning.

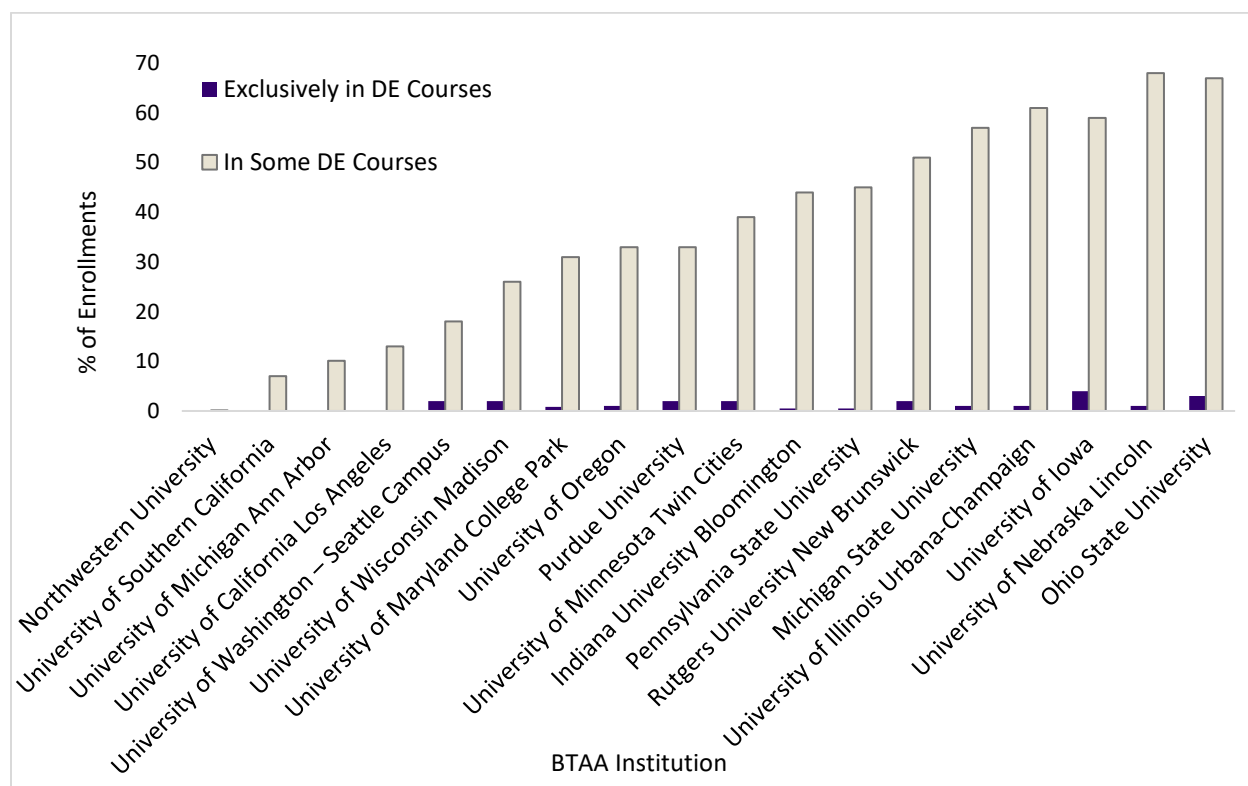
Distance Education Undergraduate and Graduate Enrollments

Overall, IPEDS data for BTAA institutions show that there is a much larger proportion of enrollments in some DE compared with exclusively DE enrollment.

At the undergraduate level, most BTAA institutions have a relatively small proportion of enrollments exclusively in DE, ranging from essentially zero at Northwestern University to 4% at the University of Iowa (see Figure 7). However, there is significantly more variation when considering undergraduates enrolled in some DE with percentages ranging from as low as 0.1% at Northwestern to as high as 68% at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Figure 7.

Undergraduate Distance Enrollments at Big Ten Academic Alliance Institutions, Fall 2023



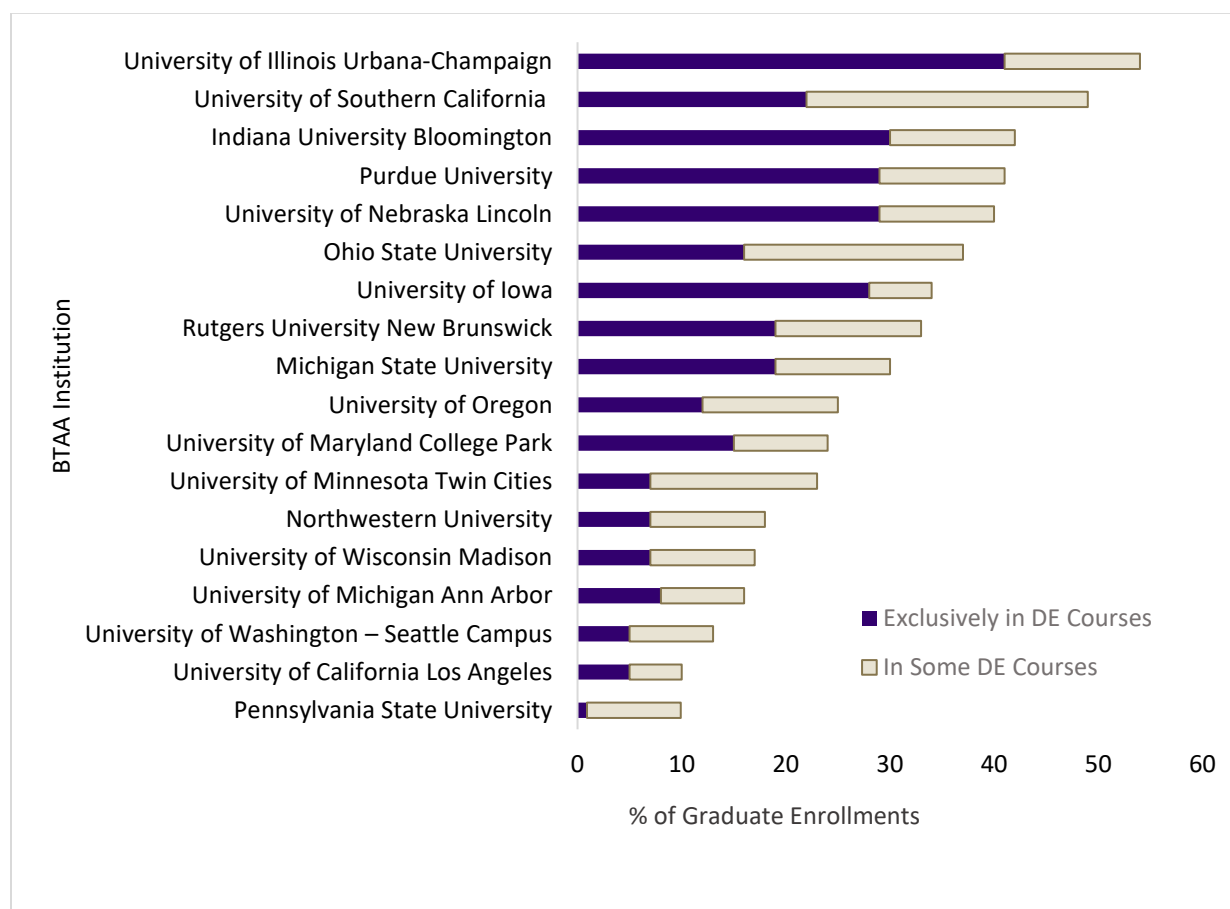
Source: NCES (2025).²¹

Graduate DE enrollments also vary widely, as shown in Figure 8. The percentage of graduate students exclusively enrolled in DE is generally higher than at the undergraduate level, and ranges from 1% at Pennsylvania State University to 41% at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. For graduate enrollment in some, but not all, DE, the range is narrower, from 5% at the University of California, Los Angeles to 27% at the University of Southern California.

However, in some cases BTAA institutions may operate within same state systems where there are other public institutions predominately designed to students through DE. For example, within the University System of Maryland, which includes the University of Maryland, College Park, the University of Maryland Global Campus reports enrollments that are almost entirely through DE. At the undergraduate level, approximately 88% of enrollments are exclusively DE, while at the graduate level, about 95% are exclusively DE.²²

Figure 8.

Graduate Distance Enrollments at Big Ten Academic Alliance Institutions, Fall 2023



Source: NCES (2025).²³

Despite granting more than 18,000 degrees annually at the University of Washington - Seattle Campus (the largest of the University of Washington's three campuses), DE enrollment remains modest compared with many BTAA peers with only 20% of undergraduates and 13% of graduate enrollments in some form of DE.²⁴ As a BTAA member, the University of Washington operates alongside large, national research-intensive universities and within the distinctive Washington higher education landscape. Considering Washington state's unique context offers another lens for understanding the DE landscape.

THE WASHINGTON STATE LANDSCAPE

Washington's higher education system is a distinctive case within the national DE landscape. Community and technical colleges, alongside public and private universities, were among the early adopters of online learning in the state. Yet, Washington's DE enrollments lag behind the national average, and the state's profile is shaped by significant participation in out-of-state programs, most prominently Western Governors University and its Washington affiliate, which together enroll tens of thousands of state residents each year.²⁵

This section first examines exclusively DE enrollments, highlighting the role of both in-state institutions and out-of-state providers, including Western Governors University. It next explores undergraduate and graduate DE enrollment patterns across Washington institutions, providing additional insight into how students in the state participate in DE.

Exclusively Distance Education Enrollments

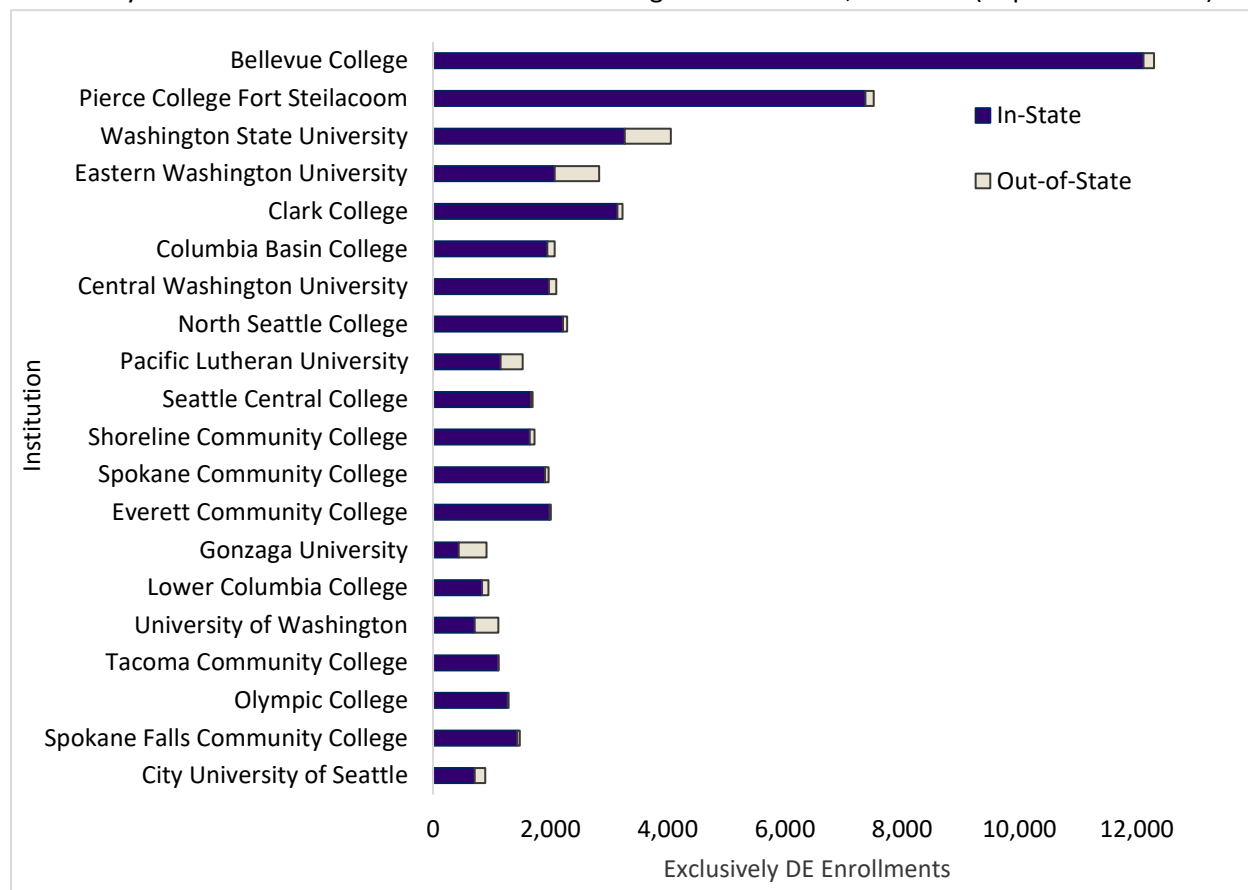
Washington ranks among the ten states with the fewest out-of-state students enrolled in its DE programs.²⁶ In Fall 2023, there were approximately 59,200 exclusively DE enrollments across Washington higher education institutions.²⁷ However, more striking was the outflow in that same year with more than 50,000 Washington based enrollments in exclusively DE programs outside the state. By contrast, there were less than 5,000 out-of-state exclusively DE enrollments in Washington.²⁸ This may reflect both strong in-state demand and the competitive recruitment of national DE providers.²⁹

As noted already, a key feature of Washington's DE landscape is the role of out-of-state providers, especially Western Governors University. In 2023, Washington students accounted for nearly 15,300 enrollments at WGU, making it the largest out-of-state DE provider in the state.¹

Within Washington's higher education institutions, the majority of exclusively DE enrollments were in-state residents, as shown in Figure 9. The only exception was Gonzaga University, where out-of-state enrollments (471) slightly exceeded in-state (439). Bellevue College led the state with nearly 12,300 exclusively DE enrollments, over one-fifth of the statewide total, and it was comprised primarily Washington residents. In contrast, the University of Washington, reported only about 1,100 exclusively DE enrollments across its three campuses.

Figure 9.

Exclusively Distance Education Enrollments at Washington Institutions, Fall 2023 (Top 20 Institutions)



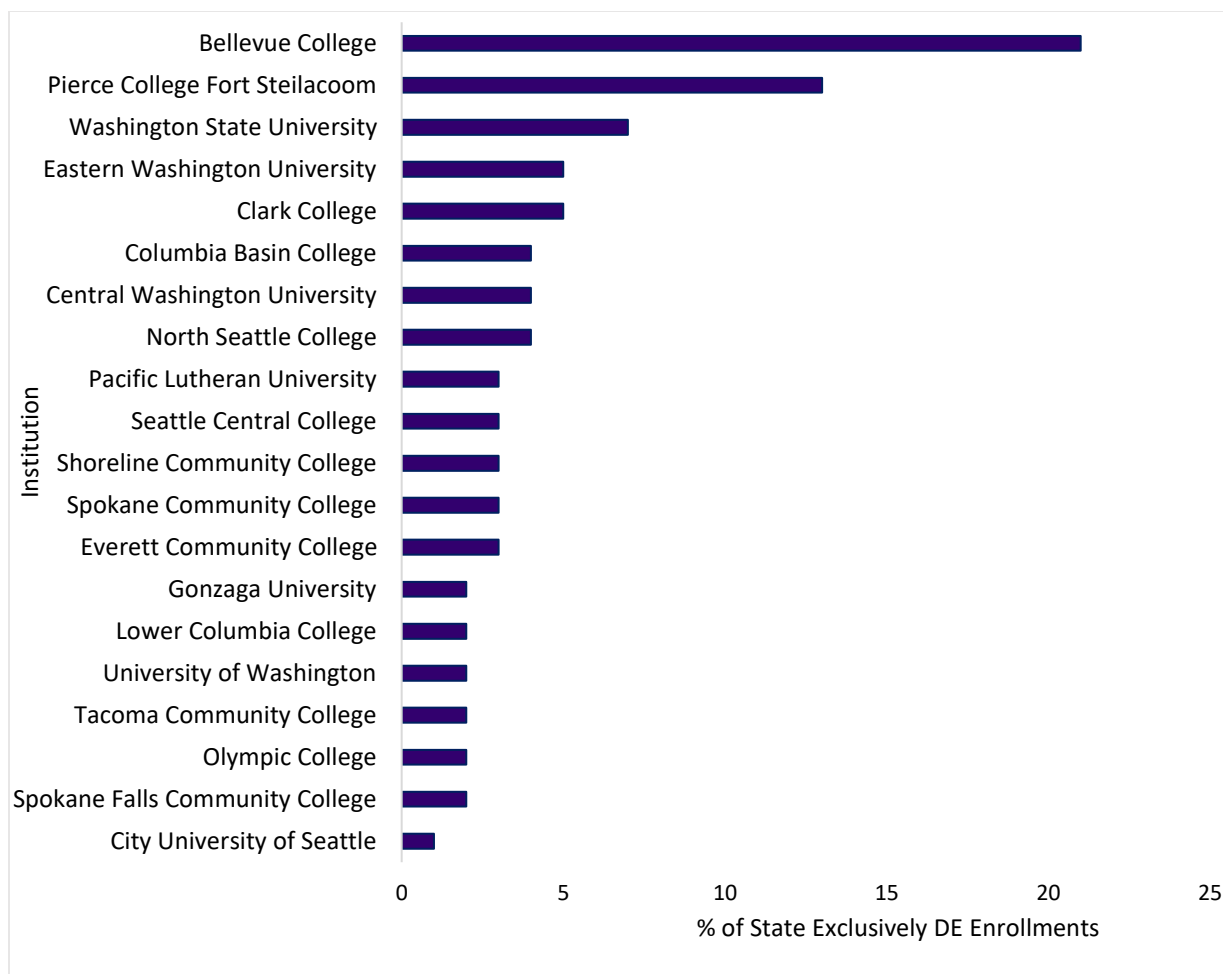
Source: NCES (2025).³⁰

Note: All 20 institutions are four years or more, except Everett Community College and Shoreline Community College, which are both at least two years but less than four. All institutions are public except three private non-profits: 1) Pacific Lutheran University, 2) Gonzaga University, and 3) City University of Seattle.

Connected to this, the same 20 higher education institutions accounted for varying shares of Washington's total exclusively DE enrollments, as shown in Figure 10. Bellevue College enrolled the highest proportion, at 12%, while the City University of Seattle had the lowest, at 1%. Overall, the 20 institutions in Figure 10 comprised 90% of the state's exclusively DE enrollments. Together just five institutions, Bellevue College, Pierce College Fort Steilacoom, Washington State University, Clark College, and Eastern Washington University, represented more than half of the total.

Figure 10.

Exclusively Distance Education Enrollments at Washington Higher Education Institutions by % of State Total, Fall 2023



Source: NCES (2025).³¹

Note: All institutions are four or more years, except Everett Community College and Shoreline Community College, which are at least two years but less than four. All institutions are public except three: 1) Pacific Lutheran University, 2) Gonzaga University, and 3) City University of Seattle, which are all private non-profits.

The NC-SARA data highlight Bellevue College's position as the largest provider of exclusively DE enrollments in Washington based on student counts. The IPEDS data in the next section offer a different perspective by showing the percentage of an institution's enrollments in DE at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

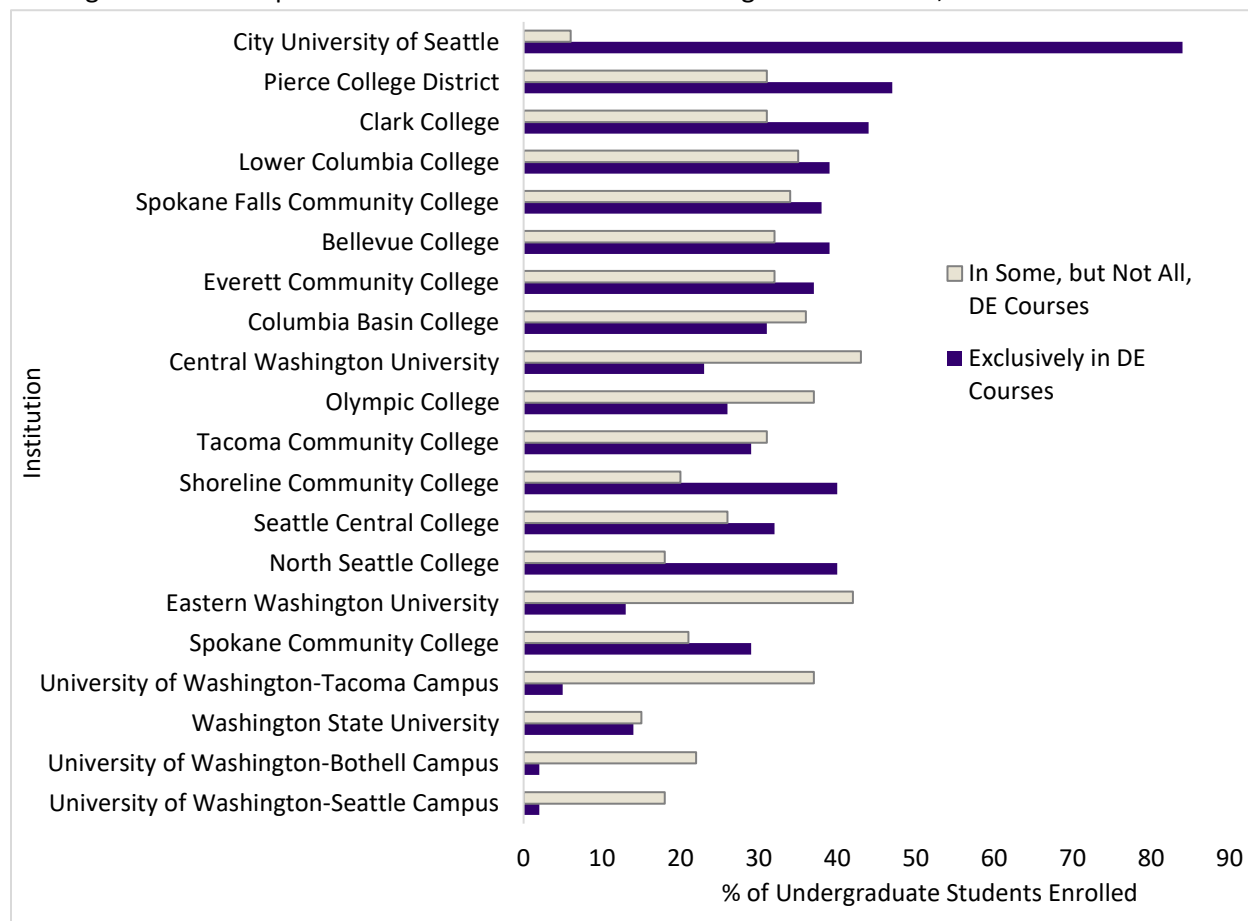
Distance Education Undergraduate and Graduate Enrollments

Both undergraduate and graduate DE enrollment rates vary across Washington's higher education institutions. At the undergraduate level, Figure 11 shows that City University of Seattle (84%) and several community colleges enroll many of their undergraduates in exclusively DE courses. Meanwhile, the largest public university in the state, the University of Washington, has smaller shares of undergraduate students enrolled exclusively in DE courses

(2% at both the University of Washington–Seattle and Bothell campuses; 5% at the University of Washington-Tacoma campus). At the same time, many institutions have a notable portion of enrollments in some, but not all, DE, ranging from 43% at Central Washington University to 6% at City University of Seattle (where most undergraduate enrollments are in exclusively DE courses).

Figure 11.

Undergraduate Participation in Distance Education at Washington Institutions, Fall 2023



Source: NCES (2025).³²

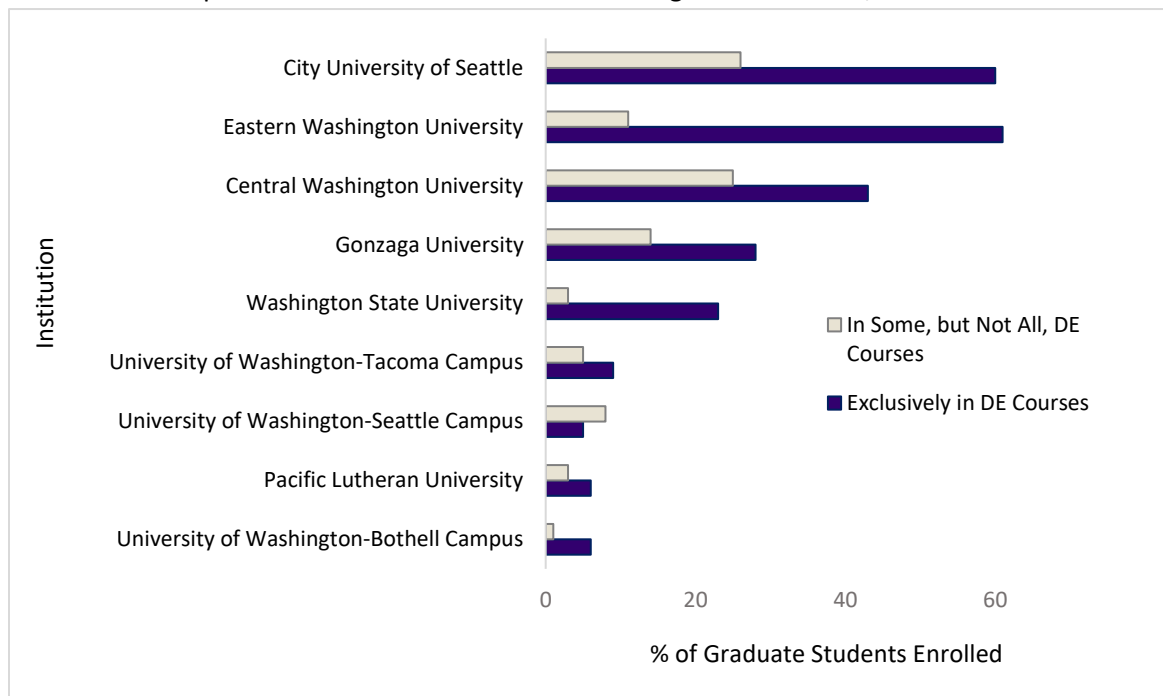
Undergraduate patterns reflect only part of the picture. Turning to graduate education, participation in DE is more concentrated, as shown in Figure 12. Since community and technical colleges typically do not offer graduate programs, participation at the graduate level is driven by public and private universities.

The share of graduate students enrolled in exclusively in DE course is highest at Eastern Washington University (61%) and City University of Seattle (60%), as shown in Figure 12. At the

graduate level, City University of Seattle and Central Washington University have the highest shares of students enrolled in some, but not all, DE courses, 26% and 25% respectively. In contrast, the three University of Washington campuses and Pacific Lutheran University report lower percentages on both measures.

Figure 12.

Graduate Participation in Distance Education at Washington Institutions, Fall 2023



Source: NCES (2025).³³

Note: Many of the institutions with the highest percentage of undergraduate distance enrollments in Washington do not offer graduate programs.

Together, these undergraduate and graduate enrollment patterns underscore the complexity of DE across Washington's higher education landscape and across its institutions.

CONCLUSION

DE has become a core feature of U.S. higher education, though its presence varies widely across higher education institutions and states. Nationally, participation in some DE courses is more common than exclusively DE enrollment, reflecting a landscape in which large public institutions often blend online and in-person instruction. In Fall 2023, for-profit institutions had the highest concentration of exclusively DE enrollments relative to non-profit private and public institutions. Within the BTAA, exclusively DE enrollments remain relatively modest at BTAA campuses (with Pennsylvania State University having the highest enrollment figures, representing 12% of Pennsylvania state's total). However, in states such as Indiana, large-scale designated online campuses significantly influence the state-level reach of BTAA institutions.

In Washington, both universities and community and technical colleges contribute notably to serving in-state learners. At the same time, the flow of students to enroll with out-of-state providers may point to both the limited capacity of in-state online options and the broader appeal of nationally recognized online institutions. DE is not a uniform phenomenon, but one that takes shape differently across sectors, states, and institutions, and its continued evolution will shape the future of higher education.

¹ This includes the realities of “post-traditional” learners, who are more likely than others to enroll in online education. Post-traditional learners include those balancing work, family, and other responsibilities.

² U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics [NCES]. (2025). *Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS): Fall enrollment component final data (2012–2022) and provisional data (2023)* [Data set]. <https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/TrendGenerator/app/answer/2/42>

³ U.S. Department of Education, NCES. (2025). *IPEDS: Fall enrollment component final data (2012–2022) and provisional data (2023)* [Data set]. <https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/trendgenerator/app/answer/2/42?f=6%3D53>; U.S.

Department of Education, NCES. (2025). *IPEDS: Fall enrollment component final data (2012–2022) and provisional data (2023)*. [Data set]. <https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/trendgenerator/app/answer/2/42?f=6%3D53&sideid=85--1>

⁴ U.S. Department of Education, NCES. (2025). *IPEDS: Fall enrollment component final data (2012–2022) and provisional data (2023)*. <https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/trendgenerator/app/answer/2/42>

⁵ SARA is a voluntary agreement among member states that “establishes standards for the reciprocal authorization of institutions providing distance education across state lines.” By participating in SARA, an institution authorized in its home state can offer DE to students in other member states without needing separate approvals or paying each state’s authorization fees. As of 2025, 49 states (all but California), plus the District of Columbia (DC), Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, have joined. Participating in SARA leads to cost savings and regulatory simplification, as higher education institutions avoid filing dozens of individual state applications and tracking a patchwork of different regulations. Reflecting this, a 2021 analysis estimated that SARA participation saves institutions an average of two million dollars on initial authorization, and approximately \$402,000 annually. With a single streamlined process to offer online education, universities are able to maintain compliance across state lines and expand their reach to students nationwide. At the same time, students arguably also benefit through strengthened consumer protections. Source: NC-SARA. (2025, para. 1). Our work. <https://nc-sara.org/our-work/>.

⁶ National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements [NC-SARA]. (2024). *NC-SARA annual data report: Technical report for Fall 2023 exclusively distance enrollment & 2023 out-of-state learning placements*. https://nc-sara.org/sites/default/files/files/2024-10/2023_Technical_Data_Report_Publish.pdf

⁷ NC-SARA (2024). *NC-SARA annual data report: Technical report for Fall 2023 exclusively distance enrollment & 2023 out-of-state learning placements*. https://nc-sara.org/sites/default/files/files/2024-10/2023_Technical_Data_Report_Publish.pdf

⁸ NC-SARA (2024). *NC-SARA annual data report: Technical report for Fall 2023 exclusively distance enrollment & 2023 out-of-state learning placements*. https://nc-sara.org/sites/default/files/files/2024-10/2023_Technical_Data_Report_Publish.pdf

⁹ Adapted from NC-SARA (2024, p. 17). *NC-SARA annual data report: Technical report for Fall 2023 exclusively distance enrollment & 2023 out-of-state learning placements..* https://nc-sara.org/sites/default/files/files/2024-10/2023_Technical_Data_Report_Publish.pdf

¹⁰ Adapted from NC-SARA (2024, p. 17) *NC-SARA annual data report: Technical report for Fall 2023 exclusively distance enrollment & 2023 out-of-state learning placements* https://nc-sara.org/sites/default/files/files/2024-10/2023_Technical_Data_Report_Publish.pdf

¹¹ U.S. Department of Education, NCES. (2025). *IPEDS, Fall 2023 institutional characteristics component [Provisional data] and Spring 2024 Fall Enrollment component [Provisional data]*. <https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/search/viewtable?tableId=36439>

¹² U.S. Department of Education, NCES. (2025). *IPEDS, Fall 2023 institutional characteristics component [Provisional data] and Spring 2024 Fall Enrollment component [Provisional data]*. <https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/search/viewtable?tableId=36439>

¹³ U.S. Department of Education, NCES. (2025). *IPEDS, Fall 2023 institutional characteristics component [Provisional data] and Spring 2024 Fall Enrollment component [Provisional data]*. <https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/search/viewtable?tableId=36439>

¹⁴ U.S. Department of Education, NCES. (2025). *IPEDS, Fall 2023 institutional characteristics component [Provisional data] and Spring 2024 Fall Enrollment component [Provisional data]*. <https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/search/viewtable?tableId=36439>

¹⁵ U.S. Department of Education, NCES. (2025). *IPEDS, IPEDS, Fall 2023 institutional characteristics component [Provisional data] and Spring 2024 Fall Enrollment component [Provisional data]*. <https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/search/viewtable?tableId=36439>

¹⁶ The Big Ten membership expanded in 2024 to include the University of California, Los Angeles, the University of Southern California, the University of Oregon, and the University of Washington. While this report analyzes Fall 2023 IPEDS data, these institutions are presented under the BTAA framework for consistency with current membership. It should be noted that their Fall 2023 distance education figures predate their formal entry into the BTAA.

¹⁷ Big Ten Academic Alliance. (2025). *About*. Retrieved August 21, 2025, from <https://btaa.org/about>; Big Ten Academic Alliance. (2020, August 3). Big Ten Academic Alliance online course sharing program.

<https://btaa.org/about/news-and-publications/news/2020/08/03/big-ten-academic-alliance-online-course-sharing-program>

¹⁸ NC-SARA. (2025). Fall 2023 total exclusively distance education enrollment. [Data visualization]. <https://nc-sara.org/data-dashboards/>

¹⁹ NC-SARA. (2025). Fall 2023 total exclusively distance education enrollment. [Data visualization]. <https://nc-sara.org/data-dashboards/>

²⁰ NC-SARA. (2025). Fall 2023 total exclusively distance education enrollment. [Data visualization]. <https://nc-sara.org/data-dashboards/>; As a related example, the University of Maryland Global Campus, a university in the Maryland system, had over 52,500 exclusively DE enrollments in Fall 2023, representing 53% of the state's total. In comparison, the University of Maryland, College Park had only 1,400 exclusively DE enrollments, or 1% of the state total.²⁰

²¹ NCES. (2025). IPEDS custom data file. U.S. Department of Education. <https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/use-the-data>

²² NCES. (2025). *College Navigator: University of Maryland Global Campus*. U.S. Department of Education. <https://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/?q=University+of+Maryland+Global+Campus&s=all&id=163204#enrolmt>

²³ NCES. (2025). IPEDS custom data file. U.S. Department of Education. <https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/use-the-data>

²⁴ NCES. (2025). IPEDS custom data file. U.S. Department of Education. <https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/use-the-data>

²⁵ U.S. Department of Education, NCES. (2025). IPEDS: *Fall enrollment component final data (2012–2022) and provisional data (2023)*. <https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/trendgenerator/app/answer/2/42?f=6%3D53>

²⁶ NC-SARA. (2025). Fall 2023 total exclusively distance education enrollment. [Data visualization]. <https://nc-sara.org/data-dashboards>

²⁷ Fall 2023 Total Exclusively Distance Education Enrollment. (2025). "Washington exclusively distance education enrollment." <https://nc-sara.org/data-dashboards/>

²⁸ NC-SARA. (2025). Fall 2023 total exclusively distance education enrollment. [Data visualization]. <https://nc-sara.org/data-dashboards>

²⁹ A large share of Washington residents enrolled in out-of-state online programs at WGU through its state affiliate, WGU Washington, established in 2011. Through partnerships with local community and technical colleges, WGU Washington has grown rapidly from fewer than 1,000 enrollments in 2011 to approximately 13,900 in March 2021. Although WGU Washington operates as a state-endorsed affiliate, the National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (NC-SARA) includes its enrollments under WGU Utah in institutional reporting. Even so, WGU remains largest out-of-state online education provider serving Washington state, with nearly 15,300 Washington residents enrolled in its distance learning programs in 2023.

NCES. (2025). IPEDS custom data file. U.S. Department of Education.

³¹ NCES. (2025). IPEDS custom data file. U.S. Department of Education.

³² NCES. (2025). IPEDS custom data file. U.S. Department of Education.

³³ NCES. (2025). IPEDS custom data file. U.S. Department of Education.