

Distance Education in Higher Education

Table A-43-1. Number and percentage of undergraduate students in postsecondary institutions taking distance education courses, by selected characteristics: 2003-04 and 2007-08

Selected characteristic	2003-04			
	Taking any distance education courses		Taking their entire program through distance education	
	Number of students (in thousands)	Percent of all students	Number of students (in thousands)	Percent of all students
Total	2,961	15.5	973	5.1
Sex				
Male	1,099	13.6	365	4.5
Female	1,862	17.0	609	5.5
Race/ethnicity				
White	1,944	16.2	630	5.3
Black	400	14.9	131	4.9
Hispanic	329	13.4	109	4.5
Asian	145	14.0	55	5.4
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	19	19.1	‡	7.2
American Indian/Alaska Native	27	15.5	11	6.1
Two or more races	64	16.5	21	5.3
Other and unknown	33	13.4	9	3.5
Age				
15 through 23	1,283	11.7	353	3.2
24 through 29	592	18.4	213	6.6
30 or older	1,086	22.4	408	8.4
Attendance status				
Exclusively full-time	1,179	12.7	360	3.9
Exclusively part-time	1,251	18.7	470	7.0
Mixed full-time and part-time	531	17.3	143	4.7
Type of job student had				
No job	533	12.4	158	3.7
Regular job only	2,282	17.2	768	5.8
Work-study/assistantship job only	60	8.8	18	2.6
Both regular job and work-study/assistantship job	86	11.1	29	3.7
Student housing status				
On-campus	194	7.2	48	1.8
Off-campus	1,851	17.7	634	6.1
With parents or relatives	604	13.2	171	3.7
Attended more than one institution	312	23.4	120	9.1
Dependency status				
Dependent	1,064	11.1	291	3.0
Independent, no dependents, not married ¹	454	15.6	152	5.2
Independent, no dependents, married	269	19.6	101	7.4
Independent, with dependents, not married ¹	522	20.5	180	7.1
Independent, with dependents, married	653	25.1	251	9.6

See notes at end of table.

Table A-43-1. Number and percentage of undergraduate students in postsecondary institutions taking distance education courses, by selected characteristics: 2003-04 and 2007-08—Continued

Selected characteristic	2007-08			
	Taking any distance education courses		Taking their entire program through distance education	
	Number of students (in thousands)	Percent of all students	Number of students (in thousands)	Percent of all students
Total	4,277	20.4	769	3.7
Sex				
Male	1,679	18.6	297	3.3
Female	2,598	21.8	472	4.0
Race/ethnicity				
White	2,803	21.7	489	3.8
Black	592	20.2	145	5.0
Hispanic	484	16.4	74	2.5
Asian	225	18.2	37	3.0
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	27	17.7	‡	1.3!
American Indian/Alaska Native	39	22.1	‡	2.0!
Two or more races	99	20.1	15	3.0
Other and unknown	8	13.4	‡	4.7!
Age				
15 through 23	1,891	15.1	169	1.4
24 through 29	938	25.9	192	5.3
30 or older	1,448	30.1	408	8.5
Attendance status				
Exclusively full-time	1,648	16.5	299	3.0
Exclusively part-time	1,839	24.8	373	5.0
Mixed full-time and part-time	791	22.3	97	2.7
Type of job student had				
No job	708	16.1	121	2.8
Regular job only	3,259	22.3	607	4.2
Work-study/assistantship job only	112	12.9	13	1.5
Both regular job and work-study/assistantship job	198	18.7	27	2.5
Student housing status				
On-campus	263	8.9	13	0.5
Off-campus	2,709	24.0	606	5.4
With parents or relatives	854	17.1	83	1.7
Attended more than one institution	452	27.1	66	4.0
Dependency status				
Dependent	1,589	14.3	108	1.0
Independent, no dependents, not married ¹	788	24.0	155	4.7
Independent, no dependents, married	356	28.7	83	6.6
Independent, with dependents, not married ¹	712	25.5	197	7.0
Independent, with dependents, married	833	33.0	227	9.0

See notes at end of table.

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Table A-43-1. Number and percentage of undergraduate students in postsecondary institutions taking distance education courses, by selected characteristics: 2003-04 and 2007-08—Continued

Selected characteristic	2003-04			
	Taking any distance education courses		Taking their entire program through distance education	
	Number of students (in thousands)	Percent of all students	Number of students (in thousands)	Percent of all students
Total	2,961	15.5	973	5.1
Veteran status				
Veteran	140	22.5	48	7.6
Not veteran	2,821	15.3	926	5.0
Field of study				
Business/management	550	18.7	206	7.0
Computer science	177	19.4	65	7.2
Education	218	17.1	58	4.6
Engineering	96	12.1	26	3.3
Health	427	17.4	138	5.6
Humanities	276	14.0	76	3.9
Life sciences	81	11.0	20	2.8
Mathematics	12	12.7	‡	3.8!
Physical sciences	12	10.1	‡	1.1!
Social/behavioral sciences	165	12.4	46	3.5
Vocational/technical	62	13.1	20	4.3
Undeclared/no major	622	15.0	233	5.6
Other	265	14.4	79	4.3
Control and level of institution				
Public	2,373	16.2	723	4.9
4-year	823	13.5	245	4.0
2-year	1,540	18.2	475	5.6
Less-than-2-year	11	11.8	3	3.0
Private not-for-profit	353	12.4	122	4.3
4-year	340	12.4	118	4.3
2-year	10	11.3	3	3.3
Less-than-2-year	4	17.3	1	6.8
Private for-profit	235	15.3	128	8.4
4-year	155	26.2	91	15.4
2-year	52	12.1	26	6.1
Less-than-2-year	27	5.4	11	2.1

See notes at end of table.

Table A-43-1. Number and percentage of undergraduate students in postsecondary institutions taking distance education courses, by selected characteristics: 2003-04 and 2007-08—Continued

Selected characteristic	2007-08			
	Taking any distance education courses		Taking their entire program through distance education	
	Number of students (in thousands)	Percent of all students	Number of students (in thousands)	Percent of all students
Total	4,277	20.4	769	3.7
Veteran status				
Veteran	191	29.0	58	8.9
Not veteran	4,087	20.2	710	3.5
Field of study				
Business/management	811	23.9	203	6.0
Computer science	190	27.1	56	8.0
Education	272	22.3	38	3.1
Engineering	166	15.8	24	2.3
Health	667	22.2	122	4.1
Humanities	620	19.5	77	2.4
Life sciences	174	15.5	20	1.8
Mathematics	16	15.0	‡	‡
Physical sciences	22	12.5	‡	0.3 ¹
Social/behavioral sciences	226	16.9	30	2.2
Vocational/technical	94	18.5	18	3.4
Undeclared/no major	605	20.6	101	3.4
Other	414	18.9	81	3.7
Control and level of institution				
Public	3,423	21.5	436	2.7
4-year	1,210	18.1	146	2.2
2-year	2,206	24.2	288	3.2
Less-than-2-year	8	8.2	‡	2.2 ¹
Private not-for-profit	429	14.1	88	2.9
4-year	412	14.0	84	2.8
2-year	12	20.2	4	6.1
Less-than-2-year	5	16.3	‡	2.5
Private for-profit	425	21.3	245	12.3
4-year	301	29.7	193	19.0
2-year	97	18.0	44	8.3
Less-than-2-year	28	6.2	7	1.6

¹ Interpret data with caution. Estimate is unstable because the standard error represents more than 30 percent of the estimate.

‡ Reporting standards not met.

¹ Includes separated.

NOTE: Estimates pertain to all postsecondary students who enrolled at any time during the school year at an institution participating in Title IV programs. Distance education participation includes participation at any institution for students attending more than one institution during the school year. Data include Puerto Rico. Detail may not sum to totals because of survey item nonresponse and rounding. Race categories exclude persons of Hispanic ethnicity. For more information on race/ethnicity, please see *supplemental note 1*. For more information on the classification of postsecondary education institutions, see *supplemental note 8*.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 2003-04 and 2007-08 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS:04 and NPSAS:08).