



VERMONT HIGHER EDUCATION ENROLLMENT Fall 2020



Vermont Higher Education Council

52 State Street, P.O. Box 1072
Montpelier, VT 05601
802-225-5507

www.vermponthec.org



Introduction

Higher Education in Vermont

In the Fall of 2020¹, Vermont was home to 17 institutions of higher education, including: four state colleges; 12 Vermont-chartered independent colleges²; and the University of Vermont. In total, these schools enrolled 37,845 students during the Fall 2020 semester. This is a decrease in enrollment of 2.8 percent from the previous year (i.e., 38,919 students in the Fall 2019 semester).

The Fall 2020 enrollment report captures preliminary real-time data from 13 of the 17 Vermont-chartered campuses collected in December of 2020.³ This summary provides readers with a high-level overview of student data at a statewide level, with some comparisons between groups of institutions. Background data used to compile this report are available by contacting us at info@vermonthec.org. Enrollment reports from previous years are also available on VHEC's website: www.vermonthec.org.

Note on Terms: We report fall enrollment data in two ways. "Headcount" enrollment refers to a count of students attending college in Vermont, regardless of enrollment intensity (part-time or full-time), and the data that come from this population. "Full-time" enrollment refers to undergraduate students who enrolled for 12 or more semester credits, or 12 or more quarter credits, or 24 or more contact hours a week each term; or graduate students who enrolled for 9 or more semester credits, or 9 or more quarter credits, or a student involved in thesis or dissertation preparation and considered full-time by the institution.

¹ Marlboro College closed in August 2000.

² In addition to the 17 Vermont-chartered institutions of higher education there are institutions operating satellite campuses in Vermont whose primary campus is in another state. Those institutions are not included in this dataset.

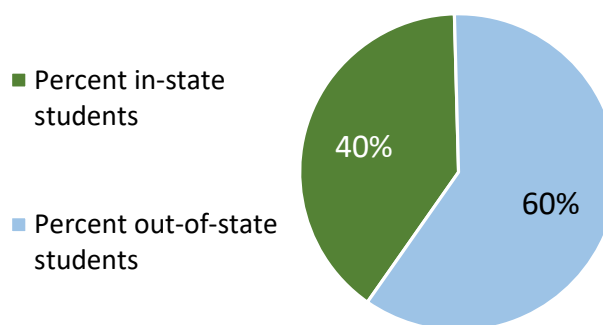
³ The following independent institutions did not contribute data for this report: Center for Cartoon Studies, Goddard College, Vermont College of Fine Arts, New England Culinary Institute, and Vermont Law School.

Student Residency

Vermont's higher education institutions served nearly 38,000 students in the Fall of 2020, including over 33,000 undergraduate and 4,800 graduate students⁴.

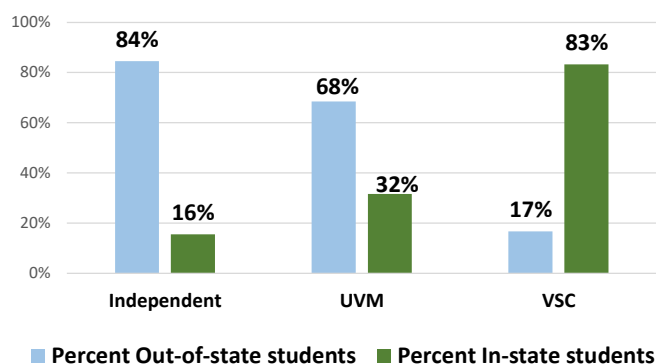
Approximately 40% of those students were Vermont residents, and the rest came to us from other states and countries (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Student residency in Vermont Higher Education Institutions, Fall 2020 headcount



The Vermont State Colleges (VSC) had the largest percentage of in-state students make up its enrollment (83% or 8,699 students), while 4,192 of the University of Vermont's students (32% of its total enrollment) and 2,187 of independent colleges' students were Vermont residents (16% of its total enrollment – see Figure 2).

Figure 2. In-State vs Out-of-State Students by institution Type, Fall 2020 headcount

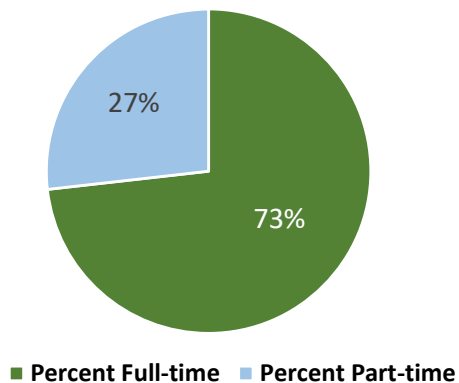


⁴ The headcount for the Vermont State Colleges accounts for students who take classes at more than one State institution; for the purposes of this report these students are only counted once. Visit www.vsc.edu for more detailed State College data.

Enrollment Status

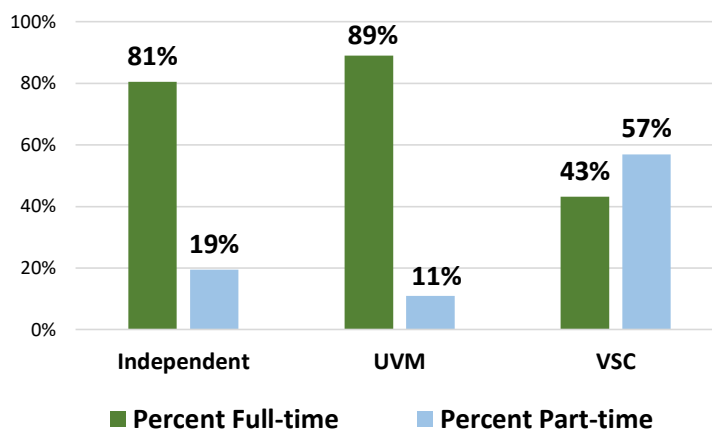
Most students attending Vermont institutions attended full-time (73%), while about 27% of students (approximately 10,137) were part-time graduate or undergraduate students, including those who are seeking certificates (Figure 3). The part-time population is slightly higher in the fall of 2020 compared to previous years: fall 2019 (26%); fall 2018 (25%); fall 2017 (24%).

Figure 3. Enrollment Intensity Status, Fall 2020 headcount



The VSC enrolls the highest percentage of part-time students (57%) compared to either UVM or independent colleges; a relatively higher number of Vermont residents enrolled at the Community College of Vermont are part-time students (84%). The percentage of part-time students enrolled at the VSC increased 4 percentage points in one year (53% in the Fall of 2019). By contrast 2,746 students at independent colleges attended part-time (19% of total students) and 1,449 UVM students attended part-time (11% of total students). These percentages were unchanged from 2019.

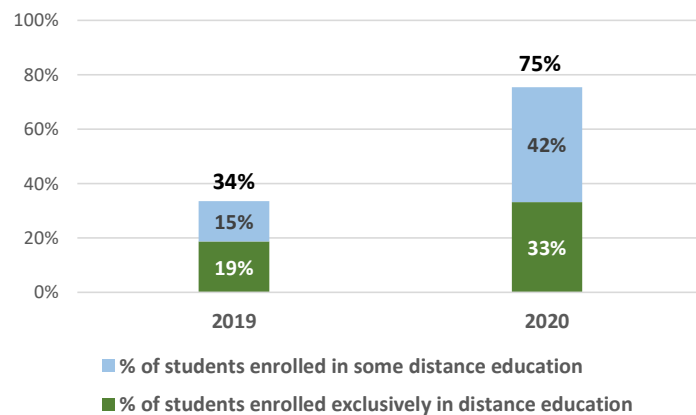
Figure 4: Enrollment Intensity institution type, Fall 2020 headcount



Distance Education

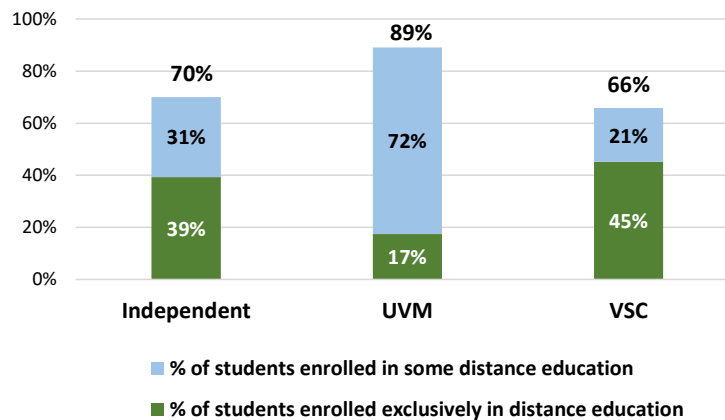
Due to COVID-19, there was an increase in the percentage of students enrolled in distance education in the fall of 2020. Students enrolled exclusively in distance education increased by 14 percentage points from 2019 to 2020 (from 19% to 33%), while students with some distance education increased by 27 percentage points (from 15% to 42%). Students enrolled in on-campus education exclusively decreased by 41 percentage points (from 66% to 25%).

Figure 5: Total enrollment in distance education by headcount



In the fall of 2020, UVM had the highest share of its students enrolled in distance learning (89%- see Figure 6), followed by independent colleges (70%). The VSC had the lowest share of students enrolled in distance learning (66%).

Figure 6. Enrollment in Distance-based Education by Institution Type, Fall 2020 headcount

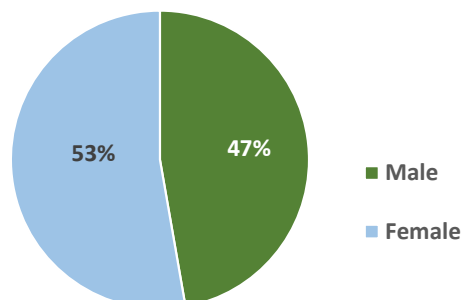


Demographics

Sex

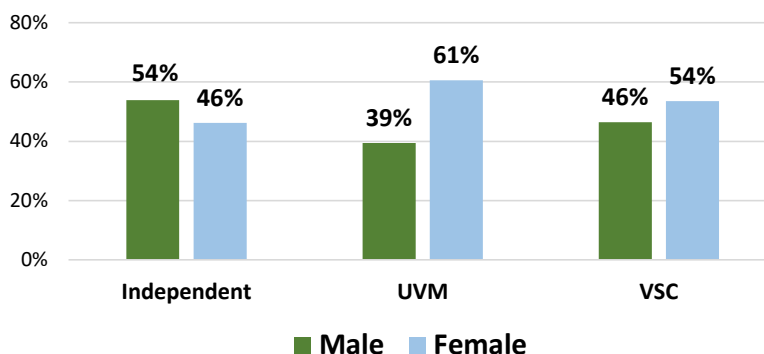
In Fall 2020, females (53%) made up most of the full-time student population in Vermont (Figure 7).⁵

Figure 7: Sex breakdown of full-time students



Among those enrolled full-time, females outnumbered males at both the Vermont State Colleges (54%) and UVM (61%) (Figure 8). Of note is the fact that the student population at independent colleges was higher among male (54%) than female students (46%). However, the overall percentage is affected by the higher percentage of male students enrolled at Norwich University, a private military college with a full-time enrollment that is 70% male. Excluding Norwich University, the percentage of females enrolled at independent colleges is 51%.

Figure 8: Sex breakdown of full-time students by institution type



Among those enrolled at CCV, most (84%) enrolled part-time. Among those enrolled part-time at CCV, females (71%) outnumbered males (29%).

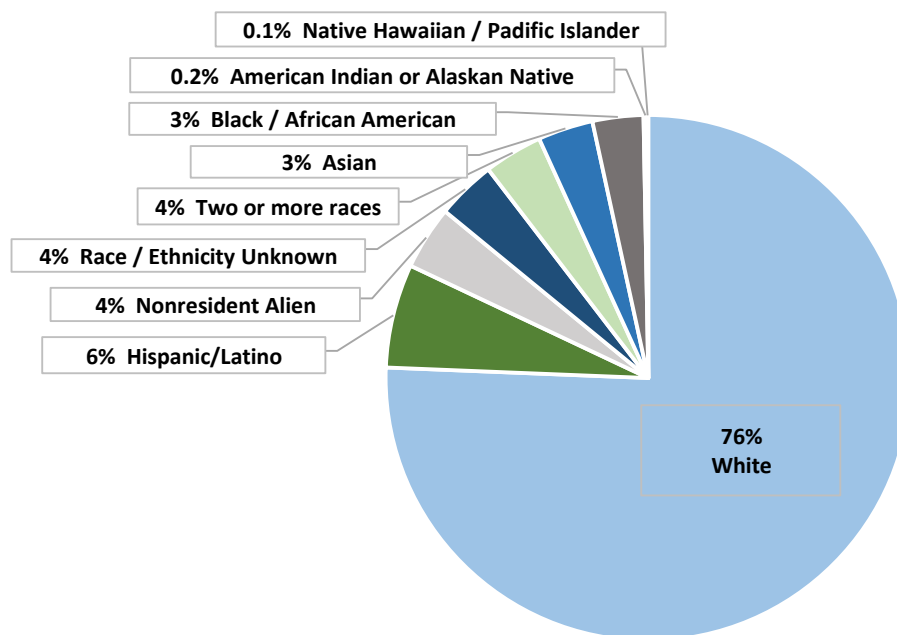
⁵ Data collected for this report mirror data for collected for the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS). IPEDS does not track additional categories for gender reporting so we refer to male and female as sexual categories rather than gender identity categories.

Race/Ethnicity

Enrollment by race changed dramatically from the fall of 2019 to 2020. Most full-time students at Vermont institutions in 2020 were white (76%, up from 62% in 2019) driven by the significant decline in International (or non-resident alien) student enrollment (4% in 2020, down from 13% in 2019) and among students with two or more races (4%, down from 11% in 2019.) Hispanic/Latinx students made up 6% of the student body. Students whose racial/ethnic background information was unknown was 4%, up from 3% in 2019.

While white students continue to make up the majority of higher education students in Vermont, campuses are home to a more diverse community than the state of Vermont overall, where the population is approximately 94% white (US Census).

Figure 9. Racial / Ethnic Background of Vermont Higher Education





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Vermont-Chartered Higher Education Institutions
 in Fall 2020

Bennington College
 Castleton University
 The Center for Cartoon Studies*
 Champlain College
 Community College of Vermont
 Goddard College*
 Landmark College
 Middlebury College
 New England Culinary Institute*
 Northern Vermont University
 Norwich University
 Saint Michael's College
 SIT Graduate Institute
 Sterling College
 University of Vermont
 Vermont College of Fine Arts*
 Vermont Law School*
 Vermont Technical College

**Institutions did not supply data for the Fall 2020 Enrollment Survey.*

Cover photos:

Top – Landmark College Communications Office

Bottom – Castleton University Communications Office.

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