

The Biggest Movers Online

Federal data show the colleges and universities with the most students enrolled online in 2018 -- and which institutions grew and shrank from the year before.

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The Education Department's annual release of data about postsecondary enrollments is a font of information -- and we've already mined it for an article about the continuing (but slowing) rise in online enrollments in 2018. The proportion of all enrolled college students who took at least one online class continued to rise, edging up to 34.7 percent in fall 2018 from 33.1 percent the previous year. The rate of increase appears to be slowing ever so slightly, although online education remains the main driver of growth in postsecondary enrollments. Other organizations have published their own analyses of the federal data in recent days, including the <u>Center for Distance Education Research on</u> <u>Monday</u>.

We're going back to the well today, with a look at the 100 colleges and universities that had the most students who took at least one online course in fall 2018 -- and which added or shed students from the previous fall. The names at the top of the table below will provide few surprises -- they are dominated by the several high-profile private nonprofit and for-profit universities that have led the list for most of this decade, though in slightly different order. <u>Western Governors University</u>'s aggressive expansion has catapulted it to the top. It is followed by Southern New Hampshire University, another fast grower (15.2 percent year-over-year growth and, like WGU, growing by nearly 73 percent over three years).

Southern New Hampshire and Western Governors were early movers among nonprofit universities to challenge the for-profit colleges that had largely captured the online market for adult learners in the 1990s and 2000s. Meanwhile, the continued contraction of one of those for-profit institutions, the University of Phoenix -- which long outpaced other postsecondary institutions in online enrollments -- dropped it to third on the list. (<u>In 2015</u>, Phoenix's enrollment of 162,003 more than doubled the next-largest online institution, Liberty University, at 72,519.)

The list also shows significant growth by several large public universities in recent years, with institutions like <u>Arizona State University</u> (nearly doubling online enrollments since 2015), <u>Florida International University</u> (up 10 percent from 2017, and 44 percent since 2015), the <u>Lone Star College</u> system and the University of Texas at Arlington ascendant. Numerous other flagship institutions and public university systems are <u>planning major investments in</u> <u>online learning</u>, hoping to join the ranks of major national players.

Among the other notable shifts documented in the table below, Purdue University Global (formerly Kaplan University) suffered a decline in its transition from for-profit to nonprofit, as has Ashford University.

				2018	2017		2015	
Institution	All Enrolled Students,	Students Enrolled Entirely	Enrolled in Some But Not All	Total Online	2017 Total Online	% Increase, 2017 to 2018	Total Online	% Increase, 2015 to 2018
	2018	Online,	Online	Enrollment	Enrollment	2017 10 2018	enronment	2013 10 2018
Western Governors University	121,437	2018 121,437	Courses	121,437	98,627	23.1%	70,504	72.2%
Southern New Hampshire University	104,068	96,912	500	97,412	84,550		56,371	72.8%
University of Phoenix-Arizona	95,777	94,472	342	94,814	102,495	-7.5% 7.8%		-41.5% 48.5%
Grand Canyon University Liberty University	90,253 79,152	70,295 64,006	10,704 7,106	80,999 71,112	75,154 67,312	5.6%		-1.9%
University of Maryland-University College	60,603	48,432	5,996	54,428	53,080	2.5%		11.8%
Walden University	50,360	50,360		50,360	49,680			-4.6%
American Public University System University of Central Florida	46,088 68,475	46,088	29,001	46,088 39,270		-0.7%		-12.0% 18.9%
Ivy Tech Community College	72,006	15,010	23,627	38,637	36,640	5.5%		13.3%
Florida International University	57,942	11,785	25,978	37,763	34,281	10.2%		43.4%
Arizona State University-Skysong	38,540	37,000	305	37,305	30,422	22.6%		95.4%
Capella University Ashford University	37,171 34,710	37,171 34,705	5	37,171 34,710	36,284 36,452	-4.8%		-17.4%
Brigham Young University-Idaho	42,341	21,053	11,395	32,448	42,057	-22.8%		-3.3%
Purdue University Global-Davenport	30,512	30,512	0	30,512	33,287	-8.3%		-32.6%
Excelsior College Lone Star College System	30,008	30,008 11,524	17,317	30,008 28,841	34,022 29,340	-11.8%		-30.4% 32.2%
Chamberlain University-Illinois	27,629	25,033	1,317	26,350	25,757	2.3%		19.2%
University of Florida	52,218	4,766	21,513	26,279	30,795	-14.7%	28,838	-8.9%
Colorado Technical University-Colorado Springs	26,184	25,038	886	25,924	25,093	3.3%		2780.4%
The University of Texas at Arlington Arizona State University-Tempe	47,899 51,585	18,425 268	6,439 23,569	24,864 23,837	23,362 23,723	6.4% 0.5%		41.7%
University of South Florida-Main Campus	43,846	5,468	18,317	23,785	22,876			13.3%
Houston Community College	57,200	8,384	13,186	21,570	20,344	6.0%	19,111	12.9%
Columbia Southern University	21,104	21,104	AC	21,104	20,818	1.4%		1.3%
California State University-Northridge Ohio State University-Main Campus	40,212 61,170	1,304 2,284	19,451 18,037	20,755 20,321	20,127 16,439	3.1% 23.6%		28.7% 73.0%
Valencia College	46,521	7,987	12,318	20,321	18,746			17.9%
Full Sail University	20,170	14,554	5,168	19,722	18,212	8.3%	19,939	-1.1%
Texas Tech University	38,209	3,513	15,508	19,021	17,369	9.5%		28.3%
University of Houston University of North Texas	46,324 38,241	1,646 3,902	16,613 13,820	18,259 17,722	16,558 15,821	10.3%		40.9%
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	49,702	4,767	12,503	17,270	14,551	18.7%		61.1%
Florida State University	41,005	2,738	14,515	17,253	16,355	5.5%	12,858	34.2%
University of Arizona	44,097	4,242	12,701	16,943	15,443	9.7%		75.4%
St Petersburg College University of Cincinnati-Main Campus	29,183 37,886	10,068 6,280	6,814 10,520	16,882 16,800	16,409 15,358	2.9%		2.3%
DeVry University-Illinois	17,364	15,837	941	16,778	16,119	4.1%		-18.0%
San Diego State University	35,303	646	15,788	16,434	14,170	16.0%	9,634	70.6%
College of Southern Nevada	34,169	6,621	9,291	15,912	15,368	3.5%		6.7%
University of Iowa Kent State University at Kent	31,656 28,122	3,022	12,073 11.117	15,095 15.070	9,363 14,235	61.2% 5.9%		18.1%
Kennesaw State University	35,420	3,899	11,083	14,982	14,204			49.0%
The University of Alabama	38,390	3,786	11,148	14,934	11,697	27.7%		54.6%
University of Minnesota-Twin Cities	50,734	1,095	13,571	14,666	13,689	7.1%		46.1%
North Carolina State University at Raleigh Pennsylvania State University-World Campus	35,479 14,458	2,986 14,458	11,555	14,541 14,458	14,199 14,301	2.4%		18.0% 18.1%
The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley	28,644	2,434	11,935	14,369	12,741	12.8%		44.9%
California State University-Fullerton	40,280	2,161	12,133	14,294	13,957	2.4%		28.2%
Utah State University Eastern Gateway Community College	27,932 13,940	4,905 12,576	8,947 1,125	13,852 13,701	13,148 6,781	5.4% 102.0%		3.7% 1155.8%
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University-Worldwide	13,540	12,370	1,123	13,684	13,820	-1.0%		6.4%
Oregon State University	30,986	6,565	6,917	13,482	12,725	5.9%		32.9%
Pennsylvania State University-Main Campus	46,810	89	13,255	13,344	16,064	-16.9%		-7.0%
Northern Arizona University California State University-Sacramento	31,066	6,304 578	7,024	13,328 13,233	13,094 11,659	1.8% 13.5%		13.2% 76.2%
California State University-Sacramento Ohio University-Main Campus	31,902 28,480	578 7,975	5,030	13,233	12,909	0.7%		20.1%
Florida Atlantic University	29,772	3,170	9,807	12,977	13,332			24.4%
East Carolina University	28,718	6,812	6,148	12,960	12,348	5.0%		7.9%
Fort Hays State University	15,523 50,254	11,012 2,501	1,864 10,368	12,876 12,869	12,264 14.072	5.0%		17.6% 20.8%
Rutgers University-New Brunswick George Mason University	37,316	2,301 2,164	10,508	12,809	10,199	25.0%		61.4%
The University of Texas at Austin	51,832	154	12,546	12,700		12.1%		80.9%
University of Nevada-Las Vegas	30,457	1,492	11,188	12,680				22.9%
Utah Valley University University of Alabama at Birmingham	39,931 21,923	3,097 5,603	9,476 6,935	12,573 12,538	11,219 11,409	12.1%		31.6% 1.3%
Colorado State University-Global Campus	12,476	12,476	0,933	12,338	12,381	0.8%		26.8%
Old Dominion University	24,176	6,011	6,385	12,396	11,705	5.9%	9,343	32.7%
Northern Virginia Community College	50,929	5,373	6,948	12,321	13,110			-8.2%
Broward College Tarrant County College District	40,784 51,100	5,162 5,824	7,000 6,036	12,162 11,860	11,328 11,921			11.3% 14.3%
University of Nebraska-Lincoln	25,820	1,649	10,178	11,800	10,896			49.5%
Cuyahoga Community College District	23,440	5,150	6,629	11,779	11,617	1.4%	12,266	-4.0%
Austin Community College District	40,799	4,760	6,988	11,748	11,222			18.7%
Florida State College at Jacksonville Indiana University-Purdue University-Indianapolis	23,413 29,579	1,734 2,233	9,902 9,387	11,636 11,620	14,595 11,185	-20.3%		0.2%
University of the Cumberlands	13,472	6,473	5,046	11,519				142.4%
Michigan State University	50,351	2,196	9,273	11,469	12,002	-4.4%	9,901	15.8%
University of Utah	33,023	1,476	9,847	11,323	10,720			31.7%
Sam Houston State University Johns Hopkins University	21,213 26,152	3,489 8,722	7,776 2,521	11,265 11,243	10,547 9,822	6.8% 14.5%		21.4% 38.5%
Portland Community College	20,132	5,064	6,070	11,243				2.6%
Central Washington University	12,342	3,180	7,872	11,052	4,770	131.7%	3,816	189.6%
San Francisco State University	29,778	418	10,593	11,011	10,264	7.3%		67.9%
Thomas Edison State University Wilmington University	10,934 14,786	10,836 7,750	98 3,123	10,934 10,873	11,945 8,839	-8.5% 23.0%		-16.5% -14.7%
California State University-Long Beach	37,466	443	10,391	10,875				-14.7%
Texas State University	38,644	1,376	9,406	10,782	8,513	26.7%	5,798	86.0%
Central Piedmont Community College	18,824	4,139	6,617	10,756	10,649	1.0%		5.7%
San Jose State University San Jacinto Community College	35,400 32,137	2,633 3,529	8,114 7,207	10,747 10,736	10,125 9,493	6.1% 13.1%		67.2% 34.9%
Rio Salado College	32,137 18,304	3,529	537	10,736	9,493	-0.5%		-11.7%
Wake Technical Community College	21,872	5,474	5,077	10,551				22.1%
Saddleback College	19,421	5,475	5,064	10,539	9,675	8.9%		23.8%
Northcentral University Lamar University	10,535 14,783	10,535 7,109	3,409	10,535 10,518	10,788 9,501	-2.3%		-4.5% 15.3%
Strayer University-Global Region	10,498	10,389	36	10,425	8,789	18.6%	6,885	51.4%

Source: Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, National Center for Education Statistics

https://www.insidehighered.com/digital-learning/article/2019/12/17/colleges-and-universitiesmost-online-students-2018?utm_source=Inside+Higher+Ed&utm_campaign=7a6385859f-DNU_2019_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_1fcbc04421-7a6385859f-198467257&mc_cid=7a6385859f&mc_eid=0c2028f1a2