

# Exclusively Online Students

Benchmarking

Undergraduate Enrollment

Total Enrollment

Changes Over Time

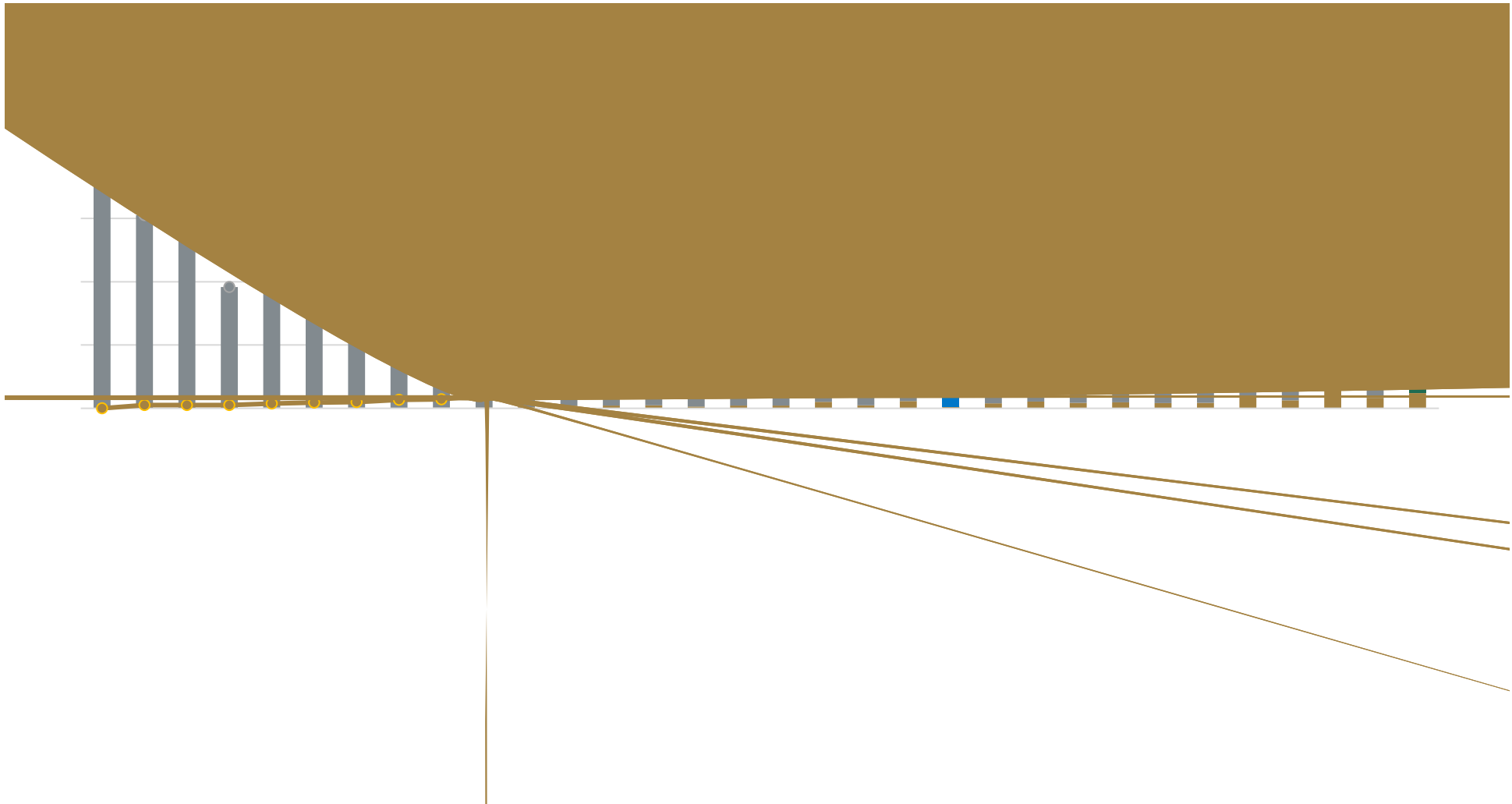
## Background

As the University of Alabama System (UAS) prepares to recalibrate and understand the changing needs of its students post-pandemic, one important area of focus is gaining a better understanding (Spring 2021) exclusively online its

students on UAS campuses were: 4,515 (11.9% of all students) at UA; 5,736 (26.0%) at UAB; and 747 (7.5%) at UAH. These numbers and percentages indicate that the exclusively online enrollment is more prevalent at the graduate level.

In Graph 2, institutions are sorted based on the percentage of students enrolled exclusively online. When compared to other SUNC institutions, UAB ranks # 2 based on the percentage of students enrolled exclusively online; UA ranks # 4; and UAH ranks # 13. Once again, these data show that more students enroll exclusively online at UAB and at UA than at many other SUNC institutions.

Graph 1 Undergraduate enrollment: Students enrolled exclusively online (Fall 2019)



Source: Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS)

\* Data for Arizona State University should be considered with caution, since starting in fall of 2013, they report Arizona State University Campus Immersion (included here) and Arizona State University Digital Immersion (not included here) separately. The number of undergraduate exclusively online students at Arizona State University Digital Immersion is 33,410 in Fall 2019.



### Undergraduate Enrollment Over Time

As shown in Graph 3, over the period from fall 2012 to fall 2019, the number of undergraduate students enrolled exclusively online increased 1.95 times (from 1,462 in 2012 to 2,856 in 2019) at UA; 3.07 times (from 781 to 2,398) at UAB; and 5.48 times (from 44 to 241) at UAH. The median change in the number of exclusively online undergraduate students for the SUG group (UAS institutions and Arizona State excluded) is 2.56 times, which places UA below the median and UAB and UAH above the median.

**Graph 3** Undergraduate enrollment: Number of students enrolled exclusively online over time

The share of exclusively online undergraduate students increased 1.67 times (from 5.2% in 2012 to 8.7% in 2019) at UA; 2.51 times (from 6.9% to 17.3%) at UAB; and 4.03 times (from 0.7% to 3.0%) at UAH, see Graph 4.

The median change in the share of exclusively online undergraduate students for the SUG group (UAS institutions and Arizona State excluded) is 2.28 times, which, once again, places UA below the median and UAB and UAH above the median.

### All Student Enrollment Over Time

As shown in Graph 5, over the period from fall 2012 to fall 2019, the number of all | 18ID 9 BDC j5.8h 4.

**Graph 4** Share of undergraduate students enrolled exclusively online over time

The median change in the share of exclusively online students for the SUG group (UAS institutions and Arizona State excluded) is 1.87 times, which places UA and UAB below the median and UAH above the median.

**Graph 6** Share of all students enrolled exclusively online over time

**Conclusion**

The number and share of exclusively online students is greater at UAB and at UA than at other SUG institutions. The number and share of exclusively online students also increased substantially during the period from fall 2012 to fall 2019 for all three UAS institutions. Growth in the number and in the share of exclusively online students was observed at most SUG institutions included for benchmarking purposes in this report.

Overall, growth in the number of exclusively online students is being observed nationally. In fall 2018, there were 6,932,074 students enrolled in distance education courses at degree-granting postsecondary institutions (National Center for Education Statistics [NCES] [Fast Facts](#)). The traditional higher education business model was challenged before the

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