

Distance Education Opportunities from New Hampshire Postsecondary Institutions, 2016

During the 2015-2016 academic year, New Hampshire’s postsecondary educational institutions offered 1,483 degree and certificate programs in 37 different fields of study.¹ Of all degree and certificate programs offered, 276, 18.6 percent, were offered via distance education. Among the 23 degree-granting postsecondary educational institutions with a physical presence in New Hampshire approved to offer Associate’s degree or higher level programs, 15 institutions offered distance education options. Distance education programs were offered in 22 of the 37 general academic fields of study.

According to the National Center for Education Statistics, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) glossary, a *distance education program* is one for which all required coursework for completion can be completed via *distance education courses*. *Distance education courses* use technology to deliver instruction to students who are separated from the instructor and to support regular and substantive interaction between students and instructor, synchronously or asynchronously. Technologies may include Internet, one-way or two-way transmissions through open broadcasts, closed circuit, cable, microwave, broadband lines,

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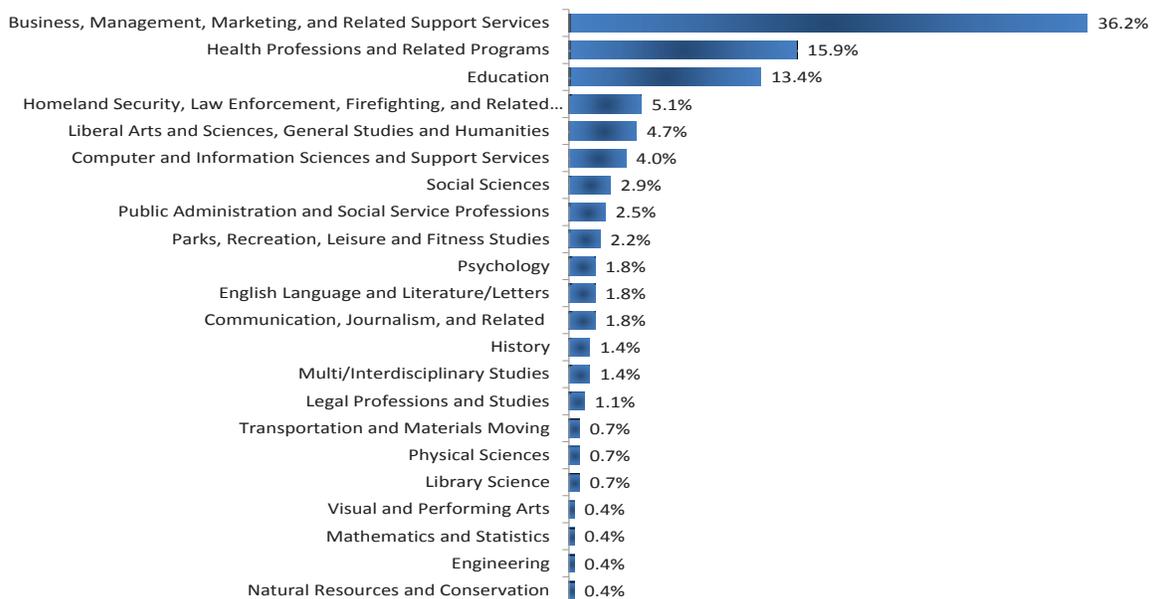
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Share of Distance Education Instructional Programs Offered by New Hampshire Educational Institutions, by Field of Study, 2016



¹ National Center for Education Statistics, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System. Program offerings were derived from completions data (awards or degrees conferred by program and award level) granted between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2016.

The Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) is used to organize, code, and track fields of study and program completers. The two-digit CIP codes are organized into five general categories:

1. Academic and Occupational/Vocational Programs
2. Residency Programs
3. Military Science, Leadership and Operational Art
4. Personal Improvement and Leisure (Avocational) Programs
5. High School/Secondary Diplomas and Certificates

Only programs falling in the Academic and Occupational/Vocational Programs classification are valid for Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) reporting.

Source: National Center for Education Statistics Introduction to the Classification of Instructional Programs: 2010 Edition (CIP-2010). https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/cipcode/files/introduction_cip2010.pdf

fiber optics, satellite, or wireless communication devices; audio conferencing; and video cassette, DVDs, and CD-ROMs, if used in conjunction with the above. Distance education courses are delivered exclusively via distance education, but may include requirements to come to a campus for orientation, testing or academic support services.²

Fields of Study

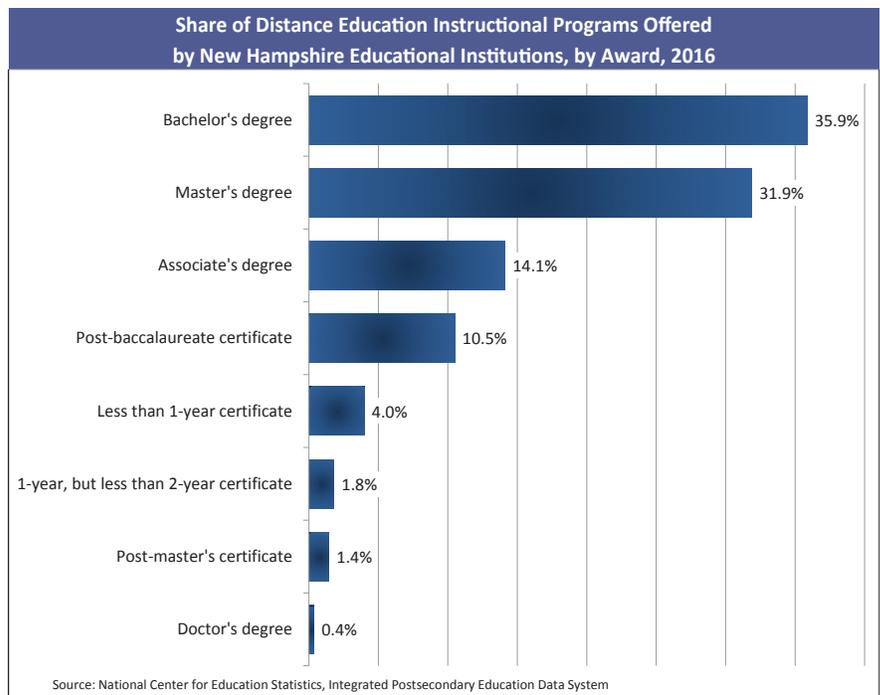
The largest number of distance education offerings were instructional programs in *Business, Management, Marketing, and Related Support Services*, with 100 programs offered by New Hampshire postsecondary education institutions. That was more than double the number of programs offered in other general academic fields of study. Programs in this academic field accounted for one of every three degree programs offered via distance learning from New Hampshire educational institutions. More specifically, there were 23 distance education programs

offered in *Business administration and management, general*; this academic major was offered for five different educational levels, ranging from a certificate program of less than one year to a Master’s degree. The next highest number of programs offered was Accounting,

with 14 distance education programs offered, and *Marketing and marketing management, general*, with ten distance education programs.

Distance education programs were offered for 44 *Health Professions and Related Programs*. There were 12 programs offered in *Health/Health Care Administration/Management*, and five programs for *Registered Nursing/Registered Nurse*.³ The Health Professions group included the sole distance education offering at the Doctorate level, a Doctor of Nursing Practice.

There were 37 distance education programs offered in *Education*. New Hampshire educational institutions offered the most distance education programs in *Early Childhood Education and Teaching; Education, General*;



² IPEDS Survey Materials Glossary <https://surveys.nces.ed.gov/ipeds/VisGlossaryAll.aspx>

³ All distance education nursing programs must include clinical experience supervised by an approved clinical preceptor. Distance education providers in other jurisdictions contracting with a facility in New Hampshire to provide clinical experience to nursing students must register intent with the New Hampshire Board of Nursing prior to offering the program.

and Educational Leadership and Administration, General.

About two-thirds of all distance education degree programs offered by New Hampshire educational institutions were in these three academic fields of study. Another 20 percent of instructional programs were offered in *Homeland Security, Law Enforcement, Firefighting, and Related Protective Services; Liberal Arts and Sciences, General Studies and Humanities; Computer and Information Sciences and Support Services; Social Sciences; and Public Administration and Social Service Professions.*

Academic Degrees Awarded

The majority of distance education programs offered by New Hampshire postsecondary institutions were Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees. Almost 36 percent of offered distance education programs awarded a Bachelor’s degree and roughly 32 percent awarded a Master’s degree. Another 14 percent of offered distance education programs awarded an Associate’s degree.

Just over 11 percent of distance education programs offered an award of either a post-baccalaureate or post-Master’s certificate. A post-baccalaureate certificate is an award requiring completion of academic study beyond the bachelor’s degree, and is designed for those who have completed a baccalaureate; however, it does not meet the requirements of a Master’s degree. Similarly, a post-Master’s certificate is an award for study beyond the Master’s degree but not meeting the requirements of a doctorate.

Nearly six percent of distance education programs resulted in award of a certificate below the Associate’s degree level, and

required either less than one year or between one and two years of postsecondary study.

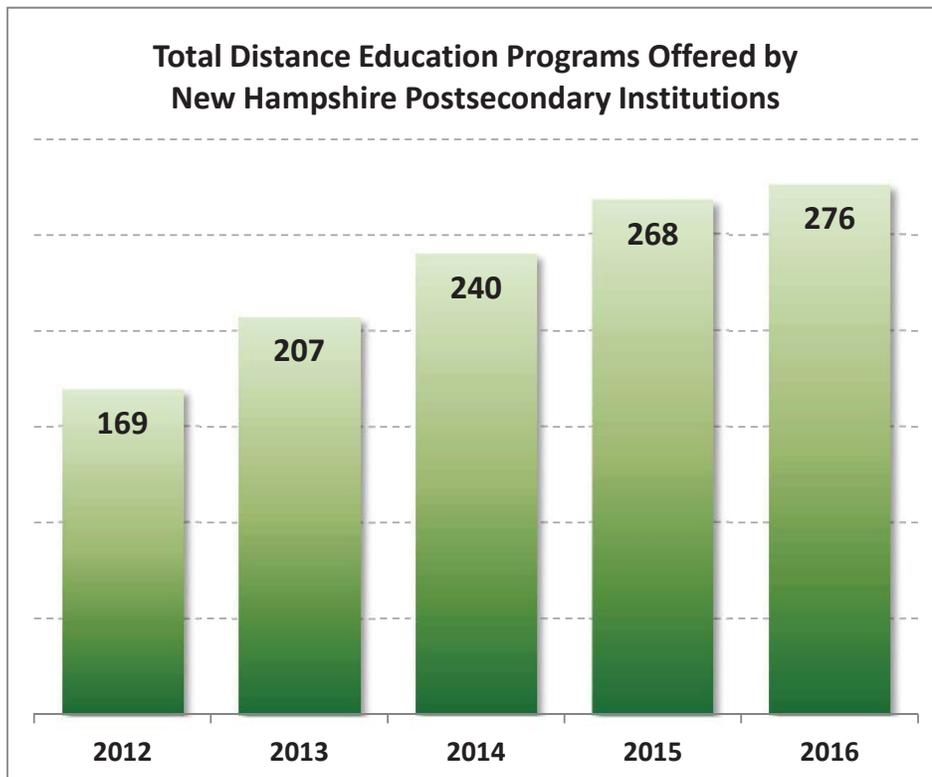
Field of Study by Degree

The academic degree most-offered via distance education was a Master’s degree in *Business, Management, Marketing, and Related Support Services* programs.

New Hampshire postsecondary educational institutions offered 34 programs at this award level. Programs awarding a Master’s degree in *Education* programs were the second-most offered, while programs awarding a Bachelor’s degree in *Health Professions and Related Programs* ranked third.

Instructional Program Groups	Academic Awards Offered Via Distance Education							
	Associate's Degree	Bachelor's Degree	Master's Degree	Professional Practice Doctorate	Certificate Program, Less than 1 Year	Certificate Program, 1-2 Years	Post-baccalaureate Certificate	Post-Master's Certificate
Business, Management, Marketing, and Related Support Services	17	30	34		6		13	
Health Professions and Related Programs	5	18	12	1	2	1	4	1
Education	2	5	22		1		4	3
Homeland Security, Law Enforcement, Firefighting, and Related Protective Service	5	5	1		1	1	1	
Liberal Arts and Sciences, General Studies and Humanities	6	7						
Computer and Information Sciences and Support Services	1	5	2				3	
Public Administration and Social Service Professions	1	2	2			1	1	
Social Sciences	1	4	3					
Parks, Recreation, Leisure and Fitness Studies		1	3				2	
Communication, Journalism, and Related Programs		4	1					
English Language and Literature/Letters		3	2					
Psychology		4	1					
Multi/Interdisciplinary Studies	1	2	1					
History		3	1					
Legal Professions and Studies			2			1		
Library Science					1	1		
Physical Sciences		2						
Transportation and Materials Moving		1	1					
Natural Resources and Conservation		1						
Engineering							1	
Mathematics and Statistics		1						
Visual and Performing Arts		1						
Total by Award	39	99	88	1	11	5	29	4

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



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

Distance education programs awarding a Bachelor's degree were the most diverse in instructional program areas, with programs offered in 19 different fields of study. Programs awarding a Master's degree were offered in 15 different fields of study, while programs awarding an Associate's degree were awarded in nine fields of study.

Distance Education is Growing

Since 2012, when distance education was first compiled by the National Center for Education Statistics, the number of distance education programs offered by New Hampshire postsecondary educational institutions has grown steadily.

There are many benefits to distance education. Distance education programs are accredited, providing students a measure of quality. Flexibility of scheduling, freedom

from restrictions of location, and the students' ability to work at their own pace have made distance education an avenue for students who otherwise might not be able to access postsecondary education. Student participation and interaction with instructors and other students is just as important to the success of a student accessing distance education as one sitting in a classroom. While distance education may not completely replace classroom education, it opens doors for lifelong learning and career success.

Anita Josten, Economist