

August 2023

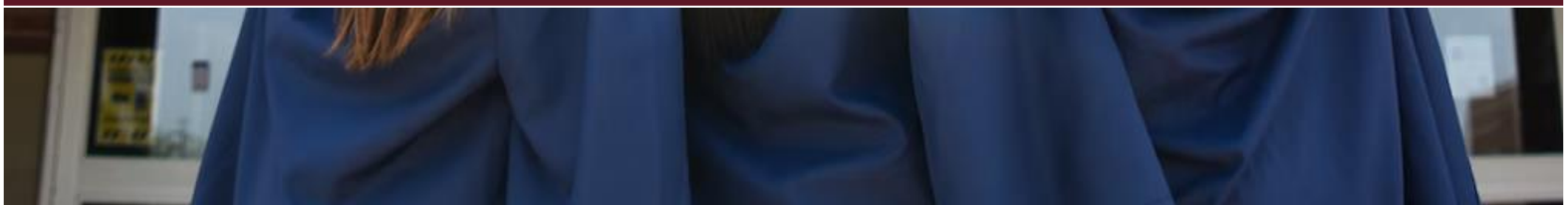
# ACADEMICS

## Enrollment and Graduation Trends at Mississippi's Public Postsecondary Schools

*Academic Years 2013 through 2022*



**MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™**  
NATIONAL STRATEGIC PLANNING  
& ANALYSIS RESEARCH CENTER



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## ABOUT MISSISSIPPI'S SLDS

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Mississippi's State Longitudinal Data System (SLDS) is one of the most comprehensive systems in the country and includes administrative records from more than 25 education, workforce, and human service agencies in the state. The SLDS allows for the alignment of multiple sources of de-identified administrative data over time to evaluate educational or workforce strategies in terms of real outcomes, such as entrance into employment, wages, and skill gains.

## ABOUT NSPARC

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NSPARC is a university research center at Mississippi State University that provides tailored research, analysis, and software architecture services with an emphasis on workforce and economic development. We are a truly unique resource that connects the intellectual and scholarly vitality of a modern research university to organizations that need to gather, manage, and draw meaningful insights from data.

NSPARC is home to experts across disciplines including sociology, economics, statistics, geosciences, and computer science. We recognize the importance of multidisciplinary research and embrace an inclusive model of collaboration to provide strategic solutions for government, industry, and non-profit entities.

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# ENROLLMENT AND GRADUATION TRENDS AT MISSISSIPPI'S PUBLIC POSTSECONDARY SCHOOLS

*Academic Years 2013 through 2022*

## OVERVIEW

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This brief provides information pertaining to enrollment and graduation trends at Mississippi community colleges and Mississippi public universities.

These trends are measured over a 10-year period, from Academic Year (AY) 2013 through AY 2022. Summary information is presented in total, as well as by student residency status.

This brief was commissioned by Mississippi State Representative Donnie Bell.

## SUMMARY OF RESULTS

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### MISSISSIPPI COMMUNITY COLLEGES:

The overall annual enrollment has fallen (-29%) from AY 2013 to AY 2022, from 98,419 to 69,639.

- Enrollment for in-state students (-30%) fell more sharply than enrollment for out-of-state students (-11%).

The total number of community college graduates increased by 12% from AY2013 to AY 2022, rising from 13,824 to 15,499.

- The number of in-state graduates increased by 1,309 (+10%), while out-of-state graduates rose by 366 (+73%).

### MISSISSIPPI PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES:

The overall annual enrollment has fallen (-10%) from AY 2013 to AY2022, from 73,134 to 66,107.

- This decrease is the net result of declining in-state student enrollment (-22%) and increasing out-of-state student enrollment (+34%).

The number of public university graduates has risen by 21% from AY 2013 to AY 2022, increasing from 11,636 to 14,049.

- In-state graduates rose by 255 (+3%) and out-of-state graduates rose by 2,158 (+120%).



## METHODOLOGY

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### DATA SOURCES

The following data were used to measure enrollment and graduation trends; these data were obtained from Mississippi's State Longitudinal Data System (SLDS).

**Mississippi Community College Data** – Data on community college graduates are contributed to the SLDS by Mississippi's 15 community colleges and the Mississippi Community College Board (MCCB). These data include information on the enrollment, county of residence, and graduation of approximately 73,000 students each year.

**Mississippi Public University Data** – Data on 4-year public university graduates are contributed to the SLDS by Mississippi's eight public universities and the Institutions for Higher Learning (IHL). These data include information on the enrollment, county of residence, and graduation of approximately 81,000 students each year.

### INDICATORS

Using these data, the following indicators were measured:

**Mississippi Community College Enrollment** – The annual number of students enrolled in a university parallel program or a career technical education program through a Mississippi public community college (including associate degrees and certificates). Students are included if they enroll at any point during the given academic year. Students in dual-enrollment programs and students who explicitly enroll as “non-degree seeking” are excluded from this count. Similarly, students in a non-academic workforce training program (e.g., a workplace safety course) are excluded from this count. Students enrolled in more than one community college or more than one program during the same year are counted once.

**Mississippi Community College Graduates** – The annual number of students graduating from Mississippi public community colleges with either a certificate or an associate degree in the given academic year. Students earning multiple awards in the same year are counted once.

**Mississippi Public University Enrollment** – The annual number of students enrolled in an undergraduate program at a Mississippi public university. Students are included if they enroll at any point during the given academic year. Undergraduate programs include certificates, associate degrees, and bachelor's degrees. Students enrolled in more than one university or more than one program are counted once.

**Mississippi Public University Graduates** – The annual number of students graduating from a Mississippi public university undergraduate program in the given academic year. Undergraduate programs include certificates, associate degrees, and bachelor's degrees. Students earning multiple awards in the same year are counted once.

**TABLE 1: ENROLLMENT AND GRADUATION TRENDS OF MISSISSIPPI’S PUBLIC POSTSECONDARY SCHOOLS,  
ACADEMIC YEARS 2013 THROUGH 2022**

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Change (AY13 to AY22)	
											Number	Percent
<b><u>Community Colleges</u></b>												
<b>Enrollment</b>	<b>98,419</b>	<b>93,192</b>	<b>90,078</b>	<b>87,424</b>	<b>84,759</b>	<b>81,138</b>	<b>78,642</b>	<b>75,261</b>	<b>72,533</b>	<b>69,639</b>	<b>- 28,780</b>	<b>- 29.2%</b>
<i>In-State</i>	94,182	89,498	86,055	83,361	80,582	77,191	74,779	71,545	68,973	65,881	- 28,301	- 30.1%
<i>Out-of-State</i>	4,237	3,694	4,023	4,063	4,177	3,947	3,863	3,716	3,560	3,758	- 479	- 11.3%
<b>Graduates</b>	<b>13,824</b>	<b>14,383</b>	<b>15,717</b>	<b>16,204</b>	<b>16,404</b>	<b>16,867</b>	<b>16,692</b>	<b>16,552</b>	<b>16,224</b>	<b>15,499</b>	<b>1,675</b>	<b>12.1%</b>
<i>In-State</i>	13,320	13,878	15,112	15,556	15,798	16,155	15,964	15,629	15,437	14,629	1,309	9.8%
<i>Out-of-State</i>	504	505	605	648	606	712	728	923	787	870	366	72.6%
<b><u>Public Universities</u></b>												
<b>Enrollment</b>	<b>73,134</b>	<b>72,655</b>	<b>73,069</b>	<b>75,220</b>	<b>75,709</b>	<b>74,797</b>	<b>72,983</b>	<b>71,287</b>	<b>68,149</b>	<b>66,107</b>	<b>- 7,027</b>	<b>- 9.6%</b>
<i>In-State</i>	56,988	55,263	54,121	54,054	53,334	52,165	50,368	48,702	46,273	44,487	- 12,501	- 21.9%
<i>Out-of-State</i>	16,146	17,392	18,948	21,166	22,375	22,632	22,615	22,585	21,876	21,620	5,474	33.9%
<b>Graduates</b>	<b>11,636</b>	<b>12,046</b>	<b>12,073</b>	<b>12,535</b>	<b>12,997</b>	<b>13,542</b>	<b>14,319</b>	<b>14,431</b>	<b>14,754</b>	<b>14,049</b>	<b>2,413</b>	<b>20.7%</b>
<i>In-State</i>	9,839	10,070	9,740	9,824	10,061	10,187	10,582	10,300	10,548	10,094	255	2.6%
<i>Out-of-State</i>	1,797	1,976	2,333	2,711	2,936	3,355	3,737	4,131	4,206	3,955	2,158	120.1%