THE TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

Online Education Annual Report
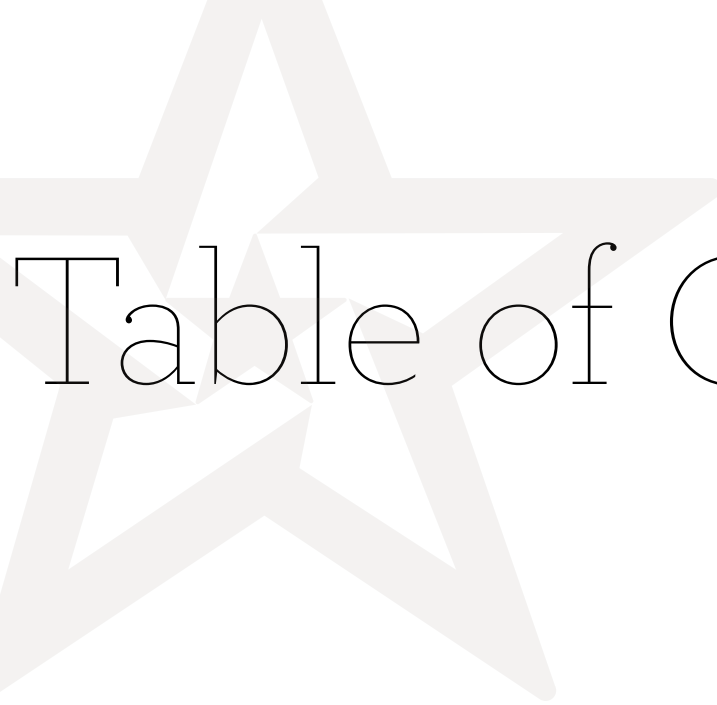
THIRD EDITION, NOVEMBER 2019

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TSUS Online Education Annual Report Staff

A 21st Century Solution

As Chancellor of the Texas State University System, I proudly recognize our System's strides in making education more accessible for students. Each of our institutions plays an integral part in removing persistent barriers faced by students who are unable to attend a campus to further their education, either because of geographic limits or personal reasons, like family obligations. Education offered online by the colleges and universities in our System has bridged this gap for many students and it continues to provide the most reliable path toward career achievement.

This is reflected in the explosive growth in online education among TSUS member institutions. Since 2009, the number of credit hours taught online has more than quadrupled, from 39,000 online credit hours to more than 175,000 online credit hours last fall. During the same period, the number of degree programs offered online has grown from 32 to 133, an increase of more than 300%.

This rapid growth in online education plays a crucial role in the Texas State University System, with its unique mix of two-year and four-year institutions serving the citizens of Texas. Opportunities start with our two-year institutions, which feature open enrollment for students from all walks of life, creating a strategic pathway to earn certificates and associate degrees online. Uniquely positioned to facilitate a lifelong relationship with its students, these open pathways lead to baccalaureate degrees, master's degrees, and even doctoral degrees offered online by our four-year institutions.

Sharing academic and technological resources among our colleges and universities enables the facilitation of these open pathways. The result is the betterment of lives of TSUS students and their families and the removal of barriers toward degree achievement. It is my desire that cross-institutional collaboration continues to build our System's capacity to provide quality education online at scale and that our shared efforts continue to drive social mobility and economic prosperity for students of all kinds in our great State of Texas.

This report provides a picture of the current state of online education in the institutions of the Texas State University System. I hope that you find the information practically useful, but also inspiring – as online learning continues to strengthen and transform higher education in Texas.

Brian McCall, Ph.D.

Highlights

- Research by Seaman, Allen, and Seaman (2018) reports that distance education enrollments increased for the 14th straight year, growing faster than they have for the past several years.

- The Texas State University System is the leader among public Texas university systems, with the highest percentage of fully online students in relation to the system' student populations as a whole.

- Texas State University System is uniquely positioned to facilitate lifelong relationships with its students through seamless transfer pathways from TSUS two-year institutions to degrees earned online at four-year TSUS institutions.

- Lamar University serves students in more than 95% of Texas counties, with students in 18 countries and 48 states. LU continues to develop innovate programs in a number of areas as well as developing certificates at both the graduate and undergraduate level.

- Sam Houston State University added 5 new undergraduate programs offered online that are aimed at the growing adult learner population. 96% of this year's SHSU graduates took at least one online course. The university has completed its shared-services initiative with Lamar Institute of Technology.

- At Sul Ross State University, during the 2018-2019 academic year, a new online Master of Education in Educational Technology was introduced. In addition to this new online degree program, two faculty members participated in a shared services pilot program with Sam Houston State University for their online courses.

- Texas State University is an Emerging Research University with 12 fully online and eight hybrid degree programs. Our online growth in courses and programs supports the overall university status as a "student-centered institution dedicated to excellence and innovation in teaching, research, including creative expression, and service."

- Lamar Institute of Technology offers 26 degree programs online, and students can continue with baccalaureate programs online through four-year TSUS institutions.

- Lamar State College Orange offers students the ability to complete the Texas Core Curriculum completely online. Additionally, the Associates of Arts in Liberal Arts can be completed online.

- Lamar State College Port Arthur had 475 students taking at least one or more courses online, which is a 22.1% increase from 2018.

Introduction

Welcome to the third annual Texas State University System Online Education report.

The Texas State University System continues to lead online education into the future. **As of Fall 2019, among the six public university systems in Texas, TSUS continues to lead the way in the percentage of students pursuing their degrees fully online, up 1% from last year with 15% (see page 8 below).**

Making online education a priority is an appropriate response to the rapid growth in online programs across the country.

The Online College Students 2019: Comprehensive Data on Demands and Preferences report (Aslanian, C. B., Magda, A. J., & Clinefelter, D.L., 2019) states, "A decisive majority of students agree that online education is worth its costs, with 84% agreeing or strongly agreeing with that assertion."

By enthusiastically adopting the emerging technologies and best practices related to online education, TSUS institutions have staked a claim in the rapid growth of online education.
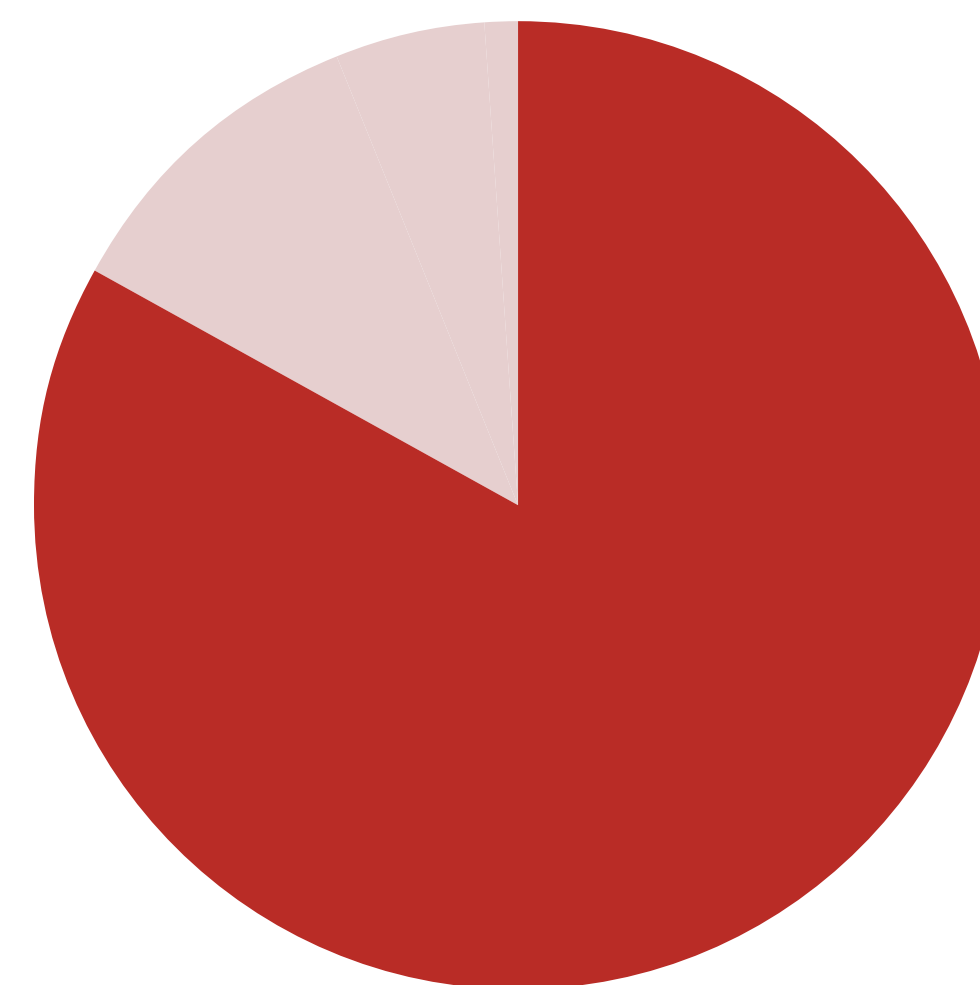
The Perceived Value of Online Learning

84% Agree
or **Strongly Agree** that their **Online Education** was **worth the cost**

Source: Online College Students 2019: Comprehensive Data on Demands and Preferences Report by Aslanian, C.B., Magda, A. J., & Clinefelter, D.L.,

The Evolving Online Learning Market

While colleges and universities have been facing overall declines in enrollment in recent years, distance (online) education has been the exception. As the authors of a 2018 article titled "Grade Increase: Tracking Distance Education in the United States" note:

Distance education enrollments increased for the 14th straight year, growing faster than they have for the past several years. From 2002 to 2012 both distance and overall enrollments grew annually, but since 2012 distance growth has continued its steady increase in an environment that saw overall enrollments decline for four straight years and the largest for-profit distance education institutions continue to face serious issues and lose their enrollments.... Total distance enrollments are composed of 14.9% of students (3,003,080) taking exclusively distance courses, and 16.7% (3,356,041) who are taking a combination of distance and non-distance courses. (Seaman, Allen, and Seaman, 2018).

Observers of online learning note that public or non-profit institutions are benefiting from a change in prospective students' preferences. "[F]or-profit online education tends to be viewed as a product from a company, whereas non-profit or public education is viewed as a service offered by established, proven institutions," writes Beth McIlrath in a recent article for the online publication *Market Scale*. "[P]ublic and non-profit programs have significantly higher enrollment totals of distance learners than for-profit counterparts. This shows a preference among learners for mixed-format options." (McIlrath, B., "How Online Learning Went Mainstream," *Market Scale*, August 30, 2019) (https://marketscale.com/industries/education-technology/how-online-learning-went-mainstream/)

The Evolving Online Learning Market (Cont'd)

The Online College Students 2019: Comprehensive Data on Demands and Preferences report (Aslanian, C. B., Magda, A. J., & Clinefelter, D.L., 2019) described three new trends to watch: First, there has been a five-percent increase in undergraduate enrollment in the arts, humanities, and STEM programs offered online. Second, there has been a 10% increase in men enrolling in online Information Technology and STEM programs over the past year. Third, as broadband access increases across Texas and the nation, more Hispanic and Latino citizens will have access to online degree programs, which should increase online enrollments.

Clinefelter and Aslanian provide several key findings among online college students in 2019. Among other observations, their research touches on the following points:

67%
of online students are enrolling within 50 miles
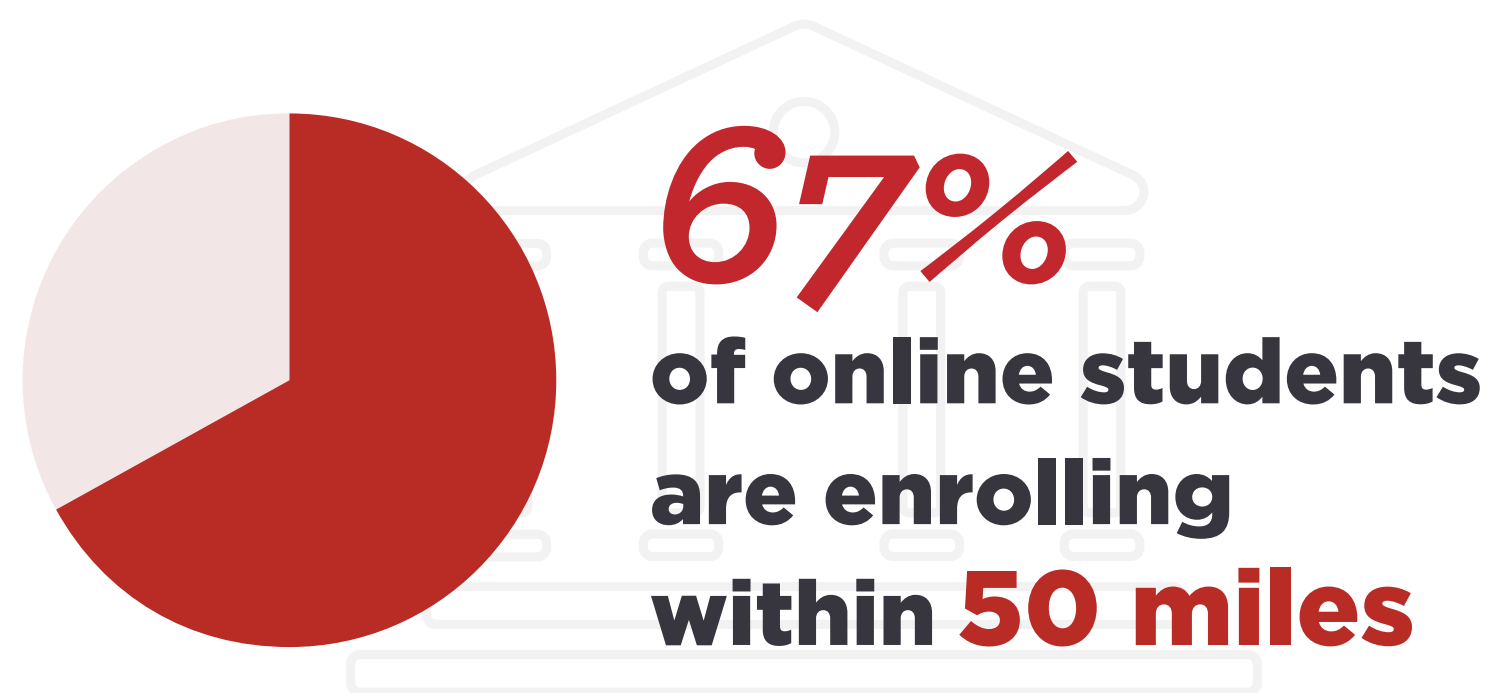
Distance from home to campus continues to shrink
- In 2012, 44% of online college students chose a school within 50 miles of their residence.

- In 2019, 67% of online college students are enrolling at schools within 50 miles of their residence, and 44% of those students live within 25 miles of their school.

A significant proportion of online students want a lifelong relationship with their school
- More than 40% of current online students and graduates plan to return to their alma mater to take additional classes.

- Beyond opportunities to become lifelong learners as alumni, one-third of students say they would recommend their school to prospective students.

The online population is complex
- The complex online student population includes learners from multiple generations and segments.

- One-third of online college students are first-generation college students, and 13% have no prior college experience.

- Of online students with past college experience, about one-third are returning after a break of five or more years.

The need for convenience is growing
- The majority of online students at the undergraduate (51%) and graduate (70%) levels are employed full time, and 41% of all online students are parents.

- 71% of online students were enrolled full time this year.

- According to the U.S. Department of Education guidelines, a typical full-time student needs to dedicate about 30 hours per week to their studies, which is a substantial time commitment for full-time workers.

Cost continues to be a key factor
- Affordability is the top factor for students who are choosing an undergraduate program. For graduate students, affordability ties with reputation as the top factor.

- For many students, receiving a relatively small incentive – like a free course – can influence their decision-making process.

TSUS is unique in several crucial ways:
With both two-year and four-year member institutions, TSUS is oriented to foster lifelong relationships with students across the state.

TSUS is uniquely positioned to provide educational opportunities online to underserved communities across Texas.

Rich in academic diversity, TSUS member institutions offer a full gamut of credentialing. From certifications to doctoral degrees offered online, TSUS students have a convenient route to attaining their educational goals.

Fully Online Student Headcount For Texas Public University Systems

The Texas State University System

15% **of Students Fully Online**

Fully Online Students Enrolled: **12,633**
Total Students Enrolled: **84,625**
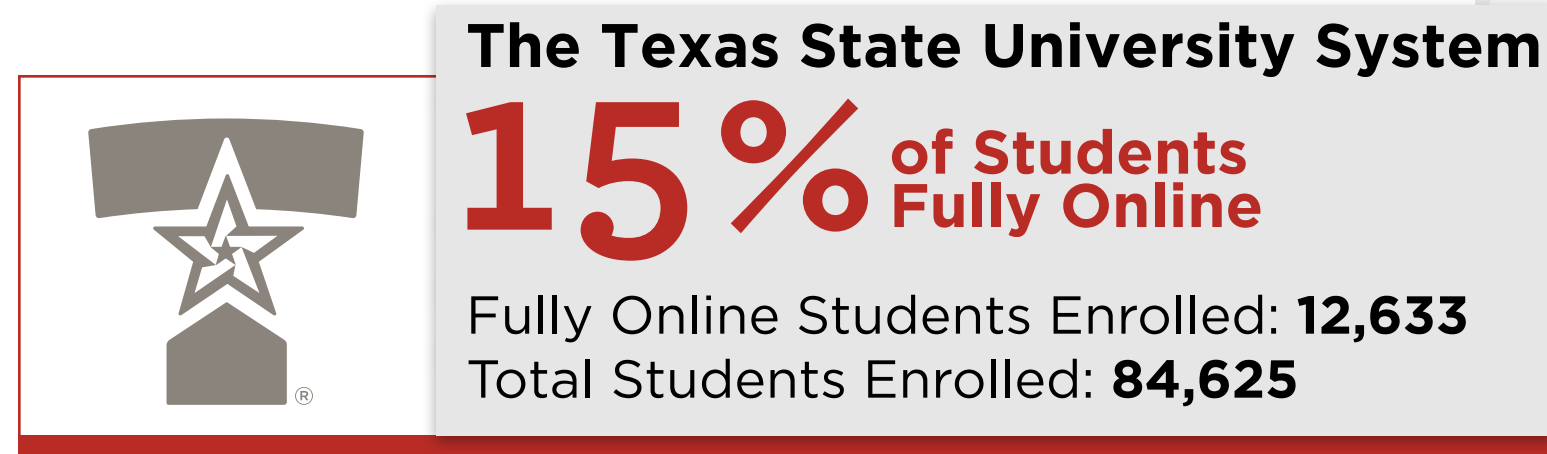
The Texas State University System continues as the leader among the Texas university systems, *with the highest percentage of fully online students.*

Percentage of Fully Online Students

15%
13%
10%
10%
9%
7%

9%

10%

13%

15%

10%

7%

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) available at the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) website
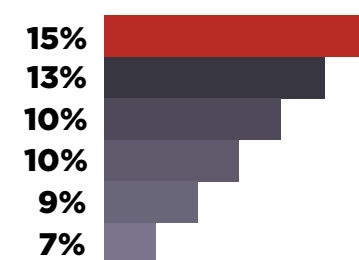*Note: IPEDS defines Distance Learning as instructional content that is delivered exclusively (100%) via distance education.*

The University of Texas System

13% of Students Fully Online

Fully Online Students Enrolled: 28,359
Total Students Enrolled: 226,743

The Texas A&M University System

10% of Students Fully Online

Fully Online Students Enrolled: 14,682
Total Students Enrolled: 152,995

University of North Texas System

10% of Students Fully Online

Fully Online Students Enrolled: 3,986
Total Students Enrolled: 41,785

Texas Tech University System

9% of Students Fully Online

Fully Online Students Enrolled: 4,298
Total Students Enrolled: 47,413

University of Houston System

7% of Students Fully Online

Fully Online Students Enrolled: 5,003
Total Students Enrolled: 72,178

Online Education In TSUS Institutions

Texas State University System component institutions have persisted in their commitment to increasing the number of courses and programs offered online. Building upon this success, the System is determined to be even more innovative and aggressive in its online education efforts by the year 2020.

TSUS aligns with the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's distance education definitions:

Coordinating Board rules recognize two categories of distance education courses: fully distance education courses and hybrid/blended courses.

A fully distance education course is defined as "A course which may have mandatory face-to-face sessions totaling no more than 15 percent of the instructional time." **At least 85% of instructional time must be fully distance.**

A hybrid/blended course is defined as "A course in which a majority (**more than 50 percent but less than 85 percent**), of the planned instruction occurs when the students and instructor(s) are not in the same place."

Texas State University System

2020 Online Education Goals

Highlighted below are TSUS's goals in terms of credit hours earned online, degree programs offered online, and degrees earned online by 2020:

168,000
Online Credit Hours

128
Online Degree Programs

3,390
Online Degrees Awarded

2019 Online Education Achievements

Highlighted below are TSUS's achievements for 2019, in terms of credit hours earned online, degree programs offered online, and degrees earned online:

181,095
Online Credit Hours

188
Online Degree Programs

5,287
Online Degrees Awarded

Online Semester Credit Hours

Year	
2017	150,126
2018	168,751
2019	181,095
2020 Goal	168,000

Online Semester Credit Hours Generated (SCH)

Online Degree Programs

Year	
2017	129
2018	161
2019	188
2020 Goal	128

Online Degree Programs

Online Degrees Awarded

Year	
2017	3,292
2018	3,690
2019	5,287
2020 Goal	3,390
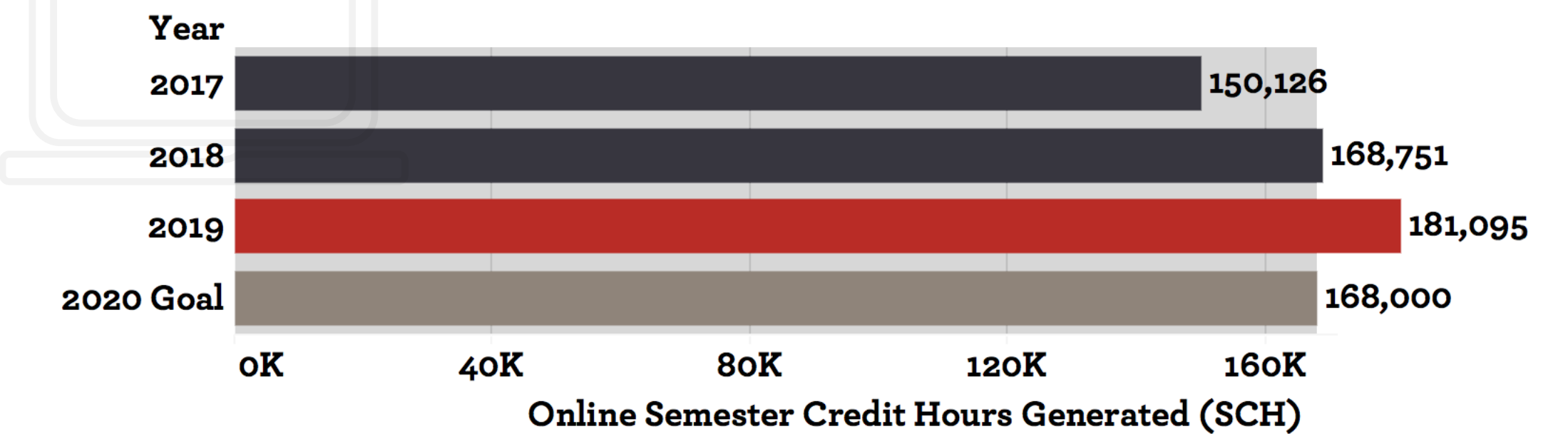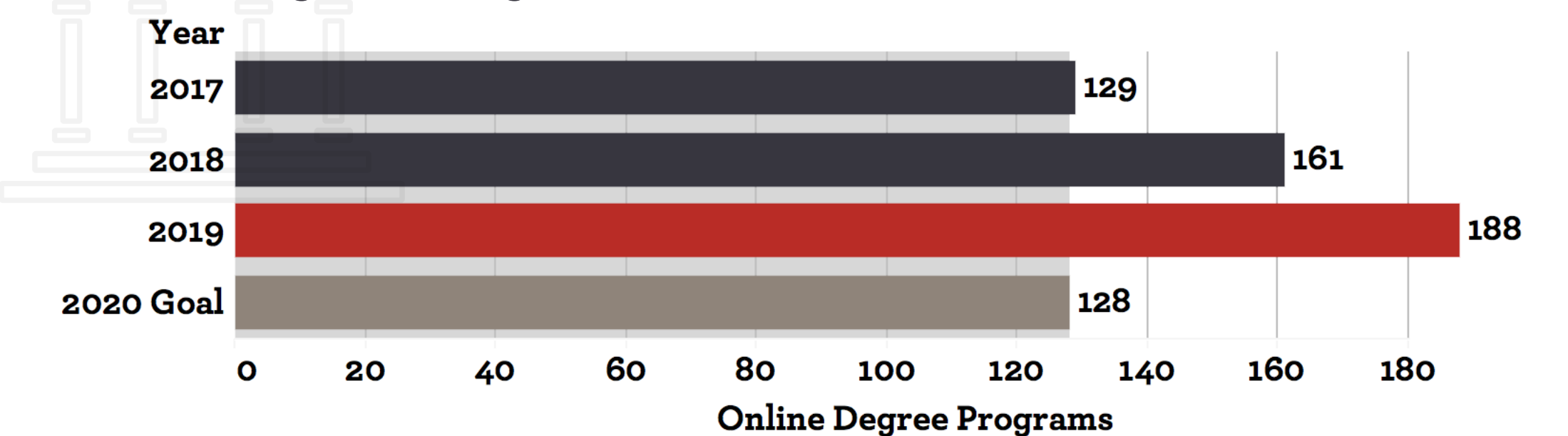
Online Degrees Awarded
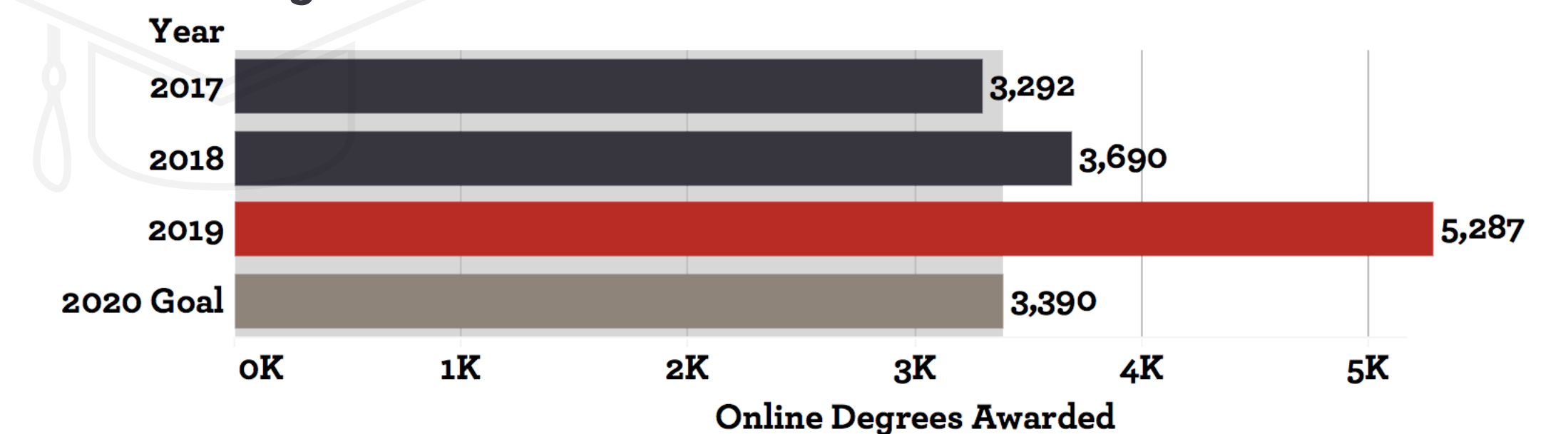
Lamar University

LU Online generates slightly more than 40% of all student credit hours for the University. Lamar continues to add degree programs as appropriate, but in response to demand has created a number of certificates or alternatives to collaborate more effectively with industry and other partners.

Lamar's commitment to excellence and to ensuring a quality education is supported by a team of academic advisors and support services which are extremely effective in enrollment and retention of students. Faculty and student satisfaction surveys remain strongly positive for the online experience.
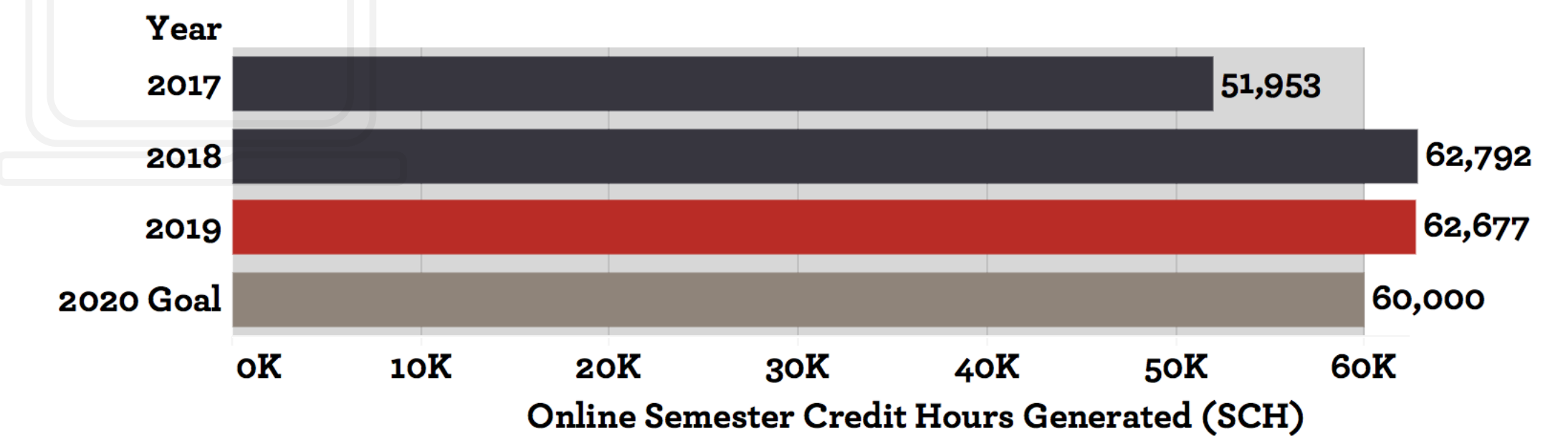
All programs except for the M.Ed. are offered in eight-week or mixed eight- and 15-week formats. LU added a number of distance high school students in dual credit courses, for an increase of 117 students and more than 650 semester credit hours over last year's total. Graduation rates for online students averages more than 85% with 75% of students completing in 150% of time to degree.

Lamar University
Online Enrollment Data (2017-2019)

	2017		2018		2019	
	Semester Credit Hours (SCH)	% of Total SCH	Semester Credit Hours (SCH)	% of Total SCH	Semester Credit Hours (SCH)	% of Total SCH
Total Online SCH	**51,593**	**37%**	**62,792**	**46%**	**62,677**	**40%**
Total SCH	131,345	100%	136,916	100%	156,127	100%

Online Semester Credit Hours

Year
2017	51,953
2018	62,792
2019	62,677
2020 Goal	60,000

Online Semester Credit Hours Generated (SCH)

Online Degree Programs

Year
2017	35
2018	42
2019	52
2020 Goal	65

Online Degree Programs

Online Degrees Awarded

Year
2017	2,077
2018	2,214
2019	3,334
2020 Goal	4,500
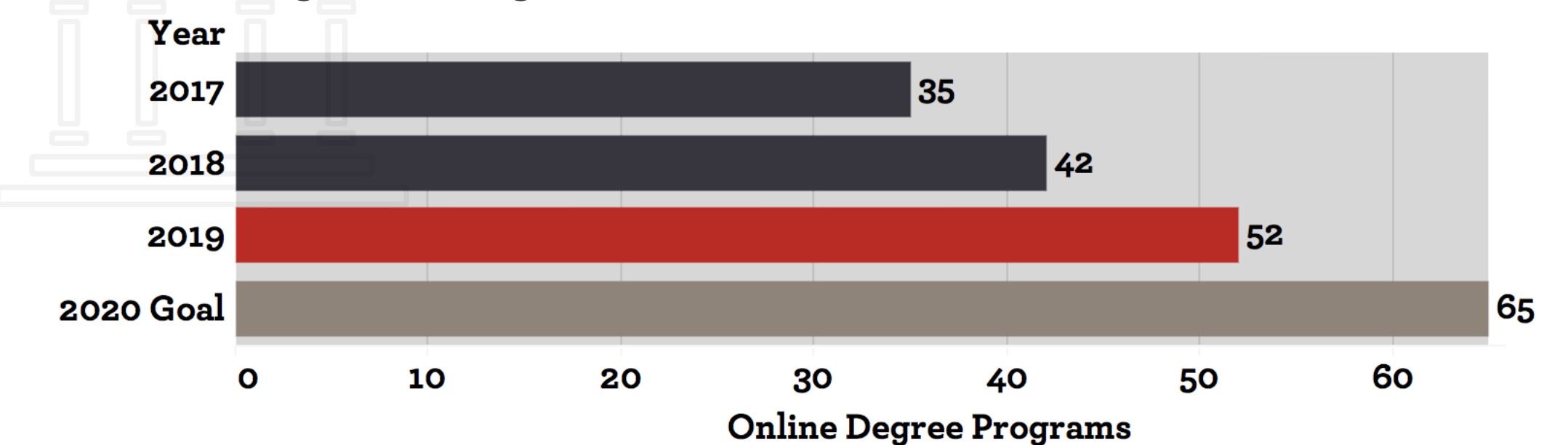
Online Degrees Awarded
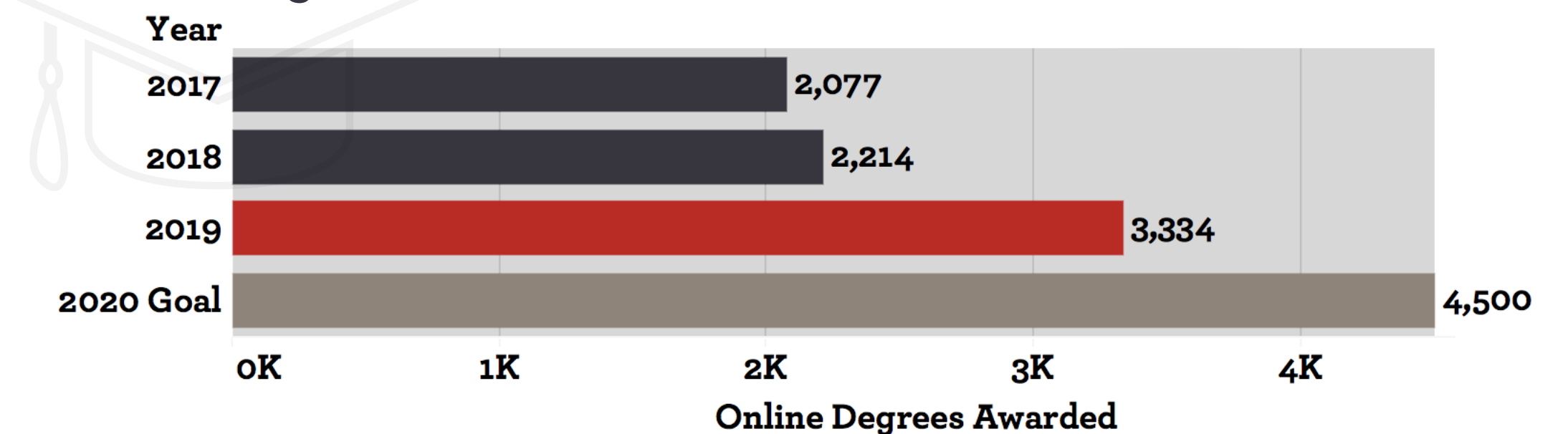
Sam Houston State University

Several new degree programs offered online have been established over the past year at Sam Houston State University, including B.S. and B.A. degrees in Victim Studies, B.S. and B.A. degrees in Homeland Security Studies, an M.A. degree in Technical Communication, and a B.S. degree in Health Care Administration.

Presently, SHSU has 3,684 students taking 100% of their courses online, and more than 11,420 students are taking one or more courses online. That equates to 53% of the university's total student body. 96% of the last graduating class took at least one of their courses online.

SHSU's 100% online student headcount increased by 5.8% to 3,648 students from last year 3,480 students. This year, SHSU was named number one in the OnlineColleges.com study of the best online colleges in Texas for 2019-2020.

SHSU Online began a course redesign and faculty certification in mid-2018, to ensure the use of best practices in online pedagogy. Since June 2018, SHSU Online has:

▶ Hosted 21 certification cohorts

▶ Certified 314 SHSU instructors through the program

Online Semester Credit Hours

Year	Online Semester Credit Hours Generated (SCH)
2017	58,418
2018	60,737
2019	63,569
2020 Goal	70,000

Online Degree Programs

Year	Online Degrees Programs
2017	42
2018	49
2019	58
2020 Goal	50

Online Degrees Awarded

Year	Online Degrees Awarded
2017	642
2018	916
2019	1,296
2020 Goal	875

Sam Houston State University
Online Enrollment Data (2017-2019)
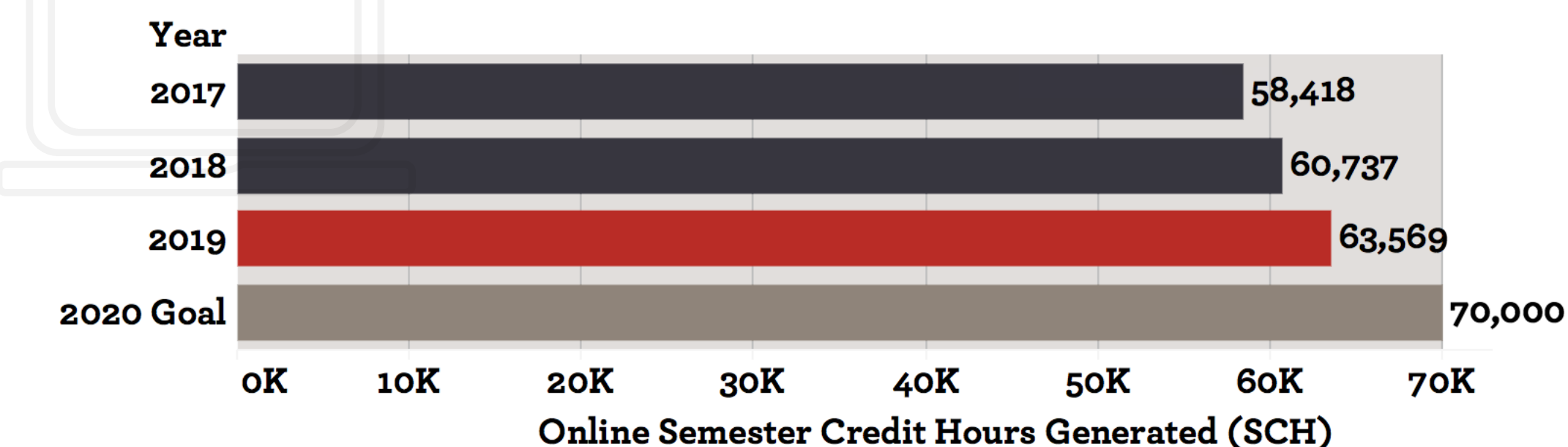
	2017		2018		2019	
	Semester Credit Hours (SCH)	% of Total SCH	Semester Credit Hours (SCH)	% of Total SCH	Semester Credit Hours (SCH)	% of Total SCH
Total Online SCH	57,158	23%	59,661	24%	62,989	24%
Total SCH	248,902	100%	252,856	100%	258,238	100%
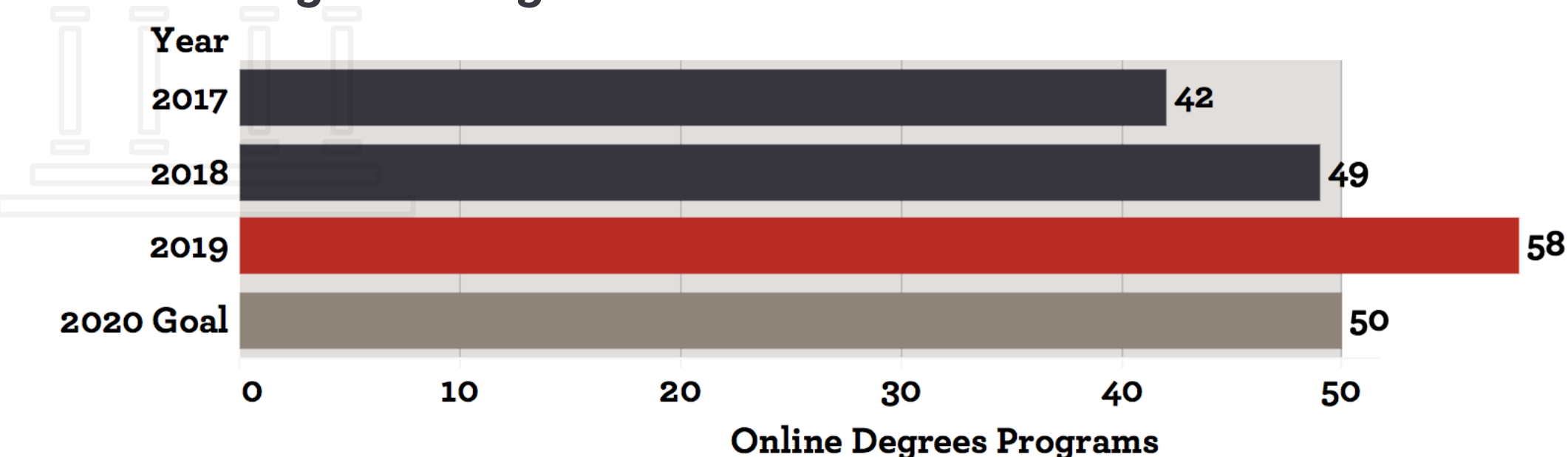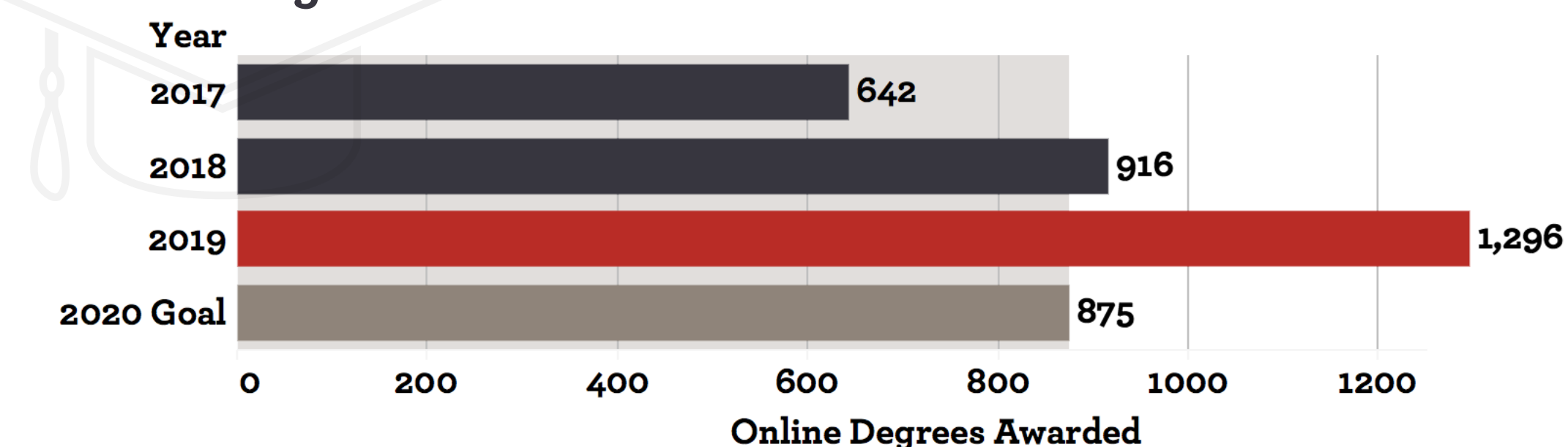
Sul Ross State University

Students can now select from 19 online degree programs offered through Sul Ross State University. This allows students from one of the most sparsely-populated parts of the state to pursue their career goals from areas throughout Texas and the country.

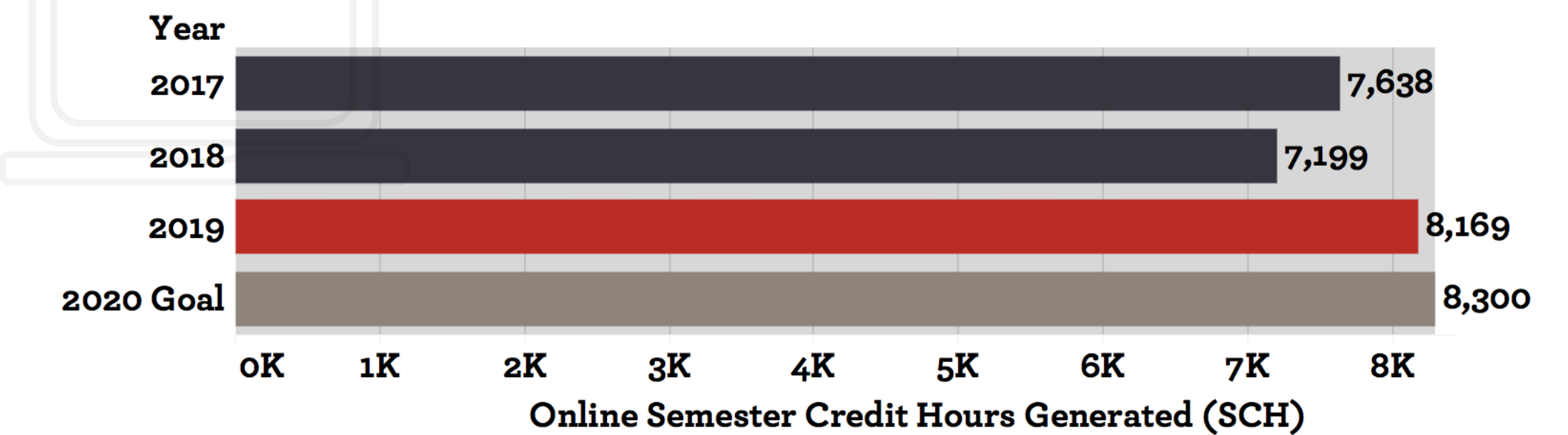Sul Ross State University continues to offer professional development opportunities for faculty members through the school's Professional Development Center.
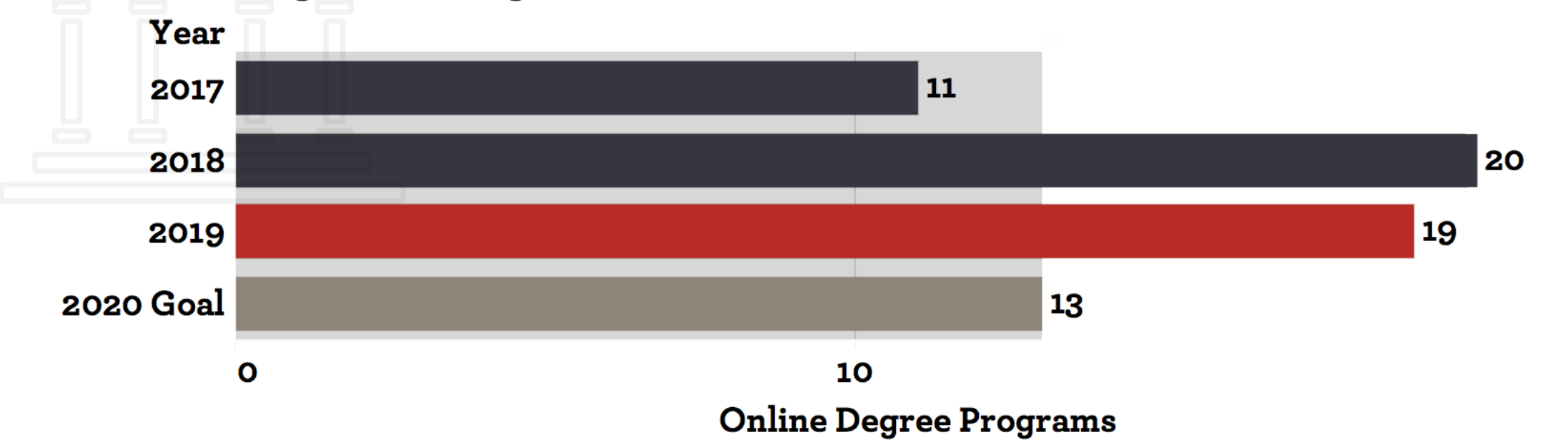
Training events focus on various Blackboard tools and related technologies such as web conferencing and lecture capture.

Additionally, two faculty members from SRSU participated in a shared services pilot program with Sam Houston State University for their online courses.

Online Semester Credit Hours
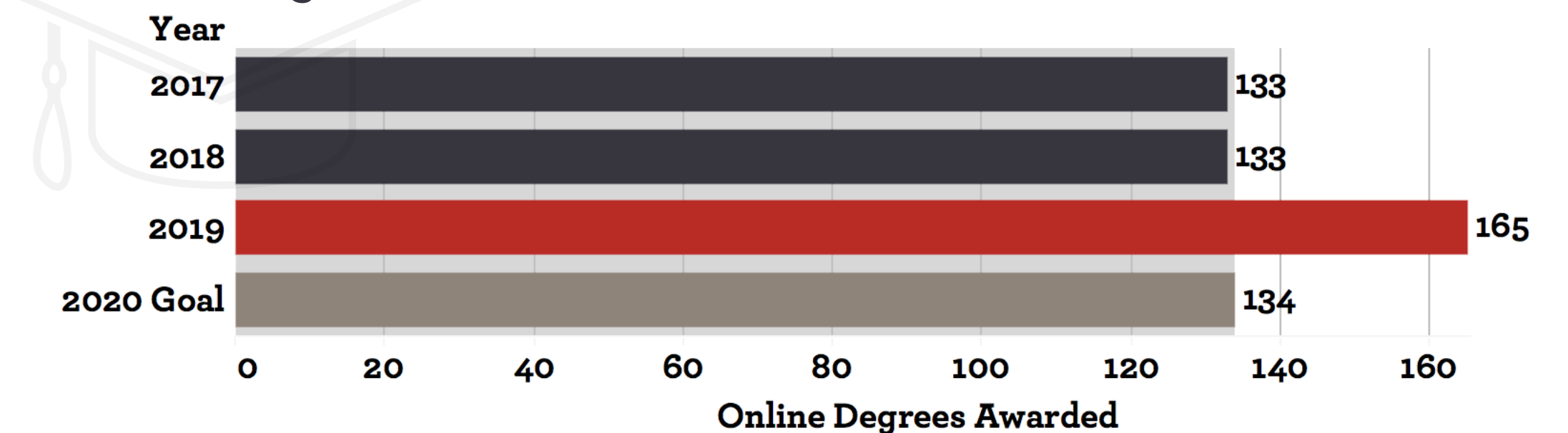
Year	Online Semester Credit Hours Generated (SCH)
2017	7,638
2018	7,199
2019	8,169
2020 Goal	8,300

Online Degree Programs

Year	Online Degree Programs
2017	11
2018	20
2019	19
2020 Goal	13

Online Degrees Awarded

Year	Online Degrees Awarded
2017	133
2018	133
2019	165
2020 Goal	134

Sul Ross State University
Online Enrollment Data (2017-2019)

	2017		2018		2019	
	Semester Credit Hours (SCH)	% of Total SCH	Semester Credit Hours (SCH)	% of Total SCH	Semester Credit Hours (SCH)	% of Total SCH
Total Online SCH	7,638	21%	7,199	27%	8,169	35%
Total SCH	28,244	100%	26,617	100%	23,403	100%

Texas State University

Texas State University is a public, student-centered, Emerging Research University dedicated to excellence in serving the educational needs of the diverse population of Texas and the world beyond. Texas State's almost 39,000 students choose from 98 bachelor's, 91 master's and 14 doctoral degree programs offered by the f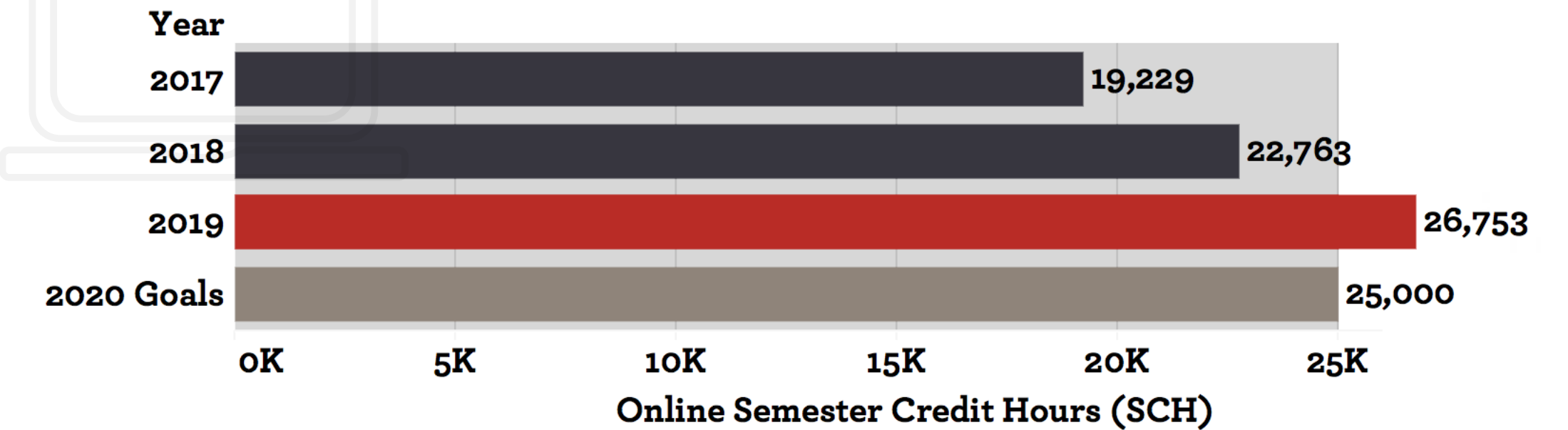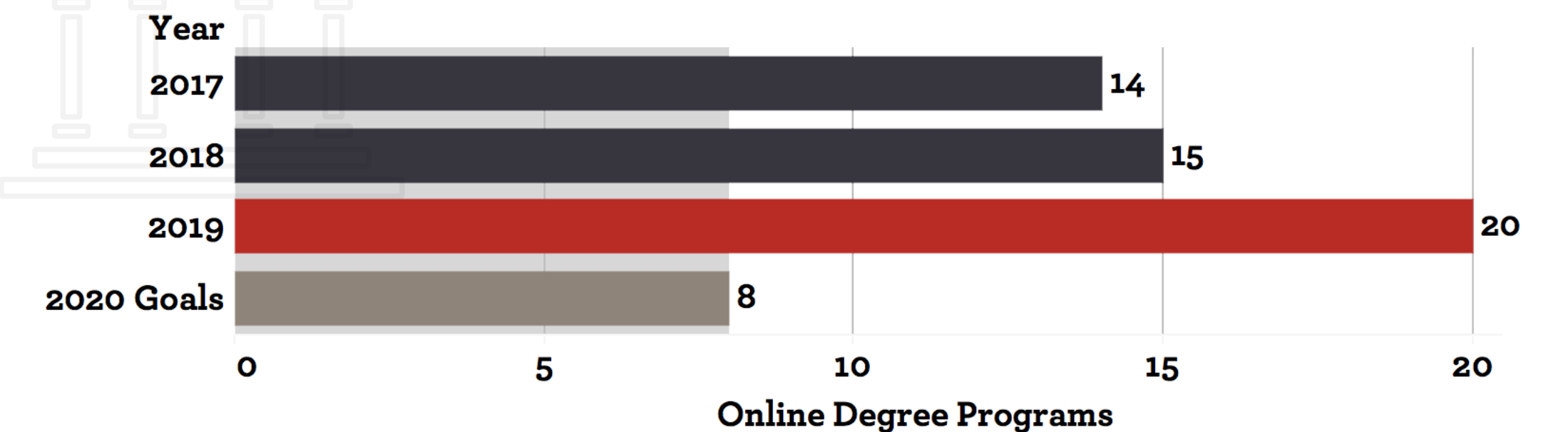ollowing colleges: Applied Arts, McCoy College of Business Administration, Education, Fine Arts and Communication, Health Professions, Liberal Arts, Science and Engineering, University College, and The Graduate College.

Texas State offers opportunities for discovery and innovation to faculty and students. Currently, Texas State University has just over 1,000 undergraduate and graduate students who are 100% online. The university has received a number of recognitions and awards for its programs offered online, including a 2018 Effective Practice Award from the Online Learning Consortium and a 2017 TxDLA Award for the School of Social Work (for Outstanding Commitment to Excellence and Innovation in Distance Education by an Organization, Four-Year Higher Education category).

Online Semester Credit Hours
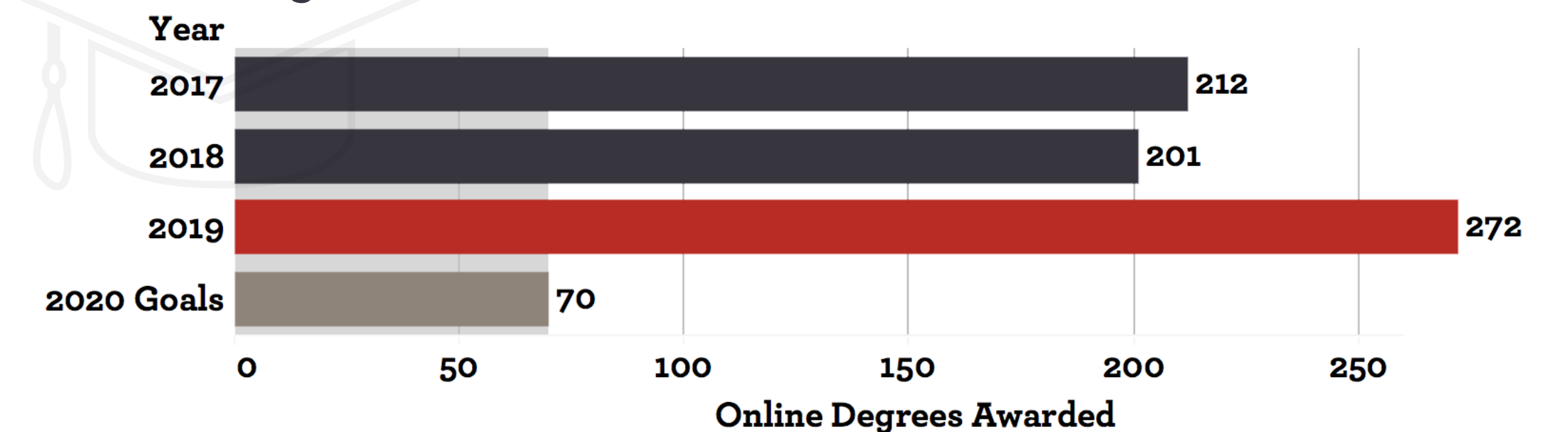
Year	Online Semester Credit Hours (SCH)
2017	19,229
2018	22,763
2019	26,753
2020 Goals	25,000

Online Degree Programs

Year	Online Degree Programs
2017	14
2018	15
2019	20
2020 Goals	8

Online Degrees Awarded

Year	Online Degrees Awarded
2017	212
2018	201
2019	272
2020 Goals	70

Texas State University
Online Enrollment Data (2017-2019)

	2017		2018		2019	
	Semester Credit Hours (SCH)	% of Total SCH	Semester Credit Hours (SCH)	% of Total SCH	Semester Credit Hours (SCH)	% of Total SCH
Total Online SCH	19,229	4%	22,763	5%	26,753	6%
Total SCH	468,085	100%	468,799	100%	466,286	100%

Lamar Institute of Technology

Lamar Institute of Technology (LIT) offers educational programs and training to over 4,000 students that expand students' knowledge, encourage their development, and give them marketable skills for today's workforce. LIT is a two-year technical college offering Associate of Applied Science (AAS) and Academic Transfer (AA/AS) Degrees.

LIT offers eight fully online (100%) degree or certificate programs and 34 partially online (50-95%) programs. Fully online programs include associate degrees in General Business, General Education, Criminal Justice, Real Estate, Accounting, and the Texas Core Institutional Award.

Fully online certificate programs are available in Management Development, Real Estate, and Medical Coding. LIT offers numerous online courses each semester. Lamar Institute of Technology, as of 2019, had 626 fully online students, with an additional 1,210 students taking at least one or more courses online.

Students can build on their associate degrees at Lamar Institute of Technology by continuing with baccalaureate programs online through four-year institutions in the Texas State University System.

Online Semester Credit Hours

Year	Online Semester Credit Hours Generated (SCH)
2017	4,542
2018	5,767
2019	9,114
2020 Goal	4,061

Online Degree Programs

Year	Online Degree Programs
2017	16
2018	24
2019	26
2020 Goal	8

Online Degrees Awarded

Year	Online Degrees Awarded
2017	226
2018	223
2019	215
2020 Goal	237

Lamar Institute of Technology
Online Enrollment Data (2017-2019)

	2017		2018		2019	
	Semester Credit Hours (SCH)	% of Total SCH	Semester Credit Hours (SCH)	% of Total SCH	Semester Credit Hours (SCH)	% of Total SCH
Total Online SCH	4,542	15%	5,767	18%	9,114	25%
Total SCH	29,714	100%	31,684	100%	36,966	100%
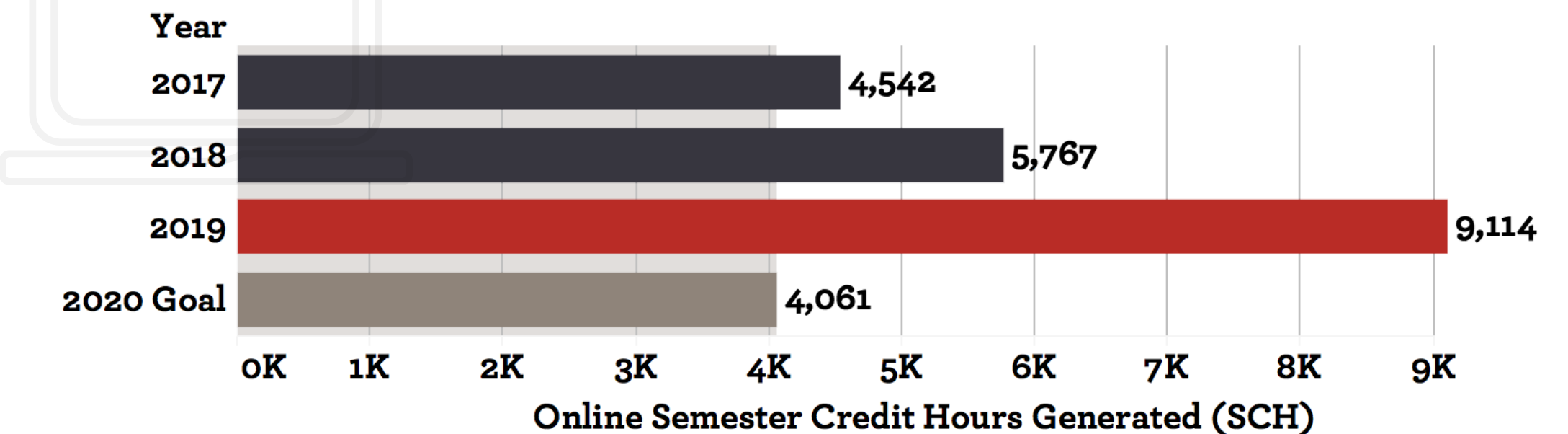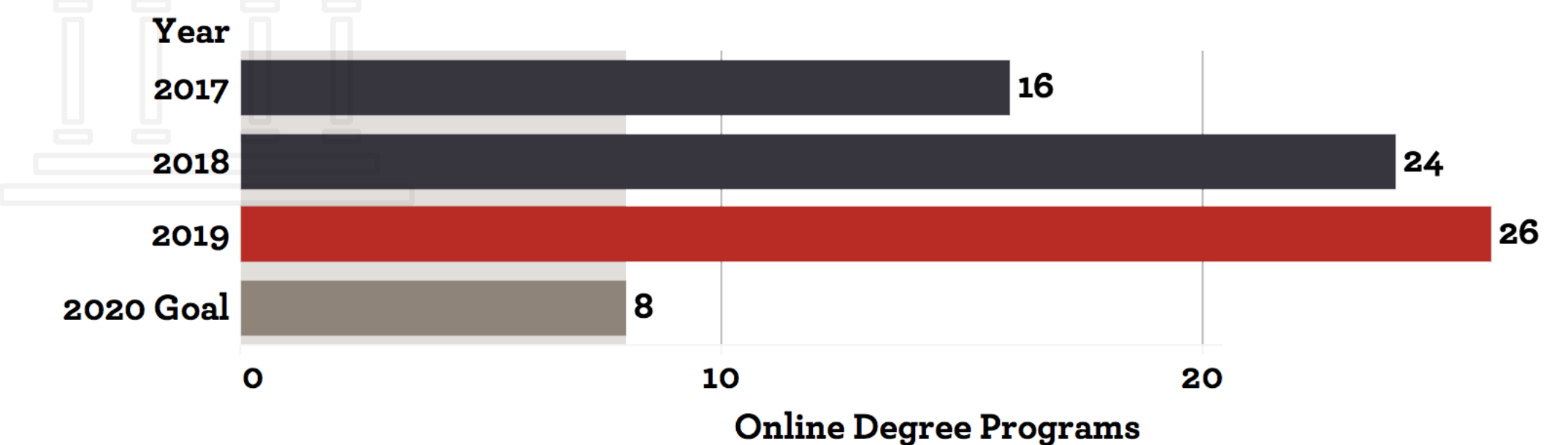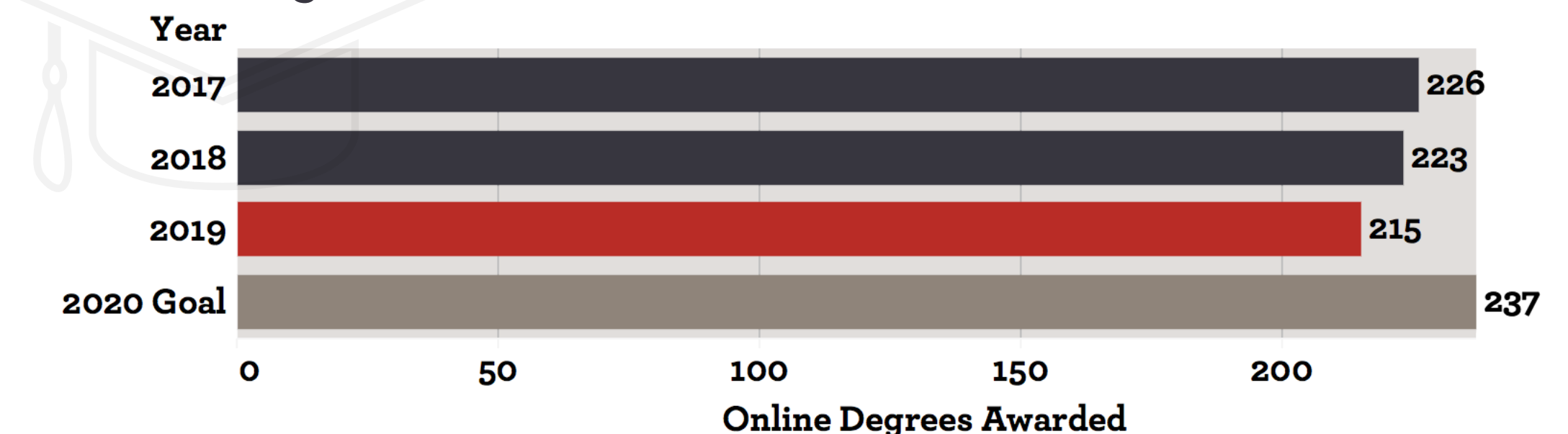
Lamar State College Orange

Most academic and technical programs at Lamar State College Orange have at least an online component that can be completed by students.

In Fall 2019, LSCO offered 34 hybrid courses and 76 fully online courses. Additionally, a student can complete from 50% to 84% of the AA in Sociology and the AS in Pre-Medical Professional Studies online.
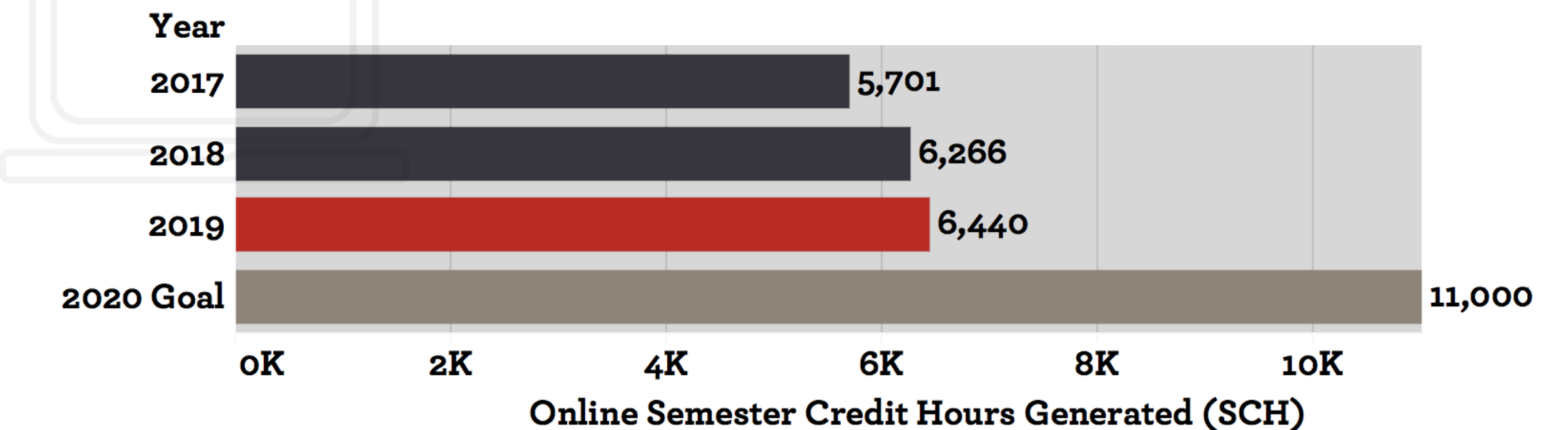
The following degrees can be completed completely online:
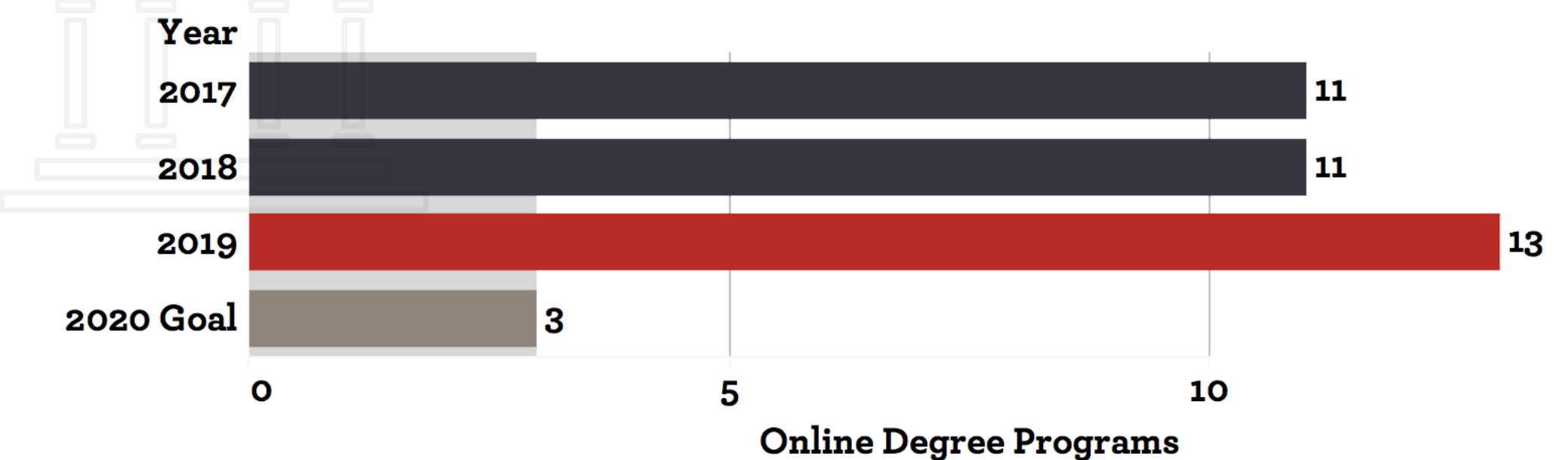
▶ AA in Communications

▶ AA in Liberal Arts

▶ AAS in Business Management

▶ AAS in Registered Nursing

▶ AAT 1 & AAT 2

▶ AS in Business

▶ AS in Computer Information Systems

▶ AS in Computer Science

▶ AS in Criminal Justice

▶ AS in Natural Science.

Online Semester Credit Hours

Year	Online Semester Credit Hours Generated (SCH)
2017	5,701
2018	6,266
2019	6,440
2020 Goal	11,000

Online Degree Programs

Year	Online Degree Programs
2017	11
2018	11
2019	13
2020 Goal	3

Online Degrees Awarded

Year	Online Degrees Awarded
2017	2
2018	3
2019	5
2020 Goal	5

Lamar State College
Orange Online Enrollment Data (2017-2019)

	2017		2018		2019	
	Semester Credit Hours (SCH)	% of Total SCH	Semester Credit Hours (SCH)	% of Total SCH	Semester Credit Hours (SCH)	% of Total SCH
Total Online SCH	**5,701**	**28%**	**6,266**	**31%**	**6,440**	**30%**
Total SCH	20,567	100%	20,406	100%	21,408	100%
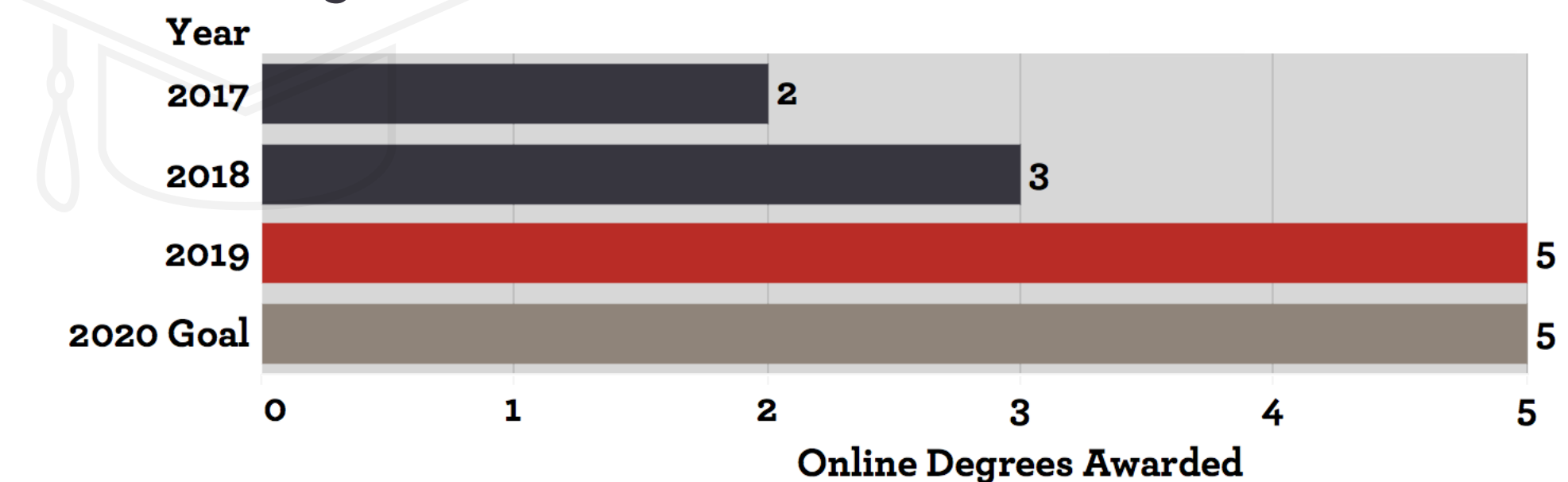
Lamar State College Port Arthur

Over 90 courses are now offered online at Lamar State College Port Arthur, allowing additional flexibility in class schedules for students who were working. Eight-week sessions are available for students who wish to take courses over a shorter time period, as opposed to a traditional semester.

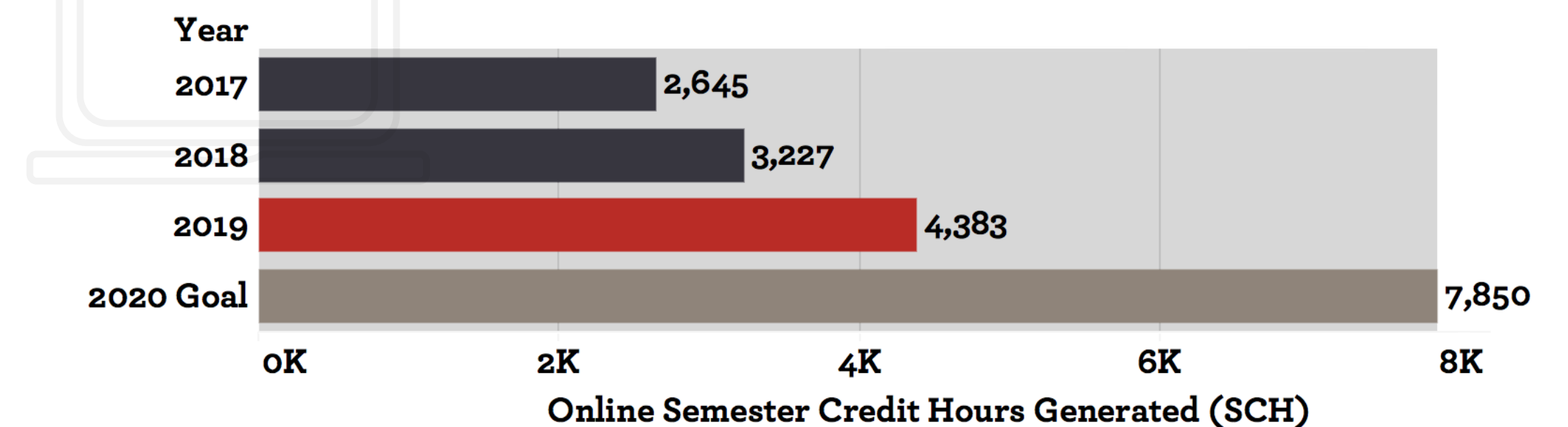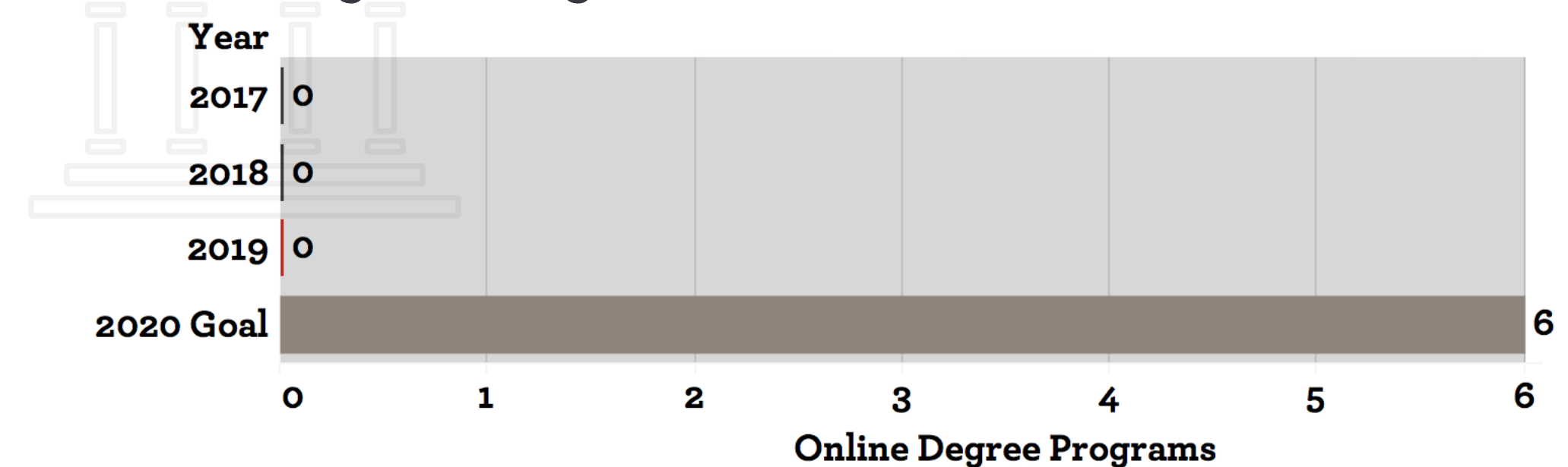Lamar State College Port Arthur students can enroll in online classes after consulting with an advisor. Students new to Lamar State College Port Arthur must first apply for admission to the college. The registration period for online courses is concurrent with on-campus courses.

Over 2,700 Lamar State College Port Arthur students learn valuable, job-ready skills through a curriculum of more than 30 academic and technical programs that will transfer to a four-year college or university. In the fall of 2019, Lamar State College had 475 students taking at least one or more courses online, which is a 22.1% increase from 2018.

Online Semester Credit Hours

Year	
2017	2,645
2018	3,227
2019	4,383
2020 Goal	7,850

Online Semester Credit Hours Generated (SCH)

Online Degree Programs

Year	
2017	0
2018	0
2019	0
2020 Goal	6

Online Degree Programs

Online Degrees Awarded

Year	
2017	0
2018	0
2019	0
2020 Goal	0

Online Degrees Awarded

Lamar State College - Port Arthur Online Enrollment Data (2017-2019)

	2017		2018		2019	
	Semester Credit Hours (SCH)	% of Total SCH	Semester Credit Hours (SCH)	% of Total SCH	Semester Credit Hours (SCH)	% of Total SCH
Total Online SCH	2,645	13%	3,227	15%	4,383	18%
Total SCH	19,719	100%	22,112	100%	24,770	100%

Next Steps

Online education continues to grow in importance, and by the numbers, for institutions in the Texas State University System and for other institutions of higher education. In many ways, degree programs offered online have become mainstream, in TSUS and beyond. But as the System continues to make strides with our own efforts, there are still numerous opportunities and challenges ahead for online education—most notably in terms of providing high-quality, student-friendly programs online and continuing the development and provision of shared academic and technology services.

Shared Online Education Services

One of the key benefits of providing shared services is their role in building economies of scale. One area where the benefits of System-wide collaboration are readily seen is in the area of developing faculty readiness for delivering courses online. A recent study showed that less than 25% of colleges and universities offering courses and programs online also offer development opportunities for instructors teaching online (Tyton, 2018). While online departments and faculty teaching centers are committed to supporting faculty, they often lack the "staff, time, skills or resources" required to do so (Sorcinelli, Berg, Bond & Watson, 2017).

Yet faculty development for teaching online is a critical component of online program success and the research indicates that "coordinated, systemic professional development efforts at the postsecondary level are related to improved student outcomes" (Gyurko, MacCormack, Bless & Jodl, 2016, p. 6; & Reeves, 2012).

One of the first strides made in the shared-services project was to coordinate a System-wide training in online pedagogy for instructors teaching online across TSUS schools. Faculty and instructors from Sul Ross State

University, Lamar Institute of Technology, and Lamar University-Orange, attended the Online Course Redesign & Faculty Certification program hosted at Sam Houston State University.

Dr. Rebecca Schlosser, associate professor in the Educational Leadership Program at Sul Ross, says, "I completely revamped my School Law course which was in dire need of a face-lift. The team showed me how to add group work in the form of a wiki, a blog on bullying, and even journal assignments for some of the more sensitive subjects."

Director of Institutional Research and adjunct instructor at Lamar State College-Orange, Dr. Hunter Keeney, reflects on the training events and says, "[SHSU] were the absolute best hosts and teachers, and I just wanted to say, again, how much we all enjoyed our time with [them]. Keep up the good work and thank you for all the practical ideas and concrete elements I picked up for my courses!"

Institutional Collaboration

Collaborative activities like these workshops help increase the System's capacity and readiness to provide high–quality, student-friendly courses and programs online, while supporting faculty members across TSUS institutions with aspects of online pedagogy and technology.

As a result of the workshops in online pedagogy, Lamar Institute of Technology and Sam Houston State University have become the first institutions to enter into the full TSUS shared-services model. As part of this collaboration, both institutions have integrated Blackboard operations within the TSUS shared instance, allowing for a proportionate savings in costs gained by consolidating a master agreement with Blackboard, Inc.

A number of shared online education services have been negotiated on behalf of both institutions, including access to...

- ► Shared instance of Blackboard, including Communities, Content, Outcomes, Collaborate Ultra, and EesySoft

- ► Shared license for exam proctoring

- ► Lecture capture and video hosting software

- ► Media captioning and transcription

- ► ADA compliance software

- ► 24 x 7 support desk

- ► Instructional design services

- ► Faculty development

- ► Annual online education conference

- ► And much more!

The two institutions began integrating services and operations in the Spring of 2019, and by Fall 2019, the integration was complete. Dr. Lonnie L. Howard, LIT President, reports: "TSUS components should share services where possible. LIT just completed the integration of the SHSU/LIT Online Learning platforms...and the timing couldn't be more perfect. With double-digit increases in enrollment, LIT needed help to provide additional faculty training, 24/7 learner/student support, and expanded course delivery. We couldn't have done this without SHSU."

David Mosley, Vice President for Strategic Initiatives at LIT, agrees, saying "From Fall 2016 to Fall 2019, LIT has been able to increase the number of online course sections by 116.9%. This would not have been possible without the tools and support to our students, faculty, and staff offered through our partnership with Sam Houston State University. In my 30 years of working in higher education, I have never seen a smoother transition than the integration of our two Blackboard instances."

Other LIT administrators and faculty members specifically cite the additional technical support hours made possible by the shared-services initiative, added online tools such as Kaltura and Collaborate, and the virtual office-hours feature.

Sam Houston State University and Lamar Institute of Technology share common academic interests and seek to develop collaborations in the area of shared services to support online education. The activities undertaken pursuant to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) are based on a spirit of cooperation and reciprocity that is intended to be of mutual benefit to both parties.

Shared Services Testimonial

🎥 Click on the video above to play or click here to view in Youtube

Fully Online Students Across Texas

Continuing development in education offered fully online and leveraging resources across TSUS schools can help break down barriers across Texas to educational attainment and career achievement for students who are unable to attend college on a campus. By making these strides, TSUS is meeting the needs of this growing segment of students who face geographic or personal obstacles.

The demand for education being offered online within the System and across the state is reflected by the growing percentage of students taking their coursework fully online. While leading the state in percentage of fully online students over the past three years, TSUS's percentage of fully online students has grown three percentage points from 12 to 15 percent.

Looking forward, we hope to continue to find ways to leverage System-wide collaboration that can lead to...

▶ fostering lifelong relationships with students across the state, by streamlining degree pathways between TSUS two-year and four-year institutions;

▶ serving students close to their home communities by providing education fully online at TSUS's geographically well-positioned institutions that stretch from eastern Texas to the west;

▶ students attaining their educational goals by cultivating rich academic diversity across a full gamut of credentialing, from certifications to doctoral degrees offered online from TSUS member institutions.

15%
14%
12%

Fully Online Students
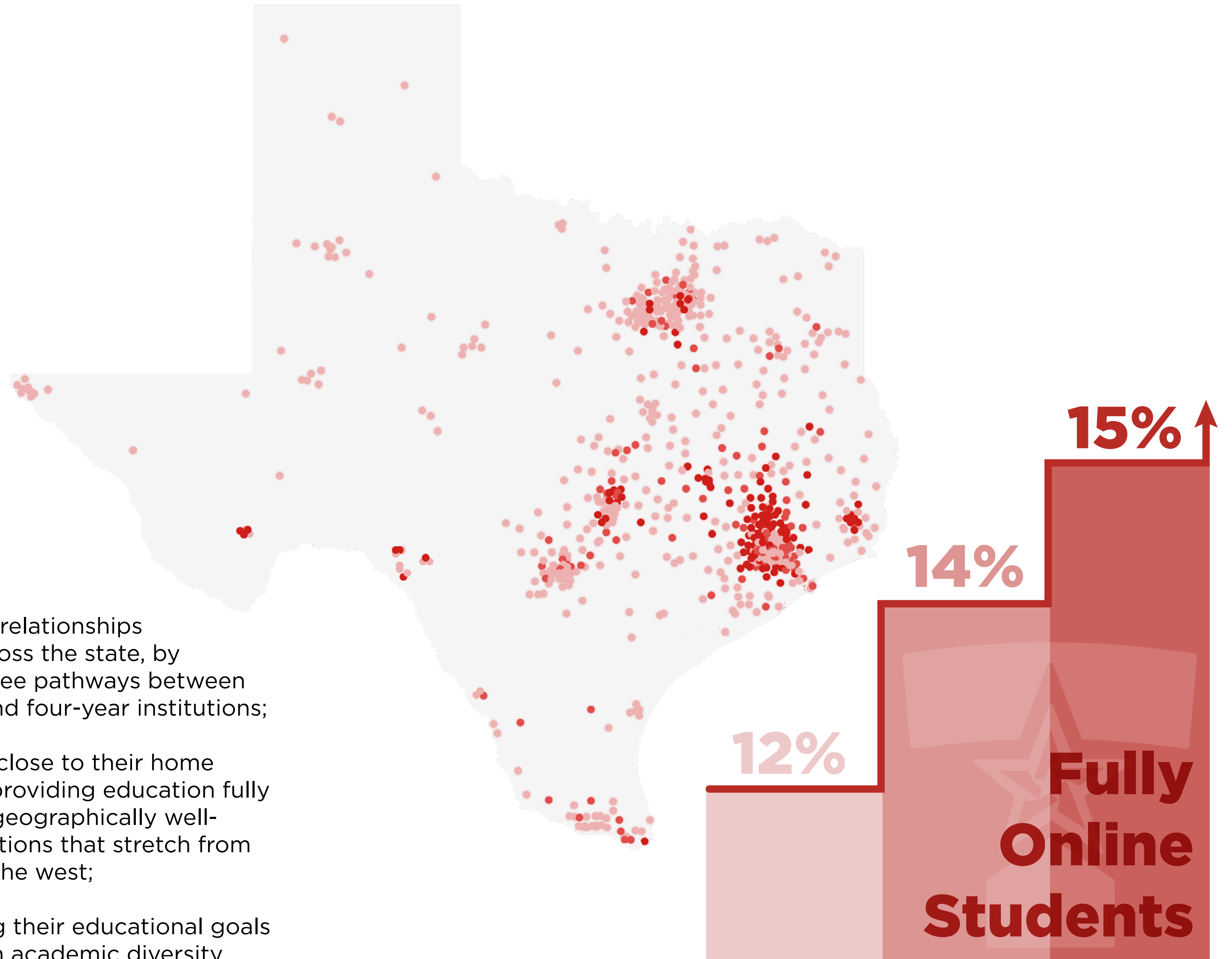
MAP ABOVE: *TSUS Fully Online Students Across Texas, Fall 2019*
FIGURE ABOVE: *3 Year Trend in TSUS Enrollment, % of Fully Online Students, Source–U.S. Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics (NCES)*

Credits

TSUS Administration

Brian McCall, Ph.D. Chancellor — Austin
John Hayek, Ph.D. Vice Chancellor for Academic and Health Affairs — Austin
Daniel Harper, M.B.A. Vice Chancellor and Chief Financial Officer — Austin
Fernando Gomez, J.D. Ph.D. Vice Chancellor and General Counsel — Austin
Sean Cunningham, J.D. Vice Chancellor for Government Relations — Austin

TSUS Council of Online Education Directors

Bill Angrove
TSUS Chief Online Education Officer
Associate Vice President for Distance Education — Sam Houston State University
Kendall Craig
Director of Distance Education — Sul Ross State University
Roszella Offord
Director of Online Learning — Lamar State College–Port Arthur
Brenda Nichols
Vice Provost for Digital Learning — Lamar University
Gwen Whitehead
Vice President Academic Affairs — Lamar State College-Orange
Dana Willit
Director, Office of Distance and Extended Learning — Texas State University
Jason Woodall
Director of Online Learning, Distance Education — Lamar Institute of Technology

TSUS Board of Regents

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Don Flores	Regent
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Alan L. Tinsley	Regent
Katey McCall	Student Regent

Special Thanks

Tami Rice
Chief Data Officer – The Texas State University System
Director, System Data and Analysis – Texas State University