



March 10 Update

Snapshot

The Public Affairs Research Council of Louisiana

College Enrollment Down Daily COVID-19 Cases Low Since Mardi Gras

College Enrollment Drops in Louisiana and Nationwide

Undergraduate enrollment at Louisiana public colleges fell 2.6% for fall 2021, according to the Board of Regents. The Louisiana State University and Southern University systems both increased nearly 2% in undergraduate enrollment. But the University of Louisiana System had a 5.7% decrease, and the Louisiana Community and Technical College System had a 2% drop.

The trend is not unique to Louisiana.

Nationwide, undergraduate enrollment decreased 3.1% from 2020 to 2021, according to the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center.

Total Undergraduate Enrollment at Louisiana's 4-Year Public Colleges

Source: Louisiana Board of Regents



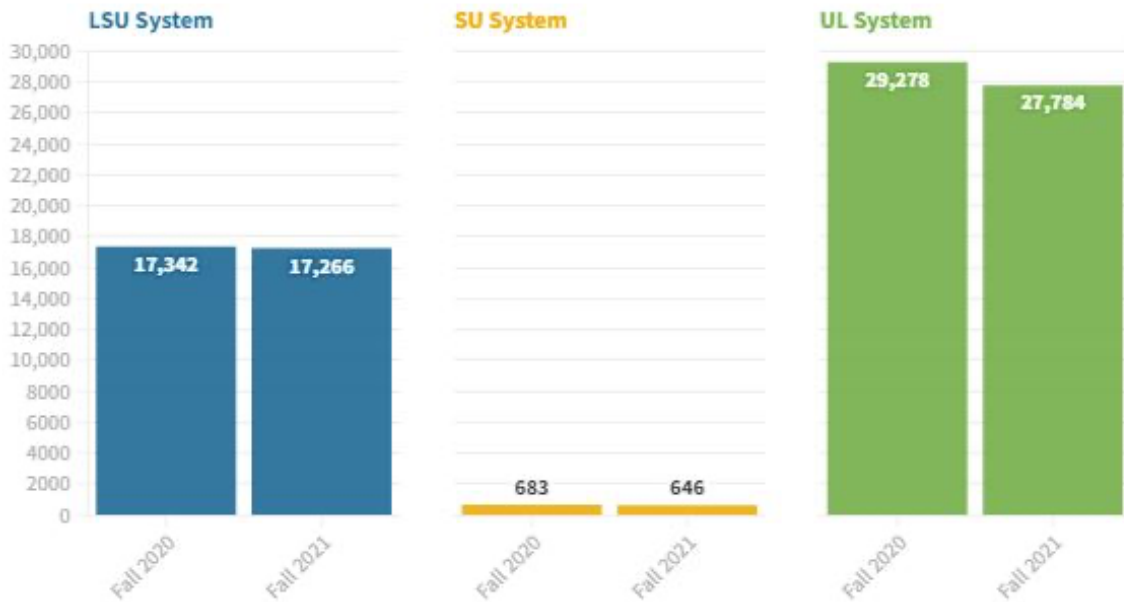
The number of eligible students accepting the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students Award (TOPS) decreased by 7.7% in the 2020-21 fiscal year -- a larger decline than previous years. While all systems experienced a decline in TOPS recipients, the vast majority occurred in the University of Louisiana System.

The Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance didn't request more TOPS money for the 2022-23 fiscal year because of the declining enrollment trends.

Louisiana state officials say the COVID-19 pandemic, disruption caused by hurricanes and other factors caused the enrollment drops. National news outlets suggest the economy's wellbeing, low birth rates and cost of college are among the factors impacting schools nationally.

TOPS Recipients

Source: Louisiana Board of Regents



Includes TOPS OPH % Tech payments made for given Fall as of 1-19-22

The LSU System consists of Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge; LSU-Shreveport; LSU Health New Orleans; LSU-Alexandria; Pennington Biomedical Research Center; LSU Health Shreveport; LSU-Eunice; LSU Ag Center & Research Stations; and LSU Health Care Services.

The SU System consists of Southern University in Baton Rouge; Southern University-Shreveport; Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center; Southern University Law Center; and Southern University-New Orleans.

The UL System consists of Grambling State University, Louisiana Tech University, McNeese State University, Nicholls State University, Northwestern State University, Southeastern Louisiana University, University of Louisiana at Lafayette, University of Louisiana at Monroe, and the University of New Orleans.

COVID-19 Update

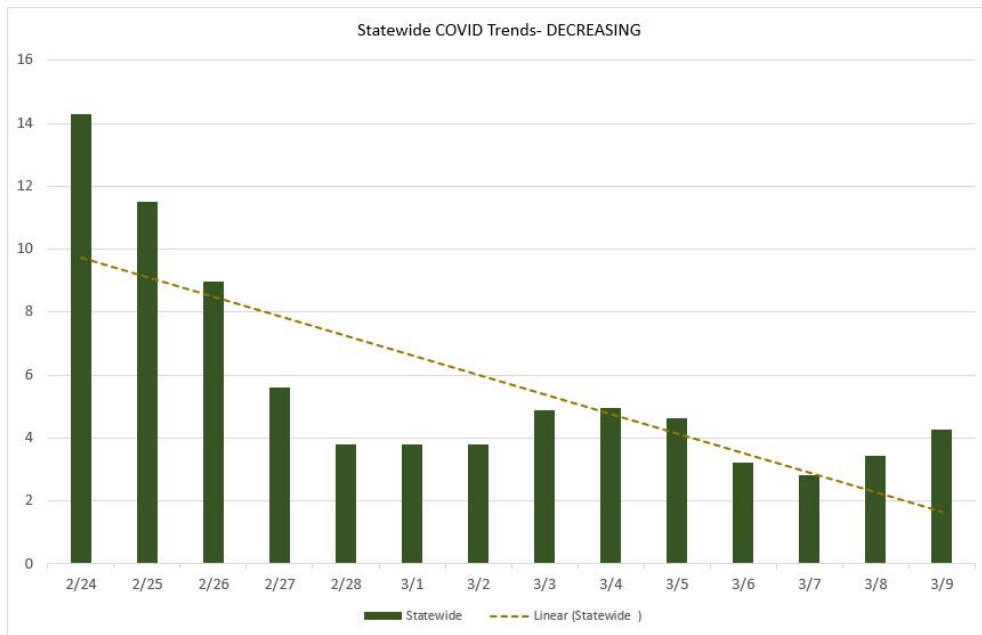
Daily Cases Below 350 Since Mardi Gras

3-Day Positivity Rate Below 2%

246 New Confirmed Cases | 15 New Confirmed Deaths

The Louisiana Department of Health reported 246 confirmed cases out of 22,460 tests on March 9. The three-day average of new cases was 195.

There were about 6 patients in hospitals with COVID-19 per 100,000 residents. The LDH reported 15 confirmed deaths on March 9



Confirmed cases continue falling statewide.

The graphs in this report show the number of new cases per 100,000 residents over a 14-day period, which is a method used by the state. By calculating the cases according to population in this way, the results from region to region are easier to compare to determine the severity of the outbreak.

14 Day Look-Back (3 Day Average)		
3/7/2022	3/8/2022	3/9/2022
▼	▼	▼
▼	▼	▼
▼	▼	▼
▼	▼	▼
▼	▼	▼
▼	▼	▼
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PAR uses an average of new cases over a three-day period to smooth out irregularities that could be related to reporting inconsistencies (LDH also uses multiple-day averaging). Then, a statistically derived trendline – in the form of a straight line – is fitted to the data to gauge whether cases are increasing, decreasing or have reached a plateau, according to the CDC definition for each.

These figures are based only on known cases. Some studies indicate that the number of people who have carried COVID-19 is far greater than the number who have taken the test and shown a positive result. An unknown but potentially large number of people have been infected but are asymptomatic and have not been tested. Others have taken at-home tests, and their positive results haven't necessarily been reported to the state.

Special thanks to the Union Pacific Foundation for supporting PAR's Louisiana Recovery Project.

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