



October 2021

# Student Voting Rates for Clemson University

2020 NSLVE Campus Report

October 2021

Dear Colleagues:

We are pleased to send this tailored report containing your students' voting rates for 2020. This report contains three years of relevant topline data: 2016, 2018, and 2020. As always, we disaggregate the data so you can better identify and address gaps in participation.

College and university students participated in record-breaking numbers in the 2020 election. In 2016, the Average Institutional Voting Rate was 53%. This year, it jumped to 66%. We encourage you to review Democracy Counts 2020, our most recent national report.

As in past years, we urge you to share this report widely and strategically, particularly with faculty who, in 2020, were often the most consistent communicators with students about ever-changing voting conditions and deadlines. We also urge you to review our recommendations for engaging elections to cultivate a robust and healthy campus climate for political engagement, discourse, equity, and participation: Election Imperatives (2019) and the more recent Election Imperatives: A Time of Physical Distancing and Social Action. Since "pervasive political discussions" and attentiveness to the campus culture around speech and academic freedom are among our top recommendations, we direct you to our discussion guides on talking about your NSLVE report, on free speech and inclusion, and on hot topics, our Making Sense of ... guides.

Finally, we always encourage you to work with us. Help us help you get better data by reaching out. Email [IDHE@Tufts.edu](mailto:IDHE@Tufts.edu) for more information. And as always, watch your inbox for our periodic newsletter, IDHE Update, for announcements about upcoming releases and new resources.

Congratulations on engaging your students in the 2020 election. Remember, student political learning is a year-round objective. Elections may be episodic, but student political engagement should not be.

All the Best,  
IDHE Team



(Top Row from left) **Duy Trinh, Program Administrator; Adam Gismondi, Director of Impact; Dave Brinker, Senior Researcher;**  
(Bottom Row from left) **Nancy Thomas, Director; Norma López, Postdoctoral Scholar; Prabhat Gautam, Data Manager.**

We also want to acknowledge and thank **Syed Golam Mohaimen, M.S. student in Data Science at Tufts University** for his contributions toward the creation of these reports.

# In This Report

This report presents data on student voter participation rates for your campus. The topline counts on page 5 tells you how many students voted, but we encourage you to look carefully at the data on subsequent pages to learn who voted. Data are presented in the form of vessel charts, overlapping donut charts, and tables.

	2014			2018			2014-2018
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Change (p.p.)
Asian	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Indian/ Alaska Native	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hispanic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

## Tables

The tables show, on the left-side columns, the numbers of students and the rates from 2016, 2018, and 2020. On the left-side, percentage point (p.p.) changes between 2016 and 2020. A red down arrow indicates a decrease, a green up arrow indicates an increase, and a yellow arrow pointing to the right indicates no change. "-" in these tables indicates that the data is unavailable/missing, or is available for 10 or less students.



# Voting, Registration and Yield Rates

## YOUR INSTITUTION

71.5%

2020 Voting Rate

+13.1

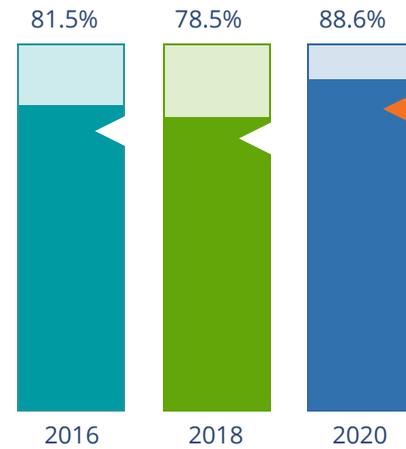
Change From 2016

## ALL INSTITUTIONS

66%

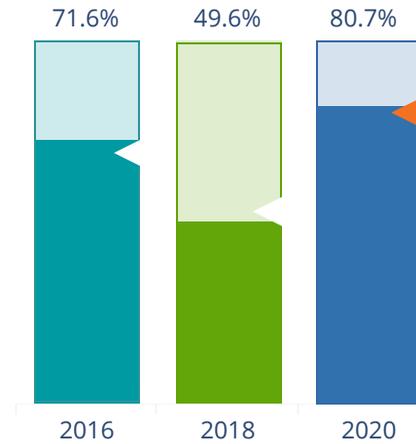
2020 Voting Rate

## REGISTRATION RATE



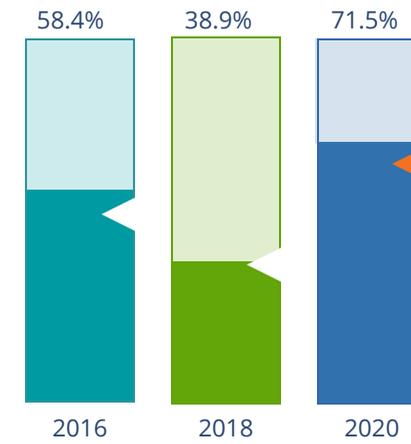
The **Registration Rate** is the percent of your voting-eligible students who registered to vote.

## VOTING RATE OF REGISTERED STUDENTS



The **Voting Rate of Registered Students** is the percent of registered students who voted on Election Day. We often refer to this as the “yield” rate.

## VOTING RATE



The **Voting Rate** is the percentage of eligible students who voted on Election Day. The voting rate is also the product of the registration and yield rates.

# Looking Closer

## Voting and Registration Rates

	2016	2018	2020	2016-2020 Change (p.p.)
<b>Total Student Enrollment</b>	23,215	24,795	26,333	↑ 3,118
(Age under 18/Unknown)	-	-	-	-
(IPEDS estimated non-resident aliens)	1,528	1,423	1,293	↓ -235
(FERPA records blocked)	-	-	-	-
(Non-Degree Seeking Students)	89	137	220	↑ 131
<b>Total eligible voters</b>	21,598	23,234	24,820	↑ 3,222
<b>Number of students who registered</b>	17,600	18,228	21,991	↑ 4,391
<b>Number of students who voted</b>	12,604	9,045	17,736	↑ 5,132
<b>Registration Rate %</b>	81	78	89	↑ 7
<b>Voting Rate of Registered Students %</b>	72	50	81	↑ 9
<b>Voting Rate %</b>	58	39	71	↑ 13

**This page provides the numbers we used to calculate your voting, registration, and yield rates.** The sub-categories under total student enrollment are the adjustments that we make to account for students who are ineligible to vote due to age or citizenship status. We also exclude, when correctly flagged, students who are not pursuing degrees.

We use IPEDS-derived estimates of NRAs when institutions do not submit non-resident alien status data to NSC, or we cannot verify the accuracy of the reported counts. This estimate is given by "IPEDS estimated non-resident aliens" on this page. If you believe the number of international students reported on this report is incorrect, you can manually adjust your institution's voting rates by using our recalculation tool. <https://id-he.tufts.edu/nslve/nslve-recalculation-tool>.

## By Institution Types

2016 Voting Rate for All Institutions

**53%**

HIGH  
82%

LOW  
13%

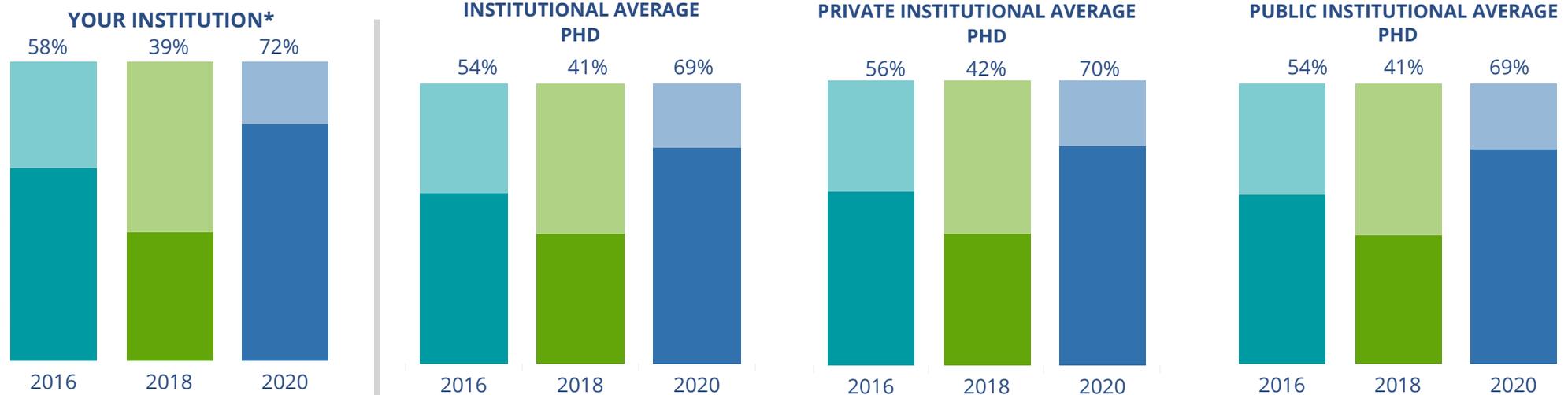
2020 Voting Rate for All Institutions

**66%**

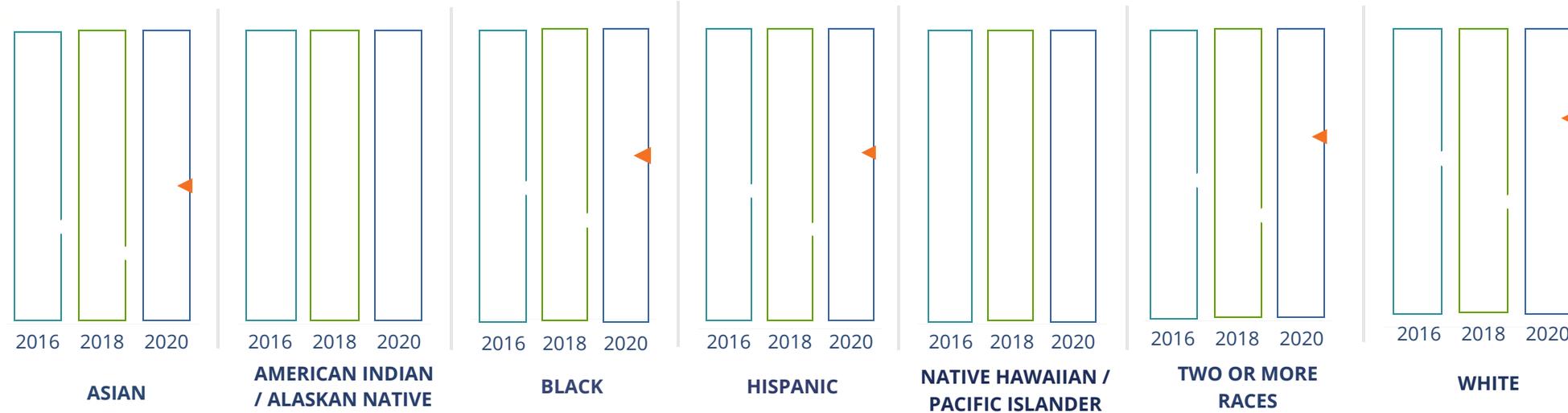
HIGH  
89%

LOW  
19%

These are estimated voting rates of your institution compared to the average voting rates of similar institutions in NSLVE. \*"Your Institution" chart is presented at a different scale.



## By Race / Ethnicity



**These are estimated voting rates for race / ethnicity groups.** These classifications are provided by campuses and are obtained following race reporting procedures\* defined by the National Center for Education Statistics of the Institute of Education Sciences (IES). Please see our FAQ for more detail on why we cannot report national benchmark for some of the demographic groups:

<https://tufts.app.box.com/v/idhe-nslve-report-faq>

If you notice unavailable/missing data in this page, it could mean any of the following for your institution: (i) does not report this data; (ii) did not provide this data in past years; (iii) does not separately submit data for one or more of the demographic groups, or (iv) the data is reported for 10 or fewer students.

\* <https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/report-your-data/race-ethnicity-collecting-data-for-reporting-purposes>

# Looking Closer

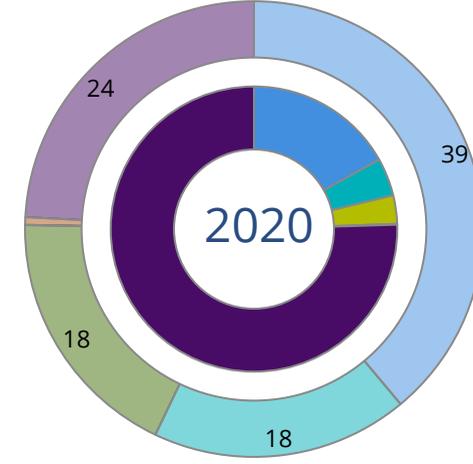
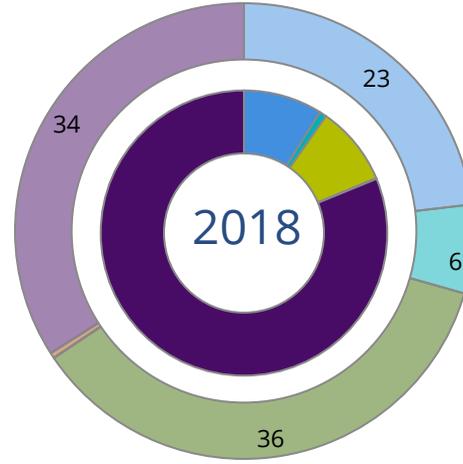
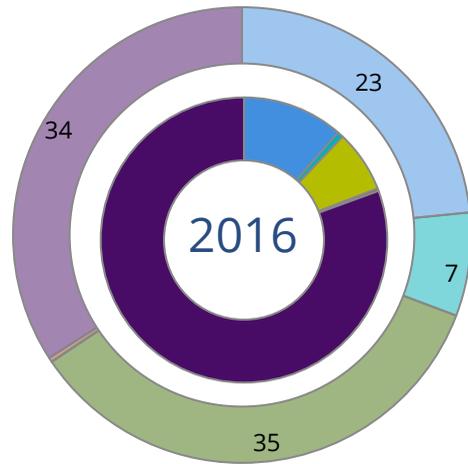
## By Race/Ethnicity

**This page provides the numbers we used to calculate race / ethnicity group voting rates.** We include the counts of students and the change in rates between the two most recent comparable election years. If you notice unavailable/missing data in this page, it could mean any of the following for your institution: (i) does not report this data; (ii) did not provide this data in past years; (iii) does not separately submit data for one or more of the demographic groups, or (iv) the data is reported for 10 or fewer students.

	2016			2018			2020			2016-2020 Change (p.p)
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	
Asian	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Indian/ Alaska Native	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hispanic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2 or More Races	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
White	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Race Unknown	23,111	12,604	55	24,647	9,045	37	26,100	17,736	68	↑ 13

# By Voting Method

■ Not-In-Person  
 ■ Early Vote  
 ■ In-Person  
 ■ Other  
 ■ Provisional  
 ■ Unknown



	2016		2018		2020		2016-2020	
	Voted	Rate	Voted	Rate	Voted	Rate	Change (p.p.)	
<b>Early Vote</b>	82	1	69	1	759	4	4	↑
<b>In-Person on Election Day</b>	886	7	814	9	559	3	-4	↓
<b>Not-In-Person</b>	1,434	11	806	9	2,996	17	6	↑
<b>Other</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Provisional</b>	33	0	12	0	16	0	0	↓
<b>Voting Method Unknown</b>	10,169	81	7,343	81	13,405	76	-5	↓

**These are estimated rates for vote method utilization, the number of students utilizing each method, and the percent of students utilizing each method.** Not all U.S. states provide information on vote method; voting method for voter files from these states are classified "Voting Method Unknown." For a list of these states, see our FAQ. <https://idhe.tufts.edu/nslve/nslve-faq#CampusReports>

## By Age Group

	2016	2018	2020
18-21	58%	37%	71%
22-24	46%	32%	64%
25-29	43%	31%	52%
30-39	53%	43%	57%
40-49	75%	64%	78%
50+	78%	75%	84%

**Voting is habit-forming and young voters will usually continue as voters in subsequent elections.**

Also, young voters are more likely to be contacted by campaigns and are visible, and therefore significant, to elected officials. While in the past, we have seen voting rates increase across age groups, in recent cycles, the most significant increases have been among first-time and the youngest voters. Some colleges serve primarily young students, traditionally viewed as students in the 18-21 or 22-24 categories here. Others have much higher numbers of enrolled older undergraduate or graduate students.

# Looking Closer

## By Age Group

**Here, we provide the numbers of students in each age category and the voting rates for each group.** These are based on the student's age on the day of the election, as calculated by the National Student Clearinghouse using data from student enrollment records.

	2016			2018			2020			2016-2020 Change (p.p)
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	
<b>18-21</b>	14,955	8,629	58	15,899	5,847	37	17,102	12,203	71	↑ 14
<b>22-24</b>	4,203	1,942	46	4,546	1,459	32	4,589	2,958	64	↑ 18
<b>25-29</b>	2,031	865	43	2,136	668	31	2,197	1,143	52	↑ 9
<b>30-39</b>	1,250	658	53	1,340	582	43	1,504	864	57	↑ 5
<b>40-49</b>	475	356	75	505	324	64	491	385	78	↑ 3
<b>50+</b>	197	154	78	221	165	75	217	183	84	↑ 6

# Looking Closer

## By Sex

	2016			2018			2020			2016-2020
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Change (p.p)
Female	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Male	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

**These are estimated voting rates for sex groups and the numbers we used to calculate their voting rates.** These classifications are provided by campuses and are obtained following the reporting procedures defined by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) of the Institute of Education Sciences (IES). Presently, NCES requires institutions to report students as “Male” or “Female” only.\*

If you notice missing data in this page, it could mean any of the following for your institution: (i) does not report this data; (ii) did not provide this data in past years; (iii) does not separately submit data for one or more of the demographic groups, or (iv) the data is reported for 10 or fewer students.

\*<https://surveys.nces.ed.gov/ipeds/public/survey-materials/faq?faqid=11>

# Looking Closer

## By Education Level / Undergraduate Class Year

	2016			2018			2020			2016-2020	
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Change (p.p)	
<b>EDUCATION LEVEL</b>											
<b>Undergraduate</b>	18,390	10,438	57	19,621	7,136	36	20,792	14,742	71	↑	14
<b>Graduate</b>	4,259	1,890	44	4,699	1,710	36	5,098	2,841	56	↑	11
<b>Class Unknown</b>	462	276	60	327	199	61	210	153	73	↑	13
<b>CLASS YEAR</b>											
<b>First Year</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Second Year</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Upper Level</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>ENROLLMENT STATUS</b>											
<b>Full-time</b>	20,919	11,221	54	22,031	7,703	35	23,109	15,605	68	↑	14
<b>Part-time</b>	2,192	1,383	63	2,616	1,342	51	2,991	2,131	71	↑	8

**These are estimated voting rates by Education Level (undergraduate/graduate), Class Year, and Enrollment Status (full-time/part-time), and the numbers we used to calculate these rates.**

If you notice missing data in this page, it could mean any of the following for your institution: (i) does not report this data; (ii) did not provide this data in past years; (iii) does not separately submit data for one or more of the demographic groups, or (iv) the data is reported for 10 or fewer students.

# By Field of Study

FIELDS	2016			2018			2020			2016-2020 RateChange (p.p)
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	
Architecture	507	229	45	553	166	30	616	372	60	↑ 15
Area, Ethnic, Cultural, and Gender Studies	17	-	-	18	-	-	37	28	76	-
Biological and Biomedical Sciences	2,291	1,412	62	2,425	991	41	2,456	1,787	73	↑ 11
Business, Management, and Marketing	2,653	1,473	56	3,069	1,080	35	3,432	2,408	70	↑ 15
Communication and Journalism	117	51	44	149	57	38	143	94	66	↑ 22
Computer and Information Sciences	978	463	47	1,042	330	32	1,233	714	58	↑ 11
Education	1,063	731	69	1,301	713	55	1,600	1,252	78	↑ 9

**These are estimated voting rates by field of study, and the numbers we used to calculate the field of study rates.** For an explanation of CIP codes, please see our FAQ.\* There are roughly 8,000 fields of study among U.S. colleges and universities, so we provide rates for condensed categories.

\*<https://tufts.app.box.com/v/idhe-nslve-report-faq>

# By Field of Study

FIELDS	2016			2018			2020			2016-2020	
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Change (p.p)	
Engineering and Engineering Technologies	4,559	2,188	48	4,744	1,489	31	4,741	2,904	61	↑	13
English Language and Literature	462	271	59	407	172	42	360	243	68	↑	9
Family and Consumer/Human Sciences	64	36	56	85	40	47	70	40	57	↑	1
Foreign Languages, Literatures, and Lingui..	340	224	66	304	130	43	282	227	80	↑	15
Health Professions	969	607	63	1,231	500	41	1,400	1,062	76	↑	13
History	150	93	62	157	78	50	128	92	72	↑	10
Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Humanities	3,166	1,682	53	3,083	980	32	3,354	2,195	65	↑	12
Mathematics and Statistics	302	130	43	315	98	31	320	171	53	↑	10
Multi/Interdisciplinary Studies	29	13	45	18	-	-	56	39	70	↑	25
Natural Resources and Conservation	230	131	57	340	153	45	362	260	72	↑	15
Parks, Recreation, Leisure, and Fitness Stu..	660	359	54	646	222	34	547	379	69	↑	15
Philosophy and Religious Studies	43	24	56	65	27	42	69	56	81	↑	25
Physical Sciences	424	167	39	455	123	27	446	238	53	↑	14
Psychology	760	419	55	828	290	35	1,067	770	72	↑	17

## By Field of Study

FIELDS	2016			2018			2020			2016-2020 Change (p.p)
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	
Public Administration and Social Service Professions	78	58	74	99	64	65	107	85	79	↑ 5
Social Sciences	845	428	51	989	402	41	1,112	776	70	↑ 19
Visual and Performing Arts	558	314	56	543	205	38	561	414	74	↑ 18
Unknown	410	252	61	331	202	61	211	154	73	↑ 12

# About This Report

## Thank you for participating in the National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement.

Since NSLVE's launch in 2013, nearly 1,200 colleges and universities have signed up to receive their voting rates for the 2012, 2014, 2016, 2018, and 2020 federal elections.

Along with others, your institution's participation in this study has allowed us to build a robust database of over 50 million college student records, about 10 million for each election year, that serve as a foundation for innovative research on college student political learning and engagement in democracy.

NSLVE is a signature initiative of the Institute for Democracy and Higher Education (IDHE) at Tufts University's Jonathan M. Tisch College of Civic Life. The mission of IDHE is to shift college and university priorities and culture to advance political learning, agency, and equity. We achieve our mission through research, resource development, technical assistance, and advocacy.

### About the Data

The voter registration and voting rates in this report reflect the percentage of your institution's students who were eligible to vote and who actually voted in the 2016, 2018, and 2020 elections.

These results are based on enrollment records your institution submitted to the National Student Clearinghouse (NSC) and publicly available voting files collected by L2 Political.

Enrollment lists are adjusted by deducting students under age 18 (at the time of the election), people identified as non-degree seeking and those identified by campuses as "nonresident aliens" (NRAs) (the federal government's category for mostly international students). Unfortunately, not all campuses report NRAs to NSC. For those campuses, we use IPEDS to calculate the number of NRA students on each campus and adjust NSC enrollment numbers to estimate the number of students to remove. We also quality check NRA removals by verifying that there is little to no discrepancy between the number of international students reported by the campus to IPEDS and to NSC. We cannot adjust subgroup analyses absent identification of NRAs verified by the process above. We welcome closer partnerships with individual colleges and universities to provide more accurate rates. For more on the data and the matching process, see our FAQ on Campus Reports.

Clemson University

Thank you for the work you do to improve your students' political learning and engagement. We hope that you find your NSLVE report useful. For up-to-date news on NSLVE data, resources, and to sign up for our newsletter visit: <https://idhe.tufts.edu>.

References: IDHE encourages report recipients to share this report as broadly as possible, including posting it on the college or university's website. When doing so, please use the following citation: Institute for Democracy & Higher Education: National Study of Learning, Voting and Engagement. (2021). 2016, 2018, and 2020 report for \_\_\_\_\_ [name of institution]. Medford, MA.



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