



October 2021

Student Voting Rates for Montana State 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 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 Change (p.p.)
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	
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

76.2%

2020 Voting Rate

+15.8

Change From 2016

ALL INSTITUTIONS

66%

2020 Voting Rate

REGISTRATION RATE

Year	Rate
2016	83.6%
2018	82.7%
2020	88.1%

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

VOTING RATE OF REGISTERED STUDENTS

Year	Rate
2016	72.3%
2018	61.4%
2020	86.5%

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

Year	Rate
2016	60.4%
2018	50.8%
2020	76.2%

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.)
Total Student Enrollment	16,221	16,733	16,004	↓ -217
(Age under 18/Unknown)	-	-	-	-
(IPEDS estimated non-resident aliens)	714	586	342	↓ -373
(FERPA records blocked)	-	17	11	-
(Non-Degree Seeking Students)	736	813	656	↓ -80
Total eligible voters	14,760	15,316	14,988	↑ 229
Number of students who registered	12,334	12,671	13,201	↑ 867
Number of students who voted	8,919	7,783	11,416	↑ 2,497
Registration Rate %	84	83	88	↑ 5
Voting Rate of Registered Students %	72	61	86	↑ 14
Voting Rate %	60	51	76	↑ 16

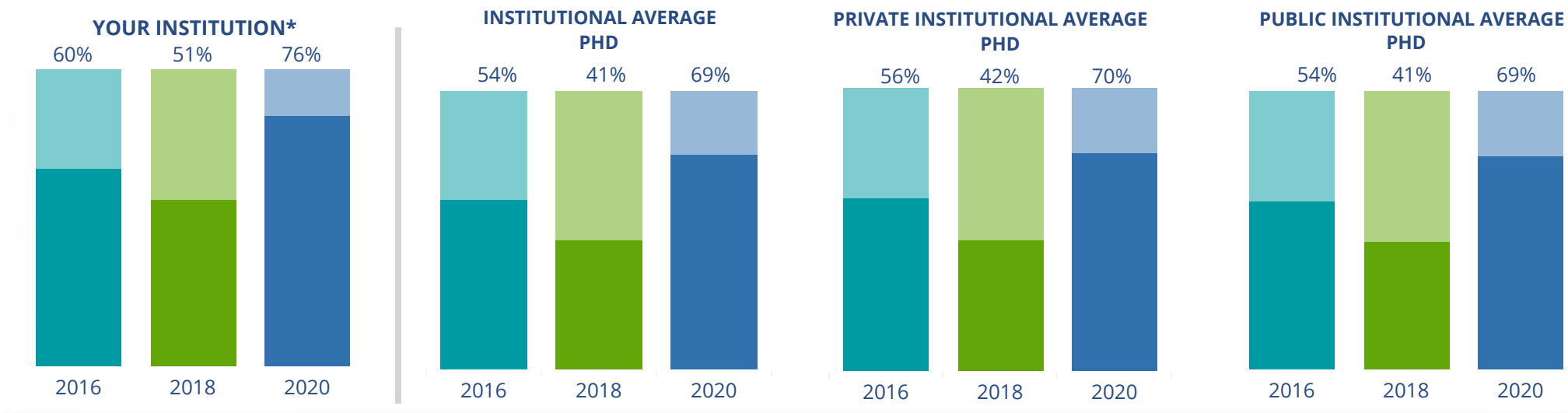
This page provides the numbers we used to calculate your voting, registration, and yield rates. The sub-categories under total student enrollment are the adjustments that we make to account for students who are ineligible to vote due to age or citizenship status. We also exclude, when correctly flagged, 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/nsive/nsive-recalculation-tool>.

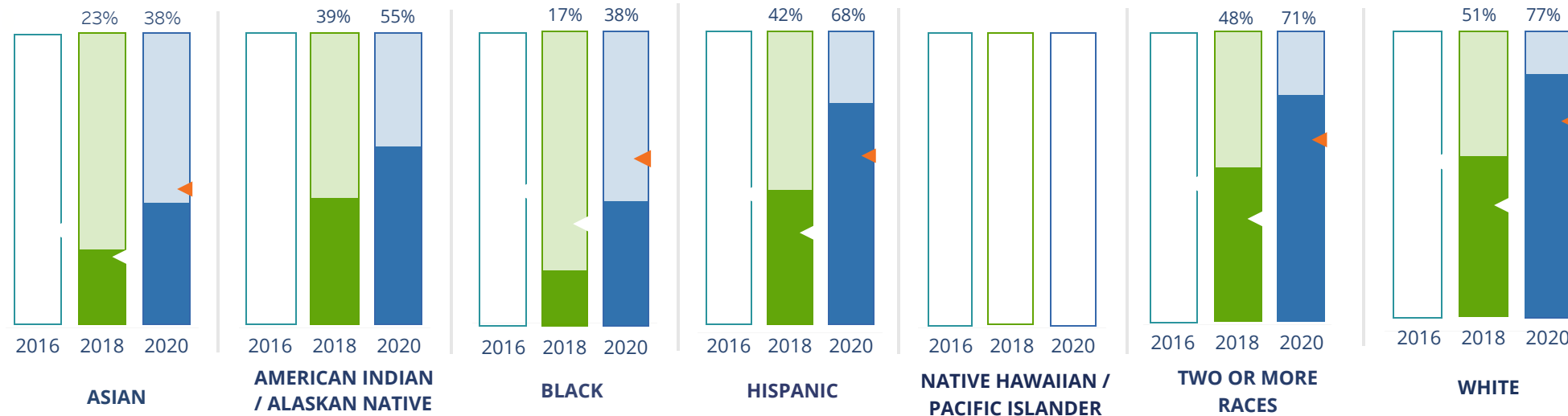
By Institution Types



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-nsve-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

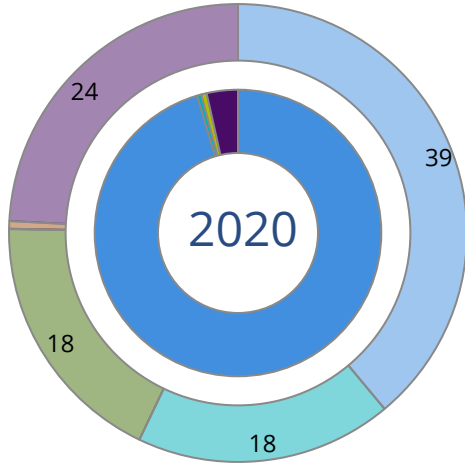
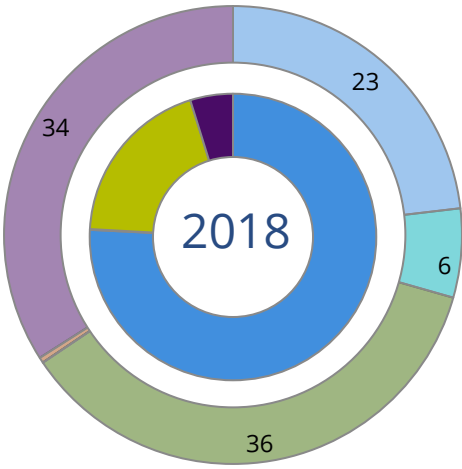
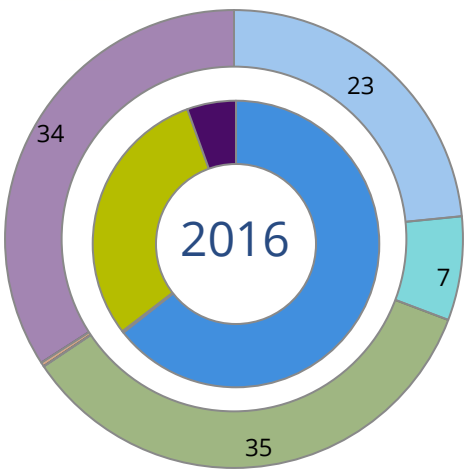
By Race/Ethnicity

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
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Change (p.p)
Asian	-	-	-	316	74	23	275	104	38	-
American Indian/ Alaska Native	-	-	-	237	93	39	203	112	55	-
Black	-	-	-	110	19	17	89	34	38	-
Hispanic	-	-	-	687	287	42	753	515	68	-
Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	-	-	-	18	-	-	12	-	-	-
2 or More Races	-	-	-	938	454	48	896	639	71	-
White	-	-	-	13,268	6,749	51	12,858	9,888	77	-
Race Unknown	15,440	8,919	58	298	104	35	229	115	50	↓ -8

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.)	
Early Vote	17	0	–	–	61	1	0	↑
In-Person on Election Day	2,665	30	1,504	19	66	1	-29	↓
Not-In-Person	5,747	64	5,900	76	10,890	95	31	↑
Other	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
Provisional	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
Voting Method Unknown	490	6	370	5	398	4	-2	↓

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/nsive/nsive-faq#CampusReports>

By Age Group

	2016	2018	2020
18-21	56%	46%	75%
22-24	55%	51%	75%
25-29	60%	53%	69%
30-39	69%	64%	75%
40-49	69%	63%	79%
50+	81%	72%	79%

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	
18-21	9,169	5,150	56	9,773	4,462	46	9,549	7,167	75	↑ 19
22-24	3,078	1,705	55	3,182	1,620	51	3,045	2,273	75	↑ 19
25-29	1,719	1,030	60	1,590	843	53	1,449	1,004	69	↑ 9
30-39	991	679	69	904	577	64	891	672	75	↑ 7
40-49	313	217	69	282	179	63	252	198	79	↑ 9
50+	170	138	81	141	102	72	129	102	79	↓ -2

Looking Closer

By Sex

	2016			2018			2020			2016-2020
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Change (p.p)
Female	-	-	-	7,321	3,848	53	7,275	5,662	78	-
Male	-	-	-	8,502	3,910	46	7,980	5,710	72	-

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)	
EDUCATION LEVEL											
Undergraduate	13,774	7,792	57	14,331	6,818	48	13,665	10,183	75	↑	18
Graduate	1,640	1,113	68	1,541	965	63	1,648	1,232	75	↑	7
Class Unknown	26	14	54	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CLASS YEAR											
First Year	4,300	52	2,215	4,110	39	1,609	3,759	68	2,549	↑	16
Second Year	2,933	54	1,592	3,118	45	1,398	3,020	76	2,310	↑	22
Upper Level	6,139	60	3,689	6,679	53	3,528	6,574	77	5,063	↑	17
ENROLLMENT STATUS											
Full-time	13,074	7,394	57	13,440	6,444	48	12,813	9,590	75	↑	18
Part-time	2,366	1,525	64	2,432	1,339	55	2,502	1,826	73	↑	9

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	315	182	58	325	171	53	350	276	79	↑ 21
Area, Ethnic, Cultural, and Gender Studies	26	16	62	32	23	72	27	21	78	↑ 16
Biological and Biomedical Sciences	1,108	659	59	1,199	634	53	1,204	939	78	↑ 19
Business, Management, and Marketing	1,489	726	49	1,617	657	41	1,698	1,210	71	↑ 23
Computer and Information Sciences	518	282	54	569	274	48	546	380	70	↑ 15
Education	1,074	712	66	948	541	57	865	684	79	↑ 13
Engineering and Engineering Technologies	3,222	1,771	55	3,222	1,454	45	3,008	2,180	72	↑ 18

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 Change (p.p)
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	
English Language and Literature	244	148	61	255	146	57	232	167	72	↑ 11
Family and Consumer/Human Sciences	874	476	54	847	388	46	768	583	76	↑ 21
Foreign Languages, Literatures, and Lingui..	66	48	73	48	37	77	42	36	86	↑ 13
Health Professions	1,456	901	62	1,481	775	52	1,457	1,073	74	↑ 12
History	142	99	70	160	96	60	139	118	85	↑ 15
Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Humanities	1,035	585	57	1,134	518	46	1,027	731	71	↑ 15
Mathematics and Statistics	230	125	54	234	124	53	199	145	73	↑ 19
Mechanic and Repair Technologies/Techni..	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Multi/Interdisciplinary Studies	75	53	71	71	46	65	73	57	78	↑ 7
Natural Resources and Conservation	367	249	68	363	212	58	410	335	82	↑ 14
Parks, Recreation, Leisure, and Fitness Stu..	–	–	–	22	11	50	15	–	–	–
Personal and Culinary Services	–	–	–	21	–	–	34	24	71	–
Philosophy and Religious Studies	49	29	59	30	12	40	19	14	74	↑ 15
Physical Sciences	619	391	63	663	345	52	664	512	77	↑ 14

By Field of Study

FIELDS	2016			2018			2020			2016-2020 Change (p.p)
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	
Precision Production	-	-	-	12	-	-	17	11	65	-
Psychology	342	199	58	434	217	50	522	385	74	↑ 16
Public Administration and Social Service Professions	30	25	83	19	18	95	23	22	96	↑ 12
Social Sciences	580	323	56	623	327	52	573	438	76	↑ 21
Visual and Performing Arts	846	505	60	824	419	51	751	587	78	↑ 18
Unknown	28	16	57	15	-	-	15	-	-	-

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.

Montana State 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.



Barnum Hall
163 Packard Ave.
Medford, MA 02155

tischcollege@tufts.edu
617.627.3453



Institute for Democracy & Higher Education:
National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement
Barnum Hall, Medford, MA 02155

Follow Us on Twitter: @TuftsIDHE
NSLVE@tufts.edu
617.627.0620