



October 2021

# Student Voting Rates for Duke 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.

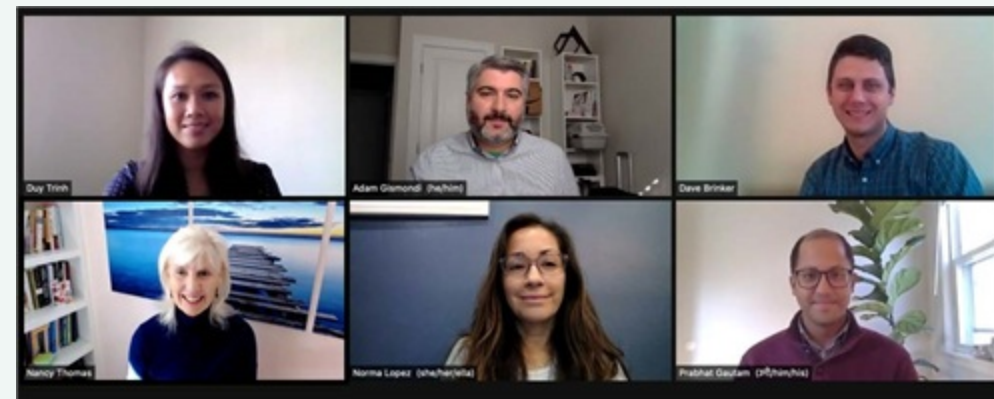
College and university students participated in record-breaking numbers in the 2020 election. In 2016, the Average Institutional Voting Rate was 53%. This year, it jumped to 66%. We encourage you to review Democracy Counts 2020, our most recent national report.

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

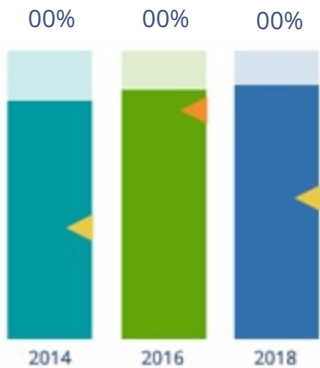


**(Top Row from left) Duy Trinh, Program Administrator; Adam Gismondi, Director of Impact; Dave Brinker, Senior Researcher;**  
**(Bottom Row from left) Nancy Thomas, Director; Norma López, Postdoctoral Scholar; Prabhat Gautam, Data Manager.**

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.



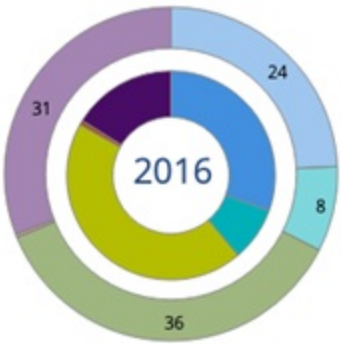
Vessel Chart

This chart shows rates out of 100%, with arrows to the right of each bar representing relevant national averages (medians), which you can find in IDHE's national report Democracy Counts 2020.

	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.



Overlapping Donut Chart

This chart is used to show the breakdown of vote method utilization (page 10), with the outer ring showing your campus method utilization and the inner ring showing the national breakdown. These are described in percentages.

# Voting, Registration and Yield Rates

YOUR INSTITUTION

70.2%

2020 Voting Rate

+14.5

Change From 2016

ALL INSTITUTIONS

66%

2020 Voting Rate

REGISTRATION RATE

Year	Registration Rate
2016	68.2%
2018	60.9%
2020	79.0%

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

VOTING RATE OF REGISTERED STUDENTS

Year	Voting Rate of Registered Students
2016	81.6%
2018	64.5%
2020	88.8%

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	Voting Rate
2016	55.7%
2018	39.3%
2020	70.2%

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

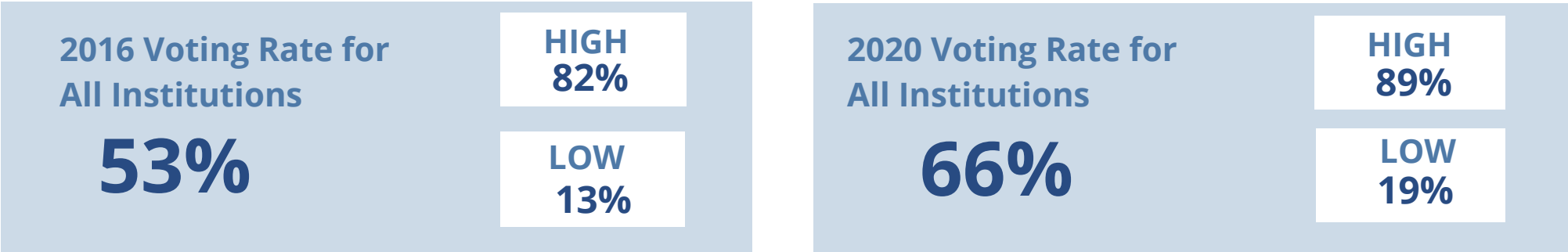
## Voting and Registration Rates

	2016	2018	2020	2016-2020 Change (p.p.)
Total Student Enrollment	16,456	16,922	16,742	↑ 286
(Age under 18/Unknown)	–	–	–	–
(IPEDS estimated non-resident aliens)	3,085	3,663	3,047	↓ -38
(FERPA records blocked)	–	–	–	–
(Non-Degree Seeking Students)	1,428	–	516	↓ -912
Total eligible voters	11,937	13,252	13,166	↑ 1,228
Number of students who registered	8,144	8,071	10,407	↑ 2,263
Number of students who voted	6,647	5,204	9,240	↑ 2,593
Registration Rate %	68	61	79	↑ 11
Voting Rate of Registered Students %	82	64	89	↑ 7
Voting Rate %	56	39	70	↑ 15

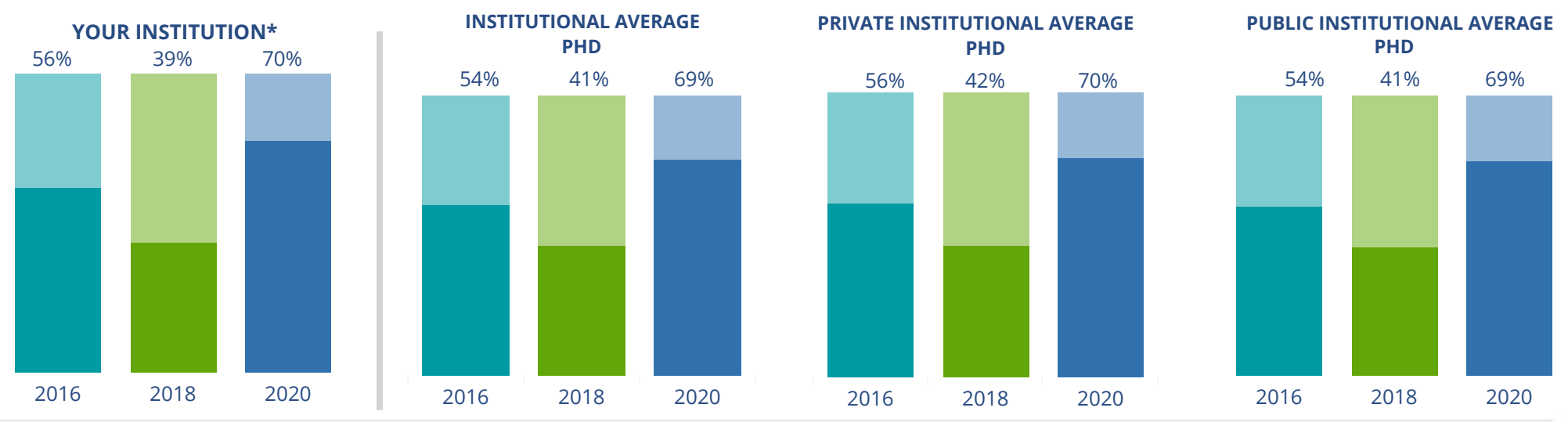
**This page provides the numbers we used to calculate your voting, registration, and yield rates.** The sub-categories under total student enrollment are the adjustments that we make to account for students who are ineligible to vote due to age or citizenship status. We also exclude, when correctly flagged,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

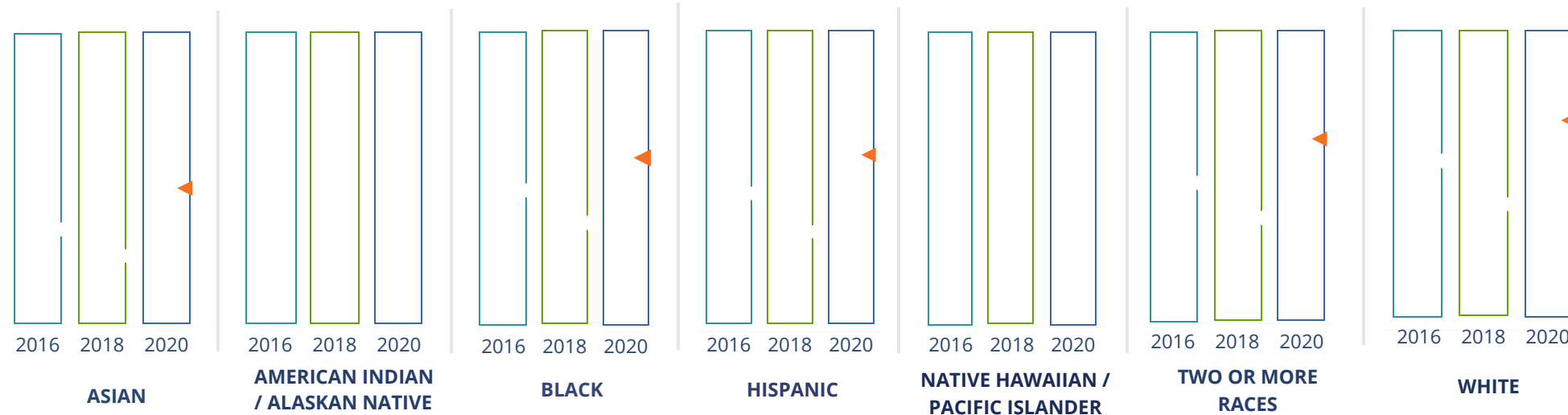
# By Institution Types



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-nsive-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

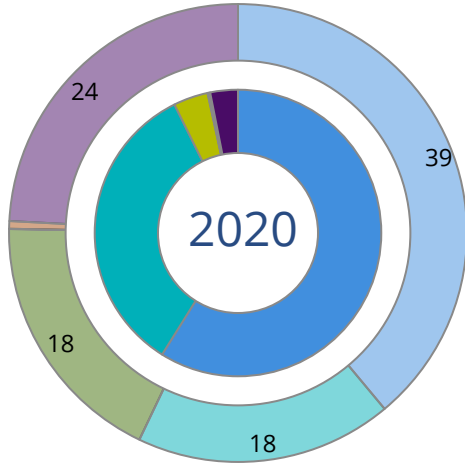
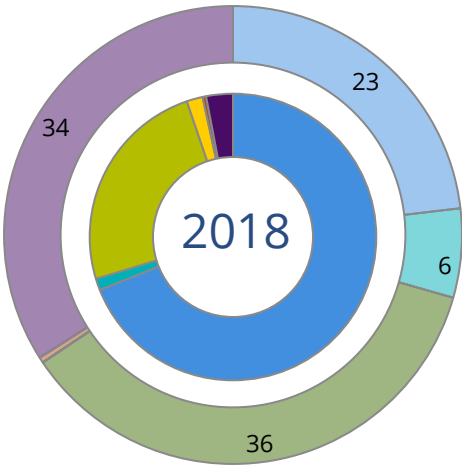
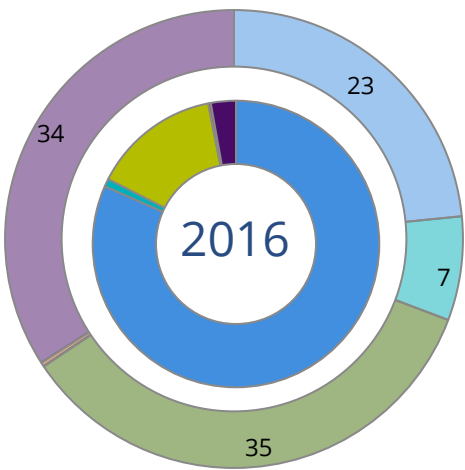
## By Race/Ethnicity

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	14,738	6,647	45	16,899	5,204	31	16,108	9,240	57	 12

# 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	63	1	67	1	3,120	34	33	↑
In-Person on Election Day	954	14	1,277	25	356	4	-11	↓
Not-In-Person	5,422	82	3,591	69	5,442	59	-23	↓
Other	-	-	96	2	-	-	-	
Provisional	23	0	23	0	14	0	0	↓
Voting Method Unknown	185	3	150	3	301	3	0	↑

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	49%	26%	65%
22-24	34%	22%	41%
25-29	44%	38%	57%
30-39	47%	41%	56%
40-49	59%	53%	74%
50+	80%	66%	80%

**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	
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Change (p.p)	
18-21	6,297	3,069	49	6,602	1,703	26	6,301	4,099	65	↑	16
22-24	2,929	1,004	34	3,674	813	22	3,521	1,448	41	↑	7
25-29	3,259	1,422	44	3,910	1,480	38	3,598	2,052	57	↑	13
30-39	1,758	833	47	2,103	863	41	2,017	1,135	56	↑	9
40-49	369	218	59	444	236	53	485	357	74	↑	15
50+	126	101	80	166	109	66	186	149	80	↓	0

# 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)	
EDUCATION LEVEL											
Undergraduate	6,868	3,293	48	7,103	1,895	27	6,801	4,412	65	↑	17
Graduate	7,856	3,350	43	8,547	2,783	33	9,056	4,724	52	↑	10
Class Unknown	14	-	-	1,249	516	41	251	104	41		-
CLASS YEAR											
First Year	1,644	53	869	1,757	23	401	1,558	79	1,227	↑	26
Second Year	1,710	52	897	1,761	23	404	1,719	77	1,322	↑	24
Upper Level	3,519	43	1,528	3,670	30	1,102	3,557	53	1,882	↑	9
ENROLLMENT STATUS											
Full-time	-	-	-	16,419	4,965	30	15,508	8,933	58		-
Part-time	-	-	-	480	239	50	600	307	51		-

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	
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Change (p.p)	
Area, Ethnic, Cultural, and Gender Studies	69	26	38	89	20	22	100	43	43	↑	5
Biological and Biomedical Sciences	1,161	503	43	1,382	545	39	1,241	680	55	↑	11
Business, Management, and Marketing	1,372	546	40	1,656	408	25	1,804	887	49	↑	9
Communication and Journalism	–	–	–	–	–	–	13	–	–	–	–
Computer and Information Sciences	569	229	40	808	191	24	859	346	40	↑	0
Education	86	39	45	79	31	39	59	30	51	↑	5
Engineering and Engineering Technologies	1,963	709	36	2,275	407	18	2,063	937	45	↑	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 Change (p.p)
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	
English Language and Literature	145	69	48	173	82	47	134	79	59	↑ 11
Foreign Languages, Literatures, and Lingui..	149	65	44	162	63	39	103	65	63	↑ 19
Health Professions	2,044	1,134	55	2,364	1,002	42	2,370	1,614	68	↑ 13
History	108	48	44	140	55	39	117	61	52	↑ 8
Legal Professions and Studies	772	330	43	758	266	35	723	443	61	↑ 19
Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Humanities	2,619	1,418	54	2,658	681	26	2,558	2,004	78	↑ 24
Mathematics and Statistics	179	50	28	262	57	22	260	81	31	↑ 3
Multi/Interdisciplinary Studies	–	–	–	36	–	–	149	57	38	–
Natural Resources and Conservation	394	186	47	436	175	40	340	201	59	↑ 12
Philosophy and Religious Studies	114	59	52	147	76	52	135	97	72	↑ 20
Physical Sciences	355	111	31	406	111	27	403	158	39	↑ 8
Psychology	253	127	50	295	131	44	285	176	62	↑ 12
Public Administration and Social Service P..	466	216	46	537	214	40	491	314	64	↑ 18
Social Sciences	1,150	369	32	1,168	274	23	938	357	38	↑ 6

# By Field of Study

FIELDS	2016			2018			2020			2016-2020	
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Change (p.p)	
Visual and Performing Arts	135	50	37	180	67	37	128	77	60	↑	23
Unknown	52	21	40	350	71	20	286	125	44	↑	3

# 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.

Duke 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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