



Proprietary School Certification and Enrollment

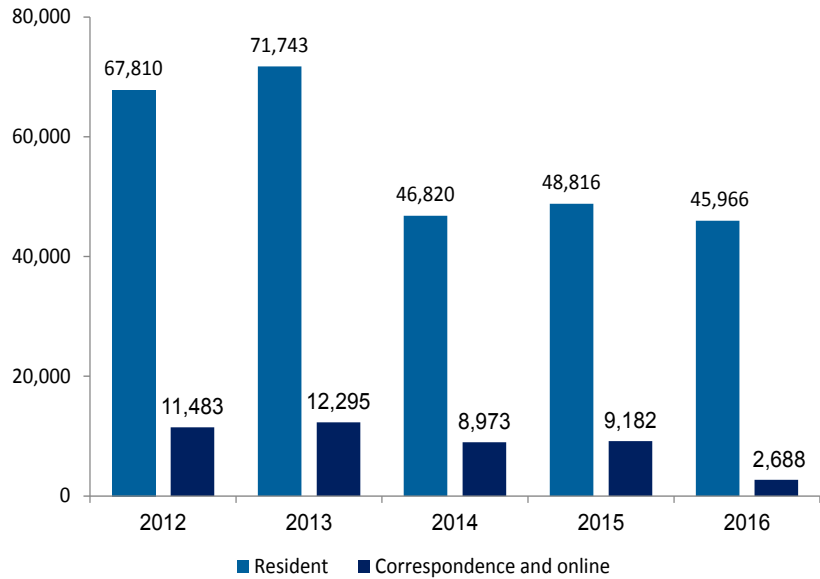
The Department of Higher Education oversees operating standards for proprietary schools to ensure students are treated fairly and receive education and training consistent with the published objectives of the schools. Certified schools provide education and training in nearly 4,000 degree and certificate programs.

During Fiscal Year 2017, department staff renewed the certification of 121 existing institutions, received 58 application requests, certified six schools to operate, granted exemption from certification standards to 10 new schools, renewed the exemption of eight currently exempt schools, and monitored the closing of 16 certified schools.

Enrollment at postsecondary education institutions certified to operate by the department remains well below the peak reached in 2013. In 2016, enrollment numbers remained relatively flat from the prior year. The number of students enrolled in Missouri private career schools decreased over the past year from 48,816 to 45,966, a decrease of approximately 6 percent. The number of students enrolled in non-Missouri degree-granting institutions (regionally accredited institutions offering instruction in the state) declined substantially from 9,054 to 4,822, a decline of nearly 50 percent.

Federal regulations focusing on the proprietary school industry will likely lead some schools to become more selective in their enrollment policies or to reduce the number of program offerings. Continued shifts toward distance education by institutions based outside the state is a likely contributor to the non-Missouri enrollment decline. In addition, increased federal scrutiny of this sector has led to several large school closures since these data were compiled.

Missouri proprietary school enrollment



Non-Missouri degree-granting school enrollment

