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**A Profile of Higher Education Institutions
in the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Area**

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Introduction

The Washington, D.C. metropolitan area is one of the leading hubs for higher education in the United States. A 2012 study by the Martin Property Institute,¹ which analyzed the Census Bureau's 2010 American Community Survey data, places metropolitan Washington, D.C. as the fourth largest college town in the United States, following only New York City, Los Angeles and Chicago. The Washington, D.C. region surpassed other metropolitan areas with high concentrations of college students, such as Philadelphia, Boston, Dallas-Fort Worth, Miami, San Francisco and Atlanta.

This research shows that there are at least 93 institutions of higher education operating in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area. This report presents data on these institutions' enrollment and employment by type and location. Due to reporting limitations, data were only available for 78 of these institutions.

As of the Fall 2012 semester, the 78 analyzed universities and colleges enrolled approximately 338,000 graduate and undergraduate students and employed about 70,600 faculty and staff. It must be emphasized that the numbers of students and employees are underestimated due to missing data for the 15 schools and because it is expected that the list of public and private universities and colleges compiled for this research is not exhaustive.²

¹ Florida Richard. *America's Leading College Towns*. The Atlantic CityLab. August 27, 2012. <http://www.citylab.com/design/2012/08/americas-leading-college-towns/3054/>.

² The list of universities and colleges used in this study was compiled based on higher education consortia and internet research. It is expected that more schools operated in the region during the Fall 2012 semester.

Distribution of the Institutions, Students and Employees in the Washington Region

In Fall 2012, the region’s 93 institutions included 48 local colleges and universities, campuses of 22 institutions headquartered outside of the metropolitan region operating year-round, and 23 non-local institutions offering semester-long academic and/or internship programs in the region (Appendix Tables 1 through 3). Among the 78 schools that reported their data, 16 are religious-affiliated, three are military universities, two specialize in art and design degrees, three specialize in technical degrees, and seven specialize in health-care degrees.

The Washington region’s close proximity to the Federal government and think-tanks is a key asset for many of these institutions, particularly non-local universities that offer internship programs for students studying outside of the region. The region also hosts several campuses of schools with remote headquarters. Most of these facilities are concentrated in the District of Columbia; surrounding jurisdictions predominantly accommodate local institutions. While data by institution for the whole metropolitan region are reported (as presented in the Appendix), the numbers broken down by jurisdiction are limited. Table 1 presents the available data on student enrollment and employment by jurisdiction. The unreported students and employees were located outside of the District of Columbia, but it is not known in which jurisdictions.

Table 1
Student Enrollment and Employment in Higher Education Institutions by Jurisdiction, Fall 2012

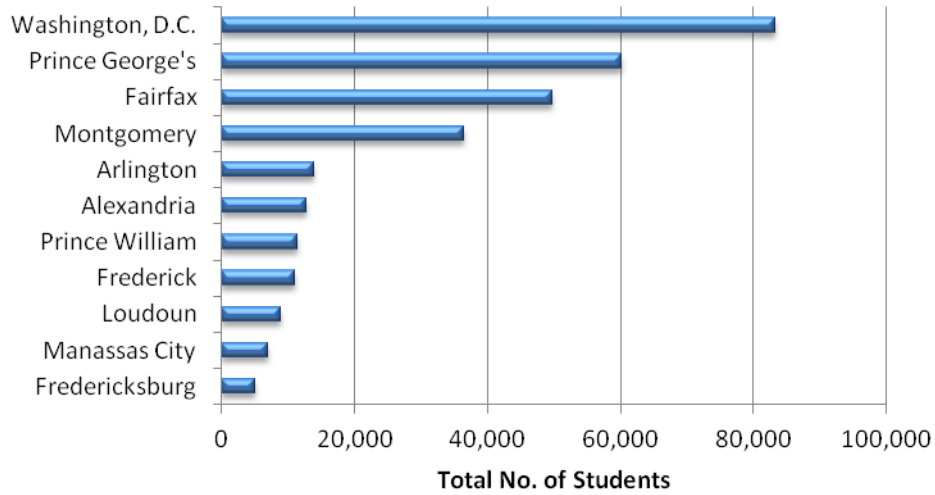
	Students*		Employees		No. of Campuses
	Number	Percent	Number**	Percent	
Washington, D.C.	83,382	27.81	30,705	46.31	41
Prince George’s County	60,233	20.09	11,031	16.64	10
Fairfax County	49,794	16.61	10,723	16.17	14
Montgomery County	36,446	12.16	4,183	6.31	5
Arlington County	13,872	4.63	2,507	3.78	13
Alexandria City	12,768	4.26	1,057	1.59	5
Prince William County	11,335	3.78	1,448	2.18	5
Frederick County	10,931	3.65	2,641	3.98	3
Loudoun County	8,980	3.00	700	1.06	3
Manassas City	6,953	2.32	389	0.59	1
Fredericksburg City	5,093	1.70	923	1.39	1
Total	299,787	100%	66,307	100%	101

Note: Included are 78 institutions that in total have 101 campuses in the region. Excluded are 15 institutions with unavailable data.

*Includes full-time and part-time students.

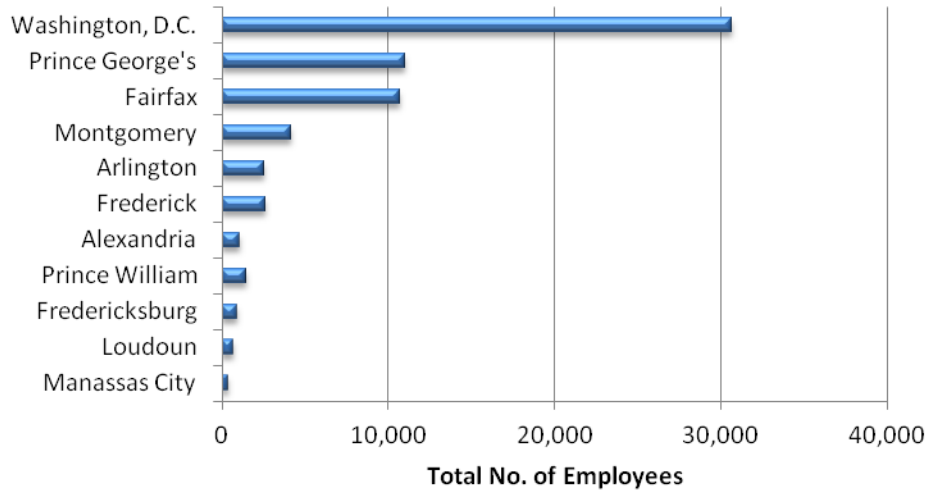
** The numbers of employees are underestimated due to the missing data for employment in several institutions.

Figure 1
Distribution of Students by Institutions' Locations
Fall 2012



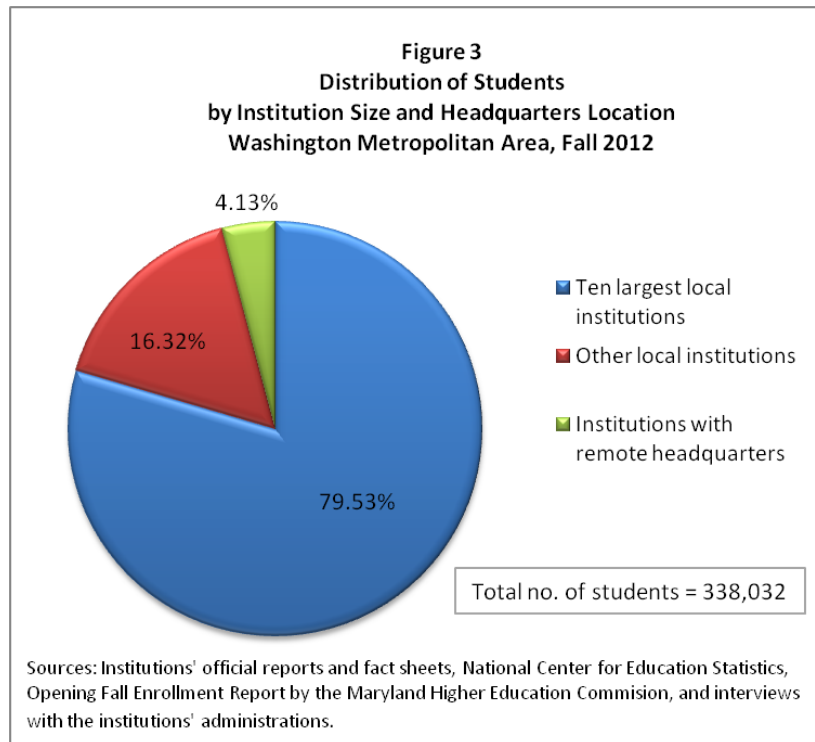
Sources: Institutions' official reports and fact sheets, National Center for Education Statistics, Opening Fall Enrollment Report by the Maryland Higher Education Commission, and interviews with the institutions' administrations.

Figure 2
Distribution of Employees by Institutions' Locations
Fall 2012

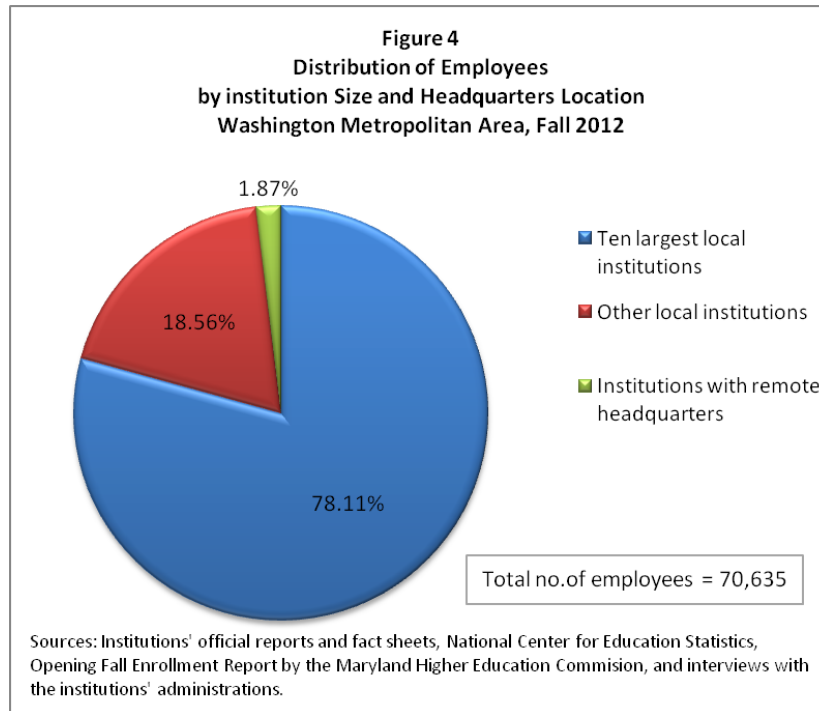


Sources: Institutions' official reports and fact sheets, National Center for Education Statistics, Opening Fall Enrollment Report by the Maryland Higher Education Commission, and interviews with the institutions' administrations

The bulk of enrollment and employment is concentrated in the region’s 10 largest institutions.³ These institutions, which are all locally based, account for 79.53 percent of all the students and 78.11 percent of faculty and staff. The remaining 38 local institutions make up 16.32 percent of all students and 18.56 percent of employees. The institutions headquartered outside of the region contribute only 4.13 percent of students and 1.87 percent of employees. However, their impacts on the region’s economy are amplified, as nearly all of these students and employees would not have otherwise been in the region.



³ The ten largest institutions include: Northern Virginia Community College, University of Maryland University College, University of Maryland College Park, Montgomery College, George Mason University, George Washington University, Georgetown University, Prince George’s Community College, American University and Howard University.



Conclusion

Institutions of higher education supported more than 338,032 full-time and part-time students and 70,635 employees in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area as of the Fall 2012 semester. While these numbers are underestimated due to data limitations, even these estimates demonstrate the value of higher education to the regional economy and employment base. The students, faculty, and administrative employees generate economic activity through the region and enhance its human capital – a crucial component of healthy economy. The universities and colleges tend to “have significant purchasing power, attract substantial revenues for their surrounding economies, invest heavily in local real estate and infrastructure, are major employers, and help to train the workforce and nurture new business.”⁴ Although it is not commonly recognized, metropolitan Washington, D.C. is one of the leading college towns the United States. The impact of higher education on the regional economy is likely significant, but understudied.

⁴ Economy League. *Leveraging Colleges and Universities for Urban Economic Revitalization*. Greater Philadelphia Regional Review. Spring 2003. <http://economyleague.org/files/File/Brain%20leveraging.pdf>.

Notes on Data

The sources used to compile the list of higher education institutions operating in Fall 2012 in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area include: Consortium of Universities of the Washington Metropolitan Area, Virginia Tidewater Consortium for Higher Education, National Center for Education Statistics, College Board, Yahoo! Local (Colleges and Universities) and internet research. It is expected that the list is not exhaustive and there were more colleges and universities operating in the region.

The data presented in this report come from the institutions' official reports and fact sheets, from the National Center for Education Statistics, from the Opening Fall Enrollment Report by the Maryland Higher Education Commission⁵, and from interviews with the institutions' registrar and human resources offices as well as semester program coordinators. The numbers are approximations, as institutions may differ in how they report the student and employee counts. Often, data broken down by location are unavailable so the totals may under- or over-estimate the real numbers.

⁵ Maryland Higher Education Commission. *Opening Fall Enrollment Report*. MHEC: December 2012.

Appendix

Table 1
Higher Education Institutions with Local Headquarters
in the Washington D.C. Metropolitan Area
Fall 2012 Semester

	Institution	School Control	Students*			Employees
			Total	Undergraduate	Graduate	
1.	Northern Virginia Community College	Public	49,436	49,436	0	3,760
2.	University of Maryland University College	Public	42,268	28,273	13,995	4,040
3.	University of Maryland College Park	Public	37,631	26,826	10,805	7,828
4.	Montgomery College	Public	33,053	33,053	0	2,847
5.	George Mason University	Public	32,203	21,794	10,409	9,632
6.	George Washington University	Private	19,903	9,892	10,011	6,837
7.	Georgetown University	Private	17,357	7,552	9,805	8,167
8.	Prince George's Community College	Public	13,824	13,824	0	2,133
9.	American University	Private	12,006	6,776	5,230	3,944
10.	Howard University	Private	10,002	6,688	3,314	6,222
11.	Catholic University of America	Private	6,894	3,633	3,261	1,510
12.	Frederick Community College	Public	6,159	6,159	0	1,678
13.	Bowie State University	Public	5,608	4,410	1,198	600
14.	University of the District of Columbia	Public	5,490	4,857	633	998
15.	University of Mary Washington	Public	5,093	4,515	578	923
16.	Marymount University	Private	3,702	2,470	1,232	741
17.	Trinity Washington University	Private	2,663	1,885	778	534
18.	Hood College	Private	2,422	1,434	988	307
19.	Mount St Mary's University	Private	2,350	1,842	508	656
20.	Stratford University	Private	2,230	1,756	474	342
21.	Gallaudet University	Private	1,546	1,118	428	1,007
22.	Washington Adventist University	Private	1,403	1,218	185	249
23.	Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences	Public	1,208	0	1,208	1,087

24.	National Defense University	Public	1,206	0	1,206	348
25.	Virginia Tech	Public	1,140	8	1,132	205
26.	University of Management and Technology	Private	1,061	790	271	164
27.	Capitol College	Private	905	441	464	124
28.	National Intelligence University	Public	715	98	617	86
29.	Corcoran College of Art and Design	Private	634	386	248	351
30.	Wesley Theological Seminary	Private	634	0	634	112
31.	National Labor College	Private	618	618	0	101
32.	Maryland University of Integrative Health	Private	511	511	0	131
33.	Columbia College	Private	419	419	0	90
34.	University of the Potomac	Private	311	311	0	103
35.	Global Health College	Private	265	265	0	37
36.	Virginia Theological Seminary	Private	227	0	227	174
37.	Institute of World Politics	Private	138	0	138	78
38.	Pontifical Faculty of the Immaculate Conception at the Dominican House of Studies	Private	117	0	117	58
39.	Pontifical John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage and Family	Private	103	0	103	21
40.	Maple Springs Baptist Bible College and Seminary	Private	99	74	25	38
41.	Institute for the Psychological Sciences	Private	84	0	84	37
42.	Notre Dame Graduate School of Christendom College	Private	84	0	84	14
43.	Washington Theological Union	Private	80	0	80	13
Total			323,802	243,332	80,470	68,327

Note: Other institutions with local headquarters that operated in the Washington metropolitan area during the Fall 2012 semester include: Washington Baptist University, William Samson University, and American Open University. Data for these institutions are unavailable at the time of writing this report.

*Includes full-time and part-time students.

Table 2
Higher Education Institutions with Remote Headquarters
in the Washington D.C. Metropolitan Area
Fall 2012 Semester

No.	Institution	School Control	Students*			Employees	Headquarters
			Total	Undergrad	Graduate		
1.	Johns Hopkins University	Private	3,800	43	3,757	u/k**	Maryland
2.	DeVry University	Private	2,061	1,315	746	u/k**	Illinois
3.	University of Phoenix	Private	1,660	1,407	253	360	Arizona
4.	The Art Institute of Washington	Private	1,660	1,660	0	350	Multiple locations
5.	ITT Technical Institute	Private	1,327	1,327	0	94	Indiana
6.	Medtech College	Private	1,208	1,208	0	89	Multiple locations
7.	Argosy University	Private	1,018	91	927	343	California
8.	Averett College	Private	914	892	22	338	Virginia
9.	Westwood College	Private	907	907	0	177	Multiple locations
10.	Sanford-Brown College	Private	733	733	0	106	Multiple locations
11.	Everest College	Private	649	649	0	122	Multiple locations
12.	Webster University	Private	589	0	589	77	Missouri
13.	Chamberlain College of Nursing	Private	348	348	0	59	Multiple locations
14.	The Chicago School of Professional Psychology	Private	297	0	297	28	Illinois
15.	University of California	Private	270	270	0	36	California
16.	Park University	Private	226	226	0	25	Missouri
Total			13,867	11,033	2,834	2,204***	

Note: Other institutions with remote headquarters that operated in the Washington metropolitan area during the Fall 2012 semester include: University of Virginia, Strayer University, Stevens Institute of Technology, Central Michigan University, Lancaster Bible College and Boston University. Data for these institutions are unavailable at the time of writing this report.

*Includes full-time and part-time students.

**u/k = unknown; data on the number of employees are unavailable for Johns Hopkins University and DeVry University.

***The total number of employees is an underestimation due to the missing data for employment at Johns Hopkins University and DeVry University.

Table 3
 Institutions Offering Semester-Long Academic and Internship Programs
 in Washington D.C. Metropolitan Area
 Fall 2012 Semester

No.	Institution	School Control	Students*			Employees	Headquarters
			Total	Undergrad	Graduate		
1.	Lewis & Clark College	Private	44	44	0	4	Oregon
2.	Cornell University	Private	36	36	0	18	New York
3.	Lutheran College Washington Semester	Private	36	36	0	9	Multiple locations
4.	University of Texas	Public	33	33	0	7	Texas
5.	Carnegie Mellon University Heinz College	Private	24	0	24	17	Pennsylvania
6.	Penn State	Public	20	20	0	5	Pennsylvania
7.	University of Pittsburgh	Public	20	0	20	3	Pennsylvania
8.	Grinnell College	Private	19	19	0	2	Iowa
9.	University of Michigan	Public	19	19	0	6	Michigan
10.	University of Georgia	Public	16	16	0	2	Georgia
11.	Claremont McKenna College	Private	16	16	0	4	California
12.	Hamilton College	Private	16	16	0	1	New York
13.	James Madison University	Public	12	12	0	1	Virginia
14.	University of Pennsylvania	Public	12	12	0	5	Pennsylvania
15.	Ohio State University	Public	12	12	0	5	Ohio
16.	College of William and Mary	Public	10	10	0	7	Virginia
17.	Pepperdine University	Private	9	9	0	2	California
18.	Hillsdale College	Private	6	6	0	4	Oklahoma
19.	Centre College	Private	3	3	0	2	Kentucky
Total			363	319	44	104	

Note: Other institutions offering semester-long academic and/or internship programs that operated in the Washington metropolitan area during the Fall 2012 semester include: Stanford University, Stonehill College, Syracuse University and Washington University in St. Louis. Data for these institutions are unavailable at the time of writing this report.

*Includes full-time and part-time students.