PERSPECTIVE DATA SCIENCE

AI Insights Report

Marist University, NY
Report Type: basic

Report Generation Date: May 05, 2026

Background Information

Marist University is a private, not-for-profit institution located in Poughkeepsie, New York, offering degrees ranging from undergraduate to doctoral levels. Classified as a Master's College & University, the school serves a total enrollment of 5,158 full-time equivalent undergraduates, 738 graduate students, and 96 professional students. To support its residential community, Marist University maintains institution-controlled student housing with a capacity of 3,465 residents.

Executive Summary

Marist University maintains a significantly stronger asset base and liquidity position relative to both its comparison group and national medians throughout the 2016 to 2025 period. The institution's cash and investments demonstrated a sharp upward trajectory starting in 2021, growing from approximately $380 million to over $650 million by 2025, ending at values more than double the comparison group median. Furthermore, net property and equipment remained the highest among peers, starting at roughly $355 million in 2016, peaking near $475 million in 2019, and settling around $460 million in 2025, which established a sustained gap against the national median that remained near $60 million. This robust liquidity is further evidenced by the ratio of cash and investments to operating expenses, which spiked to nearly 2.8 in 2021 and stabilized above 2.6 through 2025, whereas peer ratios generally hovered below 2.0.

Operational revenue streams and private support distinguish Marist University from its benchmarks, though recent operational margins have faced pressure. Net student revenues consistently exceeded peer and national medians, trending upward to surpass $210 million by 2025, in contrast to the comparison group median which declined from $120 million to $100 million between 2016 and 2025. Unrestricted private gifts remained higher in raw value than benchmarks, exhibiting volatility with significant peaks in 2019 and 2025 reaching nearly $6 million after converging with peers at $2.7 million in 2024. Despite strong revenue generation, the change in net assets from operations, which peaked above $20 million in 2019 and 2021, dropped sharply after 2021 to converge near zero by 2025, indicating a recent contraction in operational surplus relative to historical performance.

Student enrollment figures further underscore the institution's operational scale and resilience compared to national standards. Marist University maintained a significantly higher count of full-time equivalent (FTE) students throughout the observed period, rising from approximately 5,800 in 2016 to a peak exceeding 6,000 in 2020, while the comparison group median fluctuated around 4,000 and the national median stayed below 2,000. Although a slight dip in enrollment occurred across all groups around 2021 and 2022, Marist remained distinctly separated from these benchmarks for the entire duration. Ultimately, while operational net asset growth has moderated in recent years, the university's substantial liquidity reserves and dominant position in student revenue and enrollment suggest a continued strong financial standing relative to peers.

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Comparison Group

Fairfield University, CT (Peer type: DC)	Ithaca College, NY (Peer type: DC)
Monmouth University, NJ (Peer type: DC)	Bentley University, MA (Peer type: DC)
Loyola University Maryland, MD (Peer type: DC)	University of Scranton, PA (Peer type: DC)
Saint Joseph's University - Philadelphia, PA (Peer type: DC)	Manhattan University, NY (Peer type: DC)
Bryant University, RI (Peer type: DC)	Le Moyne College, NY (Peer type: DC)
Springfield College, MA (Peer type: DCxDC+SR)	Canisius University, NY (Peer type: DCxDC+SR)
St Bonaventure University, NY (Peer type: DCxDC+SR)	Butler University, IN (Peer type: DCxDC)
Suffolk University, MA (Peer type: DCxDC)	Fairleigh Dickinson University-Metropolitan Campus, NJ (Peer type: DCxDC)
Gannon University, PA (Peer type: DCxDC)	La Salle University, PA (Peer type: DCxDC)
Niagara University, NY (Peer type: DCxDC)	St. John Fisher University, NY (Peer type: DCxDC)
Siena College, NY (Peer type: DCxDC)	University of Mount Saint Vincent, NY (Peer type: DCxDC)
Robert Morris University, PA (Peer type: DCxDC)	Iona University, NY (Peer type: DCxDC)
Creighton University, NE (Peer type: DCxDC)	Stonehill College, MA (Peer type: DCxDC)
Muhlenberg College, PA (Peer type: DCxDC)	Manhattanville University, NY (Peer type: DCxDC)
Sacred Heart University, CT (Peer type: DCxDC)	Saint Michael's College, VT (Peer type: DCxDC)
St. John's University-New York, NY (Peer type: DCxDC)	

Peer types
• DC — double-confirmed peer
• DCxDC — double-confirmed peer of double-confirmed peer
• DCxDC+SR — double-confirmed peer of double-confirmed peer also self-reported
• RB — reported by peer institution
• SR — self-reported only

Peer types are constructed from the lists of comparison schools that institutions self report in their IPEDS Data Feedback Report (nces.ed.gov/ipeds/help/data-feedback-report). These lists reflect how colleges and universities identify their own peer sets for benchmarking.

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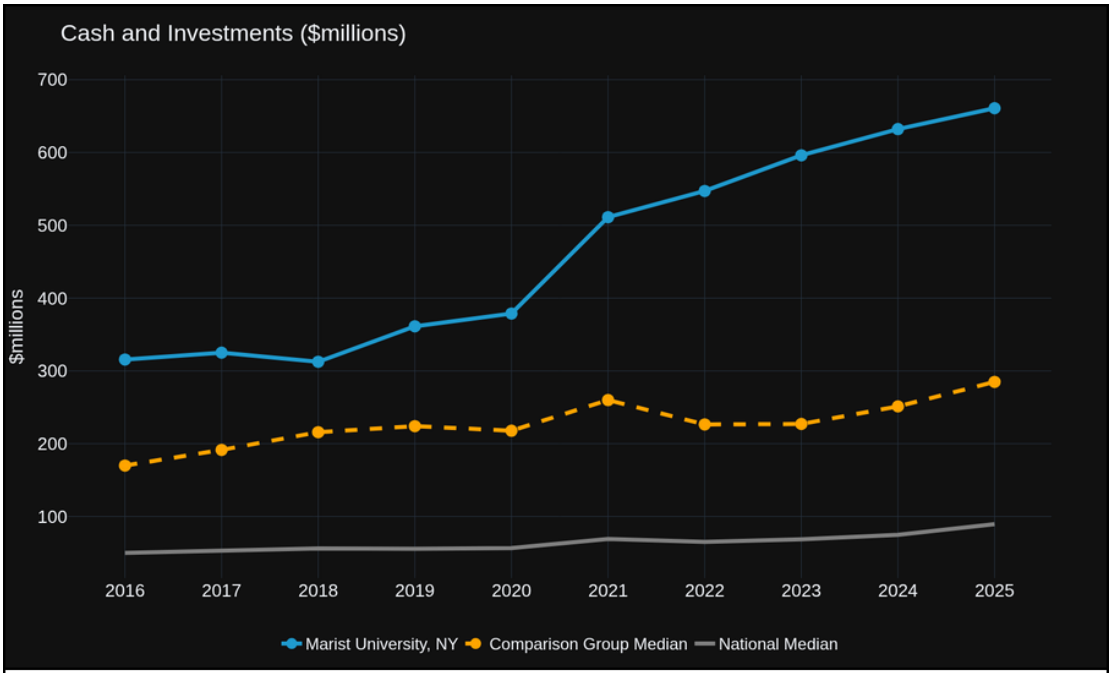
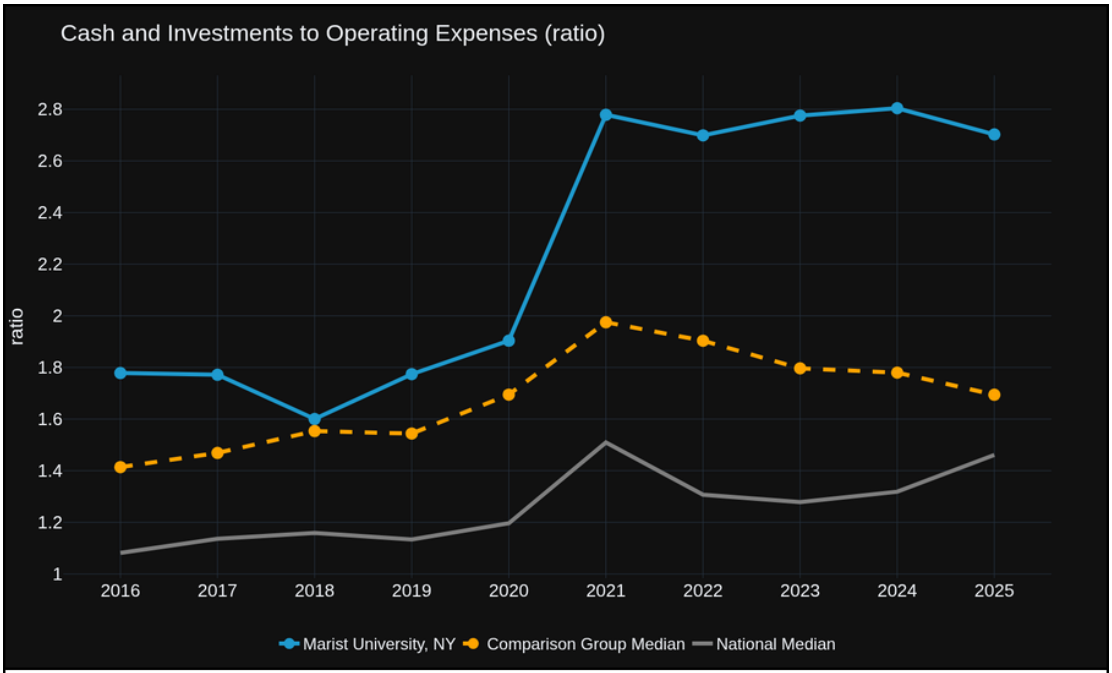


Marist University's cash and investments, represented as raw values in millions of dollars, remained consistently and significantly higher than both the Comparison Group Median and the National Median throughout the entire period from 2016 to 2025. While the comparison group and national medians exhibited relatively flat or modest growth trajectories, Marist demonstrated a sharp upward trend beginning in 2021, increasing from approximately $380 million to over $650 million. Consequently, the financial gap between Marist and the other two benchmarks widened considerably in the later years, with Marist ending the period at more than double the level of the comparison group median.



The graph displays the ratio of Cash and Investments to Operating Expenses, showing that Marist University consistently maintained a higher ratio than both the Comparison Group Median and the National Median from 2016 through 2025. Marist's ratio experienced a sharp upward trend starting in 2020, spiking to nearly 2.8 in 2021, which created a significant divergence from the Comparison Group Median that peaked near 2.0 in the same year. While the medians generally hovered below 2.0, Marist's ratio remained sustained at a high level above 2.6 from 2021 onward, indicating a much stronger relative position of cash and investments against operating expenses compared to its peers.

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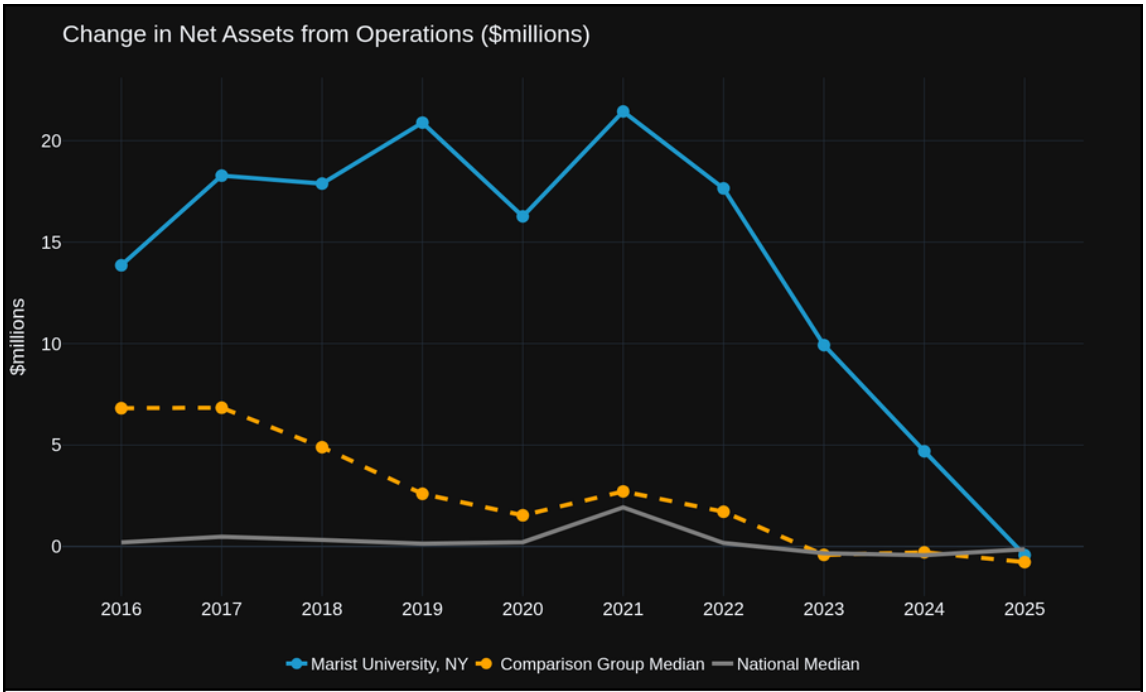
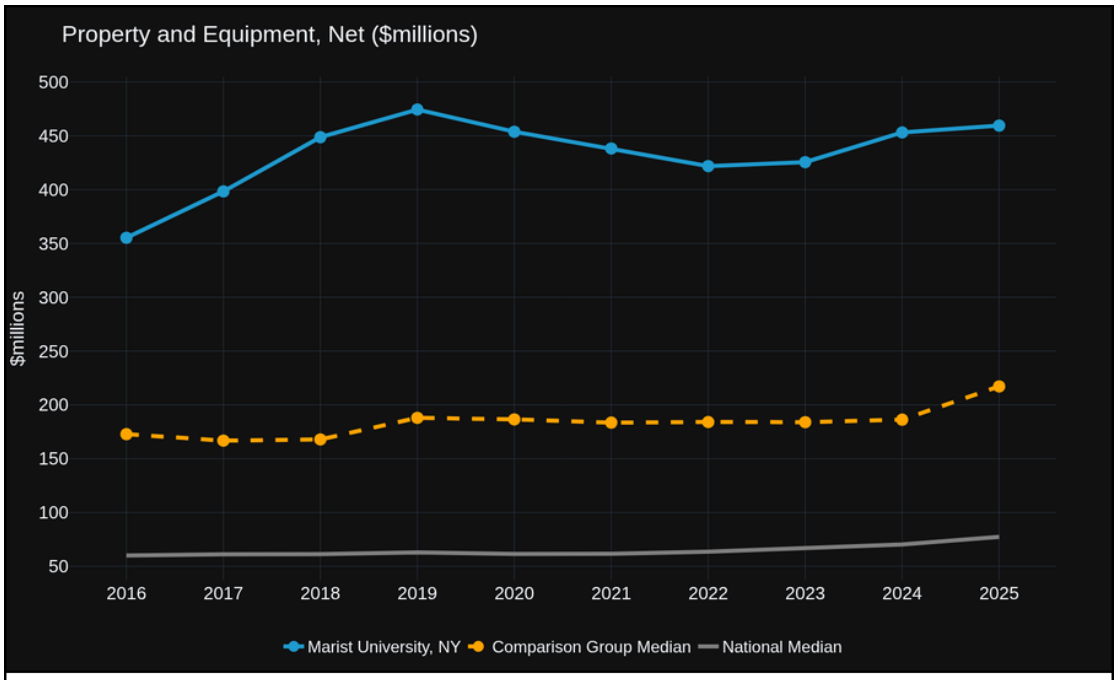


Marist University's change in net assets from operations, measured in raw millions of dollars, remained consistently higher than both the comparison group median and the national median from 2016 through 2024. While the national median remained flat near zero and the comparison group median experienced a steady decline from approximately $7 million to near zero, Marist's metric fluctuated at a much higher level, peaking above $20 million in 2019 and 2021. Following the 2021 peak, Marist's values dropped sharply, converging with the other two groups near zero by 2025.



Marist University, NY consistently maintained the highest level of net property and equipment, starting at roughly $355 million in 2016 and peaking near $475 million in 2019 before settling around $460 million by 2025. This value remained significantly above both the comparison group median and the national median for the entire duration shown. While the comparison group median hovered relatively flat around $175 million until a sharp rise in 2025, the national median stayed consistently low, barely rising above $60 million over the decade. Consequently, a wide and sustained gap existed between Marist's asset base and the medians of its peers and the nation.

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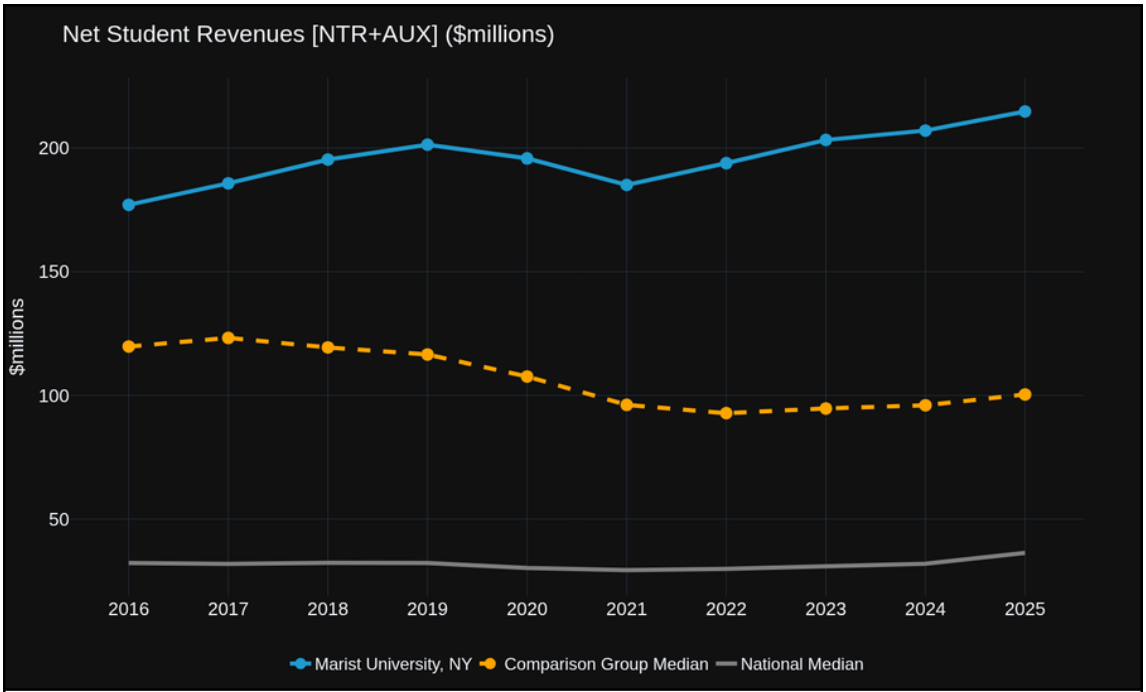
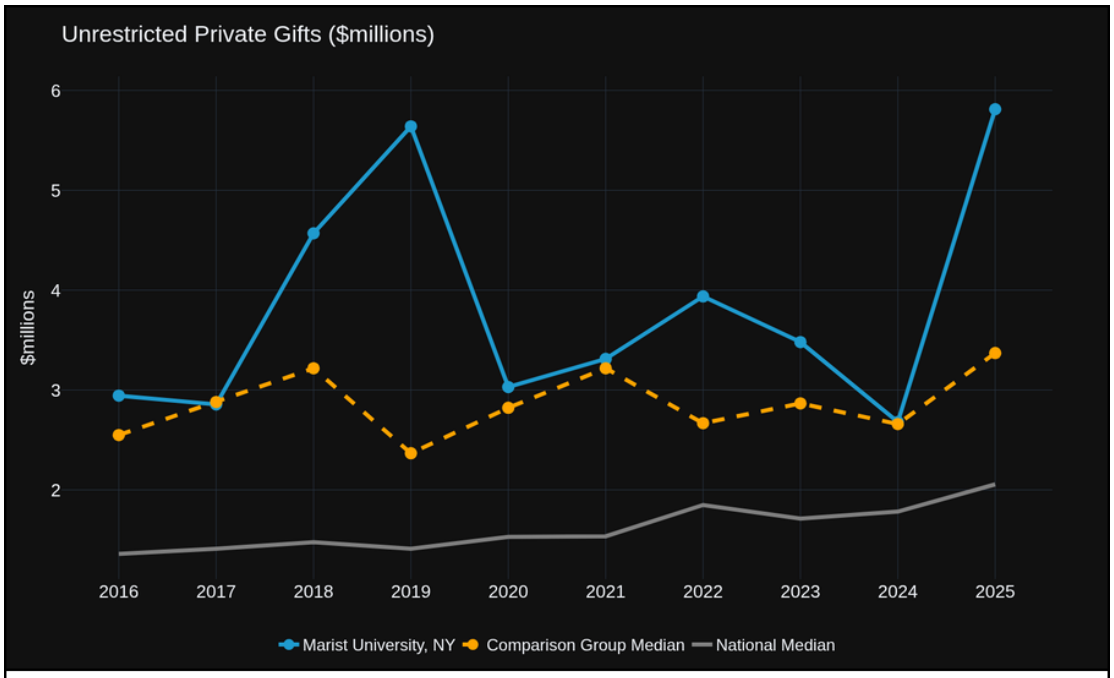


Marist University's Net Student Revenues consistently remain significantly higher than both the Comparison Group Median and the National Median throughout the period from 2016 to 2025. While Marist's revenues generally trend upward, reaching over $210 million by 2025, the Comparison Group Median declines from approximately $120 million to $100 million over the same timeframe. This creates a widening gap between the university and its peer group, while the National Median remains relatively flat and low, hovering near $30 million.



Marist University, NY consistently reports higher unrestricted private gifts in raw millions compared to both the comparison group median and the national median across the entire timeline from 2016 to 2025. While the national median (grey line) shows a slow, steady increase from roughly $1.4 million to just over $2 million, Marist's figures are much more volatile, featuring significant peaks in 2019 and 2025 where it reached nearly $6 million. Marist generally remained well above the comparison group median (orange dashed line), though the gap narrowed significantly in 2024 when both lines converged near $2.7 million before Marist spiked sharply higher in 2025.

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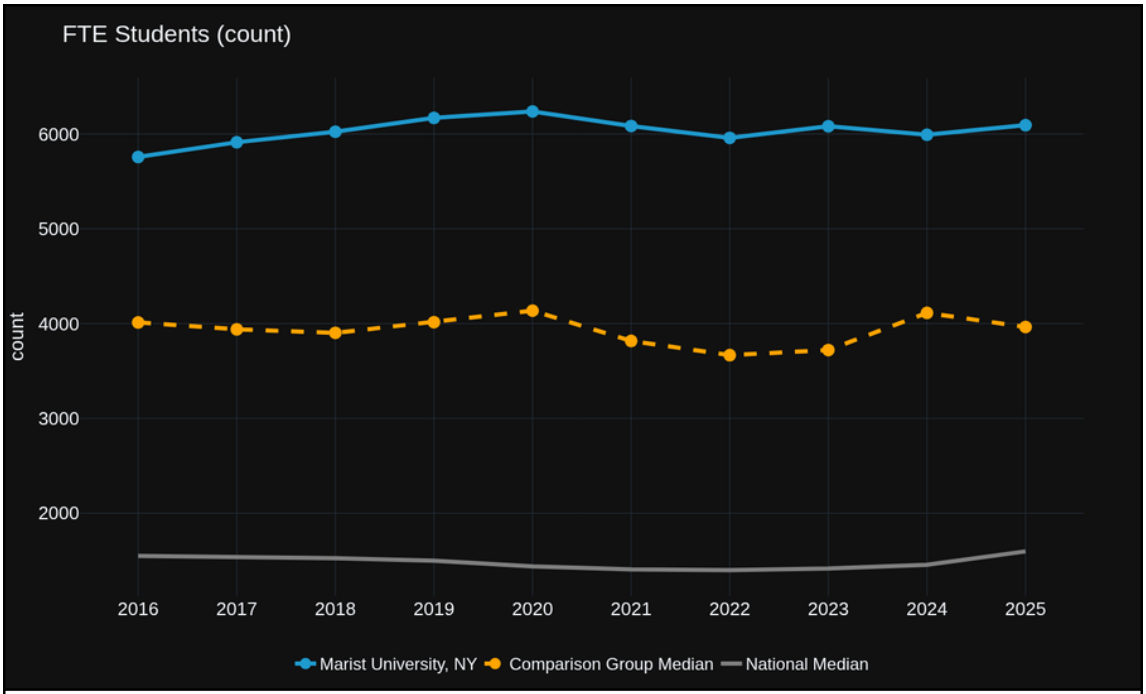

Marist University maintains a significantly higher count of FTE students compared to both the Comparison Group Median and the National Median throughout the entire 2016 to 2025 period. The university's student count rises from approximately 5,800 in 2016 to a peak over 6,000 in 2020, whereas the Comparison Group Median fluctuates around 4,000 and the National Median remains consistently below 2,000. Although all three lines show a slight dip around 2021 and 2022, Marist University remains distinctly separated and well above the other two benchmarks for the entire duration.

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