A Time to Seize New Opportunities: International Student Enrollment and Recruitment Trends

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Community Colleges for International Development
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#OpenDoorsReport
What is *Open Doors®*?
Open Doors is produced by the Institute of International Education with the support of the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.
International Student Census

Who is Surveyed?

Close to 3,000 U.S. higher education institutions
International Student Census

Who is Counted?

International students
- In-person in the U.S.
- Online in the U.S.
- Online from abroad
- OPT

What Timeframe?

Institutions reported data as of Fall 2021 for the 2021/22 Academic Year
International Students at Community Colleges
The United States hosted 49,099 international students in 2021/22, a decrease of 13%.
International students at community colleges

49,099 international students at community colleges in 2021/22

25,107

Associate's Colleges: High Transfer

2,154

Associate's Colleges: High Career & Technical

8,960

Associate's Colleges: Mixed Transfer/Career & Technical

12,878

Baccalaureate/Associate's Colleges
20 Years of International Student Trends

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2001/02</td>
<td>82,932</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006/07</td>
<td>86,179</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011/12</td>
<td>87,997</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016/17</td>
<td>96,472</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021/22</td>
<td>49,099</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

COVID-19 Pandemic
# Leading places of origin at community colleges

## Top Places of Origin

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>China</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Vietnam</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>South Korea</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>India</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Venezuela</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Colombia</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Nigeria</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
10-year trend of leading places of origin at community colleges
Average number of places of origin by institutional type

- Doctoral universities: 77
- Master’s colleges and universities: 32
- Baccalaureate colleges: 26
- Associate’s colleges: 24
- Special focus institutions: 20

Average of all institution types: 40
International students’ top fields of study at community colleges

- Liberal Arts & Sciences & General Studies: 31%
- Business & Management: 24%
- Math & Computer Science: 6%
- Engineering: 7%
- Intensive English: 11%
- Other Fields of Study: 21%
International students’ primary sources of funding

- **Personal and Family**: 55%
- **U.S. College or University**: 20%
- **Foreign Government or University**: 20%
- **Current Employment**: 2%
- **Other**: 3%

- **All International Students**: 2% (Personal and Family), 2% (Foreign Government or University)
- **International Undergraduate Students**: 3% (Personal and Family), 3% (Foreign Government or University)
- **International Students at Community Colleges**: 2% (Personal and Family), 3% (Foreign Government or University)

Source: opendoorsdata.org | International Student Census, 2021/22
Top host states of international students at community colleges

Top Destination States

1. California
2. Texas
3. Washington
4. Florida
5. New York

- Dark blue: ≥ 1,000
- Medium blue: 500 - 999
- Light blue: 100 - 499
- Gray: < 500
## Density of international students at community colleges by state

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Community colleges</th>
<th>All other institutional types</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Washington</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>76%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wyoming</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>81%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hawaii</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nevada</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utah</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>91%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
International outreach and recruitment

- India: 58%
- Vietnam: 44%
- Brazil: 35%
- Int’l students studying at U.S. high school: 34%
- China: 32%
- South Korea: 29%
- Int’l students at U.S. community colleges: 27%
- Japan: 27%
- Mexico: 24%
- Nigeria: 23%
Promising practices for increasing international student enrollment at community colleges

**Educating Leadership:** Educating institutional leadership on the value of hosting international students at a community college can help international student offices gain support for critical resources, including funding, staff, and office space, to develop a strategy and support the recruitment and retention of international students.

**Supporting the Whole Person:** U.S. community colleges have support systems to educate the whole person, starting from where they are and focusing on what they need. This built-in retention mechanism offers international students English language training, academic preparation, and basic life skills for navigating life in the United States.
Promising practices for increasing international student enrollment at community colleges

**Developing Partnership:** Community college international student recruitment benefits from having multiple and different types of partnerships, including articulation agreements with four year institutions, connections to EducationUSA advisors, government-sponsored scholarship programs, Study in the USA, and local community organizations. Partnerships can serve as a draw to the institution and help to bring a diverse international student body to the campus.

**Engaging Current Students and Alumni:** Word of mouth is a powerful recruitment tool. Community colleges can channel current students’ and alumni voices through initiatives designed to share their personal success stories with prospective international students. Institutions leveraged social media platforms, their websites, and other electronic means to amplify international student voices and connect them directly to prospective students.
Promising practices for increasing international student enrollment at community colleges

**Leveraging Technological Advancements**: Community colleges can leverage the latest technological advancements to increase communication and engagement with international students. By opening avenues to communication throughout the admissions processes, community colleges have been more responsive to students' needs leading to increased applications and admissions.

**Building a Professional Network**: By increasing engagement in professional organizations and networks, community college professionals can benefit from the knowledge and experience of colleagues in the same field. Professional networks can provide resources for educating leadership, responding to students' needs, and building technical expertise among staff.
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