



## Executive Summary

### Background

[The Student and Exchange Visitor Program \(SEVP\)](#) is part of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations within the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS). SEVP manages the [Student and Exchange Visitor Information System \(SEVIS\)](#), the web-based system DHS uses to maintain and manage information on the nonimmigrant students whose primary purpose for coming to the United States is to study.

A nonimmigrant is any foreign national who temporarily visits the United States to fulfill a specific purpose (e.g., tourism, business, study). SEVP acts as a bridge for organizations and individuals with an interest in information about nonimmigrant students in the following categories:

- F-1 STUDENTS – Nonimmigrant students whose primary purpose is to complete an academic course of study at an SEVP-certified school or program.
- M-1 STUDENTS – Nonimmigrant students whose primary purpose is to complete a vocational course of study at an SEVP-certified school or program.
- J-1 EXCHANGE VISITORS – Nonimmigrant students selected to participate in a U.S. Department of State-designated exchange visitor program.

SEVP certifies U.S. schools to enroll nonimmigrant students and ensures their compliance with administrative regulations. The U.S. Department of State manages the J-1 Exchange Visitor Program. Both SEVP and the Department of State use SEVIS to maintain critical



information that allows DHS to protect national security, while supporting the legal entry of nonimmigrant students, also termed international students<sup>1</sup> and exchange visitors.

## SEVIS by the Numbers

SEVIS by the Numbers is an annual report that highlights key SEVIS data. The data illustrates trends, values and information on international students studying in the United States. The report includes the following sections:

- [STUDENTS](#) – Data on international students who come to the United States to study.
- [SCHOOLS](#) – Data on SEVP-certified schools that enroll international students in the United States.
- [STATES AND TERRITORIES](#) – Data about international student demographics within individual U.S. states and territories.

This SEVIS by the Numbers report uses SEVIS data from calendar year 2020 and compares that to data from calendar year 2019. This report can be compared to calendar year data in the [SEVP Data Library on ICE.gov](#) and to the [2019 SEVIS by the Numbers report](#).

PLEASE NOTE: An international student or exchange visitor is deemed active once they enter the United States and engage in their program of study or exchange visitor program.

## COVID-19 Impact

The outbreak of COVID-19 in 2019 impacted international student enrollment in the United States in 2020. The total number of SEVIS records for active F-1 and M-1 students was 1,251,569 in calendar year 2020, a decrease of 17.86 percent from calendar year 2019.

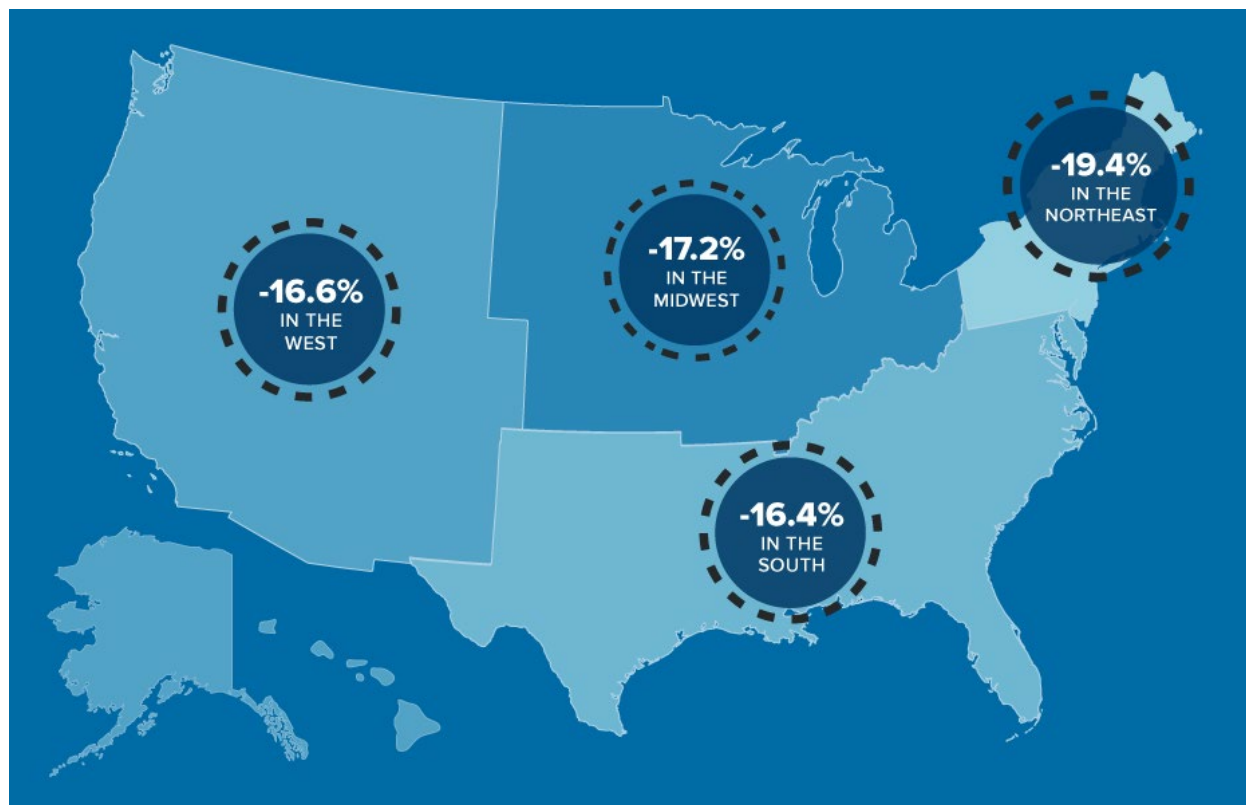
- The number of international students enrolled at kindergarten through grade 12 (K-12) schools decreased 24.6 percent from 2019 to 2020 (-19,247).
- In calendar year 2020, U.S. schools saw a 72 percent decrease in new international student enrollment when compared to calendar year 2019. New international students include those who were not enrolled in a program of study at a U.S. school during the previous calendar year.
- U.S. schools saw dramatic decreases in new international student enrollment in both August and September, traditionally months where the largest numbers of new international students enroll in U.S. schools. In August 2020, there was a 91 percent decrease in new F-1 international student enrollment and a 72 percent decrease in new M-1 international student enrollment at U.S. schools.
- In 2019, more than three K-12 schools enrolled more than 700 international students, with one school hosting more than 1,000 international students. In comparison, in 2020, only one school hosted more than 700 international students.

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<sup>1</sup> Previous iterations of this report referred to F and M visa holders as international students. Moving forward, F and M visa holders will be referred to as international students.



- While all four regions in the United States saw a decline in international student records from 2019 to 2020, the Northeast saw the greatest decrease at 19.4 percent. The Northeast was an early epicenter in the United States.
- There were 122,699 pre- and post-completion optional practical training (OPT) students with both an employment authorization document (EAD) and who reported working for an employer in calendar year 2020, compared to 138,898 in calendar year 2019 — a nearly 12 percent decrease.



The figure above illustrates the overall decline rate of international student records by U.S. region from calendar year 2019 to calendar year 2020. Groupings based on the U.S. Census regions.

### Other Trends

Other notable trends from international student enrollment in 2020 include:

- A total of four SEVP-certified schools each enrolled more than 15,000 international students.
- In calendar year 2020, 8,369 SEVP-certified schools were eligible to enroll international students, a decrease of 280 schools from 2019 (8,649 schools).
- The number of students from China and India made Asia the most popular continent of origin. Despite this, China sent fewer students in 2020 in comparison to 2019 (-91,936), as did India (-41,761).



- In 2020, California hosted 227,191 international students, the largest percentage of international students (18.2 percent) of any U.S. state.
- There were 256,944 active exchange visitors in the United States in 2020.

PLEASE NOTE: Continent information within this report was compiled using the United Nation's composition of macro geographical (continental) regions, geographical subregions, and selected economic and other groupings.



## Overview

Between the calendar year 2019 and calendar year 2020 reporting period, the total number of F-1 and M-1 international student records decreased by 272,189 (-17.86 percent). In calendar year 2020, international students in the United States hailed from 226 countries and pursued 5,288 different primary majors.<sup>2</sup> International students engaged in studies across a variety of education levels, from primary schools to flight training schools to higher education.

## International Students in Higher Education

Most F-1 and M-1 students come to the United States to take part in the higher education system. In 2020, roughly 86 percent of all F-1 and M-1 students were enrolled in SEVP-certified associate, bachelor's, master's or doctoral programs. Specifically, international students in the United States pursued 1,121,981 degrees in higher education, which is a decrease from calendar year 2019 (1,306,869). It is important to note that one student might partake in more than one level of education in a given calendar year, so they may be counted in multiple educational levels.

## Associate Degrees

There were 85,909 F-1 students who sought an associate degree in calendar year 2020, which accounted for eight percent of degrees pursued by the international student population. In calendar year 2019, a total of 107,312 F-1 students sought an associate degree, which accounted for seven percent of degrees sought by the international student

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<sup>2</sup> A primary major is the foremost major listed on an international student's SEVIS record and corresponds to most of their coursework while studying in the United States.



population. The number of students enrolled in associate degree programs decreased 19.9 percent (-21,403) between calendar year 2019 and 2020.

### **Bachelor's and Master's Degrees**

There were 856,999 F-1 students who sought either a bachelor's (445,659) or master's (411,340) degree in calendar year 2020, which accounted for 76 percent of degrees sought by the international student population. These two levels of education were the most popular among international students coming to the United States. The percentage of students pursuing bachelor's and master's degrees decreased by 13 percent (-71,897) and 16 percent (-82,759) respectively between calendar year 2019 and 2020.

### **Doctoral Degrees**

There were 179,073 F-1 students who sought a doctoral degree in calendar year 2020, which accounted for 16 percent of degrees sought by the international student population. In calendar year 2019, 187,902 F-1 students sought a doctoral degree, which accounted for 12.3 percent of degrees sought by the international student population. The number of students enrolled in doctoral programs decreased 4.7 percent (-8,829) between calendar year 2019 and 2020.

8% (85,909) Associate

40% (445,659) Bachelor's

36% (411,340) Master's

16% (179,073) Doctoral

Above are the percentage breakdowns by degree type of the total number of international students enrolled in the U.S. higher education system in calendar year 2020.

### **Primary Majors**

International students can pursue more than one major during their program of study in the United States. This section focuses on students' primary majors, which are the foremost majors listed on their SEVIS record and correspond to most of their coursework in the United States.

The top 20 most popular higher education majors for international students in calendar year 2020 were:

<b>Primary Major</b>	<b>2020 Active Student Count</b>
Business Administration and Management, General	90,099
Second Language Learning**	89,171
Computer Science	67,633





Computer and Information Sciences, General	43,547
Electrical and Electronics Engineering	43,390
Mechanical Engineering	32,805
Liberal Arts and Sciences/Liberal Studies	22,409
Regular/General High School/Secondary Diploma Program	22,384
Information Technology	21,623
High School/Secondary Diploma Programs, Other	19,895
Management Science	18,730
Econometrics and Quantitative Economics	18,693
Mathematics, General	17,912
Civil Engineering, General	17,854
Biology/Biological Sciences, General	16,724
Finance, General	16,365
Economics, General	16,295
Accounting	15,141
Management Sciences and Quantitative Methods, Other	14,941

*\*\*“Second Language Learning” indicates a major in a language other than English, such as (but not limited to) Spanish language and/or literature, Russian language and/or literature, etc.*

Fifty percent (625,718) of students studied one of top 20 majors listed above.

Please visit the [SEVP Data Library](#) for additional data on international students and schools.

### International Students at K-12 Schools

There were 59,119 international student records for K-12 education during calendar year 2020. Approximately nine percent of K-12 students in 2020 pursued primary school education, while approximately 92 percent of K-12 students pursued secondary school education (grades 9-12). China sent nearly 44 percent of all K-12 students in 2020, followed by South Korea, Vietnam, Mexico and Canada.

43.8% (25,941): China

9.2% (5,427): South Korea

7.5% (4,450): Vietnam

4.8% (2,813): Mexico

3.4% (1,983): Canada



Above are the top five countries of citizenship with the largest number of international K-12 students in the United States in calendar year 2020.

### **Optional Practical Training and Curricular Practical Training**

International students can participate in various types of practical training related to their field of study while they are in the United States.

- Pre-completion OPT takes place prior to a student's program end date and can last up to 12 months.
- Post-completion OPT takes place after a student's program end date and can also last up to 12 months.
- STEM OPT is a 24-month extension of OPT for qualifying students with degrees in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM).
- Curricular Practical Training (CPT) takes place prior to a student's program end date and is integral to the school's established curriculum.

PLEASE NOTE: To participate in any form of OPT, an international student must receive an EAD from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

The total number of international students working at any point during a calendar year may exceed the number of employment authorizations issued each year because STEM OPT extensions are two-year authorizations and OPT authorizations are granted on a rolling basis throughout the year. Reporting the number of authorizations issued allows for precise reporting on how many individuals pursued work authorization under the program in a given year. More information on total annual employment authorizations is available on the [SEVP Data Library](#).

### **International Students from Around the World**

Other than Antarctica, F-1 and M-1 students come from every continent in the world, and from more than 220 countries and territories. Asia had the largest number of active international student records (925,449), accounting for 74 percent of the international student population. All six continents saw an overall decline in the number of students coming to the United States during the reporting year.

The figure below illustrates the overall decline rate of each continent from calendar year 2019 to calendar year 2020.



The top 10 countries of citizenship with the largest number of international students in the United States in calendar year 2020 were:

Country of Citizenship	2020 Active Student Count
China	382,561
India	207,460
Republic of Korea (South Korea)	68,217
Saudi Arabia	38,039
Canada	35,508
Brazil	34,892
Vietnam	32,507
Taiwan	26,391
Japan	26,299





Mexico	17,393
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## Africa

The overall number of active F-1 and M-1 student records coming from Africa decreased by 7,682 student records from calendar year 2019 (68,029) to calendar year 2020 (60,347). Nigeria (-2,109) was the West African country that sent the fewest students in 2020. Additionally, Kenya (-329) was the East African country that sent the fewest students in 2020. Lastly, Mozambique (+2) saw the steepest proportional increase across the continent.

Country	Percent Change	Absolute Change	Calendar Year 2020 Total Population
Nigeria	-10.90%	-2,109	17,237
Kenya	-6.38%	-329	4,830
Mozambique	+1.23%	+2	165

Above are the African countries that sent at least 50 international students to the United States and saw the greatest fluctuation in enrollments in the reporting period calendar year 2019 to calendar year 2020.

## Asia

Forty-seven percent (590,021) of all active SEVIS records hailed from either China (382,561) or India (207,460) in calendar year 2020, a slight decrease from 48 percent in calendar year 2019. While the overall number of active F-1 and M-1 student records coming from Asia decreased by 143,697 from calendar year 2019 to calendar year 2020, student record trends varied across different countries.

The number of students from China and India made Asia the most popular continent of origin. However, China sent fewer students in 2020 in comparison to 2019 (-91,936), as did India (-41,761).

Still, 74 percent of all international students in the United States call Asia home.

Other Asian countries sent fewer students including South Korea (-15,854), Saudi Arabia (-15,244) and Japan (-10,897).

Country	Percent Change	Absolute Change	Calendar Year 2020 Total Population
China	-19.38%	-91,936	382,561



India	-16.76%	-41,761	207,460
South Korea	-18.86%	-15,854	68,217

Above are the Asian countries that sent at least 50 international students to the United States and saw the greatest fluctuation in enrollments in the reporting period calendar year 2019 to calendar year 2020.

### Australia and Pacific Islands

The overall number of active F-1 and M-1 student records from Australia and Pacific Island nations decreased by 2,034 from calendar year 2019 to calendar year 2020. In calendar year 2020 there were 8,082 active student records from this region, which is a 20 percent decrease from calendar year 2019 (10,116). Ninety-six percent of enrollments from this continent hail from the region's largest countries: Australia (5,688) and New Zealand (2,051).

Country	Percent Change	Absolute Change	Calendar Year 2020 Total Population
Australia	-22.11%	-1,615	5,688
New Zealand	-14.93%	-360	2,051
Papua New Guinea	-16.57%	-30	151
Fiji	-12.33%	-9	64

Above are the Australian and Pacific Island countries that sent at least 50 international students to the United States and saw the greatest fluctuation in enrollments in the reporting period calendar year 2019 to calendar year 2020.

### Europe

Europe is the third most popular continent of origin and, like Asia, it saw a decrease in the number of student records in calendar year 2020. The overall number of active F-1 and M-1 student records coming from Europe decreased by 26,400 from calendar year 2019 (127,220) to calendar year 2020 (100,820). Student enrollment from Germany (-4,394), France (-3,346), the United Kingdom (-2,168), Italy (-2,053) and Spain (-2,024) decreased in calendar year 2020.

Country	Percent Change	Absolute Change	Calendar Year 2020 Total Population
Germany	-28.46%	-4,394	11,046



France	-24.13%	-3,346	10,519
United Kingdom	-14.37%	-2,168	12,923
Italy	-20.30%	-2,053	8,060
Spain	-17.13%	-2,024	9,792

Above are the European countries that sent at least 50 international students to the United States and saw the greatest fluctuation in enrollments in the reporting period calendar year 2019 to calendar year 2020.

### North America

The overall number of active F-1 and M-1 student records coming from North America decreased by 23,133 from calendar year 2019 to calendar year 2020, resulting in 36,057 students studying in the United States in 2020. The decline in the number of student records from Canada (-3,475) and Bermuda (-137) accounted for the overall continental trend.

Country	Percent Change	Absolute Change	Calendar Year 2020 Total Population
Canada	-8.91%	-3,475	35,508
Bermuda	-20.09%	-137	545

Above are the North American countries that sent at least 50 international students to the United States and saw the greatest fluctuation in enrollments in the reporting period calendar year 2019 to calendar year 2020.

### Central and South America

The number of students coming into the United States from Central and South America decreased by 16,887 from calendar year 2019 (121,738) to calendar year 2020 (104,851). There was a decrease in student records from Brazil (-6,341), Colombia (-2,430), Mexico (-2,124), and Venezuela (-2,005) in calendar year 2020.

Country	Percent Change	Absolute Change	Calendar Year 2020 Total Population
Brazil	-15.38%	-6,341	34,892
Colombia	-14.86%	-2,430	13,920
Mexico	-10.88%	-2,124	17,393
Venezuela	-17.03%	-2,005	9,770



Above are the Central and South American countries that sent at least 50 international students to the United States and saw the greatest fluctuation in enrollments in the reporting period calendar year 2019 to calendar year 2020.

Visit the SEVP Data Library for a full list of [2020 All Countries of Citizenship by Total Number of Active Students](#).

### International Student Gender Trends

Forty-four percent (552,188) of F-1 and M-1 international students in calendar year 2020 were female, while 56 percent (698,964) were male. Of K-12 student enrollments in 2020, 42.5 percent were female (33,759). In addition, 44 percent (194,558) of bachelor's and master's international students were female, 50 percent (42,608) of international students seeking associate degrees were female and 39 percent (70,418) of international students seeking doctoral degrees were female in 2020. Of the top 10 countries of citizenship in calendar year 2020, the average female enrollment was 44 percent (386,851) and the average male enrollment was 56 percent (484,103).

Below are the percentage of female and male students for the top 10 countries of citizenship in calendar year 2020.

Country of Citizenship	Female	Male	2020 Total Active Student Count
China	47%	53%	382,561
India	35%	65%	207,460
Republic of Korea (South Korea)	47%	53%	68,217
Saudi Arabia	27%	73%	38,039
Canada	49%	51%	35,508
Brazil	54%	46%	34,892
Vietnam	54%	46%	32,507
Taiwan	48%	52%	26,391
Japan	53%	47%	26,299
Mexico	45%	55%	17,393



## Overview

F-1 and M-1 active students must attend schools that are SEVP-certified. U.S. schools can petition for SEVP certification to enroll F-1 students, M-1 students, or both F-1 and M-1 students. In calendar year 2020, there were 8,369 SEVP-certified schools in the United States, 280 fewer schools than in calendar year 2019. In 2020, 85 percent (7,149) of SEVP-certified schools could enroll only F-1 students; seven percent (597) could enroll only M-1 students; and seven percent (623) could enroll both F-1 and M-1 students.

Please visit the [SEVP Data Library](#) for additional data on international students and schools.

## Enrollment at SEVP-certified Schools

There were 8,369 SEVP-certified schools in calendar year 2020. Of the 6,914 SEVP-certified schools that enrolled students in 2020, 68 percent hosted one to 50 international students. Seventeen percent of schools that enrolled international students hosted 101 to 1,000 international students, 11 percent of schools that enrolled international students hosted 51 to 100 students and three percent of schools hosted 1,001 to 5,000 students. Less than one percent of schools that enrolled international students in 2020 hosted 5,001 or more international students.

There were four schools that enrolled more than 15,000 international students in 2020; Northeastern University, New York University, Columbia University in the City of New York and University of Southern California.

2020 Active Student Enrollment	Count of Approved Schools in 2020
1 to 50 Students	4,703
51 to 100 Students	766
101 to 1,000 Students	1,186
1,001 to 5,000 Students	212
5,001 to 10,000 Students	36
10,001 to 15,000 Students	7





> 15,000 Students	4
<b>Total Number of SEVP-Certified Schools that Enrolled at Least One International Student in 2020</b>	6,914

Above is the breakdown of the number of schools with at least one active student by active student enrollment. There are an additional 1,455 schools that have been certified to accept international students but did not enroll any international students in 2020.

## F-1 Schools

F-1 schools are SEVP-certified schools that enroll international students with F-1 visas. F-1 students are in an academic program, often with a core academic curriculum, and can remain in the United States for the duration of their program of study. F-1 students can change their major or program of study, and they can transfer anytime during their program or begin a new program after completing one.

The top 20 most popular F-1 programs hosted 18.1 percent (224,498) of the entire international student population.

School Name	2020 Active Student Count
Northeastern University	17,290
New York University	16,667
Columbia University in the City of New York	16,631
University of Southern California	16,207
University of Illinois	12,692
Boston University	12,177
Arizona State University	11,975
University of the Cumberland	11,625
University of California, San Diego	10,984
Purdue University	10,706
The Pennsylvania State University	9,612
University of Washington	9,608
University of Michigan	9,465
University of California at Berkeley	9,152
University of California, Irvine	8,873
University of California, Los Angeles	8,825
The University of Texas at Dallas	8,582
University of Pennsylvania	7,885



Carnegie Mellon University	7,786
Campbellsville University	7,756

Above are the top 20 SEVP-certified schools with the greatest number of F-1 students in calendar year 2020. Visit the SEVP Data Library to view the full list of the [2020 Top 500 F-1 Schools by Number of Active SEVIS Records](#).

## M-1 Schools

M-1 schools are SEVP-certified schools that enroll international students with M-1 visas. M-1 students are in a vocational program, typically without a core academic curriculum, and can only remain in the United States for up to one year unless they apply for an extension. M-1 students cannot change their major or program of study, and they can only transfer in the first six months after arrival.

There were 597 schools certified to enroll only M-1 students in 2020. Eighty-three M-1 schools only enrolled one international student during the reporting period.

School Name	2020 Active Student Count
CAE Oxford Aviation Academy Phoenix Inc	915
Bethel School of Supernatural Ministry—Bethel Church	783
Westwind School of Aeronautics, Phoenix, LLC	665
Bethel School of Supernatural Ministry—Bethel Church Civic Center	659
L3 Commercial Training Solutions Airline Academy	471
TransPac Aviation Academy	400
Pilot Training Center	376
FlightSafety Academy	333
Treasure Coast Flight Training	276
Aircraft Development Flight Airways Corp d/b/a ADF Airways	270
Chandler-Gilbert Community College	261
Falcon Aviation Academy	261
American Flight Training, LLC.	257
U.S. Aviation Group LLC d/b/a U.S. Aviation Academy	255
Airborne Systems, Inc.	241
ARI BEN AVIATOR, INC.dba AVIATOR COLLEGE	237
University of North Dakota	228
Delta Aeronautics, Inc. d/b/a Delta-Qualiflight Aviation	219
US Aviation Group LLC d/b/a US Aviation Academy-North Texas	218
Airman's Proficiency Center dba Hillsboro Aero Academy, LLC	205



Above are the top 20 SEVP-certified schools that had the greatest number of M-1 students in calendar year 2020. Visit the SEVP Data Library to view the full list of [2020 All M-1 Schools by Number of Active SEVIS Records](#).

### F-1 and M-1 Schools

Seven percent (623) of SEVP-certified schools can enroll both F-1 and M-1 students. These schools tend to have smaller student populations than their F-1-only counterparts.

School Name	2020 Active Student Count
Cornell University	7,877
Houston Community College System	4,460
Santa Monica College	3,461
Computer Systems Institute	3,414
UCLA-Extension	2,741
The University of Iowa	2,588
New York Institute of Technology	2,268
Florida Institute of Technology	1,997
Minnesota State University, Mankato	1,686
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University	1,434
Miami Dade College	1,427
Northern Virginia Community College	1,423
Green River College	1,414
Seattle Colleges	1,317
Bellevue College	1,176
Diablo Valley College	1,081
Florida National University	1,041
Santa Barbara City College District	1,017
Lamar University	1,016
Long Island University	1,015

Above are the top 20 SEVP-certified schools with the greatest number of both F-1 and M-1 students in calendar year 2020.

### K-12 Schools

K-12 schools are SEVP-certified schools that enroll international students with F-1 visas in the grade years from kindergarten through grade 12. Students can attend private elementary schools, private middle schools, private high schools (grades 9-12) or public high schools (grades 9-12). SEVP regulations place no limit on the length of time an F-1 student may attend a private SEVP-certified school; however, students can only attend public K-12 schools for up to one year.

School Name	2020 Active Student Count
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Archdiocese of Los Angeles	712
EF International Academy	684
Roman Catholic Diocese of Rockville Centre	520
CATS Academy Boston	503
IMG ACADEMY	458
Montverde Academy	434
Broadfording Christian Academy	346
Fairmont Private Schools	334
North Broward Preparatory School	306
Archdiocese of Chicago	304
American Learning Systems, Inc.	296
Layton Christian Academy	281
The Village School	274
Keio Academy of New York	266
Windermere Preparatory School	238
THORNTON ACADEMY	234
Southlands Christian Schools	221
Hoosac School	208
Northfield Mount Hermon	205
St. Johnsbury Academy	202

Above are the top 20 SEVP-certified K-12 schools that had the greatest number of F-1 students in calendar year 2020. Visit the SEVP Data Library to view the full list of [2020 Top 200 Kindergarten through Grade 12 \(K-12\) Public and Private Schools by Number of Active SEVIS Records](#).

### Location of SEVP-certified Schools

Although there are SEVP-certified higher education and vocational schools throughout the United States and its territories, 53.7 percent (3,715) of these schools are in 10 U.S. states. California alone is home to 13.8 percent (955) of all SEVP-certified schools. Only Puerto Rico (+1) and Montana (+1) saw an increase in the number of certified schools from calendar year 2019. In calendar year 2020, Puerto Rico had 29 and Montana had 26 SEVP-certified schools.

State	SEVP-Certified School Count
California	955
New York	510
Florida	447
Texas	422
Pennsylvania	296



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Massachusetts	280
Illinois	221
Georgia	199
Virginia	194
North Carolina	191

Above are the 10 U.S. states that had the greatest number of SEVP-certified schools and programs. For a comprehensive list of all the SEVP-certified schools in the United States, please visit the [School Search tool](#) on Study in the States.

Please visit the [SEVP Data Library](#) for additional data on SEVP-certified schools.

## States and Territories

### Overview

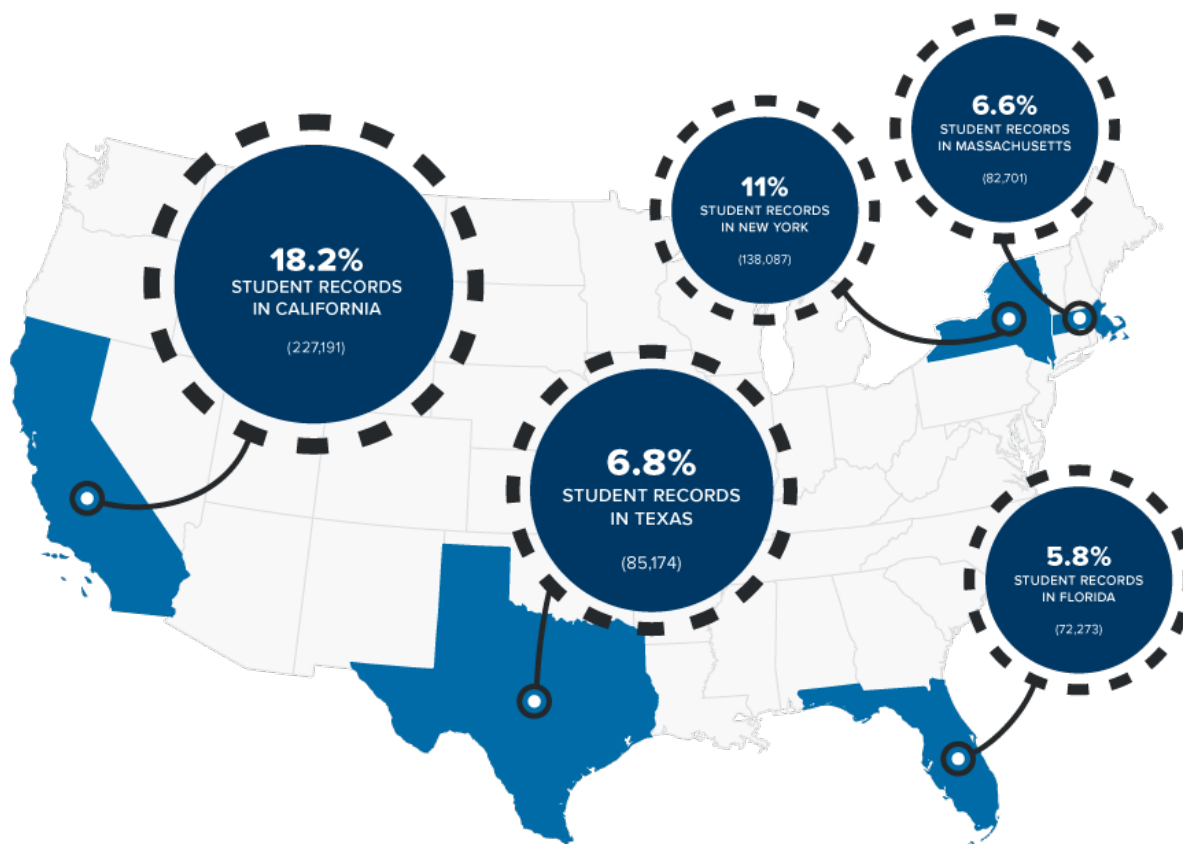
F-1 and M-1 students study across the United States and its territories. California, New York, Texas, Massachusetts and Florida hosted the largest number of student records and together welcomed 48.4 percent (605,426) of all international students.

### International Students Across the United States

Of the four major regions within the continental United States, the West had the greatest number of students in calendar year 2020, followed closely by the Northeast, the South and the Midwest. All four regions saw declines in their F-1 and M-1 student populations from calendar year 2019 to calendar year 2020.

The Northeast saw the steepest percentage drop and welcomed 19.4% fewer student records (-81,876) than in calendar year 2019. The Midwest welcomed 17.2 percent fewer student records (-51,133) than in calendar year 2019. The West and the South followed closely behind and saw declines of 16.6 percent (-91,770) and 16.4 percent (-64,089), respectively. Non-continental U.S. territories also had about 13.3 percent fewer student records (-311) in calendar year 2020 than in calendar year 2019.





PLEASE NOTE: Groupings based on the U.S. Census regions.

Above are the U.S. states that hosted the largest number of F-1 and M-1 student records in calendar year 2020.

28.1% (352,307) in the West

18.3% (229,215) in the Midwest

28.1% (351,817) in the Northeast

26.7% (334,292) in the South

0.1% (1,447) non-continental U.S. territories

Above is the percentage of students studying in each U.S. region in calendar year 2020.

### International Students in the Northeast

In calendar year 2020, nine Northeastern states hosted 334,572 F-1 and M-1 student records. New York had 138,087 international student records in 2020, the largest number of international student records in the region and experienced the largest decrease in



student enrollment (-36,650); Vermont saw the largest percentage decrease in the region (-27.1%).

Below are the three Northeastern states that saw the greatest percentage change in enrollments in the reporting period calendar year 2019 to calendar year 2020.

State	Percent Change	Absolute Change	Calendar Year 2020 Total Population
Vermont	-27.1%	-797	2,140
New York	-20.9%	-36,650	138,087
Pennsylvania	-20.6%	-13,343	51,569

### International Students in the South

Sixteen Southern U.S. states and the District of Columbia hosted 344,322 international student records in calendar year 2020. The state in the region with the steepest decline in student records in 2020 was Florida, which hosted 72,273 student records in 2020 (-13,696). Florida was followed by Texas (-13,332) and Virginia (-6,190). In 2020, Texas hosted 85,174 student records and Virginia hosted 34,184.

Below are the three Southern states/districts that saw the greatest percentage change in enrollments in the reporting period calendar year 2019 to calendar year 2020.

State	Percent Change	Absolute Change	Calendar Year 2020 Total Population
District of Columbia	-26.3%	-3,042	8,529
Delaware	-18.4%	-969	4,308
Maryland	-18.3%	-4,992	22,291

### International Students in the Midwest

The Midwest saw a 17.2 percent decrease in the number of international student records. Illinois hosted 55,543 student records in 2020 and saw the greatest loss in student records (-13,173 percent), followed by Ohio (-7,551) and Michigan (-7,449).

Below are the three Midwestern states that saw the greatest percentage change in enrollments in the reporting period calendar year 2019 to calendar year 2020.

State	Percent Change	Absolute Change	Calendar Year 2020 Total Population
Indiana	-19.2%	-5,796	24,428



Illinois	-19.2%	-13,173	55,543
Iowa	-18.4%	-2,482	10,989

### International Students in the West

The West saw the largest (-91,770) decline in the number of international student records in calendar year 2020.

The overall regional decline was due in part to the dip in international student records in the region's most popular state, California. California hosted 227,191 student records in calendar year 2020, which was a decline of -67,466 from calendar year 2019. This decline in student records in California was also the second largest proportional decline in the region with a 22.9 percent decline. Washington and Arizona followed with the second largest declines in student records, with respective decreases of -7,056 and -4,966 student records.

Below are the three Western states that saw the greatest percentage change in enrollments in the reporting period calendar year 2019 to calendar year 2020.

State	Percent Change	Absolute Change	Calendar Year 2020 Total Population
Hawaii	-26.2%	-1,756	4,953
California	-22.9%	-67,466	227,191
Montana	-22.9%	-363	1,238

### International Students Studying in Non-continental U.S. Territories

The non-continental United States territories hosted 1,447 student records during calendar year 2020, and 52 percent of those student records were students in Puerto Rico. All but one territory in the region experienced a decline in F-1 and M-1 participation from calendar year 2019 to calendar year 2020. Northern Mariana Islands (-20.3%) and Guam (-19.5%) experienced the highest percentage declines. In calendar year 2020, Northern Mariana Islands hosted 381 student records, and Guam hosted 169. There are a total of 4 distinct territories that appear on the 2019 report, but do not appear on the 2020 report due to zero active student records: American Samoa, Palau, Federated States of Micronesia and U.S. Minor Outlying Islands.

Below are the two non-continental regions that saw the greatest percentage change in enrollments in the reporting period calendar year 2019 to calendar year 2020.



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State	Percent Change	Absolute Change	Calendar Year 2020 Total Population
Northern Mariana Islands	-20.3%	-97	381
Guam	-19.5%	-41	169

Please visit the [SEVP Data Library](#) for additional data on international students and schools.