



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 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 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 specifically on F and M 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.

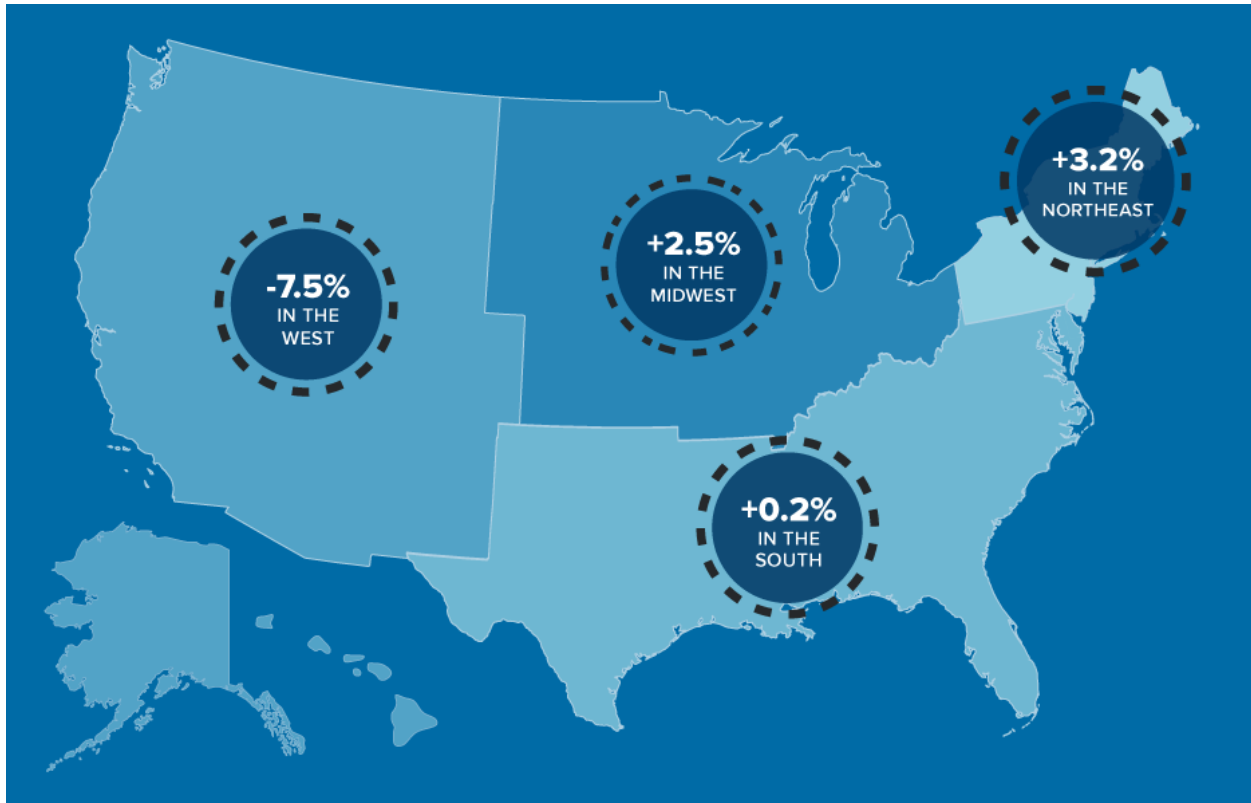
This SEVIS by the Numbers report uses SEVIS data from calendar year 2021 and compares it to data from calendar year 2020. This report can also be compared to calendar year data in the [SEVP Data Library on ICE.gov](#) as well as the [2020 SEVIS by the Numbers report](#).

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 COVID-19 pandemic continued to impact international student enrollment in the United States in 2021. The total number of SEVIS records for active F-1 and M-1 students was 1,236,748 in calendar year 2021, a decrease of 1.2 percent from calendar year 2020.

- The number of international students enrolled at kindergarten through grade 12 (K-12) schools decreased 16 percent from 2020 to 2021 (-9,489).
- 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. In 2021, no K-12 schools hosted more than 600 international students.
- While all four regions in the United States saw a decline in international student records from 2019 to 2020, only the Western region saw a decline from 2020 to 2021 of 7.5 percent.
- There were 105,970 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 2021, compared to 122,699 in calendar year 2020 — a 13.6 percent decrease.



The figure above illustrates the percent change of international student records by U.S. region from calendar year 2020 to calendar year 2021. Groupings are based on the U.S. Census regions.

Other Trends

Other notable trends from international student enrollment in 2021 include:

- A total of four SEVP-certified schools each enrolled more than 15,000 international students, unchanged from 2020.
- In calendar year 2021, 8,038 SEVP-certified schools were eligible to enroll international students, a decrease of 280 schools from 2020 (8,369 schools).
- The number of students from China and India made Asia the most popular continent of origin. However, China sent fewer students in 2021 in comparison to 2020 (-33,569) while India sent more students (+25,391).
- In 2021, California hosted 208,257 international students, the largest percentage of international students (16.8 percent) of any U.S. state.
- There were 240,479 active exchange visitors in the United States in 2021 compared to 256,944 active exchange visitors 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 2020 and calendar year 2021 reporting period, the total number of F-1 and M-1 international student records decreased by 14,821 (-1.18 percent). In calendar year 2021, international students in the United States hailed from 225 countries and pursued 1,485 different primary majors.¹ 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 2021, roughly 92 percent of all F-1 and M-1 students were enrolled in an SEVP-certified associate, bachelor's, master's or doctoral program. Specifically, international students in the United States pursued 1,142,352 degrees in higher education, which is an increase from calendar year 2020 (1,121,981). 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 69,495 F-1 students who sought an associate degree in calendar year 2021, which accounted for almost six percent of degrees pursued by the international student population. In calendar year 2020, a total of 85,909 F-1 students sought an associate degree, which accounted for eight percent of degrees sought by the international student population. The number of students enrolled in associate degree programs decreased 19.1 percent (-16,414) between calendar year 2020 and 2021.

Bachelor's and Master's Degrees

There were 881,830 F-1 students who sought either a bachelor's (443,440) or master's (438,390) degree in calendar year 2021, which accounted for 71 percent of degrees sought by the international student population. These two levels of education were the most popular among international students studying in the United States. The percentage of students pursuing bachelor's degrees decreased by .5 percent (-2,219) and the percentage

¹ 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.



of students pursuing master’s degrees increased by 6.6 percent (27,050) between calendar year 2020 and 2021.

Doctoral Degrees

There were 191,027 F-1 students who sought a doctoral degree in calendar year 2021, which accounted for 15.4 percent of degrees sought by the international student population. In calendar year 2020, 179,073 F-1 students sought a doctoral degree, which accounted for 15.7 percent of degrees sought by the international student population. The number of students enrolled in doctoral programs increased 6.7 percent (11,954) between calendar year 2020 and 2021.

International Students by Degree Type

6% (69,495) Associate

39% (443,440) Bachelor’s

38% (438,390) Master’s

17% (191,027) Doctoral

Above are the percentage breakdowns by degree type of the total number of international student records enrolled in the U.S. higher education system in calendar year 2021.

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 2021 were:

Primary Major	2021 Active Student Count
Business Administration and Management, General	80,334
Computer Science	74,754
Second Language Learning**	66,054
Computer and Information Sciences, General	50,024
Electrical and Electronics Engineering	39,501
Mechanical Engineering	31,387
Management Science	23,795
Econometrics and Quantitative Economics	22,639
Liberal Arts and Sciences/Liberal Studies	21,430



Information Technology	20,743
General Studies	20,214
Management Sciences and Quantitative Methods, Other	19,875
Regular/General High School/Secondary Diploma Program	19,534
Civil Engineering, General	17,465
Biology/Biological Sciences, General	17,388
Mathematics, General	17,099
High School/Secondary Diploma Programs, Other	16,036
Computer Engineering, General	15,160
Chemistry, General	14,882
Information Science/Studies	14,714

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

Forty-nine percent (603,028) of international students studied at least one of the 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 49,630 international student records for K-12 education during calendar year 2021. Approximately 8.4 percent of K-12 students in 2021 pursued primary school education, while approximately 92.7 percent of K-12 students pursued secondary school education (grades 9-12). China sent 38 percent of all K-12 students in 2021, followed by South Korea, Mexico, Vietnam and Canada.

37% (17,375): China

8.7% (4,288): South Korea

7% (3,462): Mexico

6.7% (3,323): Vietnam

4.3% (2,129): 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 2021.



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 in 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 224 countries and territories. Asia had the largest number of active international student records (889,093), accounting for 71.9 percent of the international student population.

The figure below illustrates the overall increase or decline rate of international student records from each continent from calendar year 2020 to calendar year 2021.



The top 10 countries of citizenship with the largest number of international student records in the United States in calendar year 2021 were:

Country of Citizenship	2021 Active Student Count
China	348,992
India	232,851
Republic of Korea (South Korea)	58,787
Canada	37,453
Brazil	33,552
Vietnam	29,597
Saudi Arabia	28,600
Taiwan	25,406
Japan	20,144
Mexico	19,680



Africa

The overall number of active F-1 and M-1 student records coming from Africa increased by 5,602 student records from calendar year 2020 (60,347) to calendar year 2021 (65,949). Nigeria (19,338) was the West African country that sent the most students in 2021. Additionally, Kenya (5,462) was the East African country that sent the most students in 2021. Lastly, Libya (769) saw the steepest decrease in student records across the continent.

Country	Percent Change	Absolute Change	Calendar Year 2021 Total Population
Nigeria	+12.19%	+2,101	19,338
Kenya	+13.08%	+632	5,462
Libya	-19.39%	-185	769

Additionally, 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 2020 to calendar year 2021.

Asia

Forty-seven percent (581,843) of all active SEVIS records hailed from either China (348,992) or India (232,851) in calendar year 2021, the same percentage as calendar year 2020. While the overall number of active F-1 and M-1 student records coming from Asia decreased by 34,781 from calendar year 2020 to calendar year 2021, student record trends varied across different countries.

The number of international student records from China and India made Asia the most popular continent of origin. However, China sent fewer students in 2021 in comparison to 2020 (-33,569), while India sent more students (+25,391).

Still, 71.9 percent of all international students in the United States call Asia home.

Other Asian countries sent fewer students including South Korea (-9,430), Saudi Arabia (-9,439) and Japan (-6,155).

Country	Percent Change	Absolute Change	Calendar Year 2021 Total Population
China	-8.77%	-33,569	348,992
India	+12.24%	+25,391	232,851
South Korea	-13.82%	-9,430	58,787

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 2020 to calendar year 2021.



Australia and Pacific Islands

The overall number of active F-1 and M-1 student records from Australia and Pacific Island nations decreased by 357 from calendar year 2020 to calendar year 2021. In calendar year 2021 there were 7,723 active student records from this region, which is a 4.4 percent decrease from calendar year 2020 (8,082). Ninety-five percent of enrollments from this continent hail from the region's largest countries: Australia (5,423) and New Zealand (1,986).

Country	Percent Change	Absolute Change	Calendar Year 2021 Total Population
Australia	-4.66%	-265	5,423
New Zealand	-3.17%	-65	1,986
Papua New Guinea	-1.32%	-2	149
Fiji	-3.13%	-2	62

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 2020 to calendar year 2021.

Europe

Europe is the third most popular continent of origin and saw an increase in the number of student records in calendar year 2021. The overall number of active F-1 and M-1 student records coming from Europe increased by 8,852 from calendar year 2020 (100,820) to calendar year 2021 (109,672). Student enrollment from Spain (+1,670), Italy (+1,639), France (+1,375), the United Kingdom (+835), and Germany (+684) increased in calendar year 2021.

Country	Percent Change	Absolute Change	Calendar Year 2021 Total Population
United Kingdom	+6.38%	+825	13,748
France	+13.07%	+1,375	11,894
Germany	+6.19%	+684	11,730
Spain	+17.05%	+1,670	11,462
Italy	+20.33%	+1,639	9,699

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 2020 to calendar year 2021.



North America

The overall number of active F-1 and M-1 student records coming from North America increased by 1,908 from calendar year 2020 to calendar year 2021, resulting in 37,965 students studying in the United States in 2021. The increase in the number of student records from Canada (+1,945) and the decrease in the number of student records from Bermuda accounted for the overall continental trend.

Country	Percent Change	Absolute Change	Calendar Year 2021 Total Population
Canada	+5.48%	+1,945	37,453
Bermuda	-6.42%	-35	510

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 2020 to calendar year 2021.

Central and South America

The number of students coming into the United States from Central and South America increased by 4,626 from calendar year 2020 (104,851) to calendar year 2021 (109,574). There was a decrease in student records from Brazil (-1,340) and Venezuela (-1,192).

Country	Percent Change	Absolute Change	Calendar Year 2021 Total Population
Brazil	-3.84%	-1,340	34,892
Mexico	+13.15%	+2,287	19,680
Venezuela	-12.20 %	-1,192	9,770

Above are the 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 2020 to calendar year 2021.

Visit the SEVP Data Library for a full list of [2021 All Countries of Citizenship by Total Number of Active Students](#).

International Student Gender Trends

Forty-four percent (548,705) of F-1 and M-1 international students in calendar year 2021 were female, while 56 percent (687,534) were male. Of K-12 student enrollments in 2021, 42.6 percent were female (19,596). In addition, 44 percent (195,511) of bachelor's and master's international students were female, 50.2 percent (34,886) of international students seeking associate degrees were female and 40 percent (76,394) of international students seeking doctoral degrees were female in 2021. Of the top 10 countries of



citizenship in calendar year 2021, the average female enrollment was 44.5 percent (380,062) and the average male enrollment was 55.5 percent (473,960).

Below are the percentage of female and male students for the top 10 countries of citizenship in calendar year 2021.

Country of Citizenship	Female	Male	2021 Total Active Student Count
China	48%	52%	348,992
India	37%	63%	232,851
Republic of Korea (South Korea)	47%	53%	58,787
Canada	49%	51%	37,453
Brazil	55%	45%	33,552
Vietnam	54%	46%	29,597
Saudi Arabia	30%	70%	28,600
Taiwan	47%	53%	25,406
Japan	49%	51%	20,144
Mexico	46%	54%	19,680



Overview

F-1 and M-1 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 2021, there were 8,038 SEVP-certified schools in the United States, 331 fewer schools than in calendar year 2020. In 2021, 85.5 percent (6,875) of SEVP-certified schools could enroll only F-1 students; seven percent (558) could enroll only M-1 students; and 7.5 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 8,038 SEVP-certified schools in calendar year 2021. Of the 6,432 SEVP-certified schools that enrolled students in 2021, 68 percent hosted one to 50 international students. Eleven 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 2021 hosted 5,001 or more international students.

There were four schools that enrolled more than 15,000 international students in 2021; Northeastern University, Columbia University in the City of New York, New York University, and University of Southern California.

2021 Active Student Enrollment	Count of Approved Schools in 2021
1 to 50 Students	4,358
51 to 100 Students	730
101 to 1,000 Students	1,096
1,001 to 5,000 Students	196
5,001 to 10,000 Students	39
10,001 to 15,000 Students	9
> 15,000 Students	4
Total Number of SEVP-Certified Schools that Enrolled at Least One International Student in 2021	6,432



Above is the breakdown of the number of SEVP-certified schools with at least one international student by active student enrollment. There are an additional 1,606 schools that have been certified to accept international students but did not enroll any international students in 2021.

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 at any time during their program or begin a new program after completing one.

The top 20 most popular F-1 schools hosted 20.1 percent (249,137) of the entire international student population.

School Name	2021 Active Student Count
Northeastern University	19,485
New York University	19,389
Columbia University in the City of New York	19,099
University of Southern California	17,509
University of Illinois	14,171
Boston University	13,609
Arizona State University	13,379
University of California San Diego	12,648
Purdue University	11,994
University of Washington - Seattle	10,851
University of Michigan - Ann Arbor	10,772
University of California at Berkeley	10,711
University Park	10,163
University of California, Los Angeles	9,999
University of the Cumberland	9,901
University of California, Irvine	9,242
Carnegie Mellon University	9,230
University of Pennsylvania	9,057
University of California, Davis	9,010
The University of Texas at Dallas	8,918

Above are the top 20 SEVP-certified schools with the greatest number of F-1 students in calendar year 2021. Visit the SEVP Data Library to view the full list of the [2021 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 in the United States.

There were 558 schools certified to enroll only M-1 students in 2021. Eighty-five M-1 schools only enrolled one international student during the reporting period.

School Name	2021 Active Student Count
CAE Oxford Aviation Academy Phoenix Inc	914
Bethel School of Supernatural Ministry – Bethel Church	680
Bethel School of Supernatural Ministry – Bethel Church Civic Center	476
Airborne Systems, Inc.	305
Treasure Coast Flight Training	294
Pilot Training Center	254
Westwind School of Aeronautics, Phoenix, LLC	251
CAE Simuflite Inc.	240
Ari Ben Aviator, Inc.Dba Aviator College	228
Aircraft Development Flight Airways Corp d/b/a ADF Airways	225
University of North Dakota	202
Delta Aeronautics, Inc. d/b/a Delta-Qualiflight Aviation	195
American Flight Training, LLC.	169
Chandler-Gilbert Community College	167
L3 Commercial Training Solutions Airline Academy	157
U.S. Aviation Group LLC d/b/a U.S. Aviation Academy	150
Paris Air, Inc.	148
Airbus Americas Customer Services Inc.	136
Xing Kong Aviation Service LLC dba Sierra Academy of Aeronautics	135
Epic Flight Academy, Inc.	125

Above are the top 20 SEVP-certified schools that had the greatest number of M-1 students in calendar year 2021. Visit the SEVP Data Library to view the full list of [2021 All M-1 Schools by Number of Active SEVIS Records](#).

F-1 and M-1 Schools

Seven percent (605) of SEVP-certified schools enrolled both F-1 and M-1 students. These schools tend to have smaller student populations than their F-1-only counterparts.



School Name	2021 Active Student Count
Cornell University	9,019
Houston Community College System	3,542
Santa Monica College	2,312
The University of Iowa	2,152
UCLA-Extension	1,900
Minnesota State University, Mankato	1,826
Florida Institute of Technology	1,817
New York Institute of Technology	1,675
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University	1,446
Miami Dade College	1,349
Dallas College	1,333
Seattle Colleges	1,261
Green River College	1,063
Bellevue College	1,037
Lamar University	1,011
Long Island University	943
University of North Dakota	933
Florida National University	931
Northern Virginia Community College	915
Arkansas State University	902

Above are the top 20 SEVP-certified schools with the greatest number of both F-1 and M-1 students in calendar year 2021.

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, F-1 students can only attend public schools in grades 9-12 schools and for up to one year.

School Name	2021 Active Student Count
EF International Academy	578
Archdiocese of Los Angeles	476
Broadfording Christian Academy	401
IMG Academy	388
Montverde Academy	370
CATS Academy Boston	361
Roman Catholic Diocese of Rockville Centre	348
Layton Christian Academy	342



Gateway Legacy Christian Academy	319
Keio Academy of New York	290
Thornton Academy	258
North Broward Preparatory School	256
American Learning Systems, Inc.	249
Hoosac School	241
Archdiocese of Chicago	235
Windermere Preparatory School	228
The Village School	228
Fairmont Private Schools	222
Cushing Academy	218
Northfield Mount Hermon	210

Above are the top 20 SEVP-certified K-12 schools that had the greatest number of F-1 students in calendar year 2021. Visit the SEVP Data Library to view the full list of [2021 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, 54 percent (3,470) of these schools are in 10 U.S. states. California alone is home to 13.6 percent (873) of all SEVP-certified schools. Only Connecticut (+1), North Dakota (+1) and Louisiana (+1) saw an increase in the number of certified schools from calendar year 2020.

State	SEVP-Certified School Count
California	873
New York	480
Florida	425
Texas	404
Pennsylvania	281
Massachusetts	244
Illinois	207
Georgia	197
Virginia	181
North Carolina	178

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

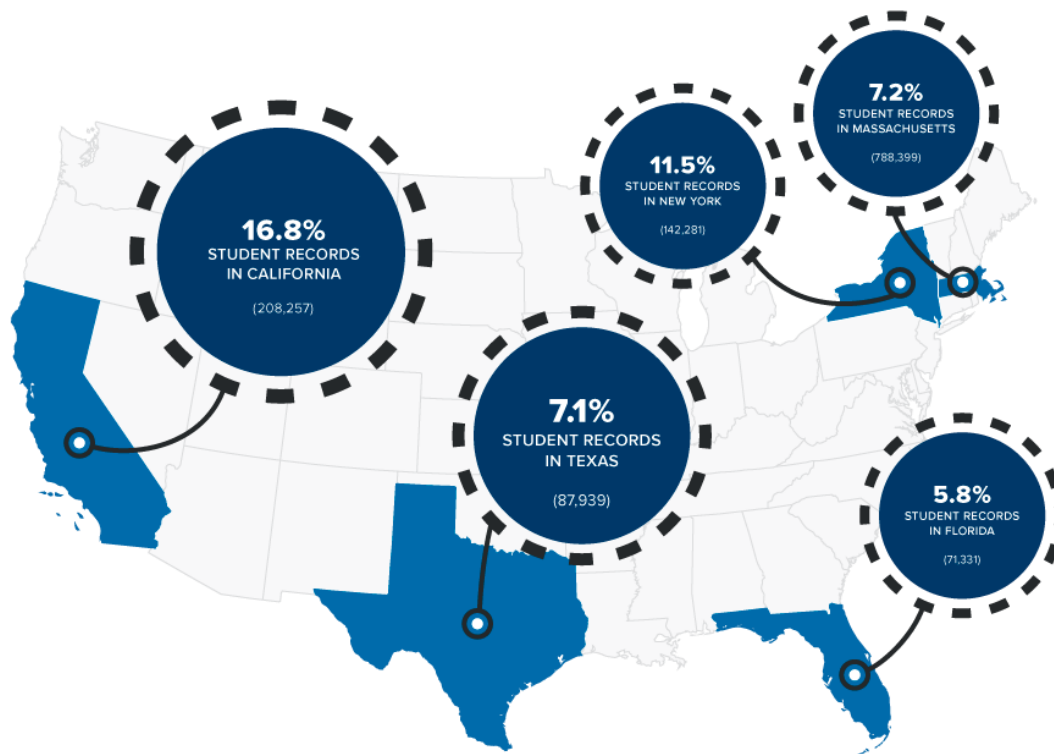
Overview

F-1 and M-1 students study across the United States and its territories. California, New York, Massachusetts, Texas and Florida hosted the largest number of student records and together welcomed 48.4 percent (598,207) of all international students.

International Students Across the United States

Of the four major regions within the continental United States, the Northeast had the greatest number of students in calendar year 2021, followed closely by the South, the West and the Midwest. Only the West saw a net decrease in its F-1 and M-1 student populations from calendar year 2020 to calendar year 2021.

The Northeast saw the greatest percentage increase and welcomed 3.2 percent more student records (+11,165) than in calendar year 2020. The South also welcomed 0.2 percent more student records (+712) than in calendar year 2020, followed by an increase of 2.5 percent (+5,715) in the Midwest. The West welcomed 7.5 percent (-26,377) fewer student records than in calendar year 2020. Non-continental U.S. territories also had about 11 percent fewer student records (-159) in calendar year 2021 than in calendar year 2020.



PLEASE NOTE: Groupings are 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 2021.

29.4% (362,982) in the Northeast

27.9% (345,034) in the South

26.4% (325,930) in the West

19% (234,930) in the Midwest

0.1% (1,287) non-continental U.S. territories

Above is the percentage of students studying in each U.S. region in calendar year 2021.

International Students in the Northeast

In calendar year 2021, nine Northeastern states hosted 362,982 F-1 and M-1 student records. New York had 142,281 international student records in 2021, the largest number of international student records in the region. Massachusetts experienced the largest increase in student enrollment (+5,698) while Maine saw the largest percentage change in the region (+9.3%).

Below are the three Northeastern states that saw the greatest percentage change in enrollments in the reporting period calendar year 2020 to calendar year 2021.

State	Percent Change	Absolute Change	Calendar Year 2021 Total Population
Maine	+9.3%	+278	3,285
Massachusetts	+6.9%	+5,698	88,399
Connecticut	+5.5%	+952	18,197

International Students in the South

Sixteen Southern U.S. states and the District of Columbia hosted 345,034 international student records in calendar year 2021. The state in the region with the largest increase in student records in 2021 was Texas, which hosted 87,939 student records in 2021 (+2,765). Virginia, by comparison, saw the steepest decline in student records (-2,408). Virginia hosted 31,776 student records.

Below are the three Southern states/districts that saw the greatest percentage change in enrollments in the reporting period calendar year 2020 to calendar year 2021.

State	Percent Change	Absolute Change	Calendar Year 2021 Total Population
Delaware	-12.2%	-527	3,781
West Virginia	-9.3%	-364	3,532



Virginia	-7%	-2,408	31,776
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International Students in the Midwest

The Midwest saw a 2.5 percent increase in the number of international student records. Illinois hosted 58,501 student records in 2021 and saw the greatest increase in student records (+2,958), followed by Ohio (+1,530). Michigan saw the steepest decline in student records (-944).

Below are the three Midwestern states that saw the greatest percentage change in enrollments in the reporting period calendar year 2020 to calendar year 2021.

State	Percent Change	Absolute Change	Calendar Year 2021 Total Population
Nebraska	-9%	-551	5,546
Kansas	+8.8%	+873	10,834
Missouri	+7%	+1,318	20,179

International Students in the West

The West saw the largest (-26,377) decline in the number of international student records in calendar year 2021.

The overall regional decline was due in part to the dip in international student records in California, the region's most popular state. California hosted 208,257 student records in calendar year 2021, which was a decline of -18,934 from calendar year 2020. While Oregon saw the largest proportional decline with -16.3 percent (-2,251), Utah saw the largest proportional increase in student records at 5.3 percent (+683).

Below are the three Western states that saw the greatest percentage change in enrollments in the reporting period calendar year 2020 to calendar year 2021.

State	Percent Change	Absolute Change	Calendar Year 2021 Total Population
Oregon	-16.3%	-2,251	11,563
Nevada	-12.7%	-493	3,388
Alaska	-10.8%	-44	364

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

The non-continental United States territories hosted 1,287 student records during calendar year 2021, and 55 percent of those records were from international students in Puerto Rico. All but one territory in the region, American Samoa (+1), experienced a decline in F-1 and M-1 participation from calendar year 2020 to calendar year 2021. Puerto Rico (-85) and Northern Mariana Islands (-36) experienced the steepest declines in student records.



In calendar year 2021, Puerto Rico hosted 710 student records and Northern Mariana Islands hosted 345. There is one distinct territory that appears on the 2020 report but does not appear on the 2021 report due to zero active student records: Marshall Islands.

Below are the two non-continental regions that saw the greatest percentage change in enrollments in the reporting period calendar year 2020 to calendar year 2021.

State	Percent Change	Absolute Change	Calendar Year 2021 Total Population
Virgin Islands	-14.9%	-15	86
Guam	-14.2%	-24	145

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