

the condition of education 2003



INDICATOR 6

Foreign-Born Students in Postsecondary Institutions

The indicator and corresponding tables are taken directly from *The Condition of Education 2003*. Therefore, the page numbers may not be sequential.

Additional information about the survey data and supplementary notes can be found in the full report. For a copy of *The Condition of Education 2003*, visit the NCES web site (<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2003067>) or contact ED PUBs at 1-877-4ED-PUBS.

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Undergraduate Education

Foreign-Born Students in Postsecondary Institutions

In 1999–2000, 5 percent of undergraduate students in the U.S. were permanent residents and 2 percent were foreign students with a visa, compared with 3 and 9 percent, respectively, of graduate/first-professional students.

The U.S. foreign-born population has nearly tripled since 1970, when it was at its lowest point in the last century (Schmidley 2001). The number of foreign-born students in postsecondary institutions reflects this growth. In 1999–2000, 11 percent of undergraduate students and 17 percent of graduate/first-professional students were foreign born. Eleven percent of both undergraduate and graduate/first-professional students were first-generation students: they were born in the United States but their parents were not (see supplemental table 6-1).

Five percent of the total undergraduate population were foreign-born permanent residents and 2 percent were foreign students with a visa. Three percent of graduate/first-professional students were permanent residents and 9 percent were foreign students with a visa. An additional 4 percent of undergraduates and 5 percent of graduate/first-professional students were foreign-born U.S. citizens. A majority of foreign-born undergraduates came to the United States more than 10 years ago (6 percent of the total postsecondary undergraduate population). Among students who reported the country from which they emigrated,

Asia was the most frequently cited country of origin by both undergraduate and graduate/first-professional foreign-born students.

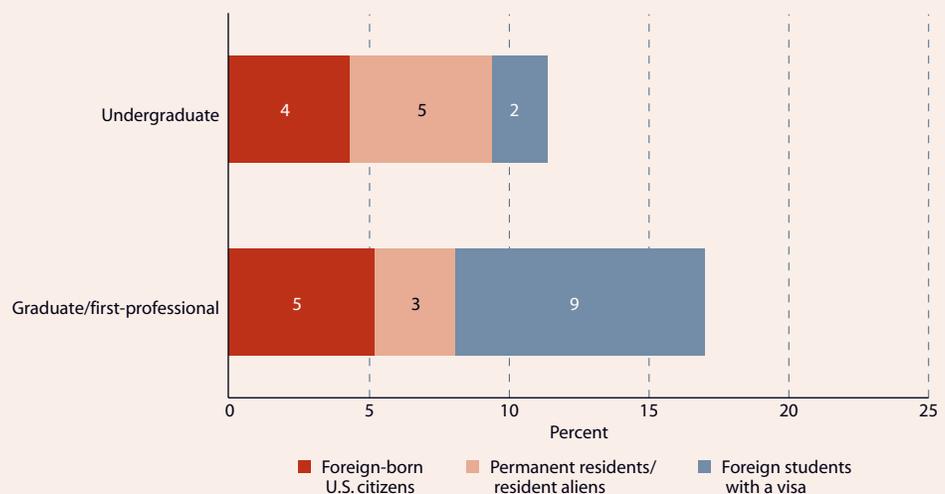
Foreign-born undergraduates in 1999–2000 were more likely than the average undergraduate to be “nontraditional students.” A nontraditional student is one with any of the following characteristics: has delayed enrollment, attends part time, works full time while enrolled, is considered financially independent for purposes of determining financial aid, has dependents other than a spouse, is a single parent, or does not have a high school diploma. In 1999–2000, foreign-born undergraduates were less likely than the average undergraduate to have no nontraditional traits and were more likely to be highly nontraditional (four or more nontraditional traits).

According to the first-generation students who responded, a majority of the parents of undergraduates immigrated before 1975 and a majority of the parents of graduate/first-professional students immigrated before 1965. First-generation undergraduates were less likely than the average undergraduate to be nontraditional students.

NOTE: For information about the classification of postsecondary institutions, see *supplemental note 8*.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, NCES, 1999–2000 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS:2000), previously unpublished tabulation (January 2003).

FOREIGN-BORN STUDENTS: Percentage of undergraduate and graduate/first-professional students in the United States who were foreign born, by citizen status and type of degree program: 1999–2000



FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Supplemental Notes 3, 8
Supplemental Table 6-1
NCES 2002–012
Schmidley 2001

Foreign-Born Students in Postsecondary Institutions

Table 6-1. Percentage of undergraduate and graduate/first-professional students in the United States who were foreign-born or first-generation students, by selected student characteristics and number of nontraditional traits: 1999–2000

| Student characteristic | Percent of the student population | Undergraduate | | | | Graduate/first-professional |
|--|-----------------------------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------------------------|
| | | None | Minimal | Moderate | High | Percent of the student population |
| Total | 100.0 | 27.4 | 16.6 | 28.3 | 27.7 | 100.0 |
| Foreign-born | 11.3 | 18.5 | 17.1 | 32.9 | 31.5 | 17.1 |
| Citizen status | | | | | | |
| U.S. citizens | 4.3 | 16.4 | 11.1 | 34.6 | 38.0 | 5.2 |
| Non U.S. citizens | 7.0 | 19.8 | 20.7 | 31.8 | 27.6 | 11.9 |
| Permanent residents/resident aliens | 5.1 | 17.7 | 15.8 | 32.7 | 33.8 | 2.9 |
| Foreign students with a visa | 2.0 | 25.4 | 33.5 | 29.4 | 11.7 | 8.9 |
| Year immigrated ¹ | | | | | | |
| Last 5 years | 2.4 | 18.5 | 32.4 | 31.5 | 17.7 | 6.5 |
| 6–10 years ago | 2.3 | 19.4 | 14.7 | 35.7 | 30.2 | 3.4 |
| More than 10 years ago | 6.0 | 18.3 | 11.7 | 32.2 | 37.8 | 6.2 |
| Region ¹ | | | | | | |
| Europe | 0.5 | 23.2 | 14.2 | 31.8 | 30.8 | 1.1 |
| North, Central, or South America | 1.6 | 16.5 | 12.8 | 30.0 | 40.7 | 1.5 |
| Asia | 2.7 | 27.7 | 22.8 | 30.7 | 18.9 | 7.8 |
| Not specified ² | 6.5 | 14.8 | 16.0 | 34.6 | 34.7 | 6.6 |
| U.S.-born with foreign-born parents | 11.5 | 31.3 | 19.4 | 28.5 | 20.7 | 10.8 |
| Year parents immigrated ¹ | | | | | | |
| 1975 to 2001 | 1.8 | 48.2 | 27.2 | 18.2 | † | † |
| 1965 to 1974 | 2.9 | 38.4 | 16.7 | 29.1 | 15.8 | 2.9 |
| Before 1965 | 3.3 | 21.4 | 13.1 | 36.6 | 28.9 | 5.2 |
| Parents' region ¹ | | | | | | |
| Europe | 1.3 | 29.5 | 16.9 | 33.7 | 19.9 | 1.7 |
| North, Central, or South America | 3.8 | 20.1 | 17.9 | 33.4 | 28.6 | 1.8 |
| Asia | 1.4 | 48.8 | 20.6 | 20.5 | † | 1.7 |
| Not specified ² | 4.9 | 35.7 | 20.7 | 25.8 | 17.9 | 5.5 |

†Reporting standards not met (too few cases).

¹Totals do not add up to the total percentage of foreign-born students or the total percentage of U.S.-born students with foreign-born parents, respectively, because some respondents did not respond or did not know the answer.

²Respondents were given a list of 24 countries. If the country from which they or their parents emigrated was not on the list they responded "other." The respondent could have been from any region of the world. NOTE: Foreign-born includes those born outside the U.S. and outlying areas whose parents were not U.S. citizens at the time. Nontraditional traits include delaying enrollment, attending part time, working full time while enrolled, is considered financially independent, has dependents other than a spouse, is a single parent, or does not have a high school diploma. Students who are minimally nontraditional have only one nontraditional characteristic, those who are moderately nontraditional have two or three characteristics, and those who are highly nontraditional have four or more characteristics. For more information on the National Postsecondary Student Aid Study, see *supplemental note 3*. For the classification of postsecondary institutions, see *supplemental note 8*.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, NCES, 1999–2000 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS:2000), previously unpublished tabulation (January 2003).

Foreign-Born Students in Postsecondary Institutions

Table S6. Standard errors for the percentage of undergraduate and graduate/first-professional students in the United States who were foreign born, by citizen status and type of degree program: 1999–2000

| Citizenship status | Undergraduate | Graduate/first-professional |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------|
| Foreign-born U.S. citizens | 0.2 | 0.3 |
| Non U.S. citizens | | |
| Permanent residents/resident aliens | 0.3 | 0.3 |
| Foreign students with a visa | 0.2 | 0.4 |

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, NCES, 1999–2000 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS:2000), previously unpublished tabulation (January 2003).

Foreign-Born Students in Postsecondary Institutions

Table S6-1. Standard errors for the percentage of undergraduate and graduate/first-professional students in the United States who were foreign-born or first-generation students, by selected student characteristics and number of nontraditional traits: 1999–2000

| Student characteristic | Percent of the student population | Undergraduate | | | | Graduate/first-professional |
|--|-----------------------------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------------------------|
| | | None | Minimal | Moderate | High | Percent of the student population |
| Total | † | 0.47 | 0.31 | 0.42 | 0.52 | † |
| Foreign-born | 0.41 | 0.82 | 1.15 | 1.31 | 1.28 | 0.60 |
| Citizen status | | | | | | |
| U.S. citizens | 0.18 | 1.22 | 1.13 | 2.10 | 2.12 | 0.30 |
| Non U.S. citizens | 0.34 | 1.16 | 1.60 | 1.63 | 1.60 | 0.51 |
| Permanent residents/resident aliens | 0.28 | 1.16 | 1.22 | 1.83 | 1.84 | 0.25 |
| Foreign students with a visa | 0.16 | 2.69 | 3.39 | 3.03 | 2.30 | 0.42 |
| Year immigrated | | | | | | |
| Last 5 years | 0.16 | 2.22 | 3.06 | 2.86 | 2.34 | 0.37 |
| 6–10 years ago | 0.14 | 1.74 | 1.77 | 2.28 | 2.65 | 0.26 |
| More than 10 years ago | 0.25 | 1.01 | 1.06 | 1.78 | 1.63 | 0.33 |
| Region | | | | | | |
| Europe | 0.05 | 4.06 | 3.99 | 5.50 | 4.82 | 0.14 |
| North, Central, or South America | 0.15 | 1.98 | 2.69 | 3.69 | 3.74 | 0.16 |
| Asia | 0.16 | 2.23 | 3.03 | 2.21 | 2.14 | 0.41 |
| Not specified | 0.28 | 1.02 | 1.08 | 1.73 | 1.58 | 0.35 |
| U.S.-born with foreign-born parents | 0.43 | 1.27 | 0.95 | 1.14 | 1.29 | 0.55 |
| Year parents immigrated | | | | | | |
| 1975 to 2001 | 0.11 | 3.19 | 3.02 | 2.50 | ‡ | ‡ |
| 1965 to 1974 | 0.18 | 2.69 | 1.92 | 2.22 | 2.11 | 0.30 |
| Before 1965 | 0.16 | 1.78 | 1.61 | 2.47 | 2.44 | 0.33 |
| Parents' region | | | | | | |
| Europe | 0.10 | 3.01 | 2.64 | 3.97 | 3.58 | 0.22 |
| North, Central, or South America | 0.34 | 1.57 | 1.64 | 2.34 | 2.36 | 0.25 |
| Asia | 0.10 | 3.49 | 2.42 | 2.58 | ‡ | 0.22 |
| Not specified | 0.23 | 1.60 | 1.40 | 1.58 | 1.61 | 0.36 |

†Not applicable.

‡Reporting standards not met (too few cases).

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, NCES, 1999–2000 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS:2000), previously unpublished tabulation (January 2003).