

Report On International Student Enrollment, 2004-2005

Executive Summary

(Rev. 2/11/06)

This report on enrollment of international students on UNC campuses is the second collection of data across all University campuses using the format of the Institute of International Education (IIE) national “Open Doors” reports.* Collection of this data has allowed UNC to establish baselines for measuring international student enrollment and compare UNC data to national trends. International student enrollment is an important benchmark in measuring UNC institutions’ achievement of the Board of Governors’ Internationalization strategic direction. Data indicate that UNC institutions are holding their own in the competition for international students, with a slight increase over the previous year.

A total of 5,188 international students from 148 countries were enrolled in degree or non-credit training programs on UNC campuses in fall 2004. This number represents an increase of slightly less than 1% over fall 2003, compared to a decline nationally of about 1%. These students accounted for 2.74% of the total UNC student population, down slightly from 3% in 2003. North Carolina State University had the highest number of international students on campus, while at UNC Chapel Hill international students made up the highest percentage of total student enrollment. Fifty-seven percent of UNC international students were male. Of students participating in credit programs, nearly three-fourths (72%) were graduate students. The largest number of students came to UNC from China and India. Engineering and business programs enrolled the greatest number of international students, accounting for 40% of total international enrollment.

*See <http://opendoors.iienetwork.org/>.

Report on UNC International Student Enrollment

Fall Semester 2004

This report on fall 2004 international student enrollment on UNC campuses is the second collection of such data across all University campuses using the format of the Institute of International Education (IIE) national *Open Doors* report. These data are being used to establish baseline information on enrollment of international students across UNC and track changes compared to national trends. Particularly since the events of September 11, 2001 and a subsequent tightening of visas for international students, declines in international student enrollment nationally (down 2.4% in 2003-2004 and 1% in 2004-2005) have raised concern. Additional influences on the enrollment of international students include rising tuition costs, recruitment of students by other English-speaking countries, and an increasing capacity among students' home countries to accommodate graduate and undergraduate students, according to IIE.

International student enrollment is an important benchmark in measuring UNC institutions' achievement of the Board of Governors' Internationalization strategic direction, which includes as a goal increasing the number of international students and scholars on UNC campuses. In addition, international enrollment makes an important contribution to economic development in the state: according to a report by NAFSA, international students at UNC institutions and their families contributed over \$103 million dollars to the economy of the state in 2003-2004.

University-Wide and Campus Participation

A total of 5,188 international students from 148 countries were enrolled in degree or non-credit training programs on UNC campuses in fall 2004. This number represents an increase of slightly less than 1% over fall 2003, compared to a decline nationally of about 1%. UNC numbers include 703 students who participated in non-credit or non-degree programs.

UNC's international enrollment accounted for 2.74% of the total UNC student population, a decrease from 3% of total enrollment in 2003. The percentages of

international student enrollment varied widely by campus. North Carolina State University had the largest number of international students on campus, followed by UNC-CH, UNCC, UNCG, and ECU. International students represented the highest percentage of student enrollment at the doctoral-research extensive and -research intensive campuses (UNC-CH, NCSU, UNCC, and UNCG). The exception is the North Carolina School of the Arts, where international students represented slightly over 3% of total enrollment.

Campus	International Students as % of Campus Enrollment	Int'l Students as % of UNC Int'l Enrollment
UNC-CH	5.6%	29%
NCSU	5.3%	31%
UNCC	4.1%	16%
UNCG	3.4%	10%
NCSA	3.3%	0.5%
NCA&T	1.3%	3.0%
UNCA	1.3%	1.0%
UNCP	1.1%	1.0%
WCU	1.0%	1.6%
ECU	0.9%	3.8%
NCCU	0.9%	31.4%
UNCW	0.6%	1.4%
ASU	0.4%	1.0%
FSU	0.3%	0.4%
WSSU	0.3%	0.3%
ECSU	0.4%	0.4%

Student Characteristics

Gender: Fifty-seven percent of UNC international students were male and 41% were female; gender was not reported for 2% of international students. The enrollment of female international students at UNC institutions leads national participation by 7%.

Student Status: Of the 4,484 students participating in credit programs, 72% were graduate students and 28% were undergraduate students. Seniors represented 70% of undergraduate international students for whom academic level was reported. Doctoral students accounted for 85% of graduate level students.

Countries of Origin: UNC attracted students from 148 countries during 2004, with the largest number of students coming from China and India. While in 2003 India was the

country of origin for the largest number of students at UNC, for 2004 the numbers of students from China and India were nearly the same:

<u>Country</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>% UNC International Students</u>
China	900	17.4%
India	891	17.3%
Rep. of Korea	468	9.0%
Japan	177	3.4%
Taiwan	168	3.2%

India was the most frequent country of origin nationally in 2003-2004, followed by China, Korea, Japan, and Canada; Taiwan was a more frequent country of origin at UNC (fifth) than nationally (sixth).

Fields of Study: At UNC, engineering and business/management/marketing enrolled by far the greatest number of international students.

<u>Field</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Engineering	1,088	21%
Business/Management/Marketing	962	19%
Liberal Arts & Sciences	427	8%
Computer/Info Sciences	418	8%
Health Professions	286	6%

Other fields of study attracting between 100 and 200 students were social sciences (190), math and statistics (162), agricultural and related sciences (162) and physical science (108). Nationally, the top three fields of study for international students were business/management (18%), engineering (16.5%), and mathematics/computer sciences (9%).

Enrollment of International Students, Fall 2005

Higher education organizations, led by the Council of Graduate Schools (CGS), have begun tracking applications, admissions, and enrollment numbers for international students for the current academic year.** This effort was initiated in response to concerns that real or perceived difficulties in obtaining visas were resulting in declining numbers of applications, admissions, and first-time enrollment by international graduate students. For Fall 2005, CGS found a 5% decline in international graduate applications and a 3%

increase in international graduate admissions between 2004 and 2005. First-time international enrollment increased 1% from 2004, although total international enrollment was down 3%.

The three UNC institutions who enroll highest number of international graduate students (UNC-CH, NCSU, and UNCC, which together enroll over 75% of international graduate students) reported the following changes in international student enrollment for Fall 2005 compared to Fall 2004:

	<u>1st-Time Enrollees (05 vs 04)</u>	<u>Total Enrollment (05 vs 04)</u>
NCSU	0 %	5%
UNC-CH	-13.5%	-11%
UNCC	72%	20%

UNC Chapel Hill first-time enrollment was down approximately 30 students, while total enrollment was down by approximately 100 students. UNC Charlotte’s dramatic increase in first-time enrollees can be attributed to a large (600%) increase in enrollments by students from Korea, which the institution has targeted for recruitment. Both NCSU and UNCC saw a decrease in first-time enrollees from China, while Chinese first-time enrollment at UNC Chapel Hill increased 7%. UNC-CH reported a decrease of 6% in first-time enrollees from India, while the other two institutions saw increases in Indian first-time enrollment: 64% for NCSU and 19% for UNCC. The variation in enrollment by country of origin among these three institutions is probably explained by differences in the mix of graduate programs they offer.

Compared to national data on international enrollment for fall 2005, two of three UNC institutions enrolling the highest number of international graduate students are exceeding institutions across the U. S. Two of the three institutions had no decline or increased in first-time enrollment; at both NCSU and UNCC, growth in total international student enrollment exceeded national averages significantly. While first-time and total enrollment can vary widely from year to year, these reports augur well for continuing graduate enrollment of international students at UNC institutions.

Conclusion

Mapping trends in the number of international students on UNC campuses, along with other measures, is important for assessing UNC institutions' achievement of the Board of Governor's Internationalization strategic direction. While data point to declines in the numbers of international students on U.S. campuses, the number of international student numbers at UNC campuses has held steady, with a slight decline as a percentage of growing total UNC enrollment. Changes in country of origin of international students at UNC campuses are of particular interest in light of national reports that Chinese and Indian students are increasingly remaining in their countries for higher education; decreases in students from these and other countries may weaken the U. S. and North Carolina labor force in engineering and other technical fields, where U. S.-educated immigrants have provided an important segment of employees. Increasing tuition for non-resident students and limited tuition remissions may also become disincentives for international students to enroll at UNC institutions. However, data reported for 2004-2005 indicate that UNC institutions are holding their own in the competition for international students.

* See <http://opendoors.iienetwork.org/>

**See <http://www.cgsnet.org/HotTopics/index.htm>

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