



**The Economic Benefits of International Education to the United States for the 2004-2005 Academic Year:  
A Statistical Analysis**

NAFSA estimates that foreign students and their dependents contributed approximately \$13.29 billion to the U.S. economy during the 2004-2005 academic year. This conservative figure is based on tuition figures from the College Board, enrollment figures from the Institute of International Education's *Open Doors 2005* report, living expenses calculated from College Board figures and analysis of the data by Lynn Schoch and Jason Baumgartner at Indiana University – Bloomington's Office of International Services.

NAFSA's annual *Economic Impact Statements* estimate the amount of money foreign students bring to the United States to support their education. This report does not rely on a "multiplier effect." Although this might provide a more accurate estimate of actual economic impact, there is no consensus on the appropriate size of such a multiplier. Along with our partners at the Institute of International Education, the College Board, and Indiana University, we are committed to continuing efforts to improve our data and methodology. By any measure, international education makes a significant contribution to the U.S. economy.

# Alabama

Total Number of Foreign Students: 6,359

## Part 1: Net Contribution to State Economy by Foreign Students (2004-05)

|  |   |               |
|--|---|---------------|
| Contribution from Tuition and Fees to State Economy: |   | \$62,825,000  |
| Contribution from Living Expenses:                   |   | \$80,880,000  |
| Total Contribution by Foreign Students:              |   | \$143,706,000 |
| Less U.S. Support of 32.4%                           | - | \$46,563,000  |
| Plus Dependents' Living Expenses:                    | + | \$3,683,000   |

### *Net Contribution to State Economy by Foreign Students and their Families:*

**\$100,826,000**

## Part 2: Contribution to State Economy by Foreign Students' Dependents (2004-05)

### *Spouses' Contribution*

|   |             |
|---|-------------|
| Percent of Married Students:  | 11.8%       |
| Percent of Spouses in the U.S.:                                     | 85.0%       |
| Number of Spouses in the U.S.:                                      | 749         |
| Additional Expenses for a Spouse:<br>(% of student living expenses) | 25.0%       |
| Spouses' Contribution:  | \$2,487,000 |

### *Children's Contribution*

|  |             |
|--|-------------|
| Number of Couples in the U.S.:                                     | 749         |
| Number of Children per Couple:                                     | 0.6         |
| Number of Children in the U.S.:                                    | 450         |
| Additional Expenses for a Child:<br>(% of student living expenses) | 20.0%       |
| Children's Contribution:   | \$1,197,000 |

### *Net Contribution to State Economy by Foreign Students' Dependents:*

**\$3,683,000**

## Part 3: Foreign Student Contribution from Tuition/Fees and Living Expenses (2004-05)

| Institution and City                                       | # of Foreign Students | Tuition and Fees (thousands) | Living Expenses and Dependents (thousands) | Less U.S. Support (thousands) | Total Contribution (thousands) |
|--|-----------------------|------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University, Huntsville | 259                   | \$2,274.9                    | \$2,837.1                                  | \$893.1                       | \$4,218.9                      |
| Alabama State University, Montgomery                       | 16                    | \$160.3                      | \$160.2                                    | \$43.8                        | \$276.8                        |
| Athens State University, Athens                            | 1                     | \$6.7                        | \$14.2                                     | \$6.4                         | \$14.5                         |
| Auburn University, Auburn                                  | 891                   | \$12,322.5                   | \$14,249.2                                 | \$13,606.9                    | \$12,964.9                     |
| Auburn University, Montgomery                              | 110                   | \$1,395.9                    | \$1,238.3                                  | \$316.2                       | \$2,318.0                      |
| Bevill State Community College, Sumiton                    | 6                     | \$25.6                       | \$50.4                                     | \$3.9                         | \$72.1                         |
| Birmingham-Southern College, Birmingham                    | 20                    | \$389.0                      | \$323.6                                    | \$248.4                       | \$464.1                        |
| Bishop State Community College, Mobile                     | 107                   | \$455.8                      | \$918.5                                    | \$69.0                        | \$1,305.4                      |
| Calhoun Community College, Decatur                         | 23                    | \$98.0                       | \$197.1                                    | \$14.8                        | \$280.2                        |
| Central Alabama Community College, Alexander City          | 1                     | \$4.3                        | \$8.4                                      | \$0.6                         | \$12.0                         |
| Chattahoochee Valley Community College, Phenix City        | 7                     | \$29.8                       | \$58.8                                     | \$4.5                         | \$84.1                         |

|  |       |            |            |            |            |
|--|-------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Enterprise-Ozark Community College, Enterprise         | 4     | \$17.0     | \$33.6     | \$2.6      | \$48.1     |
| Faulkner University, Montgomery                        | 9     | \$93.2     | \$108.2    | \$60.7     | \$140.7    |
| Gadsden State Community College, Gadsden               | 205   | \$873.3    | \$1,759.0  | \$132.1    | \$2,500.2  |
| George C. Wallace Community College, Dothan            | 1     | \$4.3      | \$8.4      | \$0.6      | \$12.1     |
| J. F. Drake State Technical College, Huntsville        | 12    | \$51.5     | \$102.9    | \$7.8      | \$146.7    |
| Jacksonville State University, Jacksonville            | 228   | \$1,842.2  | \$3,474.1  | \$635.9    | \$4,680.5  |
| James H. Faulkner State Community College, Bay Minette | 2     | \$8.6      | \$17.6     | \$1.3      | \$24.9     |
| Jefferson State Community College, Birmingham          | 116   | \$494.2    | \$996.3    | \$74.8     | \$1,415.7  |
| Judson College, Marion                                 | 4     | \$35.6     | \$52.7     | \$31.1     | \$57.2     |
| Lurleen B. Wallace Community College, Andalusia        | 1     | \$4.3      | \$8.4      | \$0.6      | \$12.0     |
| Northeast Alabama Community College, Rainsville        | 6     | \$25.6     | \$50.4     | \$3.9      | \$72.1     |
| Northwest-Shoals Community College, Muscle Shoals      | 3     | \$12.8     | \$25.2     | \$1.9      | \$36.1     |
| Oakwood College, Huntsville                            | 142   | \$1,507.8  | \$2,083.1  | \$1,084.1  | \$2,506.8  |
| Samford University, Birmingham                         | 33    | \$460.2    | \$598.7    | \$148.9    | \$909.9    |
| Southern Union State Community College, Wadley         | 9     | \$38.3     | \$77.7     | \$5.8      | \$110.3    |
| Spring Hill College, Mobile                            | 17    | \$318.3    | \$282.4    | \$73.6     | \$527.1    |
| Talladega College, Talladega                           | 16    | \$107.5    | \$218.1    | \$112.6    | \$213.1    |
| Troy State University, Montgomery                      | 1     | \$8.4      | \$11.9     | \$3.4      | \$16.9     |
| Troy State University, Troy                            | 349   | \$2,687.3  | \$3,863.6  | \$784.6    | \$5,766.3  |
| Tuskegee University, Tuskegee                          | 81    | \$914.5    | \$1,476.4  | \$286.1    | \$2,104.8  |
| U.S. Sports Academy, Daphne                            | 20    | \$197.6    | \$257.1    | \$221.6    | \$233.1    |
| University of Alabama, Birmingham                      | 1,086 | \$10,511.5 | \$16,747.6 | \$11,868.4 | \$15,390.7 |
| University of Alabama, Huntsville                      | 476   | \$5,140.8  | \$6,705.7  | \$2,429.8  | \$9,416.7  |
| University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa                      | 861   | \$10,903.7 | \$12,871.3 | \$10,044.6 | \$13,730.4 |
| University of Mobile, Mobile                           | 38    | \$365.9    | \$510.3    | \$105.2    | \$771.0    |
| University of North Alabama, Florence                  | 352   | \$2,514.7  | \$3,371.6  | \$735.9    | \$5,150.3  |
| University of South Alabama, Mobile                    | 813   | \$6,326.1  | \$8,480.6  | \$2,450.0  | \$12,356.7 |
| University of West Alabama, Livingston                 | 17    | \$129.4    | \$176.7    | \$37.4     | \$268.7    |
| Wallace State Community College, Hanceville            | 16    | \$68.2     | \$138.2    | \$10.3     | \$196.1    |

## **Methodology: How We Compute Economic Impact 2005**

We define economic impact as the amount of money that foreign students collectively bring into the United States to pay for their education and to support themselves while they (and in some cases, their families) are here. The goal of our economic impact formulas is to use data already collected for other purposes to provide a reasonable estimate of the economic resources that foreign students import to the United States to support their education here each year.

The data sets used for these reports come from two sources:

1. The Institute of International Education's *Open Doors 2005* report, funded by the Department of State, provides numbers of foreign students at universities and colleges throughout the United States during the 2004-05 academic year. In many cases, this data provide separate totals for undergraduate, graduate, and non degree students.
2. The College Board provides cost figures for tuition, living, and miscellaneous expenses at U.S. institutions for the 2004-05 academic year.

The extensive data provided by these two sources (which collect it directly from surveys of the institutions involved) allow us to make our estimates sensitive to differences between institutions. However, there are still areas where our estimates and formulas could be improved. For example, we compute economic impact only for students reported in *Open Doors*. Universities that do not provide information to the Institute of International Education are not represented. Also, enrollment reports represent peak enrollment, and not necessarily enrollment levels throughout the year.

Tuition, fees, living expenses, and dollar estimates are derived from College Board data collected on surveys completed by institutions every year. We try to make our calculations sensitive not only to differing costs at institutions, but differing costs for ESL students, undergraduates, graduate students, and students on practical training.

**Students on Practical Training:** We assume these students earn enough in their U.S. jobs to pay living and educational expenses for the year, and so import no funds for their support. Therefore, net economic impact of students in practical training is zero.

**Undergraduates and English Language Programs:** The number of undergraduate students at an institution is specified by *Open Doors* data. College Board data provide undergraduate tuition and fee amounts, on-campus room and board amounts, and miscellaneous expenses. These categories are sometimes broken down into averages for international, out-of-state, flat rate, and in-state, students. When multiple averages are available, we choose averages in the order given above.

Economic impact of an undergraduate equals tuition and fees, plus room and board, plus miscellaneous figured at 50 percent of room and board, less U.S. support. We assume: (1) that spring enrollment figures are the same as the fall figures reported, (2) that all students are enrolled full time for two semesters or three quarters a year, and (3) that students live on campus for the full year. Miscellaneous expenses, enumerated in College Board data, average about 40 percent of room and board expenses. We use a 50 percent figure as an approximation that includes *all* extra expenses except for travel. The percentage of U.S. support for an undergraduate is based upon the institution type. For example, research institutions (based on Carnegie code) provide on average 10.7 percent support for undergraduates; community colleges provide 7.8 percent for undergraduates.

**Estimating Support.** The *Open Doors survey* asks schools to report the percentage of their students who are self-funded, the percentage who have U.S. source income, etc. We use these percentages, adjusted for different types of institutions, as though they represented percentages of funding, not percentages of individuals. This aspect of our analysis could benefit from further study. We have done local comparisons to data reported to SEVIS and the percentages align closely, but wider research into funding percentages could be valuable.

NOTE: “U.S. support” includes funding from a U.S. college or university, the U.S. Government, a U.S. private sponsor and current employment.