



**The Economic Benefits of International Education to the United States for the 2005-2006 Academic Year:
A Statistical Analysis**

NAFSA estimates that foreign students and their dependents contributed approximately \$13.49 billion to the U.S. economy during the 2005-2006 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 2006* 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.

Washington

Total Number of Foreign Students: 11,232

Part 1: Net Contribution to State Economy by Foreign Students (2005-06)

Contribution from Tuition and Fees to State Economy:	\$146,738,000
Contribution from Living Expenses:	\$193,037,000
Total Contribution by Foreign Students:	\$339,775,000
Less U.S. Support of 26.4%	- \$89,730,000
Plus Dependents' Living Expenses:	+ \$6,806,000

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

\$256,850,000

Part 2: Contribution to State Economy by Foreign Students' Dependents (2005-06)

Spouses' Contribution

Percent of Married Students:	9.0%
Percent of Spouses in the U.S.:	85.0%
Number of Spouses in the U.S.:	1,014
Additional Expenses for a Spouse: (% of student living expenses)	25.0%
Spouses' Contribution:	\$4,601,000

Children's Contribution

Number of Couples in the U.S.:	1,014
Number of Children per Couple:	0.6
Number of Children in the U.S.:	606
Additional Expenses for a Child: (% of student living expenses)	20.0%
Children's Contribution:	\$2,204,000

Net Contribution to State Economy by Foreign Students' Dependents:

\$6,806,000

Part 3: Foreign Student Contribution from Tuition/Fees and Living Expenses (2005-06)

Institution and City	# of Foreign Students	Tuition and Fees (thousands)	Living Expenses and Dependents (thousands)	Less U.S. Support (thousands)	Total Contribution (thousands)
Bellevue Community College, Bellevue	623	\$4,614.6	\$10,941.7	\$957.4	\$14,598.9
Big Bend Community College, Moses Lake	2	\$16.3	\$23.2	\$2.5	\$37.0
Cascadia Community College, Bothell	10	\$74.2	\$176.2	\$15.4	\$235.0
Central Washington University, Ellensburg	365	\$4,554.1	\$5,826.5	\$1,501.0	\$8,879.6
Centralia College, Centralia	23	\$170.4	\$403.0	\$35.3	\$538.0
City University, Bellevue	252	\$2,348.6	\$4,549.2	\$935.6	\$5,962.2
Clark College, Vancouver	40	\$296.3	\$699.5	\$61.5	\$934.3
Clover Park Technical College, Lakewood	43	\$319.1	\$758.8	\$66.1	\$1,011.8
Cornish College of the Arts, Seattle	28	\$585.2	\$512.7	\$121.0	\$976.8
DeVry University - Federal Way, Federal Way	7	\$91.4	\$124.6	\$79.9	\$136.2
Eastern Washington University, Cheney	167	\$2,223.9	\$2,291.4	\$647.9	\$3,867.4
Edmonds Community College, Lynnwood	677	\$5,014.5	\$11,889.5	\$1,040.4	\$15,863.7
Everett Community College, Everett	55	\$407.4	\$965.0	\$84.5	\$1,287.9

Evergreen State College, Olympia	19	\$276.2	\$306.9	\$130.3	\$452.8
Gonzaga University, Spokane	110	\$2,545.4	\$1,714.0	\$605.4	\$3,654.0
Grays Harbor College, Aberdeen	6	\$44.4	\$103.1	\$9.2	\$138.3
Green River Community College, Auburn	592	\$4,384.9	\$10,396.9	\$909.7	\$13,872.1
Highline Community College, Des Moines	200	\$1,481.4	\$3,512.9	\$307.3	\$4,686.9
Lake Washington Technical College, Kirkland	135	\$1,001.8	\$2,021.4	\$186.2	\$2,837.0
Lower Columbia College, Longview	4	\$29.6	\$68.7	\$6.1	\$92.2
North Seattle Community College, Seattle	258	\$1,911.0	\$4,236.9	\$378.6	\$5,769.3
Northwest University, Kirkland	18	\$276.3	\$273.9	\$161.4	\$388.8
Olympic College, Bremerton	16	\$118.5	\$282.7	\$24.6	\$376.6
Pacific Lutheran University, Tacoma	161	\$3,548.4	\$2,510.7	\$926.2	\$5,133.0
Peninsula College, Port Angeles	45	\$333.3	\$793.1	\$69.2	\$1,057.3
Pierce College, Lakewood	173	\$1,281.4	\$3,036.8	\$265.9	\$4,052.4
Renton Technical College, Renton	17	\$48.7	\$299.9	\$21.3	\$327.3
Saint Martin's College, Lacey	89	\$1,752.4	\$1,277.1	\$598.6	\$2,430.9
Seattle Central Community College, Seattle	612	\$4,675.7	\$10,054.1	\$906.9	\$13,822.9
Seattle Pacific University, Seattle	55	\$1,179.6	\$980.5	\$298.8	\$1,861.2
Seattle University, Seattle	564	\$12,918.4	\$11,004.7	\$3,410.0	\$20,513.1
Shoreline Community College, Shoreline	559	\$4,140.5	\$9,817.7	\$859.0	\$13,099.2
Skagit Valley College, Mount Vernon	154	\$1,140.7	\$2,706.0	\$236.7	\$3,610.0
South Puget Sound Community College, Olympia	96	\$711.1	\$1,375.5	\$128.5	\$1,958.0
South Seattle Community College, Seattle	208	\$1,540.7	\$3,414.6	\$305.2	\$4,650.1
Spokane Community College, Spokane	30	\$222.2	\$418.4	\$39.4	\$601.2
Spokane Falls Community College, Spokane	118	\$874.0	\$1,642.9	\$155.1	\$2,361.8
Tacoma Community College, Tacoma	250	\$1,851.8	\$3,678.1	\$340.5	\$5,189.3
University of Puget Sound, Tacoma	16	\$452.3	\$276.6	\$113.7	\$615.2
University of Washington, Seattle	2,620	\$50,828.0	\$49,901.0	\$48,934.4	\$51,794.6
Walla Walla College, College Place	13	\$243.0	\$115.6	\$54.5	\$304.1
Walla Walla Community College, Walla Walla	4	\$29.6	\$60.5	\$5.6	\$84.5
Washington State University, Pullman	1,454	\$21,103.4	\$28,979.4	\$21,730.6	\$28,352.3
Wenatchee Valley College, Wenatchee	2	\$14.8	\$34.4	\$3.1	\$46.1
Western Washington University, Bellingham	151	\$2,004.1	\$2,406.3	\$631.4	\$3,779.0
Whatcom Community College, Bellingham	89	\$659.2	\$1,266.1	\$118.7	\$1,806.6
Whitman College, Walla Walla	54	\$1,533.6	\$926.9	\$989.5	\$1,471.0
Whitworth College, Spokane	34	\$761.6	\$538.4	\$298.6	\$1,001.5
Yakima Valley Community College, Yakima	14	\$103.7	\$248.3	\$21.5	\$330.5

Methodology: How We Compute Economic Impact 2006

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 formula 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 2006* report, funded by the Department of State, provides numbers of foreign students at universities and colleges throughout the United States during the 2005-06 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 2005-06 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 or current employment.