



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

# SEVP

**STUDENT AND EXCHANGE VISITOR PROGRAM**

## SEVIS BY THE NUMBERS

GENERAL SUMMARY QUARTERLY REVIEW

November 2016

# HIGHLIGHTS

## GENERAL DATA

- 1.23 million F & M students currently study in the United States.
- 198,217 J-1 exchange visitors are currently in the United States.
- SEVP currently certifies 8,697 U.S. schools to enroll international students.
- 75 percent of SEVP-certified schools have 50 or less enrolled F & M students.
- 76 percent of all F & M students are enrolled in bachelor's, master's or doctoral programs.
- 42 percent of all F & M students or 513,902 international students study science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields in the United States.
- The number of active J-1 exchange visitors in the United States decreased from 201,800 in November 2015 to 198,217 in November 2016, a decrease of 1.8 percent.
- The number of active F & M STEM students studying in the United States grew from 466,927 in November 2015 to 513,902 in November 2016, an increase of 10.1 percent.

## TRENDS

- The number of active F & M students studying in the United States grew from 1.19 million in November 2015 to 1.23 million in November 2016, an increase of 2.9 percent.

## REMINDERS

- This report compares data from November 2016 to November 2015, continuing the practice of making year-over-year comparisons that provide users a better snapshot of international student trends in the United States.
- Check out the [Mapping SEVIS by the Numbers](#) interactive tool on Study in the States to research information about where international students are studying in the United States.

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# INTRODUCTION

## WHAT IS THE STUDENT AND EXCHANGE VISITOR PROGRAM?

SEVP, a program within the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, acts as a bridge for government organizations that have an interest in information on nonimmigrants whose primary reason for coming to the United States is to be students.

On behalf of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), SEVP manages schools, international students in the F & M visa classifications and their dependents.

The U.S. Department of State manages exchange visitor programs, nonimmigrant exchange visitors in the J visa classification and their dependents. Both SEVP and the Department of State use the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) to track and monitor schools; exchange visitor programs; and F, M and J nonimmigrants while they visit the United States and participate in the U.S. education system.

# INTRODUCTION

## WHAT IS THE STUDENT AND EXCHANGE VISITOR INFORMATION SYSTEM?

SEVIS is the web-based system that DHS uses to maintain information on SEVP-certified schools and the F & M students who come to the United States to attend those schools. SEVIS also maintains information on Department of State-designated exchange visitor program sponsors and J-1 visa exchange visitor program participants. It is a critical tool in SEVP's mission to protect national security while supporting the legal entry of the more than one million F, M and J nonimmigrants to the United States for education and cultural exchange.

# INTRODUCTION

## WHAT IS SEVIS BY THE NUMBERS?

SEVIS by the Numbers is a quarterly report that highlights international student and exchange visitor trends and information using data from SEVIS, which SEVP uses to track and monitor the status and activities of international students and exchange visitors who enter the United States.

The report highlights key SEVIS data in an engaging way to illustrate trends, values and information on international students studying in the United States.

This report uses real-time SEVIS data from Nov. 7, 2016.

# DEFINITIONS

## WHAT DO THESE TERMS MEAN?

- **NONIMMIGRANT** – Person entering the United States to visit, study or work (depending on the type of visa) temporarily, but not to stay permanently in the United States.
- **F-1 NONIMMIGRANT STUDENT** – Nonimmigrant status conferred on a student pursuing a full program of study in a college, university, seminary, conservatory, academic high school, private elementary school, other academic school or language training program in the United States that is SEVP-certified to enroll F and/or M students.
- **M-1 NONIMMIGRANT STUDENT** – Nonimmigrant status conferred on a foreign national pursuing a full program of study at an SEVP-certified vocational school or other recognized non-academic school (other than in language training programs).
- **J-1 EXCHANGE VISITOR** – Foreign national selected by a Department of State-designated program to participate in an exchange visitor program.

# GENERAL OVERVIEW

## SCHOOL AND INTERNATIONAL STUDENT DATA

Since November 2015, the total number of SEVIS records for active F & M students, J exchange visitors and their dependents increased by 1.92 percent, from 1,553,845 to 1,583,665.

TOTAL # OF ACTIVE STUDENTS			
STUDENTS (F-1 & M-1) AND EXCHANGE VISITORS (J-1)			
	NOV 2015	NOV 2016	% CHANGE
F-1 & M-1	1,194,780	1,228,847	+2.85%
J-1	201,800	198,217	-1.78%
DEPENDENTS	157,265	156,601	-0.42%
COMPLETED	2,569,790	2,849,524	+10.89%
SCHOOLS AND PROGRAMS			
	NOV 2015	NOV 2016	% CHANGE
CERTIFIED SCHOOLS (F & M)	8,803	8,697	-1.20%
DESIGNATED PROGRAMS (J)	1,452	1,491	+2.69%

\* F-1/M-1 – Active students considered in F-1 or M-1 status and enrolled in a full course of study.

\* Certified Schools – An academic/vocational institution or language training program that has received certification to enroll nonimmigrant students.

\* J-1 – Active exchange visitors considered in J-1 status and participating in their program.

\* Designated Programs – A J-1 program that is approved to accept exchange visitors.

\* Completed – The student has finished their program of study and intends on/already has returned to their home country.

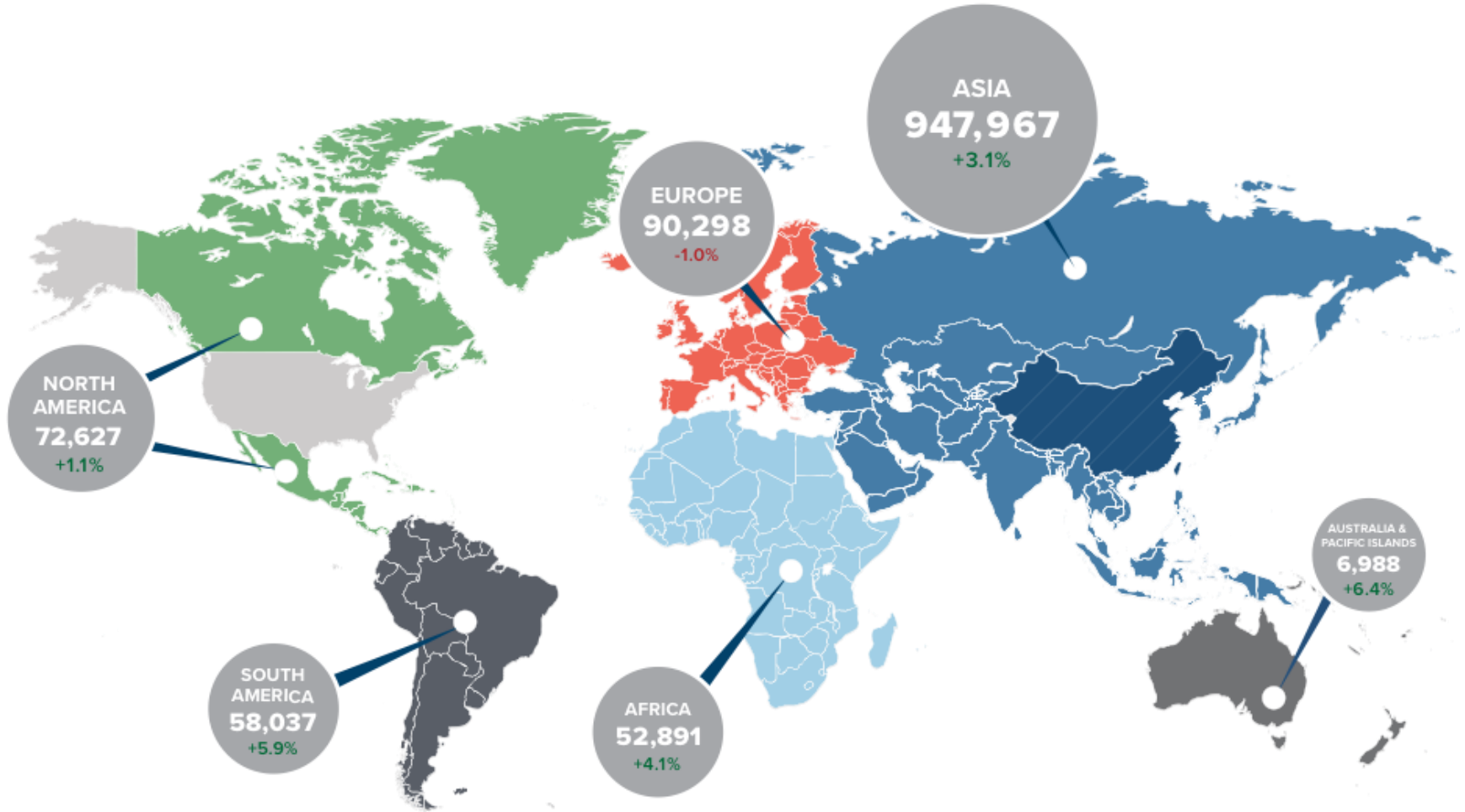




**STUDENTS**

# PLACES OF ORIGIN

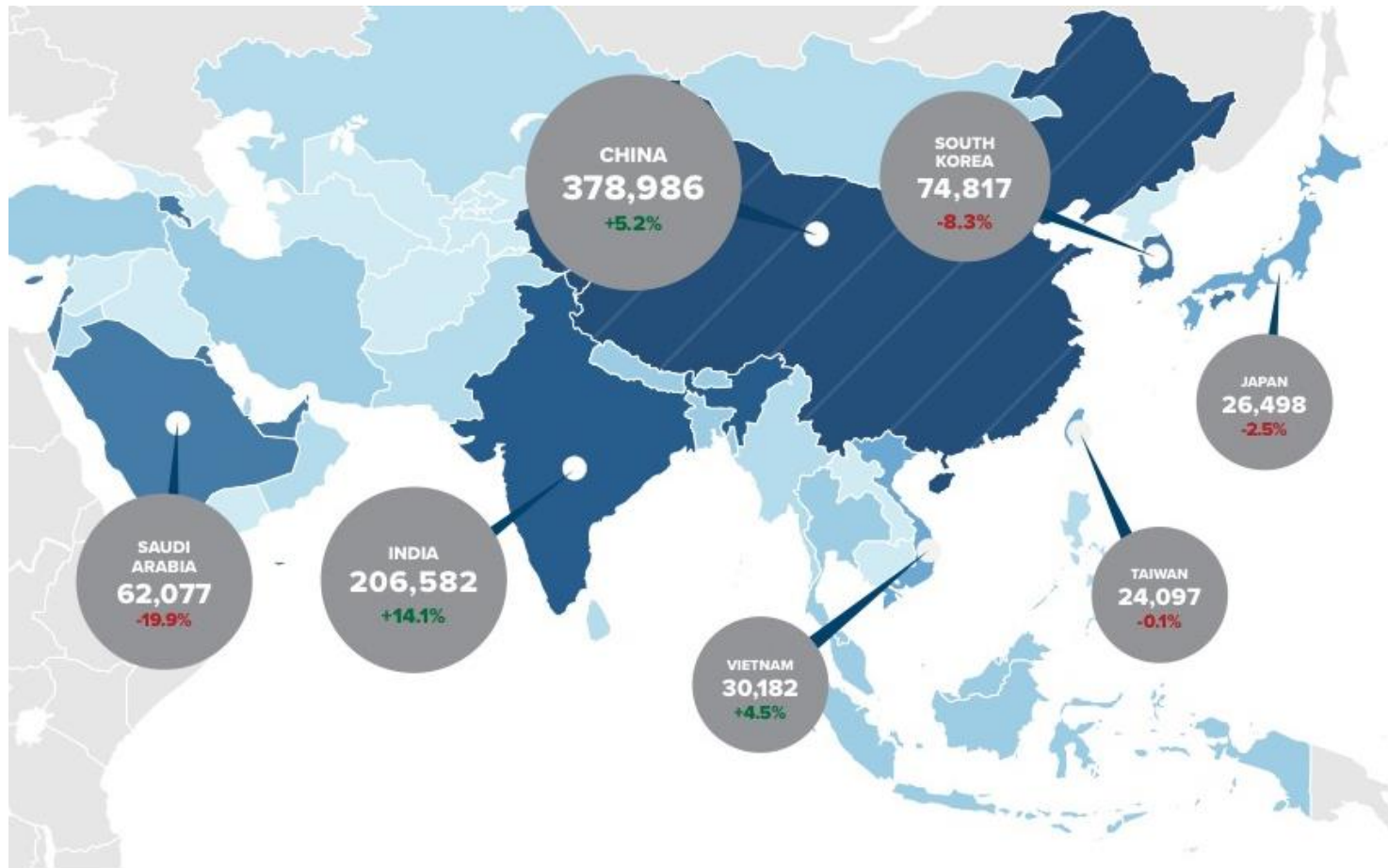
A GLOBAL VIEW — NOVEMBER 2016 COMPARED TO NOVEMBER 2015



\*Continent information was compiled using the United Nation's composition of macro geographical (continental) regions, geographical subregions, and selected economic and other groupings.

# PLACES OF ORIGIN

A CLOSER LOOK AT ASIA — NOVEMBER 2016 COMPARED TO NOVEMBER 2015



\* Continent information was compiled using the United Nation's composition of macro geographical (continental) regions, geographical subregions, and selected economic and other groupings.

# STUDENTS BY STATE

WHICH STATES HOST THE HIGHEST POPULATION OF F & M STUDENTS?

## California

ACTIVE STUDENT COUNT



2016 211,262  
2013 169,757  
2011 150,840

## New York

ACTIVE STUDENT COUNT



2016 138,976  
2013 118,375  
2011 106,683

## Texas

ACTIVE STUDENT COUNT



2016 88,348  
2013 70,561  
2011 65,667

## TOP 5 COUNTRIES OF CITIZENSHIP

1. China 71,945
2. India 32,517
3. South Korea 16,183
4. Japan 8,567
5. Saudi Arabia 7,090

1. China 47,238
2. India 19,778
3. South Korea 11,369
4. Canada 5,816
5. Japan 4,043

1. India 24,532
2. China 15,219
3. Mexico 6,466
4. Vietnam 5,230
5. South Korea 4,122

# STUDENTS BY STATE

WHICH STATES HOST THE HIGHEST POPULATION OF F & M STUDENTS?

California



New York



Texas



## TOP 5 MAJORS

1. Business  
38,297
2. Engineering  
28,368
3. Computer Science  
24,988
4. Basic Skills Education  
18,246
5. Visual and Performing Arts  
14,736

1. Business  
22,615
2. Engineering  
14,707
3. Visual and Performing Arts  
14,413
4. Basic Skills Education  
14,373
5. Computer Science  
14,370

1. Engineering  
20,986
2. Business  
13,869
3. Computer Science  
13,086
4. Liberal Arts and Sciences  
6,702
5. Basic Skills Education  
4,533

2%

increase in the number of F & M students studying at schools in CA, NY and TX since November 2015.

14%

increase in the number of F & M students studying at schools in Arkansas, and a 13 percent increase for schools in Alabama since November 2015.



# SCHOOLS

# CERTIFIED SCHOOLS

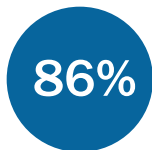
WHICH SEVP-CERTIFIED SCHOOLS HAVE THE LARGEST POPULATION OF F & M STUDENTS PER VISA CATEGORY?

TOP FIVE F-1 APPROVED SCHOOLS	
SCHOOL NAME	# OF ACTIVE STUDENTS
NEW YORK UNIVERSITY	15,819
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA	13,750
NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY	12,393
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK	12,311
ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY	11,586

TOP FIVE F-1 & M-1 APPROVED SCHOOLS	
SCHOOL NAME	# OF ACTIVE STUDENTS
CORNELL UNIVERSITY	6,013
HOUSTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM	4,747
THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA	3,563
SANTA MONICA COLLEGE	3,473
COMPUTER SYSTEMS INSTITUTE	3,101

TOP FIVE M-1 APPROVED SCHOOLS	
SCHOOL NAME	# OF ACTIVE STUDENTS
BETHEL SCHOOL OF SUPERNATURAL MINISTRY	892
TRANSPAC AVIATION ACADEMY	408
DEAN INTERNATIONAL, INC.	355
CAE GLOBAL ACADEMY PHOENIX, INC.	330
U.S. AVIATION ACADEMY	286

# OF SCHOOLS BY ACTIVE STUDENT ENROLLMENT	
# OF SCHOOLS	# OF ACTIVE STUDENTS
40	>5,000
218	1,001-5,000
186	501-1,000
968	101-500
724	51-100
2,063	11-50
2,816	1-10
1,682	0



of all SEVP-certified schools are certified to enroll F students; 5 percent are certified to enroll M students; and 9 percent are certified to enroll both F & M students.

# CERTIFIED SCHOOLS BY STATE

WHICH STATES HAVE THE HIGHEST POPULATION OF SEVP-CERTIFIED SCHOOLS?

27%

of all SEVP-certified schools are located within the states of California, New York and Florida.

8,697

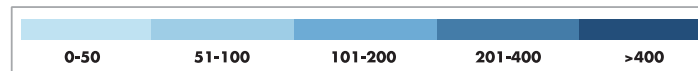
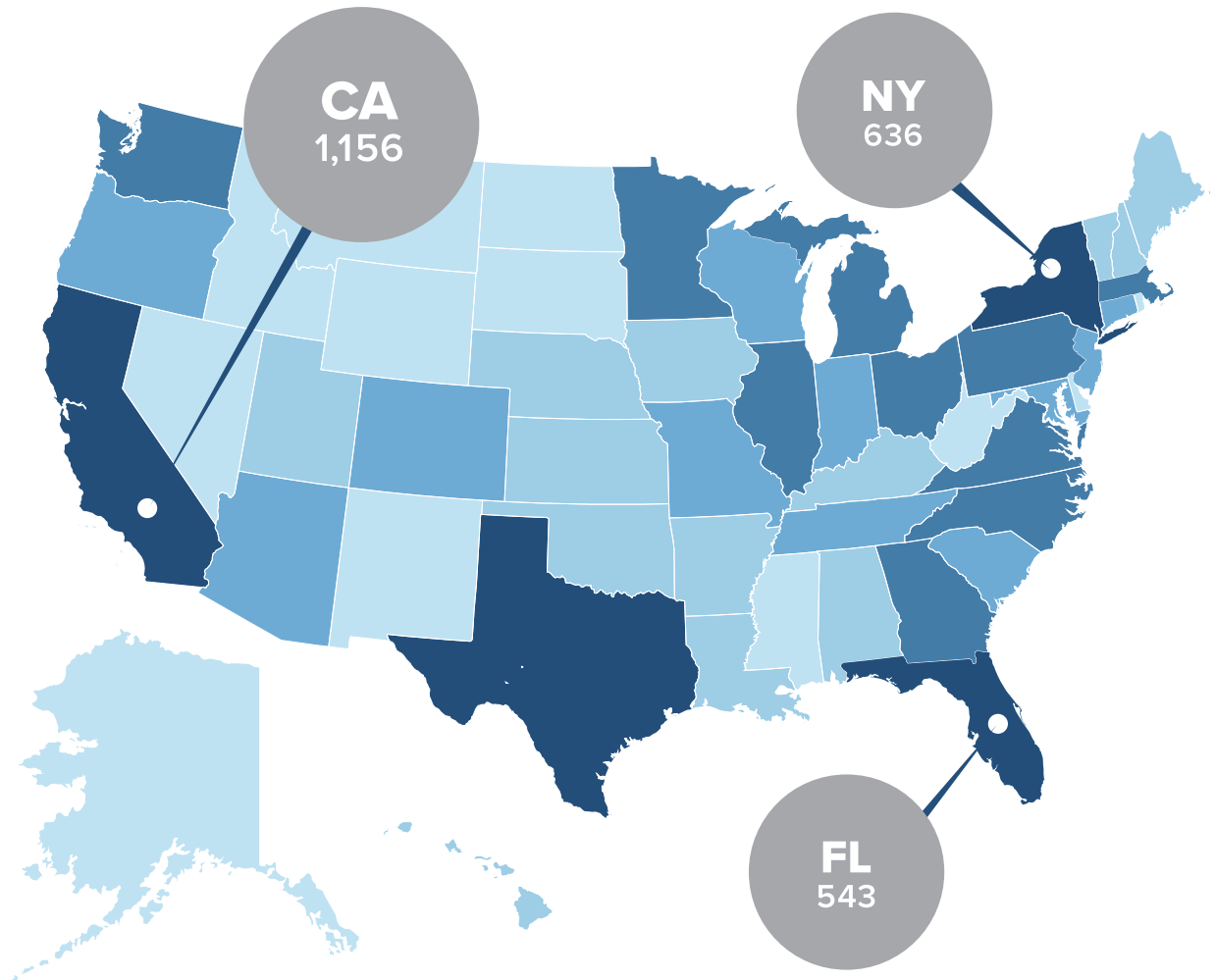
schools are certified by SEVP as of November 2016, a decrease of 1 percent since November 2015.

10%

increase in the number of schools certified by SEVP in Minnesota since November 2015.

3%

decrease in the number of schools certified by SEVP in California since November 2015.

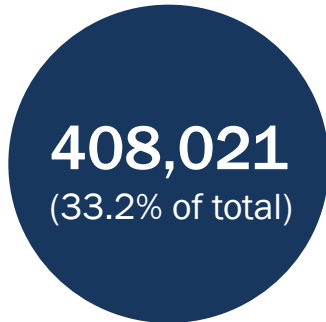




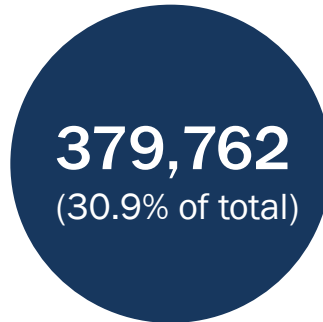
# LEVEL OF EDUCATION

HOW MANY F & M STUDENTS STUDY AT THE TOP THREE LEVELS OF EDUCATION?

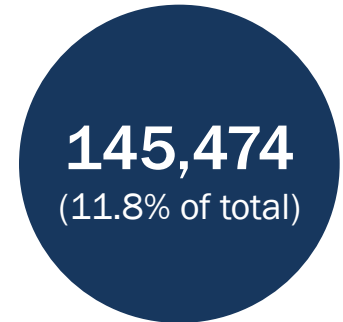
**Bachelor's**  
ACTIVE STUDENT COUNT



**Master's**  
ACTIVE STUDENT COUNT



**Doctorate**  
ACTIVE STUDENT COUNT



## TOP 3 STATES WITH HIGHEST ENROLLMENT

1. California 60,262
2. New York 41,423
3. Massachusetts 25,486

1. California 61,063
2. New York 49,569
3. Texas 34,301

1. California 15,063
2. New York 12,838
3. Texas 12,653

## 3 STATES WITH MOST NOTABLE PERCENTAGE CHANGE COMPARED TO NOVEMBER 2015

1. Alabama +13.3%
2. Maryland +11.8%
3. Arizona +10.3%

1. Virginia +21.4%
2. Connecticut +18.3%
3. Illinois +10.8%

1. Oregon +20.5%
2. Georgia +5.1%
3. Washington +5.1%

**16%** increase in the number of F & M students enrolled in associate's programs in Texas since November 2015.

**76%** of all F & M students are enrolled in bachelor's, master's or doctoral programs.

**49%** increase in the number of F & M students enrolled in master's programs in Arkansas since November 2015.



# STEM DATA

# STEM FIELDS OF STUDY

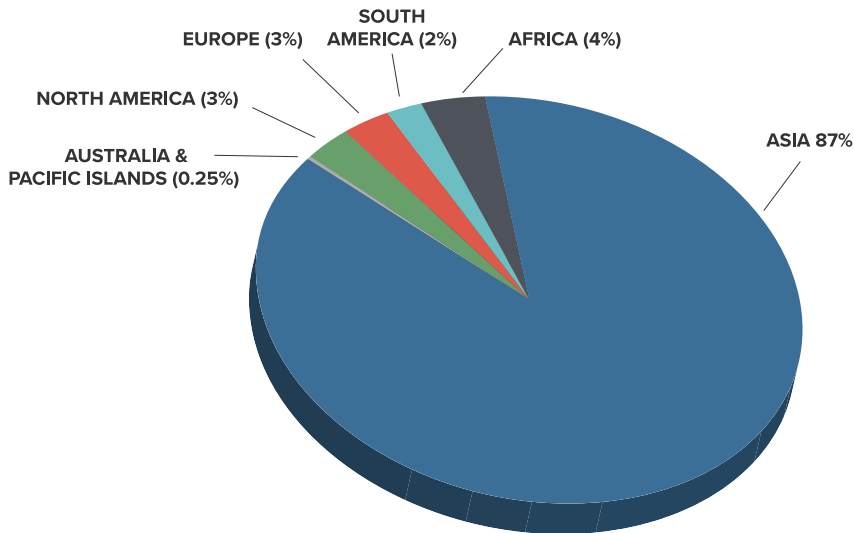
STEM programs are popular at American colleges and universities. Graduates from these programs are important to innovation and job creation in the United States.

An F-1 and/or M-1 student can find STEM programs at all educational levels. Many colleges and universities offer programs in these fields at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. Community colleges also have a variety of STEM programs in which a student may enroll.

STEM programs are classified according to the Classification of Instructional Programs codes developed by the U.S. Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics.

# STEM STUDENTS, SCHOOLS AND FIELDS OF STUDY

HOW MANY F & M STEM STUDENTS ARE IN THE UNITED STATES  
AND WHERE ARE THEY FROM?



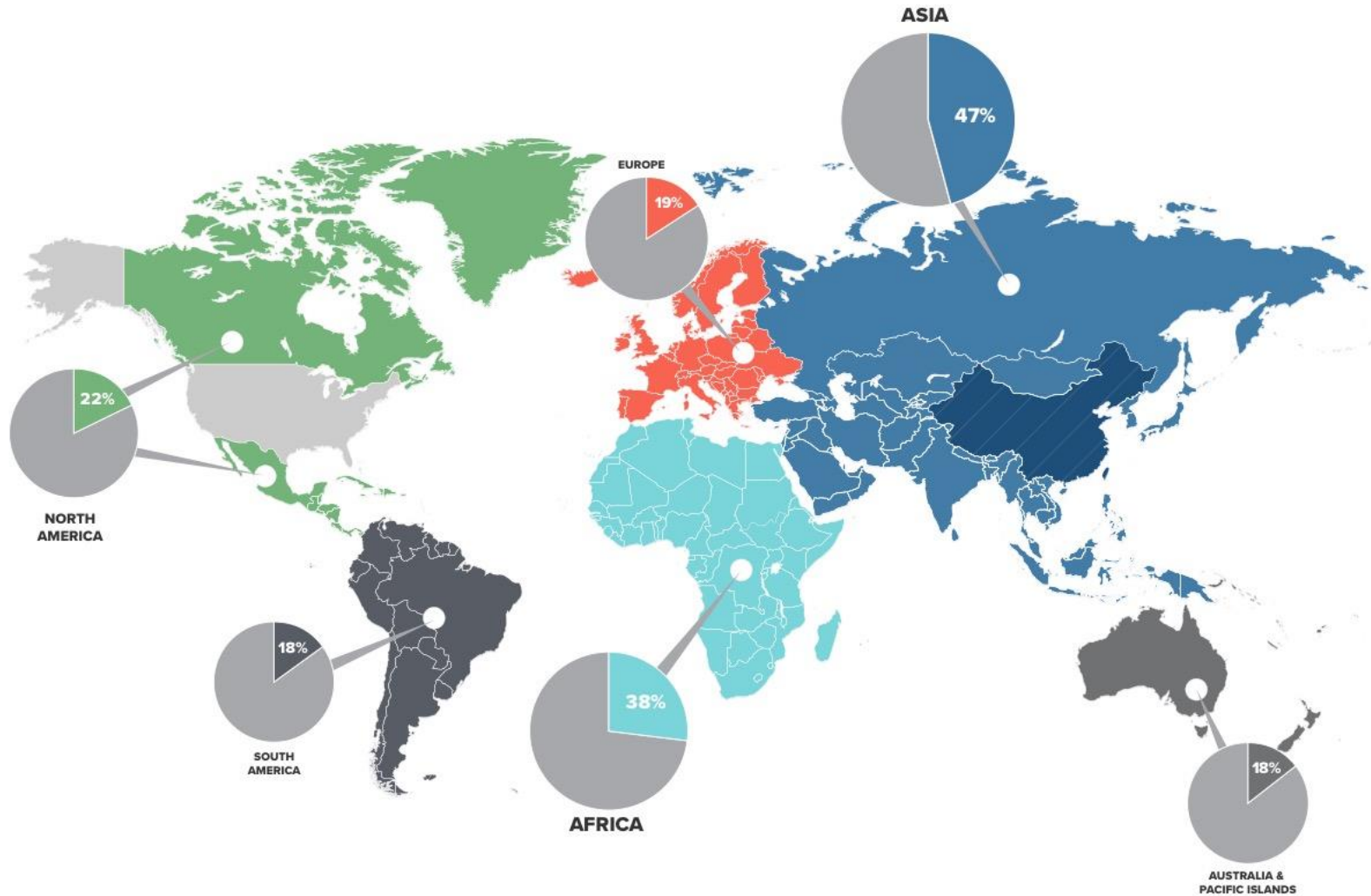
**PERCENT OF F & M STEM STUDENTS IN THE UNITED STATES PER CONTINENT**

TOTAL # OF STEM AND ALL F & M STUDENTS, NOV 2016			
	STEM	ALL F & M	PERCENTAGE IN STEM
F-1 & M-1 STUDENTS	513,902	1,228,847	42%
TOTAL # OF F & M STEM STUDENTS PER CONTINENT, NOV 2015-2016			
CONTINENT	NOV 2015	NOV 2016	% CHANGE
ASIA	404,731	448,105	+11%
AFRICA	18,837	20,158	+7%
EUROPE	16,652	17,382	+4%
NORTH AMERICA	15,738	16,254	+3%
SOUTH AMERICA	9,849	10,715	+9%
AUSTRALIA & PACIFIC ISLANDS	1,120	1,288	+15%
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>466,927</b>	<b>513,902</b>	<b>+10%</b>

\* Continent information was compiled using the United Nation's composition of macro geographical (continental) regions, geographical subregions, and selected economic and other groupings.

# PLACES OF ORIGIN

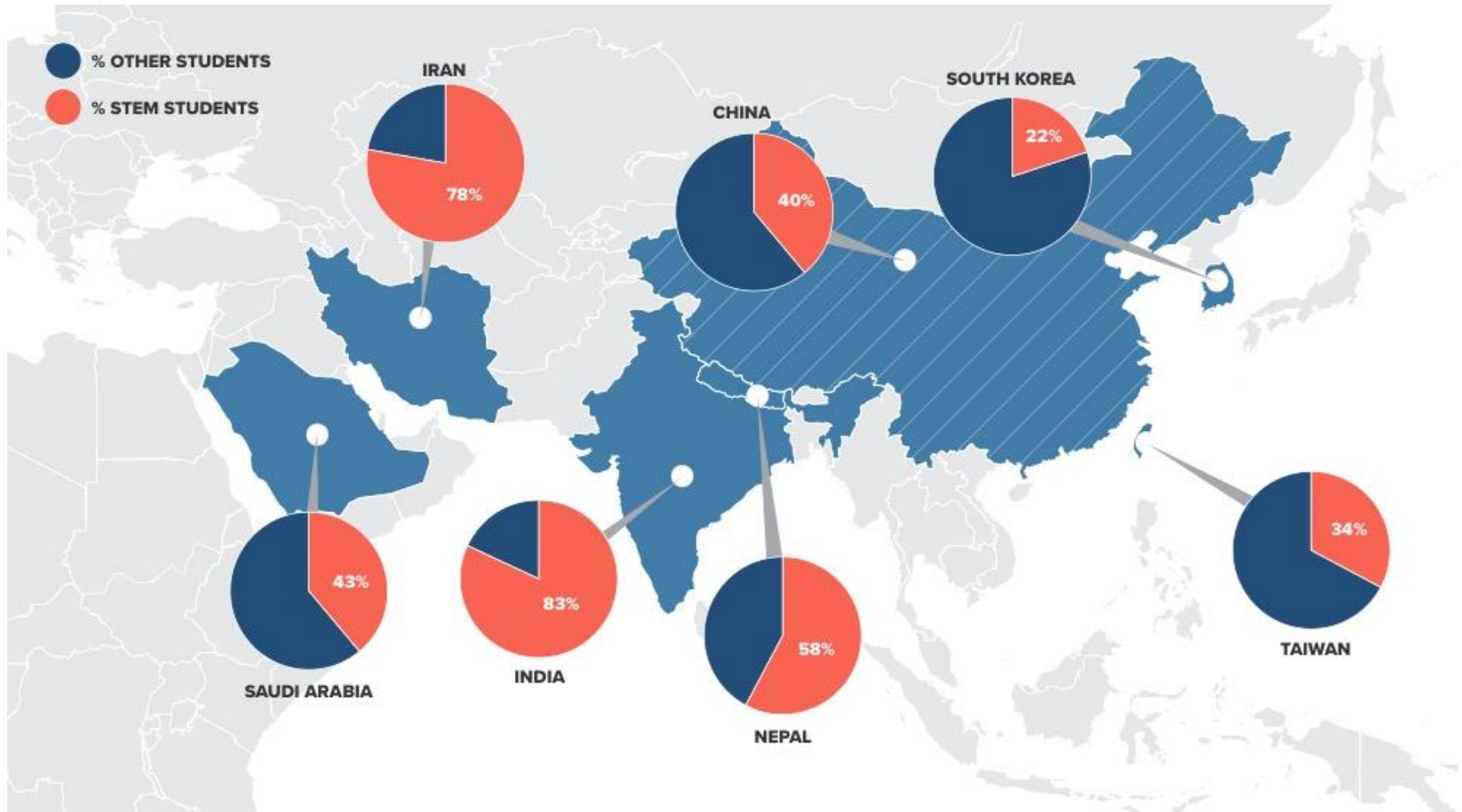
A GLOBAL VIEW OF EACH CONTINENT'S F & M STUDENTS THAT ARE IN STEM FIELDS



\* Continent information was compiled using the United Nation's composition of macro geographical (continental) regions, geographical subregions, and selected economic and other groupings.

# PLACES OF ORIGIN

## A CLOSER LOOK AT ASIAN F & M STEM STUDENTS



\* Continent information was compiled using the United Nation's composition of macro geographical (continental) regions, geographical subregions, and selected economic and other groupings.

# STEM STUDENTS BY STATE

WHICH STATES HOST THE LARGEST POPULATION OF F & M STEM STUDENTS?

**California**  
ACTIVE STUDENT COUNT



2016 77,198  
2013 46,260  
2011 37,871

**Texas**  
ACTIVE STUDENT COUNT



2016 47,062  
2013 30,736  
2011 26,248

**New York**  
ACTIVE STUDENT COUNT



2016 46,131  
2013 33,495  
2011 27,424

## TOP 5 COUNTRIES OF CITIZENSHIP

1. India 27,495
2. China 24,844
3. South Korea 3,260
4. Saudi Arabia 2,284
5. Taiwan 2,008

1. India 22,284
2. China 8,069
3. Mexico 1,728
4. Saudi Arabia 1,446
5. South Korea 1,291

1. China 18,589
2. India 14,360
3. South Korea 1,769
4. Canada 801
5. Taiwan 793

**20%**

increase in the number of all F & M STEM students studying in Connecticut since November 2015.

**14%**

increase in the number of all F & M STEM students studying in Massachusetts since November 2015.

**17%**

increase in the number of all F & M STEM students studying in Virginia since November 2015.

# TOP THREE STEM DEGREES

WHAT ARE THE MOST POPULAR MAJORS AMONG F & M STEM STUDENTS IN THE UNITED STATES?

## Engineering ACTIVE STUDENT COUNT

**202,547**  
(+5.9% from  
November  
2015)

## Computer Science ACTIVE STUDENT COUNT

**142,561**  
(+17.3% from  
November  
2015)

## Biological Science ACTIVE STUDENT COUNT

**40,344**  
(+1.6% from  
November  
2015)

### TOP 3 STATES WITH HIGHEST ENROLLMENT

1. California 28,368
2. Texas 20,986
3. New York 14,707

1. California 24,896
2. New York 14,174
3. Texas 13,081

1. California 5,032
2. New York 3,862
3. Texas 3,486

### 3 STATES WITH MOST NOTABLE PERCENTAGE CHANGE COMPARED TO NOVEMBER 2015

1. Alabama +31.4%
2. West Virginia +23.2%
3. Massachusetts +14.0%

1. Arkansas +77.3%
2. Kentucky +60.9
3. Delaware +58.4%

1. Mississippi +16.7%
2. Colorado +13.4%
3. Alabama +10.2%

**14%**

increase in the number of F & M students pursuing engineering degrees in Maryland since November 2015.

**56%**

of all F & M students who pursue computer science coursework are from India.

**69%**

of all F & M students who pursue mathematics and statistics coursework are from China, as are 41 percent of all F & M students who study degrees in the physical sciences.