



INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION AT U.S. COMMUNITY COLLEGES SUMMARY REPORT

EVIDENCE FROM THE 2024-25 ACADEMIC YEAR

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INTRODUCTION

Despite its importance in educating a large number of postsecondary students in the United States, community colleges are often marginalized or absent from broader international education conversations, which tend to focus on the four-year university or liberal arts college contexts (Harder, 2010; Raby, 2012; Raby & Valeau, 2022). This report's purpose is to counter narratives of marginalization and to offer a general overview of the extent to which U.S. community colleges engaged in international education.

DATA

This report is based on data collected in the 2024-25 academic year by the Community College International Education Research Initiative (CCIERI). The dataset that forms the foundation for this report includes 922 community colleges located in the 50 U.S. states and Washington, D.C. and was created based on institutional website evidence (Nyarko et al., 2025).

The international education offerings described in this report fall into two categories: student mobility and internationalization at home, referring to global activities offered at students' home community colleges.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT MOBILITY

Student mobility is often what first comes to mind when thinking about international education and involves students crossing international borders. This approach to international education can involve domestic community college students participating in study abroad or international students coming to study at community colleges.

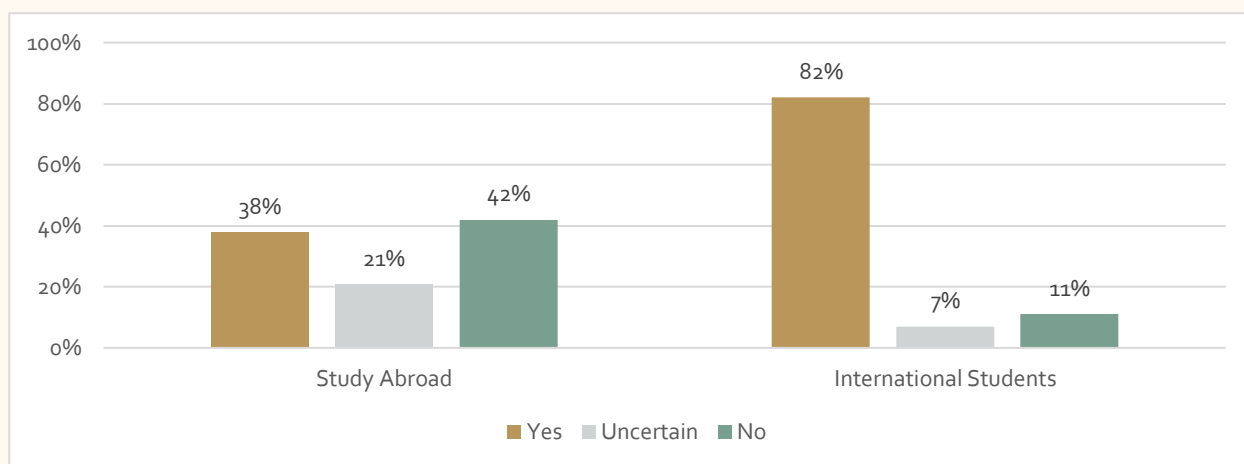
STUDY ABROAD

As shown in Figure 1 below, we found that 350 community colleges offered study abroad (38%), while 383 did not (42%). We were uncertain about whether study abroad was available at the remaining 189 colleges (21%) due to vague or outdated information on colleges' websites.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

In its second panel, Figure 1 displays international student enrollment in the CCIERI dataset. We found that 755 colleges enrolled international students (82%) and 102 did not (11%). We were unsure if 65 colleges (7%) enrolled international students.

Figure 1: Percentage of U.S. Community Colleges that Engage in International Student Mobility (Study Abroad and International Student Enrollment)



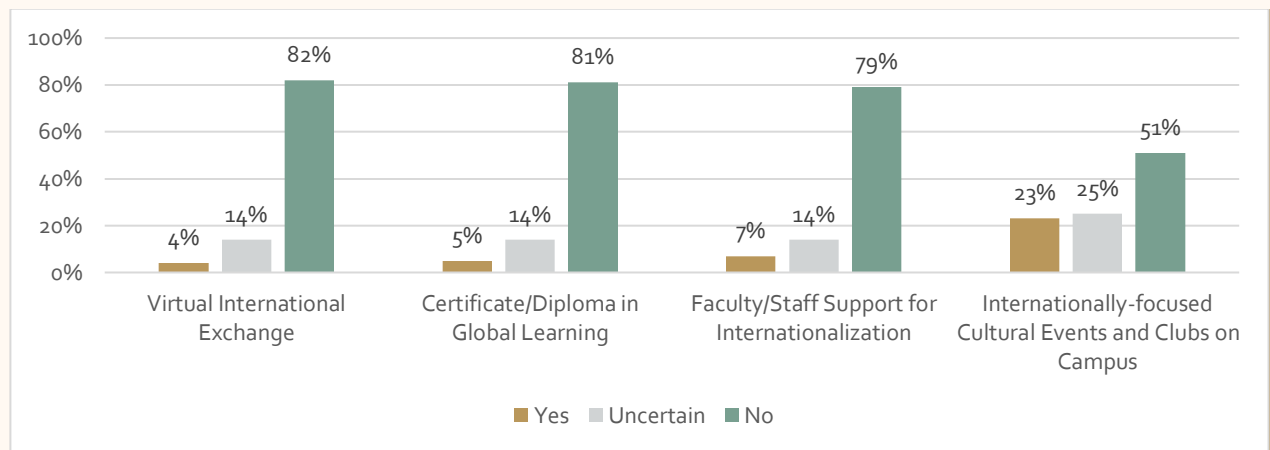
Note: This figure is based on data from the CCIERI (Nyarko et al., 2025) (percentages out of N=922 community colleges). <https://ccintled.pages.wm.edu/>

INTERNATIONALIZATION AT HOME

Figure 2 summarizes information about the extent to which Internationalization at Home opportunities are offered at community colleges, as evidenced in the CCIERI dataset. Key metrics for each approach include the following:

- **Virtual international exchange:** In total, 38 colleges (4%) offered virtual international exchange programs while 756 (82%) did not. We were uncertain about offerings at 128 additional colleges (14%).
- **Certificate or Diploma in Global Learning:** A total of 48 colleges (5%) offered a certificate or diploma in global learning. A total of 748 (81%) did not, and we were uncertain about 126 colleges (14%).
- **Faculty/Staff Support for Internationalization:** We found that 61 (7%) offered support to faculty and staff for their internationalization work. A total of 729 (79%) did not, while we were unsure about 132 (14%).
- **Internationally focused Cultural Events and Clubs on Campus:** The dataset indicates that 216 (23%) community colleges hosted internationally focused cultural events or supported internationally focused clubs on campus, while 474 (51%) did not and 232 (25%) were unclear whether these opportunities were offered.

Figure 2: Percentage of U.S. Community Colleges that Engage in Internationalization at Home



Note: This figure is based on data from the CCIERI (Nyarko et al., 2025) (percentages out of N=922 community colleges). Percentages do not add up to 100% for 'Internationally focused Cultural Events and Clubs on Campus' due to rounding. <https://ccintled.pages.wm.edu/>

ACCESS THE FULL REPORT ON OUR WEBSITE:

<https://ccintled.pages.wm.edu/reports/>

ABOUT US:

The Community College International Education Research Initiative (CCIERI) is a research group organized by Dr. Melissa Whatley in William & Mary's School of Education. Our work focuses on all aspects of international education in the U.S. community college context. We are especially interested in unconventional, less common, and new approaches that promote access to international learning opportunities for underserved populations and that result in outcomes that lead to a more just world.

Learn more at <https://ccintled.pages.wm.edu/>.

OUR WORK:

This summary corresponds to the first of the Initiative's reports. Other ongoing research projects focus on the following topics:

- Institutional characteristics that promote access to international learning opportunities at community colleges
- Financial support for community college study abroad
- International student support services at community colleges
- International educational discourses at community colleges
- Virtual exchange program characteristics and student outcomes in the community college context

Visit our website to sign up for our Newsletter to get updates about our work.