

IIE Survey Reports on Foreign Students

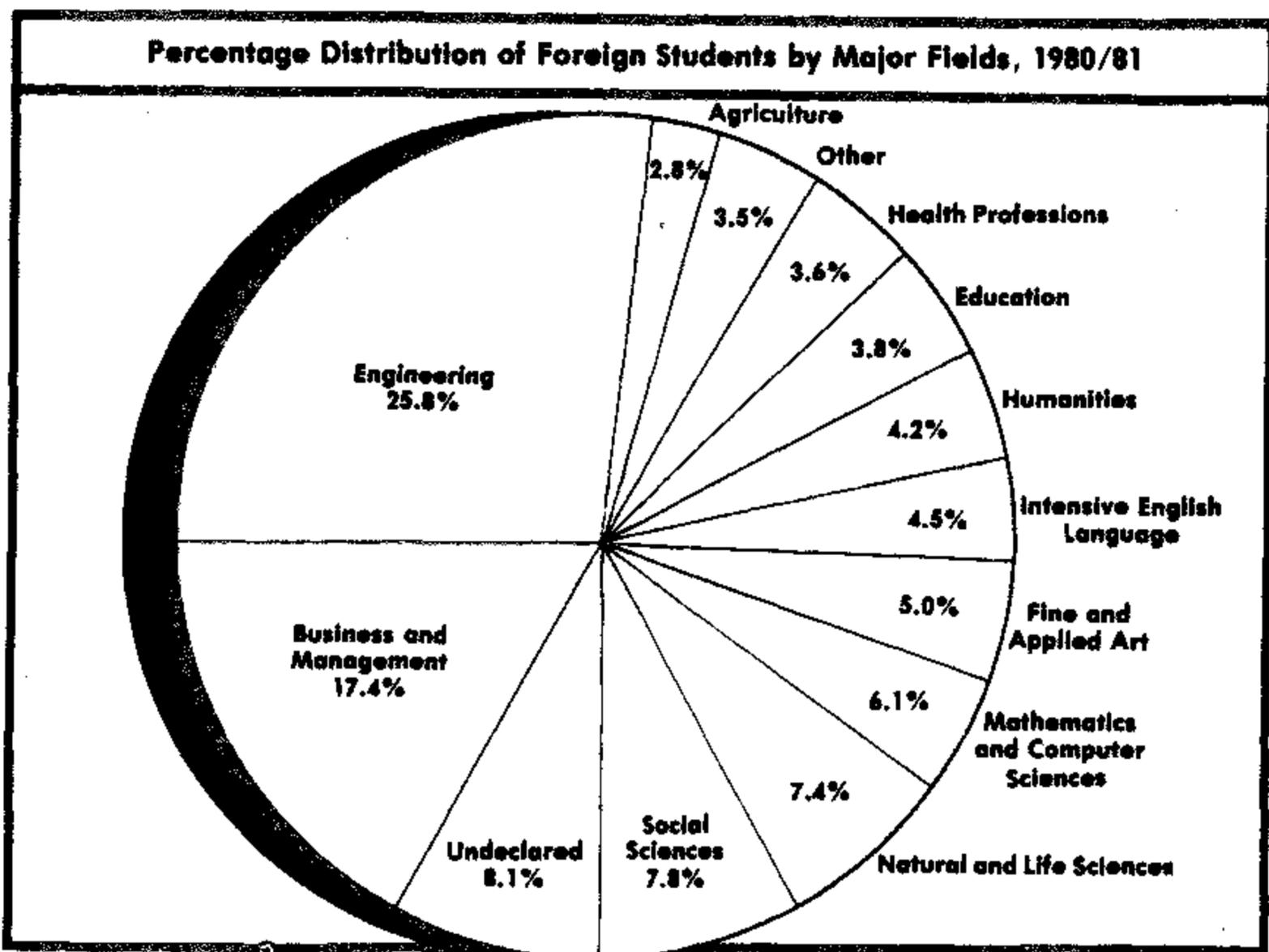
The annual Census of Foreign Students conducted by the Institute of International Education recorded 311,882 foreign students on U.S. campuses in 1980-81—a 9 percent increase over the previous year and the largest total ever. Although Iran topped the list of countries of origin, with U.S. colleges and universities reporting 47,550 Iranian students enrolled, their number decreased from the previous year's 51,870 by 7 percent. The Census data will be published by IIE, the largest U.S. educational exchange agency, as *Open Doors 1980-81*.

Lack of U.S. financial support for international exchange continued to be evident, reported Wallace Edgerton, President of the Institute of International Education, in releasing the census data. Only 17 percent of foreign students had a U.S. source as their prime source of funds. Of these, 9 percent had their U.S. academic institution as their primary resource, while only 2 percent cited the U.S. Government as their primary resource. The remaining

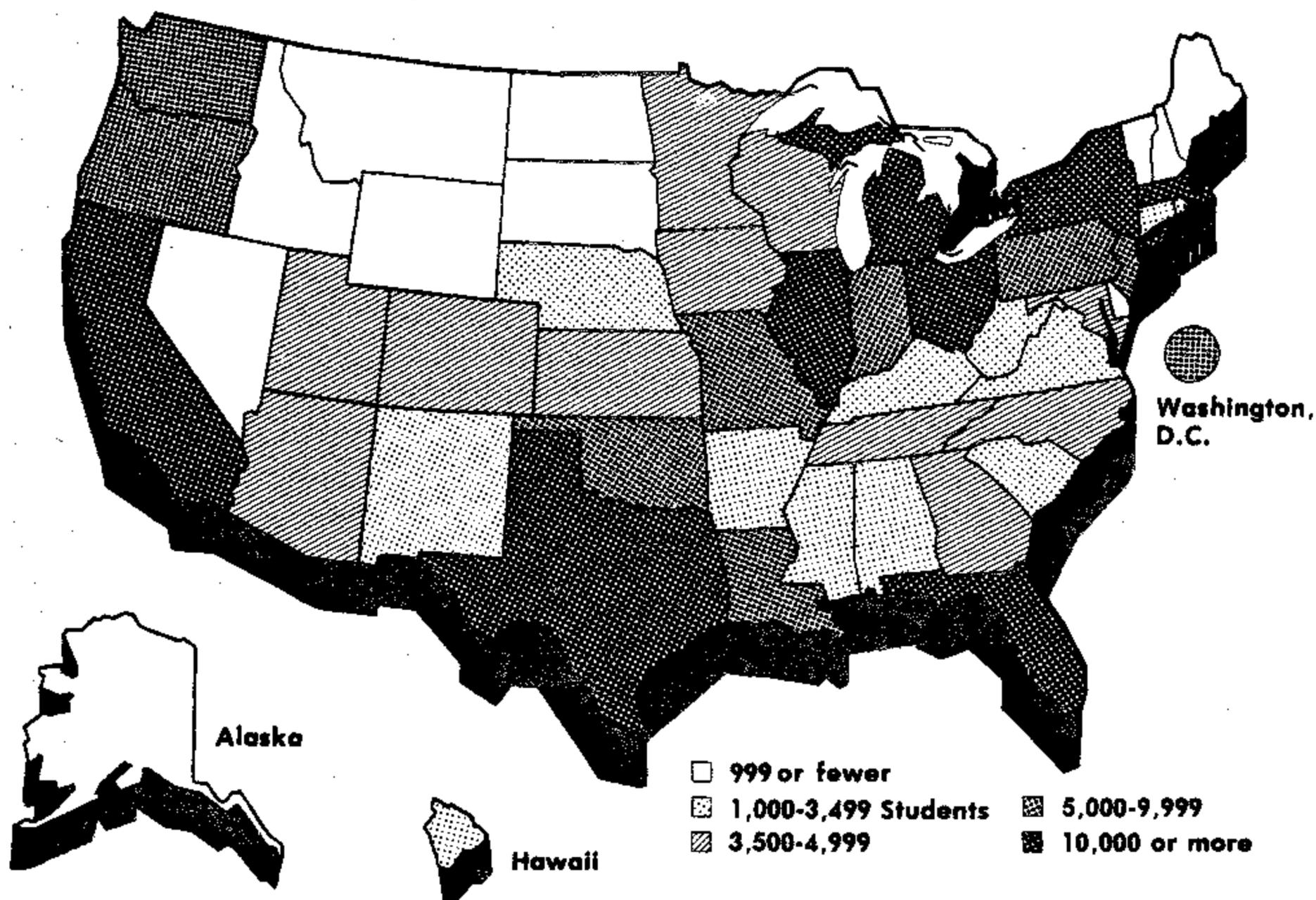
83 percent of foreign students received their primary funding from home country sources. As recently as 1976-77, U.S. sources were the primary support of 28 percent of foreign students.

To carry out the survey, IIE polled 3,205 academic institutions, of which 3,030 (95%) responded; 2,734 reported foreign students who came from 184 countries and territories. Thirty percent originated from South and East Asia, and 27 percent from the Middle East, while Latin America was home for 16 percent, Africa 12 percent, Europe 8 percent, with North America and Oceania accounting for the remainder.

Iran was followed by Taiwan (19,460 students), Nigeria, Canada, Japan, Venezuela, Saudi Arabia, Hong Kong, India and Lebanon as nations with the greatest numbers of foreign students in the U.S. The presence of four OPEC nations among the top ten countries of origin indicates the high priority the oil-rich nations place on education.



Foreign Students in the United States 1980/81



As recently as 1968-69, OPEC states accounted for 101,625 students—33 percent of all foreign students.

Engineering, business and management were the most popular fields, followed by social and natural sciences, mathematics and computer sciences, the arts, the humanities, education, health and agriculture. Engineering and business subjects have steadily increased in popularity relative to the sciences and humanities.

California had the most foreign students, with over 52,000, trailed by New York (26,059), Texas, Florida, Massachusetts, Illinois, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and the District of Columbia. New York, which led the nation in number of foreign students when the survey began 26 years ago, has been superseded by California. Over the past quarter-century, the Northeast and Midwest have declined substantially as the regions with the most foreign students, while the Sunbelt states have shown large increases.

Miami-Dade Community College had the largest international student population

(4,520), followed by the University of Southern California, Columbia University, Los Angeles City College, Texas Southern University, the Universities of Wisconsin at Madison, Michigan at Ann Arbor, Northeastern University, Boston University, and the University of California at Los Angeles.

IIE also surveyed foreign students enrolled in intensive English language programs. Many international students begin their U.S. academic careers with English language training; 22,897 were reported as doing so in 1980-81.

The IIE Census of Foreign Students was conducted with the guidance of the Interassociational Committee on Data Collection—composed of representatives of the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers, the Institute of International Education, and the National Association for Foreign Student Affairs—with financial support from the U.S. International Communication Agency.

Copies of *Open Doors 1980-81* are available from the Office of Communications, IIE, 809 U.N. Plaza, New York City 10017 for \$20.00 postpaid.