

Chinese Communist Party (CCP) Threat to American Universities

1. Confucius Institutes (CI) can stifle academic freedom and censor political debate

- In the last 15 years, the Chinese government has opened more than 100 CIs in the United States.
- Confucius classrooms are currently in more than 500 elementary, middle, and high schools in the United States.
- The FBI has stated that CIs are “ultimately beholden to the Chinese government.”
- CI funding can include conditions that limit a school’s autonomy by censoring political debate and preventing discussions on certain topics, such as Taiwan and Tibet.
- Some CI contracts with U.S. universities forbid activities that violate Chinese law and require the contract remain confidential, limiting effective oversight.

2. China’s talent programs threaten universities through theft of intellectual property and economic espionage

- The Thousand Talent Plan recruits thousands of Chinese researchers and scientists to focus on cutting-edge technology in foreign universities.
- These researchers can gain access to non-public fundamental research that can be used to supercharge Chinese innovation at U.S. taxpayers’ expense.
- Chinese researchers with connections to the People’s Liberation Army and black-listed Chinese companies have been given licenses by the Department of Commerce to work on controlled technology.

3. The budgets of U.S. universities are increasingly reliant on Chinese money

- The PRC is the largest source of foreign donations to U.S. universities since 2013.
- The tuition paid by Chinese students is worth an estimated \$12 billion per year.
- Chinese sources have participated in donations or contracts worth more than \$426 million to U.S. universities since 2011.
- Due to the role of the state in China’s economy, all gifts—even from private entities or individuals—may have connections with the Chinese Communist Party.

4. Chinese Students and Scholars Associations can compromise academic freedom and infringe on privacy

- These associations are on roughly 150 U.S. campuses.
- Chinese embassies and consulates have been found to support these groups, sometimes financially, to influence on-campus debates and speeches.
- These groups are suspected of monitoring other Chinese students, undermining free speech and academic freedom.