

College Bound

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Who Got In?

Albany Tops 23,700 Apps. The U. of Albany in New York received 23,700 applications, more than 100 over last year. Among this year's applicant pool, 700 students applied to study computer engineering and 180 applied to pursue homeland security.

"It's not just enrolling students, it's enrolling students and keeping them happy so they want to stay here and graduate," Timothy Lee, admissions director, told the *Albany Student Press*. Retention of the fall 2015 freshman class hit 84 percent, but Lee said the goal is to get to around 90 percent.

B. C. Steady. Boston C. fielded a total of 28,500 applications for the Class of 2021, down 1 percent from last year. BC admitted 9,200 students, for an acceptance rate of 32 percent. In December, 2,900 students were admitted Early Action from 9,000 applicants, up 5 percent from last year. Admitted students posted a mean SAT score of over 1400 on the new 1600-point scale test and a mean 33 on the ACT.

"When you're even in applications, as we are, there aren't really powerful trends to report upon," said John Mahoney, director of undergraduate admission.

Boston U. Admits 25 Percent. Boston U. received 60,815 applications for the Class of 2021, and admitted 25 percent, a record low, for a freshman class of 3,400. About 20 percent of admits are underrepresented minorities. 24 percent are international students. Admitted students posted a high school GPA of 3.8 with SAT scores of 1452 and ACT 32.

According to Kelly Walter, associate vice president and executive director of admissions, students "know they'll be challenged here, they know they will be pushed and stretched in endless ways, and they know they will be

provided with a plethora of opportunities, whether internships or study abroad, and they know they will meet classmates from around the globe."

Bowdoin Admits 13 Percent. Bowdoin C. in Maine received a total of 7,251 applications for the Class of 2021, up 7 percent from last year, and accepted 13.4 percent of applicants. Some 244 students were accepted during the Early Decision process and 11 students through the QuestBridge Scholars program.

"One of my personal goals as dean is to try to de-emphasize what is perceived to be an advantage through Early Decision," said Whitney Soule, dean of admissions, in *The Orient*. "A 25 percent admit rate is much greater than the regular decision rate, but it's still not easy to get in."

Cal State Fullerton Hits 70,000. California State U. Fullerton attracted 70,000 applications this year from high school seniors and transfer students. That is 3 percent more than last year. Applications for the freshman Class of 2021 totaled 45,394.

Colby Apps Surge. For the third consecutive year, applications to Colby C. in Maine jumped, this year by 14 percent over last year and up 117 percent since 2014. Colby fielded 11,190 applications for the Class of 2021, including those from 135 countries around the world. Applications from students of color have increased almost 200 percent since 2014.

"The best students are attracted to working with Colby's extraordinary faculty, who light up the classroom, engage in discipline and world changing scholarship, and connect students to research, global and work opportunities that position our graduates to contribute

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International Interest Remains High?

Some admissions officers have expressed concern about whether the attempted bans against immigration from several nations would cast a pall over international student enrollment.

In February, *The Wall Street Journal* conducted a survey of 12 of the top 20 schools for foreign-student enrollment. *The Journal* found that "nearly all received more international applications for freshman admission this year than last year."

For example, international applications were up at Boston U. by 3 percent, up at Duke U. by 11.6 percent, up at NYU by 7.3 percent, up at Northeastern U. by 5.4 percent, up at Pennsylvania State U. by 14.2 percent and up at the U. of Southern California by 3.7 percent.

But applications were down at Michigan State U. by 1.5 percent and the U. of Washington by 4.1 percent.

In fact, a mid-March report from the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admission Officers found that 40 percent of the 250 American colleges and universities that it surveyed are reporting an overall decline in applications from international students.

A March report from the Institute of International Education concurred, finding that 39 percent of U.S. universities are reporting a decline in international applicants for the fall, while 35 percent saw an increase. The survey reveals that undergraduate applications from India declined 26 percent, and undergraduate applications from China fell 25 percent. ■

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to the world in meaningful ways,” said Matt Proto, vice president and dean of admissions and financial aid.

Duke Admits 7 Percent Regular Decision.

Duke U. received a total of more than 34,400 applications for the Class of 2021. Almost 31,000 applied Regular Decision and 2,255 of them were accepted in March, a record low 7.3 percent. The admission rate for the 3,516 Early Decision applicants for this year was 24.5 percent. Duke participated in the QuestBridge Scholars program for the first time this year, admitting 36 students Early Decision.

Emory Up By 19 Percent. Emory U. in Georgia received 24,114 total applications to its U.S. and Oxford C. programs, 19 percent more than last year and an all-time high. It admitted 5,172 to Emory C. and 4,089 to Oxford C. Admitted students come from all 50 states and 65 countries. The average SAT score for admitted Emory C. students is 1475, the average ACT is 32.3. “We’re really seeing growth on all fronts,” said John Latting, associate vice provost for enrollment.

Florida State Up 16 Percent. Florida State U. received a record 42,325 applications for the summer and fall semesters, 16 percent more than last year. FSU projects that 6,400 fresh-

men will actually enroll. The top five majors selected by this year’s admitted freshman class are biological sciences, pre-health professions, business, engineering and psychology.

Georgetown Admits 15 Percent. Georgetown U. received a record 21,459 Regular Decision applications to the Class of 2021, and accepted about 15 percent, down from last year’s 16.4 percent. Georgetown also received 7,822 Early Action applications, and admitted 11.9 percent, down from last year’s 13 percent. Total applications were up 7.3 percent this year. The increase is expected to reduce the number of transfer students accepted this year

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Brown Admits 8 Percent. Brown University in Providence attracted 32,724 applications for its Class of 2021, an increase from last year’s 32,280 and an all-time high. Brown admitted 2,722 students from that pool, including 695 who were admitted Early Decision, for an admit rate of 8.3 percent. Students in the admitted class come from all 50 states and 77 nations around the world.

Some 97 percent of admitted students are in the top 10 percent of their high school class, 47 percent identify as students of color. About 64 percent of admitted students intend to apply for financial aid. The top 10 intended concentrations include engineering, biology, biochemistry, computer science, economics, political science, BEO (business, entrepreneurship and organizations) English, mathematics and neuroscience.

Logan Powell, dean of admission, said that this year’s pool was “remarkably consistent with where we’ve been in previous years across nearly every demographic category we consider.”

Early Word From Columbia. Columbia University in New York City snail mailed its decisions March 30 with admissions officers carrying the buckets of decisions out to the campus College Walk for distribution, according to the *Columbia Spectator*. The Office of Undergraduate Admissions received 37,389 applications for the Class of 2021, a 3 percent increase from last year. It is the largest applicant pool in Columbia’s history. The admit rate for Columbia College and the School of Engineering and Applied Science was 5.8 percent this year, down from 6 percent last year.

Cornell Admits 12 Percent. Cornell University in Upstate New York received 47,038 applications for its Class of 2021, the most in school history. Cornell admitted 5,889 students from the pool and placed another 5,713 students on its wait list. Over 30 percent

of the new class self-identified as underrepresented minorities. International students make up 9 percent of the admitted class, hailing from 96 nations, with Canada, China, India, the Republic of Korea, Singapore and the United Kingdom sending the most. The new class also includes 700 first-generation college students and more than 200 recruited athletes.

“This year’s admitted class continues to raise the bar on what it means to be outstanding,” said Shawn Felton, director of undergraduate admissions. “I am pleased that we are, once again, well on our way toward our goal to broaden and diversify the incoming class.”

Dartmouth Admits 10 Percent. Dartmouth College in New Hampshire received 20,021 applications for its Class of 2021, a decrease of 3.2 percent from last year, and offered admission to 2,092 students. Early Decision applications reached 1,999, a 3.7 percent increase over last year. Of those, 555 students were accepted early, and represent 47 percent of the new class. Some 255 accepted students hail from 63 foreign countries.

A total of 547 admitted students were valedictorian or salutatorian of their high school class. Their mean SAT scores jumped 17 points over last year to an all-time high of 1495. The ACT mean remained at 33.

“This is a really dynamic group of students,” says Lee Coffin, dean of admissions and financial aid. “They are intellectually engaged, curious, adventuresome, kind and imaginative, and they will be a tremendous addition to the Dartmouth community.”

Penn Admits 9 Percent. The University of Pennsylvania fielded 40,413 applications to the Class of 2021 and admitted 3,699 of them, a record-low 9.15 percent. Penn also announced that it is increasing its financial aid budget by \$9.4 million. “The goal is that more students will qualify for financial aid,” said Elaine

Pappas-Varas, director of financial aid. “We commit to meeting need 100 percent without loans,” added Karen Hamilton, a university spokesperson.

Princeton Admits 6 Percent. Princeton University in New Jersey received 31,056 applications and offered admission to 1,890 students, for an admit rate of 6.1 percent. Some 770 of the 1,890 offers were extended in December as part of Princeton’s single-choice Early Action process. The targeted class size for the Class of 2021 is about 1,308 students. “We applied the same standards in admitting each group,” said Janet Rapelye, dean of admission.

Over 12,000 applicants posted a perfect 4.0 high school GPA, while 13,000 scored 1400 or higher on the SAT. Also, 50.5 percent of the newly-admitted Princetonians are women, the highest portion in school history. About 20 percent of those admitted will be first-generation college students. Admitted students come from 49 states and 79 countries, with 12.1 percent of the admitted pool from outside U.S. borders.

Yale’s Largest Class Ever. Yale University in Connecticut attracted 32,900 applications. Yale offered admission to 2,272 of the students who come from 50 states and 68 countries. With the opening of Pauli Murray and Benjamin Franklin colleges this fall, the incoming freshman class is scheduled to become the largest in school history with 1,550 students, 15 percent larger than recent classes. Over the next four years, Yale plans to expand its enrollment from 5,400 to 6,200 undergraduate students.

“Even with a significantly larger cohort of admitted students, we have not sacrificed anything to admit an extremely qualified group of students with a remarkably broad range of backgrounds, identities and experiences,” said Jeremiah Quinlan, dean of undergraduate admissions. ■

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from 172 to 150 admits. Charles Deacon, dean of undergraduate admissions, told *The Hoya* that he expects the freshman class size to increase slightly from 1,580 students to about 1,600 students.

Gettysburg's International Reach. Gettysburg C. in Pennsylvania received the second-most applications in school history, 6,300, from 46 states and 106 countries. "This was a fantastic applicant pool to review," said Gail Sweezy, director of admissions. "The students were academically talented and demonstrated high levels of extracurricular diversity."

Haverford College Admits 19 Percent. Haverford C. outside Philadelphia received a record 4,424 applications, and offered admissions to 859 for an admit rate of 19 percent. Almost half of them are students of color, and 14 percent are international students from 40 different countries. A full 95 percent of them are in the top 10 percent of their class, with the median new SAT score of 740 critical reading and 750 math. The median ACT is 34.

"All of us in admission felt inspired to read about each one of these remarkable students, and we are thrilled to be inviting so many extraordinary people to join the Haverford community," said Jess Lord, vice president and dean of admission and financial aid.

Johns Hopkins Admits 2,543. Johns Hopkins U. received 26,578 applications and offered admissions to 2,542 students to the Class of 2021. Admitted students include one who developed a sea turtle protection system, an award-winning student journalist, a student who organized an effort to conserve energy in her home state and a student who created a video series about American government.

"This admitted class is notable not only for their academic achievements, but for the way they are pursuing issues that mean something to them personally," said Ellen Kim, dean of undergraduate admissions.

About 46 percent of the new class is male. Students come from 48 states and 52 nations. The top states from which admitted students travel are California, New York, New Jersey, Florida and Maryland. The top nations that students represent are Canada, India, South Korea, the United Kingdom and China. The average high school GPA is 3.93.

Macalester Admits 39 Percent. Macalester C. in Minnesota admitted 5,901 students to its Class of 2021, or about 39 percent of applicants. About 75 percent of admitted students rank in the top 10 percent of their high school class. And 33 percent are U.S. students of color. The

Harvard Admits But 5 Percent

Harvard College received a record 39,506 applications this year, up 1 percent from last year. It admitted 2,056 students, including the 938 accepted last December under its Early Action program. Over 15 percent of the admitted students are the first in their families to go to college. African Americans represent 14.6 percent of the admits while Asian Americans make up 22.2 percent, and Latino students accounted for 11.6 percent of admitted students.

Just over 26 percent of the admitted students are interested in social sciences, 19 percent in computer science and engineering, 19 percent in biological sciences, 15 percent in humanities, 7 percent in mathematics and nearly 7 percent in physical sciences, while 5 percent are undecided. ■

median ACT is 32. Students from California, Minnesota, Illinois, New York and Wisconsin sent the most applications.

"It's been a somewhat unusual year," Jeffrey Allen, director of admissions, told *The Mac Weekly*. For one thing, this was the first year that Macalester participated in the Quest Bridge Scholars program, joining 37 other peer institutions in targeting high-achieving, low-income students.

MIT Decisions on Pi Day. The Massachusetts Institute of Technology sent admission offers to 1,438 students on March 14, International Pi Day. They came from a pool of 20,247 students, for an acceptance rate of 7.1 percent, down from last year's 7.8 percent. Admitted students come from all 50 states and 62 nations. A quarter of them identify as members of underrepresented minority groups, and 18 percent will be the first in their families to attend college. One third has won national or international academic distinctions. MIT hopes to enroll 1,100 students in its next freshman class, down slightly from last year's 1,120.

"MIT is fortunate to attract applicants from so many of the world's most promising students, all of whom seemed destined to change the world. It is a very difficult choice to select so few of these many qualified applicants," said Matt McGann, director of admissions.

Northwestern Admits 9 Percent. Northwestern U. outside Chicago fielded 37,255 applications, and admitted 3,371 students, for an admit rate of 9 percent. This is the eighth consecutive year the acceptance rate has dropped. "We want an entering class that is diverse in all ways, and has the appropriate number of students in each of our undergraduate schools," said Al Cabbage, a university spokesman.

Ohio U. Up Dramatically. Ohio U. attracted 35 percent more applications this year than last. In part, that's because this year the school joined 700 other institutions throughout the country using the Common Application. Ohio U. expects to enroll about 4,500 students in the fall, according to Craig Cornell, senior vice president and provost.

Skidmore Hits Record. Applications to Skidmore C. in Saratoga Springs, New York, topped 10,000 this year. Freshmen applications have increased 75 percent over the last five years. Skidmore also received a record number of Early Decision applicants, 622, for the Class of 2021.

Stanford Attracts 44,000 Apps. Stanford U. attracted a pool of 44,073 applicants and accepted 2,050 students. That includes 721 applicants who were accepted last December through its Early Action program. Admitted students come from all 50 states and 82 countries from around the world. Over 18 percent of the admitted class will be the first in their families to attend college. Students from families with total annual income below \$125,000 will likely pay no tuition. "We continue to be awed and humbled by the interest Stanford receives from outstanding young people around the world," said Richard H. Shaw, dean of admission and financial aid.

Swarthmore Also Has the Most Ever. In Pennsylvania, Swarthmore C. attracted 6,614 applications, the most in school history, and sent letters of admission to the 929 prospective students. It expects to enroll about 391 in the fall. Of the admitted class, 36 percent are valedictorians and salutatorians of their high school class. And 58 percent are in the top 2 percent of their high school class.

Admitted students hail from 49 states and 63 nations. Some 15 percent are among the first in their families to attend college. Engineering is the most popular intended major followed by biology, political science, economics and English literature.

"We are excited by the growth in interest from students overseas, where a residential liberal arts education is increasingly seen as the best preparation for creating engaged, socially-conscious critical thinkers," said Jim Bock, vice president and dean of admissions.

Temple Goes For Four. For the fourth year in a row, Temple U. in Philadelphia attracted a record pool of applicants. This year, 36,840 students sent in their applications for the Class of 2021. Temple enrolls approximately 5,100 freshmen each year. In February, 3,100 students visited campus on Experience Temple Day.

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“Temple continues to offer a unique blend of excellence, affordability and diversity in one of our nation’s great cities,” said Richard M. Englert, Temple’s president.

USC Admits 16 Percent. The U. of Southern California attracted more than 56,000 applications, an increase of 3.5 percent over last year. USC admitted 8,980 students or about 16 percent of applicants.

Virginia Admits 27 Percent. The U. of Virginia received 36,800 Regular Decision applications, about 4,400 more than last year. Overall, UVA accepted 27 percent, down 2.9 percent from last year.

The acceptance rate for in-state students was 39.1 percent, for out-of-state students it was 21.9 percent. Some 93 percent of students were ranked in the top 10 percent of their high school class. The prospective Class of 2021 comes from all 50 states and 89 different nations, up from 75 countries last year. About 36.4 percent of accepted students are members of minority groups. This year, 16 percent of

applicants were placed on the wait list, slightly more than last year. “These citizen scholars represent the very best of their generation,” said Gregory W. Roberts, dean of admissions.

Wake Forest ED Up 8 Percent. Wake Forest U. in North Carolina received nearly 13,000 applications. Some 2,000 of them were Early Decision, 8 percent more than last year. Wake Forest offered admission to 750 from the ED pool, or 55 percent of its new class of 1,350 students. That meant Wake Forest offered admission to only 25 percent of its Regular Decision students.

About 54 percent of the new class is made up of women, 34 percent are students of color, 22 percent come from North Carolina, while 7 percent are international applicants representing 48 nations, according to Martha Blevins Allman, dean of admissions.

Wash U. Tops 30,000. Washington U. in St. Louis attracted 30,464 applicants for its Class of 2021, a 4 percent increase over last year and 28 percent increase since 2008. African Americans accounted for 10 percent of the pool, while Latino students accounted for 13

percent. Since 2014, Wash U. has doubled the percentage of African-American students in its freshman classes. Additionally, 12 percent of the applicant pool is eligible for Pell grants.

Julie Shimabukuro, director of admissions, says that is in part due to a strategic push to engage community groups wherever the university recruits.

Ronne Turner, vice provost of admission and financial aid, added, “While we’re trying to enroll more underrepresented students, we’re not getting bigger. So, it’s still a very selective process and we’re trying to admit the most well-prepared students who can be successful here.”

Wellesley Admits 54 Percent Students of Color. Wellesley C. attracted more than 5,700 applications this year, a 17 percent jump from last year and a 39 percent increase from 10 years ago. It admitted 21 percent of them. About 54 percent are students of color, with 28 percent coming from underrepresented U.S. racial or ethnic minority groups. Some 10 percent are international citizens, and 45 percent speak a non-English language at home. Thirteen percent are daughters, granddaughters, nieces, sisters or cousins of Wellesley students and alumni. Some 15 percent will be the first in their families to receive postsecondary education.

“We are thrilled with the depth, quality and diversity of this year’s applicant pool,” said Joy St. John, dean of admission and financial aid. “... We were humbled by the stories of the extraordinary students who applied to Wellesley.”

Williams Admits 30 Percent From Community-Based Access Groups. Williams C. attracted an applicant pool of 8,593 students, and offered admission to 1,253 of them. Of admitted students, 95 are international students representing 47 different nations. Among American students, 50 percent identify as students of color: 220 are Asian American, 214 are black, 175 are Latino and 17 are Native Americans.

The average test scores on the redesigned SAT are 722 in evidence-based reading and writing and 721 in math. The average “super-scored” ACT is 33. “Among those admitted to the Class of 2021, nearly 30 percent are affiliated with a community-based organization focused on college access,” such as QuestBridge, Williams said. The target class size is 550 students.

“This year’s applicant pool was the largest and strongest in the college’s history,” Richard Nesbitt, director of admission, noted. ■

FINANCIAL AID MATTERS

Student Debt Default Rate Underreported. The U.S. Department of Education recently admitted that it has under-reported the rate of student defaults at most colleges and trade schools. Subsequently, a *Wall Street Journal* investigation of data from 1,000 colleges, universities and trade schools found that at least half of students had defaulted or had failed to pay down at least one dollar on their debt within seven years.

Free Tuition at San Francisco. In February, San Francisco Mayor Ed Lee announced that the city will provide free tuition to all resident students at the City C. of San Francisco. The plan will cost the city about \$5.4 million per year. The city also voted to give the City College half a million dollars to improve its capacity and systems. The City C. of San Francisco offers more than 50 academic programs and AA degrees.

“This is just the beginning of our free City College program,” Jane Kim, San Francisco Supervisor, told *The San Francisco Examiner*.

Little Return For Online Education Investment? “The Returns to Online Postsecondary Education,” a study by Carolyn M. Hoxby, Stanford U., found little evidence that study-

ing online leads to jobs in booming industries. It does lead to higher wages, but not enough to recoup what students and taxpayers paid. Additionally, colleges did not see any significant cost-saving from offering education online. And students paid more for tuition than if they had studied in person.

California “Dreamers” Skip Financial Aid For Fear of Deportation. The number of undocumented immigrant students in California applying for college financial aid has dropped more than 40 percent, mercurynews.com found. Application for financial aid from these students dropped from 34,162 last year to only 19,768 this year. “We know the fear is real, and we see it in the numbers,” Assemblyman José Medina told a state higher education committee.

\$41 Billion Donated To Colleges & Universities. Last year, U.S. colleges and universities received a record \$41 billion in donations. That represented an increase in giving of 1.7 percent over last year. However, that was the smallest increase since 2010, according to the Council for Aid to Education. As usual, Harvard U. led the way with \$1.1 billion raised during fiscal year 2016, followed by Stanford U. and the U. of Southern California. ■

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