

College Bound

ISSUES & TRENDS FOR THE COLLEGE ADMISSIONS ADVISOR

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International Students Reach One Million Mark

FOR THE FIRST TIME, the number of international students studying in the United States has topped one million this year. During the 2015-16 academic year, 1,044,000 international students, or about 5 percent of the total student population, were pursuing their studies in U.S. higher education institutions. That's a 7 percent increase over the previous year, according to the 2016 *Open Doors Report on International Educational Exchange* issued by the Institute of International Education (IIE) in partnership with the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

About 32 percent of all international students studying in the U.S. come from China, followed by 16 percent from India, 6 percent from South Korea and Saudi Arabia, 3 percent from Canada and 2 percent from Mexico, Brazil, Japan, Taiwan and Vietnam. IIE says the nearly 25 percent increase in students from India is driven by the study of STEM subjects.

Also, more than 313,000 U.S. students received credit last year for studying abroad, up 3 percent from the previous year. Additionally, 22,000 students in 2014-15 went overseas for noncredit work, internships or volunteering to gain practical experience. ■

Financial News Tops 2016

Tuition is Up "Moderately." The College Board reports that tuition and fees rose moderately this year. For in-state students at public four-year colleges and universities, the increase was 2.4 percent to \$9,650 in 2016-17. For out-of-state students at public four-year colleges and universities, the average increase in tuition and fees went up 3.6 percent to \$24,930. The average tuition and fees at private nonprofit four-year institutions increased by 3.6 percent to \$33,480. The average at two-year colleges increased by 2.3 percent to \$3,520. These tuition and fee increases continue to outpace "the growth in financial aid, family incomes and the average price of other goods and services."

Other Admission News

Antioch "Smaller Than Hoped." The new Class of 2020 at Antioch C. in Ohio is composed of 44 new arrivals, well below the 80 students the college hoped to attract and who had indicated they were coming. The size of the class is a "number the college can work with, but that is not ideal," said Lori Collins-Hall, Antioch's provost. News of Antioch's new academic accreditation came too late in the recruiting cycle to make a difference this year. However, college officials are optimistic about next year based on that accreditation.

New Antioch students come from 15 states, with half from Ohio. They had an average high school GPA of "B." About 46 percent of the new class is first-generation. New students were attracted by Antioch's small student-to-teacher ratio, its co-op program and its closing-reopening saga, according to ysnews.com.

Fairfield's Largest Pool. Fairfield U. in Connecticut made school history this year with its largest application pool on record, 11,055 students. Out of that group, 408 males and

648 females from 23 states and 39 countries matriculated as the Class of 2020. Some 37 are graduates of Jesuit high schools, while 148 have a legacy connection to Fairfield. Most new students will study in the College of Arts and Sciences, the nursing programs and the School of Business.

Georgia Engineering Adds Admission Process. The engineering program at the U. of Georgia has become so popular that the College of Engineering will implement a formal admissions procedure. The program, which began in 2012, offers eight undergraduate courses of study. It enrolled close to 600 freshman and transfer students this semester. Students must now start UGA as intended engineering majors and complete three semesters of core engineering classes before applying to be a full-fledged engineering major. The admissions process is similar to that for gaining admittance to UGA's schools of business, and journalism and mass com-

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Aid Amounts Increase. The College Board also noted that undergraduate students received an average of \$14,460 in financial aid in 2015-16, including \$8,390 in grants from all sources, \$4,720 in federal loans, \$1,290 in education tax credits and deductions and \$60 in federal work study.

Total Pell Grant expenditures increased from \$15.5 billion in 2005-06 to \$39.1 billion in 2010-11, but then declined to \$28.2 billion by 2015-16. The number of Pell Grant recipients declined for the fourth consecutive year. But the 7.6 million Pell Grant recipients represent a 46 percent increase from 5.2 million a decade earlier. To view the report, see <http://trends.collegeboard.org>.

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munication. For the time being, there will be no cap on how many students are admitted each semester.

Macalester Joins With QuestBridge. Macalester C. in Minneapolis has joined its Minnesota peer Carleton C. and 36 other colleges and universities across the country as a partner with the QuestBridge program. QuestBridge identifies high-achieving, low-income students in high school, helps prepare them to apply to college and introduces them to opportunities with its partner schools. Next year, Macalester will receive between 250 and 400 applications from QuestBridge Scholars and will admit 40 of them, with the goal of enrolling eight.

Lumina Advocates New Postsecondary Learning System

The Lumina Foundation in Indianapolis released a strategic plan for 2017-2020 to meet “Goal 2025” that calls for 60 percent of working-age Americans to earn degrees, certificates or other high-quality postsecondary credentials. The report notes that the U.S. economy added 11.5 million net new jobs for workers with postsecondary education since 2011, but only 80,000 for those with only a high school diploma or less.

But the U.S. is on target to meet only 60 percent of the 2025 goal and that could have significantly negative impact on the nation’s economy. “Our work has taught us that modest, incremental improvements will not suffice; but rather, a fundamental redesign is required,” said Jaime Merisotis, Lumina’s president and CEO. “We must move from a system that is centered on institutions and organized around time, to one that is centered on students, organized around high-quality learning and focused on closing attainment gaps. In short, we must build a true system of postsecondary learning.”

Lumina’s priorities for action include:

- A postsecondary learning system in which the top priorities are completion of quality credentials, affordability and closing equity gaps;
- A new national system of transparent, high-quality postsecondary credentials;
- A national expansion of competency-based learning; pathways to initial credentials, including certificates and certifications for adults without postsecondary education;
- An integrated, quality assurance system for postsecondary learning.

“The time has come for the United States to make high-quality postsecondary education a national reality and expectation for all,” Merisotis argues. ■

Tufts To Accept Coalition For Access Applications. The Coalition for Access, Affordability and Success reports that since it’s new application site opened last April, it has been viewed by 347,490 unique users. And 82,336 individuals have created Coalition accounts. As of mid-October, 48,960 students were working on applications using the program.

Meanwhile, Tufts C. in Massachusetts is accepting Coalition for Access, Affordability and Success applications for the Class of 2021. They currently also use the traditional Common Application and the QuestBridge application.

“The Common App went through a lot of technical issues to the point that colleges weren’t sure if applications would arrive on time and according to deadlines,” Susan Ardizonni, director of undergraduate admissions, told tuftsdaily.com. “Although it all worked out, a group of colleges started discussing how it was risky to have only one admission platform. So that was what started it.”

Admission counselor Sean Ashburn added, “The way the Coalition addresses the issue of affordability is that all member institutions have a baseline commitment established toward providing financial aid or affordable tuition. Students can thus use the Coalition as a research tool to help them make an informed decision about the colleges that are financially

suitable for them.”

Yale To Admit More Students. Yale U. announced that it plans to admit 175 additional students to the Class of 2021. The size of the freshman class is expected to be about 1,550 students. Therefore, Yale expects to admit between 300 and 400 more students than last year. According to Jeremiah Quinlan, dean of undergraduate admissions, this will cause Yale’s acceptance rate to increase. Last year, Yale received 31,455 applications.

P.S. “Edmission” Evaluations. Edmission, founded earlier this year, offers “low-cost, high-quality personalized college admission advice to high school students.” For \$99, students can have their college admission profiles evaluated against the criteria of their preferred colleges. Students receive results within 72 hours, “including in-depth, personalized recommendations in categories like academic performance, standardized test scores and extracurricular activities.”

The results are “intended to provide an opportunity for the students to gain insights into their admission profiles so they can highlight their strengths and identify ways to improve their admission chance.” See, <https://www.edmission.us/>. ■

ENROLLMENT TRENDS

Indiana’s Minority Enrollment Soars. Hispanic enrollment at all the campuses of Indiana U. jumped by 142 percent between 2005-2015. And Asian student enrollment increased by 103 percent, while African American enrollment grew by 21 percent.

Dual Enrollment Good For Recruitment. In 2011, more than two million students participated in dual enrollment programs, up 75 percent from 2002. According to the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO), 78 percent of higher education institutions offered dual enrollment options during the 2015-16 academic year and 86 percent accepted dual enrollment credit for transfer.

“Our findings show that institutions view dual enrollment as a critical strategy to boost student success and support the institution’s enrollment goals,” said Wendy Kilgore, AACRAO director of research. “Dual enrollment is no longer just for high-achieving students,” said Ellen Wagner, vice president of research at Hobsons, a group that works with students to identify their strengths and create academic plans.

Michigan’s \$85 Million Diversity Plan. The U. of Michigan, Ann Arbor, unveiled an

\$85 million, five-year plan to promote diversity on campus. “Our community can be complete only when all members feel welcome,” said Mark Schlissel, president.

Portland C. C. Down 7 Percent. Enrollment at Oregon’s largest community college declined by 7.6 percent during the 2015-16 academic year, despite the Oregon Promise that guarantees high school graduates free access to community college. PCC’s enrollment hit the high point of 94,634 during the 2011-12 school year.

“The macro trend has always been that when the economy improves, less people enroll in community college because jobs are plentiful and they don’t need extra training or schooling,” a school representative explained.

Tennessee State U. Raises Standards. Tennessee State U. is instituting higher requirements for new students beginning next fall. Admissions officers say they have two goals: limiting the number of students who find college too difficult and attracting more high-performing students who will graduate. TSU seeks to bring its admission standards in line with other historically black colleges and universities. Future in-state students will need to post a 2.5 GPA and a minimum score of 19 on the ACT. ■

FINANCIAL NEWS

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Student Borrowing Decreases. For the fifth year in a row, student borrowing has decreased, 14 percent over that time span, according to the new report from the College Board. The annual "Trends in Higher Education" also reports that student loan default is most prevalent among students with a relatively small debt, but who leave school without a degree or certificate.

"We should be targeting our resources toward finding solutions for the students who need it most," said Justin Draeger, president and CEO of the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators.

African American Grads More In Debt Than White Students.

A new study from the Brookings Institution found that four years after graduation, African American college graduates owe twice as much in student loan debt than white students. Black graduates are also three times more likely to default on these loans. Black 2008 graduates owed an average of \$52,726 in student debt in 2012. Hispanic students owed \$29,949. Whites owed \$28,000. And Asian-American students owed the least, \$26,253. The researchers also found that the disparity has grown dramatically in recent decades. Also, new repayment options such as the Revised Pay-As-You-Earn plan may alleviate the worst consequences of racial debt disparities. But, the report said, they fail to address underlying causes such as inequality resulting from historical discrimination, ongoing discrimination in the labor market or predatory recruitment by for-profit schools.

"Do Your Research Or Get Stuck With Tens Of Thousands In Debt."

The headline of Peter Dunn's recent *USA Today's* Money advice column says it all. "Shrewd college kids think like smart car shoppers. Do your research before stepping on the lot, or get stuck with tens of thousands in debt." Dunn writes, "No matter how complicated your life is now, you simply cannot adopt the 'we'll figure it out when we get there' methodology of financial planning."

New York's New Financial Aid Information Sheet. New York Governor Andrew M. Cuomo announced that the state's Department of Financial Services is requiring all institutions of higher education and vocational schools in New York to immediately begin providing a uniform "Financial Aid Award Information Sheet" to undergraduate students when responding to financial aid applications. The Sheet should provide a summary of what a school will cost and details of financial aid options. It should supply important data on a school's graduation rate, median borrowing rate and loan default rate.

"Deciding what college to attend and how much debt to incur in pursuit of a higher education is a major life decision and students deserve to have all the facts," Cuomo said. "This action will help ensure New York students and their families have all the information they need in a simple, easy-to-understand format that will help them make the best decision for their future."

Current Student Debt. According to The Institute for College Access and Success, 68 percent of seniors who graduated in 2015-16 left school with an average debt of \$30,100.

The situation of students at Ithaca C. in Iowa may tell a typical story. Ithaca's tuition and fees in 1995-96 totaled \$22,079. Last year, tuition and fees had increased to \$55,332. In 1991, 40 percent of Ithaca's first-year students received financial aid from the college. By 2013, that number had soared to 90 percent. The average debt of a college graduate in 2004 was \$17,580. This year at Ithaca, it was \$30,000. These increases mostly resulted from faculty and staff pay increases, rising energy and equipment costs and decreased state appropriations.

"Student loan debt at graduation increases because of a failure of government grants to keep pace with increases in college cost on a per-student basis," Mark Kantrowitz, an expert on student aid, told *The Ithacan*.

"Every student situation is different," explained Lisa Hoskey, director of student financial services. "Some students do not borrow it all. Some students only borrow federal loans. Some students borrow more in private loans to cover costs." ■

SCHOLARSHIP SCOOPS

AMS Freshman Scholarship. The American Meteorological Society Freshman Undergraduate Scholarship Program, which awards stipends between \$2,500 and \$5,000 for the freshman and sophomore years, is open to all high school students. It is designed to encourage study in atmospheric and related sciences. AMS encourages applications from women, minorities and disabled students who are traditionally under-represented in the atmospheric and related oceanic sciences. The deadline is February 3, 2017. See, www.ametsoc.org.

Carleton Received \$20 million For Scholarships. Carleton C. in Minneapolis will use a \$20 million gift from board member Wally Weitz and family to fund scholarships for an additional 40 to 45 students each year. It's

dubbed the 1866 Scholarship Match in honor of the Carleton's 150th anniversary. Weitz challenged others to match the new need-based scholarship endowment.

Mercy Gives Something Back. Mercy C. in Dobbs Ferry, New York, received a \$1 million gift for scholarships from the Give Something Back Foundation. The gift will enable 50 eligible New York high school students of modest means to attend Mercy C. at no cost for tuition, fees and room and board, Mercy president Tim Hall announced.

Formed in 2003, the Give Something Back Foundation provides mentoring and scholarships to academically-driven students of modest means who assume college is not an option. Pell Grant-eligible students are selected in ninth-grade and mentored through high school.

Upon graduation Give Back Scholars attend one of its partner universities or colleges located in Delaware, Illinois, New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania, with the opportunity to graduate in four years with no debt for tuition, fees or room and board.

Westminster's Rural Discovery Scholars.

The Rural Discovery Scholars program at Westminster C. in New Wilmington, Pennsylvania, awards four-year scholarships for students from Pell eligible rural school districts who study science. In addition to the scholarship, students work with peer and faculty mentors.

The goal of the program is to prepare students for the STEM workforce while reducing their debt from attending college. Applications are due January 6, 2017. Interested students should apply for admission to Westminster College and contact Pete Smith at smithpm@westminster.edu for requirements. ■

CURRICULUM CAPSULES

Niagara University's Reconfigured Africana/Black Studies. Niagara U. is reintroducing a reconfigured academic minor in Africana/Black Studies that focuses on the diaspora of African-descended people and cultures. The program's interdisciplinary offerings range across traditional fields of sociology, criminology, history, literature, political sciences, law, communications and education.

Monroe's Police Academy Readiness Program. Monroe C. in Rochester, New York, enrolled 22 students in its new Police Academy ScholarS (PASS) program to better prepare them "to join the New York Police Department (NYPD)." The two-year program was designed and is taught by former and active members of the NYPD.

"Monroe's PASS Program is designed

to grant promising future police academy recruits, especially women and minorities, the additional support, training and instruction that can see them successfully through the Police Academy and beyond," said Michele Rodney, dean of Monroe's School of Criminal Justice.

Women In Computing Declining. The number of women in the computing workforce could decline from 24 percent to 22 percent by 2025 unless more women pursue degrees in computer science, according to a new report, "Cracking the Gender Code," by Accenture. But the non-profit afterschool group Girls Who Code also said that the number of women in computing could reach 39 percent by 2025 if more women are recruited to study computer studies now. ■

Campus Life

How Did America's Youth Vote? According to Tufts U.'s Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement (CIRCLE), the youth vote of 2016 was more racially and culturally diverse than ever before. Young people voted at a similar rate to 2012, about 50 percent, and their votes paralleled those of the general population. The youth vote was slightly higher, 55 percent, in 11 battleground states. In 2016, less than four in 10 young voters identified with the Democrat party and less than three in 10 identified with the Republican party.

President-elect Donald J. Trump lost the youth vote by 37 percent to 55 percent for Hillary Clinton. The president-elect won support from young white voters, especially with a surge from young white male voters, also evangelicals and those in rural areas. Some of them voted for President Obama in 2012. Hillary Clinton won by large margins among unmarried young women and youth of color.

"We must remember that youth civic development and engagement is a year-round effort and multiple stakeholders in each community need to commit to engaging youth, including but not only campaigns and parties," said Kei Kawashima-Ginsberg, CIRCLE director.

Student Anxiety Increases. Seventeen percent of college students were diagnosed with or treated for anxiety problems during the past year, up from 11.6 percent in 2011. Another 13.9 percent were diagnosed with or treated for depression, up from 10.7 percent in 2011, according to the American College Health Association. And counseling centers across the nation are also treating more serious illnesses,

including more students coming to college with long psychiatric histories, according to *The Wall Street Journal*.

Students are "overwhelmed with stress," Micky M. Sharma, director of Ohio State's Student Life Counseling and Consultation Services, told the paper. "The coping, the resiliency is not where we want it to be. That's a bad combination." According to the *Journal*, "College counseling centers are struggling to respond as more students seek help..."

Bronx C.C. Opens Food Pantry. Hunger is a problem on many American campuses and some colleges and universities have responded. Last month, Bronx C. C. opened a food pantry to provide eligible students with free food for their households. The pantry was conceived after the student support office reported that 70 percent of those it served were in extreme need of food. "We want to retain students and help them persist to graduation," said DeDra Polite, director of BCC's Single Stop student support office. The City U. of New York operates similar pantries on other CUNY campuses.

Student Shoppers. The hours of 8 p.m. and 10 p.m. are the busiest for student shoppers, according to research by UNIDAYS, "the world's largest student affinity network." According to the group, 68 percent of students buy shoes, while 62 percent buy beauty and grooming products, 53 percent spend money on restaurant food, 47 percent on takeout, 42 percent on hair products, 36 percent on "party wear." But only 28 percent said they spend money on books. ■

NEWS YOU CAN USE

SUNY Eliminates Criminal Questions. Trustees of the State U. of New York voted to remove the felony questions from admissions applications to any of its 64 campuses. Under the new policy, the institution is required to ask about the felony history of admitted students who seek to live on campus or enroll in programs that include clinical components, field experiences, internships or study abroad. Applicants can be denied services if the school can show that including them would pose an "unreasonable" safety risk.

Linked-In Applicants. Some "media experts" are advising high school seniors "to take control of their online personas by creating elaborate profiles on LinkedIn," according to the November 6 *New York Times*. "They are going to click on your profile," Alan Katzman, chief executive of Social Assurity, told *The Times*. The company works with high school students in shaping their online images.

In 2013, LinkedIn dropped its minimum age requirement from 18 to 14 years old. Some critics wonder if teenagers should be venturing into an adult world of professional contacts and are concerned about privacy issues. Others worry that LinkedIn is a tool most likely used by affluent students that could further widen the disparity with lower-income applicants.

New Rankings on "Student Outcomes." *The Wall Street Journal* and *Times Higher Education* recently released its list of top U.S. colleges and universities. The "Top Schools For Student Outcomes" were Yale U., Princeton U., Stanford U., Columbia U., Duke U., California Institute of Technology, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, U. of Chicago, U. of Pennsylvania and Vanderbilt U.

The "Top Schools For Engagement" were Dordt C., Brigham Young U., Texas Christian U., Cedarville U., Baylor U., Auburn U., Bowling Green State U., Bradley U., U. of Central Oklahoma, Miami U. (Ohio), Michigan State U. and Swarthmore.

In a separate issue, *The Wall Street Journal* ranked California's top private colleges as follows: Stanford, California Institute of Technology, the U. of Southern California, Pomona C., Claremont McKenna C., Occidental C., Scripps C., Loyola Marymount U., Pepperdine U. and the U. of the Pacific. ■

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

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