

College Bound

ISSUES & TRENDS FOR THE COLLEGE ADMISSIONS ADVISOR

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Admissions Watch

Admit Rates at Many Colleges Lower

Amherst C. It appears to be no coincidence that Amherst released its admissions results at 18:21 (military time) March 22. The college was founded in 1821. And with its announcement, the college threw a party for the tour guides, admission counselors and staff members who orchestrated the processing of 10,567 applicants. Of those, 1,144 students, or 11 percent of applicants, were admitted. California was the most admitted state. Eleven percent are international students. Their acceptance letters, three-three-quarters inches high, were hand signed by the dean of admissions, Cate Zolkos.

Barnard Admits 11 Percent. Barnard C. in New York City received 9,319 applications for the Class of 2023, the most in school history, and admitted 11.3 percent of them, a new record low. Admitted students come from 49 states and 51 nations. Some 56 percent of this year's admitted students are women of color and 13 percent are first-generation college students.

"These incredible students are emblematic of the Barnard spirit—curious, passionate and determined to make an impact on the world," Jennifer Fondiller, vice president for enrollment, told the *Columbia Daily Spectator*.

Binghamton Dips Slightly. Binghamton U., part of the State University of New York system (SUNY), received slightly fewer applications this year, about 37,000, compared to last year's 38,716, a decline of about 3 percent. Binghamton hopes to fill slightly over 2,000 spots in its new first-year class.

"Compared to two years ago, first-year applications are up by about 12 to 13 percent," Krista Medionte-Phillips, director of under-

graduate admissions, told bupipedream.com. "However, we do feel that we have a robust pool of applicants to continue to enroll a top class. It is too early to pinpoint the exact cause of the decrease, but it is something that we are analyzing and discussing throughout SUNY."

Boston C. Accepts 27 Percent. Boston C. attracted a total pool of over 35,500 students to the Class of 2023 and accepted 9,500 of them, for an acceptance rate of 27 percent. The mean SAT score for accepted students was 1461, the average ACT score was 33. More than one third of admitted students are AHANA—African, Hispanic, Asian, Native Americans and other minority students. And 10 percent of the newly-admitted are international students from 70 different countries, Grant Gosselin, director of undergraduate admissions, told *BC Heights*.

BU Admits 18 Percent. Boston U. attracted 62,210 applications and admitted 18.1 percent of them. Applicants hail from all 50 states and 106 nations. About 3,100 will enroll this fall. The average SAT score of accepted students was 1468, the average ACT was 33 and the average class rank was the top 7 percent.

Delaware Attracts 28,000 Apps. The U. of Delaware attracted some 28,000 students and admitted 16,000 of them. Applicants posted an average 3.8 Grade Point Average.

Douglas Zander, director of admissions, told udreview.com that he is looking for evidence that students can be successful in an academically rigorous environment, which includes a strong high school curriculum, strong standardized test scores and a strong academic

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News Update

The Public Thinks Admissions Process "Unfair." In the wake of the admissions/bribes scandal that rocked eight prestigious universities, the U. of Southern California, Yale, Georgetown, UCLA, Wake Forest, Stanford, U. of Texas at Austin and the U. of San Diego, and involved millions of dollars in bribes, a *USA TODAY*/Suffolk U. poll of 1,000 registered voters found that fewer than 20 percent believe the college admissions process is "generally fair." About 67 percent said that the current college application and admission process "favors the rich and powerful."

"The FBI said this scheme amounts to a 'rigged system,' but the truth is that the whole system of college admissions is rigged in favor of the wealthy," Richard V. Reeves, senior fellow of Economic Studies and co-director of the Center on Children and Families at the Brookings Institution, told CNBC.

It's clear that significant damage has been done and some soul-searching is in order, and that the many honest and fair members of the admissions profession have been tarnished by a broad indictment. Yet coming on top of the escalating deep indebtedness of millions of students, it is likely to be a long time before the public perception of the entire college admissions process improves.

For responses and recommendations, three sources have quickly emerged. The Brookings Institution posted recommendations at <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/up-front/2019/03/28/>. NACAC briefed a Congressional Committee on the scandal. See, <http://admitted.nacacnet.org>. And veteran

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ADMIT RATES

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performance. “We also look for evidence of positive co-curricular engagement, activities, leadership, service,” Zander said.

Duke Admits 5.7 Percent Regular Decision. Duke U. in North Carolina attracted more than 41,600 applications for the Class of 2023, a new record, and admitted nearly 2,200. Its Regular Decision admits rate is 5.7 percent. In December, more than 880 students were admitted Early Decision. This academic year, Duke supported about half of its students, who come from a wide range of family incomes, with some form of financial aid. The average net cost for those students receiving need-based aid is less than \$20,000.

Emory Admits 15 Percent. Emory U. in Atlanta received a record total of 30,017 applications, 9 percent more than last year, and admitted 15 percent. “We’re admitting almost 600 fewer students,” said John Latting, dean of admission. About 17,500 applied to both Oxford and Emory College. Oxford College admitted 3,432 students.

The average unweighted GPA for students admitted to Emory College was 3.86, the average SAT score for incoming freshmen is 1471. The mean ACT score 33.1. Emory hopes to enroll 1,370 freshmen. Last year’s yield was 28 percent. Admitted students come from 106 nations and speak 81 languages.

George Washington Admits 11,000. George Washington U. in the nation’s capital, received 27,070 applications, the second most in school history. GW admitted 11,000 students to the Class of 2023, 100 fewer than last year, for an admit rate of 41 percent. Officials expect to enroll about 2,550 students this fall.

Costas Solomou, dean of admissions, told *The GW Hatchet*, “This year’s class demonstrated tremendous passion for knowledge and drive for change, which will only strengthen our GW community in the coming years.”

Georgia Tech Admits 18.8 Percent. Georgia Institute of Technology admitted about 7,000 students through Early Action and Regular Decision programs, for an admit rate of 18.8 percent. Almost 38 percent of in-state applicants were admitted, and 14.9 percent of non-Georgia applicants were admitted. Applicants came from all 50 states and 96 nations. More than 300 students applied as transfer students, according to Mary Tipton Woolley, senior associate director of undergraduate admission. Georgia Tech hopes to enroll a new class of around 3,000 students.

Harvey Mudd Admits 13 Percent. Harvey Mudd C. in California accepted 13.4 percent of applicants who applied for its 2023 Class.

Ivy League Results

As *CB* goes to press, many colleges and universities were still posting their results. But go to www.collegeboundnews.com, “Admissions Story-of-the-Day” for updates on statistics from the Ivy League and other schools. ■

They hail from 43 states and 27 foreign countries. Some 58 percent of those admitted are students of color.

Haverford Accepts 16 Percent. Haverford C. outside Philadelphia received a record 4,968 applications for the Class of 2023, and accepted 801 or 16.1 percent. Admitted students represent 600 high schools and 32 nations. Some 94 percent placed in the top 10 percent of their high school class. Almost half the class, 49.2 percent, are students of color. The median SAT for critical reading is 740, 760 for math. The median ACT score is 34.

“All of us in admission feel so honored to get to know each and every candidate for admission,” said Jess Lord, vice president and dean of admission and financial aid. “There is no question that this year’s applicant pool was the strongest and most diverse in Haverford history....”

Johns Hopkins Admits 7.7 Percent. Johns Hopkins U. in Baltimore received 30,163 Regular Decision applications for the Class of 2023. It admitted 2,309 new students, for an acceptance rate of 7.7 percent. This year’s applicant pool grew by 3,102 students. Due to a \$1.8 billion donation from Michael Bloomberg, Johns Hopkins is permanently committed to need-blind admissions, which means family income is not a factor in admission decisions. Beginning this fall, financial aid packages will no longer include student loans, which will be replaced by scholarships that do not need to be repaid.

Middlebury Admits 1,175 Regular Decision. Middlebury C. drew 9,750 Regular Decision applicants, the most in school history, and offered admissions to 1,175 who will join the 372 accepted through early admissions in December and February. Accepted students hail from 82 nations and all 50 states. California, New York, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Florida and Connecticut sent the most applicants. China, Canada, India, South Korea, Japan and Mexico produced the most international applicants.

Middlebury expects to enroll between 610 and 630 students in September 2019 and about 100 to 110 in February 2020. It also expects about 35 students who were admitted this year to request a Gap Year. Middlebury will award about \$15.5 million in need-based financial aid to roughly 46 percent of the new class.

“With a record number of applicants, we remain highly selective and had to make some

very difficult decisions,” said dean of admissions, Greg Buckles.

NYU’s Most Diverse Class. New York U. attracted nearly 85,000 applications for its campuses in New York, Abu Dhabi and Shanghai, 12 percent more than last year. It notified 12,307 students of their acceptance to the NYU Class of 2023 at its New York campus, or about 16 percent, down from 35 percent as recently as 2013. Their average SAT score was 1480.

Of those admitted to the New York campus, 12 percent are African American and 22 percent are Latinx, making the class the most diverse in school history. First-generation students account for 18 percent of the new class.

Swarthmore Admits 995 Students. Swarthmore C. received more than 11,400 applications for the Class of 2023 and admitted 995. Some 27 percent of admitted students are the first in their family to attend college, while 36 percent are affiliated with organizations such as Lenfest Scholars, QuestBridge, Venture Scholars and Bridge2Rwanda.

About 65 percent of admitted students come from public and/or charter schools, 25 percent from private independent schools, 10 percent from parochial schools and 1 percent were homeschooled. Ten percent came from schools overseas and 63 nations. Of the admitted students attending high schools that report class rank, 93 percent are in the top decile. Swarthmore expects to yield a first-year class of about 415 students this fall.

Vanderbilt U. Welcomes New “Commodores.” The newest students to attend Vanderbilt as the Class of 2023 will forever more be known as the Commodors, or ‘Dores. This includes 2,088 students admitted with Regular Decision from 32,967 applications. The admit rate is but 6.3 percent. Ninety-five percent of admits are in the top 10 percent of their graduating class. The SAT Middle Evidence Based Reading and Writing score was 730-780. The SAT middle math is 770-800 and the middle ACT score is 33-36. Newly admitted students have been invited to attend “Anchor Days” this month.

Washington U. Admits 14 Percent. Washington U. in St. Louis received more than 25,400 applications for the Class of 2023 and admitted 14 percent. African American students make up 15 percent of the admits, Hispanics 13 percent, Asian American students 20 percent, white students 39 percent, Native Americans/Alaskans 1 percent and Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders 1 percent. Males make up 47 percent of the class, females 53 percent. And 90 percent placed in the top 10 percent of their high school class. The middle 50 percent ACT score was 33-35. ■

Roundup of New Enrollment Trends

More International Students Head for Canada. The number of international students studying in Canada hit 572,415, an increase of 16 percent over 2017. Some 40 percent more Indian students arrived, surpassing the number of Chinese students, which grew by 2 percent. The number of South Korean students remained a distant third, but grew by 5 percent.

“Our research shows that international students choose Canada because of the quality of the Canadian education system and our reputation as a safe and tolerant country,” said Larissa Bezo, president and CEO of the Canadian Bureau of International Education. “This reputation is especially appealing at present given current geopolitical realities....”

New College Completion Data. According to a new report released by the National Student Clearinghouse, 60.4 percent of students who first enrolled in two- and four-year colleges in 2010 graduated within eight years. The graduation rate is 5.6 percent higher than the cohort’s six-year graduation rate of 54.8 percent. Other findings include:

- Among the 2010 cohort who graduated between 2016 and 2018, 36 percent completed their degree at their starting institution, while 64 percent completed their studies at a different institution;
- Students enrolled exclusively part-time recorded the smallest completion gains, 2.3 percentage points between six and eight years, while students with a mixed pattern of enrollment posted the greatest gains, 8 percentage points;
- The graduation rate of women remained higher after eight years, 63.9 percent versus 58.2 percent for males;
- Hispanic students at public four-year institutions increased their graduation rate by 8.3 percentage points between six and eight years after starting college, while Asians at community colleges gained 11 percentage points.

Who Wants To Go To College? According to a new survey from the Pew Research Center, 59 percent of students surveyed plan to attend a four-year college. Of that group, 68 percent was female, while only 51 percent was male. More than 70 percent of students whose parents have at least a bachelor’s degree or whose family’s income was at least \$75,000 plan to enroll in a four-year college. But fewer than 50 percent of students from lower income and education level families plan to do so. Also, 37 percent of female students are worried about getting into the college of their choice, compared to 26 percent of male students.

Guaranteed Admissions Helps Qualified, Low-Income Students Choose Selective Universities. A new study in *Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis*, a peer-reviewed journal of the American

Educational Research Association, found that low-income, highly-qualified students are more likely to choose selective universities that match their academic profile when they know their admission is guaranteed by state automatic admission policies.

The study conducted by researchers at Texas A&M U. and the U. of Maryland, Baltimore County, investigated the effect of the “Top 10 Percent Plan” in Texas on approximately 146,000 public high school students who graduated in Spring 2008 and Spring 2009 and who applied to at least one Texas four-year public university.

“In general, policies that can increase transparency about the college admissions process, including those that guarantee admissions based on clearly measured achievements, are likely to help resolve mismatch problems related to information gaps,” said Kalena E. Cortez, one of the researchers.

Black Students Status. More than 900,000 black undergraduates are enrolled at public colleges and universities across the U.S., according to a new report, “Black Students at Public Colleges and Universities, A 50-State Report Card,” from the U. of Southern California’s Race and Equity Center.

The report found that even though blacks make up 14.6 percent of the 18-24 year-olds in the nation, only 9.8 percent are full-time, degree seeking students at public colleges and universities. Just over 52 percent of these are black female students.

Only 39.4 percent of black students at public institutions completed their bachelor’s degree within six years. And 41 percent of public colleges and universities graduate one-third or fewer black students within six years. The ratio of black students to black faculty members is 1-to-42.

Illinois Down Slightly. Enrollment at Illinois public universities in Fall 2018 was only lower by 1 percent than a year ago, possibly ending a downward trend. Total enrollment for undergraduate and graduate students at the state’s 12 public universities was 163,786. However, the total undergraduate enrollment of 122,439 was down by 2 percent from 2017. Some schools saw total enrollment increases, while others did not.

The U. of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign grew from 49,634 to 50,755, up 2 percent. Enrollment at the U. of Illinois at Chicago grew by 4 percent. And Eastern Illinois U. enrollment jumped 10 percent. However, enrollment at Southern Illinois U. fell by 13 percent, and enrollment at Western Illinois U. declined by 11 percent.

“Such a small decrease indicates that the worst of the enrollment decline may be over,” said Al Bowman, executive director of the Illinois Board of Higher Education. “Our state universities have worked hard to entice more students to study here in Illinois.” ■

COUNSELOR’S BOOKSHELF

The K&W Guide to Colleges for Students with Learning Differences, 14th Edition; 338 Schools with Programs or Services for Students with ADHD, ASD or Learning Differences by Mary Beth Kravitz, M.A. and Imy F. Wax, M.S.; The Princeton Review;

ISBN 978-0-525-56789-9; \$31.99.

A Life in History by David Kaiser; Mount Greylock Books; ISBN 978-1-732-8745-0-3, \$19.99. With recent studies showing the large decline in history majors and declaring it a

“new low” for the future of historians, Kaiser weighs in on why this is a tragedy to higher education.

College Beyond the States: European Schools That Will Change Your Life Without Breaking the Bank by Jennifer Viemont; Global Ed Press; ISBN: 978-1-7322259-0-9; \$14.99. See, www.globaledpress.com. ■

CURRICULUM CAPSULES

Cornell's Astrobiology Minor. Beginning Fall 2019, Cornell U. students will be able to study the "origins of life and life existing beyond the Earth," as part of a new minor in astrobiology. Only three other universities in the country offer an astrobiology program, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute,

Pennsylvania State U. and the U. of Arizona.

Sacred Heart's Fashion Marketing & Merchandising Program. Sacred Heart U. in Fairfield, Connecticut, has upgraded its Fashion Marketing & Merchandising Program, and, as of Fall 2019, students will be able to

major in the field. In addition to nine targeted courses, "Students will create their own fashion lines and develop a business line," said David Bloom, program director.

Carthage Mandates Career Training. Carthage C. in Wisconsin will begin mandating career education. "There is more and more concern on the part of prospective students and families that the education they receive is going to be connected to their ability to be employed..." John Swallow, Carthage president, told Wisconsin Public Radio.

The Carthage Aspire program will offer workplace learning; specific career preparation such as personality assessment, job search strategies and interviewing skills; creativity and entrepreneurship development; and leadership and organizational skills development. Beginning with the Class of 2023, all students will be required to complete three of the four components.

West Florida STEM Degrees. The U. of West Florida has launched three new degree programs in direct response to increased workforce demand in the STEM fields: a B.S. in Instructional Design and Technology, a M.S. in Cybersecurity and a M.S. in Engineering.

"At UWF, we listen to community and industry needs and create relevant degrees for our students," said Martha D. Saunders, president.

SUNY Cobleskill Goes to the Dogs. The State University of New York (SUNY) at Cobleskill has established a new Bachelor of Technology (B.T.) degree program in Canine Training and Management. Beginning in Fall 2019, the program will prepare students for a wide range of professional opportunities in areas including K-9 assisted therapy, nutrition, security and veterinary medicine. For info, see, www.cobleskill.edu/canine.

UK Medical School/U.S. Clinical Training. The U. of Leicester in the United Kingdom has launched a medical degree program that will provide U.S. students with medical training followed by residency at hospitals in the United States. Graduates of the new medicine MBChB-USA will be able to practice medicine in the U.S. ■

NEWS UPDATE

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journalist John Merrow posted recommendations on his web site, <https://themerrowreport.com/>. CB will keep you updated on further steps to reform or paint a fairer picture about the college admissions process. ■

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SCHOLARSHIP SCOOPS

Emerson 2019 ASCO Engineering Scholarship. Two \$5,000 Emerson 2019 ASCO Engineering Scholarships will be awarded to college students "who have the potential for leadership and contributions to the engineering profession." Students must be full-time undergraduate or graduate students in instrumentation systems, electrical, mechanical or engineering disciplines at an accredited U.S. institution, with at least a 3.2 cumulative GPA, and be a U.S. citizen or legal U.S. resident. The deadline: April 23. For more, go to <https://go.emersonautomation.com/asco-engineering-scholarship>.

Temple's First-Generation Scholarship. Temple U. in Philadelphia has created a new scholarship aimed at "enhancing graduation rates and retaining first-generation students."

The Broad Street Finish Line Scholarship allots \$1.5 million from existing endowments to help new and current first-generation students stay on course to graduate. Scholarships of \$500-\$5,000 will be awarded according to individual need. Each year, nearly \$200,000 will go to first-generation students. Preference will be given to students from Philadelphia, although all students, including international students, are eligible.

Australian Government. The Australian government is awarding more than 4,000 scholarships of up to more than \$10,000 (U.S.) to domestic and international students who agree to study at regional universities outside of its major cities. International students will also be given work permits for an additional year after they graduate. ■

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Is Global Warming Impacting Test Scores? A working paper by researchers at the National Bureau of Economic Research suggests that PSAT scores for over 10 million high school students fell 1 percent for every degree higher their school's temperature rose. The temperature effect on the test scores of black and Hispanic students was three to four times greater than for white students. This could be linked to the fact that there are few air conditioners in poorer schools.

SUNY Orange's Augmented Reality. This fall, new and returning students to the Orange County C. C. (SUNY Orange) Middletown and Newburgh campuses will be the first in North America to experience a school wired for "augmented reality." By pointing smart phones at logos, signs, posters and landmarks on and around campus, students will be able to retrieve school news, updates, retailer coupons, messages and videos. SUNY Orange is one of 30 community colleges in the State University of New York system, and offers 40 degree and certificate

programs that prepare students for direct entry into the workforce or transfer to four-year colleges and universities.

"...We'll use augmented reality to help direct students to those support services that are so critical to their academic success," said Vinny Cazzetta, vice president.

Top Teen Worries. Teenagers have a lot to worry about. And at the top of the list, according to the Pew Research Center, is academics. Some 61 percent of teens surveyed say they feel pressured to get good grades. That compared to only 29 percent who feel a lot a pressure to look good, or 28 percent who feel pressured to fit in socially and 21 percent who feel pressure to be good at sports. Only 6 percent feel pressure to drink alcohol, while only 4 percent to use drugs.

However, 97 percent of girls and 93 percent of boys say that having a career they enjoyed would be extremely or very important to them as an adult. But 61 percent of boys versus 41 percent of girls say having a lot of money would be extremely or very important to them. ■

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