

# College Bound

ISSUES & TRENDS FOR THE COLLEGE ADMISSIONS ADVISOR

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## Admissions Watch

### More Early and Regular Decision Apps

*Editor's Note:* Early application results are rolling in, as are some Regular Decisions. Here are some stats compiled from school press releases and publications, *The Washington Post* and other news outlets as well as other sources, listed by most applications:

**New York U.** fielded over 14,000 Early Decision I & II applications. Overall, NYU received over 84,000 applications for the Class of 2023, 9,000 more than last year. NYU plans to enroll 6,500 students across its Shanghai, Abu Dhabi and New York campuses.

**Fordham U.** attracted 21,174 Early Action, 359 Early Decision and more than 25,900 Regular Decision applications for the Class of 2023, the largest pool in university history. Fordham saw an increase in diversity among applicants across the board, and greater geographic diversity.

"Last year, our final application number was 46,164, and we anticipate our final overall increase to be about 2.5 percent to 3 percent," Patricia Peek, dean of undergraduate admissions, told *The Fordham Ram*. "For the early rounds, the average GPA is a 3.77 on a 4.00 scale and the average high SAT score is 1409," she said. "For students who report a high school rank, 90 percent are in the top 25 percent of their high school graduating class."

**U. of North Carolina** received 27,846 Early Decision applications for the Class of 2023, up 8 percent from last year.

**U. of Virginia** attracted 25,130 Early Action applications, up 17 percent from last year.

**Tufts U.** in Massachusetts attracted a record

22,725 applications to the School of Arts and Sciences and Engineering for the Class of 2023. Tufts received 2,480 Early Decision applications, up from 2,262 last year. International students make up 17 percent of the pool, with most coming from China, India, South Korea and Turkey.

Karen Richardson, dean of undergraduate admission and enrollment management, told *Tufts Now* that applicants showed a keen interest in what the school offers academically as well as its collaborative, inclusive culture that balances "rigor and exploration."

"Applicants are also attracted to the residential feel of the campus with smaller classes, opportunities for research and self-discovery and the ability to take part in various activities outside the classroom," she said.

**Georgia Tech** drew 20,289 Early Action applications, up 12 percent from last year. It admitted 4,000 of them, or about 20 percent. For applicants from Georgia the admission rate was slightly more than 39 percent, while it was 14 percent for non-Georgia residents. Altogether, 37,000 students have applied, an increase of nearly 4 percent.

**U. of Chicago** received about 15,000 EA and ED I applications, up 10 percent from last year.

**MIT** received 9,600 EA applications, up 0.3 percent from last year, with an early admission rate of 7 percent.

**Georgetown U.** collected 7,803 Early Action applications, down 7 percent from last year, with an early admission rate of 12 percent.

**U. of Notre Dame** received 7,337 EA apps, up 17 percent from last year, with an early admission rate of 12 percent.  
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## Financial Matters

**Fed's New College Financing Plan.** The U.S. Dept. of Education has updated and renamed the old "Financial Aid Shopping Sheet." The new "College Financing Plan" is a standardized consumer tool that colleges and universities are encouraged to use to make it easier for prospective students to compare financial aid award offers from different institutions.

Changes in the new plan were instituted after the department reviewed a report, "No Clear Winner: Consumer Testing of Financial Aid Award Letters" issued by the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators.

**Ohio Strives for Affordability.** Ohio law requires all public institutions of higher education in the state to document their affordability and efficiency measures. Collectively, institutions reported cost savings of \$320 million in fiscal 2018. For example, The Ohio State U. invested \$312.5 million in student financial aid in fiscal 2018, which included \$283 million in new endowments using proceeds from the university's comprehensive energy management partnership. This includes two programs focused on in-state students: \$25 million in President's Affordability Grants and \$555,500 to expand the Land Grant Opportunity Scholarship.

**Utah Forgives College Debt for Tech Students Who Stay In-State.** Utah's Talent Development Incentive Loan program has

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## EARLY APPS

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admission rate of 21 percent. Applications from students who scored in the top 1 percent of the nation on standardized tests rose by close to 40 percent.

**U. of Pennsylvania** fielded 7,110 ED applications. It admitted 1,279 students, with an early admission rate of 18 percent.

**Harvard U.** drew 6,958 EA applications, up 5 percent from last year, with an early admission rate of 13 percent.

**Cornell U.** received 6,159 ED applications, with an admission rate of 23 percent.

**Yale U.** attracted 6,016 EA applications, up 5 percent from last year, with an early admission rate of 13 percent.

**Princeton U.** assembled a pool of 5,335 EA applications, down 1 percent from last year, with an early admission rate of 14 percent.

**Duke U.** drew 4,852 ED applications, up 19 percent from last year, with an early admission

rate of 18 percent.

**Columbia U.** received 4,461 Early Decision applications, up 9 percent from last year.

**Northwestern U.** attracted 4,399 ED applications, up 9 percent from last year, with an early admission rate of 25 percent.

**Brown U.** drew 4,230 ED applications, up 21 percent from last year, with an early admission rate of 18 percent.

**Johns Hopkins U.** received 2,068 Early Decision applications, up 2 percent from last year, with an early admission rate of 31 percent.

**Carnegie Mellon U.** drew 1,743 ED applications, up 6 percent from last year, with an early admission rate of 18 percent.

**Wake Forest U.** received 1,493 Early Decision applications, up 3 percent from last year.

**U. of Rochester** fielded 1,200 ED applications, up 35 percent from last year, with an early admission rate of 36 percent. ■

## FINANCIAL MATTERS

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been funded with \$2.5 million by state lawmakers. The new program seeks to retain Utah college graduates and develop the state's growing tech sector.

To apply, students at Utah colleges and universities must have completed one year on an approved academic track for bachelor's degree. If they are accepted, the students can have their last three years paid for, if they agree to work in-state three years after graduation. Associate degree students have to be enrolled for a semester before applying. For a U. of Utah student, the program could mean up to \$30,000 in debt relief.

Students who are studying to become software developers, management analysts, computer systems analysts, computer and information site system managers and network and computer systems administrators will be eligible.

Utah currently has 1,500 unfilled positions for software application developers and over 750 open jobs for networking computer systems administrators. The total number of Utah tech jobs sitting empty stands at about 5,800, according to an article in the *Fresno Bee*. Universities are bracing for an influx of applications.

**Colorado Free Application Day.** October 30, 2018, was the first-ever Colorado Free Application Day, when all public colleges and universities in the state and several private institutions waived application fees. Some 22,294 students took the opportunity to apply for free. Colorado State U. led the way with more than 5,550 applications, followed by Colorado U. Boulder with 4,791 applications

and the U. of Northern Colorado with 3,905 applications.

### Colleges Facing a Financial Crisis.

Due to a financial crunch, Hampshire C. in Massachusetts announced that it is seeking a long-term partner. "We are forging a new path in higher education," said Miriam E. Nelson, president. "We feel this transparency and having public input is important to ensure an impactful and sustainable future."

Nelson said the school had a "moral obligation" to let potential students know about possible changes.

And Green Mountain C. in Vermont announced it is closing, most likely at the end of the Spring 2019 semester. "Despite our noteworthy accomplishments related to social and environmental sustainability, we have not been able to assure the economic sustainability of the college" said Robert W. Allen, president.

**Poverty On Campus.** About 10 percent of college students are homeless, according to Sara Goldrick-Rab of Temple U. and more than one-third identify themselves as "housing insecure," that is, a student who struggles to pay rent or has to move frequently.

Those statistics shatter the stereotype that college is a place of privilege. In fact, only 13 percent of college students live on campus, and 40 percent are over 25 years old.

"We continue to think that everybody's 18 years old with 2.0 parents and some 1.0 sibling helping them go to school and bringing them care packages of groceries," Goldrick-Rab says. "It's simply not true."

That's why she believes that colleges need to keep dining rooms and dorms open over

## Liberal Arts Colleges

**Boston C.** collected 15,862 Early Action applications, a surge of 50 percent over last year's 10,350. The increase may have resulted from removing a restriction on applications from students who applied ED elsewhere.

BC accepted 4,488 students in December, for an EA acceptance rate of 28 percent. Including Regular Decision students, BC received over 35,000 applications, a new record. These included applications from all 50 states and 49 countries. Some 35 percent of accepted students came from various minority groups. Accepted students averaged 34 on the ACT and 1477 on the SAT. BC hopes to enroll a freshman class of 2,300 students, with 920 coming from Early Action.

**Middlebury C.** collected a total of 9,750 applications for the Class of 2023, an increase of 5.6 percent over last year's record. This year, 8,824 of the applicants were for Regular Decision, with the remainder applying for either the first or second round of early admission. Middlebury admitted 297 students through its binding ED I. Greg Buckles, dean of admissions, noted that applications from students of color were up 13.9 percent and those of international students up 10 percent. The first-year class is expected to total about 730 students.

"It's a rewarding experience to read and learn about the talents and passions of these students," said Buckles. "There are those who have already accomplished so much in the sciences, for example and others who demonstrated sustained interest in causes ranging from the environment to politics to caring for the neediest members of our society."

**Dartmouth C.** collected 2,474 Early Decision applications, up 9 percent from last year, with an early admission rate of 23 percent.

**Barnard C.** attracted 1,235 ED applications, up 24 percent from last year.

**C. of William & Mary** received 827 ED applications, with an early admission rate of 58 percent.

**Williams C.** drew 688 ED applications, down 8 percent from last year, with an early admission rate of 37 percent.

**Swarthmore C.** attracted 613 ED applications, up 12 percent from last year.

**Amherst C.** received 514 ED applications, up 9 percent from last year, with an early admission rate of 36 percent. ■

breaks, that they need to open food pantries, award last-dollar scholarships to cover unexpected costs and assign campus-based staffers to assist low-income students with everything from financial aid to course selection. ■

# Trends to Watch in 2019

**College Enrollment Declined in 34 States.** According to the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center, college enrollment decreased for the seventh consecutive year in 2018, falling by 250,000 students. Enrollments went down in 34 states in the spring of 2018. New York State experienced the largest decline, followed by Michigan. About 60 percent of Michigan's 2018 high school graduating class was enrolled in two-year or four-year colleges six months after graduation. That was down from the 65 percent of students who headed to college in 2014.

**Western Colorado Expands.** Meanwhile, Western Colorado U. in Gunnison enrolled 511 new students in Fall 2018, its largest first-year class in a decade, up by 17.4 percent in the past five years. About 19 percent of WCU's student body comes from under-represented minority groups, up from 10 percent in 2013.

Western Colorado also increased admissions standards, moving from "moderately selective" to "selective," according to its annual report. The university's liberal arts core remains, but it has also added the Paul M. Rady School of Computer Science and Engineering, and established a partnership with the U. of Colorado's Boulder College of Engineering and Applied Science. And it doubled its student base in its School of Environment and Sustainability. WCU has leveraged "\$1 million in private scholarship support and plans to continue enrollment growth," according to *The Crested Butte News*.

**Mississippi State Enrollment up 14 Percent.** Mississippi State U. in Meridian saw its fall enrollment increase by 14 percent last year with another increase of 17 percent between semesters. Because of fewer students coming out of high school, MSU has focused on community colleges. "We've placed advisers on community college campuses to work directly with students and help students know what will transfer to Mississippi State and what financial aid packages look like," said Terry Dale Cruse, administrative director.

**St. Thomas' Largest Class.** The U. of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota, enrolled its largest first-year class in school history. St. Thomas received 7,986 applications, accepted 5,583, and enrolled 1,643 new students, 145 more than last year. The Class of 2022 hailed from 31 states and included 28 valedictorians. Twenty-six members of the new class are international students. The average high school GPA for enrolled new students was 3.58, the average ACT score 26.42, Kristin

Hatfield, admissions director, told [tommiemedia.com](http://tommiemedia.com).

Also, St. Thomas reserved 150 new on-campus beds for current first-year students returning in 2019. It plans to move towards a two-year on-campus residency requirement.

**Community College Transition.** Even though a majority of community college students hope to transfer to a four-year institution, only one third actually do, according to a new report from the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation, "Persistence, and the Success of Students Who Transfer from Community Colleges to Selective Four-Year Institutions." The report cites recent research that "more than 50,000 high-achieving community college students from lower-income families are academically ready to transfer but do not, including 15,000 with a GPA of 3.7 or higher."

Among other conclusions the report said, "Selective colleges and universities do not enroll many community college transfer students." But, "Students who do transfer from community colleges to selective colleges and universities are successful."

**International Enrollment Trends.** In 2000, Australia and the United Kingdom accounted for only 5 percent of international students studying abroad. By 2018, that number had reached 20 percent. More recently, Canada has become a destination for international students. But the U.S. remains their top choice, and the number of international students in U.S. colleges and universities remains steady at about 5 percent.

According to Alex Parnia, executive chairman of Global Education Access, LLC, writing in an article posted by the New England Board of Higher Education, several multinational companies such as Kaplan, Navitas, Shorelight and INTO, now recruit students on a large scale, especially from Asia, for large public, private and nonprofit universities. However, they don't seem to be very interested in directing these students to small to medium-sized liberal arts universities.

**P.S. Is a Football Championship Good for Enrollment?** Clemson U. in South Carolina greatly benefited from its appearance in three recent NCAA Division I National Championship Football Games. Clemson won the 2017 national championship against Alabama, and won the 2019 title game last month, again against Alabama. After the 2017 game, 1,000 people visited the admissions application site. The bottom line? In 2008, 15,542 students applied for admission to Clemson. A decade later in 2018, 28,844 students applied, an 86 percent surge. ■

## COUNSELOR'S BOOKSHELF

*The Fuzzy and the Techie: Why the Liberal Arts Will Rule the Digital World* by Scott Hartley; Mariner Books; ISBN 978-1-328-91540-5; \$16.99. "For anyone doubting whether a well-rounded liberal arts education is practical in today's world, Hartley's work will come as an inspiring revelation."

**Top Green Colleges.** The top seven "Green Colleges" in the 2018 Edition of the Princeton Review's *Guide to 399 Green Colleges*, are, in order: C. of the Atlantic, in Maine; State University of New York-College

of Environmental Science and Forestry; U. of Vermont; Dickinson C., in Pennsylvania; St. Mary's C. of Maryland, Colorado State U. and Pitzer C.

**"The Undocumented Students Guide to College"** from [thebestschools.org](http://thebestschools.org). Each year, 65,000 undocumented high school students in the U.S. graduate from high school. Yet only about 5-6 percent will enter higher education. For more info and resources, see, <https://thebestschools.org/undocumented-students-guide-college/>.

**Does Online Education Live Up to its Promise?** A new study from George Mason U's Center for Education Policy and Evaluation concludes, "No." The authors Spiros Protopsaltis and Sandy Baum conclude that despite its promise, online education is creating gaps in educational success. You can download the 51-page report free. See, <https://mason.gmu.edu/~sprotops/OnlineEd.pdf>.

**Scholarships and Internships.** Fastweb, the popular free scholarship matching service, has had more than 50 million users over the years. It lists resources that highlight not only scholarships, but internship opportunities for students of all educational levels. See, [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com). ■

## CURRICULUM CAPSULES

**Southern Vermont's Environmental Sciences.** Southern Vermont C. announced a new major in Environmental Sciences, effective Fall 2019. Students will focus on "trying to understand and solve the problems plaguing our environment." The major will use an integrated, interdisciplinary approach combining social, physical and natural sciences, humanities and business, and "utilize the vast natural resources of our historic campus."

The major will prepare students for careers in wildlife and natural resource management, conservation, environmental consulting, ecological restoration, environment toxicology and abatement, water quality sciences, renewable energy systems or further postgraduate education. For more information, contact admissions@svc.edu.

### Best Graphic Design Degree Programs.

The 30 best graphic degree programs have been ranked by [bachelorsdegreecenter.org](http://bachelorsdegreecenter.org). This can be useful for future graphic designers, photographers, film and video directors, multimedia artists, animators, digital marketers, web designers and art directors.

The top 15 are found at, in order: Carnegie Mellon U.; UCLA; U. of Florida; Midway U. (in Kentucky); Liberty U. (in Virginia); Champlain C. (in Vermont); West Texas A&M

U.; Kentucky Wesleyan C.; Upper Iowa U.; California State U., San Bernardino; Rhode Island School of Design; Southeastern U. (in Florida); Virginia Commonwealth U.; Herzing U. (in Wisconsin) and California Baptist U.

### Xavier's M.A. in Curatorial & Exhibitions.

Xavier U. of Louisiana is developing a new M.A. program in Curatorial Practice and Exhibition Management. "People of color have been underrepresented in the field of curatorial practices and in museum fields in general," said Jessie Schott Haynes, managing director of the Helis Foundation which awarded a grant for the program.

### Science Gender Gap Closing.

Professors at Butler U., Creighton U., John Carroll U and the U. of St. Thomas, conducting research as part of a National Science Foundation grant, found that male and female chemistry and physics students are producing research at the same rate.

"As we talk about how there are issues with women in science, at least at our four undergraduate institutions, we were not seeing any gender effect when it comes to the research output that the students are able to produce," said Butler chemistry professor Anne Wilson. ■

## A Bleak Future?

A new "demographic dip" of 18-year-olds has just begun and steep declines are predicted in certain regions of the nation beginning in 2026. That's just one reason why Clayton Christiansen, a Harvard Business School expert on "disruptive innovation," thinks that as many as 50 percent of American colleges and universities will close or go bankrupt within the next 10 years.

More moderately, Michael Horn, writing in the December *Forbes* reaffirmed a prediction that he made with Christensen in 2013, that "a host of struggling colleges and universities—the bottom 25 percent of every tier—will disappear or merge in the next 15 years." That's because "many colleges and universities are increasingly unable to bring in enough revenue to cover their costs." Horn cited Moody's report that at least 25 percent of colleges are now running deficits.

Added to these problems is the emergence of "the first disruptive innovation in education since the printing press—online learning" which could "wreck even more havoc...."

Horn also quotes economist Richard Vedder, who wrote, "... The issue is not 'will colleges be forced to close' but rather how many will close in over what time period. Will it be 500? 2000? Will it largely happen in the next five years, or 10 years or more?"

According to Education Dive, 20 private, non-profit colleges closed between 2016 and 2018. And 20 public universities shut down during that same period. For example, the U. of Wisconsin consolidated 13 two-year colleges into seven four-year colleges. Additionally, more than 100 for-profit and career colleges closed over the past three years. ■

on the contributions of others to solve the problem.

"Students rarely receive meaningful instruction, modeling and feedback on collaboration," the researchers argue.

Ironically, when they do receive relevant training in CPS, it is often because they participate in extracurricular activities such as band, sports, student newspapers or volunteer activities.

**Private School Advantage?** According to College Vine, a Cambridge-based mentorship, test prep and admissions advisory company, private school secondary students have a 35 percent better chance of being admitted to one of the top 100 colleges and universities. Its conclusion is based on data collected from over 2,000 students. ■

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[www.collegeboundnews.com](http://www.collegeboundnews.com).

## NEWS YOU CAN USE

**MyCoalition's New Members.** Last year, the Coalition for College Access added 38 new members to its 103 institutions who use MyCoalition college applications. Coalition schools "are committed to making college accessible to all students, particularly those from historically under-represented groups."

Juan Espinoza, vice president of enrollment management at Virginia Tech, one of the new members, said, "We are revamping our admissions process as part of a university goal that by 2022, 40 percent of our student body will be under-represented, first-generation or lower-income students.

"With MyCoalition, all students can have access to tools and resources they need to apply to college. That preparation helps them complete their college application and simultaneously provides our admissions team with better information to identify applicants' unique characteristics."

To see a complete list of colleges and universities accepting the MyCoalition application, go to: [www.coalitionforcollegeaccess.org](http://www.coalitionforcollegeaccess.org).

**Collaborative Problem Solving.** The problems facing global society are increasingly complex and require new skills sets, according to scientific research recently published in *Psychological Science in the Public Interest*. The study says that finding innovative and effective solutions to these complex problems require Collaborative Problem Solving (CPS) that only 8 percent of students around the world seem to possess.

"The experiences of students in and out of the classroom are not preparing them for these skills that are needed as adults," said Arthur C. Graesser (U. of Memphis), lead researcher.

These skills are: Shared understanding: Group members share common goals when solving the new problem;

- Accountability: The contributions that each member makes are visible to the rest of the group;

- Differentiated roles: Group members draw on their specific expertise to complete different tasks;

- Interdependency: Group members depend

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