

# College Bound

ISSUES & TRENDS FOR THE COLLEGE ADMISSIONS ADVISOR

Vol. 33, No. 10

June 2019

## Admissions Watch

### Roundup on Admits for Class of 2023

**Catholic U.'s Class of 2023.** Catholic U. in Washington D.C. welcomed more than 1,200 prospective students to its Odyssey Day featuring information sessions on specific majors, group tours and meet-and-greet sessions with admission counselors and distinguished faculty.

**Clarkson Welcomes New Class.** Clarkson U. in Potsdam, New York, will welcome 745 students to its Class of 2023. Almost 20 percent of the incoming class comes from under-represented groups, while 40 percent hail from outside of New York State.

Clarkson seeks to attract students “who want to be at the intersection of business, engineering, science and technology.” But it has also seen enrollment in its School of Arts & Sciences jump by 20 percent in recent years. And, it notes, the average starting salary for last year’s graduating seniors was \$63,400.

**Georgetown’s Yield Falls Below 50 Percent.** Georgetown U. in Washington D.C. saw its yield for the Class of 2023 drop from last year’s 51 percent to 49.4 percent this year, the “lowest in the school’s history.” Georgetown plans to increase the size of its new class to 1,650 students and will be admitting students from its wait list between now and September.

“We’re in contact with probably 50 people right now, hopefully of whom maybe 30 or 40 will end up committing,” Charles Deacon, dean of undergraduate admissions, told *The Hoya*. He added that it’s better to keep the number of admitted students conservative in the first round and admit students from the wait list to fill the gap, rather than admit more students than the university has space for and decrease the number of transfer students.

Georgetown has sent out approximately 140 offers to potential transfer students, with the expectation that 100 of them will commit by its June 15 deadline.

**Knox Attracts Internationals.** Knox C. in Illinois attracted 3,430 applications to the Class of 2023, and admitted 2,331 students. This year, 8 percent more international students will enroll in the fall than last year, making up 22 percent of the new class. To date, 360 students have committed. The number of students of color rose by 1 percent to 40 percent.

“Given the fact there’s a declining number of high school graduates, more competition for students, more and more colleges find themselves well after May 1st with still having space available. So the students are feeling less pressure to make that decision,” Paul Steenis, vice president, told *The Knox Student*.

**Loyola U. Chicago Intentionally Lower.** Loyola University Chicago will matriculate 2,745 students in the fall, down by about 200 students from last year. Some of the decline is intentional, Erin Moriarty, dean of admissions, told *The Phoenix*. Interest in the small school on the shores of Lake Michigan after last year’s Division I basketball Final Four run is still high.

“Part of our Jesuit heritage is welcoming all students, not just from a sense of ethnicity and racial diversity, but also geographic, religious, even looking at majors, socioeconomic,” Moriarty told the paper, “All of that diversity really makes us who we are and we are cognizant of that.”

About 42 percent of the new class is made up of students of color. Its new students posted

*continued on page 2*

## Financial Matters

**Discounts Top 50 Percent.** Tuition discounts for full-time freshmen at U.S. private colleges and universities hit 52.2 percent during the 2018-19 academic year, up from 50.5 percent last year. The preliminary results come from the National Association of College and University Business Officers, which surveyed 405 private non-profit institutions.

The average institutional grant to students this year was \$20,225, which covered about 60 percent of the sticker price of tuition and fees. About 90 percent of freshmen received some institutional aid. According to NACUBO, about 15 percent of schools froze or slashed sticker prices.

**Washington State Offers Free and Reduced Tuition.** Washington state legislators sent a Workforce Education Investment Act to Governor Jay Inslee which will allow 110,000 low- and middle-income, in-state students to attend the state’s universities and community colleges tuition free or at reduced tuition rates.

Students from families earning \$50,000 or less will receive full support, while those from families of four earning \$90,000 or less will receive partial scholarships that can be used at 66 colleges and universities in Washington, including some privates. It also covers apprenticeships. Funding will come from a surcharge placed on companies in fields such as engineering, accounting and high-tech and consulting.

“It’s a game changer for the state,” Michael

*continued on page 4*

## INSIDE

- More Financial Matters
- Enrollment Trends
- New Programs
- Scholarships
- News You Can Use

## ROUNDUP ON ADMITS

*continued from page 1*

an average GPA of 3.9 and scored an average 27 on the ACT. Only 32 percent of the new class is male. (Nationally, about 1 million more females attend college full-time than males, according to the National Center for Education Statistics NCES.)

**MIT's Wait List.** About 21,312 students applied to MIT. A record high 78 percent of students admitted to Massachusetts Institute of Technology chose to enroll. That meant that MIT was only able to offer admission to 17 of the 408 students on its wait list.

**USC Hit 66,000 Apps.** The U. of Southern California received a record 66,000 applications for the Class of 2023, 2,000 more than last year. USC admitted 11 percent of them, the fewest in school history. More than 29 percent of accepted students are from underrepresented minorities, while 15 percent are the first in their families to attend college. Admitted USC students come from all 50 states, with 36 percent coming from California, while others hail from 130 countries. USC notes students speak hundreds of languages.

**Rochester Apps Hit 21,000.** The U. of Rochester hit its target for the Class of 2023, with 1,370 new students from 44 states and 77 countries. More than 21,300 students applied to the Upstate New York school, up 6 percent from last year. A record 519 were admitted through Early Decision. Some 28 percent of the class is Hispanic, black, Asian-American or multi-racial. The percentage of students who intend to study computer science is 34 percent female, up from 16 percent last year. The percentage of students who want to major in mechanical engineering is 28 percent, up from 17 percent last year.

"Choosing the best students for Rochester takes time as our 50 readers calculated and debated how each new student can thrive on this research and residential intensive campus," said Jonathan Burdick, vice provost.

**Trinity's Yield.** Trinity C. in Connecticut will matriculate 618 students this fall in the Class of 2023. In its fourth year as a test-optional institution, 58 percent of enrolled students chose not to submit standardized test scores, according to the *Hartford Courant*. Trinity's yield is about 33 percent. Some 53 percent of the new students are men. First-generation students make up 17 percent of the incoming class and 22.5 percent are students of color. About 55 percent of the new students come from states beyond New England.

**Vanderbilt Pool Up by 8.7 Percent.** Applications to Vanderbilt U. in Tennessee grew by 8.7 percent to 37,295 for Fall 2019. A decade

## Enrollment Trends

**Maine's Enrollment.** After a decade of expansion, enrollment at Maine's seven community colleges has been declining since 2011. Meanwhile, enrollment in the state university system increased for the second time since 2016, after a 13-year span of declines. This year, enrollment rose by 2.5 percent, while enrollment in the community college system fell by 1.8 percent.

"The economy is better, so fewer people enroll in community college," said Wendy Lindsay, a researcher with the New England Board of Higher Education.

**Ohio H.S. Grad Pool Declines.** According to the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education, the number of high school Ohio graduates is expected to decline by 13,000 a year by 2031. That decline has already begun to hit many Ohio colleges and universities.

According to the Ohio Department of Higher Education, enrollment at the U. of Toledo declined by 10 percent between 2012 and 2017. It fell by 12 percent at Youngstown State U., 22 percent at the U. of Akron and 13 percent at Wright State U. And Wilberforce U., the nation's first private historically black college, was placed on probation last year by regional

accreditors for running a deficit of more than \$19 million in fiscal year 2017, the *Dayton Daily News* reported.

**Colleges More Diverse But Achievement Gaps Persist.** A new report from the American Council on Education, finds that 45 percent of the nation's undergraduate population is made up of students of color, compared to 30 percent two decades ago. And nearly one-third of graduate students are now students of color.

Hispanic students have shown the most growth. The number of black students has also grown, but African-American students still have lower six-year completion rates—46 percent at public institutions and 57 percent at private institutions. Nearly two-thirds of black undergraduates and more than two-thirds of black graduate students are women.

Black male students are the most likely to drop out after their freshman year.

**P.S. Macalester STEM Graduates Soar.** This year, 41 percent of graduates of Macalester C. in Minnesota, majored in science, technology, engineering or math, (STEM) fields, up from 27 percent a decade ago. ■

ago, the total number of applications was only 19,353, or 92 percent fewer 10 years ago.

"I've noticed in the last decade or so that each year we have more and more applications that need extra evaluation because the line to

the student's admission is so razor-thin that we need another set of eyes," Doug Christiansen, dean of admissions, told the *Vanderbilt Hustler*. He expects this year's admit rate to be about 9 percent. He also expects that about 8 percent of the Class of 2023 will be filled by students currently on the wait list.

## Harvard's Yields Nearly 83 Percent

About 83 percent of the 1,950 students who received offers to Harvard C. have decided to attend. This is the second highest yield since 1969. In 2017, 84 percent of admitted students chose to attend Harvard. According to the *Harvard Crimson*, more than half of the entering class applied for financial aid, with 20 percent qualifying for the low-income portion of the Harvard Financial Aid Initiative.

More than a quarter of the new class is made up of Asian American students. African-American students make up 13.1 percent of the new Class of 2023, while Latinx students account for 11.8 percent and native Hawaiians and Native Americans make up 2.2 percent. International students constitute 13.1 percent of the class. And first-generation students make up 14.5 percent. Slightly over 26 percent of new students intend to concentrate in the social sciences, while 19 percent are interested in biological sciences, 16 percent in the humanities and 10.5 percent in engineering.

"Recruiting for next year's Class of 2024 is already underway," Marilyn E. McGrath, director of admissions, told the paper. ■

**Virginia Tech Exceeds Goal.** Virginia Tech is projecting a new first-year class of about 7,500 students, 15 percent above its original goal. "We have had over-enrollment situations in the past and we've been able to manage each one of those very, very well," said Mark Owczarski, a VTU spokesperson. "When students arrive later in August, we'll be ready for them." But it means that many students will need to room with a third roommate.

**Lower Tuition Leads to Increased Enrollment.** Last year, St. John's C. in Annapolis, with a campus in New Mexico, which is dedicated to teaching "the classics," dropped its tuition from \$52,000 a year to \$35,000 a year. As a result, applications this year were up 13 percent and the percent of students who committed to attend increased as well.

"We just took a look at what the future was going to look like," Carol Carpenter, vice president for communications, told *The Washington Post*. "Things had gotten out of control, and we had to do something about it. We don't believe American families can pay the sticker price." ■

# New Programs Announced

AS ONE SCHOOL YEAR CLOSER, colleges throughout the country are announcing new programs available for classes ahead. Here are a few new programs for the next year.

**Brown Strengthens Business Options.** Brown U. in Rhode Island will offer concentration tracks in business economics and organizational studies as well as a new undergraduate certificate in entrepreneurship next year. "This new constellation of offerings strengthens the academic experience of our students and creates exciting opportunities to engage in experiential learning," said Richard M. Locke, provost.

**Goucher Streamlines.** Goucher C. in Maryland has replaced its "Introduction to Biology" course for non-science majors with "Disease and Discrimination." It has replaced its "Introduction to Philosophy" with "Society in the Age of Intelligent Machines." Its math course for non-majors has been replaced by "Integrative Data Analytics."

*The Washington Post* wrote that many of Maryland's small liberal arts colleges "aren't just responding to their students' thirst for marketable skills, they are changing to survive a future that will include intense competition for students amid accelerating closures of small colleges in recent years." Goucher's president José Bowen told the paper, "There is a massive cliff coming in 2025."

## IN THE ARTS

**Augustana Offers New B.F.A.** Beginning Fall 2019, Augustana U. in Illinois will launch a new Bachelor of Fine Arts (B.F.A.). The program will prepare students for a serious professional degree in the visual arts and builds on the school's strong reputation of art curriculum, the school noted. "It's a tremendous opportunity for our students to be able to offer this program," said Lindsay Twa, department chair. "We're responding to changes in the art industry and better preparing our students to enter the workforce or continue their education. The B.F.A. more clearly conveys to employers, galleries and graduate programs the depth of training our students have received."

**Clemson to Offer New B.A. in Art and Design.** Students at Clemson U. in South Carolina will be able to earn a B.A. in Art and Design. Clemson also created the nation's first Ph.D. program in digital history. "We continue to expand the world-class opportunities available to students in the arts and humanities at Clemson University," said Richard E. Goodstein, dean of the College of Architecture.

**West Virginia's B.A. in Technical Art History.** The U. of West Virginia's new degree in Technical Art History will attract students who are interested in the science behind art and its conservation. "Technical art history is an exciting and relatively new interdisciplinary research field that brings together the humanities, science and art," said

Rhonda Reymond, associate professor of art history. "It incorporates the close study of a physical object using scientific methods with the humanities-based research of art history. These scientific techniques, or research into the internal structure of a work of art, give us new insights into historical artistic techniques of making and materials as well as changes in the artifact that have occurred over time."

## TECHNOLOGY AND ENGINEERING

**Eastern Michigan Adds Engineering, Technology and Workforce Education.** Eastern Michigan U., Michigan's second oldest university and home to 18,000 students, introduced a new interdisciplinary Bachelor of Science degree in Engineering, Technology and Workforce Education. Areas that the new program will cover include engineering design, engineering physics, prototyping, civil engineering, construction, robotics, automation, computer programming, physical computing and electronics.

"There is an extreme shortage of secondary education teachers in the United States," said Rhonda Longworth, provost and executive vice president for academic and student affairs. "The shortage results from a combination of factors, including the societal change brought about by technology. This program intends to provide highly-qualified educators to fill the growing shortage in this field."

**Miami U. Offers Several New Degrees.** Miami U. in Ohio is launching new programs that include a data analytics initiative, expanding Miami's health care programs and realigning the university's engineering programs. According to the *Dayton Business Journal*, the data analytics initiative includes "stackable" undergraduate and graduate certificates, a B.A. in data analytics and a minor in sports analytics.

**Sacred Heart's Electrical Engineering Degree.** Sacred Heart U. in Connecticut will offer a new B.S. in electrical engineering to prepare students for careers as electronics engineers, power systems engineers, electronic device designers, systems engineers, microelectronic circuit designers and other related fields. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, new developments in solar arrays, semiconductors and communications technology will require 7 percent more skilled workers over the next 10 years. Those in the field earned a median pay of \$97,970 in 2017.

**South Dakota Mines Adds Business Management in Technology.** South Dakota School of Mines & Technology, with a student body of 2,654 in Rapid City, is adding a new degree program in Business Management in Technology. Students will take an integrated course of study in science, technology, engineering and math education with management and business classes. The business courses will be taught at Black Hills State U., while the science courses will be offered at SDSM. ■

## COUNSELOR'S BOOKSHELF

*Fulfilling the Promise: Reimagining School Counseling to Advance Student Success* by Mandy Savitz-Romer; Harvard Education Publishing Group; ISBN-13:978-1-68253-353-6; \$33.

*College Secrets of Highly-Successful People: Keys to Launching a Great Life* by Lindy and Tom L.

Schneider; Peaks Publish, Inc.; ISBN 978-0-9840385-3-4; \$16.95. "The biggest difference between most college students and the ones who skyrocket to success is how they found and built relationships in college."

**Top Game Design Schools.** The Princeton Review listed its 2019 choice for best under-

graduate and graduate schools for game design. The top 12 undergraduate programs are, in order: U. of Southern California; New York U.; Becker C. (MA); DigiPen Institute of Technology (WA); Hampshire C. (MA); Drexel U. (PA); Michigan State U.; Rochester Institute of Technology (NY); Worcester Polytechnic Institute (MA); U. of Utah; Miami U. (OH) and Bradley U. (IL). To see the entire undergraduate and graduate list, see, [www.PrincetonReview.com](http://www.PrincetonReview.com). ■



## SCHOLARSHIP SCOOPS

### Smith Raises \$32 Million for Scholarships.

Smith C. in Massachusetts reports that it has raised close to \$32 million in its “Here for Every Voice” scholarship campaign. Currently, Smith awards close to \$80 million in financial aid to 67 percent of its “exceptional” students. In the past six years, Smith has seen a 31 percent increase in applications for admissions, according to Audrey Smith, vice president for enrollment.

### U. of Washington Adds 30 Scholarships.

Armon Dadgar and Joshua Kalla of HashiCorp donated \$3.6 million to the U. of Washington in scholarship money for 30 first-generation and underrepresented students who don’t qualify for Pell grants.

The scholarships will be administered through Washington’s Office of Minority Affairs and Diversity over the next 12 years. ■

## NEWS YOU CAN USE

**Educational Equity?** “School districts where the majority of students enrolled are students of color received \$23 billion less in education funding than predominantly white school districts, despite serving the same number of students—a dramatic discrepancy that underscores the depth of K-12 funding inequities in the U.S.,” writes John Merrow, who reported on education for NPR for 41 years. (See, <http://themerrowreport.com>.)

Things don’t change much when it comes to college. Merrow notes that according to the Georgetown U. Center for Education and the Workforce, “Today’s higher education system is divided into two unequal tracks stratified by race and funding. White students are over-represented at selective public colleges that are well-funded with high graduation rates, while blacks and Latinos are funneled into overcrowded and underfunded open-access public colleges with low graduation rates. The gap in funding for instructional and academic support between selective and open-access public colleges has also been growing, which makes the system even more separate and unequal....”

“Students at selective colleges have an 85 percent chance of graduating, while students at open-access colleges have only a 51 percent chance of graduating....”

“Selective public colleges spend, on average, almost three times as much per full-time equivalent student on instructional and academic support as open-access public colleges.”

**Perfect Scores Soar.** In 2010, one of every 2,600 students earned a perfect score on the ACT. In 2018, that number jumped to one of every 500 students. According to *USA Today*, “The average test scores haven’t changed much. Those have hovered around 21 for at least the past five years. The scores at the top, however, have changed dramatically, widening the gap between the privileged and the rest.”

Why the change? The paper speculated, “The

most likely answer is a booming test-preparation industry that’s built on the hopes and fears of students and parents who are willing to work—and pay—to get an edge. They see the investment of a few hundred or even a few thousand dollars in a test prep program as worthwhile if it helps land their child at an Ivy League school or secures a big financial aid package.”

**Women and STEM.** Women are still lagging behind in the STEM fields. Women have earned about 35 percent of the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) degrees and 24 percent of STEM jobs.

**Some California Students of Color Show “Extraordinary” Achievement.** A new report from the Learning Policy Institute, “California’s Positive Outliers: Districts Beating the Odds,” examined California school districts that excelled at supporting the learning of students of color, as well as white students. It found that teacher qualifications “emerge as major predictors of student achievement.” Also, “teachers holding substandard credentials—such as emergency permits, waivers and intern credentials—are significantly and negatively associated with student achievement.”

“The research finds that providing students with qualified, fully-prepared teachers is a critical component for raising student achievement,” said LPI researcher Anne Podoksky.

**Last Word on School Closings.** Newbury C. in Brookline, Massachusetts, is closing at the end of this academic year. It is the second Boston-area college to announce its demise this year. It currently enrolls 625 students.

“There is overspending,” said State Senator Kathleen O’Connor Ives, “There is over acceptance of students, the issuance of the type of scholarships and discounts that entice students to come. The auditing organizations need to have more concrete steps once they discover that the financials are in the red.” ■

## FINANCIAL MATTERS

*continued from page 1*

Meotti, executive director of the Washington Student Achievement Council, told *The New York Times*.

Brad Smith, president of Microsoft, which is based in Washington, commended the legislature “for passing a sustainable, recession-proof funding model that empowers our next generation.” Amazon also endorsed the bill.

**New Jersey Expands Free Tuition.** New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy expanded the state’s Community College Opportunity Grant program for eligible students at all 19 community colleges. Students with adjusted gross incomes under \$45,000 are eligible for grants which will cover any tuition and fees not already paid for by federal aid and other state grants or scholarships.

**Oregon Promise Boosts C.C. Enrollment.** Enrollment at Oregon community colleges grew by 4 to 5 percent for the first two eligible cohorts of the Oregon Promise, a state program that subsidizes in-state community college attendance, according to Oded Gurantz, a researcher for the Truman School of Public Affairs, U. of Missouri.

His study, “What does free community college buy? Early impacts from the Oregon Promise” found that the increase in the first-year came primarily from students shifting out of four-year colleges, whereas during the second-year of the program, the increase was in overall postsecondary enrollment.

**Debt Greater for California Students of Color.** A study by the Institute for College Access and Success and the U. of California Student Association found that 67 percent of African-American and 66 percent of the Latino graduates left school with loan debt. That compares to only 40 percent of their white counterparts and the 50 percent for all students. Only 22 percent of students from families that earn \$173,000 or more had debt compared to 65 percent of students from families with a \$29,000 income.

**Who Prospers After Graduation?** Competition to get into elite schools is often fueled by the expectation that their graduates will prosper the most. But a recent study from SmartAsset.com found that those who prosper post-graduation are likely to be just as successful attending any other university. To see SmartAsset’s Best Value Colleges study, go to: <https://smartasset.com>. ■

**Have a Great Summer!**  
To renew your subscription, see,  
[www.collegeboundnews.com](http://www.collegeboundnews.com).