

# College Bound

ISSUES & TRENDS FOR THE COLLEGE ADMISSIONS ADVISOR

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## Spring Semester Admissions, Largest Freshman Classes

**Babson's Centennial Class.** The freshman class at Babson C. in Massachusetts was culled from 7,515 applicants, the largest pool in school history and 21 percent more than last year. Babson's acceptance rate was 26 percent. The average SAT for enrolling first-year students was 1933/1295, the highest in school history. The Class of 2019 is 54 percent female. Women were first admitted to the all-male school in 1969. "As Babson's first female president, I am thrilled to welcome our first majority female class," said Kerry Healey.

**Carnegie Mellon Qatar.** Carnegie Mellon U. in Qatar welcomed more than 100 students into the Class of 2019, CMU-Q's 12th incoming class. "Carnegie Mellon's success is founded on the core values of innovation, problem solving, hard work and collaboration upheld across various disciplines," said Dean Ilker Baybars.

**Case Western Reserve Has Higher Yield.** Case Western Reserve's College of Arts and Sciences enrolled 1,250 students in the Class of 2019. Its admit rate was 36 percent, the most competitive in school history. About 22 percent of the new class comes from in-state Ohio, while 15 percent are international students from 21 nations. New students have already posted impressive resumes from playing in a Grammy award-winning band to designing a solar-powered car.

**Cornell Offers New Spring Admission Program.** This January, about 125 students will matriculate at Cornell U. in New York through its First-Year Spring Admission program. Cornell discontinued a similar program called "J Frosh" in 2003. But according to the National Association for College Admission Counseling, Cornell is one of a growing number of colleges

adopting spring admissions programs. For some students these programs offer a second opportunity to get into their first-choice school. At the same time, some observers suggest students may have a harder time adapting to college life which has already been ongoing for their peers. It is a trend nonetheless.

**Creighton's Largest Class.** Creighton U. in Iowa recruited its largest first-year class, with 1,068 students. "The academic rigor is consistent with previous classes that were smaller," Provost Edward R. O'Connor told *The Creighton News*. A third of the class earned 4.0 GPAs in high school and another 30 percent ranked in the top 10 percent of their classes. Some 18 percent are first-generation students, 31 percent are students of color and 39 percent are non-Catholic. "This group is sure to come together and set the world on fire!" Mary Chase, vice provost, predicted.

**Denver's Diversity.** The U. of Denver attracted about 15,000 applications for its fall class and enrolled 1,430 students. The new class is the most diverse in school history, with 22 percent students of color. And it is the highest achieving, with 509 new students posting perfect 4.0 high school GPAs. The average SAT score was 1222, average ACT, 28. About 68 percent come from out-of-state, from 47 states and 17 nations.

**DePaul Exceeds Goals.** DePaul U. in Chicago, the nation's largest Catholic university, enrolled 23,539 this fall, up 210 from last year. DePaul attracted 6,415 new students in all programs, 1 percent more than last year. A record 35 percent of the university or 8,229 students of color enrolled this fall. Of note:

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## Early Rush, Early Problems

LAST YEAR, more than 46,000 students applied early to the Ivy League schools, Stanford and MIT, according to Top Tier Admissions, a counseling service. This year, early applications are on pace with or even ahead of last year.

However, there may have been a glitch or two. The College Board revealed that it experienced delays with its new electronic score reporting system in getting October SAT scores to colleges. The College Board has been posting updates, noting students can access their scores online. It also said that students would receive a refund of the fee they paid to have scores rushed to colleges.

"We are reaching out to affected colleges to ensure they understand the circumstances and are working with them to resolve the issue in the best interest of students," said the College Board.

The ACT also reported that it, too, had experienced delays in reporting students' written exam scores. It also notified colleges of the problem.

**Dickinson University.** Meanwhile, Dickinson U. fielded 251 Early Decision I applications by November 15. Stephanie Niles, vice president of enrollment, marketing and communications, said that was "about 10 percent behind last year's EDI numbers." However, Dean of Admissions Catherine Davenport told *The Dickinsonian*, "Overall, Dickinson has received 1,240 applica-

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## SPRING SEMESTER ADMISSIONS

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With 4,681 students, the C. of Computing and Digital Media is 10 percent larger than it was last year.

Some 15,961 undergraduates, 1 percent more than last year, enrolled. The freshman class of 2,519 is 2 percent over the "budgeted goal." They were selected from DePaul's second largest application pool. Average high school GPA was 3.56; average ACT score 25.2. Over 40 percent of the new class is from out-of-state.

### DePauw U. Admits Include Legacies.

In Greencastle, Indiana, 619 new students entered the first-year class at DePauw U., coming from 23 countries. Forty-four percent of the incoming class enrolled in the DePauw School of Music. And 19 percent of the class represented legacies with a parent, grandparent or sibling who attended the university.

**Guilford College.** Guilford C. in North Carolina welcomed 325 new students to its Class of 2019, 171 of them are from in-state. "They're students who have really been in service to their communities," Arlene Cash, vice president for enrollment management, told *The Guilfordian*. Students have participated in AmeriCorps, started a nonprofit called StreetWatch, co-founded an Internet café for women in Kabul, Afghanistan, among others.

Next year, President Jane Fernandes promised, "We will reach out to young people and areas of the country where we have not traditionally done so and recruit new pools of students to Guilford. We are working to make Guilford as affordable as possible and ensure that the value of the investment a family makes in this college results not only in graduates who are critical thinkers, but in ones who are prepared for immediate employment or graduate school."

**Johns Hopkins' Huge Pool.** Johns Hopkins U. welcomed 1,310 new "Blue Jays" to its Homewood campus this fall, selected from a pool of nearly 25,000 applicants.

**Loyola Maryland Achieves Diversity.** More than 26 percent of the 1,040 freshmen at Loyola U. Maryland represent ethnic minority groups. They were among the school's largest pool, 13,876 applicants, and selected from a process that puts heavy emphasis on the level of rigor of their high school curricula and the grades earned in those classes. About 16 percent received Pell Grants.

**Marist.** Marist C. in New York recruited a diverse first-year class with 20 percent ethnic minorities and students from 44 countries, according to the *Marist College Circle*.

**Minnesota's Large Class.** The U. of Minnesota-Twin Cities welcomed 5,700 stu-

dents to the Class of 2019, one of its largest classes on record.

**Penn State Hits 87,000.** Penn State U. logged 87,859 undergraduate applications for Fall 2015, an all-time record. Overall, Penn State attracted a pool of 130,754 applications, a 54 percent increase since 2005. Of admitted freshmen, 7,830 students arrived at the University Park campus, while 7,900 students began studies at one of the Commonwealth Campuses. Total enrollment stands at 97,494, an increase of 1,521 students over last fall.

"Most of the recent enrollment growth has been propelled by the World Campus," Rob Pangborn, vice president and dean for undergraduate education, told the university's board of trustees. "Online learners are up more than 1,400 from last year and now comprise more than 12,000 students."

**Princeton's Profile.** While a record number of students are applying early for the Class of 2020, Princeton enrolled 1,319 new students this fall, 37 percent of whom came from California, New Jersey and New York. Fifty-eight percent hail from public high schools. The Class of 2019 also includes 177 international students from 51 nations, or 13 percent of the new class, up from 11 percent last year. And 35 accepted students chose to take a gap year.

Further, a recent report from Princeton notes that as a result of efforts to increase economic diversity, 18 percent of the freshman Class of 2018 received Pell grants, up from 7.2 percent for the freshman Class of 2008. Princeton was the first university in the country to eliminate the need to take out loans. As a result, about 83 percent of recent Princeton seniors graduated debt-free. The others chose to take out loans for additional expenses such as unpaid internships or laptop computers. For those who did borrow, their average debt for four years was \$6,600.

**Reed College.** Reed C. in Portland also admitted its largest first-year class of 421 students, bringing total enrollment to 1,430 undergrads. Its yield remained constant at about 23 percent. Dean of Admission Milyon Truelove told oregonlive.com that improved marketing, increased middle-class financial aid and a low summer "melt" contributed to its record class.

**Southern Californians Boast Perfect 4.0s.** The U. of Southern California admitted 17.7 percent of its applicants and welcomed 2,949 first-year students to campus this fall. The average un-weighted GPA of new students was 3.73, with 564 students boasting perfect 4.0s. About 14 percent are first-generation students.

**St. John's International Contingent.** St. John's C. in Annapolis, Maryland, welcomed 120 new freshmen this fall, including 24

international students, up from 14 last year. Overseas students came from Germany, South Korea, Nepal, China and Ghana.

### Susquehanna Welcomes its 158th Class.

Susquehanna U. in Pennsylvania welcomed its largest ever incoming class as it opened its 158th academic year. The Class of 2019 has 691 students, and is 20 percent larger than the class that entered in 2014. It was selected from a record-breaking application pool of 5,302 applications. "Our campus has become increasingly diverse in recent years" and the new first-year class "will reflect more diversity than ever," President L. Jay Lemons told *The Daily Item*.

### U. of Virginia's 2019 Class Comes from 76 Nations.

Over 5 percent of the U. of Virginia's Class of 2019 is made up of international students from 76 foreign countries, 1.2 percent more than last year's incoming class. "We know U. Va. students are going to lead global lives, so it's great to have international students to educate them on the views of others around the world," Jeffrey Legro, vice provost for global affairs, told *The Cavalier Daily*.

### Wabash C. Class Also Includes Legacies.

The all-male school welcomed 251 men into its Class of 2019 and included nearly a dozen Eagle Scouts as well as students who participated in Boys State and robotics clubs. One freshman raised \$100,000 for a hospital. Also represented were 32 legacies, including 20 whose fathers attended Wabash.

### Waldorf C.'s Record Enrollment.

Waldorf C. in Forest City, Iowa, enrolled more than 600 full-time students this fall. The four-year, for-profit, liberal arts school, which is owned by Columbia Southern Education Group, added 125 new female students, a 45 percent increase over last year. ■

## International Student Enrollment Up Ten Percent

The number of international students at U.S. colleges and universities increased by 10 percent to a record high of 974,926 students during the 2014/15 academic year, according to the 2015 *Open Doors Report on International Educational Exchange*, published by the Institute of International Education in partnership with the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. It is estimated that the students contributed as much as \$30.5 billion to the U.S. economy.

However, the U.S. market share of international students is down by 8 percent, according to the Organization for Economic Co-Operation. ■

# Year-End Financial Matters

**Students Short Changing Themselves.** Over two-thirds of students filling out the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) designate only a single school to send their financial aid application information, according to a new analysis by the U.S. Dept. of Education's Federal Student Aid Data Center. This indicates that they are probably applying for admission to only one school.

"By focusing on only one school, students run the risk of being turned down for admission or losing out on better financial aid and educational opportunities from another school, with ramifications that can last a lifetime," said U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan. "Why not consider multiple schools and increase your options and opportunities?"

**Duke Promotes Access.** Duke U. in North Carolina launched a new program to make the school "significantly more accessible for first-generation students and those from under-resourced high schools and to assist their transition to college life."

The Washington Duke Scholars Program provides a financial, academic and cultural foundation for students at Duke with less experience with advanced coursework and networking opportunities than is common among many Duke incoming students."

Richard Brodhead, president, said, "This new program will help Duke deliver on its promise of opening doors of opportunity, providing guidance as the students learn how to access the full measure of a Duke education and thrive on our campus."

Duke expects to enroll 30 scholars when the program debuts in Fall 2016, with plans to double that total. The program will be administered by the office of access and outreach and included under the umbrella of scholarship programs associated with Duke's Office of Scholars and Fellows.

**High School Pell Grants.** The U.S. Dept. of Education has launched an experiment to expand access to college course work for high school students from low-income backgrounds. "For the first time, high school students will have the opportunity to access Federal Pell Grants to take college courses through dual enrollment," the DED said.

Postsecondary institutions, in partnership with public secondary schools or local education agencies, have been invited to apply to participate. Up to \$20 million in 2016-17 will be awarded to benefit up to 10,000 students across the country.

To be considered, postsecondary institutions must submit a letter of interest to the Dept. of Education following procedures outlined in the Federal Register notice. See, <http://www2.ed.gov/documents/press-releases/draft-federal-register-pell-experimental-sites.doc>.

**Illinois Scholarship Crisis.** A six-month budget stalemate between the Republican governor of Illinois and the state's Democratic legis-

lature has had direct negative impact upon public universities, which have not received state funding, and low-income students at both public and private colleges who depend upon state scholarships.

About 130,000 Illinois students statewide, from families with incomes between \$16,000 and \$30,000 a year, depend upon the Monetary Award Program to provide them with grants that average \$2,700 a year. Both public and private colleges and universities have had to dip into their coffers to provide students with this scholarship money, or many students would have to drop out.

If the stalemate continues, these students will have to ask themselves, "Can I find alternative funding? If I am maxed out on my loans, do I drop a class? Do I not go this semester? It really could potentially have a significant impact on students," Lynne Baker, a spokesperson for the Illinois Student Assistance Commission, told *The Chicago Tribune*.

**Reauthorizing HEA.** A special edition of the *Journal of Student Financial Aid* published by the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators in November explores "changes that are required in order for federal student aid programs to ensure insufficient financial resources are not a barrier to college access, choice and completion" in the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act of 1965.

Recommendations include: simplifying financial aid application processes; increasing predictability of Pell Grant awards; incentivizing not only enrollment, but also completion; changing the methodology used to allocate federal campus-based aid to higher education institutions; incentivizing state appropriations to higher education institutions. See, <http://publications.nasfaa.org/jsfa/>.

## SCHOLARSHIP SCOOPS

**Female STEM Scholarship.** A \$1.5 million donation to Cornell U. will fund a scholarship program for female undergraduates who study science and math. It was bequeathed by Marilyn Jacox, a pioneering female scientist who earned her Ph.D. degree at Cornell in 1956. "I hope that the young women who earn Jacox scholarships will read and think about her scientific journey, her scientific contributions and her generosity towards others who are beginning their journeys," said Barbara Baird, chemistry professor.

**Southwestern STEM Scholarships.** Southwestern U. in Texas announced a S-STEM Scholarship Program for academically talented students who want to major in computer science and physics and/or mathematics, and who have demonstrated financial need. The program will select 13 students from the Fall 2016 incoming class and award them each \$10,000 a year during his or her four-year tenure at Southwestern. ■

## COUNSELOR'S BOOKSHELF

The U.S. Study Abroad Office and the State Department have launched a new website for high school and university students and their families, scholars, educators and institutions to support outbound U.S. student mobility. See, [www.studyabroad.state.gov](http://www.studyabroad.state.gov).

*Providing More Cash for College: Interim*

*Findings from the Performance-Based Scholarship Demonstration in California*, from MDRC (Building Knowledge to Improve Social Policy). See, [www.mdrc.org](http://www.mdrc.org).

**Top Entrepreneurship Programs.** The Princeton Review and *Entrepreneur* magazine released its list of top undergraduate entrepre-

neurship programs. The top 12 undergraduate programs are found at: Babson C.; Brigham Young U.; U. of Houston; Baylor U.; Northeastern U.; Baruch C. (CUNY); U. of Michigan-Ann Arbor; Temple U.; U. of Oklahoma; U. of Maryland-College Park; Miami U. (Ohio) and DePaul U. See, [www.princetonreview.com](http://www.princetonreview.com).

**Scholarship Searches.** As students look for financial aid, don't forget to visit [www.finaid.org](http://www.finaid.org). ■



## EARLY RUSH

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tions for the Fall 2016 as compared to 1,063 last year, which is a 16.7 percent increase.”

**Georgia’s Record GPA.** The U. of Georgia received 14,516 Early Action applications, nearly 10 percent over last year. And it has notified more than 7,500 students that they have been admitted early. The average GPA of those who were admitted early is 4.11 up from 4.01 last year. That score reflects an average of eight honors, International Baccalaureate and Advance Placement classes. The average SAT score was 1395; the average ACT score reached 31.

**Northwestern Up 12 Percent.** Northwestern U. received 3,022 Early Decision applications this fall, 12 percent more than last year, and an all-time record. “Regular Decision at this

point is looking huge,” Michael Mills, associate provost for university enrollment, told *The Daily Northwestern*. “Last year we finished with like 32,000 and change applications and about 30,000 were regular. We could have 31,000 to 32,000 this year—which would take us to about 35,000 overall.”

**Penn’s New High.** The U. of Pennsylvania attracted a record high 5,629 Early Decision applications for the Class of 2020, 140 more than last fall. Over 54 percent of the Class of 2019 was filled by early applicants. Dean of Admissions Eric Furda told *The Daily Pennsylvanian* that early decisions will be posted on December 11.

**Princeton’s Class of 2020.** Princeton U. received 4,164 applications for the Class of 2020 under its single-choice Early Action program, a 9.4 percent increase over last year,

Janet Rapelye, dean of admission, told *The Daily Princetonian*. She also noted that for the first time, the SAT subject tests were not an application requirement this year. Last year, 767 Early Action applicants were admitted, for an admit rate of nearly 20 percent. “We apply exactly the same standards in early decision as we do in regular decision, so it’s not necessarily easier to get in early though the applicant number is lower.”

**Yale Attracts More Diverse Applicants.** Yale U. received 4,662 early applications to its Single-Choice Early Action program, about 30 fewer than last year. However, Jeremiah Quinlan, dean of undergraduate admissions, told *The Yale Daily News* that the Ivy League school attracted more minority students this year. Applications from African-American students grew by 8 percent over last year and is up 31 percent since 2013. ■

## CURRICULUM CAPSULES

**Innovate Blue.** The U. of Michigan will offer a new 15-credit minor in entrepreneurship, the signature program of “Innovate Blue,” UM’s campus-wide initiative on entrepreneurship and innovation. “Students establish a foundation in creativity, innovation and business approaches through two core classes and have access to a variety of electives from high-tech to social science. The minor also includes an in-depth practicum and substantial self-directed experiences outside the classroom.”

**Indianapolis Engineering.** The U. of Indianapolis begins offering bachelor’s degrees in engineering in Fall 2016. The program’s first phase focuses on Industrial Engineering and Software Engineering. Until now, UIIndy has only offered engineering in partnership with other institutions. “This program continues the momentum of the University of Indianapolis as we develop curricula aligned with industry and global needs,” said Robert Manuel, president.

**Biomathematics Major.** Because an increasing number of problems in the biological sciences require sophisticated mathematical and computational tools, Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology in Indiana is launching a new biomathematics major. Students will also learn about the fields of computational biology, mathematical biology, bioinformatics, systems biology and biostatistics. “Our biomathematics majors will be well prepared for post-graduate study or a rewarding career in quantitative life sciences,” said mathematics professor Allen Holder.

**Film and Digital Media.** The U. of North Georgia has established a four-year degree in film and digital media. “The film and digital media degree is a hands-on program that will provide students with a great amount of experience, understanding of motion pictures as a form of expression and awareness of how to succeed in the industry.

“Graduates will be ready to step directly into the workforce or can use the degree as preparation for graduate programs,” said Jeff Marker, head of the Department of Communications, Media and Journalism.

**Middle Eastern/North African Studies.** North Central C. outside Chicago has established a new Middle Eastern and North African (MENA) studies program that will include language courses in Arabic. “Following a decade of changes and additions to its curriculum and international programs, North Central College is now ready to take another major step in the ongoing process of globalizing its campus,” said John Shindler, director of international programs and a professor of English.

**Digital Marketing.** Beginning Spring 2016, Newberry C. in South Carolina will offer a new bachelor’s of science degree in Digital Marketing, an interdepartmental collaboration between the business administration, communications, social media and graphic design departments. The major includes courses related to business, e-commerce and the use of social media and other forms of digital marketing. ■

## NEWS YOU CAN USE

**U. of Chicago Launches International High School Programs.** The U. of Chicago will conduct its first summer programs for international high school students this summer in Delhi, India, (May) and in Beijing, China, (July). The two-week sessions will feature intense critical thinking, reading, writing and discussion taught by university faculty members at the UChicago centers. Students will receive grades, a narrative evaluation and certificate of completion, but no college credit. Only 20 spots are available in each city at a cost of \$2,800.

**New York STEM Coalition.** A coalition of 58 colleges and universities around New York State are working to expand higher education opportunities for disadvantaged middle and high school students. The pre-college services that colleges will contribute to the New York State Science and Technology Entry Program (STEP) include career and college counseling, SAT/ACT preparation, individual subject tutoring, leadership training, college applications and financial aid guidance.

**Elementary and Secondary Enrollment Grows.** About 50.1 million students enrolled in public elementary and secondary schools in the fall, slightly more than last year, according to the National Center for Education Statistics. Additionally, 4.9 million students enrolled in private schools. ■

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