

# College Bound

ISSUES & TRENDS FOR THE COLLEGE ADMISSIONS ADVISOR

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## Class of 2022 Takes Shape

*Editor's Note:* As COLLEGE BOUND goes to print, admissions numbers from the Ivy League and other colleges were being released. But be sure to go to the [www.collegeboundnews.com](http://www.collegeboundnews.com) "Admissions Story of the Day" for April numbers and other stories.

**Barnard Admits 13.7 Percent.** Barnard C., on the Upper West Side of New York City, received the most applications in school history, 7,897. Of those, 993 were Early Decision candidates. Barnard admitted 13.7 percent of its pool, 52 percent of whom are women of color and 22 percent of whom are first-generation college students, according to the *Columbia Spectator*.

**Bates Apps Up 45 Percent.** Bates C. in Maine received 7,688 applications for the Class of 2022, a 45 percent leap from last year's 5,316 apps. "When we tell Bates' story," said Leigh Weisenburger, dean of admission and financial aid, "about our unwavering commitment to the emancipating potential of the liberal arts, to creative and rigorous scholarship and to the transformative power of our differences—using traditional admission outreach paired with new media strategies, the results speak loudly and clearly."

**Boston C. Accepts 27 Percent.** Boston C. received 31,000 applications to the Class of 2022, 9 percent more than last year, and accepted 8,400 students for an acceptance rate of 27 percent, down from last year's 32 percent. About 10 percent of the admitted class is made up of international students.

According to John Mahoney, director of undergraduate admission, over 30 percent of accepted students are AHANA (of African, Hispanic, Asian and Native American descent). The mean SAT for admitted students is 1448, while the mean ACT is 33. BC aims for a new class of 2,300 students.

**Carnegie Mellon Tops 24,000.** Carnegie Mellon U. in Pittsburgh attracted more than 24,000 applications for the Class of 2022, an all-time record and 19 percent more than last year. Applications from Asian Americans were up by 30 percent over last year, African Americans were up 26 percent and Hispanic-Latinos up 20 percent. International applications increased by 7 percent.

**Colby Apps Up By 10 Percent.** Colby C. in Maine received 12,313 applications, 10 percent more than last year. It admitted 1,602 students from 923 high schools, 67 countries and 47 states. About 90 percent of admitted students are projected to graduate in the top 10 percent of their high school class. The median SAT on Evidence-Based Reading and Writing for admitted students is 730, the median SAT Math score is 760, while the median ACT score is 33. Students from households earning \$60,000 or less will study free.

Colby said its applicants expressed interest in the college's internships, research opportunities and global experiences, its new interdisciplinary academic programs such as computational biology and environmental humanities and its new facilities for arts and innovation and athletics.

**Duke Apps Up 8 Percent.** Duke U. received a record 37,302 applications for the Class of 2022, 8 percent more than last year. Over 4,000 of them were Early Decision applications, from which 875 students were admitted.

In late March, Duke announced 2,123 Regular Admissions students were admitted, or 6.4 percent. Another 99 who applied ED, but were deferred, were also admitted. Students from QuestBridge and KIPP were among those who were accepted. Duke expects to hand out about \$161 million in financial aid, up 25 percent in the past five years.

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## Financial Matters

**Average Discount Rate.** The average discount rate for first-year, full-time students at 411 private, non-profit colleges surveyed by the National Association of College and University Business Officers in the 2016-17 academic year was 49 percent.

**\$10 billion in Hope Scholarships.** The state of Georgia's Hope Scholarship has assisted 1.8 million Georgia students with over \$10 billion in scholarships since it was founded in 1993. The program now offers six different scholarships to eligible Georgia students.

"When I took office," said Georgia Governor Nathan Deal, "the Hope Scholarship and Grant programs faced looming bankruptcy. In response, the General Assembly and I worked together to reform and save one of the country's most generous scholarship programs for our students well into the future."

**Michigan's Education Marshall Plan.** The state of Michigan is devoting \$100 million in new funding to create competency-based certifications and curricula across the state's K-12 schools and public colleges. Some of the money will also be used for scholarships, new career advisors and teachers.

This comes on top of a \$225 million commitment to closing the skill gap in information technology, computer science, manufacturing, healthcare and other areas. The goal is to help fill more than 800,000 high-wage jobs in high-demand fields in the next decade. Many state employers are participating by working with community colleges.

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## CLASS OF 2020

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**Grinnell Over 7,000.** Grinnell C. in Iowa received 7,345 applications for the Class of 2022. As of early March, it had admitted 184 Early Decision students who had already paid their deposits. Another 427 students were admitted through the college's early notification program and were scheduled to visit the school.

"We find that a visit to Grinnell is an important factor in their enrollment decision, so we like to give them the opportunity to visit us before they have committed to visit every place else. We go out early with a portion of our offers for regular decision in order to spread out the options for campus visits," Joe Bagnoli, vice president for enrollment and dean of admission, told *The Scarlet & Black*.

Overall, Grinnell's acceptance rate has risen over the past two years from 20 percent in 2016 to 29 percent in 2017. "The admission rate has gone up at the same time that the academic credentials of admitted students have increased," Bagnoli said. "Every year, we end up competing against places like the University of Chicago or Brown or Williams or Amherst."

**Johns Hopkins Admits 2,284 Students.** Johns Hopkins U. in Baltimore attracted 27,091 Regular Decision applicants and in early March admitted 2,284 of them. Including Early Decision students, Hopkins acceptance rate is 9.9 percent. New students hail from all 50 states, five U.S. territories and 87 different countries including China, Canada and Brazil.

**Northwestern's Pool Tops 40,000.** Northwestern U., "Chicago's Big Ten University," fielded applications from 40,425 students for this fall and accepted 2,320 Regular Decision students in late March. In December, NU notified 1,072 out of its 4,049 Early Decision applicants that they had been admitted. For the past five years, ED students have made up between 50 and 54 percent of each class.

**Penn Attracts a Record 44,482 Apps.** The U. of Pennsylvania attracted 44,482 applications for this fall's class, up 10 percent over last year. Eric Furda, dean of admissions, said this year's applicant pool posted "notable increases across broad geographical boundaries and within programs including Artificial Intelligence, behavioral economics and STEM fields broadly defined." Penn accepted 18.5 percent of its ED applicants.

**Tufts Fills Half of Class ED.** Karen Richardson, dean of undergraduate admission and enrollment management, told the *Tufts Daily* that at least half of the class of 2022 would come from its Early Decision pool. Tufts meets 100 percent of the demonstrated financial aid for all admitted students.

**Tulane Admits 17 Percent.** Tulane U. in New Orleans attracted 38,813 applications for the Class of 2022. Its Early Decision pool increased by 37.5 percent over last year. This year, it offered admission to 6,700 students, 800 fewer than last year, according to the *Tulane Hullabaloo*. Two years ago, Tulane admitted 30 percent of its applicants. This year, it admitted only 17 percent.

**Union Sets Record.** Union C., founded in 1795, is the first planned campus in the country. It attracted a record 6,701 applications for the Class of 2022, including 412 Early Decision applicants. International applications from 117 countries jumped 9 percent to 1,715. Applications have increased 39 percent since 2007. The Class of 2022 is expected to be between 570 and 580 students, according to Matt Malatesta, vice president for admissions, financial aid and enrollment.

Union remains committed to meeting the full financial need of all admitted students. Union's average need-based scholarship is \$35,000, while merit scholarships range from \$10,000-\$20,000.

Union is also creating a new \$100 million Integrated Science and Engineering Complex that will be phased in over the next two years.

**USC Admit Rate Falls To 13 Percent.** The U. of Southern California attracted a record pool of 64,256 applicants, 14 percent more than last year. USC admitted 13 percent of them to the Class of 2022, down from last year's 16 percent, according to the *Daily Trojan*.

**Villanova Admits 28 Percent.** Villanova U. in Philadelphia received 22,727 applications for the 1,670 spots in its Class of 2022, 7.6 percent more than last year. Early Decision applications accounted for 12,677 of those. Its overall acceptance rate is 28.8 percent, down from 34.9 percent last year, 43.2 percent two

years ago. Part of Villanova's popularity surge seems related to its 2016 NCAA Division I basketball championship. Nova made it to the NCAA championship game again this year.

**Virginia Admits Nearly 10,000.** The U. of Virginia received 37,222 Regular Action applications to the Class of 2022 and offered admission to 9,850, or about 26.5 percent. Earlier, Virginia offered 6,000 Early Action applicants a place in the class that is targeted for 3,725 students. Some 10 percent of the newly-admitted students are first-generation and 35 percent come from minority backgrounds, about the same as last year. Students accepted to the regular round posted a mean SAT score of 1431. And 93 percent ranked in the top 10 percent of their high school graduating class.

Virginia's School of Architecture admitted 34 percent of applicants. Its School of Engineering and Applied Science admitted 30 percent, the College of Arts & Sciences admitted 26 percent, the Curry School of Education admitted 19 percent, while Virginia's School of Nursing admitted only 12 percent.

**Williams Admits 1,163.** Williams C. in Massachusetts attracted 9,559 applications and admitted 1,163 students. Of admitted students, 103 are international students representing 53 different nationalities. Among American students, 50 percent identify as students of color: 220 are Asian Americans, 187 African Americans, 165 are Latinos and 13 are Native Americans. Some 36 percent identify as white and 4 percent opted not to identify at all. First-generation college students account for 23 percent of the new class and 8 percent have a parent who attended Williams. Men number 505, while women account for 578 members of the class.

Average scores on the SAT are 733 in Evidence-Based Reading and Writing and 747 in Math. The average super-scored ACT is 33. ■

## FINANCIAL MATTERS

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**Fed Forgives One Half Corinthian Debt.** The U.S. Department of Education announced that it is forgiving only one-half or less of the federal student loan debt of former Corinthian C. students who were defrauded by the now-defunct schools. Education Secretary Betsy DeVos said she wants to protect taxpayers' money. Critics charge that the move is part of a trend by the Trump administration to go easy on for-profit colleges.

"We have said from the beginning that students whose earnings are at 50 percent or more of their peers who attended a gainful employment passing program will receive proportionately tiered relief to compensate for the difference and make them whole," said Department of Education press secretary Liz Hill.

**Florida Fully Funds Bright Futures Scholarships.** Florida Governor Rick Scott signed an \$88.7 billion state budget that included \$144 million to expand the Bright Futures scholarships to cover 100 percent of tuition and fees for Florida Academic Scholars and 75 percent of Florida Medallion Scholars. The funding also allows Bright Future scholarships to cover summer courses for Florida Academic Scholars starting in Summer 2018 and Florida Medallion Scholars beginning in 2019.

**Butte's First Year Free.** Butte C., a two-year school in California, will provide two semesters of free tuition and fees for first-time, full-time students. The Butte C. Promise Scholarship Program will be funded by a combination of state and private funds, in part, due to a \$1 million donation from alumni Ken Grossman, founder of Sierra Nevada Brewing Company, and his wife Katie Gonser. ■

# Inside College Campuses

**Increasing Graduation Rates.** In an effort to boost graduation rates by hundreds of thousands by 2025, the 100 schools of the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities announced a new effort. The schools organized into clusters of eight to 10 universities and will share data and strategies such as proactive advising and completion-focused financial aid approaches. They will also work with a new Center for Public University Transformation.

**Dartmouth Will Not Expand.** Dartmouth C., the smallest of the Ivy League schools, has decided to remain at its current size of 4,400 undergraduates. In the face of opposition from students, alumni and professors, Dartmouth's Board of Trustees scrapped a plan to increase its size by between 10 to 25 percent. The board also announced a tuition increase for 2018-19 of 3.9 percent to \$70,791. It will also offer a record \$106 million in financial aid. Students from families earning less than \$100,000 pay no tuition for four years.

"In reaching this conclusion, the board was guided by a commitment to Dartmouth's distinctive model of close student-faculty engagement in an intimate, collaborative community that honors our profound sense of place," Laurel Richie, board chairwoman wrote to the Dartmouth community.

**DePauw Guarantees Grads A Job.** DePauw U. in Greencastle, Indiana, issued a guaranteed successful outcome to 100 percent of its graduates. The liberal arts school pledges that grads will either find a job or acceptance to graduate school within six months of graduation or "DePauw and its employer partners, many of whom are successful alumni, will provide them with a professional entry-level position lasting at least six months." Or, the graduates can return to DePauw for one tuition-free semester, "to further hone skills and experience."

On the other hand, students "will be expected to begin preparing for life after college in their first semester, participate fully in all opportunities available to them, graduate within four years and conduct themselves as good citizens during their college experience."

"Our graduates have been amazingly successful for nearly 200 years," said President Mark McCoy. "Our alumni know that this education leads to a consequential and considered life. We want students and families to know that if you commit to DePauw, DePauw commits to you."

**Fewer South Carolina Students Head for College.** In 2016, 67 percent of South Carolina high school graduates entered a two- or four- year South Carolina institution, down from 81 percent 10 years earlier, said the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education. What's the problem? According to Jeff Schilz, the commission's interim director, some high school students are not prepared for college, others

may be deterred by the rising cost of tuition at public schools in South Carolina, one of the most expensive states to go to college. He told state legislators that the trend could make it harder for state colleges and universities, which are increasingly dependent on tuition because of state budget cuts, to fund their budgets.

**Top Historically Black C's & U's.** College Choice recently released its list of the best historically black colleges and universities in the United States. They are: Howard U. in Washington DC; Spelman C. in Atlanta; Hampton U. in Virginia; Xavier U. of Louisiana and Florida A & M U.

**Vanderbilt's African American Record.** According to the *Journal of Blacks in Higher Education*, Vanderbilt University's Class of 2021 ranked first in the number of black students entering high-ranking research universities. Over 14 percent of that class identified itself as black students. The next closest university was Columbia, with 13.9 percent of first-year students identifying as black.

"To give that perspective, in 2001, our African American population was 5.7 percent," said Doug Christiansen, Vandy's vice provost. "Now we are within a percent and a half from mirroring the population of African American students in the college bound class. That is phenomenal."

**Winston-Salem State to Expand.** Winston-Salem State U. in North Carolina has increased its enrollment over the past three years to between 5,098 to 5,151 students. But at a recent board of trustees meeting, the university announced that it seeks to expand enrollment to at least 6,000 students by 2022. One strategy to do that is by concentrating on retention. Winston-Salem's 2016 retention rate was 78.3 percent, but the university wishes to boost that to at least 82 percent.

**Harvard Drops Writing Scores.** Harvard C. applicants will no longer need to submit the SAT or ACT writing scores beginning with the Class of 2023. "This change will add an additional complement to the comprehensive outreach of the Harvard Financial Aid Initiative which seeks outstanding students from all economic backgrounds," said Rachael Dane, a Harvard spokesperson. Critics have said the scored writing portion of the exams do not strongly correlate with a student's potential for success. Students can still demonstrate their writing skills on the additional personal essay on the Common, Coalition and Universal College applications.

**New Tufts Requirement.** Beginning with applications for the Class of 2023, Tufts requires either the SAT or the ACT. It does not require SAT Subject Tests, the SAT Essay or the writing section of the ACT. ■

## COUNSELOR'S BOOKSHELF

*Attack of the Teenage Brain! Understanding and Supporting the Weird and Wonderful Adolescent Learner* by John Medina, a developmental molecular biologist. The book states it "explores the neurological and evolutionary factors that drive teenage behavior and can affect both achievement and engagement." It proposes "a bold

redesign of educational practices and learning environments..." ISBN-13:978-1-4166-2549-0; \$23.16; [www.ascd.org/publications/books/118024.aspx](http://www.ascd.org/publications/books/118024.aspx).

"Bias in Online Classes: Evidence from a Field Experiment" by Rachel Baker, Thomas Dee, Brent Evans and June John (Stanford Center

for Educational Policy Analysis). The report finds that instructors are 94 percent more likely to respond to forum posts by white male students.

In contrast, it does not find general evidence of biases in student responses. Posts by white females are more likely to receive a response from white female peers. Report discusses implications of findings. Downloadable at: <https://cepa.stanford.edu/content/bias-online-classes-evidence-field-experiment>. ■



## CURRICULUM CAPSULES

**Warren Wilson/Duke Partner on Environmental Studies/Forestry.** Warren Wilson C. and Duke U., both in North Carolina, have re-signed a decades-commitment to expand graduate school access at Duke to Wilson graduates. Part of the dual enrollment agreement ensures that Wilson environmental studies students will have a chance to earn a bachelor's and a master's degree in as little as five years.

**STEM Paradox.** Only 18 percent of American computer-science college degrees go to women. In Algeria, 41 percent of college graduates in the science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) fields are women. Researchers publishing in *Psychological Science* concluded that women in more gender-equal societies have more career choices, while women in countries with higher gender inequality may be seeking a clear route to financial freedom.

**2018 Princeton Review Game Design Rankings.** The Top 50 Undergraduate and Top 25 Graduate schools in game design can be found at [www.princetonreview.com/game-design](http://www.princetonreview.com/game-design). Top 10 undergraduate schools on the list: U. of Southern California; New York U. (Brooklyn); DigiPen Institute of Technology (Redmond, WA); Becker C. (Worcester MA); Rochester Institute of Technology (NY); U. of Utah; Michigan State U.; Worcester Polytechnic Institute (MA); Hampshire College (Amherst, MA) and LaSalle C. Vancouver. ■

## International Affairs

**Carnegie Mellon Qatar.** Carnegie Mellon U. in Qatar admitted 17 students Early Decision to the Class of 2022. This is the third year CMU-Q has used the Early Decision process. The students attended a CMU-Q high school workshop and were invited to apply ED. CMU-Q dean, Michael Trick, told new students and their parents that alumni "tell me how precious their time was here. I encourage our new students to savor every moment of the next four years and embrace the opportunities."

**International Scholarship.** The Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan (CSFP) offer scholarships and fellowships to citizens of British Commonwealth countries. Since 1959, over 26,000 individuals have benefited, and 700 awards are issued annually. Contact the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission in the UK, if interested.

**International Students Benefit U.S. Student Learning.** How? According to Michael A.

McRobbie, president of Indiana U., where nearly 9,000 students from 144 countries enrolled in 2017, "They enrich our campuses and the communities we serve," he wrote in the *Chicago Tribune*. "They bring valuable cultural perspectives to our classrooms and campuses; they expose U.S. students to new ideas, helping them to reflect on the increasingly diverse compositions of our communities; most important, they contribute to an educational environment that prepares our students to be 'globally ready' for an interconnected and competitive future."

## NEWS YOU CAN USE

**Teen Social Strengths.** While society often concentrates on teen problems and risks, the adolescent years are also a time of certain strengths. A 2017 study by Maya Rosen and Katie McLaughlin of the U. of Washington published in *Developmental Science* points out that teenagers are particularly good at figuring out other people's emotions. And those who are best at it also report fewer social problems and anxiety. They were less likely to say they were lonely or avoided strangers.

**Beyond Grades and Test Scores.** "It's important for students to know that grades and test scores, although important in today's world, do not tell them what they're capable of achieving in the future," Carol Dweck, Stanford professor and winner of the 2017 Yidan Prize for Education Research, told *The Global Search for Education*. "Many people's abilities blossom later when they dedicate themselves to something they value and are deeply interested in."

**Employers Still Dissatisfied With Grad Skills.** The National Association of Colleges and Employers "2018 Job Outlook Survey" quizzed 4,213 graduating seniors and 201 employers on essential workplace "competencies."

Almost 90 percent of students considered themselves ready in the competency area of "Professionalism/Work Ethic." However, only 43 percent of employers rated them

ready. When it came to "Oral/Written Communication," about 80 percent of students said they were prepared, while only 42 percent of employers felt they were ready.

Nearly 80 percent of students considered themselves ready when it comes to "Critical Thinking/Problem-Solving." But only about 56 percent of employers judge them ready. Some 70 percent of students said they will be ready as Leaders, but only 33 percent of employers agreed. About 35 percent of students said they were ready when it comes to "Global/ Intercultural Fluency," but only about 21 percent of employers agreed.

Students did better in the "Competency" of "Teamwork/Collaboration," where 85 percent of students said they were ready and 77 percent of employers agreed. Nearly 60 percent of students said they were prepared when it came to "Digital Technology," and nearly 66 percent of employers agreed.

**Free Speech Codes.** "For the 10th year in a row, the percentage of universities maintaining written policies that severely restricts students' free speech rights has decreased," according to FIRE (Foundation for Individual Rights in Education). Currently, more than 90 percent of universities still maintain at least one policy restricting protected speech, or they can easily be interpreted to restrict speech. ■

**Foreign Students Double At Dutch Universities.** Foreign students account for about 75 percent of the total number of students in 70 English-language courses at Dutch universities. In fact, 122,000 foreign students enrolled this year.

So many computer science and engineering degree students enrolled at Delft U., that it froze admission for non-EU students. These foreign students are attracted by relatively low fees and the high number of English-language courses. But they also caused a backlash. "Stop the English madness," demanded the Dutch newspaper *Telegraaf*.

**Rhodes Goes Global.** The 116-year Rhodes Scholarship is now open to students from around the world, including Britain. No longer simply an Anglo-Saxon, male privilege, the prestigious scholarship will be awarded to 100 students this year, and perhaps as many as 125 in coming years.

The largest contingent comes from the United States, which sends 32 new scholars each year to study at Oxford.

"If we believe in our mission to find incredibly talented people who will change the world for the better, they're just as likely to be found in Indonesia as in Ohio," said Charles R. Conn, chief executive of the trust and warden of Rhodes House at Oxford U. ■

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