

College Bound

ISSUES & TRENDS FOR THE COLLEGE ADMISSIONS ADVISOR

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IMPORTANT NOTICE: Due to the impact of COVID-19 on schools, universities, organizations and the postal service, *COLLEGE BOUND* is temporarily suspending its printed/snail-mailed version with this April 2020 issue. Fortunately, *CB* has been online for over a decade and the vast majority of our subscribers and their educational community access it at www.collegeboundnews.com. (We suggest you print it out on a color printer and staple for the same classic *CB* look.) We also urge you to return often to our site for the latest posting of the “Admissions Story-of-the-Day.” *CB* has been with you for 34 years and we pledge to continue to bring you the most up-to-date information on the ever-changing college admissions and financial aid scene. Thank you for your support, and keep well! *The Editors*.

Admissions Roundup 2020

The Coronavirus is playing havoc with all aspects of life across the globe. The situation is no different on college campuses, where schools have closed and courses have gone completely online.

But college admissions officers report they are doing all they can to keep the normal process going— admitting students and encouraging them to enroll for the fall semester. Whether students show up, whether they will be willing to travel away from home, whether current students who were abruptly evicted from campus will return, indeed, whether colleges will reopen on time are all yet to be determined.

At least 200 colleges have pushed back their deposit deadline by a month, according to CNN, and more are expected to do so. Also, with borders closed, there is a question of whether admitted international students will be able to travel to colleges where they hope to matriculate.

With that said, here are reports from the spring 2020 admissions front to date.

BC Accepts 24 Percent. Boston C. received 29,400 applications for the Class of 2024, and 24 percent were admitted, down 3 percent from the last two years. This was the first year that BC used Early Decision instead of Early Action and 2,750 applied ED according to *The Heights*. BC will not release its class profile until fall.

Like most colleges, BC suspended all on-campus visits until further notice for health reasons. But it is planning virtual opportunities for admitted students. “Plans are in place to provide video content, synchronous and asynchronous video information sessions, student and parent communication plans and more,” Grant Gosselin, director of undergraduate admission, told the paper.

Bowdoin Fielded Record Applications. Bowdoin C. in Maine fielded 9,402 applications for the Class of 2024, the most in school history. It admitted an all-time low of 8.3 percent, down from last year’s 8.9 percent.

Brown Admits 6.9 Percent. Brown U. in Rhode Island attracted 36,794 students for the Class of 2024, the second most in school history. Brown admitted 1,733 students through its Regular Decision cycle, who join 800 Early Decision students, for a total admitted class of 2,533 students. About 70 percent intend to apply for financial aid. The admissions office has launched a Brown Admitted Students Network, a “robust” virtual campus visit platform through which admitted students can interact with more than 150 faculty, staff, students and alumni.

Colby Admits 9 Percent. Colby C. in Maine attracted 13,922 applications and admitted
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Financial Matters

Iowa Cuts Student Debt. Since 2012, Iowa’s financial literacy program has helped students create budgets, learn about credit scores and borrow responsibly. Since tracking began in 2014, the program helped reduce U. of Iowa student borrowing by about \$1.5 million each year.

“We generate an estimated salary based on major and calculate the percentage their loan payments will be, which helps make it more tangible,” said Kelsey Ryder, associate director of financial literacy and counseling. “It’s okay to borrow some, as long as it’s an amount that you can handle.”

Understanding Financial Aid Offers. Only 42 percent of families say they completely understand their financial aid offers. Sallie Mae, the nation’s leader in private student lending, has posted “Understanding and Evaluating Financial Aid Offers.” Find it at www.SallieMae.com.

West Virginia Invests. Potomac State C. is one of 10 colleges to offer West Virginia Invests to cover tuition and fees for state residents enrolled in certificate and associate-degree programs in high-demand fields.

Baltimore Receives \$1 million a Year for Five Years. The founder of GoDaddy.com, Bob Parsons, a wounded Vietnam veteran, is donating \$1 million a year for the next five years to the U. of Baltimore for scholarships to help an estimated 250 community college graduates and veterans cover the costs of tuition. ■

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1,307 students to the Class of 2024, or about 9 percent. The middle 50-percent range of ACT scores for admitted students is 32-35, the middle 50-percent range of SAT scores is 1420-1540. About 90 percent of admitted students rank in the top 10 percent of their high school class. Colby expects to enroll about 550 students.

Connecticut C. Scores Up 10 Points. Connecticut C. received the most applications in school history. The admitted Class of 2024 hails from 46 states and 49 countries. First-generation college students make up 11 percent of the admitted class. Conn is test optional, but the median submitted SAT scores in reading are up 10 points over last year.

Cornell Delays Data Report. Cornell U. of the Ivy League, in upstate New York, announced that it will not release its acceptance rate until mid-summer when it is required to report to the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (<https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/>). In 2019, Cornell's admit rate was 10.6 percent.

"We're doing this because we'd like to reduce the 'metric mania,'" Jonathan Burdick, vice provost for enrollment, told *cornellsun.com*. "Cornell being highly selective is not news, and the specific data for any given year doesn't change or matter that much." Stanford U. has a similar policy.

Burdick did say that Cornell added more students to its wait list than last year, since the coronavirus has created great uncertainty around fall enrollment.

Dartmouth Admits 8 Percent. Dartmouth C. in New Hampshire admitted 8.8 percent of students who applied for the Class of 2024. A record-high 14 percent of the accepted cohort are international students, up from 12 percent last year. The highest number of accepted U.S. students came from California, New York, Massachusetts, Florida and Texas, according to Lee Coffin, vice provost.

Duke's Admit Rate Remains at 7.7 Percent. Duke U. admitted 2,170 high school seniors representing 47 states and 67 countries, according to *Duke Today*. They were selected from 35,483 Regular Decision applicants, plus 766 Early Decision applicants whose decisions were deferred to March. They join 887 early admission students. The overall admission rate, including Early Decision, was 7.7 percent, the same as last year, according to Christoph Guttentag, dean.

Emory's RD Numbers. Emory U. in Atlanta received 28,517 applications and admitted 4,142 students in the Regular Decision round, for an

Harvard Admits from 92 Nations

Harvard C. received 40,248 applications for the Class of 2024, about 3,000 applications fewer than last year, and admitted 1,980. But this is only the third time the Ivy League school has received 40,000 apps. This year's Early Action acceptance rate was 13.9 percent, *The Harvard Crimson* reported.

The new class of admitted students hails from every state and 92 nations. African American students make up 14.8 percent of the admitted class, while 24.5 percent are Asian American and 12.7 percent are Latinx. Women make up 51.6 percent of the accepted class. International students make up 10.8 percent of the class, while 8.8 percent are U.S. dual citizens. More than half the class will receive need-based grants. About 19 percent qualify for federal Pell Grants. Admitted students will participate in a "Virtual Visitas" program. ■

admit rate of 16.6 percent. Its Oxford C. admitted 3,531 for an admit rate of 23.8 percent.

Florida Receives 8,000 More Apps. Over 49,400 students applied to the U. of Florida, 8,000 more than last year, and 14,561 were accepted to the Class of 2024. Of those admitted, 11,115 were admitted for Fall 2020 and 3,443 were accepted for the Summer B term. Another 600 were admitted into the Innovation Academy, which operates on a spring-summer calendar that allows students to work during fall internships.

Georgia Accepts 46 Percent. The U. of Georgia received 28,524 applications for the Class of 2024, 790 fewer than last year, and admitted 13,131, for an admit rate of 46 percent. Students were admitted from all 50 states and 36 countries. Some 35 percent of admitted students come from minority groups, 5.9 percent speak English as a second language and 654 are first-generation college students. The average GPA mid-range was 4.08. SAT scores ranged from 1320-1460. About 20 percent of admitted students were offered scholarships. And 15 of Georgia's newly admitted students are named Georgia.

Georgia Tech Admits 20 Percent. Georgia Tech received 18,800 Regular Decision applications and admitted 3,415 or about 20 percent, according to Rick Clark, admissions director. Additionally, 7,984 were admitted Early Action in January. Some 38 percent of Georgia and 16 percent of out-of-state applicants gained entry. This year, 67 percent of Georgia applicants were admitted to summer or fall sessions or through a transfer option. Admitted students also come from 102 nations. Overall, GT received almost 41,000 applications.

Johns Hopkins Admits from 41 Nations. Johns Hopkins U. in Baltimore received 27,256 applications for this fall, and invited 1,922 to become members of the Class of 2024. They will join 682 Early Decision students who were offered admission in December. Those admitted hail from 49 states and 41 nations.

Among those offered admission are a CEO of a nonprofit that raises scholarship money for women who wish to become scientists and the inventor of QuitPuff, a simple test that assesses early risks of oral and pre-oral cancer.

MIT Admissions Rate Rises. According to *The Tech*, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology received 20,075 applications, accepted 1,457, with an acceptance rate of 7.3 percent. Of 9,291 early applicants, MIT accepted 687. About 3 percent were wait listed. Because of COVID-19, MIT will have a virtual version of campus visits with current students posting Instagram videos about student life and advice.

NYU Hits Record 85,000. NYU attracted 85,000 applications for its campuses in New York, Abu Dhabi and Shanghai. It admitted 13,000 prospective students to its New York City campus, for an acceptance rate of 15 percent. Some 9 percent of the students are African American and 18 percent are Latinx. No ethnic group is larger than 20 percent. First-generation students account for 15 percent of the accepted class. Admitted students represent 133 countries and 49 states. Their median SAT score is a record high 1500.

Northwestern Admits 9 Percent. Northwestern U., north of Chicago, attracted 39,261 applications for next fall, less than 100 below last year's all-time record. It admitted 3,542 students to the Class of 2024, or 9 percent. NU expects to matriculate a class of 1,975 this fall, according to the *Daily Northwestern*.

Olin Attracts Apps from 43 Countries. Olin C. of Engineering in Massachusetts received 910 applications for the Class of 2024. Students of color comprise a record 42 percent of this year's applicant pool. About 250 candidates had been invited to attend one of the three Candidates' Weekends as a part of Olin's two-step admissions process. Emily Roper-Doten, dean of admission and financial aid, said Olin is looking to fill 86 spots.

Pomona Admits 745. Pomona C. in California admitted 745 students, 59 percent domestic students of color, including 19.3 percent Latina/o, 17.9 Asian American, 14.2 percent black, 6.6 percent multicultural and 0.8 percent Native American. Some 16 students came through QuestBridge and 20 through the Posse Foundation. Over 13 percent are international students from 46 nations, and

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COVID-19 Consequences

\$14 Billion for Higher Ed. Congress passed and President Trump signed a \$2.2 trillion stimulus package at the end of March. It includes about \$14 billion for the support of higher education institutions, half of which is earmarked for students to help defray expenses. One billion dollars is reserved for historically black and other minority-serving institutions. But according to the American Council on Education, the higher education sector needs at least \$50 billion to combat the damage caused by the coronavirus. ACE President Ted Mitchell called the amount of money “woefully inadequate... far below what is required to respond to the financial disasters confronting them.”

Student Loans Deferred. The federal stimulus package has a provision that gives federal student loan borrowers six months grace during which they do not have to make payments on the loans.

The final package also creates a new tax benefit for student loan borrowers whose employers help them pay off their debt. Under the bill, a company could pay up to \$5,250 of an employee’s student loan payments each year on a tax-free basis.

Uncertain Outlook. Moody’s Investors Service has downgraded the higher education sector from stable to negative and concluded that “universities face unprecedented enrollment uncertainty, risks to the multiple revenue streams, and potential material erosion in their balance sheets.”

Additionally, colleges and universities may find that fewer international students show up this fall due to global travel restrictions and public health problems. One third of international students in the U.S., or 370,000, come from China.

Change of Plans. The Arts and Science Group, a higher education consulting firm, conducted a national survey of 478 prospective college students and found that one in six high school seniors who previously expected to attend a four-year college full-time, think that they will choose a different path this fall because of the COVID-19 outbreak.

Geographic Concerns. Because students may be reluctant to travel far from home after the coronavirus crisis, some admissions officers have confidentially revealed that admission committees have been giving greater consideration to applicants who live within driving distance.

Iowa Goes Virtual. “It is a very unusual March,” Kirk Klüber, admissions director at the U. of Iowa, told *The Daily Iowan*. “Typically, this is

the time when we would be hosting multiple events on campus, visiting high schools and attending college fairs throughout Iowa and the rest of the country. None of that is happening now.”

Instead, Klüber explained, “Virtual programs are hosted through Zoom with multiple admissions staff members and current students involved in presenting and answering questions from students that are submitted through a chat mechanism. These online presentations are similar to those campus visitors would participate in if they were visiting campus.” He is looking to expand programs and connect one-on-one with future Hawkeyes by creating a web-based program to link students with individual departments on campus.

He told the paper his next step is to create small, online admitted-student communities based on geographic proximity. He added, “We really think the current student voice is an important one for our prospective students to hear.”

TEST OPTIONAL

Because of postponement of SAT testing dates, **Case Western Reserve U.** has gone test optional. **Scripps C.** in California also announced that it will be SAT/ACT optional for fall 2021.

The **U. of California** has “suspended” its standardized test requirement for high school juniors applying for fall 2021 admissions. UC said this is not a permanent change.

All of **Oregon’s seven public universities** have gone test-optional. Nationally, “more than 1,000 four-year colleges and universities, including 400 top-tier four-year universities and colleges, have either abandoned standardized testing altogether or now provide students the option to take such tests,” according to Oregon State U.

Likewise, **Vassar C.** will waive its admission requirement that applicants submit SAT or ACT test scores for the 2020-21 admission cycle, according to President Elizabeth H. Bradley.

Drury U. in Missouri is now test-optional. “This move is in the best interest of students, ...but the cancellations and postponements of the ACT and SAT tests nationwide because of the COVID-19 pandemic... makes now the right time to make this change for future Panthers,” Kevin Kropf, executive vice president, told the *Gasconade County Republican*.

Concordia U. Texas is temporarily suspending test scores for students entering 2020-21. The same is true for several colleges and universities in **Georgia**. And the **Massachusetts Institute of Technology** will no longer use SAT subject scores in admissions. For others, see, <http://fairtest.org>. ■

COUNSELOR’S BOOKSHELF

“The Recession-Proof College: How to Weather the Coming Economic Storm” from *The Chronicle of Higher Education*; 36 pages; \$79. The Bull Market has ended, traditional age college students are shrinking, what to do?

Fearless: A Bartlett Giamatti and the Battle for Fairness in America by Neil Thomas Proto; State U. of New York Press; ISBN-10 7438479638; \$34.95. (Focuses on the ethical battles fought by Giamatti who was appointed Yale president at age 39.)

Campus Diversity: The Hidden Consensus by John Carney, Yusaku Horiuchi and Katherine Clayton; Cambridge University Press; ISBN-13 9781108745307; \$29.99. Using statistical methods, the authors found that students generally support pro-diversity policies.

The Empowered University: Shared Leadership, Culture Change, and Academic Success by Freeman A. Hrabowski III with Philip J. Rous and Peter H. Henderson; Johns Hopkins University Press; ISBN: 9781421432915; \$34.95.

On My Own: The Challenge and Promise of Building Equitable STEM Transfer Pathways by Xueli Wang; 272 pages; Harvard Education Publishing Group; ISBN-13 978-1-68253-489-2; \$33. C.C. students are highly motivated to work hard and earn degrees, but their momentum is thwarted by friction they encounter in and outside the classroom. Steps colleges can take to propel students on a path to success.

“Winners and Losers? The Effect of Gaining and Losing Access to Selective Colleges on Education and Labor Market Outcomes” by Sandra E. Black, Jeffrey T. Denning and Jesse Rothstein; NBER Working Paper No. 26821; PDF format from SSRN.com; \$5. ■

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25 percent are white. Students from New York and California are most numerous. The middle 50 percentile SAT scores for admitted students are 700-760 for reading and 710-790 math.

Princeton's Second Largest Pool. Princeton U. in New Jersey received 32,838 applications for the Class of 2024, a slight increase over last year, but 7.2 percent fewer than applied for the Class of 2022. This year's target class size is 1,308 students, including transfers.

Rice U. Admits 10 Percent. Rice U.'s Class of 2024 will be evenly split between men and women, according to the *Rice Thresher*, if it reflects the admit pool. Of 23,443 students who applied, 2,346 were admitted, for an admit rate of 10 percent. Ten percent are international students, 32 percent from Texas, 59 percent from out-of-state. Rice also plans virtual events for accepted students—hosting virtual coffee chats, coordinating a social media campaign and facilitating interactions between current and future “Owls.”

Southern Cal Admits 16 percent. The U. of Southern California received nearly 60,000 applications and admitted 9,535, 2,000 more

Idaho Admits Students Before They Apply

Rather than waiting for students to apply, Idaho took a pro-active step in 2015 of admitting students who meet a combination of requirements to all eight of its public colleges and community colleges. Idaho hoped to embolden these students to pursue degrees in-state.

Before this step, Idaho ranked last in the proportion of high school graduates who went directly to college, at 44 percent. The national average is 70 percent. Today, as a result of the direct admissions approach, Idaho has seen an increase in students attending state colleges and universities. About 75 percent of the high school class of 2019 stayed in-state, compared to 72 percent for the high school class of 2015. This fall, financial aid info will be included in the letters sent to students.

The direct admissions idea was that of Chuck Staben, former president of the U. of Idaho, who found that his own school's application was “awful. Why do we make it so hard for students to apply?” he wondered. So he advocated for the program, which has been picked up by South Dakota. Other states are considering similar initiatives. Staben had hopes the direct admissions initiative would stimulate more low-income students to attend college and stay in-state. ■

Trinity Admits 10 Percent More ED

Due to “the strength and size of the applicant pool,” Trinity C. in Connecticut admitted 10 percent more Early Decision students than last year, 314. They will be joined by 16 students who deferred their admission to 2020. Those admitted include 169 student-athletes and 10 Posse Scholars from Chicago. American students of color constitute 20 percent of the ED admits. Some 56 percent of the admitted students will receive financial aid.

“The Class of 2024 is shaping up to be one of the most intellectually curious and engaged classes in Trinity history,” Angel B. Perez, vice president, told *The Trinity Tripod*. ■

than last year. Among the admits, 29 percent are from underrepresented minority groups. One sixth are the first in their family to attend college. International students comprise 14 percent of the admitted class, a decrease of three percentage points from last year.

In February, the university said U.S. students whose families make less than \$80,000 per year would attend tuition-free. “It will be some time before we know if the current crises will have any impact on fall assignments for new freshmen,” USC Housing wrote students. But, “the housing application for new admits will open next week per the usual process.”

Tufts Admits 15 Percent. Tufts U. in Massachusetts received 23,122 applications for the Class of 2024 and offered admission to 15 percent of them, said *Tufts Now*. African American students represent 7.8 percent of the admitted class, Hispanic students 13.3 percent, Asian American students 20.9 percent and 7.9 percent are multiracial U.S. students. Students live in all 50 states, and almost 13 percent reside outside of the U.S. Women make up 54 percent of the admitted class, including a slight majority at both the School of Engineering and the School of Arts and Sciences.

Virginia Accepts 20 Percent. The U. of Virginia received a record-breaking 40,971 applications and accepted 20.5 percent to the Class of 2024. UVA offered admission to 8,420 students from all three rounds of applications. The acceptance rate for students from Virginia is 32.5 percent, for out-of-state students only 15.4 percent.

Of total offers, 40.5 percent went to minority students, including foreign nationals. Some 9.2 percent of admitted students are African-American, 7.8 percent are Hispanic, 17.8 percent Asian American and 6.1 percent are multiracial. Greg Roberts, dean of admission, said the mean SAT score for the EA admits

is 1439. More than 95 percent of students admitted early rank in the top 10 percent of their high school graduating class. Admitted students come from 49 states and 53 nations.

William & Mary Wait List Path. The C. of William & Mary in Virginia is offering wait listed students a guaranteed pathway to admission next spring if they either complete a semester at a two-year college or participate in a fall semester program abroad with Verto Education, where they can earn transfer credits.

“Peak enrollment for William & Mary is the fall semester; in spring we have capacity,” said Henry Broaddus, vice president. “We have room to admit more students in the spring without stretching our small class sizes and residential character.”

Williams Accepts “Slightly More.” Williams C. in Massachusetts accepted roughly 1,250 students, “slightly more than usual,” aiming at a target class size of 550. “This was one happy byproduct of the COVID-19 outbreak—the opportunity to admit a slightly larger group of extraordinary applicants,” Liz Creighton, dean of admission and financial aid, told *The Williams Record*.

Wash U. Admits 13 Percent. Washington U. in St. Louis fielded more than 27,900 applications and admitted 3,561 or 13 percent of those students, hailing from 50 states and 24 countries. About 92 percent were in the top 10 percent of their high school class. The middle 50 percent SAT score was 1470-1570, the middle 50 percent ACT score was 33-35. African Americans make up 15 percent of the admitted group, Hispanics 15 percent, Asian Americans 22 percent and whites 37 percent.

Yale Tops 35,000 Apps. Yale C. attracted 35,220 applications and admitted 2,304 students to the Class of 2024. Students will travel from all 50 states and 72 countries. In December, Yale offered admission to 796 Early Action applicants, plus 87 admitted through the QuestBridge National College Match program.

“Although we are disappointed that admitted students will not be able to visit campuses in the spring, the Yale community is stepping up to provide an amazing collection of virtual events and opportunities to connect with current students, faculty and staff,” said Hannah Mendlowitz, director of recruitment. ■

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