

College Bound

ISSUES & TRENDS FOR THE COLLEGE ADMISSIONS ADVISOR

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Admissions Watch

Early Returns for Class of 2024

Brown Admits 17 Percent ED. Brown U. in Rhode Island attracted 4,562 Early Decision applications, 8 percent more than last year, and admitted a record-low 17.5 percent of them. According to the *Brown Daily Herald*, of the nearly 800 newly-admitted students, 17 percent are first-generation and 44 percent self-identify as students of color. About 62 percent applied for financial aid.

The increase in applicants “really has been a strong testament to the power of the Brown Promise in socioeconomically diversifying the applicant pool for early decision,” Logan Powell, dean of admission, told the paper.

Connecticut C. ED I “Lays Strong Foundation.” More students than ever committed to Connecticut C. ED, according to conncoll.edu/news. The school admitted 207 students to the Class of 2024 in ED I. The early members to the class include more students of color and more first-generation students. Conn added a second Posse cohort, this year from New York City. For the last 10 years, Posse students have come from Chicago. “Our Posse students have made an indelible impact on campus as student leaders, change agents, social justice drivers and academic superstars,” said Andy Strickler, dean of admission and financial aid.

Cornell’s ED Acceptance Rate Increases. Cornell U. in Upstate New York received 6,615 Early Decision applications for the Class of 2024, up 7.4 percent over last year. Cornell admitted 1,576 students, for an admit rate of 23.8 percent, an increase over last year’s rate of 22.6 percent, according to the *Cornell Sun*. Over half of accepted students, 51.6 percent, are women, down by 4 percent from last year.

Students of color comprise 39.7 percent of admitted students. Early Decision applications from underrepresented minorities increased 11 percent this year. Legacy students constitute 22.1 percent of the admitted group, while athletes account for 12.1 percent.

International students account for 13.6 percent of their early admits. And 21.7 percent of the early applicants were deferred to the regular cycle. Cornell’s target enrollment for Fall 2020 is 3,215 students, making the Early Decision admits about 49 percent of the new class.

Duke Admits 21 Percent ED Apps. Exactly 4,300 students applied Early Decision to Duke’s Class of 2024. It admitted 887 high school seniors for an acceptance rate of 21 percent. “The percentage of the class question is a little harder to answer with precision,” Christoph Guttentag, dean of undergraduate admissions, wrote theslateonline. “In the last two years, we’ve had 1,745 first-year students, so 887 would represent 50.8 percent.”

Emory’s ED I. Emory U. received 1,812 Early Decision I applications in early November and admitted 730 of them in December. About 580 were admitted to Emory C. in Atlanta and 295 to its Oxford C., Emory’s original campus 38 miles east of its Atlanta site, while another 145 were admitted to both. This year, Emory admitted 29 students from the QuestBridge National College Match program.

Harvard Accepts 895 Early Applicants. Harvard C. received 6,424 Early Action applications, and admitted 895 of them to its
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Financial Matters

Simplified FAFSA. In a rare bipartisan agreement, Congress passed and President Trump signed the FUTURE Act that simplifies the Free Application for Federal Student Aid form used by 20 million families, including eight million minority students, to qualify for federal student aid.

“This bipartisan provision stops families from having to give their same tax information to the federal government twice—first to the IRS, then again to the U.S. Department of Education,” said Senator Lamar Alexander, Tennessee, who fought for the bill.

“Students give permission to the IRS and the Department of Education to share tax return data on the FAFSA with one click. It should eliminate most of the so-called ‘verification’ process, which is a bureaucratic nightmare that 5.5 million students go through annually to make sure the information they give to the Department of Education is exactly the same as they gave to the IRS.” According to the Congressional Budget Office, this revision will save taxpayers \$2.8 billion over 10 years.

In another bipartisan agreement, The FUTURE Act also permanently reauthorizes and provides \$255 million in annual mandatory funding for Historically Black Colleges and Universities and other Minority Serving Institutions.

Updated Federal Scorecard Adds Wage/Debt Info. The U.S. Dept. of Ed has added data to its College Scorecard that allows
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CLASS OF 2024

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Class of 2024. Women comprise 51.7 percent of those admitted, “certainly a long way from the four-to-one male-to-female ratio of decades ago,” commented William Fitzsimmons, dean of admissions and financial aid.

African American students constitute 12.7 percent of those admitted, Asian Americans 24 percent, Latinx 11.1 percent and Native Americans and Native Hawaiians 1.3 percent. International students make up 9.6 percent of the admitted students, down from 11.2 percent last year.

Johns Hopkins ED Apps Up 16 Percent.

Johns Hopkins U. in Baltimore attracted 16 percent more ED applications this year than last, and admitted 682 students to the Class of 2024. The class includes a humanist scholar who analyzes the significance of Shakespeare to Chinese culture; an inventor of an inexpensive portable camera that can photograph the back of the human eye; a children’s book illustrator; a researcher focused on LGBTQ issues on oncological therapies and an international video game champion.

MIT’s Early Admits Dedicated To Better World.

MIT received 9,291 early applica-

FINANCIAL MATTERS

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students to compare salary and debt levels for specific college programs, rather than for the entire institution. However, the data is available for only 20 percent of the 200,000 programs listed in the department’s database. But it is a start. Find it at, <https://collegescorecard.ed.gov>.

Racial Disparities in Student Debt.

According to a new report from the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, Americans owe \$31 billion in mortgage debt and \$20 billion in student loans, a number that has steadily grown for the last 15 years.

The average student loan balances are highest in black-majority zip code areas, at more than \$37,000. “This is especially remarkable when we consider that the average income reported on tax returns in these areas (in 2016, the most recent year available) was \$38,000, implying very high debt-to-income ratios for student loans alone,” the report said.

The average balance for Hispanics, though lower than the average balance in majority-white areas, is about \$29,000.

“There have also been differences in the growth rates,” the report noted. “The average balances among borrowers in white- and black-majority zip codes tracked each other very closely until about 2010, when the balances of borrowers in black-majority zip codes began diverging from those in white-majority

tions and offered admission to 687 of them. According to MIT’s office of admissions, they included “canvassers and combinatorialists, raconteurs and rocketeers, waltzers and woodtuners...united by a shared standard of rigorous academics, high character and a strong match with MIT’s mission to use science, technology and the useful arts to make the world a better place.” MIT also deferred 6,792 applicants and turned away 1,622 students.

Princeton’s EA Profile. Princeton U. offered admission to 791 Early Action applicants to the Class of 2024. About 48 percent of the new admits identify as people of color, 16 percent of them come from lower-income backgrounds, 13 percent are first-generation college students and 11 percent are international students. And about 61 percent will receive financial aid.

Yale Admits 13.8 Percent EA. Yale C. received 5,777 Early Action applications to the Class of 2024, down from last year’s 6,020 apps. It offered admissions to 796 students, or 13.8 percent, up from last year’s 13.19 percent. Jeremiah Quinlan, dean of undergraduate admissions and financial aid, said that 56 percent of the 5,777 EA applicants have been deferred for reconsideration this spring, while 29 percent were denied admission. Yale also offered admission to a record 87 QuestBridge National College Match low-income students, 58 percent more than last year.

MORE NEWS ON THE CLASSES OF 2023

Appalachian State U. Still Growing. This fall, Appalachian State U. in North Carolina grew by 172 students. Next fall, it plans to add an additional 720 to 851 students, a 3.7

percent increase over this year. Much, but not all, of the growth will come from the addition of online students. Appalachian State’s acceptance rate has grown from 63 percent in 2012 to 77 percent in 2019.

zip codes and have since continued to trend higher.”

The default rate in black-majority areas is 17.7 percent, compared with 9.0 percent in majority-white areas. “The federal student loan program aims to ‘make college education possible for every dedicated mind’ and certainly has achieved its goal for many students,” the report concluded. “But high delinquency rates suggest that the high borrowing rates may not be paying off immediately for all borrowers, particularly if their income remains insufficient to maintain current status on their debt service payments.”

“How Affordable Are Public Colleges in Your State for Low-Income Students?”

That’s the title of a new publication from The Education Trust. It found “college affordability wedges students from low-income backgrounds between a rock and a hard place: either take on burdensome debt that will loom over their heads and constrain their lives for

years to come, or work so many hours they jeopardize their chances of ever finishing a degree.”

Evergreen State on the Rebound. Evergreen State U. in Washington, known for its alternative educational approach and 1,000-acre campus, enrolled 2,854 students this fall, including 750 new undergraduates. But that number was down by 40 percent from its peak a decade ago, according to theolympian.com. However, Evergreen State is on the upswing again. This summer it raised more than \$9.7 million for student scholarships. And the school has launched a new first-year student success program aimed at increasing student satisfaction and retention.

Stanford Admitted 4.34 Percent. Only 4.34 percent of applicants for the Class of 2023 were admitted to Stanford U. But Stanford has increased the amount of scholarship support to cover students from families with an annual income below \$150,000, up from the \$125,000 threshold. Half of all Stanford undergraduates receive need-based aid from the university. And nearly 70 percent of all Stanford undergraduates receive some form of financial aid, from a variety of sources. The average annual need-based scholarship from Stanford is \$52,030.

William & Mary Admitted 38 Percent.

The C. of William & Mary received 14,681 applications for the Class of 2023, more than the previous year, admitted about 38 percent, also more than last year, and enrolled 1,545 new students in Fall 2019. About 59 percent of the accepted class was female. ■

years to come, or work so many hours they jeopardize their chances of ever finishing a degree.”

The Education Trust calls for doubling the amount of money awarded with Pell Grants, ensuring free college for low-income students and reinvesting in higher education at the state level.

State Student Aid Support Increases. The amount of student aid provided by the states increased by 8.62 percent during the 2017-18 academic year to \$13.6 billion, compared to \$12.8 billion the previous year, according to the National Association of State Student Grant and Aid Programs.

Part of the reason for the increase is that state legislators want to train U.S. citizens for vacant jobs, and fear if they don’t, those jobs will go overseas. The U.S. Dept. of Labor reported that there were over seven million unfilled jobs in September, 25,000 of them in the information sector. ■

Enrollment Trends

Fall 2019 Enrollments Again Decreased. According to the National Student Clearinghouse's Research Center, postsecondary enrollments for Fall 2019 decreased 1.3 percent compared to the previous year. It was the eighth straight year of enrollment declines.

Private for-profit four-year schools experienced the largest drop, -2.1 percent. Public two-year schools fell by -1.4 percent, while public four-year institutions fell by -1.2 percent. And private nonprofit four-year colleges fell by -.6 percent. Overall public sector enrollment at two-year and four-year institutions combined declined by -1.3 percent, or 174,518 students this fall.

Students 24 and older accounted for the largest drop off at all institutions, down by -13.3 percent, while students 18 to 24 were down only -1.0 percent in all sectors.

Rural/Non-rural Gaps Persist. In a recent article in the *American Journal of Education*, researchers from the U. of Massachusetts Amherst found that the college enrollment and degree completion gap between rural and non-rural students narrowed from the 1990s into the 2000s, but that rural students still face "persistent challenges" and have "lower average rates of college enrollment and degree completion."

West Virginia Decline. Enrollment in West Virginia's baccalaureate institutions declined by 1.9 percent from Fall 2018, according to the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission (HEPC) and Community and Technical College System (CTCS). Overall, 10,300 freshmen enrolled, 200 fewer than last year. West Virginia is among the top 10 states to provide financial aid, which totals \$104 million each year.

"Our four-year institutions are doing a great job of capturing high school students for dual enrollment courses before they graduate, but we have to increase the number of high school graduates continuing to college," Sarah Armstrong Tucker, CTCS Chancellor and interim HEPC Chancellor told the *Register-Herald*. "Our college-going rate declined two percentage points from 2017 to 2018, and that's the second year in a row we've seen a decrease."

How Two Illinois Privates Respond to Enrollment Challenges. Knox C. in Galesburg and Monmouth C. in west/central Illinois near the Mississippi River are two respected private colleges struggling against the new demographic realities.

Monmouth. In 2012, Monmouth C. enrolled 1,238 students. This year, enrollment stands at only 914. The school is responding by boosting its endowment, which means more scholarships, and tailoring its programs to the career-minded students of the next generation, Duane Bonifer, associate vice president for communications and marketing, told *The Register-Mail*.

Knox. In 2012, Knox C.'s enrolled 1,430 students. In 2019, 1,258 students enrolled, 75 fewer than last year. "What we're seeing is tremendous competition since 2008 when things peaked," Paul Stennis, vice president for enrollment and dean of admission told *The Register-Mail*. "And the competition is over a smaller number of students.... Families who are in the low-and-middle portions of the scale have yet to recover [since 2008] in terms of real wages. That affects children and their ability to afford college."

There's also been a demographic shift. "Over the last 50 years or so," Stennis told the paper, "the vast majority of participants in higher education have been among white and Asian families, but those numbers have been declining precipitously."

"The only reason the projected [graduate] number is stable is because of the growth among Hispanic students, who traditionally haven't enrolled in four-year colleges at the same rates, and more at two-years and institutions closer to home."

Knox is surviving because it has become increasingly diverse and is recruiting out-of-state. Its biggest growth has come from Colorado, California, Texas and Arizona, where many former Illinois residents have settled. Knox is also importing more international students. Stennis says 19 percent of its current student body comes from outside the U.S.

UC Schools More Competitive Than Ever. The number of students accepted at U. of California campuses increased by 30,913, or 40 percent, between 2009 and 2018, according to the *San Francisco Chronicle*. Yet the number of California high school grads who were admitted to UC universities rose by only 4 percent.

In 2009, UC schools accepted 78 percent of applicants. By 2018, that number had fallen to 59 percent. UCLA posted the lowest acceptance rate at 14 percent, down from 22 percent in 2009. UC Berkeley admitted only 17 percent of California high school applicants in 2019, down from 24 percent in 2009. Total applications to the UC have jumped from 76,526 to 182,129 over the last decade.

USF St. Petersburg Declines. Freshmen enrollment at the U. of South Florida St. Petersburg has plummeted by 52 percent since the campus began increasing its admission requirements "to comply with the new expectations of consolidation." The number of first-time-in-college freshmen this fall fell from 368 last year to 178.

According to *The Crow's Nest*, university leaders actually anticipated the drop-off, the same thing happened at its campus in 2011 when standards were raised. But the numbers bounced back after a couple years, Paul Dosal, USF vice president for student success, told the paper. ■

COUNSELOR'S BOOKSHELF

Yale Needs Women: How the First Group of Girls Rewrote the Rules of an Ivy League Giant by Anne Gardiner Perkins; Sourcebooks; ISBN: 9781492687740; \$25.99.

Rethinking Diversity Frameworks in Higher Education by Edna B. Chun, Joe R. Feagan; Routledge; ISBN: 9780367279530; \$42.

"The book offers concrete approaches, concepts and tools that will enable higher education leaders to identify, address and counteract persistent structural and behavioral barriers to inclusion."

Two Cheers For Higher Education: Why American Universities Are Stronger Than Ever—and How

to Meet the Challenges They Face by Steven Brint; Princeton U. Press; ISBN: 9780691182667; \$35.

Net Price Calculator. As students begin to receive admissions and financial aid offers, don't forget to consult the National Center for Education Statistics' Net Price Calculator, available at <https://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator>. Another tool can be found at www.schwab.com/collegecalculator. ■

CURRICULUM CAPSULES

Adelphi's New 4 + 1 Programs. Adelphi U. on Long Island, New York, has launched five new accelerated degree programs. The 4+1 Bachelor of Science in Computer Science/Masters of Science in Computer Science will qualify students for fields such as software engineer, web application programmer, mobile app developer and cybersecurity analyst.

Adelphi's 4+1 Bachelor of Science in Mathematics/Masters of Science in Applied Mathematics and Statistics prepares students for jobs in statistics, engineering, scientific computing, statistical analysis, mathematical finance, biomedical engineering, mathematical economics.

Adelphi also launched a 4+1 Bachelor of Science in Physical Education/Master of Arts in Health Education, a 4+1 Bachelors of Science in Exercise Science/Master of Science in Exercise Science and a 4+1 Bachelor of Science in Physical Education/Master of Arts in Health Education.

Bard's Early College Students Finish College. A study of Bard High School Early Colleges by Ithaca S+R found that 79 percent

of its students finished a bachelor's degree in six years or less, compared to 60 percent of students nationally who finish within eight years.

The BHSEC, founded in 2001, is tuition free and operates in five states and Washington D.C. It offers a rigorous liberal arts and science curriculum and an opportunity to earn college credit and an associate's degree from Bard C. along with a high school diploma.

Case Western's Computer & Data Science. Case Western Reserve U. in Cleveland has created a new Computer & Data Science Department in its School of Engineering.

"Computer sciences, especially AI and machine learning, are the future..." said Kevin J. Kranzusch, the future chair of the new department. "Almost every industry— retail, finance, manufacturing, medicine, transportation— is being impacted. We are experiencing a fundamental shift in computing."

Eastern Michigan Adds Quantitative Economics. Eastern Michigan U., founded in 1849 and offering 300 majors and minors and

concentrations, has added a new program in Quantitative Economics.

It will combine economic theory with a foundation in mathematics and statistics and will prepare students for careers in business, government and the nonprofit sector.

Lehigh Launch. Lehigh U. in Pennsylvania has announced a first semester option that allows students to study in an off-campus inquiry-based immersion program in the Lander, Wyoming; Taos, New Mexico; Quito, Ecuador; and the Amazon and Galapagos Islands. The program, called Lehigh Launch, allows students in any major to earn 16 credit hours.

"I think the student who asks a lot of questions and wants to know 'Why?'— that is the student who would love this program," said Jennifer Jensen, deputy provost for academic affairs and professor of political science, "students who are comfortable taking some risks and being in a new environment."

UCLA's Institute on Kindness. UCLA received a \$20 million donation to create an Institute on Kindness that will conduct research and teach students about the subject.

Students and researchers will use an interdisciplinary approach, including evolutionary, biological, psychological, economic, cultural and sociological perspectives, to learn how "to reach across lines of difference." ■

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Students Can Now Combine ACT Scores. Beginning in 2020, the ACT will allow students to "superscore" or combine their best test scores from the exam's four parts, English, math, reading and science. Students also will be allowed to retake individual subject tests, instead of sitting for the entire four-part exam.

More Mental Health Help. Unfortunately, approximately 1,100 students commit suicide each year. According to a recent American Council on Education survey, 72 percent of college presidents report their schools are spending more on mental health than they did three years ago. To help relieve stress, Endicott C. outside of Boston has begun several new efforts, including "Gulls Pause," an initiative to help students learn to mediate.

Test-Optional. Southern Illinois U. Carbondale no longer requires students to submit the SAT or ACT, joining about 40 percent of all accredited, bachelor's degree-awarding institutions that have become test-optional.

"Research has consistently demonstrated that the most important predictor of college success is a high school grade point average," said SIUC interim chancellor John M. Dunn. "We have a responsibility to level the play-

ing field and ensure that every student with potential has an opportunity to study at SIU."

In addition, **Colorado C.** joined the growing list of test-optional colleges and universities. **Moravian C.** in Pennsylvania also announced that students no longer need to submit the SAT or ACT, although the policy does not include international or nursing students.

Further, **Oregon Tech** also announced that it will be fully test-optional for the incoming class in 2021, while **Spalding U.** in Louisville, Kentucky, goes test-optional this fall.

Community College Tuition Soars Over Last 15 Years. Tuition at many of the nation's community colleges dramatically rose over the past 15 years, according to the College Board. For example, Hawaii increased its tuition at community colleges by 103 percent over 15 years. Community college tuition in Virginia jumped by 86 percent, in Wyoming by 82 percent, in Louisiana by 77.9 percent, in Idaho by 72 percent, in South Dakota by 70 percent and in Nevada by 64 percent.

States with the smallest community college tuition increase over 15 years were: Maine, 7 percent; Minnesota, 9 percent; New Hampshire, 11.9 percent; Ohio, 12 percent and Wisconsin, 17 percent. ■

Career Wise

Daley C. Opens \$45 Million Manufacturing and Engineering Center. Daley C., part of the City Colleges of Chicago, opened a new Manufacturing and Engineering Center that will build on its programs in quantum engineering, biotechnology and immuno-engineering, advanced materials, energy storage and ensuring clear water supplies globally.

Rockland C.C.'s Career Skills Academy. Rockland C.C. in New York launched a Career Skills Academy for students who don't want to follow a traditional academic path, but are willing to be trained for "middle skills" jobs, "those for which a post-high-school credential is needed, but not necessarily a two- or four-year college degree."

Through short-term programs ranging from 2-16 weeks, "graduates earn industry supported credentials for jobs that exist within the region and pay at least \$45,000 a year." At the end of its first-year, nearly half of the Academy's 40 students received job placements in fields such as gas pipeline operators, CAD drafting/3-D modeling, Google IT support and social media entrepreneurship. ■

HAPPY NEW DECADE!

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