

# College Bound

ISSUES & TRENDS FOR THE COLLEGE ADMISSIONS ADVISOR

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## Admissions Watch

### Some Colleges Seeing More First-Generation Students

**Amherst Admits 11 Percent.** Amherst C. in Massachusetts admitted 1,144 students to the Class of 2023, or 11 percent. Students hail from 48 states and 11 percent are international students. Some 56 percent are U.S. students of color. Amherst is a founding member of QuestBridge and admitted 129 students through that process. Amherst meets 100 percent of a student's demonstrated need, with aid averaging \$50,000 a year.

**Brandeis Students Speak 48 Languages.** Brandeis U. in Massachusetts welcomed 867 first-year students, one of the largest incoming classes in school history. Some 83 of the class are varsity athletes, 18 percent are first-generation students. New students come from 35 nations, speak 48 languages and posted a 3.84 GPA in high school.

**Case Western Reserve Class is "Driven."** Case Western Reserve U. in Ohio received 28,987 applications for the Class of 2023 and admitted 27 percent for the most selective class in school history. It enrolled 1,360 first-year and 60 transfer students this fall. The students come from 46 states and 24 countries. For 29 percent, English was not their first language. First-generation students make up 13 percent of the class. Some 76 percent have performed volunteer work, 68 percent participated in sports, 56 percent in the arts, 41 percent have had a part-time job and 25 percent participated in student government.

Robert McCullough, assistant vice president for enrollment, told the new students they were selected for their "exceptional academic qualifications, but also for their 'drive,' and their 'creativity' so they can make the most of their undergraduate experience."

**Cornell U. Welcomes Diverse Class.** Cornell U. in New York State received 49,118 applications, highest among Ivy League schools.

However, freshman enrollment fell slightly from 3,325 last year to 3,218 this fall. Students of color make up nearly 49 percent of the Class of 2023, according to the *Cornell Chronicle*. First-generation students account for 13 percent. Cornell's yield this fall is 60.4 percent. New students also hail from 39 nations.

"My aim is to help keep the yield high enough that we can predict with good confidence how our final class will look each year," said Jon Burdick, Cornell's new vice provost of enrollment, "but also to continue making sincere offers to many of the world's best students, knowing that for many of these Cornell is the best match."

**Dartmouth's "Triple Crown."** Dartmouth C. in New Hampshire scored a "Triple Crown" this year, according to Lee Coffin, dean of admissions and financial aid, by setting three institutional records.

It attracted its largest application pool since 2012, posted the lowest admit rate in college history, 7.9 percent, and its highest yield, 64 percent, up from 61 percent last year.

Dartmouth's Class of 2023 numbers 1,193 students from all 50 states. Some 12 percent are international students from 51 countries. Recruited athletes make up about 18 percent of the class. Some 42 percent of U.S. citizens are students of color and from 25 native tribes. Students who are the first in their families to go to college account for 15 percent of the class. Some 18 percent come from low-income families. Coffin calls the admissions process "humbling."

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## College Board Introduces "Improved Admissions Resource"

Previously called the "Environmental Context Dashboard," the new "Landscape" will no longer display a single score combining high school and neighborhood information. Beginning next year, schools, students and families will be able to see the same information about high schools and neighborhoods that colleges see.

"We listened to the thoughtful criticism and made Landscape better and more transparent," said David Coleman, CEO of College Board. "Landscape provides admissions officers more consistent background information so they can fairly consider every student, no matter where they live and learn."

According to the College Board, admissions officers state they lack high school information for about 25 percent of all applications. Landscape is designed to present consistent high school and neighborhood information so admissions officers can fairly consider each student.

The College Board says Landscape does not replace the individual information included in an application such as GPA, personal essay or high school transcript. It does not alter a student's SAT score in any way. It does show how an applicant's SAT or ACT score compares to others at the same high school. And it does provide consistent information about an applicant's neighborhood and high school.

For more information, visit <https://www.collegeboard.org>. ■

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## FIRST GENERATION

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### DePauw's "New Threshold of Learning"

In a traditional welcoming ceremony, DePauw U. in central Indiana welcomed 443 new students to "A New Threshold of Learning." The new DePauw students traveled from 29 states and 21 countries. More than 20 percent are domestic students of color and 94 are first-generation learners, while 69 are legacies and 175 are athletes.

Student body president Summer Pappachen urged the new undergraduates "to realize the power in you and embrace the opportunities to grow personally and build a stronger community. Welcome to the best four years of your life."

### Elon's Resilience and Determination.

Elon U. in North Carolina attracted a new class of 1,734 students, 131 of whom are first-generation college students. In a kick-off convocation, all the new students touched a large and partially melted metal bell that survived a horrific 1923 fire that destroyed much of the campus.

Jon Dooley, vice president of student life, told the new students that the bell now serves as a symbol of "resilience and determination," and that when they face set-backs, which they inevitably will during their four years, they should come and touch it again, and renew their efforts to succeed.

### Johns Hopkins Enrolled Students from 34 Countries.

Johns Hopkins U.'s 1,363 enrolled freshmen include 15 percent who are first-generation students. Some 98 percent were in the top 10 percent of their high school class. About 46 percent are male students, 54 percent female. The average academic GPA is 3.92. About 14 percent of the new class is made up of international students, 16 percent Latinx/Hispanic and 13 percent are African Americans.

### Middlebury Admits 17 Percent.

Middlebury C. in Vermont received 9,754 applications for the Class of 2023, and admitted just over 17 percent. The enrolled class includes students from 42 states and 56 countries. Some 11 percent of the 600 new students are international students. Another 100 first-year students will arrive in February.

New students had a rigorous first week in which they met their advisors and first-year seminar classmates, learned about academic departments and the college's academic honors code and programs such as Green Dot, a bystander intervention program to prevent violence.

### Notre Dame's Yield Increases.

More than 22,000 high school students applied to the U. of Notre Dame in Indiana, up 9 percent from

last year. About 3,515 were admitted, for a record low admit rate of 16 percent. This fall, 2,055 of the admitted students arrived on the South Bend campus as members of the Class of 2023. That made the school's yield 58 percent, one full percent higher than last year, despite the fact that 90 fewer students were admitted this year, according to the school newspaper, *The Observer*.

First-generation students make up almost 9 percent of the class. Pell Grant students make up 11 percent of the class and U.S. students of color make up 29 percent. International students accounted for 6 percent and legacy students 21 percent. More than 81 percent of the students are Catholic.

"The more that the application numbers go up and the academic profile of the applicant pool goes up the more we feel we can be holistic in our approach, more creative," Don Bishop, associate vice president for undergraduate enrollment, told the paper. "We're looking at a student's motivation for success as a heavy decider."

### Portland Draws Out-of-State.

The U. of Portland in Oregon welcomed about 1,000 students to its Class of 2023, 62 percent of whom are females. About 47 percent of the new students identify as minorities. And 78 percent of the class comes from out-of-state. Their average high school GPA was 3.65, their average SAT score was 1250, according to *The Beacon*.

### Rutgers New Class is "Most Accomplished in 250 Years."

Rutgers U. in New Jersey, enrolled what admissions officers called among "the brightest and most accomplished [students] in the university's 250-year history." A record 45,200 students applied to become members of the Class of 2023. Sixty-five percent of the university's first-year students are African American, Latino or Asian.

This fall, 13,575 first-year and transfer students enrolled university-wide, with 9,550 settling in on the New Brunswick campus and Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences division. About 20 percent of them are out-of-state, while international students hail from 125 countries. About 500 are enrolled in the Honors College, which graduated its inaugural class this year.

Rutgers-Camden welcomed 1,525 first-year and transfer students and Rutgers-Newark greeted 2,500 first-year and transfer students.

### Washington and Lee Meets Need.

Washington and Lee U. in Virginia received 6,178 applications for the Class of 2023, 6 percent more than last year. It admitted 1,115 students in the spring, including 248 students admitted Early Decision and in partnership with QuestBridge. Admitted students came from 48 states and 35 countries, "thanks in part to the University's partnership with the Davis United World College program."

W&L's no-loan financial aid policy meets 100 percent of each student's need. ■

## One State Sees Enrollment Turnaround

College enrollment in Illinois colleges and universities experienced serious decline from 2010, when they enrolled 930,000 students, to 2017, when they attracted only 768,000 students. At the same time, more Illinois students were choosing out-of-state colleges. In 2002, only 29 percent of its high school grads enrolled out-of-state. But by 2017, that number had soared to 48 percent.

A number of factors led to the decline including the demographic dip of high school-age students in the Midwest and political wrangling in the state capital which led to a decline in higher education funding. But things are starting to look up.

This fall, Illinois State U. in Normal recruited its largest freshman class in 33 years, 3,900 students, one third of whom come from minority groups. Jana Albrecht, associate vice president for enrollment management, told the *Chicago Tribune* that one reason was that the school has restructured its financial aid programs for middle-income families, with the help of new state dollars.

Eastern Illinois U. in Charleston attracted 13 percent more freshmen this year, 888 first-time freshmen. Admissions director Kelly Miller also cited expanded financial aid

options. "We've kept our cost of attendance low and we've really focused on making college affordable for families," Miller told the *Chicago Tribune*. "We're doing everything we can to help them with scholarships and with completing the financial aid process."

Southern Illinois U.-Carbondale experienced significant declines over the past decade, 43 percent fewer students than in 2009. But this fall, the decline was significantly smaller, with 1,037 first-time freshmen enrolled. And the retention rate increased for returning sophomores.

The U. of Illinois at Chicago saw its enrollment grow for the fifth year in a row. The number of freshmen jumped 6 percent this fall to 4,407 and is up 45 percent since 2014. Total enrollment reached 33,390. "Our continued enrollment growth demonstrates that we are providing an accessible and affordable option for a world-class education at Chicago's only public research university," UIC Chancellor Michael D. Amiridis told the *Chicago Sun-Times*.

Enrollment at the flagship U. of Illinois Urbana-Champaign increased by 3.9 percent to 51,196, the first time over 50,000 and the ninth straight year of growth, and 6,613 of these are freshmen. ■

# Fall Financial Matters

**Different Debt Profiles for A.A./B.A.** “Two-year college attendees experienced major life events and transitions much differently than four-year degree holders, and these early experiences have profound, long-term effects on debt holding and financial precarity,” says Catherine M. Sauer, vice president of research and programs for the National Endowment for Financial Education. “It may be assumed that with time, the debt portfolios start to look the same. Instead, these differences persist, and in some cases widen.”

NEFE, in partnership with The Ohio State U., has just released a study of the problem. Among its findings: Individuals who only complete a two-year degree are more financially vulnerable than those with a four-year degree. They are:

- Exposed to higher interest rates on student loans;
- Have more vehicle and credit card debt and a higher rate of delinquency;
- Experience more major life events, such as marriage and childbearing during the same period of their educational pursuit.

To find the full study, go to [www.nefe.org](http://www.nefe.org).

**More Than 44 Million Have Failed to Pay Off Loans.** According to EduBirdie, 44.7 million people have failed to pay off their student loans. And 11.5 percent of student loans have already expired, “meaning that lots of young men and women are facing charges and even higher interest rates because their obligations haven’t been fulfilled.”

Almost 90 percent of those who graduated from for-profit colleges are in debt approximately \$40,000 each. And 75 percent of students of private and nonprofit colleges have loans of approximately \$32,000.

**Average Student Debt by State.** WalletHub listed the average student debt, proportion of students with debt, student debt as percent of income, unemployment rate of population age 25 to 34, percent of student loans past due or in default, percent of student loan borrowers age 50 and over, availability of student jobs, availability of paid internships and Grant Growth by state. To find the entire list, visit <https://wallethub.com/edu/best-and-worst-states-for-student-debt/7520/>.

**Free College.** Despite the high sticker price of college, there are deals to be had, including, believe it or not, several tuition-free colleges and universities. Onlineschoolcenter.com compiled one list of such schools, including:

Barclay C. (KS), Berea C. (KY), Alice Lloyd C. (KY), C. of the Ozarks (MO), Web Institute (NY), Deep Springs C. (CA), Warren Wilson C.

(NC), Curtis Institute of Music (PA), Macaulay Honors C. (NY), U. of the People (CA), Haskell Indian Nations U. (KS), Blackburn C. (IL), Central Christian C. of the Bible (MO), Williamson C. of the Trades (PA), City C. of San Francisco, St. Louis Christian C. (MO) and the U.S. military academies. See, [www.onlineschoolcenter.com/tuition-free-colleges-universities/](http://www.onlineschoolcenter.com/tuition-free-colleges-universities/).

## SCHOOL AND STATE NEWS

**Brenau U. Announces Income Share Agreement.** Brenau U., in Gainesville, Georgia, announced a new financing option with Vemo Education that will broaden college access by reducing the up-front cost of education. Through an Income Share Agreement students will receive tuition funding in exchange for a fixed percentage of future income for a defined and definite period of time.

“The broader social mission of ISAs is simple,” said Tonio DeSorrento, co-founder and CEO of Vemo Education. “Help schools like Brenau drive student success and positive outcomes. It’s inspiring to see how Brenau is using ISAs as a tool for increasing access, retention and completion.”

**Colorado C. Makes Financial Pledge.** Colorado C. now promises that in-state students from families making under \$200,000 will pay the same as students at in-state publics. It offers other incentives for lower-income families, such as no parental contribution from families making \$60,000 and less.

**Hiram Slashes Tuition and Fees by 35 Percent.** Hiram C. in Ohio announced that in 2020 it will cut its tuition and fees from \$37,710 to \$24,500. “On most campuses, the average student pays less than 50 percent of the published cost of tuition,” Hiram’s President Lori Varlotta told Cleveland.com. “Hiram College can lower its published tuition price by \$13,210 because very few students pay the full price.”

Hiram will also allow students to enroll in up to two free courses each summer to help with their academic workload. “Students who take one less course while their team is in season or while they work on a major research project can now make up those hours at no cost in the summer,” Varlotta said.

**Nebraska STEM Scholarships.** The U. of Nebraska is using a National Science Foundation grant of more than \$3.5 million to fund 120 scholarships for students pursuing careers in science, technology, engineering and math. ■

## COUNSELOR’S BOOKSHELF

**Rankings Are Out.** The annual college rankings are out, *U.S. News & World Report*, *Wall Street Journal*, *USA Today*, *the Princeton Review*.... Here is a sampling of others you may have missed.

The top 10 “Best Values in Public Colleges 2019” from the *Kiplinger Report* are: the U. of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, the U. of Florida, the U. of California-Berkeley, the U. of Virginia, the U. of Washington, the U. of Michigan, the U. of California-Los Angeles, the U. of Texas at Austin, Florida State U. and

the U. of Maryland-College Park. See, <https://www.kiplinger.com>.

**Top 10 Research Universities.** College Consensus released its 2019 list of top national research universities. The top 10 are: Yale U., Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Princeton U., Stanford U., Harvard U., Brown U., Dartmouth C., Rice U., Duke U. and Columbia U. To view its entire list, go to [www.collegeconsensus.com/rankings/best-research-universities/](http://www.collegeconsensus.com/rankings/best-research-universities/).

**Best Liberal Arts Colleges.** *The Washington Monthly* ranked the best four-year liberal arts colleges “based on their contribution to the public good in three broad categories: social mobility, research and promoting public service.” Here’s their top 21: Washington and Lee U., Harvey Mudd C., Amherst C., Berea C., Bowdoin C., Middlebury C., Vassar C., Pomona C., Wesleyan U., Claremont McKenna C., Haverford C., Williams C., C. of the Holy Cross, Bryn Mawr C., Swarthmore C., Wellesley C., Bates C., Colgate U., Hamilton C., Barnard C. and Grinnell C. Find the complete list at: <https://Washingtonmonthly/2019college-guide/liberalarts>. ■

## CURRICULUM CAPSULES

**Nation's First Molecular Engineering School.** The U. of Chicago is set to launch its seventh degree-granting school, the Pritzker School of Molecular Engineering. The school will focus on "pressing societal challenges" from the molecular level including cancer research, energy storages and global water scarcity.

"Molecular engineering has been critical

to expanding the university's capacity to contribute to science, engineering and technology development, and to do so in a highly distinctive way," Robert Zimmer, president, told the *Chicago Sun-Times*.

Additionally, the school will include a partnership with the City Colleges of Chicago to help students transfer into four-year STEM degree programs.

### Niagara's "One Year to Teaching Career."

To meet the impending teacher shortage, Niagara U. in Western New York launched a "One Year to Teaching Career" program that is open to anyone with a bachelor's degree in any field. Individuals can earn a degree in elementary or secondary education in English, math, biology, chemistry, French, Spanish, social studies or business and marketing in as little as three semesters.

### Stony Brook's Institute for Artificial Intelligence Discovery.

Stony Brook U., located on Long Island and regarded as the flagship of the State University of New York system, officially launched its new Institute for AI-Driven Discovery and Innovation, "to advance AI research and apply the transformative power of innovation driven by AI across disciplines." The AI Institute will focus on "four grand challenges," healthcare, infrastructure, education and finance.

"The goal of this initiative is to foster innovative collaboration across departments and verticals to bring together teams of students who are early in their education journey—from engineering, humanities and other disciplines," said Samuel L. Stanley Jr., Stony Brook's president.

**Top Biblical Studies Programs.** The Bachelor's Degree Center released its list of the nation's "best" biblical studies degree programs, based on tuition, graduation rates, employment after graduation, alumni salary and student reviews.

Here are its top programs, in order: Georgetown C. (DC), C. of William and Mary (VA), U. of California Santa Barbara, Case Western Reserve U. (OH), U. of Rochester (NY), Augustana C. (IL), U. of Dayton (OH), Grinnell C. (IA), U. of St. Thomas (MN), Martin Luther C. (WI), Rhodes C. (TN), Illinois Wesleyan U., Valparaiso U. (IN), Messiah C. (PA), Sewanee: The U. of the South (TN), Hamline U. (MN), Northwestern C. (IA), Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (MO), Athens State U. (AL), Lancaster Bible C. (PA), Webster U. (MO), Clarks Summit U. (PA). For the full description of programs, see [www.bachelorsdegreecenter.org](http://www.bachelorsdegreecenter.org).

### P.S. Most Grads Would Study STEM.

According to the Randstad Workmonitor report for the "Second Quarter" of 2019, if they could go back to school, 68 percent of U.S. employees would focus on a field within science, technology, engineering or math (STEM).

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## NEWS YOU CAN USE

**Impact of Common Application.** The National Bureau of Economic Research released a "Working Paper" on the effects of the Common Application. The researchers found that the CA reduces friction in the college application process and increases student choice.

They also found the CA increases the number of applications received by member colleges and universities, reduces the yield on accepted students, accelerates geographic integration and attracts more foreign students and more out-of-state students.

Finally, the researchers found "some evidence that joining the CA increases freshmen SAT scores. If so, and given the CA members tend to be more selective institutions, the CA also has contributed to "stratification," the widening gap between more selective and less selective schools.

**Test Optional.** Spring Hill C. in Mobile, Alabama, announced that it will no longer require the SAT or ACT standardized tests, beginning this fall. "As a Jesuit, Catholic institution, Spring Hill emphasizes a holistic review of applications for admission," said Joseph Lee II, president. "We believe that a full evaluation of a student's high school record, both in and out of the classroom, is the best indicator of future academic success."

Colorado C. also is adopting a test-optional admission policy "in an ongoing effort to increase the diversity of the student body." According to Kevin Holmes, a C.C. assistant professor of psychology, "Standardized test scores do not always reflect the academic potential of students from disadvantaged backgrounds."

**K-12 Stagnant On Improvement.** The nation's K-12 system was judged to be stagnant when it comes to school improvement, according to *Quality Counts* issued by *Education Week*. Using the latest data in 39 areas of academic achievement, school finance and socioeconomic factors, *Quality Counts* gave the entire system a "C," continuing a string of "mediocre performances in recent years nationally."

Among the highlights: New Jersey will displace Massachusetts as the top-ranking state overall, with a "B-." Nevada was the most improved state, despite ranking second from the bottom with a "D+." Eight of the 10 highest ranking states are in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic, while all 10 of the lowest-ranking states are in the South, Southwest or West.

To view online maps and tables, go to [www.edweek.org/go/qc19map](http://www.edweek.org/go/qc19map).

## Hampshire C. Now Admitting for Spring 2020

Hampshire C. in Amherst, Massachusetts, is currently accepting applications from first-year and transfer students for admissions in the spring semester that starts in January 2020, as well as for the fall semester. Students can find forms on the Common App. The spring semester deadline is November 15.

Last January, Hampshire announced it was looking for a strategic partner in order to survive and announced that it was not going to accept applications. But the Hampshire community and alumni came forward with

"historic levels of support."

As a result, Hampshire C. is currently reinventing itself and expects to enroll between 700 and 800 students for the next three years. In its fourth year, it hopes to enroll over 1,000 students. It will add new programs to go with its original mission. Fifty years ago, when Hampshire was founded, it rejected traditional lectures, exams, academic majors and departments, and replaced them with student-designed inquiry guided by faculty and serious independent research and work.