

College Bound

ISSUES & TRENDS FOR THE COLLEGE ADMISSIONS ADVISOR

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Admissions Watch

New Programs Attract Applicants

Amherst Admits 38 Percent Without Test Scores. Amherst C. in Massachusetts received more than 12,700 applications for its Class of 2027, down from 14,800 applications for the 2021-2022 school year, according to Cate Granger Zolkos, dean of admission. Amherst admitted only 9 percent of those who applied. They hail from 49 U.S. states and 54 nations. This year, 38 percent of Amherst's admitted students did not submit a standardized test score.

Berea Responds to Flooding. Berea C. eliminated admission applications of qualified high school seniors from 14 Kentucky counties that were affected by February flooding.

Bowdoin's Diversity. Students of color make up 54 percent of the newly admitted pool at Bowdoin C. in Maine, international students 7 percent. Only 9 percent come from Maine. Most students come from California, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Florida and Connecticut. First-generation students make up 27 percent of the admitted pool.

Caltech Pool Committed to STEM. California Institute of Technology admitted 412 students to its Class of 2027. They come from 39 states and 31 countries. Students of color account for 64 percent of the new class, and 44 percent are female. Caltech admitted 35 QuestBridge students. All of the admitted students share a strong commitment to science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

According to Pasadenanow.com, more than one-third submitted a portfolio of "creative and maker work" and 45 percent of admitted

students included materials documenting their own past research.

Colby Admits 6 Percent. Colby C. in Maine received nearly 17,800 applications for its Class of 2027 and offered admission to 1,142 of those students, or about 6 percent. Admitted students come from all 50 states and 75 countries. Students of color make up about 48 percent of the admitted pool. The median SAT of admitted students is 1510, the median ACT is 34.

Colgate Commitment Helps Attract More Than 21,000 Apps. Colgate U. in Upstate New York received 21,114 applications for its Class of 2027, 146 percent more than for the Class of 2024. Colgate's target class size for this fall is 805 students.

"Colgate has far exceeded most of our peers in terms of growth," Gary Ross, vice president for admission and financial aid, told *The Colgate Maroon-News*. "I don't know of another school that has seen [such] an increase."

He credited the excellence of Colgate's academic programs, more virtual events in areas of the country where the admissions staff had not been able to visit and the Colgate Commitment that significantly improved "Colgate's already very generous financial aid program."

DePauw Up 23 Percent with New Schools. DePauw U. in Indiana attracted more than 7,000 first-year applications for the Class of 2027, 23 percent more than last year. A new Business School and Creative School are attracting students.

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Financial Matters

More Will Be Pell Eligible. According to a new analysis by the State Higher Education Executive Officers Association, about 43 percent of students who were originally ineligible for Pell Grants will now be eligible for aid because of the FAFSA Simplification Act which will take effect this July. And nearly 85 percent of Pell-eligible students will see their award amounts increase by up to \$8,800, with the largest segment seeing a \$5,000 boost.

North Carolina Streamlines Aid. During its last session, the North Carolina General Assembly combined three scholarship programs into one, eliminating the need for three applications and three sets of administrative workers.

The new scholarship program combines the UNC Need-Based Grant, the Education Lottery Scholarship and the Community College Grant. North Carolina students from families earning less than \$75,000 now automatically qualify for at least \$2,800 in combined state and federal aid for community college tuition and fees and at least \$5,000 toward tuition and fees at the state's four-year public universities.

North Carolina is home to 58 community colleges, 16 public universities and 41 private colleges and universities.

Cincinnati Area Colleges' "Moon Shot."

An effort to graduate more Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky students called "Moon Shot for Equity" received \$100,000 from Duke

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APPLICATIONS UP

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"The amount of resources, opportunities and experiences that students have here is truly outstanding and different than students at similar colleges...", said Mary Beth Petrie, vice president of enrollment.

Duke Admitted a Record Low 16.5 percent ED. Duke attracted 4,855 Early Decision applicants, the second most on record, and admitted 800 to its Class of 2027, or a record low 16.5 percent. The QuestBridge National College Match Program contributed 55 students. About 52 percent of those admitted identify as students of color, 10 percent are international students and 57.5 percent are female.

North Carolina, New York, California, Texas and Florida contributed the most members of the new class. About 634 students plan to enroll in Trinity C. of Arts and Sciences, while 166 plan to enroll in the Pratt School of Engineering.

Manhattanville Spring Enrollment Jumps. Manhattanville C. in Purchase, New York, enrolled 15 percent more new students this spring than last year. Its online School of Nursing and Health Sciences, computer science, musical theater, business programs and psychology all drew more students.

"Manhattanville continues to attract the traditional Liberal Arts student, but is reach-

ing a new type of student with a host of exciting programs," said Troy L. Cogburn, vice president.

Middlebury Apps Up Two Percent. Middlebury C. in Vermont received a record 13,297 applications for the Class of 2027, 2 percent more than last year. That includes 11,971 Regular Decision applications and 1,326 Early Decision I & II apps. A total of 516 students were accepted early, including QuestBridge Scholars. In the fall, 630 new students are expected to enroll on campus, while 105 will enroll February 2024.

Notre Dame Places Students on a Wait List. The U. of Notre Dame in Indiana attracted 28,351 applications and admitted 1,698, or 11.9 percent of them, to its new class. ND placed a small number of students on its wait list. The newly admitted students come from all 50 states and 143 different countries. ND's three-year experiment with test-optional admissions is under review.

"There are a lot of intangibles that are really, really important. You know, commitment to the mission. Right? How passionate are you about being a leader of character, educating the heart and the mind and going out being a means for good in the world? So how students respond and exhibit enthusiasm around that type of question [matters]," Micki Kidder, vice president for undergraduate enrollment, told *The Observer*.

Santa Clara More Competitive. Facing capacity limitations, Santa Clara U., a Jesuit university in California, admissions officers fielded 18,800 applications for the Class of 2027, 13 percent increase from last year. Its acceptance rate was 42 percent, down from 54 percent. Average GPA: 3.8.

Swarthmore Admits 6.7 Percent. Swarthmore C. outside Philadelphia received 14,287 applications for this fall and admitted 6.7 percent, fewer than recent years. About half submitted standardized test scores. The new class includes students from 53 different countries.

"Swarthmore attracts not just intelligent, but deeply reflective students who don't necessarily have everything figured out and see Swarthmore as an opportunity to grow academically and personally," Daniel Torres, senior admissions fellow, told *The Phoenix*.

"We are looking to bring a smaller class to campus this year given the slight over-enrollment of the past two first-year classes, which allowed less room for transfer students. This made the decisions particularly difficult this year," said dean of admissions Jim Bock. He added, "...an admissions decision is never an indication of an individual's worth."

Wellesley Welcomes 13 Percent. Wellesley C. in Connecticut received just over 8,400 first-year applications, the second most in school history. But only 13 percent of applicants were offered admission. More than 60 percent are domestic students of color. About a quarter are first in their family to attend a four-year college. International citizens account for 11 percent of the new class. About half speak a language other than English at home.

This is the third year that Wellesley was test optional, T. Peaches Valdes, dean of admission and financial aid, told *Wellesley News*.

Williams Admits 9.8 Percent. William C. in Massachusetts received 10,315 applications for its Class of 2024. It admitted 858 through Regular Admissions and 255 Early Decision. It accepted 200 fewer students than last year, Liz Creighton, dean of admission and student financial services, told *The Williams Record*. It waitlisted 1,970.

Other Early Numbers. Boston C. received 4,433 ED apps and admitted 1,330, 30 percent; Fordham U. in New York City received 21,200 early applications and admitted 12,084, 57 percent

Georgetown U. in Washington D.C. received 8,196 Restricted Early Action applications and admitted 964, 12 percent; U. of Southern California received 40,600 Early Action apps and admitted 2,400, or 6 percent.

Look for more Spring '23 admissions numbers in *CB's* "Admissions Story-of-the-Day" at www.collegeboundnews.com. ■

State News

Connecticut Draws 48,000-Plus Apps. The U. of Connecticut at Storrs received more than 48,000 applications for its Class of 2027, up significantly from last year's 43,000 applications. The university began sending out offers of financial aid in early March. About 4,100 new students are expected to enroll this fall.

New students have expressed the most interest in nursing, computer science and business. About 75 percent of UConn's undergraduate student body comes from Connecticut.

About 1,675 other new students are expected to enroll at its regional campuses in Hartford, Stamford, Waterbury and Avery Point. Applications to those campuses are open until May 1. UConn continues to be test-optional.

Applications will likely surge even more next year, since UConn just won the NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Championship.

Florida State Admits 24 Percent. Florida State U. received 71,788 applications for its new class, down from last year's 78,000 apps. FSU accepted 17,066 or 24 percent. The average GPA of admitted students is 4.4, their average ACT 31, their average SAT 1370. About

88 percent of the new students graduated in the top 10 percent of their high school class. Some 79 percent of the new students went to high school in Florida and 22 percent are first generation. FSU expects to enroll between 6,000 and 6,200 students during the Summer and Fall 2023 semesters.

"While it is incredible to have such a large number of applications, we have been blown away by the talent of the students who applied," said Hege Ferguson, FSU's director of admissions.

Georgia Tech Admits 10 Percent Early. More than 27,000 students from outside of Georgia applied to Georgia Tech Early Action 2 and 2,838 were admitted or about 10 percent. Overall, 52,330 students applied for this fall, a 3.5 percent increase over last year.

"Our team of full- and part-time readers, along with our operations team, have worked tirelessly to ensure each applicant was reviewed holistically," said Mary Tipton Woolley, senior associate director of undergraduate admissions. She added that the students who applied to Georgia Tech amazed her with their high school accomplishments. ■

FINANCIAL MATTERS

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Energy. Beneficiaries are future students at Cincinnati State Technical C. C., Gateway Community and Technical C., Miami U. Regionals and Northern Kentucky U.

TUITION TABS

Elon to Cost 5 Percent More. Elon U. in North Carolina said its 5.14 percent increase in tuition, room and board is necessary to hire new staff members, increase financial aid and bolster diversity efforts. Financial aid will also increase.

Elon also announced a new required racial equity course beginning with students who enroll this fall. The course was created in response to student interest and lobbying.

MIT Increases Tuition 3.75 Percent. The Massachusetts Institute of Technology announced that its estimated undergraduate budget will reach \$164.1 million next year, requiring a 3.75 percent increase for tuition, housing and other costs. Undergraduate tuition and fees will reach \$60,156 for the 2023-24 academic year. Including housing and dining costs, the total will reach \$82,730.

The average MIT scholarship next year will be \$61,247. Last year, 37 percent of the student body received enough aid to make their year tuition-free.

Rice Posts Tuition Increase. Attendance at Rice U. in Texas this next fall will cost students \$3,110 more than this year. Total cost with tuition and room and board and mandatory fees will total \$74,028 a year. But Rice will continue to meet the full financial need of admitted students, without loans.

USC Tuition up 5 Percent. Annual tuition at the U. of Southern California will hit \$66,640 this fall, 5 percent more than this academic year. Taking into account housing, dining, books, supplies and transportation, the total student cost this fall could top \$90,900.

This year, USC is the seventh most expensive school in the nation,

according to *U.S. News*. However, financial aid is expected to rise by 7 percent and about two-thirds of the student body currently receives assistance.

Washington State Recruiting Out-of-State. Washington State U. is stepping up recruitment and financial aid to attract more students. Its new plan brings out-of-state tuition down to in-state levels. Any out-of-state student who enrolls this fall with a GPA above 3.0 can receive up to \$11,000 in awards annually, according to WSU.ed/news.

WSU also is launching two new online programs in its Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering.

CUNY Waived Application Fees for NYC Students. The City U. of New York waived application fees for NYC high school seniors. It has already waived the fees of 46,000 students. Enrollment at CUNY's 23 undergraduate schools and programs remains below pre-pandemic levels by about 10 percent. In-state students pay about \$3,465 per semester at its four-year colleges.

SCHOLARSHIP SCOOPS

Brown Pre-College Scholarships. Brown U. in Providence, Rhode Island, has pledged to pay full pre-college scholarships to all admitted Providence public school students who participate in 300 non-credit, first-year college-level summer classes.

Luther Receives \$4.5 Million in Gifts for Scholarships. Luther C. in Iowa received \$4.5 million from a variety of donors that will be dedicated to student financial aid.

Northern Michigan's Last Dollar. Northern Michigan U. launched NMU Tuition Advantage, a "last dollar" scholarship that will make tuition free for four years for qualified Michigan residents.

Tufts Scholarship Home Run. Tufts U. was a big winner when San Francisco Giants owner and Tufts' alum donated \$10 million to create the Steve Tisch Family Endowed Scholarship for Arts, Sciences and Engineering undergraduates, the latest of his contributions to the university. ■

ENROLLMENT TRENDS

Indiana Pennsylvania's Dual Admissions. Indiana U. of Pennsylvania signed a dual admissions agreement with Harrisburg Area C. C., whose students will receive automatic acceptance. Since 2015, 484 students have transferred to IUP to complete their academic studies, including 170 dual enrollment high school students.

"IUP is pleased to establish this partnership with HACC," said Michael Driscoll, IUP president. "This agreement helps us to provide key services, support and access that these qualified students need and deserve to meet their educational needs."

Montana's First-Generation Student

Decline. First year, first generation enrollment at the U. of Montana fell by 9.4 percent this year, or about 2,159 students. Mary Kreta, vice president, U. of Montana, blamed the rising cost of college tuition (up 9.7 percent since last year), high living costs in Missoula and the lure of making money right out of high school.

Only 34 percent of Montana residents have earned bachelor's degrees or higher. UM offers a scholarship called the Grizzly Promise to students from families making \$50,000 or less.

North Central Michigan C. Up 8.6 Percent. Winter enrollment rose 8.6 percent (in credit hours) at North Central Michigan C. compared to last year, Corey Lansing, director of admis-

sions, told *News-Review*,

"In addition to employing new strategies aimed at new student recruitment, we're also focused on efforts to retain and support our current students to make sure they're successful on their educational journey towards graduation."

UW-Madison's Largest First-Year Class. The U. of Wisconsin-Madison's Class of 2026 was the largest first-year class in school history, with 8,628 new students, up 1.9 percent over the previous year, even though it offered admission to 3,000 fewer students. The new class was selected from 60,260 applications. The class includes 1,431 underrepresented students of color, up from 1,251 in 2021. Total enrollment at UW-Madison reached 49,886 students, up 4.1 percent from 2021. ■

Admissions Initiatives

Columbia Drops Standardized Tests. Columbia U. in New York City announced it permanently dropped the SAT or ACT as an admission requirement.

North Texas Automatic Admissions. A new partnership allows graduating seniors at more than 10 Dallas-area high schools automatic, conditional admissions to The U. of North Texas at Dallas. Participating schools will track their seniors and provide UNT Dallas with contact information. The university will then contact those students with a “quick link” to apply.

Currently in Dallas County, just 33 percent of adults have earned a bachelor’s degree or higher, according to the 2022 census.

North Dakota Eliminates Entry Tests. Colleges and universities in the North Dakota University System will no longer require standardized tests for admission. However, course placement in English and math classes are still required at some schools and students are still encouraged to take the test for scholarships.

UMass Lowell and Northern Essex C.C. Sign Deal. Students who complete their associate degree at Northern Essex C. C. will have priority registration at the U. of Massachusetts Lowell. “The world is changing, and we’re recognizing that the pathways to education are also changing,” said UMass chancellor Julie Chen.

Washington State Direct Admissions. Central Washington U., Eastern Washington U., Western Washington U., Washington State U. and Evergreen State U. are coordinating with 66 Washington public school districts to streamline admissions with a guaranteed admission program for high school seniors who have a 3.0 GPA and are on target to graduate.

Wisconsin-Green Bay Starts Direct Admissions. UW-Green Bay has begun a direct admissions program with graduates of Green Bay Area Public Schools. Beginning in 2024, graduates of those schools will no longer be required to complete an application for admission to UW-Green Bay.

“This program speaks directly to the student who might not have thought of themselves as continuing their education after high school,” said Michael Alexander, UW-Green Bay Chancellor. “It says to them, ‘UW-Green Bay believes in you and your future.’” ■

CURRICULUM CAPSULES

Carthage C. Opens New School. This month, Carthage C. in Kenosha, Wisconsin, launches its new School of Business and Economics.

About one fourth of Carthage undergraduate students major in accounting, economics, finance, management or marketing, combined with liberal arts learning, according to wisbusiness.com. Now, all of those business departments are brought together.

Colorado-Colorado Springs Makes Three Departments. The U. of Colorado-Colorado Springs makes its Criminal Justice, Public Administration and Social Work programs departments within the School of Public

Affairs, which has recorded a 221 percent enrollment increase since 2011.

Colorado School of Mines to Teach Teachers. Colorado School of Mines in Golden, with 7,400 students, will soon start educating math, science and computer science teachers in secondary science, secondary math, middle school math and K-12 computer science. The school hopes to graduate 20 to 30 new teachers a year.

Hartwick C.’s Five New Minors. Hartwick C. in Arkansas announced new minors in Game Development, Cybersecurity, Data Analysis, Web Design and Digital Marketing. ■

COUNSELOR’S BOOKSHELF

Thinking Critically in College: The Essential Handbook for Student Success by Louis E Newman; Radius Book Group; ISBN 13:978-163-576-7957; \$21.95.

The Education Myth: How Human Capital Trumped Social Democracy by Jon Shelton; Cornell University Press; ISBN: 1501768-14X, \$41,95.

Reimagining the Student Experience: How colleges can help students connect, belong and engage. *The Chronicle of Higher Education*; \$199; <https://chronicle.com/products/>.

Legacy Benefits/Deficits. “Legacies make better alumni after graduation and have wealthier parents who are materially positioned to be more generous donors than non-legacy parents,” Emilio J. Castilla,

author of a study on “Legacy Preference” published in a recent *American Sociological Review*, told the MIT Sloan School of Management.

He added that legacy preferences are counterproductive to “diversity logic.”

Legacy applicants are estimated to be 25 percent more likely to be white, 62 percent less likely to be Asian and 23 percent less likely to be Hispanic compared to non-legacies.

Money’s 10 Best Scholarship Websites. *Money* magazine recently listed its choices for top college scholarship websites, with pros and cons for each.

They were: Chegg, Careeronestop’s Scholarship Finder, College Board, Internationalstudent.com, Peterson’s, StudentScholarships.org, Scholarship America, Scholarships.com, Scholly, JLV College Counseling. ■

NEWS YOU CAN USE

American Bar Association Retains Test Requirements. The American Bar Association voted to reject a proposal that would have eliminated entrance exam requirements for law schools. The LSAT or another test such as the GRE that measures academic performance will continue to be required at accredited law schools.

Mentoring Makes a Difference. New York City high school students who participated in the City U. of New York system mentoring program were 7 percent more likely to enroll in college, according to a study of 53,000 seniors by the system’s Office of Applied Research, Evaluation and Data Analytics.

The College and Career Bridge for All programs started as a pilot in 2017. All public high school seniors in the state became eligible in 2020.

12th Grade Math Counts. UCLA’s Los Angeles Education Research Institute recently reported that “students who took a full year of math, of any type, in 12th grade enrolled and persisted in four-year colleges at higher rates than similar peers who did not take any math courses in 12th grade.” ■

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