

College Bound

ISSUES & TRENDS FOR THE COLLEGE ADMISSIONS ADVISOR

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Admissions Watch

More on Class of 2028 Up Close

Editor's Note: MANY COLLEGES this fall are later than usual in reporting their admissions results for the Class of 2028, largely, in part, because of the delays with FAFSA. So, this month, CB expands its roundup of profiles of the new incoming class. And, we will be back next month with more.

Augusta U. Celebrates 200th Year. As it launches its 200th academic year, Augusta U. in Georgia welcomed its largest new class, with students from 19 states and 12 countries. This year's class drew 163 students with perfect 4.0 averages in high school and three with perfect ACT scores.

Babson C. Welcomes Freshmen. About 600 first-year students moved into Babson C. in Massachusetts at the end of August.

Bates C.'s New Students Exhibited Extraordinary Experiences. Bates C. in Maine received a record 10,019 applications for its Class of 2028 and matriculated 491 students from 38 US states and 29 countries.

About three dozen of the new students founded organizations, clubs or businesses. One created a monarch butterfly waystation, another studied Atlantic tuna to help with conservation efforts.

One is a jazz saxophonist, another an opera singer, several are ballet performers or choreographers. Others are poets and fiction authors. One student built homes in Peru, while another raised funds for earthquake victims. One was an animal-rights advocate in Russia, while others volunteered for national organizations. They all came to campus with extraordinary skills and aspirations.

Baylor Most Diverse in History. New students at Baylor U. in Texas hail from 50 states and 50 nations. Its Class of 2028 is the most diverse in school history, with 40 percent students of color. The number of males is up to 42 percent.

President Linda Livingstone characterized Baylor as academically-focused, unapologetically Christian, a member of the Power 4 in athletics and mid-sized so students can build a community within a larger university. At the same time, she said Baylor welcomes students from all faiths.

Case Western Reserve's Diversity. Case Western Reserve U. in Cleveland welcomed 1,575 new students into its Class of 2028. The students speak 63 different languages at home and 13 percent are the first in their family to go to college. They attended 1,086 different high schools; 26 percent are from Middle Atlantic states, 7 percent from New England, 13 percent from the Midwest, 8 percent from the South, 15 percent from the West and 12 percent are from 86 countries outside the U.S.

In high school, 79 percent volunteered in their community, 63 percent played a sport, 51 percent were involved in the arts, 51 percent work a part-time job or cared for a family member and 20 percent were involved in student government.

Denison Builds Relationships. New Denison students gathered on "The Hill" while members of the 'Big Red' football team delivered their suitcases and boxes to their new dorm rooms. After its Induction Ceremony welcomed them to the 'Denison Family,' new

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Financial Matters

DAMAGING FAFSA REPORTS

In late September, the U.S. Government Accountability Office disclosed that it has warned the U.S. Dept. of Education that this next FAFSA, scheduled for 2025-26, is at risk of similar technical and bureaucratic problems to those that lead to the last cycle's disastrous rollout.

The report charged that, "Until the Department [of Education] addresses these weaknesses [highlighted in the report], it will be hampered in its ability to make the needed improvements.... This could put the 2025-26 FAFSA cycle at increased risk for experiencing further delays and technical errors."

The GAO said that as early as August 2022, it warned ED that the 2024-25 FAFSA rollout was not ready and that communication about potential problems for schools and colleges was inadequate. It noted that 18 of 25 key requirements for launch had not been met.

Additionally, the GAO found during this last cycle, as many as four *million* telephone calls to ED's call center during the rollout went unanswered. "The call center's failure to meet demand became a significant bottleneck for students and families who struggled to get help with pressing issues."

The Dept. of Education also failed to inform 500,000 students about changes in their federal aid estimates that resulted from corrections to calculation errors during the application cycle leading students to rely on inaccurate estimates about which colleges they could afford.

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students went on 17 different orientation trips to bond with new classmates, ranging from rafting trips to a professional baseball game.

"We're an institution that's big on relationships," said President Adam Weinberg.

Elon U. Administers Its Code of Honor.

More than 3,000 first-year students at Elon U. in North Carolina packed Alumni Gym as they signed the Honor Code book. "Today we are entrusted with the honorable legacy of Elon University, dedicated to the intellectual, personal and spiritual growth of all its members, to the advancement of knowledge for the good of all and to the service of local, national and global organizations," said President Connie Ledoux Book.

"To that end, we affirm our commitment to the core values of our university. We commit ourselves to honesty, being truthful in our academic work and our relationships with others. We commit ourselves to show integrity, being trustworthy, fair and ethical. We commit ourselves to the responsibility of being accountable for our actions and for our learning."

Fairfield U. Has its Most Competitive Year.

Fairfield U. In Connecticut experienced the most competitive admissions cycle in the school's history with 18,505 applicants. Fairfield accepted only 33 percent of those who applied. About 25 percent of the new class was admitted via Early Decision. Ultimately, 1,450 students matriculated this fall. They posted an average high school weighted GPA of 3.96. Jesuit and Christo Rey high schools sent 98 students. About 128 first-year students have been invited to join Fairfield's Honors Program.

Cory Unis, VP for enrollment management, noted the school's Jesuit mission and said, "Our students are trained in ethical leadership and complex problem-solving, preparing them to serve as 'men and women for others' and making meaningful contributions to the world."

Florida International U.

Florida International U. welcomed 5,300 first-year students to campus this summer and fall. Leading the way were National Merit Scholars and other award winners. Students hail from 658 high schools across the country and 103 international high schools. They represent 41 states and 39 countries from around the world. They average 1259 on their SAT and posted an average GPA of 4.01.

Jodi Glassman, assistant vice president of enrollment and university admissions, said that the Class of 2028 is a highly motivated, academic and entrepreneurial-minded class who soared above all the challenges brought on by the pandemic and cemented themselves

FINANCIAL MATTERS

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The GAO said that blame stretched across the entire leadership of the Dept. of Education "who did not provide effective oversight."

FAFSA 2025-26 TESTING BEGINS

The Dept. of Education has responded. Beginning October 1, a limited number of students and schools are testing the 2025-26 FAFSA, according to Education Secretary Miguel Cardona, who sent a letter of explanation to colleges and schools in late September.

"We very much understand the deep frustrations many expressed in the initial months after the launch of the 2024-25 FAFSA form," he wrote. His letter listed 10 actions ED is taking to address common problems that faced students, families and colleges this last cycle.

Among them: "Improving resources for students and families to assist them in navigating the form." These include an updated Federal Student Aid Estimator, an expanded "Who's My Parent?" tool, material translated into more languages commonly spoken in the United States and new videos and previews of the 2025-26 FAFSA experience. And the department will help students with the creation of StudentAid.gov accounts.

ED will also provide training for partners and educators through an updated "train-the-trainer" model that will take place during November. It also will add more than 700 new agents to the FSA Information Center to handle projected call volume.

FAFSA is Still Scheduled for December.

The U. S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona has assured universities, colleges and parents that the new FAFSA form will be available on or before December 1. "We're going to continue fighting to make sure more students have access to higher education and that they're not paying debt for the rest of their lives, too."

As of late August, Education officials said they had processed 14.2 million FAFSA's, with no remaining backlogs. At this point, they said, completions are down only 2.8 percent from the previous year. The National College Attainment Network claims that number is closer to 10 percent.

as leaders.

This fall, FIU welcomed students who will inaugurate a new seven-year accelerated B.S.-M.D. Program that will allow them to earn a master's degree in biology and seamlessly begin medical school in their fourth-year as undergraduates and students who have demonstrated commitment to academic excellence, service and healthcare.

"Everyone I talked to at FIU, whether students or advisers or professors... was super

Cardona's assurances have not calmed the nerves of campus officials or national education organizations. "It's imperative that the department [of Education] meet the delivery date [of December 1] with a flawless rollout and fully functioning FAFSA," said Mark Becker, president of the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities.

Impact on Private Colleges. Nearly three-quarters of the 384 private institutions that responded to a survey from the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities said the FAFSA problems had altered the makeup of their incoming first-year class this year. And 43 percent said that their first-year class is smaller than the prior one. Also, 18 percent of the respondents said the FAFSA problems had resulted in fewer new racial and ethnic students. Twenty-seven percent said that they received fewer financial aid requests.

Federal Dollars. Last year, taxpayers, through the federal government, awarded more than \$120 billion in scholarships to middle- and low-income students.

Of the 5,839 colleges and universities eligible to participate in federal financial aid programs, 2,691 were four-year institutions, 1,496 were two-year schools and 1,632 were "less-than-two-year institutions."

Other Financial Matters

Michigan Community College Could Be

"Free" for Recent H.S. Grads. At the urging of Governor Gretchen Whitmer, Michigan's state legislature appropriated \$19 billion for education programs. This includes expansion of scholarships in existing programs such as the Michigan Achievement Scholarship and Michigan Reconnect, which pays for students who return to college, and the Michigan Guarantee. According to radio station WMCU, the Michigan Guarantee could save as many as 18,000 students up to \$4,820 each. This state money plus federal grants could make college free for many students.

"We're extremely excited about recent high school graduates being able to access this," David Finley, president of North Central Michigan C in Petoskey, told the station. ■

nice," said one student who had traveled from a small city in Virginia. "That matters. Also, I think the campus is just beautiful. There's not a spot that you go that's not drop-dead gorgeous. It just adds to the atmosphere and the experience. I'm super excited to see what the next four years bring."

Furman U. Welcomes Paladins.

Furman U. in South Carolina received 10,813 applica-

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Enrollment Trends

UPS, DOWNS OF FALL ENROLLMENT

Black Male Enrollment Plunges. The number of black males enrolled at Historically Black Colleges and Universities has declined from 38 percent in 1976 to only 26 percent in 2022, according to a recent report from the American Institute for Boys and Men. The Institute surveyed 101 HBCUs and found that only 20 enrolled more than 40 percent black males.

Total enrollment at HBCU's declined by 11 percent between 2010 and 2022, while black male enrollment plunged by 25 percent.

Brown's Minority Population Falls. The number of African American and Hispanic students admitted to Brown U.'s Class of 2028 declined by 10 percent compared to last year before the U.S. Supreme Court outlawed affirmative action in the college selection process.

Last year, Brown's first-year class included 29 percent minority students versus 19 percent this year. The proportion of incoming black students fell by 6 percent and Hispanic students declined by four percentage points. The proportion of white students also fell by 3 percent, while Asian American enrollment increased by four percentage points, according to demographic data released by the university.

Meanwhile, at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, African American and Hispanic enrollment fell by almost 10 points this year. At Amherst College, it dropped by 13 percent.

Connecticut Enrollment Declines Persisted After Pandemic. Total enrollment in the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities system, including community colleges, fell by 22.4 percent, from 82,275 to 63,405, according to a new report from the Office of Legislative Research, a nonpartisan office that reports to the Connecticut General Assembly.

However, "This year, each of our universities and CT State have seen an increase in number of applications for the Fall 2024 semester over the previous year," Samantha Norton, a spokesperson for the state college system, told CT News Junkie.

NEW DIRECT ADMISSIONS

Direct Admissions Expands. The Common App has expanded the number of colleges and universities in its Direct Admissions option from 71 in 28 states last year to 116 in 34 states.

North Carolina's Direct Admissions Program. Twenty-six private North Carolina colleges and universities have signed on to a Direct Admission Program for in-state high school students sponsored by the North Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities. Students qualify if they have earned a weighted GPA of 2.8 or higher. They can apply in about five minutes at www.ncicu.org.

Pikes Peak C. and Colorado State U.-Pueblo Launch Direct Admission with Local High Schools. "The Direct Admissions Program is a game-changer for our students," said Harrison School District 2 Superintendent Wendy Birhanzel. "It not only streamlines the college admission process but also provides financial support through the Promise Programs. This initiative empowers our graduates to dream big and achieve their goals, knowing they have the backing of their community and local institutions"

NEW PARTNERSHIPS

Clarkson Sends Ed Programs to Siena. Clarkson U., with its main campus in Potsdam, New York, and other programs across the state, transferred its masters of arts in teaching and other graduate teaching programs to Siena C. in Loudenville. More than 100 people currently enrolled in Clarkson's programs made the transfer. Clarkson recently acquired Union Graduate C. with its engineering and business program and will concentrate in that area. The U.S. Department of Education recently ranked Siena number one for getting "meaningful" jobs and careers in New York.

"Demand for K-12 teachers is at an all-time high," said Siena Provost Margaret Madden. "Siena's newly-enhanced programming will have a large and positive impact on education in the region..."

Valparaiso Signs Agreement with City Colleges of Chicago. Valparaiso U. in Indiana entered into a "guaranteed admissions agreement to support students" transferring from the City Colleges of Chicago to earn a four-year degree. To qualify, CCC students must have at least a 2.5 GPA and complete an Associate in Arts, an Associate in General Studies or an Associate in Applied Science. Students with a 3.0 GPA will be eligible for scholarships.

"I'm thrilled to be working alongside City Colleges of Chicago as we find new ways to help these brilliant students meet their academic goals," said José D. Padilla, Valpo's president.

Wichita State Partners with Kansas Medical Institutions. Wichita State U. announced an admissions partnership with Kansas Health Science Center-Kansas College of Osteopathic Medicine (KHSC-KansasCOM) with a 3+4 program to address the shortage of doctors in the area.

"We are elated to partner with Wichita State University to build the physician workforce of the future through a dedicated 3+4 program, which trains a qualified workforce at an expedited pace while reducing debt for students who aspire to become a physician," said Tiffany Masson, president of the Kansas Health Science Center. ■

COUNSELOR'S BOOKSHELF

Forbes' Top Colleges. *Forbes* released its list of the 500 top colleges "that produce successful, high-earning and influential graduates from all economic backgrounds, with less student debt." To see the entire list, go to: www.forbes.com/top-colleges/.

Here's its top 15: Princeton U., Stanford U., Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Yale U., U. of California, Berkeley, Columbia

U., U. of Pennsylvania, Harvard U., Rice U., Cornell U., Northwestern U., Johns Hopkins U., U. of California, Los Angeles, U. of Chicago and Vanderbilt U.

Bluebook Digital AP Examine. Starting May 2025, 28 AP Exams will be all digital. The paper exam will be discontinued. AP says, "These exams will move to the Bluebook

digital application. Digital exams are much more secure than shipping paper exams to thousands of locations weeks in advance." AP said that "Digital AP testing is streamlined with no more bubbling and labeling materials. Digital AP testing is accessible. Bluebook supports testing on commonly used devices and school issued devices. Digital AP testing is student friendly and helps them focus on relevant parts of longer reading passages, enables faster writing and editing." For more information, see, <https://www.act.org>. ■

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tions for its Class of 2028. It enrolled 616 first-year “Paladins.” Female students account for 58 percent of the class. Some 50 percent are from Georgia, South Carolina and North Carolina. The Midwest and West sent 10 percent and the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast sent 17 percent.

The new class includes seven high school valedictorians and 201 National Honor Society members. Their average unweighted GPA was 3.66. They are also well-rounded. The class includes 143 two-sport varsity athletes, while 192 were involved in community service and 61 founded a club or organization. Two are podcasters, five are business owners, one is the author of eight books. One has 4,000 YouTube subscribers.

George Washington U. New Students “Participate in History.” With the 2024 presidential election just weeks away, and its winner destined to live down the street from its Foggy Bottom campus, Ellen M. Granberg, president of George Washington U. in Washington D. C., told her new students at its Convocation that the GW community includes more than 120 members of Congress, 79 ambassadors, two U.S. Secretaries of State, two U.S. Attorney Generals, and countless journalists, judges, CEOs, athletes and entertainers. This year’s new class comes from all 50 states and more than 100 countries.

“Our location in the heart of the nation’s capital is not just a point on a map, it’s an open invitation to participate in history,” she said. “I can’t imagine a more exciting time or place to begin your journey.”

Holy Cross C. Boasts its Largest New Class. Holy Cross C. in South Bend, Indiana, welcomed its largest first-year class, 272 new students, and 18 percent more than last year, according to Samantha Derksen, director of admissions. Eighty-nine are Gateway students who spend their first-year at Holy Cross while taking two classes at nearby Notre Dame. Provided they maintain a 3.5 GPA, they then begin their sophomore year at Notre Dame. Other students spend three years at Holy Cross and two more at Notre Dame and earn dual degrees.

Lake Forest C. Receives 11 Percent More Applications. Lake Forest C., just north of Chicago, welcomed 422 members to its Class of 2028, plus 92 new transfer students. They were selected from a pool of 5,339 applicants, 11 percent more than the previous year. The new “Foresters” hail from 32 states and 60 nations. About 55 percent are from outside Illinois, 23 percent are international students and 40 percent identify as domestic students of color.

Persistence and the Retention

The national persistence and retention report for college students who started in Fall 2022 was released by the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center. It found that the national persistence rate for college students who started in Fall 2022 rose to 76.5 percent, an increase of 0.8 percent compared to the Fall 2021 cohort. (Persistence measures the percentage of students who return to college at any institution.)

The retention rate represents the percentage of students who return to the same institution. For college students who started in Fall 2022, the retention rate was 68.2 percent, 1 percent over the cohorts who started in Fall 2021.

This marked the second straight year of improved persistence and retention at institutions of higher learning. Community colleges registered a 3.7 percent increase in retention rate from Fall 2013 starters when it was 51.3 percent to Fall 2022 starters who posted a 55 percent retention rate.

For public four-year institutions, college starters in Fall 2013 posted a 74.9 percent retention rate compared to Fall 2022 starters who registered a 78 percent retention rate. ■

Marquette U.’s New Class is 30 Percent Students of Color. About 2,150 new students from 40 states and 12 countries moved into Marquette U. in Milwaukee. Members of the Class of 2028 were chosen from 19,500 applicants, 20 percent more than the previous year. Despite the recent Supreme Court ruling prohibiting special treatment for minority students during the application process, about 30 percent of the class are students of color, while 23 percent are first-generation college students. Just over 39 percent of the class crossed the Wisconsin border from Illinois to go to Marquette, while 35 percent came from Wisconsin itself. Some 162 students attended Jesuit high schools.

McPherson C.’s Largest Class. McPherson C. in Kansas, which is associated with the Church of the Brethren, enrolled 319 first-time students, its largest class on record. This year’s class is 35 percent larger than last year. Total enrollment is up 5 percent.

This year, about 600 students will participate in McPherson’s Student Debt Project. The project combines financial literacy, employment and mentorship in building lifelong financial management skills. Students who work part-time while earning their degree can receive a college match of \$.25 per dollar. Last year, McPherson matched more than \$300,000 to support student efforts. Nearly 50 working and retired professionals serve as mentors in

the program. And 30 percent of seniors who participated in the project graduated with zero debt.

“McPherson College continues to make great strides in growing enrollment despite a couple of challenging post-pandemic years,” said Michael Schneider, president.

MIT Students Told Not to Hesitate to “Ask for Help.” The Massachusetts Institute of Technology welcomed 1,102 members of its Class of 2028 at its President’s Convocation conducted under a large tent on a warm, sunny morning. President Sally Kornbluth told students “you belong here.”

She added that “but if sometimes you get frustrated or feel stuck, please know we all do! And you don’t have to go it alone. It’s not always easy asking for help, but as everyone up here today [members of the faculty and staff] will tell you, sometimes the only way to succeed in facing a big challenge or solving a tough problem is to admit there’s no way you can do it all by yourself. You’re surrounded by a community of caring people. Please don’t be shy about asking for guidance or help.”

Susquehanna U. Promises “Unforgettable Moments.” Susquehanna U. in Pennsylvania welcomed 616 first-year students for the school’s 167th academic year. The new class hails from 17 states, with most coming from Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey and New York. But some traveled from as far away as California, Florida and Texas. International students come from 20 countries including Australia, Brazil, China, the Ukraine, Germany, India, Jamaica and Nepal.

The new class includes eight valedictorians and 10 salutatorians. Students from under-represented groups account for 21 percent of the new class. About 31 percent are first in their families to attend college. Approximately 30 percent are receiving Federal Pell Grants. The School of Natural and Social Sciences will educate about 30 percent of the new students; 25 percent plan to pursue business; 21 percent of declared majors are in the School of Humanities; 11 percent will major in the School of the Arts.

“These next four years will be filled with difficult challenges, rewarding triumphs and unforgettable moments with unforgettable people,” said Sarah Bower, president of the Student Government Association.

Temple U.’s Most Diverse First-Year Class. Temple U. in Philadelphia enrolled its most diverse class ever, with 50 percent students of color. The Class of 2028 consists of 5,000 students, up by 30 percent over last year. They posted an average high school GPA of 3.44. Temple educates about 30,000 students

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and its students can draw upon a network of 370,000 alumni. While on campus, the new students have a choice of joining 450 student organizations

"We can't wait to celebrate your creative voice and the talent that you will bring to our university," said Gregory Mandel, provost. "You are from as far away as Mongolia and as near as North Philadelphia."

U. of Delaware "Blue Hens." More than 4,100 new "Blue Hens" were inducted into the U. of Delaware during a twilight, candle-light ceremony on "The Green."

"Differences with my peers are what have made my journey at UD so powerful," the student body president, Isabella Haigney, told them. "If you are... scared of the unknown, fearful you might not be accepted or worried you might not find your way, let me tell you that UD has a path for you, and you will find your way."

U. of Notre Dame's New Class Includes 30 Percent Minority Students. The U. of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana, welcomed 2,090 freshmen to its Class of 2028. They were selected from a pool of 29,943 students, 6 percent more than the previous year. Thus, Notre Dame posted a record-low admit rate of 11.1 percent. ND's yield was 62 percent, the highest since it began using the Common App.

Of the students who submitted test scores, the middle 50 percent range was 1470-1540 for the SAT and 33-35 for the ACT. About 30 percent of domestic students from historically underrepresented groups are members of the new class. International students from 72 nations make up an additional 9 percent of the incoming class. That's about the same percent as prior to the Supreme Court's ruling against the use of affirmative action in admissions.

In September, Notre Dame announced that it will make itself more accessible to middle- and low-income students by becoming "need-blind" in its admissions process, and will shift to a no-loan policy and rely on gifts instead. ND also joined the Small Town and Rural Students Network to increase applications from rural students.

UNC Greensboro Welcomes New Class. Fall enrollment at the U. of North Carolina Greensboro hit 18,012 students, up 1.5 more than a year ago. Transfers were up by 10 percent. Almost half (49 percent) of first-year students are the first in their families to attend college. And 58 percent of the new class is made up of students of color. About 61 percent of the student body is Pell Grant-eligible.

TUITION TABS

Tuition this fall rose at the majority of the nation's schools by about 3 to 4 percent, according to Forbes.com. The U. of Minnesota increased its rate by 4.5 percent. Brown U. hiked rates by 4.5 percent, while Cornell U. raised them by 4.9 percent. Duke U. increased tuition by 4.35 percent, MIT by 3.75 percent and Stanford U. by 5.5 percent.

There were a few exceptions. Purdue U. froze its tuition at \$9,992 for Indiana residents through

2025-26. For the first time in 25 years, Illinois kept tuition and fees unchanged at all three of its system universities. Clemson U., the U. of South Carolina and Florida State U. also froze tuition. So did the public universities in Texas, for the next two years, including Texas A&M, the U. of Texas, the U. of Houston, Texas Tech U., Texas State U. and the U. of North Texas. In-state rates remain stable this year at the U. of North Carolina and Oklahoma State U. ■

Last Chapters

One Closure Per Week. According to a recent *USA TODAY* article, one higher education institution per week either closed or merged with another school during the first half of 2024. Many students have been left scrambling. One response has been an increase in class action law suits against those schools that didn't let their students know about their precarious situation. The suits charge violations of consumer protection laws.

"It's hard to see a world where colleges stop closing," Robert Kelchen, a higher education professor at the U. of Tennessee, Knoxville, told the paper. "So the challenge becomes: When do people know that their college is at risk?"

College Closings. Nearly 100 institutions of higher learning closed between the 2022-23 and 2023-24 academic years, according to the National Center for Education Statistics.

Enrollment at UNCG School of Nursing was up 12 percent. Biology and Psychology are the most popular programs in the College of Arts and Sciences. Chemistry and Biochemistry enrollment jumped by 12 percent. Computer Science is the third most popular major and its enrollment grew by 8.5 percent. Enrollment at its College of Visual and Performing Arts jumped by 7.5 percent.

U. of Vermont Enrolls More From Vermont. The Class of 2028 at the U. of Vermont contains 3,000 students, 19 percent from Vermont and 8 percent more than last year. "There are declining numbers of Vermont graduates and even smaller numbers of college-bound Vermont graduates," said Moses Murphy, UVM admissions. "So to see that growth, again, is near and dear to my heart, something that I'm excited about." Students of color make up 15 percent of the new class, down one percent after the Supreme Court ruling on affirmative action.

"We work so hard in enrollment management and admissions to recruit students and to enroll them, and it is days like today, the

In other terms, the number of Title IV institutions that qualify participating in federal financial aid programs fell from 5,918 in 2022-23 to 5,819 institutions in the 2023-24 academic year. If you count the number of colleges that merged, a loss of 99 institutions, the number rises to 161. Some 54 of those institutions were for-profit schools.

Oregon C. of Oriental Medicine, in Portland, the top ranked U.S. school of acupuncture and Chinese medicine, closed after 41 years. The National U. of Natural Medicine took on its third-year students for their final year.

Pittsburgh Technical College closed its doors effective August 2024. "We have worked tirelessly to identify a viable path forward and exhausted all options to try to avoid this outcome," said its Board of Trustees. ■

first day of classes, where you get to see the fruits of that hard work come to fruition," Murphy added.

William & Mary Class 33 Percent Students of Color. The C. of William & Mary received 17,798 applications for its Class of 2028, 25 percent more than it received in 2020. This fall semester, President Katherine A. Rowe welcomed 1,620 first-year students and 190 transfers to W&M's Virginia campus.

About 10 percent of the Class of 2028 is first-generation students. Despite the Supreme Court's ruling on affirmative action, 33 percent of the new class are students of color. And 3 percent are international students from 33 different countries. The first-year students have a SAT middle 50th percentile of 1400-1530 and an ACT middle 50th percentile of 32-34. They posted an average weighted high school GPA of 4.35. Among the new students there is a U.S. figure skating triple gold medalist, a glider pilot and a student who built a harpsichord. ■

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