

# College Bound

ISSUES & TRENDS FOR THE COLLEGE ADMISSIONS ADVISOR

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*Who Got In?*

## Admissions Match Month

**Editor's Note:** Last month, as *CB* went to press, the Ivy League schools were releasing their numbers, so we posted them online under *CB's* "Admissions Story-of-the-Day." See [www.collegeboundnews.com](http://www.collegeboundnews.com) for links to their press releases and full stories.

**Allegheny Aims for Larger Class.** Allegheny C. in Pennsylvania admitted 3,000 students to its Class of 2020. It aims for a freshman class of 558, plus 12 transfer students. That would be more than the 489 students who matriculated in the fall of 2015.

As a result of last year's shortfall, Allegheny changed several systems to increase enrollment numbers. "Part of it is changing how we market and talk about the college," Cornell LaSane, vice president for enrollment and dean of admissions, said.

"We've been a lot more intentional this year in... helping freshman-to-be to feel more like a Gator from the moment they commit here until orientation," said Sue Stuebner, executive vice president and chief operating officer of the college.

Allegheny also changed its financial aid models to attract more students. International students from China and Japan and the island of Yap in Micronesia have already committed.

**Amherst Posts Record SAT Scores.** Amherst C. in Massachusetts received 8,397 applications for the Class of 2020, down slightly from last year, and admitted 1,149, for an acceptance rate of 13.7 percent. Katie Fretwell, dean of admission and financial aid, told *The Amherst Student* that 54 percent of those admitted are American students of color. The college also admitted six Native American students and 33 were identified as multi-racial with Native heritage.

And 8 percent of the newly-admitted students are children of alumni. About 69 percent applied for financial aid. The incoming class has a record-breaking SAT score of 2221. Amherst hopes to matriculate a class of about 472 students, and with a predicted yield of 40 percent, and could admit as many as 20 students from its wait list.

**UC Admits More Californians.** In response to state legislative pressure, the number of California residents admitted as freshmen to UC campuses for Fall 2016 jumped by nearly 15 percent over last year, or 8,488 more students. The admission rate for California students was 62.7 percent, up almost 7 percent from 2015. If state funding holds up, UC plans to admit 5,000 more Californians over the next two years.

Meanwhile, the admission rate for non-resident students fell from 54.6 percent last year to 53.7 percent. And the percent of non-residents to be enrolled at UCLA and UC Berkeley this fall will remain capped for the second consecutive year.

"We've intensified our efforts to boost enrollment of Californians at the University and all indications are that these efforts are working," said UC President Janet Napolitano.

**Colby Students Receive Record Aid.** Colby C. in Maine attracted 9,833 applications, the largest in school history, and offered 17.5 percent of them a place in the Class of 2020. Average SAT score was 1420, and 32 on the ACT. Students come from 67 nations. The Class of 2020 will also receive the most financial aid help in school history, \$1.2 million. Colby meets the full demonstrated need of its students with grants rather than loans.

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## Enrollment Trends

**Limbo Lists.** Wait lists this year have left thousands of students in limbo. An April 16 *Washington Post* story on wait lists ran some interesting numbers: For example, last year Dartmouth C. admitted 129 students from its wait list of 963, accounting for about 10 percent of its first-year class. Stanford admitted seven from its 2014 list and none of the 927 on its 2015 list. Duke U. admitted nine students in 2015. Sewanee admitted 21 wait listed, Pitzer C., 23, Colorado C., 24 and Brandeis U. 25.

According to a *Post* analysis of the Common Data Set, some colleges start moving students from their wait list in late April. But most wait until the May 1 deadline for admitted students to make an enrollment deposit. Then they may or may not admit a wait-listed student. It's a bitter dream for most on these lists, but some students get late offers, and many respond to a dream deferred.

**China's 37 Million College Students.** According to a recent report by China's Ministry of Education, one of every five college students in the world is attending school in China. In 1949, when the People's Republic of China was founded, 117,000 students were enrolled in colleges or universities. By 2015, that number had skyrocketed to 37 million. China now has 2,900 colleges and universities, second only to the U.S. "The fast development of higher education in China has offered more ordinary Chinese people the opportunity to attend college," said Wu Yan, director of the Higher Education Evaluation Center. "It has also provided intelligent support for the dramatic transformation of Chinese society." ■

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## ADMISSIONS MATCH MONTH

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**Fordham Admits 44 Percent.** Fordham U. in New York City received a record 44,697 applications and admitted 44 percent, four points lower than last year. According to *The Fordham RAM*, the mean GPA for admitted students is 3.75, the mean SAT score is 1328 on the 1600 scale, and 1992 on the 2400 scale.

“Both selectivity and academic profile have improved nicely over the last five years and dramatically over the last 20 years,” said John Buckley, associate vice president of undergraduate enrollment. Fordham hopes to enroll 2,135 students in the Class of 2020.

### **Georgetown’s Brand and Themes Resonate.**

Georgetown U. received 20,002 applications for the Class of 2020 and it admitted 3,276 through Regular Decision. Additionally, 892 students were admitted Early Action. Georgetown’s overall acceptance rate was 16.4 percent.

Charles Deacon, dean of undergraduate admissions, told *The Hoya*, “There is too much of a focus [on application numbers] that’s not healthy, I don’t think, in the long run.” He added, “The combination of the Georgetown brand, name and location, and of course the themes of social justice and the Jesuit person for others seems to be resonating with these kids more and more as an attractive option.”

**GW’s First Test-Optional Class.** George Washington U., located just down the street from the White House, received 25,541 applications for the Class of 2020, up from 19,833 last year. GW admitted 10,101 students out of its Regular Decision pool. This was the first year that students could apply under GW’s test-optional policy, and 17 percent of admitted students chose not to submit test scores. The new Colonials represent all 50 states and 99 countries. More than 15 percent are international students.

### **Hamilton College Admits 25 Percent.**

Hamilton C. in Upstate New York received 5,230 applications this year, just short of last year’s record 5,434, and it admitted a record low 25 percent, according to *The Spectator*. The target class size is 480, with 20 transfers coming in this fall as well as 40 “Jans” in the spring. The average SAT score for admitted students was 1429 for critical reading and math, and 715 for writing. The average ACT score was 32. Hamilton’s male-to-female ratio for this group was 45 to 55 percent. Newly-admitted students come from 45 states and 35 nations.

### **Kenyon C. Apps from 108 Countries.**

Kenyon C. in Ohio received 6,400 total applications, down from last year’s record 7,076, and it made offers of admission to 1,688. Diane Anci, dean of admissions, told *The Collegiate*. Kenyon received applications from all 50 states

## The Claremont Colleges

**Claremont McKenna Admits Nine Percent.** Claremont McKenna C. outside Los Angeles received more than 6,300 applications, the second most in school history, and admitted 594, for an acceptance rate of 9.4 percent. Almost 44 percent of those admitted are students of color, 13.5 percent are first-generation college students. The median ACT score was 32, SAT composite 2160.

**Harvey Mudd’s Valedictorians.** Harvey Mudd C. in Southern California admitted 526 students, 51 percent of them male, 25 percent Asian-American, 21 percent Latino, 7 percent black, 30 percent white, 9 percent multiracial. Some 47 percent were their high school’s valedictorian or salutatorian, and 93 percent ranked in the top 10 percent of their high school classes. The middle 50 percent scored 33-35 on the ACT.

and 108 countries.

**Lehigh Admits 25 Percent.** Lehigh U. attracted 13,408 applications, up by 4.5 percent over last year, and admitted 25.5 percent, compared to 30.4 percent in 2015. Bruce Bunnick, director of admissions, told *The Brown and White*, Lehigh’s student newspaper.

### **Longwood Still Accepting Applications.**

In Virginia, Longwood U. received a record number of applications this year as it fills a class of about 1,100 students. Victoria Kindon, vice president for strategic operations, told *The Rotunda Online* that a recent vice presidential debate on campus had raised the school’s profile. “Our reputation as an institution has increased within the state, great faculty-student ratio, a beautiful campus and the debate all have given us recognition.” She added that Longwood is still accepting applications, but with so many students being accepted, these students must exceed admission requirements.

**ND Is Now 48 Percent Women.** The U. of Notre Dame fielded 19,499 applications for the Class of 2020, 7 percent more than last year, and admitted 3,565. Children of alumni accounted for 23 percent of those admitted. Women make up 48 percent, while 10 percent are first-generation college students and 33 percent are students of color. International students hail from 56 nations.

Don Bishop, associate vice president of undergraduate enrollment, told *The Observer* that Notre Dame used an holistic approach to forming the Class of 2020. “We’ve chosen to use the SATs less and the ACTs less to identify talent. It’s not that we don’t use it, we just don’t use it as much of a separator as we did 10 years ago. Class performance remains the top factor.... And we look at your personal attributes, your motivation for accomplishment....”

**Pomona’s Record Low Admits.** Pomona C. fielded 8,104 applications and admitted 743, for a record low admit rate of 9.1 percent. Eleven of these students were admitted in a previous year and deferred enrollment. Additionally, Pomona admitted 20 transfer students from a pool of 249, including 10 students from community colleges, two of whom are military vets.

Newly-admitted students represent 44 nationalities, with 11 percent of the class made up of international students. Top states represented: California, Illinois, New York and Texas. Meanwhile, 52 percent are domestic students of color, and 92 percent ranked in the top 10 percent of their high school class, while nearly 19 percent are valedictorians and another 9 percent are salutatorians. The median SAT scores are 730 critical reading, 730 math and 740 writing. The median ACT score is 32. ■

**St. Edward’s Fun Facts.** St. Edward’s U. in Austin, Texas, posted a slideshow of fun facts about its newly-admitted students. For example, the Class of 2020 includes one NASA tour guide and mission briefing officer, one cofounder of a music label, one internationally ranked water skier, one state champ in synchronized swimming, one founder of a turtle conservation program in El Salvador and one person who sang the national anthem at a Giants’ baseball game. On top of that, admitted students speak 75-plus languages and hail from 50 states and 72 countries.

**Virginia More Selective.** The U. of Virginia attracted more than 32,426 applications for the Class of 2020 and 9,358 students were admitted, for an acceptance rate of about 28.9 percent. Applications from African-American students increased by about 15 percent. “We were a little bit more selective this year than last because of the increase in applications,” Greg Roberts, dean of admission, told NBC 29.

The admit rate for Virginia students was about 40 percent. About 30 percent of those admitted came from out-of-state and from 100 foreign nations.

“We’re looking at two things,” Robert said. “We’re looking at the diversity of the class in many forms and we’re looking at how strong the class is academically.”

**William & Mary Admits 35 Percent.** The C. of William and Mary attracted 14,380 applications for 1,520 spots in the Class of 2020, 600 fewer than last year, in part because of fewer Virginia high school graduates. It admitted 5,095 students for a 35.4 percent acceptance rate.

William & Mary also received 20 applications for the St. Andrews-William and Mary Joint Degree Programme, according to *The Flat Hat* student newspaper. ■

# Follow the Aid

**Hood's New Low-Income Grants.** Hood C. in Maryland has announced it is boosting scholarship dollars for low-income students from the state by matching state grants that students receive. See, [www.hood.edu](http://www.hood.edu)

**More Indiana Students With Aid on Track to Graduate.** Indiana's 21st Century Scholar program offers income-eligible students up to four years of full tuition at certain Indiana colleges. Two years ago, the Indiana legislature toughened requirements. Students with the maximum amount of financial aid need to complete at least 30 credits each school year, or five classes per semester, or lose support.

"You always have limited state dollars, so you want to spread those as broadly as you can to benefit the largest numbers of students," Teresa Lubbers, Indiana Commissioner for Higher Education, told Indianapolis public radio and TV station WFYI.

As a result, in the 2014-2015 school year, the number of 21st Century Scholars taking and completing 30 credit hours per year increased by 23 percent at four-year colleges and 24 percent at two-year college, according to a new report from the Commission. The Commission estimates that every additional year a student spends in college costs them at least \$50,000 in tuition, fees and lost wages.

**MIT Substantially Increases Financial Aid.** The Massachusetts Institute of Technology will award "more generous MIT scholarships for nearly all students who receive financial aid," MIT recently announced, driving a 10.4 percent increase in the institution's undergraduate financial aid budget. MIT said it is "only one of five American colleges and universities that currently admit all undergraduate students without regard to their financial circumstances, award financial aid based on need, and meet the full demonstrated need of all admitted students," said the *MIT News*.

**Northwestern U. Eliminates Loans.** Northwestern U. in Illinois announced it will "significantly increase financial aid for our students, eliminate loans for incoming undergraduate students and provide university-funded scholarships to undocumented students who are graduates of U.S. high schools." This is aimed at allowing "...more students who are from low- and middle-income families and who are first-generation college students to attend Northwestern." NU emphasized that it is still one of "only a handful" of schools that still practice "need-blind" admissions.

**Purdue Offers Students Income-Sharing Finance.** Purdue U. in West Lafayette, Indiana, has become the first university in the nation to offer students, in this case juniors and seniors, financial aid assistance to earn their degrees, if they agree to pay the money back as a percentage of their future income over a specific period of time.

Starting this fall, the "Back a Boiler" program will offer repayment terms based on each student's major and the projected income in those fields. For example, a mechanical engineering major with a projected

starting salary of \$56,000 would receive more favorable repayment terms than say an English major with a projected starting salary of \$34,000. Income repayment plans have long been used in other nations such as Australia.

"It looked to us like it was interesting enough that someone ought to try it," Mitch Daniels, Purdue's president and a former governor of Indiana, told *The New York Times*.

**Salt Lake C. C. Promise.** Salt Lake C. C. in Utah has launched a Promise "that provides pathways for students to successfully attend college and complete their higher education goals and move confidently into their careers" by covering the cost of tuition and fees when federal funds for eligible students "fall short."

"By removing financial barriers to postsecondary education, we hope that more community members will take advantage of all that Salt Lake Community College has to offer," said Nancy Singer, SLCC associate vice president for Student Success and Completion.

**Undocumented Support.** In the state of Washington, thousands of undocumented youth graduate from high school each year. Currently, about 200 undocumented students attend the U. of Washington. In part, thanks to the Realizing Educational Access: Changing Lives (REAL) Hope Act passed two years ago, undocumented students received \$308 million in state financial aid during the 2014-2015 academic year.

## RECENT REPORTS ON AID

**Performance-Based Funding.** According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, in the past, most funding of higher education has gone to colleges and universities based on how many full-time equivalent students are enrolled at the beginning of a semester. That is beginning to change. A new emphasis is being placed on college completion.

Currently, 32 states have instituted a formula to allocate a portion of funding based on performance indicators such as course completion, time to degree, transfer rates, the number of degrees awarded for the number of low-income and minority graduates. Given the need to graduate more students and to reduce the number of students who drop out with crushing debt, this trend is likely to accelerate. To identify states in specific policy initiatives, see, [www.ncsl.org/research/education/performance-funding.aspx](http://www.ncsl.org/research/education/performance-funding.aspx).

**Federal Regulations Strain Financial Aid Offices.** A new report from the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators found that "greater compliance workload" is a "major factor contributing to resource shortages." The survey said "more financial aid administrators than ever before feel they only have time to do the bare minimum."

NASFAA also reported that one quarter of all schools responding to its recent survey have a "one-stop shop" that combines student services in areas such as financial aid, registration, admissions and academic advising to reduce the number of student visits to multiple campus offices. That is an increase of 8 percent from its 2012 survey. ■

## COUNSELOR'S BOOKSHELF

"Online Learning: A Catalyst for Higher Education Reform" is a MIT report by Sanjay Sarma and Karen Willcox, presenting four over-arching recommendations; stressing the

importance of interdisciplinary collaboration, integration between online and traditional learning, a skilled workforce specializing in digital learning design and a high-level institu-

tional and organizational change. See, <https://oepl.mit.edu>.

Also, *The Discover Business MBA Guide: How to Study for the TOEFL* by Dennis Masino and Jackie Giuliano. See: <http://www.discover-business.us/education/online-mba/resources/toefl/>. ■

## CURRICULUM CAPSULES

**Financial Economics.** Denison U. in Ohio has launched a new academic concentration in financial economics, designed for economics majors who are interested in studying business, finance, real estate and insurance.

“Denison is building on its historic strengths in the liberal arts to provide our students with new curricular pathways that explore where the world is going,” said Adam Weinberg, Denison’s president. “This program also utilizes Denison’s strong alumni networks and industry connections, both globally and right here in the Columbus metropolitan region, to prepare our students and propel them into the careers across a range of business finance sectors.”

**New Fashion Institute.** Beginning this fall, Miami Dade College will open the Miami Fashion Institute at its downtown Wolfson campus, according to *The Miami Herald*. The program will offer a two-year associate’s degree in merchandising and fashion design.

The goal is to better position Miami as an international fashion hub by creating an ecosystem that supports industry growth and provides education to develop a skilled workforce, Marimar Molinary, director of the academic program development, told the paper.

**New Neuroscience Program.** Holy Family U. in Philadelphia will offer a new neuroscience major beginning Fall 2016. “Neuroscience is a fast-growing and in-demand field that integrates multiple areas of study including biology, psychology, chemistry and biochemistry, making it very interdisciplinary,” said Dr. Jen DeCicco. “On the other hand, students with a strong interest in molecules, genes and cells can broaden their understanding of neuroscience, with the addition of psychology courses focusing on human behavior,” added Jaclyn Myers, professor.

**Drones Fly at LeTourneau.** LeTourneau U., an online university in Texas, offers a B.S. degree in Aviation Studies that includes the study of unmanned aircraft in which students learn 3D mapping and photography, and the economics of the industry. According to aviation professor Ruedi Schubarth, unmanned aircraft are “part of a multi-billion dollar private industry that’s getting bigger.” He adds, “... for every drone there’s a pilot behind it controlling it.”

**Fermentation Science.** A new batch of future beer brewers, wine vintners and spirit distillers are fermenting at Southern Illinois U.

Carbondale after the Illinois Board of Higher Education gave it the approval to create a new Bachelor of Science degree in fermentation science, beginning this summer.

In the mid-1970s, fewer than 100 breweries crafted beer and spirits across the country. Now, there are more than 4,000 nationwide.

**Tennessee C.C.’s Scale Up Co-Requisite Remediation.** All of Tennessee’s 13 public community colleges have begun using co-requisite remediation in math, writing and reading in which students take entry-level college courses for credit while simultaneously receiving remedial academic support.

This comes after a study by the Tennessee Board of Regents found better results for this approach compared to traditional prerequisite remedial courses. The Community College Research Center at Columbia University’s Teachers College also concluded that co-requisite remediation is more cost-effective.

**Top Game Designers.** The U. of Utah leads the Princeton Review’s 2016 list of top undergraduate schools for studying game design. Others in the top 10 are, in order: the U. of Southern California; Rochester Institute of Technology (NY); DigiPen Institute of Technology (WA); Becker C. (MA); Art Institute of Vancouver (BC); Hampshire C. (MA); Michigan State U.; Drexel U. (PA) and New York U. ■

## NEWS YOU CAN USE

**USF Sarasota-Manatee Still Open.** The U. of South Florida Sarasota-Manatee held “Instant Decision Days” in late April for students who wanted an instant decision from admission counselors. Also, freshman slots for the upcoming summer and fall semesters still remain open, but prospective students need to act quickly to be considered.

**Ninety-Eight Percent Placement.** About 98 percent of graduates from the South Dakota School of Mines & Technology in Rapid City find jobs, with an average early-career salary of \$62,300, according to the 2015-2016 PayScale report. In part, that is because 78 percent of graduates already worked for companies across the country during internships and co-op experiences. SD School of Mines & Technology, which enrolls 2,843 students, specializes in science and engineering research.

**New Test-Optional Colleges.** Beginning the fall of 2017, Whittier C. in California is going test-optional for high school graduates with a GPA of 3.0 or above. “What was especially significant for us,” Fred Pfursich, vice presi-

dent for enrollment, told *The Whittier Daily News*, “was the direct correlation between SAT scores and family income.” He told the paper that was an unacceptable roadblock to higher education.

Skidmore C. in Saratoga Springs, New York, will become the 851st four-year college to adopt a test-optional policy, according to The National Center for Fair and Open Testing.

“Part of our decision rests on the fact that in our analysis the testing has played a very small part. The centerpiece of the application is the student’s transcript and we look at many different dimensions of that transcript,” Mary Lou Bates, vice president, told WAMC, Northeast Public Radio.

**Help For Forty Million Student Borrowers.** Some 40 million Americans have outstanding student loans. That’s why the U. S. Department of Education says it is taking steps to “reinvent customer service” to ensure that every borrower has reliable information about affordable repayment plans and other options. Starting last December, all federal borrowers became eligible to choose a plan that caps

repayment at 10 percent of their income, with the balance forgiven after 20 years (10 years for those working for non-profits or the government.)

The Ed Department is also in the process of building a new state-of-the-art loan servicing system with “a more user-friendly single online loan management platform with high-quality one-on-one customer service” that hopefully will provide the help and guidance borrowers need when they have questions or their circumstances change.

**Missouri Freezes Tuition.** Undergraduates at Missouri’s public colleges and universities will pay the same tuition this fall as in the past year. In April, Jay Nixon signed his fourth tuition freeze bill since becoming governor in 2009. During that same time nationally, tuition increased 33.5 percent. Tuition for in-state Missouri students taking 14 credit hours is \$10,586, for out-of-state students, tuition is \$25,198. Both also pay \$10,062 for room and board. At the same time, the UM System will receive \$17 million for additional aid. ■

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