

College Bound

ISSUES & TRENDS FOR THE COLLEGE ADMISSIONS ADVISOR

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Early Results

The Class of 2022 Begins to Take Shape

Several competitive colleges around the nation posted their early decisions just before the holidays. Here are some more early admission headlines as we head into the New Year.

Barnard Early Apps Up By 6 Percent. Barnard C. in New York City received 993 early applications for the Class of 2022, 6 percent more than last year, according to the *Columbia Spectator*.

Brown's ED Admits 38 Percent Minority. Brown U. in Rhode Island received 3,502 Early Decision applications, the most in school history, and admitted 738 or 21 percent of the applicants. Half of the new class intended to apply for financial aid, Logan Powell, dean of admission, told the *Brown Daily Herald*.

Some 38 percent of the newly admitted are students of color. About 10 percent will be the first in their family to attend college. Females accounted for 430 of the new Brown students. Many of them learned of the decision when they saw confetti appear on their computer screen.

California's 13th Consecutive Record-Breaking Year. More than 221,000 students applied for undergraduate admission to the U. of California for fall 2018, 5.7 percent more than last year. Some 181,419 of those applications were freshmen, 5.7 percent more than last year, and 40,369 were transfer students, 5.5 percent more than last year.

California high school seniors accounted for 119,626 of the freshmen applications. Among California freshmen applicants, 37.2 percent came from Latinos, followed by Asian-Americans at 30.4 percent and white students

at 22.3 percent of the total. And 46.4 percent of applicants will be the first in their family to graduate from college. All nine undergraduate UC campuses saw an increase in applications, ranging from 4.6 percent at Berkeley to 12.4 percent at Riverside.

Columbia. Columbia U. in New York City received 4,085 Early Decision applications, one fewer than last year's all-time record.

Dartmouth Hosts a Record Number of Applicants. Dartmouth C. in New Hampshire attracted a record-high 2,270 Early Decision applications, 13.5 percent more than last year. Dartmouth admitted 565 students, or 24.9 percent. The admitted students will comprise about 47 percent of the incoming class.

About 95 percent of admitted students rank in the top 10 percent of their high school class. Some 33 percent of those accepted are students of color, 10 percent are foreign citizens and 13 percent are first-generation college students, while 16 percent are legacies. And 26 students were admitted through the QuestBridge program that identifies exceptional low-income high school students. About 12 percent of admitted students are eligible for Pell Grants.

Duke Fields Over 4,000 ED Apps. Duke U. in North Carolina received 4,090 Early Decision applications for the Class of 2022, 600 more than last year. Duke admitted 875 of them. That represents about 51 percent of next fall's incoming class of 1,720 students. Slightly more than 700 of them will enroll in the Trinity College of Arts & Sciences, while the rest will

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Financial Aid Matters

Tax Bill Creates Uncertainties For Higher Education

The newly enacted federal tax bill, passed by Congress and signed into law by President Trump in December, does not directly harm individual students as was first feared. The conference committee that reconciled the bills that came out of the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate eliminated those harmful provisions, such as a proposed tax on tuition waivers for graduate students. Also, proposed changes to the Lifetime Learning Credit worth up to \$2,000 and the \$5,250 corporate deductions for employee education-assistance plans were dropped from the final bill.

However, higher education might be affected indirectly by several provisions that could impact state funding and college fundraising. Because the bill doubles the standard deduction for individual tax filers, the number of people who itemize charitable deductions is likely to be reduced significantly. Some nonprofit experts fear that this could lead to a drop of charitable giving by as much as \$13 billion a year.

The new provision that limits deductions for state and local taxes paid by individuals is expected to put pressure on high tax states to control their own spending. This could lead to reduced state appropriations to public colleges and universities, one of the factors that drove up tuition for publics over the past decade.

Additionally, some states have laws that require their tax rates to change along with federal rates. That could lead to smaller state

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CLASS OF 2022

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enroll in the Pratt School of Engineering.

Students of color comprise 40 percent of admitted students, while international students account for 6 percent. And 37 QuestBridge Scholars were admitted early. The overall Early Decision admission rate is 21 percent, the most selective in Duke history.

Georgetown EA Apps Hit Record High.

Georgetown U. in Washington D.C. attracted its largest Early Action pool in school history, 8,383 applications, and it admitted a near historic low of 12 percent, up slightly from last year's 11.9 percent. According to *The Hoya*, 67 percent of those admitted were white, 10 percent were black, 16 percent were Asian-American and 15 percent were Hispanic. The largest number of applications came from California, followed by New York, Maryland and New Jersey.

According to Charles Deacon, dean of undergraduate admissions, the average admitted student was in the top 2 percent of their high school class, with an SAT score ranging from 710-770 in reading and 720-790 in math.

Johns Hopkins' Record. Johns Hopkins U. in Baltimore received a record 2,037 Early Decision applications, and admitted 610 students, 29 percent of whom will study engineering. "These are students who value collaboration, are ready to create change and are eager to make a social impact," said Ellen Kim, dean of undergraduate admissions.

Lewis Sends in The Drones. Lewis U., outside Chicago, sent an unmanned drone to notify eight students at nearby Romeoville High School that they had been accepted for next fall. Since 1932, Lewis has educated students from around the world to prepare for jobs in the aviation industry. Lewis offers an on-site airport, experienced and industry-leading faculty, personalized learning and degree programs that provide "a specialized experience."

MIT's Early Action Up By 16 Percent. Massachusetts Institute of Technology received 9,557 applications for the Class of 2022, 16 percent more than last year. MIT admitted 664 of the aspiring students. They hail from 519 high schools across the globe from New England to New Zealand. Last year, MIT admitted 657 Early Action students.

This cycle, 6,210 applicants were deferred. Stuart Schmill, dean of admissions and student financial services, notes that MIT typically admits between 100-300 of the students who were deferred during Early Action deliberations.

Northwestern Accepts 26 Percent ED. Northwestern U., just north of Chicago,

Harvard Defers 4,882

Harvard C. received 6,630 Early Action applications for the Class of 2022 and admitted 964 students or 14.5 percent. First-generation students make up 10.6 percent of the early admits, compared with 8.7 percent last year. African American students account for 13.9 percent of early admits, Asian American students 24.2 percent and Latinos 9.8 percent of the new class so far. Women account for 47 percent of the early cohort. Another 4,882 students were deferred, 611 were denied and 173 applications were incomplete.

"Our not-so-secret weapon in assembling classes of distinction is our 10,000 alumni who attend college nights, interview candidates, host admit parties and telephone admitted students," said Marilyn E. McGrath, director of admissions of Harvard C. Members of the teaching faculty and admissions and financial aid officers write personal notes, telephone, employ social media and meet with admitted students as part of Harvard's comprehensive recruitment efforts.

Nearly 58 percent of the early admits applied for financial aid. "Thanks to our generous need-based aid and no loan requirement, Harvard costs the same or less than public universities for 90 percent of American families," said Sarah C. Donahue, director of financial aid. ■

attracted 4,050 Early Decision applications this fall and admitted 1,073 of them, for an ED acceptance rate of 26 percent. NU hopes to fill a little more than half of its class this year ED.

Penn's ED Up 9.5 Percent. The U. of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia received a record-breaking 6,731 Early Decision applications for the Class of 2022. That's an increase of 9.5 percent over last year. Penn admitted 18.5 percent of the applicants. The deadline for applications was extended for students who were affected by this year's natural disasters.

Of the students who applied, 47 percent are women, 11 percent are first-generation college students, 40 percent are students of color, 16 percent are legacies and 16.5 percent were educated outside of the U.S., according to *The Daily Pennsylvanian*.

Meanwhile, Eric Furda, Penn's dean of admissions, has started a blog called "page217.org." It is a Coursera course that teaches high school students how to apply for college.

Princeton's EA Up 8 Percent. Princeton U. in New Jersey received 5,402 Single-Choice Early Action applications and offered admission to 799 students, or about 14.7 percent. The pool was the largest in the last seven years, an 8 percent increase over last year and a 57 percent increase since 2011.

Admitted students come from 48 countries and 44 states, plus the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. Some 44 percent are U.S. students from "diverse backgrounds," while 11 percent are international students. And 56 percent come from both public or charter schools, while 14 percent are the first in their family to attend college. Some 17 percent are children of Princeton alumni. Also, 21 percent of admitted students indicate they will study engineering.

"The admitted students have demonstrated extraordinary academic achievement as well as extracurricular talents throughout high school," said Janet Rapelye, dean of admission.

Virginia EA Up 5 Percent. The U. of Virginia received a record 21,400 Early Action applications for the Class of 2022, a 5 percent increase over last year. "We are seeing slightly over half of the applicants early," Greg Roberts, dean of admission, told cavalierdaily.com. "It's a tremendous number of early applications... We do make a significant number of offers early." Last year, Virginia didn't post exact numbers on admits until the end of January.

However, this year, UVA received fewer applications from prospective black and international students. "We are slightly down in African American students and we are more significantly down on international students," Roberts said. The paper added that it is unclear if there is a link between the decline in these demographics and the August demonstrations that shook Charlottesville. But, the number of students who took the Tests of English as a Foreign Language exam (TOEFL) internationally was down by 60,000 students.

Washington U. ED. Washington U. in St. Louis received 1,850 ED applications for the Class of 2022. Ronne P. Turner, vice provost of admissions and financial aid, said Washington U. hopes to admit 40 percent of its class ED.

Wisconsin Attracts Over 20,000 EA Apps. The U. of Wisconsin-Madison attracted 22,000 Early Action applications for the Class of 2022. UW-Madison hopes to enroll 3,600 freshmen from Wisconsin. This year, it overshot that number by 100 students. But according to Steve Hahn, vice provost for enrollment management, students still have until February 1 to apply for this fall. "We are still very much in the midst of the admissions season."

Yale's Early Action Record. Yale U. in Connecticut received 5,733 Single-Choice Early Action applications for the Class of 2022, 13 percent more than last year. Yale admitted 14.7 percent of them. Jeremiah Quinlan, dean of undergraduate admissions and financial aid, told the *Yale Daily News* that he expects next year's student body to include more than 200 additional Pell Grant-eligible students. ■

FINANCIAL AID MATTERS

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budgets and less money appropriated to higher education.

At a minimum, the new tax code creates future uncertainty for the nation's colleges and universities, with the threat of reduced funding hanging over them. In some instances, higher education institutions will be forced to explore new ways to raise money to meet their obligations or to grow. In the end, Moody's Investors Service scored the new tax law as a possible negative for the higher education sector.

Brown Eliminates Loans. Beginning next school year, Brown U. will eliminate all student loans in its undergraduate financial aid packages, replacing them with scholarships. The initiative... "amplifies our commitment to bringing the best and brightest students to Brown regardless of their socioeconomic background," said Christina Paxson, president.

Meanwhile, after Hurricane Maria devastated Puerto Rico, Brown U. responded by enrolling about 50 students from the U. of Puerto Rico, tuition free.

Defaults on Student Loans Double. The number of former students severely behind on repayment of student loans reached 4.6 million, twice as many as four years ago, according to the U.S. Dept. of Ed. That represents about 22 percent of those who are required to pay down federal student loans, 17 percent higher than four years ago. The defaulted student loans total \$84 billion.

The government's total student-loan portfolio is \$1.37 trillion. That includes borrowers who are not yet required to pay down their debt because they are still in school and debt from an older program that guaranteed loans made by private lenders.

Last month, the New York Federal Reserve released research that shows many borrowers who fall behind dropped out of college before earning a degree, or attended for-profit schools or community colleges.

Illinois Halts Prepaid Tuition Program. College Illinois! Prepaid Tuition Program has stopped accepting new participants because it does not have enough money to fulfill its future obligations. This is the second time in seven years the program has made this move. Between 2016 and 2017, the unfunded liabilities for the program grew from \$264 million to \$320 million, according to *The Chicago Tribune*. That meant the program fell from 80 percent to 74 percent funded. Only 450 new participants joined the program last year, compared with 4,392 who signed contracts from 2006 to 2007.

Moody's Downgrades Colleges. As noted above, Moody's Investors Service downgraded the financial outlook for higher education from stable to negative. It is projecting that operating revenues at four-year colleges and universities will not keep pace with expenses in 2018.

Revenues are expected to increase next year by 3.5 percent. However, expenses are likely to rise by 4 percent. "A growing number of universities will have even weaker revenue growth, pressuring operating performance," the report predicted.

Parents Save More for Sons. When it comes to saving for college, parents seem to save more for sons than they do for daughters. That is one finding of a study by T. Rowe Price, the mutual fund company. It looked at 238 households with all boys and 155 homes with all girls. Parents of the girl-only households reported less savings for college. Half of the boy-only households saved money for their child's college compared with only 39 percent of parents of girl-only households. The boy-only households also contributed more often to the college fund, with 83 percent contributing at least monthly compared with 70 percent of girl-only households.

"We certainly see in society more broadly there are gaps between incomes of men and women," Roger Young, senior financial planner at T. Rowe Price, told *The Wall Street Journal*. "That might be factoring into their thoughts on how much they are willing to spend on college."

Ohio's College Credit Plus. This school year more than 68,000 high school and middle school students participated in Ohio's College Credit Plus program. College Credit Plus, now in its second full year, allows students who are college-ready to earn college credit.

Some 44 percent of participating students were high school seniors, 28 percent were juniors. More than 90 percent of the students got the passing grade necessary to earn college credit. The Ohio Department of Higher Education estimates that Ohio families saved \$124 million in future college tuition due to the program. Each student's home school district picks up the tab for most of the costs.

Pennsylvania Cuts State Grants Midyear. Pennsylvania's need-based awards, known as PHEAA grants, will cap out at a maximum of \$4,318 for the 2017-18 school year. Due to an unprecedented percentage of students who qualified for the award and actually enrolled in college last fall, the 55-year-old state agency was forced to notify financial aid officers of the pending reduction.

This is the first time PHEAA has cut grant awards in the middle of an academic year. Individual reductions in spring semester grants could range from \$23-\$200, depending on the total grant award to an individual student. Several Pennsylvanian universities say they will make up the difference out of their own resources.

P.S. For-Profit Loan Debts Cancelled. After months of delay, the U. S. Dept of Ed announced it has cancelled the student loan debt of 12,900 students who had been victimized by the 2015 collapse of the for-profit Corinthian Colleges. However, it also denied the requests of 8,600 other students. ■

COUNSELOR'S BOOKSHELF

True Gentleman: The Broken Pledge of America's Fraternities by John Hechinger; Public Affairs, ISBN-10: 161-039-6820, \$19.04.

Paying for College: Before, During and After (2018 edition) by Mark Bilotta; CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, ISBN 10: 1977985475, \$14.95.

Unequal Colleges in the Age of Disparity by Charles T. Clotfelter; Harvard University Press, ISBN: 9780674975712, \$39.95.

Future Directions of Educational Change, edited by Malone, Rincon-Gallardo and Kew; Routledge, 280 pages, paperback, ISBN 9781138283916, \$46.95.

Your Complete Guide To Transition Planning and Services (for youth with disabilities) by Mary E. Morningstar and Beth Clavenna-Deane; Paul H. Brookes Publishing, ISBN-13:978-1-59857-311-4, 272 pages, \$29.95.

To download the free online book *2017-18 Opportunities* from Educational Credit Management Corporation, see <http://www.ecmc.org/students/opportunities-guide-work-book.html>. ■

CURRICULUM CAPSULES

Ball State Adds Computer Science Education. Responding to the call of Indiana Governor Eric J. Holcomb for all students to receive computer science instruction, Ball State U. in Muncie has created a new undergraduate degree in Computer Science Education. Students majoring in secondary education also will be encouraged to pursue a minor in Foundation of Computer Systems. Ball State also plans to offer computer science modules online to assist individual teachers throughout the school year and develop course-based outreach programs for elementary, middle and high school students.

DePaul Addresses Climate Change. DePaul U. in Chicago now offers a Climate Change Science and Policy minor through its Department of Environmental Science and Studies. "In addition to giving students an important personal knowledge of this issue, I also think it's very vocational," said

Mark Potosnak, an associate professor in the program.

Idaho and Eastern Idaho Sign Partnership. The U. of Idaho entered into partnership with the newly established C. of Eastern Idaho. "Offering the option of joint enrollment will provide a seamless transition for students who continue their education beyond their associate degree," said Chuck Staben, Idaho's president. "The effort will more clearly communicate professional pathways for students and raise educational attainment rates of the region and the state."

Students Prefer Digital Learning Classes. Some 53 percent of students surveyed prefer classes that use digital learning technology. That is one of the conclusions of the fourth annual Digital Study Trends Survey from McGraw-Hill Education. The study of more than 1,000 U.S. college students found:

- 94 percent of students said digital learning technology has helped them retain new concepts, and more than half think it helped them better understand concepts they didn't know;

- 60 percent of the students felt that digital learning technology has improved their grades, with a fifth saying it "significantly" improved their grades;

- Students in STEM majors were the most likely to say technology positively affected their grades;

- Nearly 59 percent of the students agreed that digital learning technology is extremely or very helpful for self-study.

"Powerful digital learning technology can customize the learning experience for every student, helping him or her understand challenging concepts more fully and empowering them to improve their classroom performance," said Scott Virkler of McGraw-Hill Education's Higher Education Group. "As these solutions continue to make inroads on college campuses, we look forward to seeing more improvements in student learning outcomes." ■

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Hungry Students. A recent U. of California survey of 9,000 students found that 19 percent said they had too little food "due to limited resources." Another 23 percent said they routinely ate substandard food with little variation.

"Food Insecurity" has become an issue on campuses across the nation. Colleges and universities are just becoming aware of the problem. Some are taking action. Stanford U., for example, plans to keep a dining hall open during spring break for the first time, according to *The San Francisco Chronicle*. California State U. is equipping each of its 23 campuses with technology to accept food stamps. And the U. of California is spending \$302,000 to expand food pantries and register more students for food stamps at each of its campuses.

Best Business Schools for Undergraduates. Poets&Quants for Undergrads released its data-driven list of 82 best undergraduate business schools. In rank order, the Top 10 are: Wharton School of Business at the U. of Pennsylvania, Olin Business School at Washington U. in St. Louis, McIntire School of Commerce at the U. of Virginia, Mendoza C. of Business at the U. of Notre Dame, McDonough School of Business at Georgetown U., The Indiana U. Kelley School of Business, Kenan-Flagler Business School at the U. of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, New York U. Leonard

N. Stern School of Business, Charles H. Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management at Cornell U. and the Haas School of Business at the U. of California, Berkeley. For the complete rankings see, <http://poetsandquants-forundergrads.com/2017/12/05/poetsandquants-best-undergraduate-business-programs-2017/>.

Visually Impaired. Bronx C.C. used a \$200,000 grant from New York City to buy computer software to help visually-impaired students study and take exams. The grant allows the school to double the number of students the Assistive Technology Center and Testing Lab can help.

Bronx C.C. educates about 11,500 students from 100 different countries and offers more than 30 academic programs that prepare students for careers and to continue their education at a four-year college. In 2012, its campus was declared a National Historic Landmark.

NY Privates Suffer Losses. At least 30 New York private colleges and universities reported a drop in enrollment this fall, the first semester that the New York Excelsior Scholarship program became operational. That is one finding of the "Fall 2017 Enrollment and Workforce Trends at New York's Private, Not-For-Profit Colleges and Universities," issued by the Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities (CICU). It surveyed 80 independent institutions of higher education

across New York.

The Excelsior Scholarships cover the full cost of tuition for New York residents whose families earn less than \$100,000 and who attend public and state colleges and universities. New Yorkers account for 53 percent of full-time students in the state's public institutions.

CICU found that 48 of the state's private, nonprofit institutions have a 65 percent majority of residents from New York who are enrolled in undergraduate studies. These 48 institutions lost 6 percent of their workforce in the 2016-17 academic year, or 1,535 jobs lost across the state.

Data Notes. About 55 percent of all U.S. graduate school students in mathematics, computer sciences and engineering are from nations outside of the United States... And what does "an Elite Education" cost? The editors of *Town & Country* magazine recently put together a tongue-in-cheek, but not inaccurate, account of how much affluent parents pay with private schools, a private language tutor, summer camp, music lessons, sports clubs, private middle school, STEM classes, summer school, a homework coach, private high school, college admissions prep, a gap year, two summer internships and four years at Yale. The grand total: \$1,715,742. ■

Happy New Year!

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