

# College Bound

ISSUES & TRENDS FOR THE COLLEGE ADMISSIONS ADVISOR

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## Admission Watch

### Small Increase in Apps Overall

“WITH AN INCREASE in the average number of applications submitted by individual students, according to the Common Application (an 11 percent growth in applications submitted but only a 1 percent increase in the number of unique students), expect that yields on admission offers will decline for many institutions,” according to Robert J. Massa, co-founder of Enrollment Intelligence Now.

Further compounding the yield uncertainty is the impact of financial need. “As the class of 2025 prepares to enroll this fall, the demand for financial aid has already spiked.”

That said, the 2021 admissions cycle will continue throughout this “post-pandemic” summer. Community colleges seem particularly vulnerable to declines. The real picture of the fallout from last year will only come into focus when students show up on campus, or not, this fall. Until then, here are more spring admissions numbers that flowed into *CB*’s editorial office.

**Amherst Admits 8 Percent.** Amherst C. attracted a record-high 14,000 applications for the Class of 2025, 32 percent more than last year. The Massachusetts school admitted only 8 percent, down from last year’s 12 percent. About 60 percent of admitted students identify as domestic students of color, and 22 percent of the admitted students are first-generation, Matthew McGann, dean of admission and financial aid, told the *Amherst Student*.

About 10 percent of the new class includes international students coming from 50 nations. Some 470 students are expected to matriculate at Amherst this fall, joining 40 students who deferred last year.

**Augustana’s New Class 35 Percent Larger.** Augustana C. in Western Illinois increased its incoming first-year class by 35 percent over last year to 675 students. The number of new domestic students of color nearly doubled. Augustana also attracted a record number of out-of-state students.

Members of the new class showed an increased interest in health care and wellness majors such as kinesiology, neuroscience, biology, pre-nursing and pre-med.

**Bowdoin Reaches “Record-Setting Year.”** Bowdoin C. in Maine received 9,325 applications for roughly 500 spots in its Class of 2025. Bowdoin admitted 8.8 percent. A record 60 percent of them accepted the school’s offer, for the school’s highest yield ever. Some 40 percent of the new class will be students of color, while 17 percent is the first in their family to attend college. Also, 71 percent of the new class comes from outside of New England, while international students make up 8 percent of the new class.

**Columbia Tops “Astounding” 60,000 Apps.** Columbia C. and Columbia’s School of Engineering and Applied Science in New York City received 60,551 applications, an astounding 51 percent more than last year. The two schools admitted 2,218 students for a record-low 3.66 percent, Jessica Marinaccio, dean of undergraduate admissions and financial aid, told the *Columbia Spectator*.

**Dartmouth Apps Soared 33 Percent.** Dartmouth C. applications jumped by 7,000, *continued on page 2*

## Financial Matters

**Pandemic Discounting.** Discounting of listed tuition and fees accelerated at private colleges and universities during the 2020-21 pandemic school year, according to the “2020 NACUBO Discounting Study.” NACUBO stands for the National Association of College and University Business Officers.

Some 361 private, nonprofit colleges and universities reported an estimated record-high 53.9 percent average institutional tuition discount on advertised prices for first-time, full-time students, and a 48.1 percent rate for all undergraduates. First-year students received grant aid covering about 60.3 percent of listed tuition, while the rate for all undergraduates was 54.3 percent.

Therefore, the average net tuition and fee revenue of colleges and universities in this study declined from 2016 levels. Additionally, enrollment among first-year students, as well as all undergraduates, declined by 5 percent and 2.6 percent, respectively.

**Centre Commitment Pays Off.** Students enrolling at Centre C. in Danbury, Kentucky, are guaranteed graduation in four years, a study abroad experience or research opportunities. That may be one reason it received a record number of deposits for the Class of 2025. Centre also pledged to increase diversity and nearly one quarter of the incoming class are U.S. students of color.

Twenty percent of incoming students are first-generation students. Ten received a full tuition scholarship. Centre also announced a

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## SMALL INCREASE

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a nearly 33 percent increase over last year. "There was just a lot of uncertainty," Lee Coffin, vice provost and dean of admission and financial aid, told *sentinelsource.com*. "So it prompted students to send in more applications than normal...." The suspension of testing also had an impact. "I think that invited students to think, 'Let's try and see what happens,'" he said.

In the end, Dartmouth admitted 1,749 of the 28,357 students who applied, for an acceptance rate of 6.2 percent.

### Drexel Applicants "Inspirational."

Drexel U. in Philadelphia attracted 34,500 applications for the Class of 2025, 10 percent more than last year's 31,250 apps. Female students account for 48 percent of the new class, while 20 percent is underrepresented students of color, compared to about 14 percent last year.

Another 10 percent come from outside the United States. "With COVID, there's still a lot of Visa-granting offices and consulates that are closed except for emergencies. We are all watching that number real closely," Evelyn Thimba, senior vice president of enrollment management, told *The Triangle*.

Drexel expects to enroll a new class of about 2,800 students. "We're excited for every incoming class," Thimba added. "But this class has been tried, and they are in many ways trailblazers in terms of the way that they have conducted their college search and also selected their final academic home.... I think they are inspirational in many ways...."

**Duke Admits 4.3 Percent.** Duke U. in North Carolina fielded a total 44,481 apps, 25 percent more than last year. It admitted 2,014 Regular Decision applicants, or about 4.3 percent of them. This year, 44 percent of applicants did not submit a standardized tests score, according to *The Chronicle*. Duke's first-year class size will remain at 1,720.

Duke's Kunshan University in China said it is welcoming its most "diverse" class this fall. Almost 180 students from 48 countries are joining DKU's fourth graduating class. About 49 percent are from the U.S. The university received 1,800 international applications.

**Elon Puts 500 Students on Wait List.** Elon U., also in North Carolina, received nearly 18,000 applications for the Class of 2025 and admitted 13,841 of them. Elon also wait-listed nearly 500 students. "Everything we had to do had to be reimagined virtually," said Greg Zaiser, vice president for enrollment.

**Hofstra's New Nursing Program Impacts Apps.** Hofstra U. on Long Island in New York,

## Enrollment Trends

**Arkansas Retention Rates Climbed.** Before the pandemic, retention rates from freshman to sophomore year at eight of 10 of Arkansas's four-year, public universities increased from 75.2 percent to 77.1 percent, according to Fall 2019 data. "Hyperdrive," or increased outreach to students, was said to make an impact then.

**Daemen C./SUNY Erie C.C.'s Dual Enrollment.** Daemen C. in Buffalo, New York, and SUNY Erie C.C. launched a program that allows students to pay community college rates for two years then transfer to Daemen to earn their four-year degree. The 2+2 plan includes dual advising and the ability to live on-campus at Daemen.

### New Hampshire Faces "Enrollment Cliffs."

That's according to the *sentinelsource.com*. In 2016, Granite State C. enrolled 2,136 students. By 2020, that number had fallen to 1,892 students. In 2016, Keene State C. enrolled 4,282 students. By 2020, that number had fallen to 3,213 students. In 2016, Plymouth State U. enrolled 5,050 students. By 2020, that number had fallen to 4,580 students.

And in 2016, the U. of New Hampshire enrolled 16,331 students. By 2020, that number had fallen to 15,513 students.

**Some Oregon Colleges Prepare For Fall Declines.** With a few months left to be proved them wrong, enrollment experts at a number of Oregon colleges are predicting further enrollment declines this fall.

For example, Chuck Knepfle, vice president

received 4 percent more applications than last year. "We attribute a lot of that to the launch of our new undergraduate nursing program which attracted 1,500 applicants," said Jessica Eads, vice president for enrollment management.

**Lafayette C. Rebounds.** As *CB* noted in April, applications to Lafayette C. in Pennsylvania were up 2 percent overall, three percent among women and international students. Provost John Meier noted recently the Class of 2025 at Lafayette C. is sizing up to be about what the school expected.

"We've got a robust incoming class that suggests that enrollment is not going to be a long-term issue," he said. "This year, we're down a bit in enrollment and it looks like that was just a temporary issue that we're going to have to work through."

He pointed out that Lafayette's average size is about 19 students per class, "but we'd love to have that number get lower."

**Lehigh Sees Fewer Students From China.**

of enrollment management at Portland State U. told *bendbulletin.com* that he expects to see a 5 percent decline this fall on top of last year's 7 percent drop. "This pandemic has hit poor families really hard. I think there's some general frustration at the value of a college education," he told the site.

Financial aid applications to the state's community colleges have plunged 44 percent over the same time last year. The number of Oregon high school students who filled out the FAF SA is down 11.5 percent from last year.

However, the U. of Oregon and Oregon State U. received a record number of applications for Fall 2021. Eastern Oregon U. posted a slight increase.

### In Washington State, More Applicants On Board.

This year, the U. of Washington attracted more than 49,000 applicants, a school record, even though UW announced that it was becoming test-optional in the middle of this season's application cycle.

"We believe it would be better for our applicants to spend all that extra time studying for their classes or doing coursework, or maybe take an additional class rather than spend extra time studying for this test," Paul Seeger told the *The Spokesman-Review*.

In May, all the public universities in the state of Washington announced that henceforth they will be test optional. "Essentially, [along] the whole West Coast, you don't need standardized tests to apply to state universities," Jon Boeckenstedt, vice provost for enrollment management at Oregon State U., told the paper. ■

Lehigh U. received a total of 14,108 applications, compared to last year's 12,400 apps. It admitted 6,381 students, for an acceptance rate of 45 percent, Bruce Bunnick, dean of admissions, told *The Brown and White*. About 60 percent of the applicants submitted standardized test scores.

While the international pool remained about the same size, some 25 percent fewer Chinese students applied this year. Lehigh is "need-aware" when reviewing international applications. Only about 20 percent of international applicants are admitted.

**Middlebury Admits 15 Percent.** Middlebury C. in Vermont received 11,908 applications for this fall, the most ever and 30 percent more than last year. It admitted 1,446 students who applied Regular Decision. The overall acceptance rate, including the 425 students admitted early, is 15.7 percent.

Students of color represent 47 percent of all admitted students and 13 percent of the new class is made up of international students.

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## FINANCIAL MATTERS

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\$50 million Initiative for Wellness and Athletic Excellence to promote physical fitness among all students with a new 135,000-square foot facility.

**Dartmouth Increased Minimum for Grants.** Dartmouth C. has raised the family income minimum for full-tuition scholarships to \$125,000, up from \$100,000. The change will take place in 2022. The increase was made possible, in part, by a record-breaking \$90 million in scholarship gifts that the college has received since 2020.

**North Carolina Invests \$51 Million to Help Students Recover.** In late May, North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper announced he was directing \$51.4 million in new funding to a Governor's Emergency Education Relief, according to [wnc.com](http://wnc.com). It will help students access and complete postsecondary education. Some \$5 million of that will go to support mental health initiatives across the state's postsecondary institutions. And \$2.4 million will be directed to equity initiatives for K-12 and postsecondary students and their families.

"The GEER funds announced today will provide much-needed relief for the state's community colleges and universities, help us continue to build and grow a successful and diverse workforce and provide students equitable access to postsecondary education," the governor said.

**How Students Pay for College.** According to a new survey of 1,001 undergraduate students from College Ave Student Loans conducted by Barnes & Noble College Insights, parent savings and income still rank as the main method that most families used to pay for college (57 percent). Also, their plans include scholarships and grants (59 percent), student savings and/or income (43 percent), federal student loans (40 percent) and the work-study programs (12 percent).

About 42 percent of students expected to borrow to help cover college costs, with 44 percent expecting to borrow anywhere between \$10,000 to \$30,000. And 52 percent of those who do borrow plan to pay back loans by themselves, while 36 percent expect a little help from their parents. Only 67 percent feel confident that they will be able to pay back their loans. Some 43 percent hope to land a job where repayment is part of the benefits package.

**Financial Aid Appeal Letters.** SwiftStudent is a new free (foundation-backed) college financial aid appeal resource that helps students appeal their financial aid offer with a letter templates. SwiftStudent offers students:

- A way to start the appeal conversation with financial aid officers;
- Clear information about financial aid requirements;
- Customizable template letters that help students share their situation with the college. To find out more go to, <https://formswift.com/swift-student#>.

**Vermonters Appeal Financial Aid Offers.** Normally, between 160 and 200 Vermont families appeal their college financial aid offers. However, last year more than 1,200 families made those appeals, according to the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation.

"We absolutely saw need go through the roof," said Marilyn Cargill, vice president of financial aid services, marketing and research at VSAC. That is because the financial aid applications required income information from two years prior.

"Well, 2019 is way pre-pandemic," she added. Since then, many families have lost jobs or income, key considerations in the financial aid process.

"Appealing financial aid—it's fairly easy," Cargill said. "It's reaching out to your school.... And if you're applying to more than one school, you reach out to all of them, and let them know what's going on." ■

## COUNSELOR'S BOOKSHELF

*Best Value Colleges for 2021* by Rob Franek, Princeton Review. To see the Princeton Review's list of number one rankings in seven categories for 209 schools, go to [www.princetonreview.com/college-rankings/best-value-colleges](http://www.princetonreview.com/college-rankings/best-value-colleges).

*Like Nobody's Business: An Insider's Guide to How US University Finances Really Work* by Andrew C., Comrie; Open Book Publishers; 486 pages, 217 color illustrations; ISBN: 978-1-80064-107-5; <https://doi.org>.

"Women, Minorities, and Persons with Disabilities in Science and Engineering" from the National Science Foundation. Data and figures on enrollment, degrees, employment status, occupation. Online at <https://ncses.nsf.gov/wmpd>.

*U.S. News & World Report* launches "Scholarship Finder." *U.S. News & World Report's* new Scholarship Finder allows students to search 15,000 scholarships by location, type of award, area of study, deadline and other categories. See, <http://www.usnews.com/educationscholarships/search>.

**Provosts Report On Their Campuses.** *Inside Higher Ed's* "2021 Survey of College and University Chief Academic Officers" found that about a quarter of these administrators cut faculty during the pandemic, 67 percent of whom were adjunct faculty. And 10 percent said that those cuts were deep, reaching 10 to 25 percent of the total faculty.

Also, 41 percent of provosts said that during the Fall 2020 semester, when many courses went online, the quality of their courses was

"somewhat worse." And 76 percent felt that student engagement was "somewhat or much worse."

The survey of 183 provosts from public, private nonprofit and for-profit institutions also found that 84 percent agree that a high-quality undergraduate education requires healthy humanities departments such as English, history and philosophy.

Meanwhile, 72 percent said that their board members and politicians are prioritizing STEM studies.

**Demographic Cliff.** According to the 10th edition of "Knocking at the College Door," the number of traditional college students will shrink by 13 percent by 2037.

Also see, "Births: Provisional Data for 2020" from the National Center for Health Statistics.

Find it at: [www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/vsrr/nativity-dashboard.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/vsrr/nativity-dashboard.htm). ■

## SMALL INCREASE

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Some 35 percent of the new students are the first in their family to attend college. This year was Middlebury's first pilot test-optional year and nearly half of all applicants chose not to submit a standardized test score.

"Removing testing from the equation didn't alter our focus," said Nicole Curvin, dean of admissions. "Our staff continued to concentrate on what truly matters--assessing academic potential, gaining insight into the character of students through letters of support, hearing their voices in the essays and gathering information about their commitment to friends, family and community."

**New York Institute of Technology Deposits Up.** "Last year was a very challenging year for schools, like no other year we've experienced," Joseph Posillco, vice president for enrollment management at New York Institute of Technology on Long Island, told *Newsday*. But this year, "To tell you the truth we're actually very pleased: our applications, admissions and deposits are up.... Our deposits are up to a ridiculous level."

**Pittsburgh's Largest First-Year Class Includes "Many" Out-of-Staters.** Applications from Pennsylvania residents and non-Pennsylvania residents are up for the Class of 2025 at the U. of Pittsburgh. As of May 1, the school had attracted 5,160 first-year applications, breaking last year's previous record of 4,560.

Some 44 percent of applicants come from outside of Pennsylvania. The number of black and Latinx students also increased. Deposits from transfer students jumped 12 percent over 2020. Pitt's retention rate is about 92 percent, slightly behind last year's 93.6 percent.

Steve Wishiewski, vice provost for data and analytics, told the *University Times*, "We're expecting that the pandemic is still messing with things." But even if the "summer melt" reaches 12 percent, the incoming class would still exceed the university's goal of 4,315 by 200 new students.

**Rochester's New Class to Include Students from 50 Countries.** The Arts, Sciences and Engineering schools at the U. of Rochester in New York received nearly 19,000 applications. Rochester expects to enroll 1,450 students in the Class of 2025, slightly more than the record-breaking class of 2017. About a quarter of the new class will come from 50 different countries, according to Robert Alexander, dean of admissions, financial aid and enrollment management.

Rochester has been test-optional since 2019, and about 45 percent of this year's applicants took advantage of that option. The average

SAT for those students who did submit a score was 1428. The average ACT was 32. Alexander says the admission committee also assesses strength of character and student interest in making impact on the world.

Rochester's Eastman School of Music expects to enroll 131 first-year students this fall.

**Southern Maine Draws from Out-of-State.** The U. of Southern Maine attracted 40 percent more out-of-state students for Fall 2021 than a year ago, and 25 percent over 2018, Jared Cash, vice president for enrollment management and marketing, told *mainepublic.org*.

**Stony Brook Reviewed Apps "Holistically."** Applications to the State U. of New York at Stony Brook are up this year by 5 percent to 38,763, according to *Newsday*. Stony Brook seeks to fill a new class of 3,700 students.

"We were reading applications holistically, putting more emphasis on the three-year trend in grades and giving more emphasis to academic rigor, leadership, extracurricular and non-academic pursuits, community work, jobs and care of family members," said David Bousquet, vice president for enrollment management.

However, apps are down at nearby SUNY Old Westbury, and the school anticipates a 4 percent drop in fall enrollment.

Frank Muzio, a counselor at Wantagh High School on Long Island, told *Newsday* that, "I look for the silver lining in this tragedy, and I find it in the manner in which we all adapted and grew from the experience." He thinks the shift to virtual applications during the pandemic forced students to take more control "over their own destinies."

**Swarthmore's Most Popular Major Among Admits is Engineering.** Swarthmore C., outside of Philadelphia, attracted more than 13,000 applications and admitted 1,014 to the Class of 2025. Some 34 percent are affiliated with local, national and international community-based organizations such as A Better Chance, College Horizons, Lenfest Scholars, Sutton Trust and QuestBridge. Of admitted students who attended schools with class rank, 93 percent are in the top 10 percent. Swarthmore expects to enroll a first-year class of about 435 students.

Engineering is the most popular intended major of admitted students, followed by political science, economics, computer science, biology, English literature, mathematics and statistics, psychology, biochemistry, neuroscience and philosophy.

"The liberal arts tradition of serious inquiry and serious exploration, and the exercise of educating our students to solve society's intractable problems, is more relevant today than ever," said Jim Bock, vice presidents and dean of admissions.

**Tulane Boasts Most Selective Class in History.** Tulane U. in New Orleans admitted 9.73 percent of applicants, making it the most selective class in school history. Tulane's projected yield is 45 percent, up from 24 percent in 2016. About 26 percent identify as black, indigenous and people of color, up from 17 percent in 2016. The average range of ACT scores is 31-34.

**USC Draws 71,000 Apps.** The U. of Southern California attracted 71,000 first-year applications for this fall. USC admitted 8,804 students from 3,800 different high schools across the U.S. and 88 nations. About 40 percent of the new class hails from California. Some 14 percent of the students come from outside the U.S. and 72 percent are African American, Latinx, Native American, Asian, Pacific Islander or of multiple ethnicities. On a four-point scale, the average un-weighted GPA is 3.88, while 37 percent of admits scored perfect un-weighted 4.0 GPAs.

**Vassar Sets Record.** Vassar C. in New York attracted 10,884 first-year applications, a new record and 25 percent more than last year. Vassar admitted 19 percent of its applicants, down from 24 percent last year, Sonya Smith, dean of admissions and financial services, told *The Miscellany News*.

**Villanova Admits Performed 1.8 million Hours of Community Service.** Villanova U. in Philadelphia received 24,399 applications for the Class of 2025 and admitted 25 percent of them from 48 states and 56 countries, aiming for a target class size of 1,675. About 35 percent of those admitted are students of color. New students put in a total of 1.8 million hours of community service as high school students.

**Wash U. Attracts 33,000 Apps.** Washington U. in St. Louis received 33,634 applications, 20 percent more than last year, and admitted 4,374 students to the Class of 2025, aiming at a target size of 1,795. Pell Grant-eligible students account for 13 percent of the new class, African Americans 15 percent, Latinos 15 percent and 10 percent come from students who are first in their family to go to college. The admissions office conducted 686 virtual programs, 1,467 virtual high school visits and conducted 2,768 virtual interviews to get to know applicants.

Speaking of the pandemic, Ronne Turner, vice provost for admissions and financial aid, said, "There will be long-lasting consequences for our nation and higher education. Because equity is a priority at Washington University, we knew we would have to try some new things to let students and families know that a WashU education is within reach."

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## CURRICULUM CAPSULES

**Bob Jones Adds Political Science.** Beginning this fall, Bob Jones U. in South Carolina will offer a B.A. in Political Science with the option of pursuing a concentration in either American Government and Policy or National Security and Foreign Policy.

**Bentley Adds Major in Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.** Bentley C. in Massachusetts now offers students majors in Diversity, Equity and Inclusion with a B.A. focus on critical and theoretical approaches to social justice, or a B.S. which emphasizes the importance of DEI in organizational strategy.

**Colgate Introduces Global Public and Environmental Health Minor.** Colgate U. in upstate New York now offers a Global Public and Environmental Health Minor to help students “understand interdisciplinary perspectives on critical health issues....” It also “teaches the skills needed to address them, both locally and on a global scale.”

**Hiram Adds Three Majors.** Hiram C. in Ohio is adding majors in Supply Chain Management, Esports and Gaming Administration, and Digital Marketing. Supply Chain Management will also be available to students enrolled in Hiram’s online program.

**Loyola New Orleans’ Public Health Major.** Loyola U. New Orleans students can now pursue a B.S. or B.A. in public health, or they can minor in the field. The training will “prepare students for highly in-demand roles in health care, communications and community advocacy; some will go on to continue their studies at the master’s or doctoral level to gain specialized skills,” said Maria Calzada, dean of Loyola’s College of Arts and Sciences. “As a Jesuit University rooted in ethical decision-making, we are proud to be training the next generation of public health care leaders, filling a critical need here in the Gulf South and beyond.”

**Meredith’s Bachelor of Music Performance.** Meredith C. in North Carolina, with a “long history of excellence in music performance and education,” has added a Bachelor of Music in Performance. Rather than focus on a single instrument, the degree offers broader concentrations in Instrumental Studies, Piano/Keyboard Studies and Vocal Studies.

“It will meet the 21st century need for students to have more flexibility in their pursuit of professional music training, given the significant changes that have occurred in recent years in the world of professional music,” said Jeanie Wozencraft-Ornellas, head of the music department.

**Miami U. Adds Real Estate.** Miami (Ohio) U.’s Farmer School of Business added a Real Estate major in its department of finance. The major will prepare students for careers in real estate finance and development. “This is really focused more on the commercial real estate market,” said Joel Harper, department chair.

**Millikin’s BS/BA in Music Business.** Beginning Fall 2021, Millikin U. in Illinois will offer both a B.A. and B.S. in Music Business. No audition is required for admission. “This program of study encompasses training in music fundamentals, alongside music business and traditional business coursework, designed to provide the creative practitioner the tools for a career in today’s music industry.” ■

### SMALL INCREASE

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Emily Almas, assistant provost and director of admissions, added, “In-person recruitment will return in various forms. But we’ve been happy with the success of our virtual efforts. Whether you live a few hours away in rural Missouri or in another part of the world, you can tune in and have a conversation with a person in our community. That’s so powerful.”

**Wesleyan Admits 19 Percent.** Wesleyan U. in Connecticut received 13,145 applications and admitted 2,544, for an admit rate of 19.4 percent. Men account for 43 percent of those admitted, and 82 percent of admits live outside New England, while 11 percent come from 51 other nations. Domestic students of color account for 42 percent of the new class.

Wesleyan says of its new class, “Although rank in Class and ACT or SAT I and II are generally quite strong, more significant in our assessment are the rigor of academic programs and strength of teacher recommendations.... We find that successful students who have developed a variety of talents and made commitments to school activities, civic and religious organizations, politics and the arts are more likely to contribute to the life of this dynamically diverse Wesleyan community.”

**Other Numbers:** Brigham Young U. received 12,379 applications and admitted 7,309, or 59 percent. The State U. of New York saw admissions drop by 14 percent this year. Williams C. in Massachusetts attracted 12,500 applicants and admitted 8 percent. ■

**Have a Good, Safe Summer. Don’t forget to check CB’s “Admission Story of the Day.”**

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## NEWS YOU CAN USE

**Off-Campus Recruiting.** A new article, “Coming to a Neighborhood Near You? Off-Campus Recruiting by Public Research Universities,” published last month in the *American Educational Research Journal*, confirms a trend earlier reported by CB: most of the 15 public research universities studied “made more out-of-state than in-state [college recruiting] visits systematically targeted on affluent, predominantly white localities.”

**Colorado Bans Legacies.** Colorado became the first state to ban the use of “legacies” in the college admissions process. A legacy is given a slight advantage when applying because a relative attended the same school. Colorado Governor Jared Polis also signed a law that prohibits public colleges from requiring applicants to submit a SAT or ACT score, although students may still do so.

**California Officially Drops Standardized Tests.** The U. of California system will no longer use the SAT or ACT in admission or scholarship decisions. The U.C. Board

of Regents voted to eliminate the tests, but hopes to replace them with another test of its own by 2024.

**The UNC System to Remain Test-Optional.** The UNC Board of Governors extended a current test-score waiver for freshman admission to 2022. The board’s action doesn’t prohibit students from submitting test scores.

**U. of Tennessee “Ditches” Test Scores.** When test centers closed last year, the U. of Tennessee moved to test-optional applications and 9,000 students applied without tests in 2020. At the end of May this year, the *Chattanooga Free Press* reported “you can ditch the SAT prep sessions.” The U. of Tennessee Knoxville said for the next five years the “test-optional policy will allow us to collect data and assess how effective admissions tests are for our population,” said Fabrizio D’Aloisio, associate vice president for enrollment management. The U. of Tennessee Chattanooga will not mandate tests this year, but will require a higher grade-point average. ■

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