

College Bound

ISSUES & TRENDS FOR THE COLLEGE ADMISSIONS ADVISOR

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Admissions Watch 2022

Selective School Apps are Up

ACCORDING TO the Common App, applications it sent from students to highly-selective colleges and universities jumped 25 percent over the past two years. Applications from Common App students to less-selective and moderately-selective colleges rose 17 percent.

The Common App linked the surge to test-free policies during the pandemic. The number of its member schools that previously required standardized test scores plunged from 55 percent to 5 percent.

About 60 percent of Common Apps go to private colleges. Applications from “under-represented” groups jumped 17 percent; from first-generation students, 21 percent. More than half of U.S. applications came from the wealthiest quintile of zip codes. Only 6 percent of students are from the least affluent neighborhoods.

AT THE COLLEGE LEVEL

Barnard Apps Up 16 Percent. Barnard C. in New York City received 12,009 applications for the Class of 2026, 16 percent more than last year. It only admitted 8 percent of them. About two thirds of the newly-admitted identify as students of color. Barnard admitted 41 applicants from QuestBridge. About 10 percent of the newly admitted are international students who come from 36 nations. And 21 percent are first-generation college students.

Bowdoin Admits “Inspiring Scholars.” Bowdoin C. in Maine attracted 9,446 applicants to the Class of 2026, and admitted 843 of them. All students will have 100 percent of their financial need met, loan-free. Domestic students of color make up 52 percent of the new class, while 23 percent are first-generation college students. International students account for 9 percent of the new class and 9 percent hail from Maine. About a third of

the new class attended private schools, while 22 students came through the QuestBridge program.

Other students came to Bowdoin through College Match, Palouse Pathways, NJ Seeds, Teen Sharp, College Horizons and Upward Bound programs, among others. “Despite the many challenges, they are inspiring scholars, caring members of their community, and leaders in all walks of life,” said Claudia Marroquin, senior vice president and dean of admissions and student aid.

To inspire “digital excellence” and innovation, Bowdoin supplies every new student with a 13-inch MacBook Pro, iPad mini and Apple Pencil.

Caltech Admits “Many Different Minds.”

On March 12, the California Institute of Technology offered admission to 432 students, including those admitted through early admissions. Those admitted include 35 QuestBridge National College Match scholars. Students come from 25 different nations including Thailand, Kenya, Libya, Jamaica, Qatar, China, Zimbabwe, Austria, Poland and the UK.

Caltech expects to enroll a new class of approximately 235 students. The students have expressed interest in 25 possible majors including geophysics, mathematics, mechanical engineering, chemistry, physics, computer science, political science, planetary science and material science.

“We took seriously the idea that science is better when there are many different minds approaching it and tried to build that into the class as much as possible,” said Ashley Pallie, director of undergraduate admissions. “This admitted class, in particular, is notably diverse in gender, geographic origin, option interest, socioeconomic level and more.”

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Financial Matters

Budget Sends \$3 billion to Higher Education. In late March, President Biden signed the 2022 federal fiscal budget. It appropriated \$76.4 billion in discretionary funds to the U.S. Dept. of Education, nearly \$3 billion more than last year.

The education budget includes about \$3 billion for higher education programs and another \$25 billion for federal student aid. The new budget increased Pell Grant awards by \$400, making the maximum grant \$6,895 for the 2022-23 school year. However, that amount only covers about one third of a student’s expenses. The Federal Work Study program received \$20 million more than last year. Historically Black colleges will receive \$885 million, \$96 million more than last year.

Fewer Submit FAFSA. About 30,000 fewer Pennsylvania students have filled out the critical FAFSA to qualify for financial aid this next school year. That’s a 10 percent drop-off from last year, according to triblive.com. The lower application rate, primarily among low-income students, could have the ultimate impact on state and regional colleges and universities.

Long-Term Debt. According to *Harper’s Index*, the proportion of college graduates projected to need at least 20 years to recoup their tuition costs: 1 in 4; the portion of those graduates who will likely never recoup the total: 3 in 5.

Ivy League Applicants Applying for Aid. *The Daily Princetonian* compiled a list of the *continued on page 3*

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Colby Admits From its “Largest Applicant Pool in History.” Colby C. in Maine attracted 16,891 applications for this fall, and admitted 1,258 students or about 7 percent, making this the largest and most competitive applicant pool in school history. Nearly 40 percent of the admitted students identify as persons of color, while international students make up 14 percent of the admitted pool. The median SAT score was 1500, the median ACT, 34. Colby meets 100 percent of every student’s demonstrated financial need, without loans.

New students will encounter several study and entertainment additions, including a hub for visual and performing arts in downtown Waterville, a center for creative and perform-

ing arts on campus and a new Institute for Artificial Intelligence. Additionally, Colby recently established an Island Campus in midcoast Maine that includes the longtime summer home of famed artist Andrew Wyeth. Students there will work on cross-discipline research opportunities in a range of academic programs, including marine sciences and arts.

Florida State “Defers” 5,000 Students. First-year applications to Florida State U. have soared 157 percent since 2016. For Fall 2022, nearly 75,000 applied for admission, up from 66,000 last year. Not only were there more applications, but fewer students were accepted for this fall; 16,000, down from 23,000 last year. The average GPA for admitted students is 4.3 to 4.6. First-generation college students

number 3,703 this year.

Some 5,000 students have been deferred this year. “A deferral is not a denial,” said Hege Ferguson, director of admissions. “It is an opportunity for those students to share more information with us as we continue to review their application and finalize our first-year class.” FSU plans on enrolling 6,200 new students in fall, according to fsunews.com.

U. of Georgia Tops 39,000 Applications. The U. of Georgia received 39,615 applications for its Class of 2026. Georgia admitted 16,600 students from 3,438 high schools and 57 countries. Some 1,965 of them were first-generation college students, while minority students make up 36 percent of those admit-

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The Ivy League Report

PRINCETON U. in New Jersey no longer will release its application or admission numbers. The Ivy League school wrote, “The Office of Admission considers each student holistically within the context of their setting to build a dynamic University community. Given this, data points such as overall admission rates and average SAT scores shouldn’t influence a prospective student’s decision about whether to apply to Princeton. We know this information raises the anxiety level of prospective students and their families and, unfortunately, may discourage some prospective students from applying....”

“The University will continue to report aggregate data about the admissions cycle each year in the Common Data Set and to the state and federal government. We believe this decision will help us keep students central to our work and tamp down the anxiety of applicants.”

AMONG THE OTHER IVYS

Brown Admits 2,546 Students. Brown U. in Rhode Island admitted 2,546 students to its Class of 2026. Brown received 50,649 applications for its Class of 2026, 9 percent more than last year. Some 96 percent of the new students ranked in the top 10 percent of their high schools. The Ivy League school expects to seat an incoming class of approximately 1,700 students.

Brown is also educating additional students from Afghanistan. The largest contingent of international students this fall will come from China, the United Kingdom, Canada, India, Singapore and the Ukraine. Brown covers the full cost of tuition for families earning \$125,000 or less.

Dartmouth Admits 6.2 Percent of Applicants. Dartmouth C. in New Hampshire attracted 28,336 applicants for its Class of

2026 and admitted 1,767 of them, for an admit rate of 6.24 percent. They will be joined by 27 students who took a gap year, according to *The Dartmouth*.

About 63 percent of students applied for Dartmouth’s need-based financial aid, while 19 percent of admitted students qualify for Pell Grants. Projected scholarships will total about \$61,000. In January, Dartmouth expanded its need-blind admission policy to include international students. Dartmouth also extended its test-optional admission policy to the Class of 2027.

Harvard Accepts a Record-Low 3.19 Percent. Only 1,954 students or 3.19 percent of the 61,220 who applied to Harvard C.’s Class of 2026 were accepted, a record low, according to *The Harvard Crimson*. That includes 740 students who were accepted via early admission in December. Almost 7 percent more students applied this year than last, which accounts for the decrease of the admit rate from last year’s 3.43 percent.

Black students make up 15.5 percent of the new class, down from last year’s 18 percent. Latinx students account for 12.6 percent of the class, down from 13.3 percent last year, while Asian American students make up 27.8 percent of the class, up from last year’s 27.2 percent. Admitted Native Americans account for 2.9 percent of the class, up from 1.2 percent last year. Women make up 54.2 percent of the Class of 2026, up from 52.9 percent last year. International students hail from 98 countries.

Harvard announced that it will cover the full cost for students from families earning \$75,000 or less, up from last year’s \$65,000. Harvard expects an annual family contribution of \$12,700. Some 20.5 of admitted students are Pell Grant eligible.

Penn Withholds Admit Rate. The U. of

Pennsylvania joined fellow Ivy League institutions Cornell and Princeton in withholding its acceptance rate for the Class of 2026, “the first time in recent memory,” according to *The Daily Pennsylvania*.

Whitney Soule, Penn’s new associate vice provost and dean of admissions, said the school admitted its most diverse group of students and the highest portion of students from Philadelphia in school history. About 8 percent of applicants were accepted for the Class of 2024, two years ago.

“We’re focusing not on how hard we are to get in, but on who these young people are that we chose,” Soule told *The Wall Street Journal*.

About 55,000 students applied to Penn for this fall through its early and regular cycles, down from last year’s 56,333. They were vying for one of approximately 2,400 slots in the Class of 2026. Soule also noted that about a third of admitted students did research during high school, 40 percent worked during those years and 80 percent engaged in community service.

Penn will continue its test-optional policy through the 2022-2023 admissions cycle.

Yale Draws More Than 50,000 Applicants. Yale U. in Connecticut drew 50,015 applicants for its Class of 2026 and admitted 2,234 students. They will be joined by 46 students who took a gap year. That number includes 800 students who were admitted through Early Action and 81 more who came through the QuestBridge National College Match program. Admitted students hail from 49 states, 58 countries and 1,500 secondary schools. They will study in Yale’s 81 undergraduate academic programs

“The applicant pool’s strengths and diversity are always more important to the admissions committee than its size,” said Jeremiah Quinlan, dean of undergraduate admissions and financial aid. “By these measures, the students who were admitted to Yale College this cycle are truly extraordinary.” ■

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percentage of undergraduates who applied for financial aid at seven of the eight colleges in the Ivy League: Brown, 49 percent; Penn, 50 percent; Cornell, 52 percent; Yale, 56 percent; Dartmouth, 58 percent; Harvard, 59 percent; and Princeton, 65 percent. Columbia does not release its statistics.

According to Princeton President Shirley Tilghman, the financial aid office takes “into account a great deal more than income. They take into account things like home ownership, how many children are in the family, how many of those children are actually in college at one time, as well as other assets the family may have that could help contribute to the cost of college.”

Colby Welcome Grants. A \$3 million gift to Colby C. in Maine is funding \$1,250 Welcome Grants to help in-need students cover incidental expenses such as books, computer equipment and winter clothing such as scarves.

“I came from a family of seven, and when I got to campus, I had no spending money, or very minimal spending money. It was tough,” Nancy Weiland, a Colby alum who with her husband made the grant after successful careers in medicine and science, told mainebiz.com.

Colorado Mountain C. to Aid 200. The Colorado Mountain Promise will help around 200 students who cannot cover tuition costs after receiving federal and state financial aid. It is aimed at Colorado residents.

Emory Promotes Debt-Free Graduates. Emory U. in Georgia eliminated loans as part of its need-based packages, giving more students the chance to graduate debt-free. “For Emory to fulfill our mission of serving humanity in all that we do, we are continuing to invest in making an Emory education affordable to talented students of all financial backgrounds,” said Gregory L. Fenves, president.

Holy Cross Boosts Scholarships. The C. of the Holy Cross in Massachusetts received a \$11 million alumni gift to support student scholarships and an emergency financial aid fund. “The new McKay funds...will enable our most vulnerable students to afford Holy Cross and participate fully in the vibrant academic and extracurricular life

of the College,” said Vincent Rougeau, Holy Cross’s new president.

Nebraska Moves FAFSA Deadline to June 1. The U. of Nebraska expanded its Nebraska Promise so that students with family incomes of \$65,000 or less will be able to attend NU tuition free. It also extended its priority deadline for FAFSA to June 1.

New Mexico Creates Opportunity Scholarship. Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham signed a bill creating the Opportunity Scholarship to assist non-traditional students to finish college part-time. “With the Opportunity Scholarship Act, New Mexico has made history and set a national example of how states can break down barriers...” Higher Education Department Secretary Stephanie Rodriguez told apnews.com.

Ohio U. Announces New Aid for In-Need High-Achievers. Ohio U. announced a new aid program for low-income, high-achieving students. The Ohio Regional Promise, usually awarding between \$2,000 to \$3,000, is available to students throughout the country who come to school with a 3.0 high school GPA and a Pell Grant.

“My hope is that students who for any reason are worried about being able to afford college will no longer have to worry about it,” David Rohall, Ohio U. dean, told *The Intelligencer*.

Some Financial Aid Myths. According to the Educational Credit Management Corporation students and families fall prey to certain myths.

Myth #1: My financial aid offer letter will show me a clear picture of college costs. ECMC says no. “While most schools outline baseline tuition and fees, some might not include ‘indirect expenses’ like room and board, textbooks, meals and transportation.”

Myth #2: It’s easy to understand the difference between loans and grants. ECMC warns students to stay away from loans which must be repaid with interest. Look for terms like “grant,” “scholarship” and “fellowship.” “Anything else is most likely a loan.”

Myth #3: It’s too late for me to apply for college financial aid. ECMC notes that for students planning to apply for the 2022-2023 school year, the FAFSA deadline is June 30, 2023. But don’t wait. Much of the aid goes first-come, first-served. See, www.ecmc.org/students. ■

COUNSELOR’S BOOKSHELF

The Handbook of Online Learning in Higher Education, Rudestam, Schoenholtz-Read, Snowden, editors; 612 pages; Fielding University Press; ISBN-13:978-173-794-3921; \$38.95.

“Creditor Colleges: Canceling Debts that Surged During COVID-19 for Low-Income Students,” which affected 750,000 students. See, <https://protectborrowers.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/creditors-colleges.pdf>.

Collective Illusions: Conformity, Complicity and the Science of Why We Make Bad Decisions by Todd Rose; Hatchette Books, New York;

ISBN 978-0-306-92568-9; \$29. Rose, a former faculty member at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, argues “...how our brain’s misunderstanding of what other people think distorts how we see the world around us and leads us to continually act against our own best interests.”

“Progressivity of Pricing at U.S. Public Universities,” Emily E. Cook & Sarah Turner; National Bureau of Economic Research; finds “From 2012 to 2018, that tuition [for low- and moderate-income families] fell by far more than would have been predicted by the growth in state appropriations, while tuition levels

continued to rise....” www.nber.org/papers/w29829.

College Scorecard Updated. The U. S. Department of Education has updated its College Scorecard with more data about college costs, graduation rates and post-college earnings. The Scorecard’s interactivity has also been improved.

“For so many students and families, the college search process can be overwhelming,” said Miguel Cardona, U.S. Secretary of Education. “But easily accessible, high-quality information about higher education institutions can help students determine which college or university is the best fit for them.”

Find at: <https://collegescorecard.ed.gov>. ■

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ted. The average SAT score of admitted students ranged from 1330-1480, while ACT scores ranged 31-34.

Harvey Mudd Admits 576 Students. Harvey Mudd Colleges, part of the Claremont Colleges in California, received 4,440 applications to its Class of 2026, the second largest pool in school history. It offered admissions to 576 students, Maria Klawe, Harvey Mudd president told her board of trustees.

About 70 percent of those first-years admitted are domestic students of color. More than 28 percent of the students are Latino, 10 percent are black and 8.1 percent are international students. First-generation college students make up 20.5 percent of the new class. Only 34 percent of admitted students submitted SAT/ACT scores, which have been optional the last two years.

Johns Hopkins Applicants “Showed They Were Motivated.” Johns Hopkins U. in Maryland admitted 1,586 students through Regular Decision to join the 822 Early Decision students who were offered admission in December and February. They were selected from more than 37,150 applicants for the Class of 2026.

Over 90 percent had part-time jobs, internships or summer jobs during high school. Some 34 percent were involved in student government. And 20 percent will be the first in their families to go to college.

“Their applications showed us their motivation to make a positive impact on those around them and their ability to respond to a changing world,” said Ellen Chow, dean of undergraduate admissions.

Loyola Marymount Apps Up 36 Percent. More than 21,000 first-year applications for Fall 2022 poured into the admissions office at Loyola Marymount U. in California. That’s a 36 percent increase of applicants since 2017, according to the *lalyola.com*. Applications from students from underrepresented communities increased 14 percent, while international applications came from 130 countries, up 20 percent.

“Larger applicant pools demonstrate a strengthening draw to the unique opportunities LMU affords our students in the higher education landscape,” Thomas Gutto, assistant vice provost of undergraduate admission, told the student paper.

“Namely, a personalized education experience, built up on a 500-year Jesuit tradition, that challenges our students outside their comfort zones.” (The school reports that 97 percent of its graduating Class of 2021 had found employment or enrolled in graduate school

NCAA Tabs

Richmond’s Profile Grows with NCAA Basketball Tournament Bid. The U. of Richmond in Virginia won the Atlantic 10 basketball tournament this winter, which made CB wonder about the “Spiders.”

We found that Richmond educates 3,164 students from 62 nations and that they enjoy what the Princeton Review ranked as the ninth “Best Quality of Life.” Average number of students per undergraduate class? Sixteen. Richmond is need-blind in admission and meets 100 percent of demonstrated need, with an average need-based award of \$55,600.

St. Peter’s Sweet 16 Run Pays Off. NCAA Division I basketball tournament sweetheart, St. Peter’s U. in New Jersey, is seeing immediate returns for its high-profile success this spring. Apex Marketing Group estimates that the Peacock’s two NCAA tournament wins are worth between \$71 and \$100 million in marketing exposure.

The small school’s admission department reports a noticeable uptick in interest, including 80 new applications from prospective students after its upset victory over Kentucky in March. Researchers told New Jersey News 12 that the “Cinderella effect” could increase freshman enrollment by 4.4 percent.

“That’s been our story for 150 years,” said one school spokesperson. “We are a school that transforms students’ lives.” ■

or service within six months of graduation.)

Michigan Apps From Low-Income Students Fell. The U. of Michigan fielded more than 84,000 applications this year, a 6 percent increase over the last cycle. Applications from black candidates were up by 7 percent, those from Latinos rose by 5 percent. However, applications from low-income students fell by 7 percent, a national trend exasperated by the pandemic, according to *The Michigan Daily*.

MIT Admits But 3.9 Percent. The Massachusetts Institute of Technology attracted 33,796 early and regular cycle applications for the Class of 2026, 2 percent more than last year. But MIT only admitted 1,337 of them, for an acceptance rate of 3.96 percent, down from last year’s rate of 4.03 percent. MIT’s pre-pandemic acceptance rate was approximately 7 percent.

MIT announced that it increased financial aid for students from families earning \$140,000 or less. Aid increased from \$155 million this year to \$161 million. Its average scholarship is \$59,916 a year.

MIT also announced that it is reinstating its standardized test requirement for applicants to the future classes. “Our research shows

standardized tests help us better assess the academic preparedness of all applicants, and also help us identify socioeconomically disadvantaged students who lack access to advanced coursework or other enrichment opportunities that would otherwise demonstrate their readiness for MIT. We believe our requirement is more equitable and transparent than a test-optional policy,” said director of admissions Stu Schmill.

Northwestern Admits 7 Percent. Northwestern U. north of Chicago attracted 51,554 applications for the Class of 2026 through its early and regular admission cycle, up almost 4,000 from last year. It admitted 7 percent of them. In 2010, NU’s acceptance rate was 23.1 percent. NU also received 3,420 transfer applications, up from last year’s 2,855.

According to the *Daily Northwestern*, NU’s president, Morton Schapiro, personally reads some of the applications, although the Office of Admissions makes decisions. Northwestern has extended its test-optional policies at least through next year.

NYU Attracts 105,000 Applicants! New York U. in Greenwich Village broke last year’s admissions record by 5 percent when it attracted more than 105,000 applications for this fall. Only 12.2 percent of applicants were offered admission at NYU’s New York campus. The College of Arts and Science admitted 7 percent of applicants, Stern School of Business also sent offers to 7 percent of applicants, while its College of Nursing admitted only 3 percent.

The first-year class will reach about 5,700 students on campus this fall. About 66 percent of the class will be domestic students of color. New students will come from 49 states and 107 countries. Almost 20 percent will be the first in their families to go to college. Over 1,100 are projected to be Pell Grant recipients.

“Even with the ongoing challenges presented by the pandemic, this group inspires us, coming from a wide range of interests, passions, and backgrounds to make up one of the most diverse applicant pools in NYU history,” said Jonathan Williams, assistant vice president for undergraduate admissions.

Notre Dame Admits 12.9 Percent. The U. of Notre Dame in Indiana fielded 26,506 applicants for its Class of 2026. ND admitted 3,412 students for a 12.9 percent acceptance rate, the lowest in school history. About 3,046 students were waitlisted during the Regular Decision process.

Don Bishop, associate vice president for undergraduate enrollment, told *The Observer* that applications have shot up by 25 percent over the past two years. About 47 percent of admitted students come from public schools,

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33 percent from Catholic schools and 19 percent from non-Catholic private schools.

International students hail from 95 countries and make up 18.7 percent of admitted students. About 33 percent of admitted students did not provide standardized test scores during ND's suspension of standardized tests. The Class of 2026 is expected to enroll about 2,050 students.

"We consider ourselves to be different than the other top 15 schools," Bishop told the student paper, "and our admission approach embraces the difference... We certainly are going after the most intellectually driven, academically talented students, but we really look at their creativity and motivation for learning, not just their ability to create academic results."

Pomona Offers Admission to 736 Students.

Pomona Colleges, also part of the Claremont Colleges group in California, offered admission to 736 students, 61 percent of whom are students of color. The QuestBridge Scholars program and Posse Foundation contributed 40 students to the admitted pool. First-generation college students make up 23 percent of the new class. Some 55 percent submitted standardized test scores, down from 57 percent last year.

Rice Admits 8 Percent. Rice U. in Houston, Texas, received 31,424 applications for its Class of 2026, 6 percent more than last year and 74 percent more than five years ago. It admitted 2,691 or 8.56 percent, down from 9.3 last year, Yvonne Romero da Silva told the *Rice Thresher*. The total includes Early Decision and QuestBridge students admitted in December.

"The addition of the undergraduate business major has drawn the attention of aspiring business students and entrepreneurs from around the world," Romero da Silva said. "Students applying to Rice Business represent nine percent of the admitted class, which is comparable to the number of students admitted to the School of Humanities."

Temple's Record Number of Applications.

More than 38,000 students applied for Temple U.'s Class of 2026, 5 percent more than last year. Applications from first-generation students soared by 24 percent, while those from international students rose even more to 35 percent. Students of color made up nearly 55 percent of the applicant pool.

Temple's Japan campus in Tokyo has also seen a surge in interest. Applications from non-Japanese students increased 20 percent while those from Japanese applicants rose by 24 percent.

"Of course, we're humbled by the increased

ENROLLMENT TRENDS

UC Berkeley's Expanded Enrollment Plan Saved by the Legislature. Faced with court-ordered reduction in the number of students it admits this year, the U. of California Berkeley was prepared to ask some of its admitted students to study online this fall. It was requesting that some transfer students delay enrollment until January 2023. This way, Berkeley hoped it could admit the same number of first-year and transfer students that it did last year.

Then the California State Legislature stepped in and unanimously passed a bill that allows UC Berkeley to admit about 2,600 students more than the court limited. Berkeley has 18 months to conduct an environmental review on the impact of greater enrollment.

interest in Temple this year—especially among first-generation students and international students," Shawn Abbott, vice provost, told *Temple Now*.

Trinity Received Apps from 141 Nations.

Trinity C. in Hartford, Connecticut, attracted 6,198 applications this year from 46 states and 141 countries around the world. Trinity believes that about 45 percent of the Class of 2026 will have enrolled through Early Decision. U.S. students of color, including multiethnic students, account for 21 percent of the ED admits. Trinity's "Bantam Welcome Weekend," is scheduled for April.

"Despite the challenges of the pandemic that impacted most of their high school years, these applicants impressed our admission committee with their academic achievements, creative pursuits and inspiring stories," said Anthony T. Berry, director of admissions.

Tufts Tops 34,000 Apps.

Tufts U. in Massachusetts received more than 34,880 applications for its Class of 2026, a 78 percent increase over the past seven years. It offered admission to 9 percent of applicants or 3,200 students. Just over 56 percent of admitted students are people of color, including 11 percent who identify as black, 14 percent who identify as Hispanic or "Latinx" and 20 percent who identify as Asian American. About 12 percent are first in their family to attend college.

Women account for 55 percent of the new class slightly down from last year and they account for 55 percent of students admitted to the School of Engineering, the school record. International students come from 84 countries. Native American students represent 15 tribal nations. This year, 60 percent of students chose to submit standardized test scores, up from last year's 50 percent.

Tufts is half way to expanding its student population to 6,600 students by 2026. But the rapid expansion is causing a housing squeeze.

In the end, 128,196 students applied for freshman admission to Berkeley, up from 88,067 just two years ago. More than 15,000 of them received offers of admission.

Oklahoma Gains. Both the U. of Oklahoma and Oklahoma State U. experienced 1 percent increases in enrollment this spring compared to last year. OU enrollment grew by about 300 students to 26,620. OSU also increased by about 300 to 22,916 students. OSU's freshmen enrollment is the largest in school history.

Meanwhile, Tulsa C.C.'s enrollment decreased by 2 percent to 12,813 students this spring. ■

Still, Tufts expects that broadening the already superior intellectual fire-power on campus will be no problem with the high quantity of quality applicants who apply each year.

Vanderbilt ED II.

Vanderbilt U. admitted 250 Early Decision I applicants, or about 10.3 percent of the pool, to the Class of 2026. Overall, 5,107 students applied to the Tennessee school in its two ED cycles, and 900 were admitted, or approximately half of the new class, Doug Christiansen, dean of admissions, told *The Vanderbilt Hustler*.

UVA Receives More Than 50,000 Applicants.

In the end, 50,962 students applied in three rounds of decisions to join UVA's Class of 2026, compared to 48,011 last year. About 2,000 students were admitted Regular Decision.

"We are not able to offer admission to every accomplished and talented and deserving student given the large applicant pool and smaller number of spaces in the class," said dean of admissions Greg Roberts. "We are mindful that this can be a very difficult time for students to whom we were not able to offer admission, and we are thinking of them as well."

Wellesley Admits 13 Percent.

Wellesley C. received more than 8,700 first-year applications, the most in school history. It offered admission to 13 percent of those applicants. About 62 percent of those admitted are domestic students of color, while 23 percent will be the first in their families to attend college. International students make up 11 percent of those admitted, while 47 percent speak a language other than English in their homes.

This is the second year that Wellesley temporarily suspended standardized test requirements, and 55 percent of applicants did not submit scores. About 91 percent of the admitted students are ranked in the top 10 percent of their graduating class, 99 percent in the top

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NEWS YOU CAN USE

More Plan to Study Abroad. About 72 percent of students surveyed at 140 U.S. colleges by Terra Dotta, an education technology provider, say they want to travel abroad in 2022. About 40 percent of them plan to make travel a summer 2022 experience. The two major reasons students give for wanting to study abroad is that they want to strengthen their language skills and prepare for the global work force. But COVID is still a concern with most of them.

“The buzz in the industry is that students are ready to travel more broadly again, and we are seeing an increase in student applications and new programs across our platform.... The students are ready to go-safely,” said Anthony Rotoli, Terra Dotta CEO.

Chatboxes Help Retention. Chatboxes using personalized text messages can spur students to complete tasks such as filing an FAFSA or registering early for academic advising sessions and hence remain enrolled, according to a study from Georgia State U. Chatboxes, fueled by artificial intelligence, are becoming common in admissions and financial aid offices.

Earning Power. On average, those without a bachelor’s degree earn \$24,900 less each year than those with a degree. According to some observers additional consequences for those without degrees include loss of compound interest, more depression, divorce, less civic engagement and shorter lives.

New Program to Get Gang Members into College. Long Beach City C. and the U. of Southern California launched a new program to increase college access for young people associated with gangs. The LBCC Phoenix Scholars program starts this summer and will work with 300 young people with gang connections, helping them enroll, receive career advising, special mental health counseling, find mentors, campus resources and internship opportunities.

Los Angeles has an estimated 10,000 youth associated with gangs. “I’m hoping if we’re able to touch the lives of, let’s say hypothetically, 200 people, we can help change the lives of the generation of people,” Adrian Huerta, USC assistant education professor, told *Inside Higher Ed*.

More on Test-Optional. During the pandemic, 1,800 colleges and universities, nearly 80 percent of U.S. four-year campuses, adopted either test-optional or score-free policies for Fall 2022 applicants, according to FairTest.

The California State University’s Board of Trustees unanimously voted to make its schools test-free. “In essence, we are eliminating our

reliance on a high-stress, high-stakes test that has shown negligible benefit.”

Add Columbia U. and Yale to the schools that are extending their test-optional policies next cycle.

St. Mary’s U. in Texas is first in that state to permanently adopt test-free admissions. According to the National Center for Fair and Open Testing, St. Mary’s is one of about 20

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20 percent, reported Joy St. John, dean.

Wesleyan Admits 13.9 Percent. Wesleyan U. in Connecticut fielded 14,521 applications for its Class of 2026, the most in school history. It offered admission to 2,013 students, including 473 applicants admitted through its ED I & II cycles, students who deferred last year, QuestBridge and the Posse Veterans Program.

About 44 percent of those who applied ED I received offers. Overall, that translated into an admit rate of 13.9 percent, a 5.5 percent decrease from the Class of 2025 and the lowest in school history. Wesleyan hopes to enroll between 750 and 770 students this fall.

Some 77 percent of admitted students completed math through calculus, 82 percent three years of lab sciences and 78 percent four years of a single foreign language in high school. This year, 60 percent of admitted students submit-

ted a standardized test score, with the median ACT score of 34. About 48 percent of admitted students applied for need-based financial aid. About 10 percent are international students.

“There’s this concept of, ‘Admissions offices are places that say no, not places that say yes,’” Tony Sarda, director of undergraduate admissions St. Mary’s, told *expressnews.com* in San Antonio. “But two thirds of colleges nationwide admit more than half of the students that applied for admission. And that’s one thing I try to tell students all the time. You are going to find more places that say yes to more people than places that say no.” ■

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“While the pandemic and its variants continued to pose challenges, this year was [a] bit more of a ‘return to normal’ in that we were able to welcome vaccinated and boosted visitors to campus for in-person visits,” dean of admission and financial aid Amin Gonzalez told *The Wesleyan Argus*.

P.S. More Students in Ontario, Canada, Apply. Applications from Ontario, Canada, high school students to the province’s universities climbed 8.4 percent this year, reported the Ontario Universities’ Application Centre. The largest increase was to Ontario’s Tech U. in Oshawa, where applications soared by 34 percent. The U. of Wilfrid Laurier U. each rose by 7 percent, while Queen’s U. in Kingston grew by 13 percent, according to *lfpress.com*. ■

CURRICULUM CAPSULES

Gaston/NC State Transfer Partnership. Students with a good academic record at Gaston C. now are guaranteed admission to North Carolina State U. thanks to a partnership between the two schools. Gaston students must post a 3.0 or better GPA to be eligible. Gaston also signed an agreement between its Textile Technology program and the Wilson College of Textiles at North Carolina State to make transfers swift and easy.

Ohio Dominion’s New BS of Data Science. Ohio Dominican U., with 1,335 students in Columbus, announced a new Bachelor of Science and certificate in Data Science. Students will learn real-life data skills such as data cleaning, visualization, statistical analysis and machine learning. The data science field expects to grow about 15 percent during the next decade.

Penn’s Community Nursing Program. Thanks to a \$125 million donation from

Leonard A. Lauder, chairman emeritus of The Estée Lauder Companies, the U. of Pennsylvania will start a program to train nurse practitioners for free, according to *whyy.org*. Students in the two-year program will spend half of their time working at community partner sites and commit to working in underserved communities throughout the U.S. for at least two years following graduation.

The first-year class begins in 2022 with 10 fellows and will grow to a full complement of 40 fellows in 2026. To be eligible, students must already be admitted full-time into Penn’s adult gerontology primary care program, its family nurse practitioner program or psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner program.

Due to the pandemic, an estimated 100,000 new nurse practitioners will be needed per year, according to the American Nurses Association. ■

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