

College Bound

ISSUES & TRENDS FOR THE COLLEGE ADMISSIONS ADVISOR

Vol. 40, No. 1

September 2025

Welcome to CB's 40th Year!

Editors' Note: COLLEGE BOUND is proud to enter our 40th year of bringing you the most up-to-date and interesting news on college admissions and financial aid issues. Over the years, we've heard so many wonderful comments on how our award-winning monthly publication helps high school college counselors, admissions officers, parents and others keep on top of important trends and better guide their students to make the best choices for their futures. Thanks so much for your support and have a great school year! ■

Admissions Watch

Binghamton Received 74,725 Apps. Binghamton U., part of the State U. of New York (SUNY), received a record-breaking 74,725 applications for this academic year, including 61,200 for its Class of 2029 and 4,575 transfers. This fall, it welcomed approximately 18,600 new and returning students to its Upstate New York campus. About 37 percent of its new students are from Upstate, 21 percent from Long Island and 24 percent from New York City. Some 550 new international students also arrived on campus.

"Binghamton's commitment to academic excellence, its ability to prepare students for graduate school and careers and the quality of its physical facilities has made the university one of the premier public institutions in the nation," said President Harvey Stenger.

Bucknell's 180th Year. Bucknell U. in Pennsylvania launched its 180th academic year with a new class of 1,040 students selected from 11,561 applicants. The new students hail from 30 states and 48 countries and posted a high school GPA of 3.58. They are joined by 34 new transfer students, 13 of whom are Bucknell Community College Scholars.

"This incoming class brings an extraordinary mix of talents," said Kevin Mathes, interim vice president of enrollment management and dean of admissions, "from championship athletes to award-winning researchers, community advocates and artists. Their stories reflect a generation ready to lead with creativity, resilience and purpose."

Clemson Recruits from 34 Countries.

Clemson U. welcomed 5,100 first-year students to its Class of 2029. They were joined by 1,800 transfer students. The new students traveled from 46 South Carolina counties, 49 states and 34 countries. Nearly 65,000 students applied for the new class, including a record 10,714 from South Carolina, the most in school history.

The new class includes 137 high school valedictorians and 93 salutatorians. About 400 will join Clemson's Honors College. Some 644 identify as first-generation college students, while the parents of 755 are Clemson graduates. Besides South Carolina, the greatest number of new students come from New Jersey, North Carolina, New York and Georgia.

Their top intended majors include general engineering, pre-business, biological sciences, psychology, animal and veterinary sciences, nursing, health science, computer science and political science.

Colorado College's 150th Year. Colorado C., now in its 150th year, received 8,811 applications for its Class of 2029. It admitted about 22 percent and enrolled 512 new students from 47 states and 19 countries. The middle 50 percent SAT range was 1320-1460, the middle 50 percent ACT range was 30-34. But Colorado C. "will ignore scores that do not strengthen an applicant's candidacy," and 58 percent of students applied without submitting test scores.

About 58 percent of new students ranked in the top 10 percent of their high school class. A little over 50 percent of the new class is made up of students of color. QuestBridge

contributed 40 students, while 30 transfers joined the student body.

Creighton's Largest New Class. Creighton U. in Nebraska welcomed the largest first-year class in its 149 year history; 1,250 freshmen. Sarah Richardson, director of admission, noted that 37 percent ranked in the top 10 of their high school class and about 50 percent earned a high school GPA of 4.0 or higher.

DePauw Students Posted 3.9 H.S. GPA. New students at DePauw U. in Greencastle, Indiana, came in with impressive credentials this fall, having posted an average 3.9 high school GPA. They are ground breakers; 22 percent are first in their family to go to college, highly motivated competitors; 36 percent are student athletes and loyal contributors to the DePauw legacy, 15 percent are the children or grandchildren of DePauw graduates.

"I really enjoy how diverse the community is," said one new student "and how specialized each of the classes are for each individual. You get to be with 10 or 15 people in your class and you really get to know your professors well." Another new students added, "It's going to be a journey, and it's going to be a fun one."

Elon Welcomed Students from 15 Countries. Elon U. in North Carolina welcomed 1,500 students into its Class of 2029, 13 percent

continued on page 2

INSIDE

- More Admissions Stats
- Enrollment Trends

COLLEGE BOUND: Publisher/Editor: **R. Craig Sautter**, DePaul University; Chief Operating Officer: **Sally Reed**. Production: Design|Americom WVA.

COLLEGE BOUND is published monthly, ten times a year. Inquiries should be directed to P.O. Box 6536, Evanston, IL 60204; **773-262-5810**.

Facebook @collegeboundnews; <http://www.collegeboundnews.com>; collegeboundnews@gmail.com

Twitter/X @cbnewsletter

ADMISSIONS WATCH

continued from page 1

of whom are first-generation college students. The new students journeyed from 43 states and 15 countries. The top states sending new students are North Carolina, Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, Maryland, Virginia, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Florida and Georgia, but Elon's student body includes students from all states. The average high school GPA for incoming students was 4.13.

The top intended majors of these bright students include psychology, finance, marketing, business analytics, exercise science, nursing, engineering, sports management, elementary education and political science.

Florida International Apps Up by 10 Percent. Florida International U. received 10 percent more applications for this academic year than last, and welcomed a record-breaking 6,000 first-year students to its Miami campus. They traveled from 44 states and 46 countries, posted an average high school GPA of 4.28 and average SAT score of 1300. About 44 percent are first in their family to go to college and nearly half intend to major in a STEM discipline such as health and technology and areas such as marine conservation, space exploration and hospitality.

"Demand for an FIU education is soaring," said Jody Glassman, assistant vice president for enrollment and university admissions. "And our newest Panthers are proof of that. The Class of 2029 is intelligent, involved and committed to excellence."

Gonzaga Fields Smaller Class. For the first time since 2020, Gonzaga U.'s first-year class dipped below 1,200 students. As of this summer, Gonzaga's Class of 2029 numbered 1,150 students, according to the *Gonzaga Bulletin*.

"College-going rates nationwide have dropped," said Stephen Keller, senior director of undergraduate admissions. "Fewer students are choosing to attend college." He added, "We're seeing fewer students leaving their home states than in the past. GU attracts many students from out-of-state each year, and fewer students from places like California, Oregon and Colorado essentially make up the complete difference in enrollment between 2025 and 2024. The decrease in students from California is particularly noticeable. University enrollments are much more competitive than they were even just a few years ago."

To maintain a strong position, Gonzaga plans to work with more high schools and college search organizations such as College Board Connections and Naviance.

Harvard Extended Waitlist Deadline. Given the uncertainty surrounding the status of international student admission, Harvard

Military Academies Began in Summer

The U.S. Military Academies started basic training for the Class of 2029 and 2025-26 academic year this summer.

More than 1,230 U.S. citizens and 14 international students reported to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point at the end of June. They were selected from a highly qualified national pool of over 13,700 applicants. They completed a six week Cadet Basic Training program, after which they were accepted into the Corps of Cadets at an Acceptance Day Parade in August.

"As we celebrate the Army's 250th birthday, the Class of 2029 stands as a living tribute to the enduring Call to Serve," said Col. Rance Lee, director of admissions. "This patriotic group of young men and women left the comfort and safety of civilian life to devote themselves to becoming guardians of Duty, Honor, Country and our United States Constitution."

Meanwhile, about 1,200 men and women

reported to Alumni Hall in Annapolis, Maryland for Induction Day at the U.S. Naval Academy.

Out of 9,623 applicants only 1,121 were admitted to the U.S. Air Force in Colorado Springs. Applicants also were admitted from 12 international countries. Air Force cadets took their Oath of Service to remain on active duty for a minimum of five years in the Holaday Athletic Center. Then they were introduced to Air Force and Space Force traditions/customs, courtesies, dress and appearance.

At the end of June, approximately 250 women and men arrived at the Coast Guard Academy in New London, Connecticut, to start their 20 week cadet training program. Day One marked the traditional start of "Swab Summer," an intense seven-week training program.

The nation remains grateful to the bravery and commitment of all of these dedicated young people. ■

U. extended its wait list decisions beyond its traditional June 30 deadline. It sent an email to applicants on the wait list who had indicated interest in still wanting to be part of Harvard's Class of 2029. "Given the ongoing situation regarding international students, final decisions on the wait list have been extended to later this summer," it read.

Lake Forest Welcomes 89 Transfers. Lake Forest C., located on the shores of Lake Michigan, welcomed 394 new students to its Class of 2029. They were joined by 89 transfer students. The newest "Foresters" represent 30 states and 47 nationalities. About 50 percent come from outside of Illinois, 21 percent are international students and 43 percent identify as domestic students of color.

With the new students, Lake Forest's student body grew to 1,813 individuals. During the first week, many new students participated in a "Chicago Day" trip to the nearby city.

Millersville Recruits from 29 States. About 8,445 students applied to Millersville U.'s Class of 2029, and the public Pennsylvania school enrolled 1,603 this fall. They hail from 29 different states and several foreign nations, including China, Nepal and the Netherlands. Some 579 of the new class are first-generation college students. New students posted a high school GPA of 3.48.

The top intended majors include early childhood education, biology, psychology, business administration, allied health technology and applied engineering and technology management. "Our new students bring incredible energy, diversity and promise to our campus community," said Joni Klopp, senior director of admissions.

Morehouse Prepares Leaders. Morehouse C. in Atlanta, founded in 1867, admitted 700 students to its Class of 2029 from roughly 6,600 applicants. They traveled from 38 states, as well as Canada, Tunisia and Ghana.

"The role that young Black men play in the workforce and eventually in all levels and positions of leadership is critical," said F. DuBois Bowman, 13th president of the all-male college. Morehouse counts among its alumni actor Samuel L. Jackson, director Spike Lee, U.S. Senator Raphael Warnock and Martin Luther King, Jr.

Wash U. Remains Committed to Diversity of All Kinds. The Washington University in St. Louis attracted 33,283 applicants for its Class of 2029 and admitted about 12 percent of them, ultimately enrolling 1,963 new students from 49 states in 29 countries. About 23 percent of new students are eligible for Pell grants, 16 percent are first in their family to go to college, 8 percent come from rural communities. About 42 percent receive financial aid averaging more than \$75,000 a year.

"There are limitations to what we can do legally in our recruiting practices," said Ronnie Turner, vice provost for undergraduate enrollment and student financial aid. "but...that doesn't mean our values have changed. We remain fully committed to serving students with a diversity of experiences, backgrounds and viewpoints."

Presbyterian's Commitment to Integrity. Presbyterian C. in South Carolina welcomed 272 first-year students to its Class of 2029 and 52 transfers in its annual "Matriculation Ceremony." The new students come from

continued on page 4

Enrollment Trends

Enrollment Headed Up or Down? According to the National Center for Education Statistics, undergraduate enrollment is projected to increase by 9 percent between 2021 and 2031, from 15.4 million students to 16.8 million students.

That's in contrast to the last decade when undergraduate enrollment fell by 15 percent between Fall 2010 and Fall 2021. (About 42 percent of that decline occurred during the pandemic.) In Fall 2021, female students made up 58 percent of the total undergraduate enrollment.

In Fall 2021, 7.8 million undergraduate students were white, 3.3 million were Hispanic, 1.9 million were black, 1.1 million were Asian, 663,100 were of two or more races, 107,000 were American Indian/Alaskan Native and 41,000 were Pacific Islanders.

Between Fall 2010 and Fall 2021, the undergraduate population of American Indian/Alaskan Natives declined by 40 percent, the number of Pacific Islanders declined by 29 percent, the number of white students declined by 28 percent and the number of black undergraduate students declined by 27 percent.

In contrast, the number of students of two or more races increased by 126 percent, the number of Hispanic students increased by 30 percent and the number of Asian students increased by 7 percent.

Demographic Shifts? A new report from the Urban Institute studied statistics from 18 research colleges and universities since the Supreme Court struck down Affirmative Action in admissions. It found that the number of black and Hispanic students who applied for admission increased by over half a percent.

But the proportion of those students who were admitted decreased. The Urban Institute partnered with the Association of Undergraduate Education and Research Universities and the U. of Southern California's Center for Enrollment Research, Policy and Practice.

Meanwhile the number of applications, admittances and enrollment of white students also declined for every year since 2018, reflecting their smaller share of the general population.

Ultimately, however, statistics about black and Hispanic students at 18 schools do not mean that these students did not enroll elsewhere.

Dismantling DEI (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion). Because Ohio legislators believe that liberal professors are "indoctrinating" their students and conservative students are forced to self-censor, the legislature passed and Governor Mike DeWine signed, Senate Bill 1 that requires state colleges to dismantle their diversity offices, cut academic programs and overhaul operations at all of the state's 37 public colleges and universities (14 universities and 23 community colleges).

According to the *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, the mandate is costing these schools up to \$2 million annually. State Senator Jerry Cirino, the bill's sponsor, questioned those estimates. "We didn't fund [DEI programs] in the first place. They funded themselves, out of their operating

appropriations. So now they're removing them. They're going to save money by removing these programs."

SB 1 also requires all state colleges to offer a three-hour course in American civic literacy in which students will study the American economic system and capitalism. Students are required to read the U.S. Constitution as well as essays from the "Federalist Papers."

The bill also requires colleges to eliminate undergraduate degree programs if they confer an average of fewer than five degrees a year over a three-year period. However, the governor vetoed a provision in the bill that tied a portion of state higher education funds to accelerated three-year degree programs.

International Enrollment Was Target of Columbia/Fed Agreement. One provision of the controversial agreement between Columbia U. and the Trump administration stemming from anti-Israeli student protests in 2024 is the status of international student admissions. The Trump administration charged Columbia failed to protect Jewish students during the spring turmoil, violating Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act that prohibits discrimination based on race or national origins.

The government therefore suspended some \$400 million in federal government research grants to Columbia faculty and researchers. The agreement restored some of those funds. Columbia admitted no wrongdoing but will prohibit protests inside university buildings and related spaces. Masks are also prohibited during protests.

DEI was another target of the government, and Columbia agreed to eliminate "programs that promote unlawful efforts to achieve race-based outcomes, quotas, diversity targets or similar efforts." And the agreement ended participation of transgender students in women's sports.

The Ivy League university also agreed to turn over admissions data to the federal government, including on admitted and rejected students, demographic details and test scores. And, Columbia will re-examine its international student enrollment procedures.

Applicants will be asked why they want to study in the United States. And Columbia will be required to more closely monitor its Middle Eastern Studies program, among others. Other universities may be forced to do the same.

The Columbia chapter president of the American Association of University Professors said the agreement poses a threat to academic freedom.

International Student Exodus? Based on the number of visa requests by international students and President Trump's executive order restricting visitors from 19 countries, (later revised) NAFSA, the Association of International Educators, is predicting that international student enrollment at U.S. universities could drop by 15 percent this fall. That could have an approximately \$7 billion impact in lost revenue. ■

COUNSELOR'S BOOKSHELF

"Overcoming Student Loneliness, Strategies for connection," *The Chronicle Of Higher Education*, individual and digital versions. Chronicle Store, \$179.

<https://myintuition.org> is a college price estimator that became independent from

Wellesley C. in 2017.

"How The Ivy League Broke America: The Meritocracy Isn't Working. We Need Something New." by David Brooks in *The Atlantic*, November 14, 2024. www.theatlantic.com.

"What Happens After AI Destroys College Writing?" by Hua Hsu, *The New Yorker*, June 30, 2025.

The Exceptional Applicant: For College Admission You Don't Have To Be Perfect, You Just Have To Be Original by Dr. Deborah Bebor, CEO of College Admission Center; Advantage Media Group, 376 pages; ISBN 164225407X, \$24.95. ■

ADMISSIONS WATCH

continued from page 2

35 states and 13 countries. Members of the new class posted an average GPA of 3.49 on a 4.0 scale.

"You are now a Blue Hose," Anita Gustafson, PC's president, told them. "At PC, you will be asked to think deeply about issues, to write persuasively, to learn how to ask questions and to research and find answers, and to do it with integrity."

Princeton Boasts Generous Financial Aid.

Princeton's Class of 2029 includes 1,409 first times, first-year students, 16.7 percent of whom are first-generation college students, while 12.4 percent are children of alumni. Members of the new class come from 47 states and 65 countries. Over 67 percent are interested in a Bachelor of Arts degree, while 27 percent indicate interest in a Bachelor of Science degree in Engineering. The remainder of the new students is undecided.

About 9.2 percent of the new class self-identified as Hispanic or Latino, while 7.7 percent indicated that they are multiracial and 27 percent Asian American, up from last year's 23.8 percent. The percent of African American students in the new class is 5 percent, down from last year's 8.9 percent. Some 8.2 percent chose not to identify their race. The U.S. Armed Forces contributed 22 students to the new class, while 27 transferred from a community college.

Princeton undergraduates from families earning less than \$250,000 will pay no tuition this year, while those earning \$350,000 will receive some financial aid. About 25 percent of the Class of 2029 is eligible for federal Pell grants, up from 21.7 percent last year. A total of 69 percent of the new class will receive some form of financial aid.

Richmond Enrolls 32 Percent Students of Color.

The U. of Richmond in Virginia received 3,683 applications for its Class of 2029, admitted 864 and enrolled 45 percent of them. Richmond is a test-optional, but the middle half SAT of admitted students, who submitted test scores, was 1450-1520; ACT 33-35.

The unweighted high school GPA of admitted students was 3.82. Virginia contributed about 13 percent of students in the new class, 31 percent come from the Mid-Atlantic, 17 percent from New England, 19 percent from the South, 6 percent from the Midwest and 5 percent from the West. International students make up 9 percent of the new class.

Some 56 percent of new students are male and 32 percent are U.S. students of color. Overall, 68 percent of Richmond students

UCLA Attracted Most Applications in the Nation

The U. of California Los Angeles attracted 145,058 applications for its Class of 2029 and admitted 13,660 students, for an acceptance rate of 9.42 percent. UCLA claims it is the most applied-to university in the United States. California students account for 63 percent of those admitted, out-of-staters 26 percent and international students 11 percent. Asian American students make up 40 percent of UCLA's admits.

The U. of California system as a whole received more than 205,000 applications for its Class of 2029 at its nine campuses and admitted nearly 150,000 new students, for a system-wide admit rate of 73 percent. California high school graduates who ranked in the top 9 percent of

receive financial aid, with an average undergraduate grant of \$47,770.

Seton Hall Committed to Inclusion in All Forms.

Seton Hall U. in New Jersey, founded in 1856, enrolled 1,625 new students from 38 states and 18 countries in its Class of 2029. It attracted 16,560 applicants. The newly matriculated students brought the total Seton Hall population to more than 28,000, about 2,300 more than last year. The average SAT of the 28 percent new students who submitted test scores was 1323, the average ACT 29.5. The average high school GPA of all students remained at 3.6.

More than 39 percent of this fall's incoming class is made up of first-generation students, while 38 percent are Pell grant-eligible. Almost 60 percent of students in the new class identify as people of color, while 58 percent is female.

Seton Hall remains dedicated to its Catholic values, but "strives to foster a community of unique perspectives and backgrounds to drive academic achievement and global discussion."

Trinity Admitted 25 Percent.

Trinity U. in Texas received 11,902 applications for its Class of 2029 and admitted 25 percent of them, the fewest in school history. It enrolled 604 new students from 32 states and 20 countries. They posted a high school GPA of 3.74 on an unweighted 4.0 scale. Trinity is still test-optional, but among those who submitted tests the average ACT score was 32.2, the average SAT 1417, both higher than last year.

Nearly 32 percent of the new class was admitted through Early Decision. More than a quarter of the class consists of recruited athletes, according to Justin Doty, dean of admissions, and a quarter of the class expects to participate in Trinity's fine arts scene.

UC Merced Celebrates Year 20. The U. of California at Merced kicked off its 20th year

their class are guaranteed a spot in one of the state's campuses. Women account for 54 percent of first-year admits across UC campuses. Nearly 28,000 California Community College students, half from low-income families, were offered UC admissions, 6 percent more than last year.

Hispanic or Latinos make up 39 percent of the student population system-wide. While several UC campuses are being investigated by the U.S. Department of Justice over whether they used "DEI discrimination" in admissions, a university spokesperson said UC has not used affirmative action since it was outlawed in California in 1998, but only collects ethnic information for statistical reasons. ■

by welcoming 2,000 first-year students to its Class of 2029. The new "Bobcats" walked across Scholar's Bridge and through the Beginnings sculpture to the cheers of fellow students, staff and faculty.

New majors this year include communication and media, neuroscience, science, technology and ethics, aerospace engineering, biochemical and biomolecular engineering, biochemistry, biological sciences, management of innovation, sustainability and technology, and ecology, evolution and conservation biology.

Union Attracted 9,500-Plus Apps.

Union C. in Upstate New York, founded in 1795, drew more than 9,500 applications for its Class of 2029 and enrolled 477 new students this fall. About a quarter of them are first generation college students, about 37 percent are domestic students of color and international students hail from 25 countries. Others come from 29 U.S. states. Some 57 percent of the new students are men.

"Throughout the entirety of the admissions cycle, we've been impressed with not only their potential for academic success, but with the positive impacts they have made on their communities," said Jason Nevinger, interim vice president for admissions, in describing the Class of 2029.

UNLV Educates 1,800 Vets.

The U. of Nevada Las Vegas welcomed more than 8,000 new students, bringing the student count to 33,000-plus, nearly 1,800 of whom are military veterans. Thirty-three countries are represented on campus. This year students can chose from four new undergraduate degrees, including insurance and risk management; cybersecurity, audio production and engineering technology, and sports entertainment. ■

To renew your subscription, go online to www.collegeboundnews.com

Annual subscription: \$59 in North America, \$69 for international orders, including airmail postage.

See, www.collegeboundnews.com

©2025 COLLEGE BOUND PUBLICATIONS, INC. All rights reserved. ISSN 1068-7912 For photocopy rights, please write the Editors.