Millburn High School Report on the Graduates of the

Class of 2025



Prepared by Meghan Garland-College and Career Counselor
September 2025

TRENDS

2024-2025 COLLEGE APPLICATION CYCLE

The Class of 2025 was the largest graduating class in US History.

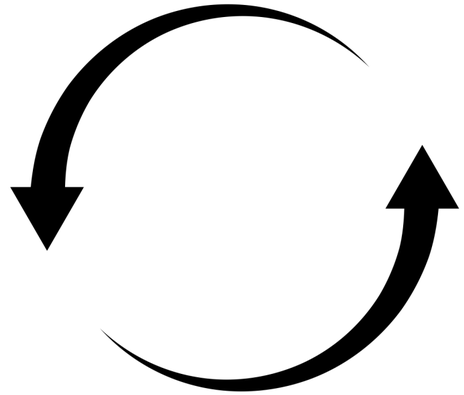
TRENDS

2024-2025 COLLEGE APPLICATION CYCLE

1 Increased Application Numbers

Applications are up, but growth is concentrated. Common App reports +5% applicants, +8% total number of applications year-over-year. Growth skewed toward public universities and away from the ultra-selective tier.

Early admissions are up- and so are deferrals. EA rose 17% and ED rose 4%.



Source: https://www.commonapp.org/files/DAR/deadline-updates/Common-App-End-of-Season-Report_24-25.pdf

TRENDS

2024-2025 COLLEGE APPLICATION CYCLE

2

Students are Migrating South

Public institutions, particularly in the South, saw a 10% spike in applications. Schools like UT Austin (+24%), University of South Carolina, and University of Alabama are drawing national interest due to lower tuition, warmer climates, strong sports culture, and career opportunities. Students from the northeast are increasingly looking south for affordable and vibrant campus experiences. These schools will continue to be more competitive as applications increase.











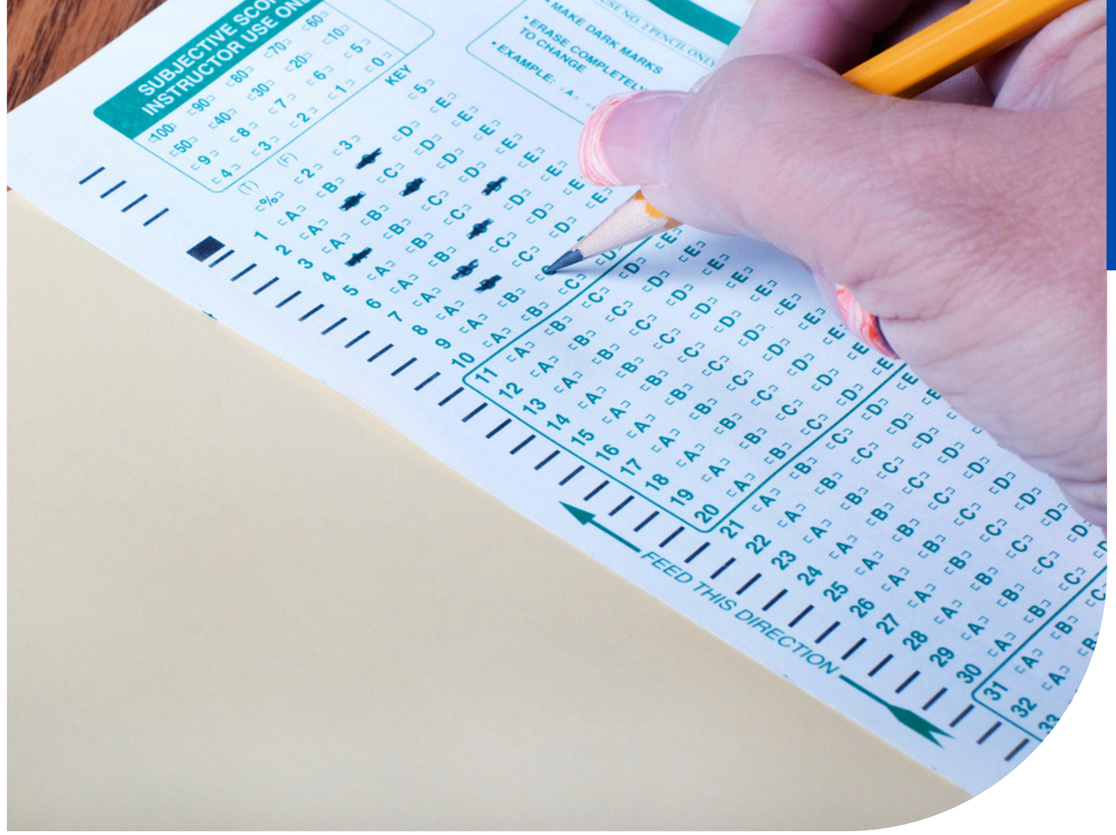

TRENDS

2024-2025 COLLEGE APPLICATION CYCLE

3 A Return to Standardized Testing

Only 5% of Common App colleges required scores, yet score-submitters grew 12% while non-submitters were flat—first rebound since 2021–2022.

Nationwide grade inflation makes GPAs harder to interpret, so many schools have returned to test-required policies.



TRENDS

2024-2025 COLLEGE APPLICATION CYCLE

4

The Supreme Court decision on Affirmitave Action (2023) continued to impact colleges. Many colleges used supplemental essays to help understand students' lived experiences and cultural backgrounds, as well as context programs like Landscape.



TRENDS

2024-2025 COLLEGE APPLICATION CYCLE



5 FAFSA & Financial Aid Timing

Last year there were major delays and glitches in the 2024–25 FAFSA rollout, including a 9% drop in first-time FAFSA submissions through late summer 2024; advocacy groups tied this to 5% declines in freshman enrollment that fall.

Ripple effects in aid packaging and appeals carried into this admissions year as offices rebuilt processes.

Implication: Aid letters often arrived later; families weighed affordability longer, and some colleges leaned more on waitlists and late-spring outreach to manage yield.

TRENDS

2024-2025 COLLEGE APPLICATION CYCLE

6 Rise of the “New Ivies”

With Ivy League acceptance rates at record lows, many students are turning to academically elite alternatives like Vanderbilt, Rice, Emory, WashU, NYU, and Notre Dame.

Public flagships like UT Austin and University of Michigan are also gaining national prestige, offering world-class programs, strong alumni networks, and robust student life. These schools should be taken just as seriously as traditional Ivies.

TRENDS

2024-2025 COLLEGE APPLICATION CYCLE

7 Video Introductions

Optional Video Introductions Gain Momentum

To humanize the process and handle application volume, many schools now offer optional video introductions. Some examples of participating schools include: Brown, UChicago, Duke, Emory, Bowdoin, Tufts, Vanderbilt, Northwestern, and others.

TRENDS

2024-2025 COLLEGE APPLICATION CYCLE

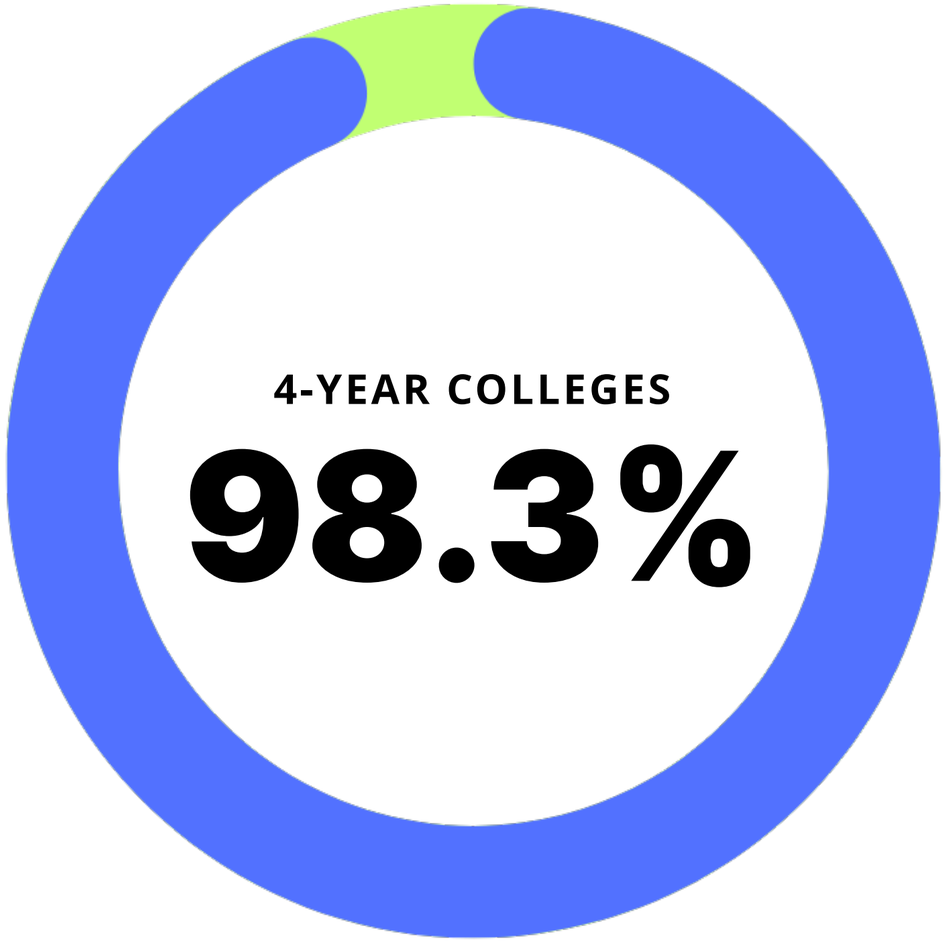
8 AI in Admissions: Helpful but Controversial

Artificial Intelligence is playing a growing role in the admissions process—not for students to write essays, but for colleges to review them. About half of U.S. colleges now use AI, and tools are being developed to:

- **Pre-analyze essays, transcripts, and recommendation letters before they are reviewed by a (human) admissions reader.**
- **Identify traits like leadership or motivation**
- **Detect AI-generated writing**
- **Track applicant engagement across websites and outreach**

CLASS OF 2025

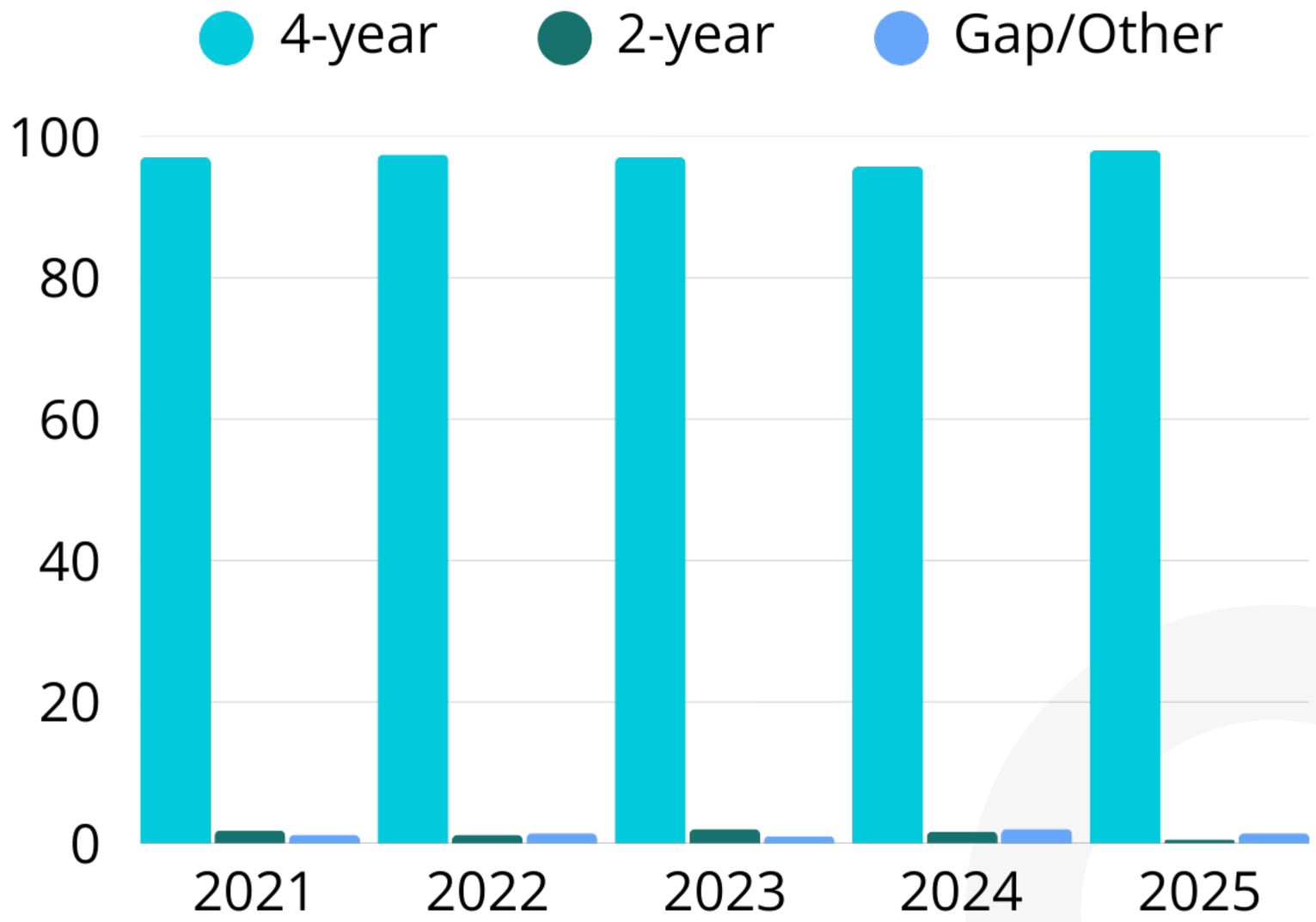
POST-MHS PLANS



.56%	of MHS students are attending 2 year colleges after graduation.
.56%	of MHS students are taking a gap year and plan to attend a 4-year college.
.84 %	of MHS students are entering the workforce, attending a trade school or apprenticeship, or entering the military

POST-MHS PLANS

More than 95% of our graduates consistently attend 4-year colleges





+ Canada, England, Hong Kong, Ireland, Italy, Scotland, Spain

4580 total applications

1943 Acceptances

794 applications withdrawn after early acceptances

51.3%

OVERALL ACCEPTANCE RATE

13.9

AVERAGE NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS PER STUDENT

436 Waitlist decisions
39 accepted after waitlist (9%)

296 deferrals
49 accepted after deferral
(16.6% turned into an admission offer)

Attending 146 different colleges in 24 states and 6 different countries

CLASS OF 2025 EARLY APPLICATIONS

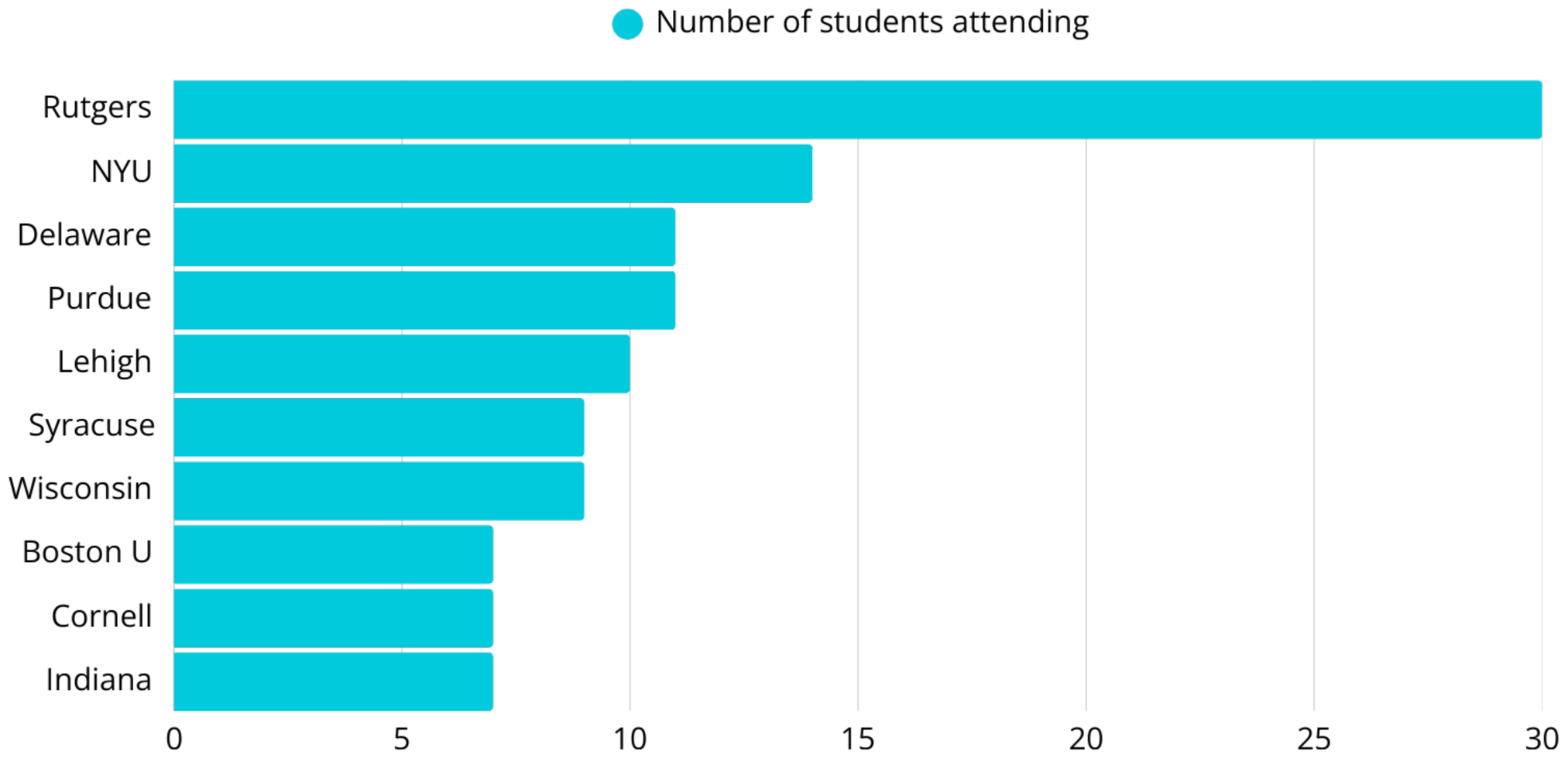
26%

93 STUDENTS ACCEPTED UNDER A BINDING EARLY DECISION ADMISSION PLAN

1064

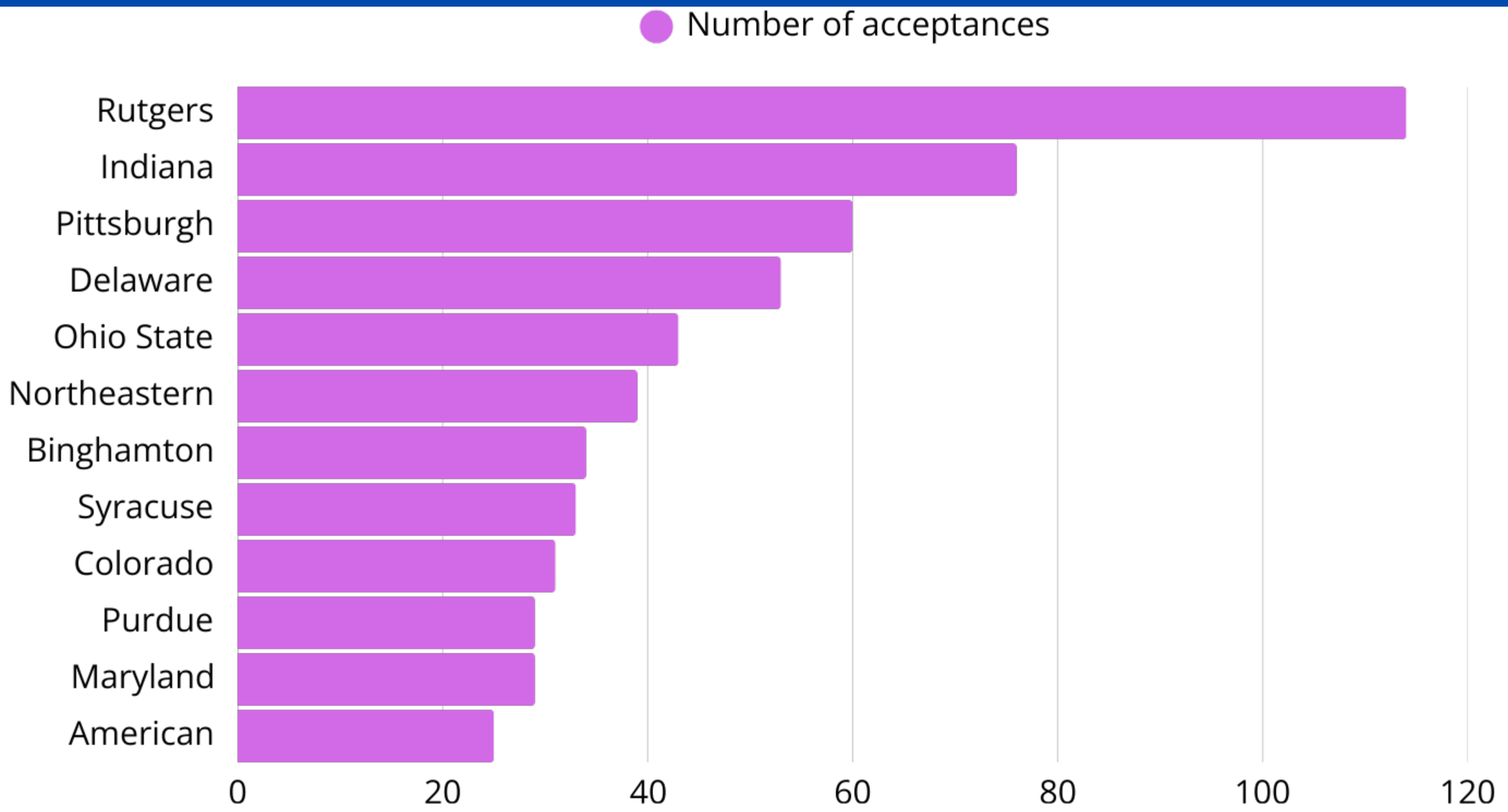
 # OF EARLY ACTION ACCEPTANCES

CLASS OF 2025
MOST POPULAR COLLEGES



CLASS OF 2025
MOST ACCEPTANCES

These are the colleges and universities with the highest number of accepted students.



COLLEGES WITH 20+ APPLICATIONS

APP=Applied ACC=Accepted	Apps	Acc	%	APP=Applied ACC=Accepted	APP	ACC	%	APP=Applied ACC=Accepted	APP	ACC	%
American University	32	25	78.1	Cornell University	60	8	13.3	Georgia Tech	39	1	2.6
Binghamton University	35	34	97.1	Dartmouth College	22	2	9.1	Indiana University	100	76	76
Boston College	31	3	9.7	Duke University	25	1	4	James Madison	24	14	58.3
Boston University	76	13	17.1	Elon University	44	23	52.3	Lehigh University	47	17	36.2
Carnegie Mellon	39	7	17.9	Emory University	65	8	12.3	NYU	84	17	20.2
Case Western Reserve	37	18	48.6	Florida State	28	5	17.9	Northeastern	105	39	37.1
Clemson University	31	10	32.3	Fordham University	23	12	52.2	Northwestern	31	2	6.5
Columbia University	24	1	4.2	Georgetown	26	5	19.2	Ohio State	81	43	53.1

COLLEGES WITH 20+ APPLICATIONS

APP=Applied ACC=Accepted	Apps	Acc	%	APP=Applied ACC=Accepted	APP	ACC	%	APP=Applied ACC=Accepted	APP	ACC	%
Penn State	120	74	61.7	UT-Austin	58	3	5.2	U Conn	37	17	45.9
Purdue University	49	29	59.2	Tufts University	34	6	17.6	U Delaware	68	53	77.9
Rice University	22	1	4.5	Tulane University	31	10	32.3	U Florida	44	5	11.4
Rutgers University	186	114	61.3	UC Berkeley	26	3	11.5	U Illinois (UC)	47	13	27.7
Stony Brook	26	24	92.3	UCLA	29	1	3.4	U Maryland	97	29	29.9
Syracuse University	57	33	57.9	UC San Diego	28	3	10.7	U Mass Amherst	46	23	50
GWU	29	11	37.9	U Chicago	26	2	7.7	U Miami	42	7	16.7
University of Tampa	24	18	75	UC Boulder	46	31	67.4	U Michigan	94	8	8.5

COLLEGES WITH 20+ APPLICATIONS

APP=Applied ACC=Accepted	Apps	Acc	%	APP=Applied ACC=Accepted	APP	ACC	%
UNC Chapel Hill	45	7	15.6	U Washington	26	3	11.5
U Penn	50	4	8	U Wisconsin	71	22	31
U Pitt	81	60	74.1	Vanderbilt	38	1	2.6
U Rochester	34	19	55.9	Villanova	26	5	19.2
U South Carolina	42	13	31	Virginia Tech	31	14	45.2
USC	45	2	4.4	Wake Forest	37	7	16.9
U Vermont	25	16	64	Wash U	36	6	16.7
U Virginia	51	3	5.9	Yale	24	4	16.7

CLASS OF 2025 ENROLLMENT

American University (4)
Barnard College
Binghamton University (3)
Boston College (2)
Boston University (7)
Brandeis University
Brown University
Bryn Mawr College
Bucknell University (3)
Caldwell University
Carnegie Mellon University
Case Western University
Clemson University
Colgate University (2)
College of Charleston
Cooper Union (2)
Cornell University (7)
Dartmouth College
DePaul University (2)
Drexel University (2)
Duke University
Elon University (5)
Emerson College
Emory University (5)
Emory University-Oxford (2)
Fairfield University
Fairleigh Dickinson University
Fordham UNiversity (2)
Franklin & Marshall College (2)
Georgetown University (2)
Grinnell College
Hamilton College
Haverford College
Howard University
IE University-Madrid
Imperial College London
Indiana University (9)
Kean University
Lafayette College (4)
Lehigh University (10)
List JTS (Columbia University)
McGill University
Middlebury College
Montclair State University
NJIT (2)
New York University (17)
Northeastern University (5)
Northwestern University (2)
Nova Southeastern University
Oberlin College
Ohio State University (5)
Pace University
Penn State University (6)
Pratt Institute (2)
Princeton University
Purdue University (11)
Quinnipiac University (2)
Ramapo College (2)
Rhode Island School of Design (2
Rose Hulman Institute of Technology
Rutgers University-New Brunswick (30)
Rutgers University-Newark (2)
Sacred Heart University (3)
Saint Elizabeth University
Saint Joseph's University (2)
Salve Regina University
Savannah College of Art and Design
School of the Art Institute of Chicago
Sciences Po-Hong Kong University
Seton Hall University (3)
Skidmore College (2)
Stanford University
Stevens Institute of Technology (2)
Stockton University
Stony Brook University (4)
Syracuse University (9)
Texas A & M University (3)

CLASS OF 2025 ENROLLMENT

The College of New Jersey
The George Washington University (2)
The University of Alabama
The University of Tampa (2)
The University of Texas at Austin (3)
Trinity College
Tufts University (2)
Tulane University (6)
Union College of Union County NJ (2)
US Military Academy (West Point) (2)
Universita Bocconi
University of Arizona (3)
University of California-Berkeley
University of California Los Angeles (2)
University of California San Diego
University of Chicago (2)
University of Colorado Boulder (7)
University of Connecticut (2)
University of Delaware (9)
University of Edinburgh
University of Florida
University of Illiinois (UC) (3)
University of Maryland (8)
University of Miami (3)
University Michigan (3)
UNC Chapel Hill
University of Pennsylvania (4)
University of Pittsburgh (4)
University of Rochester
University of Scranton (2)
University of Southern California
University of Toronto (2)
University of Virginia
University of Washington
University of Waterloo
University of Wisconsin (10)
Villanova University (2)
Virginia Tech (3)
Wake Forest University (2)
Washington University St. Louis (4)
Wellesley College (3)
William & Mary (2)
Yale University (2)

CLASS OF 2025 ENROLLMENT

80.1%

of the Class of 2025 are attending the Nation's Top 100 Colleges and Universities

46.2%

of the Class of 2025 are attending the Nation's Top 50 Colleges and Universities

33.6%

of the Class of 2025 are attending Colleges and Universities with the lowest admit rates in the US (under 30%)

Class of 2025

MOST POPULAR MAJORS

Business, Economics, Finance, Marketing, Management

Data Science, Engineering, Computer Science, Mechanical Engineering

Political Science, Pre-Med, Psychology, Biochemistry, Art & Design

COLLEGE VISITS

2024-2025 COLLEGE APPLICATION CYCLE



ADMISSION REPRESENTATIVES

VISITED MHS

Our visits are open to juniors and seniors. Counselors meet with all college representatives. Students sign up for visits via Naviance.

Click here for this year's visit calendar.

COUNSELOR NETWORKING

2024-2025 COLLEGE APPLICATION CYCLE



Millburn Counselors attended college visits on these campuses:

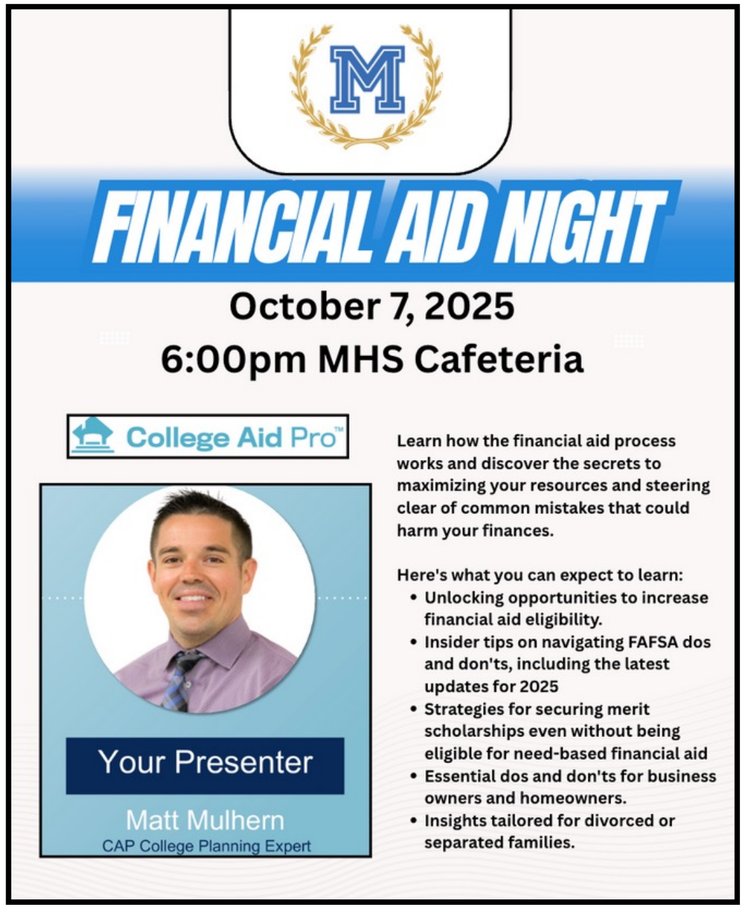
Marymount Manhattan/ Northeastern University
Case Western Reserve University
Rutgers University (including “Big 10” conference with reps from all member schools)
Fordham University-Lincoln Center
Ramapo College
University of Maryland
The New School

Counselors were invited to attend local programs hosted by the following schools:

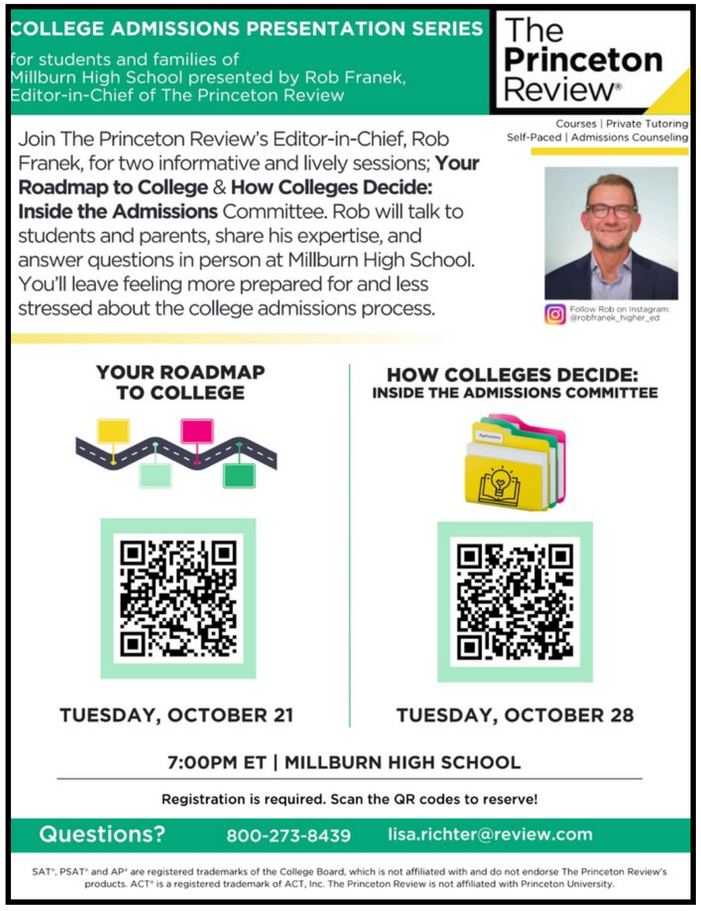
University of Pittsburgh, University of Dayton, University of Alabama, Vanderbilt University, University of Pennsylvania, Georgetown, Stanford, Harvard, Duke, Villanova, Wellesley, Amherst, Bowdoin, Colby, Swarthmore, Pomona, Rutgers, Binghamton, Auburn, Columbia, Williams, Indiana University, Northwestern University, University of Michigan, University of Illinois, Purdue UniversityUniversity of Chicago and more....


Register for the college fair!
www.StriveFair.com
or
Scan the QR Code
September 29
6:30 - 8:30 pm
Millburn High School

UPCOMING EVENTS FROM THE COLLEGE COUNSELING OFFICE







RESOURCES

MHS Counseling News Website

College Visit Calendar

How to Make the most of a College Fair:

https://meet.nyu.edu/advice/college-fair-101-tips-for-a-great-conversation-with-your-admissions-rep/

https://www.coalitionforcollegeaccess.org/mycoalition-counselor-all/how-to-get-the-most-from-a-college-fair

https://www.act.org/content/act/en/students-and-parents/college-planning-resources/choosing-a-college/how-to-prepare-for-a-college-fair.html

https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/plan-for-college/find-your-fit/college-fair-checklist

https://www.collegeessayguy.com/blog/how-to-make-the-most-of-a-college-fair-experience