



Admission to Big Public Flagship Universities

Thursday, September 17, 2020

An overview of this presentation

- Consideration of this fact -- some students believe that “bigger is better!”
- Analysis of admission to five big public flagship universities
- Questions to ask in researching programs at a big state university, with tips for admission
- Final comments

Bigger is better!?!

- Minnetonka High School has over 3400 students (with a senior class of 821), and for many students, their college list includes only schools that are bigger. Some want to attend a place that is much bigger – usually for financial or geographical reasons.
- All universities of 20,000+ students have departmental divisions, which provide a more personal experience to the students.

Bigger is better!?!

- At many institutions, the application is straightforward, with mostly objective questions
- Essay might be optional!
- Recommendation letters might not be needed
- There may be a numerical academic index for selection – admission can be predicted
- Rolling admission, with a fairly quick turnaround

Campuses with the largest (full and part time enrollment in the United States

• University of Phoenix	95,777
• Grand Canyon University	90,253
• Liberty University	79,152
• Texas A&M University	68,679
• University of Central Florida	68,475
• The Ohio State University	61,170
• University of Florida	52,218

Almanac Issue, August 2020, *Chronicle of Higher Education*

Big Ten enrollment from MHS Classes of 2019 & 2020

• University of Minnesota, Twin Cities	199
• University of Wisconsin, Madison	81
• University of Nebraska, Lincoln	34
• University of Iowa	13
• Indiana University	9
• Purdue University	7
• University of Michigan	6

Big Ten enrollment, continued

• Northwestern University	5
• Michigan State University	4
• Ohio State University	2
• Penn State University	2
• University of Illinois	1
• University of Maryland	1
• Rutgers University	0

University of Minnesota – Twin Cities

For fall 2019

Early Action deadline: Nov 1
Regular Decision deadline: Jan 1

Applicants:	40,673
Admitted:	23,076 (56%)
Enrolled:	6,278
Undergrads:	35,165
% in-state:	73%
% graduate in 6 yrs	83%

U of M, continued

Admitting colleges for freshman enrollment and average ACT score

- College of Biological Sciences 28-33
- College of Design 25-29
- College of Education and
Human Development 25-27
- College of Food, Agricultural and
Natural Resource Sciences 24-29

U of M, continued

Admitting colleges for freshman enrollment and average ACT score

- College of Liberal Arts 25-31
- School of Nursing 28-32
- Carlson School of Management 29-32
- College of Science and Engineering 30-34
(formerly Institute of Technology)

No more General College – phased out in 2006-07

U of M, continued

Admissions statistics:

- 83% of admitted students have a 3.75 gpa or better
- Mid-50th percentile on ACT: 26-31
- Note: test-optional for 2021
- In-state comprehensive fee: \$29,237
- No required essay/no recommendation letters. Self-reported academic record (SRAR). No transcript required. Golden Gopher app or Common Application.

U of M, continued

Admissions statistics from MHS:

Class	Apply	Admit	Enroll
2020	335	288	99
2019	301	230	100
2018	337	209	78
2017	255	194	81

University of Wisconsin - Madison

For fall 2019

Early Action deadline: Nov 1

Regular Decision deadline: Feb 1

Applicants:	43,921
Admitted:	23,287 (53%)
Enrolled:	7,550
Undergrads:	33,456
% in-state:	62%
% graduate in 6 yrs	88%

U of Wisconsin, continued

Admitting colleges for freshman enrollment:

- College of Letters and Science (60% of the first-year students)
- College of Agricultural and Life Sciences
- School of Education
- School of Human Ecology
- Wisconsin School of Business (with about 50% of first-year students having direct admit)

U of Wisconsin, continued

Sophomore admission to:

- College of Engineering (to their specific major)

Junior admission to:

- School of Pharmacy
- School of Nursing

U of Wisconsin, continued

Admissions statistics:

- 90% of admitted students have a 3.75 gpa or better
- Mid-50th percentile on ACT: 27-32
- Note: test-optional for 2021
- Out-of-state* comprehensive tuition fee: \$29,237
- Two essays/recommendation letter required
- Apply Wisconsin app or Common Application

* Tuition reciprocity with Minnesota

U of Wisconsin, continued

Admissions statistics from MHS:

Class	Apply	Admit	Enroll
2020	153	93	46
2019	131	68	35
2018	121	54	25
2017	108	55	17

University of Iowa – Iowa City

For fall 2019

Priority deadline: April 1

Applicants:	25,928
Admitted:	21,404 (83%)
Enrolled:	4,986
Undergrads:	23,482
% in-state:	68%
% graduate in 6 yrs	72%

U of Iowa, continued

Admitting colleges for freshman enrollment:

- College of Liberal Arts & Science (70%)
- College of Engineering (15%)

Sophomore year admission to:

- College of Nursing
- Tippie College of Business (with about 50% of first year students having direct admit)
- College of Education
- College of Pharmacy

U of Iowa, continued

Admissions statistics:

- 63% of admitted students have a 3.75 gpa or better
- Mid-50th percentile on ACT: 22-28
- Note: Test-optional for 2021
- Out-of-state comprehensive tuition fee: \$47,269
- Self-reported academic record, with the Regent Admission Index (RAI). Students can expect a decision within 48 hours of applying. No recommendation letters. No transcript required. Common App, Coalition Application and Iowa application.

U of Iowa, continued

Admissions statistics from MHS:

Class	Apply	Admit	Enroll
2020	69	64	6
2019	44	42	7
2018	55	50	12
2017	33	30	4

Purdue University – West Lafayette, IN

For fall 2019

Scholarship deadline: Nov 1

Regular decision: Feb 1

Applicants:	54,912
Admitted:	26,834 (49% accepted)
Enrolled:	8,056
Undergrads:	33,646
% in-state:	61%
% graduate in 6 yrs	82%

Purdue University, continued

Admitting colleges for freshman enrollment:

- College of Agriculture
- College of Education
- College of Engineering
- College of Health & Human Science
- College of Liberal Arts
- College of Science
- College of Technology
- Krannert School of Management
- Undergraduate Studies Program

Purdue University, continued

Admissions statistics:

- 80% of admitted students have a 3.75 gpa or better
- Mid-50th percentile on ACT: 25-32
- Note: test-flexible policy for 2021
- Out-of-state comprehensive tuition fee: \$39,984
- One essay/one recommendation letter (on the Common Application or Coalition Application)

Purdue University, continued

Admissions statistics from MHS:

Class	Apply	Admit	Enroll
2020	35	27	4
2019	24	19	3
2018	25	22	3
2017	18	9	1

University of Nebraska - Lincoln

For fall 2019

Priority deadline: May 1

Applicants:	16,829
Admitted:	13,165 (78% accepted)
Enrolled:	4,775
Undergrads:	20,478
% in-state:	75%
% graduate in 6 yrs	65%

U of Nebraska, continued

Admitting colleges for freshman enrollment:

- Agriculture Sciences & Natural Resources
- Architecture
- Arts & Sciences
- Business Administration
- Education & Human Sciences
- Engineering
- Hixson-Lied Fine & Performing Arts
- Journalism & Mass Communications

U of Nebraska, continued

Admissions statistics:

- 56% of admitted students have a 3.75 gpa or better
- Mid-50th percentile on ACT: 22-28
- Note: test optional for 2021
- Out-of-state comprehensive tuition fee: \$42,349
- No essay/no recommendation letters; self-reported application. No transcript required. UNL application, Common App or Coalition Application

U of Nebraska, continued

Admissions statistics from MHS:

Class	Apply	Admit	Enroll
2020	79	79	16
2019	76	76	18
2018	44	44	20
2017	23	23	6

Questions to research in seeking admission to a big state university:

- How does the campus feel?!
- What percent of classes have an enrollment over 100 students? How many of those classes have a “break-out” discussion section?
- How big is the Honors Program? What criteria are used for selection, or admission?
- When/where does course registration take place?

Questions, continued

- Housing is guaranteed for the freshman year, but then what? (On a tour, ask about where sophomores live!) When can you apply for housing?
- How many upperclassmen eat on campus? What are the plans/options?
- What credit is given for AP/IB courses?
- Is there preferred admission to a graduate program?
- How easy/difficult is it to conduct research?

Questions, continued

- How many students study abroad?
- How early do students make use of the career center?
- Who helps students set up an internship?
- How much does parking really cost?
- How many tickets can each student buy for the football game?

A few important final thoughts:

- Our priority in the college counseling program at Minnetonka High School – helping the student to find the right fit!
- “College is a match to be made, not a prize to be won!” Frank Sachs, retired from The Blake School, Minneapolis
- Every student is encouraged to follow this application guideline:
“You apply for admission to a college because you would like to go there!”

The final word!

The general rule about applying to a big state university: you should apply as soon as you've discovered the school is the **right choice for you**.

Phillip Trout
College Counselor
Minnetonka High School
952-401-5746
collegeguy@minnetonkaschools.org
Twitter: @MHScollegeguy

9-17-20