

DRAFT SLIDES: Do not distribute or post

# Undergraduate Admissions Discussion

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**What is the goal of the UG admissions process?**

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Matriculate a class of undergraduates who will make Lehigh successful by:

- Creating a vibrant educational environment
- Providing financial support to Lehigh (tuition)
- Having impact on the world post-graduation
- Becoming alumni who remain connected to and supportive of Lehigh

# What is the goal of the UG admissions process?

Matriculate a class of undergraduates meeting a set of criteria including:

- All students have high academic potential
- Target enrollment =1,500, distributed across colleges
- Discount rate =~40%
- Pell eligible population =~20%
- Admit rate =<30%
- With substantial diversity
  - Race/ethnicity, income/wealth, first gen, gender, geography, academic/college interest, etc

# Lehigh Application Funnel - Fall 2024 entering class

SAT scores  
25th, 50th and 75th  
percentile

1370, 1430, 1490

1400, 1460, 1510

1370, 1430, 1480

Students leaving Lehigh  
have essentially the  
same SAT scores as  
those who stay

271,206 names of prospects

20,400  
applications

5,174 offers

↓ 25% acceptance rate  
(950 ED and 4,200 RD)

1,500 students @  
10th day census - Y1

↓ 29% yield  
(90+% ED and  
14% RD)

1,400 students @  
10th day census - Y2

↓ 93% retention rate

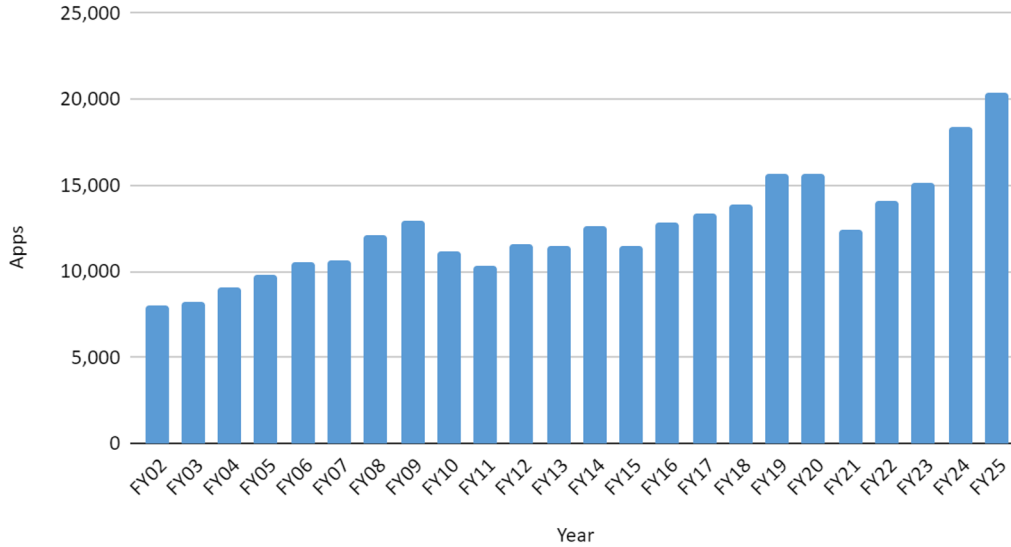
1,140 students  
graduate in 4 years

↓ 76% four year  
graduation rate

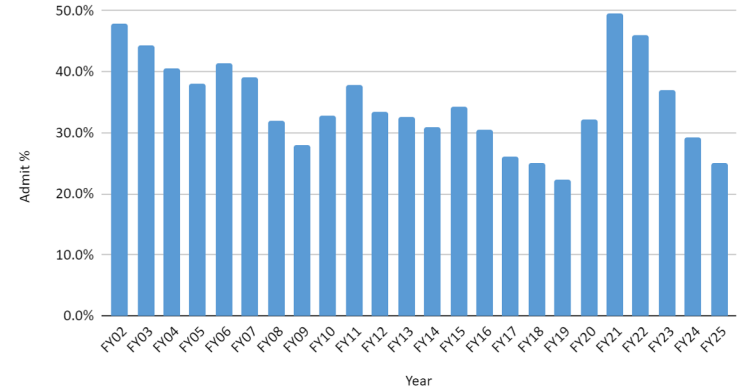
Forecast for F'24  
incoming class

# Lehigh admissions

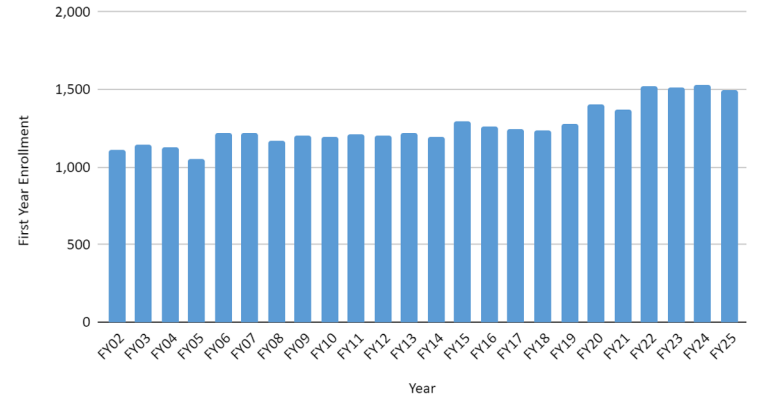
## Application number vs. Year



## Admit % vs. Year



## First Year Enrollment vs. Year



# SAT scores and admissions

- SAT scores have been coming under increased scrutiny for years because of concerns about biases that lead to lower scores among students from underrepresented racial and ethnic groups
- During the pandemic, many students could not take these tests, leading almost all universities to become at least test optional
- Some schools, including the entire UC system, have eliminated all consideration of standardized tests.
- A few schools (MIT, Dartmouth, Yale, Brown, UT Austin) recently have reinstated the requirement for standardized testing, giving a range of reasons for doing so
  - SAT scores are important for success in MIT's "accelerated" curriculum.
  - SATs allow better identification of low income/first gen students who can succeed at Dartmouth, and low income students are less likely to provide SATs.

## *University of California Will No Longer Consider SAT and ACT Scores*

The university system has reached a settlement with students to scrap even optional testing from admissions and scholarship decisions.

Share full article



The University of California, Berkeley, is one of the U.C. campuses across the state that will no longer consider SAT and ACT scores for admissions or scholarships. Jeff Chiu/Associated Press



By [Giulia McDonnell Nieto del Rio](#)

May 15, 2021

## From Dartmouth's report: [as reported in the NYTimes](#)

“There are hundreds of less-advantaged applicants with scores in the 1,400 range who should be submitting scores to identify themselves to admissions, but do not under test-optional policies.” Some of these applicants were rejected because the admissions office could not be confident about their academic qualifications. The students would have probably been accepted had they submitted their test scores, Lee Coffin, Dartmouth's dean of admissions, told me.

It's worth acknowledging a crucial part of this story. Dartmouth admits disadvantaged students who have scores that are lower on average than those of privileged students. The college doesn't apologize for that. Students from poor neighborhoods or troubled high schools have effectively been running with wind in their face. They are not competing fairly with affluent teenagers.



# Given our goals, why would we use SAT scores?

- Creating a vibrant educational environment
- Providing financial support to Lehigh (tuition)
- Having impact on the world post-graduation
- Becoming outstanding alumni who remain connected to and supportive of Lehigh

SAT scores might be a predictor of students' contribution to the educational environment or of long term success

- To contribute to the educational environment, you can't consistently struggle academically
1. Are SAT scores a good predictor of college academic performance?
  2. And/or of post-college success?

# Test scores are strong predictors of college performance

At “unnamed Ivy Plus colleges”

3.8 college G.P.A.



A linear fit yields a slope of ~0.2 GPA points per 100 point variation of SAT score

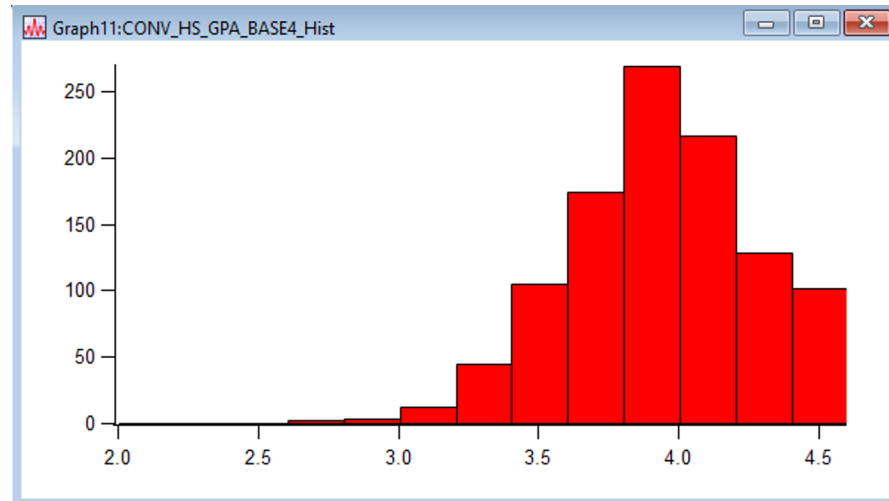
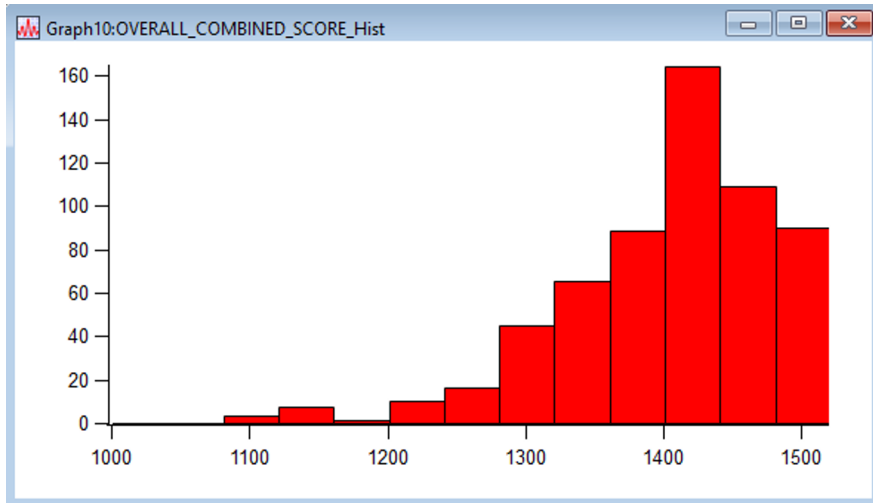
Note: Data is for students who entered college from 2017 to 2022, excluding 2020. • Source: Opportunity Insights and Friedman, Sacerdote and Tine (2024) • By Ashley Wu

# What about at Lehigh?

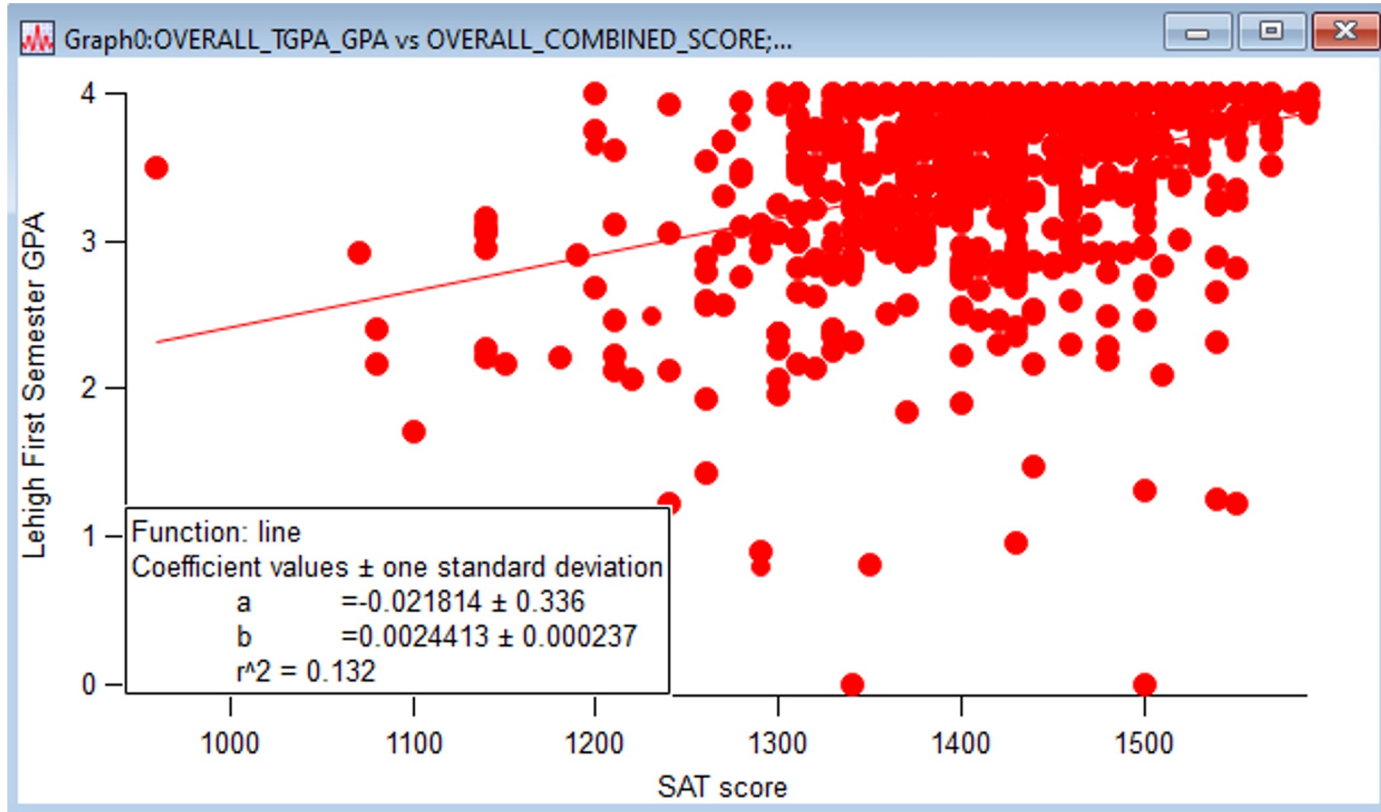
# Our students are academically strong

(F23 class data)

Averages: SAT = 1412, HS GPA = 3.99



# Lehigh Data - first semester GPA vs SAT score (F23)

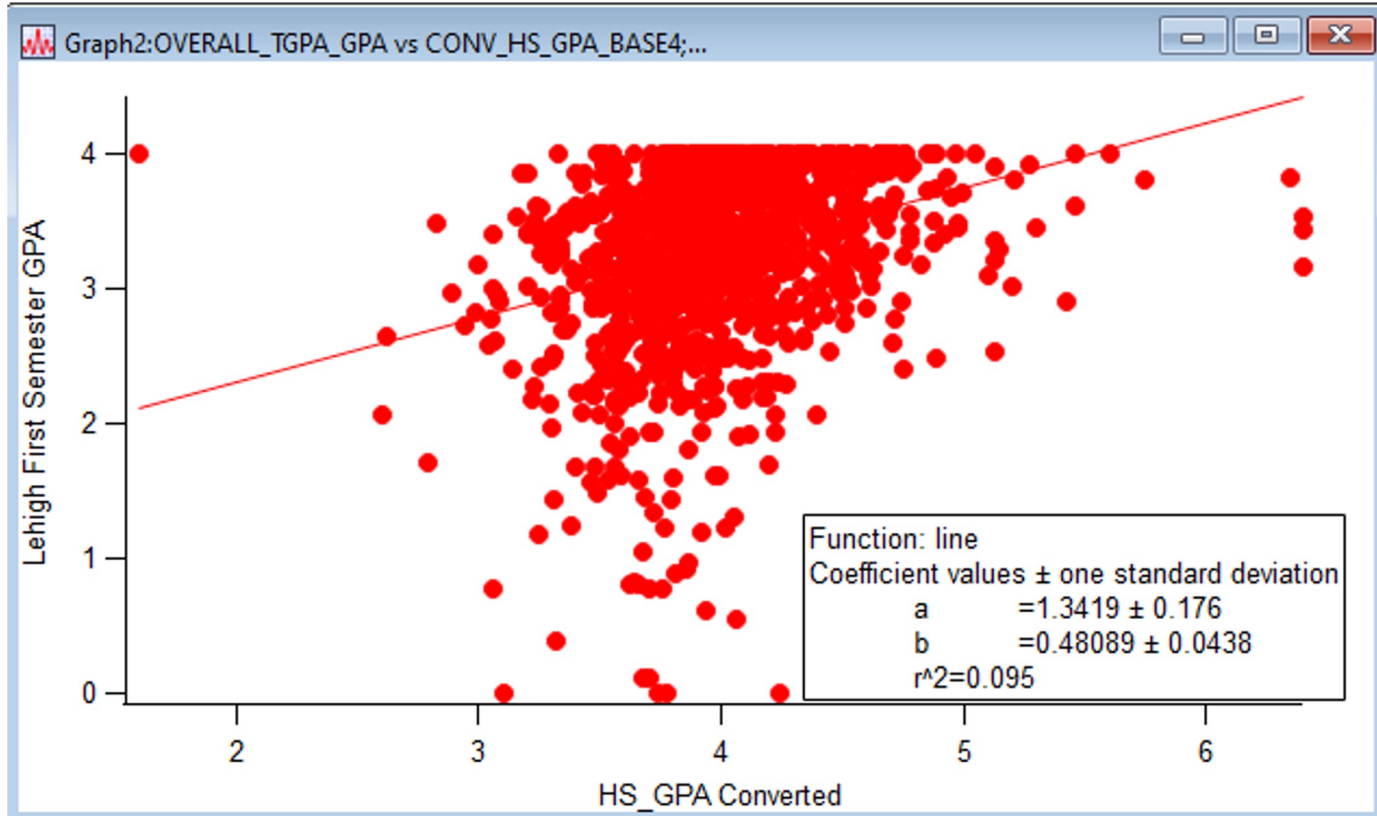


A linear fit yields a slope of  $\sim 0.2$  GPA points per 100 point variation of SAT score.

This is the same as what is seen in the Ivy-plus group

But is this useful?

# Lehigh GPA vs HS GPA (F23)



Is this useful?

# Holistic Admissions assessment

Test scores

LU admissions counselors scores of:

- Curriculum
- Performance
- Involvement
- Auxiliary - a bit of catch all, experiences, family situation etc

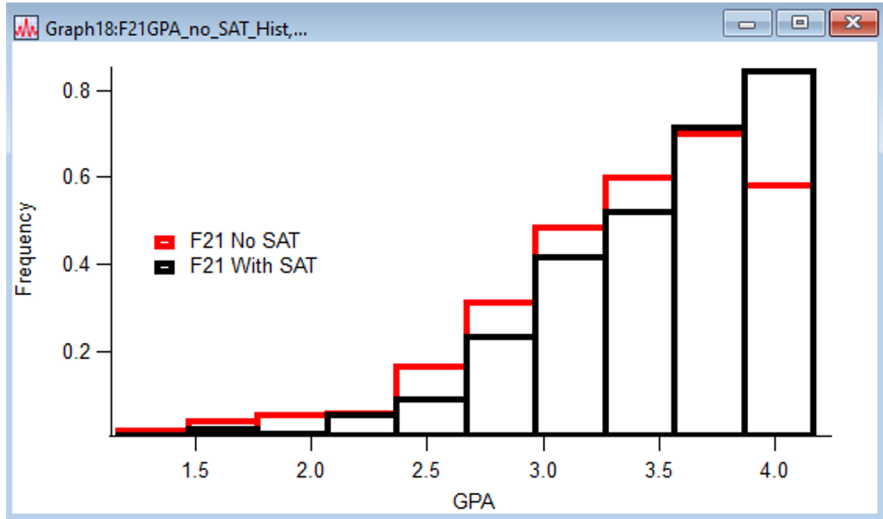
Likelihood to enroll

Need

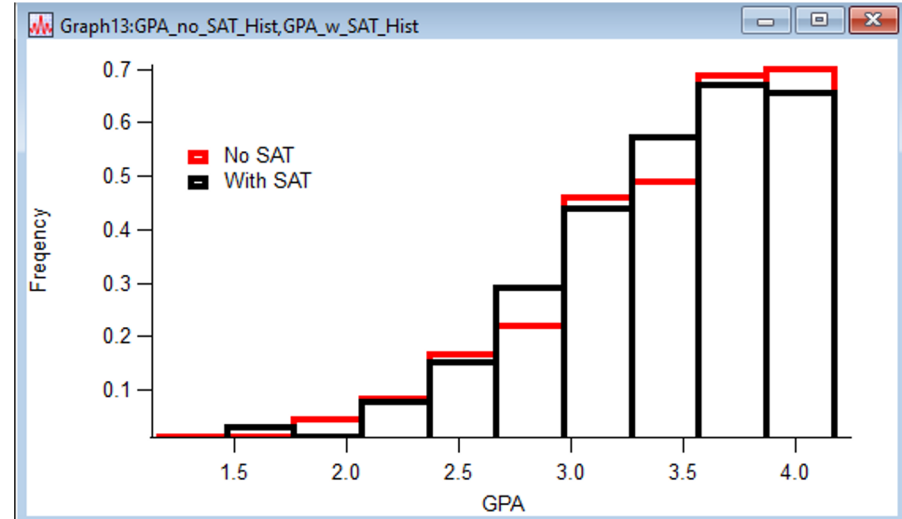
**If SAT scores are not great predictors of success @  
Lehigh, maybe this is because only 50% of  
students are submitting them?**



# First semester GPA distribution of students w and w/o SAT scores for Fall 2023 and Fall 2021 entering classes



Fall 2021 Avg GPA:  
no SAT 3.14  
w/ SAT 3.33



Fall 2023: Avg GPA  
no SAT 3.249  
w/ SAT 3.240

# Do students who leave have lower SAT scores?

Students retained from Fall of 2022 to Fall of 2023 had an average SAT score of 1408. Students not retained had an average SAT score of 1397.

7.7% of students submitting SATs were not retained

Vs

7.2% of students not submitting SAT scores were not retained

## Are SAT scores a good predictor of post-college success?

- Data are not very good, but generally say “no” - unless success is tied to going to an “elite” graduate program (especially medical school)
- A “widely cited” statistic says that the average college GPA of CEOs is 2.9
- Similarly GRE scores are not good predictors of success in PhD programs or academic careers

# How might returning to requiring the SAT affect our applicant pool?

- All of the schools that we consider peers and most aspirational peers are still SAT optional (although a few are publicly considering a change - e.g. NYU)
- About half of students did not submit SAT scores to the common App last year

## “Optional Remains Popular

While Yale University, Dartmouth College and Brown University will require at least some form of a standardized test, applicants still love the option of going test-optional. More than 415,000 applicants on the Common App (roughly half of total applicants) didn't report a score this year, an almost 20% increase from last year. For Boston University, only 42% of its ED 1 and ED 2 wanted their test scores to be considered.”

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/kristenmoon/2024/03/11/early-admissions-trends-in-the-202324-application-cycle/?sh=2f71e546135c>

# Optional SAT scores were supposed to reduce “undermatching”.

BROOKINGS

Election '24 | U.S. Economy | International

RESEARCH

## Can We Fix Undermatching in Higher Ed? Would it Matter if We Did?

Matthew M. Chingos  
January 15, 2014

Typically low income and underrepresented students “undermatch” - i.e. do not apply to the most selective schools for which they are competitive.

Undermatching is partly due to financial concerns. The Lehigh Commitment may reduce this.

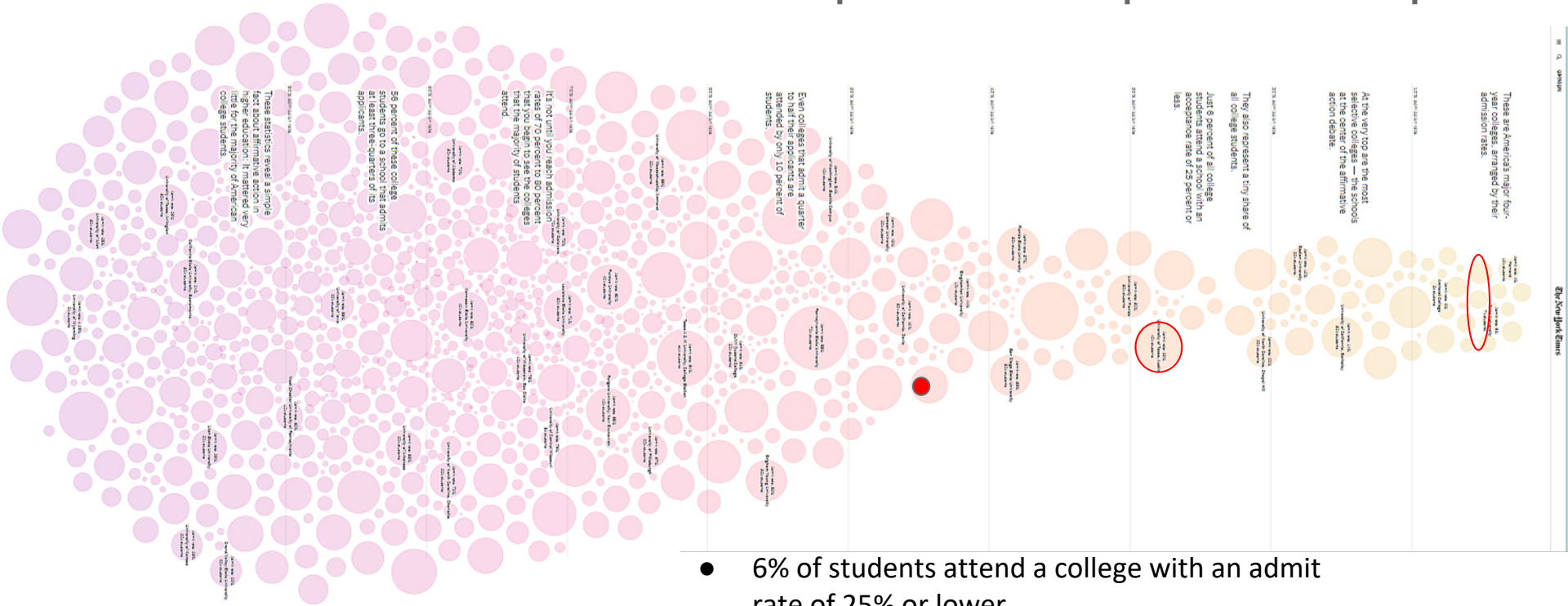
**Who has returned to requiring SATs?**

**How does Lehigh compare to these schools?**

	# applicants For F2022	SAT score range - lower	SAT score range - upper	Graduation Rate	Retention Rate	Tuition Sticker Price	Acceptance Rate
MIT	33767	1520	1570	96	99	59750	4
Yale	50060	1470	1560	97	98	64700	5
Vanderbilt University	45313	1480	1570	93	96	61618	6
Dartmouth	28336	1480	1560	94	98	63684	6
Brown	46568	1470	1550	96	98	65656	6
Northwestern University	51261	1500	1560	95	98	64887	7
University of Pennsylvania	54588	1480	1570	97	98	58620	7
Cornell University	71164	1470	1550	94	97	65204	7
Northeastern University	91000	1450	1535	91	97	62000	7
Rice University	31443	1500	1560	92	98	54100	9
Tufts University	34881	1460	1540	94	96	66358	10
Carnegie Mellon University	25000	1500	1560	93	97	62260	11
Emory University	33179	1450	1530	90	95	59920	11
Tulane University of Louisiana	31615	1400	1500	86	93	65538	11
Colgate University	21109	1418	1510	90	94	66622	12
Georgetown University	26638	1410	1540	95	97	64896	12
University of Notre Dame	26509	1410	1550	96	97	59794	13
Boston University	80796	1370	1480	89	94	63798	14
Boston College	36069	1420	1530	91	95	66410	16
University of Miami	49167	1330	1450	84	92	58104	19
Wake Forest University	16857	1400	1500	90	94	63608	21
Villanova University	23835	1350	1490	91	96	63806	23
UT Austin	59767	1230	1480	88	97	41070	31
Bucknell University	11707	1180	1390	88	91	64418	33
Lehigh University	15163	1350	1480	87	91	61180	37
University of Rochester	19960	1410	1520	86	92	63150	39
Brandeis University	9917	1360	1500	88	91	61724	39
George Washington University	27236	1320	1460	84	91	64700	50
Southern Methodist University	16150	1390	1500	82	90	57212	52
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute	16863	1380	1500	84	89	60360	65

Peer and aspirational peer data

# Admit rates



- 6% of students attend a college with an admit rate of 25% or lower
- The majority of students attend colleges with admit rates >~75%



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Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute	16863	1380	1500	84	89	60360	65

Peer and aspirational peer data

# The SAT requiring schools are not highly tuition dependent

## Tuition and fees as a % of “core revenue”

- Lehigh 42%
- NYU 30%
- Brown: 29%
- Dartmouth: 18%
- MIT: 8%
- Yale: 7%

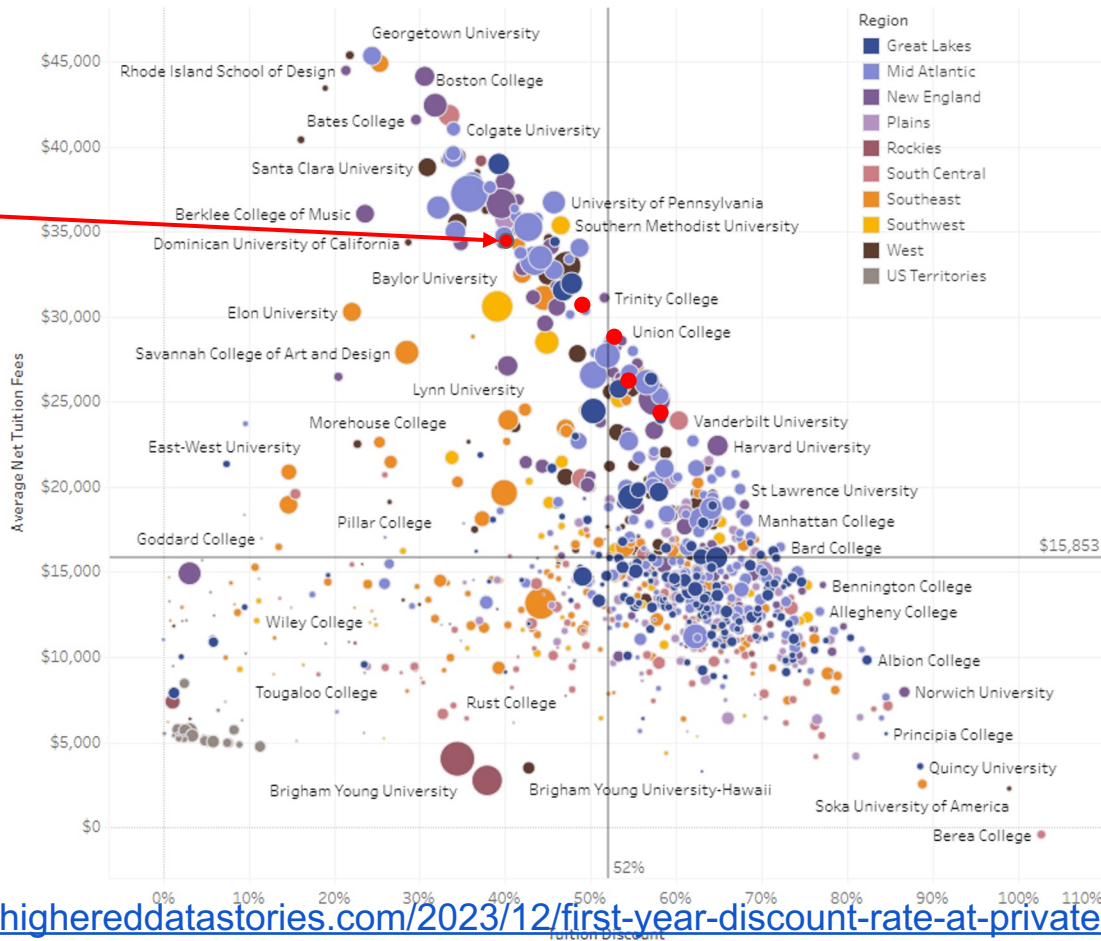
## Freshman as a % of enrollment

- Lehigh 20.2%
- NYU 10.9%
- Brown: 16.1%
- Dartmouth: 18%
- MIT: 9.6%
- Yale: 11.4%

## Endowment per student (rank)

- Lehigh \$0.26M (102)
- NYU \$90K (196)
- Brown: \$0.64M (41)
- Dartmouth: \$1.2M (17)
- MIT: \$2.4M (4)
- Yale: \$2.5M (3)

### First-year Student Tuition Discount and Average Net Tuition Revenue, Fall, 2021



Lehigh

Region  
(All)

Carnegie Rollup  
(All)

First-year students  
0 6,078

First-year Pell Percent  
0% 100%

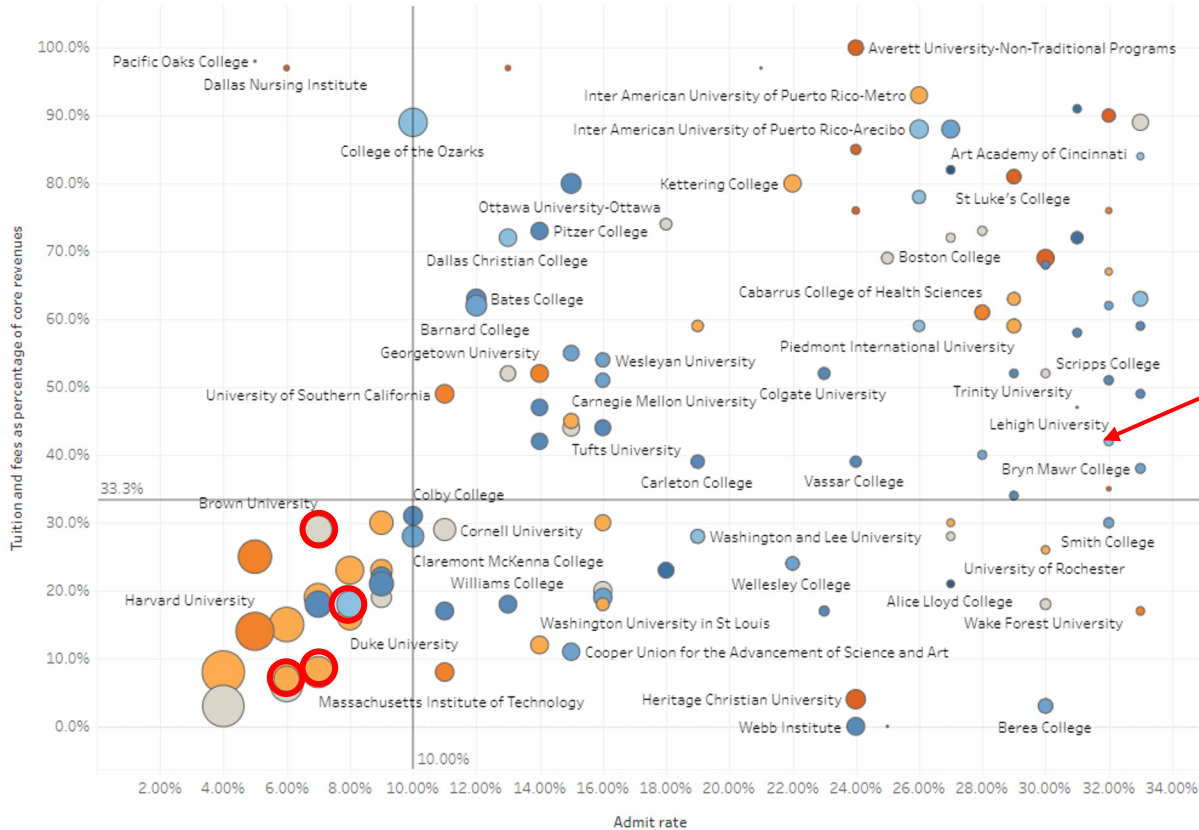
First-year any aid percent  
31% 100%

Highlight Institution Name  
Highlight Institution ...

First-year students  
• 3  
● 2,000  
● 4,000  
● 6,078

Reference lines are constant, showing unweighted industry average.

Source: IPEDS Data Center



<https://www.highereddatastories.com/2021/04/the-highly-rejective-colleges.html>

Lehigh

## Admissions Wins & Losses

Institution Name	Loss Counter	Win Counter	Total Acceptance Overlap	Pct Loss	Pct Win
PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY	128	114	242	52.9%	47.1%
UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH	78	95	173	45.1%	54.9%
NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY	107	29	136	78.7%	21.3%
VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY	101	29	130	77.7%	22.3%
RUTGERS -THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NJ -NEW BRUNSWICK	67	52	119	56.3%	43.7%
DREXEL UNIVERSITY	36	79	115	31.3%	68.7%
BUCKNELL UNIVERSITY	50	59	109	45.9%	54.1%
UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT	39	60	99	39.4%	60.6%
RENSSELAER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE	48	50	98	49.0%	51.0%
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN	95	2	97	97.9%	2.1%
UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE	42	47	89	47.2%	52.8%
PURDUE UNIVERSITY - WEST LAFAYETTE	65	21	86	75.6%	24.4%
LAFAYETTE COLLEGE	42	41	83	50.6%	49.4%
SUNY BINGHAMTON	40	43	83	48.2%	51.8%
SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY	32	48	80	40.0%	60.0%
BOSTON UNIVERSITY	64	15	79	81.0%	19.0%
GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY	36	41	77	46.8%	53.2%
UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER	46	31	77	59.7%	40.3%
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN - MADISON	60	17	77	77.9%	22.1%
VIRGINIA POLYTECH & STATE UNIV	48	29	77	62.3%	37.7%

Pct Wins by Total Acceptance Overlap

# Who is our competition?

Application Term

202240

Application College

(All)

Sex

(All)

Race & Ethnicity

(All)

High School Region

(All)

High School State

(All)

Top Parameter

50

Win Counter

1  114

*Note: See explanation of knowledge rates by year on the "About This Data" tab.*

## Admissions Wins & Losses

Institution Name	Loss Counter	Win Counter	Total Acceptance Overlap	Pct Loss	Pct Win
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN	95	2	97	97.9%	2.1%
CORNELL UNIVERSITY	74	2	76	97.4%	2.6%
UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN	37	1	38	97.4%	2.6%
GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY	35	1	36	97.2%	2.8%
UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND - COLLEGE PARK	68	3	71	95.8%	4.2%
NEW YORK UNIVERSITY	56	3	59	94.9%	5.1%
UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA	66	4	70	94.3%	5.7%
TUFTS UNIVERSITY	44	3	47	93.6%	6.4%
CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY	43	3	46	93.5%	6.5%
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA	39	3	42	92.9%	7.1%
WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY	34	3	37	91.9%	8.1%
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA - BERKELEY	40	4	44	90.9%	9.1%
BOSTON COLLEGE	68	7	75	90.7%	9.3%
UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON - SEATTLE	34	5	39	87.2%	12.8%
GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY	34	6	40	85.0%	15.0%
BOSTON UNIVERSITY	64	15	79	81.0%	19.0%
NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY	107	29	136	78.7%	21.3%
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN - MADISON	60	17	77	77.9%	22.1%
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PURDUE UNIVERSITY - WEST LAFAYETTE	65	21	86	75.6%	24.4%

Application Term

202240

Application College

(All)

Sex

(All)

Race &amp; Ethnicity

(All)

High School Region

(All)

High School State

(All)

Top Parameter

50



Win Counter



*Note: See explanation of knowledge rates by year on the "About This Data" tab.*

Pct Wins by Total Acceptance Overlap

# Who is our competition?

Response

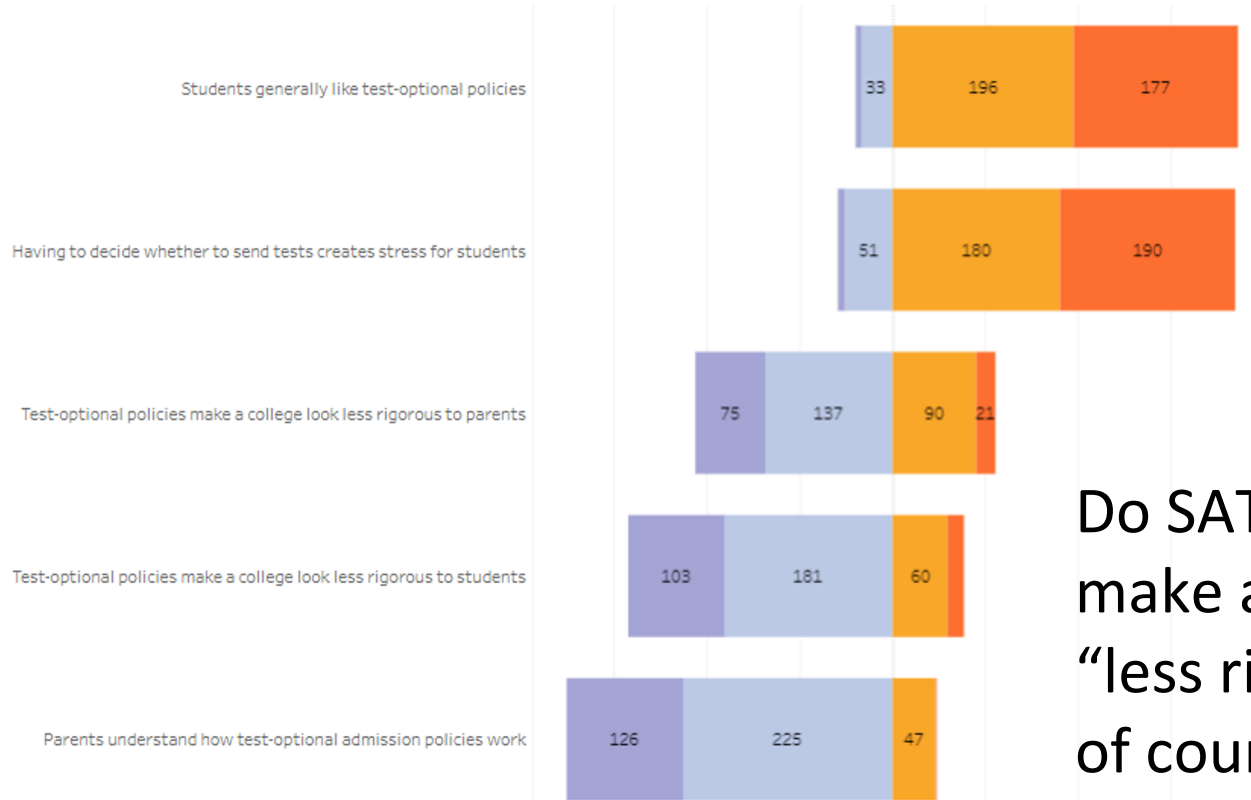
■ Somewhat disagree

■ Strongly disagree

■ Agree

■ Strongly agree

Question responses: Those with opinion



Do SAT optional policies make a college seem “less rigorous” - survey of counselors

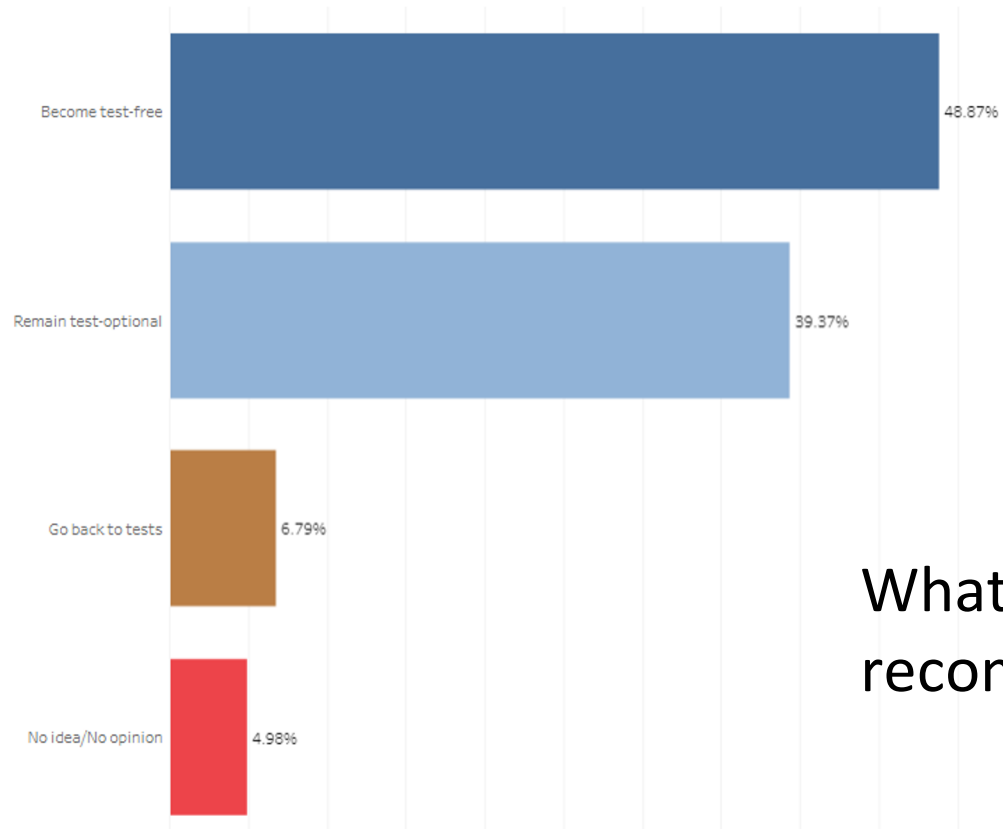
Location

(All)

Professional role

(All)

## Respondent recommendations about future policy



What do counselors recommend colleges do?



# Student preparation/Are students less prepared?

# Students coming to college are not as prepared as they were a few years ago

- Average ACT scores are lower than they have been for 31 years
- 8th graders are about 0.5 years behind where they would have been pre-pandemic

Examples:

<https://crpe.org/the-state-of-the-american-student-2023/>

<https://hechingerreport.org/after-the-pandemic-disrupted-their-high-school-educations-students-are-arriving-at-college-unprepared/>

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2024/01/31/us/pandemic-learning-loss-recovery.html>

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC10517930/>

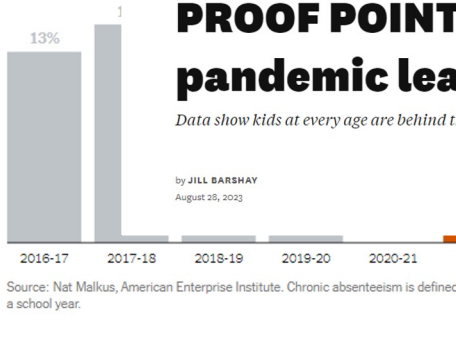
The share of U.S. who are chronic has spiked since pandemic.

JILL BARSHAY

# PROOF POINTS: Three views of pandemic learning loss and recovery

Data show kids at every age are behind three years after schools closed, and some lags are 'alarming'

by JILL BARSHAY  
August 28, 2023



## Why School Absences Have 'Exploded' Almost Everywhere

The pandemic changed families' lives and the culture of education: "Our relationship with school became optional."

Share full article

By Sarah Mervosh and Francesca Paris

Sarah Mervosh reports on K-12 education, and Francesca Paris is a data reporter.

March 29, 2024

### TheUpshot

# See How Your School District Is Recovering From the Pandemic

By Francesca Paris Feb. 1, 2024

Share full article

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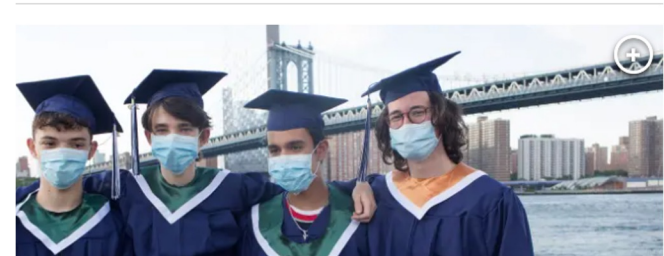
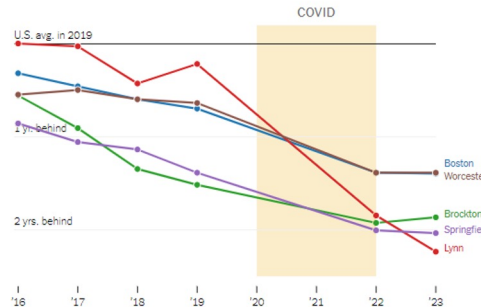
LIFESTYLE

## Professors say students aren't ready for college after pandemic learning: 'Far from normal'

By Rikki Schlott

8, 2023, 12:17 p.m. ET

Math test scores for major school districts in Massachusetts

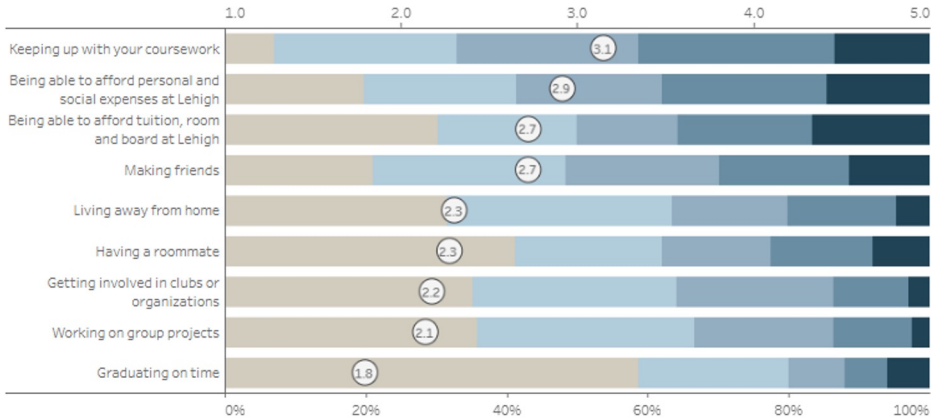


# 2023

# 2016

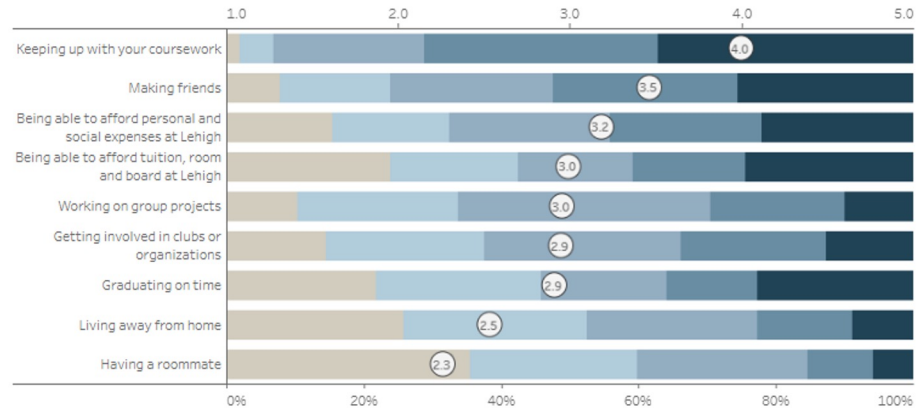
To what extent are you concerned about the following at Lehigh?

1 = Not concerned at all, 2 = Slightly concerned, 3 = Somewhat concerned, 4 = Moderately concerned, 5 = Very concerned



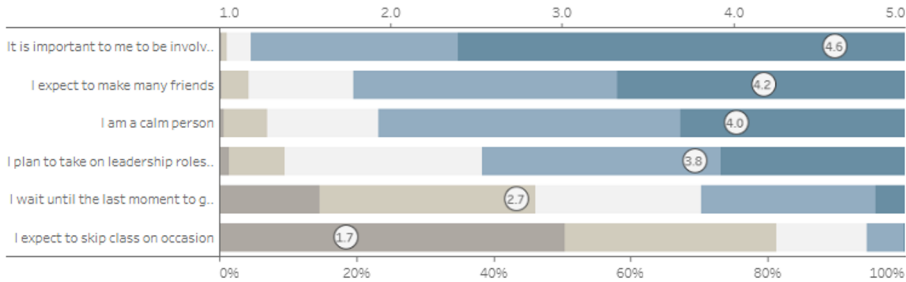
6. To what extent are you concerned about the following at Lehigh?

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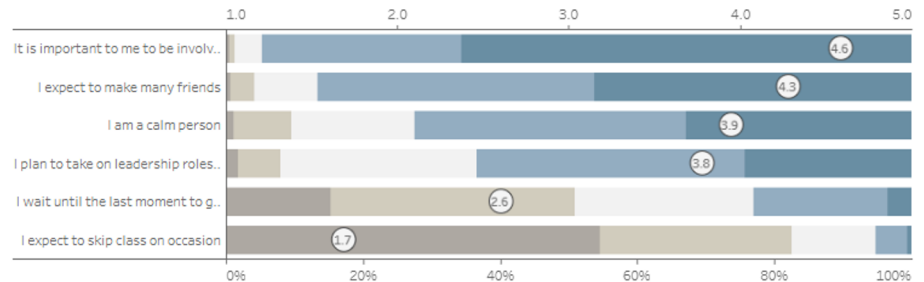
To what extent do you agree with the following statements?

1 = Strongly disagree, 2 = Somewhat disagree, 3 = Neither agree or disagree, 4 = Somewhat agree, 5 = Strongly agree



7. To what extent do you agree with the following statements?

1 = Strongly disagree, 2 = Somewhat disagree, 3 = Neither agree or disagree, 4 = Somewhat agree, 5 = Strongly agree



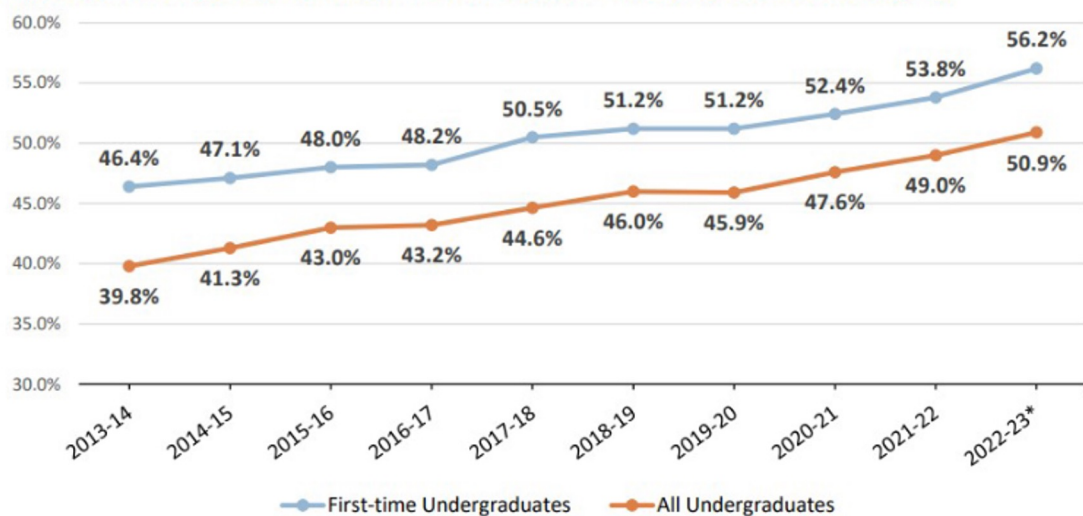
# FAFSA

We don't need the FAFSA to decide on financial aid awards  
We are not planning on changing our approach at this time

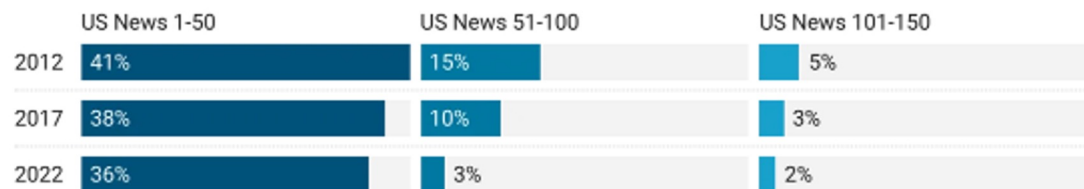


# Extra slides

Figure 1: Average Institutional Tuition Discount Rate, by Student Category



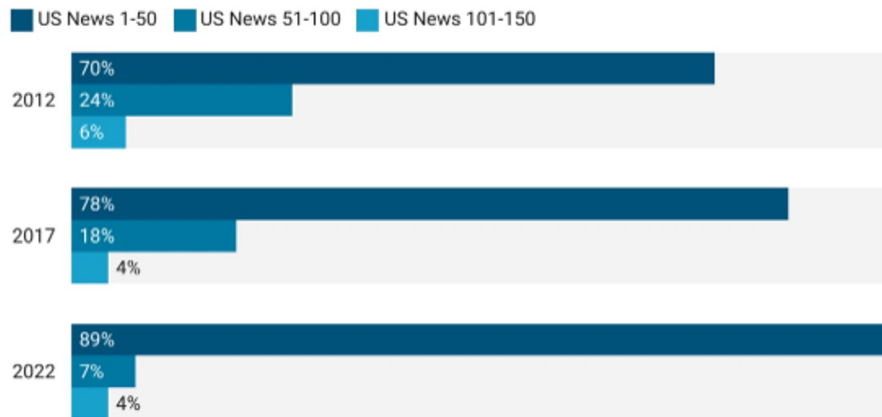
## Liberal Arts Colleges: % of Students Who are Full Pay



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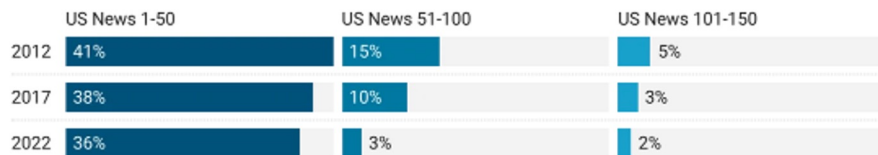


## Liberal Arts Colleges: % of Population Who Are Full-Pay



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## Liberal Arts Colleges: % of Students Who are Full Pay



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