

List of Tables

Q1. In general, how fair is the college admissions process?	2
Q2. How fair is the affirmative action admissions process that gives special consideration to prospective minority students?	3
Q3. How fair is the legacy admissions process that gives admission preferences to prospective students with a family member who attended the same university?	4
Q4. How fair is the legacy admissions process that gives admission preferences to prospective students whose families donated to the university?	5
Q5. If two college applications were completely equal except for GPA and legacy status, which do you think should be given more weight?	6
Q6. How much did family tradition impact your choices when selecting the list of colleges and universities you applied to?	7
Q7. Do you think being a “legacy” student has a positive or negative connotation on your campus?	8
Q8. Would you like to see your children be given admission preferences to your college?	9
Survey Methodology	10
About College Pulse	11

Q1. In general, how fair is the college admissions process?

		gender:grouped			Financial Aid			Legacy		
	Total	Female	Male	Non Binary	No	Yes	Other	No	Yes	Other
Very fair	4%	3%	6%	0%	5%	4%	0%	4%	6%	0%
Somewhat fair	59%	62%	57%	54%	56%	61%	75%	59%	60%	74%
Not too fair	27%	28%	26%	33%	28%	27%	21%	28%	26%	26%
Not at all fair	8%	6%	10%	13%	9%	8%	5%	8%	8%	0%
Refused	1%	0%	2%	0%	2%	0%	0%	1%	1%	0%
Total	99%	99%	101%	100%	100%	100%	101%	100%	101%	100%
(Unweighted N)	(1500)	(653)	(781)	(66)	(485)	(1000)	(15)	(1337)	(152)	(10)

		politicalLeaning:grouped			Race						
	Total	Democrat	Independent	Republican	White	Asian	Black Or African American	Hispanic Latino	American Indian	Two Or More Races	Other
Very fair	4%	3%	4%	7%	6%	7%	1%	1%	9%	4%	6%
Somewhat fair	59%	55%	62%	63%	61%	43%	59%	60%	77%	54%	47%
Not too fair	27%	32%	26%	24%	25%	36%	31%	26%	14%	35%	42%
Not at all fair	8%	9%	8%	5%	7%	9%	8%	12%	0%	7%	5%
Refused	1%	1%	0%	1%	1%	5%	1%	1%	0%	0%	0%
Total	99%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
(Unweighted N)	(1500)	(458)	(814)	(222)	(1024)	(170)	(75)	(111)	(7)	(90)	(22)

Q2. How fair is the affirmative action admissions process that gives special consideration to prospective minority students?

	gender:grouped				Financial Aid			Legacy		
	Total	Female	Male	Non Binary	No	Yes	Other	No	Yes	Other
Very fair	12%	15%	8%	16%	11%	13%	7%	12%	11%	0%
Somewhat fair	49%	54%	40%	65%	46%	50%	28%	49%	43%	61%
Not too fair	25%	23%	29%	8%	25%	24%	37%	24%	28%	32%
Not at all fair	13%	7%	21%	10%	16%	11%	27%	12%	18%	7%
Refused	2%	1%	2%	1%	3%	1%	0%	2%	1%	0%
Total	101%	100%	100%	100%	101%	99%	99%	99%	101%	100%
(Unweighted N)	(1500)	(653)	(781)	(66)	(485)	(1000)	(15)	(1337)	(152)	(10)

	politicalLeaning:grouped				Race						
	Total	Democrat	Independent	Republican	White	Asian	Black Or African American	Hispanic Latino	American Indian	Two Or More Races	Other
Very fair	12%	23%	9%	0%	9%	9%	24%	12%	18%	16%	6%
Somewhat fair	49%	59%	49%	24%	47%	50%	58%	51%	44%	48%	14%
Not too fair	25%	15%	28%	35%	26%	30%	12%	27%	14%	26%	56%
Not at all fair	13%	2%	13%	39%	17%	5%	2%	9%	24%	10%	23%
Refused	2%	1%	1%	1%	1%	6%	3%	1%	0%	0%	0%
Total	101%	100%	100%	99%	100%	100%	99%	100%	100%	100%	99%
(Unweighted N)	(1500)	(458)	(814)	(222)	(1024)	(170)	(75)	(111)	(7)	(90)	(22)

Q3. How fair is the legacy admissions process that gives admission preferences to prospective students with a family member who attended the same university?

		gender:grouped			Financial Aid			Legacy		
	Total	Female	Male	Non Binary	No	Yes	Other	No	Yes	Other
Very fair	4%	2%	6%	0%	5%	3%	6%	4%	6%	7%
Somewhat fair	25%	25%	28%	9%	26%	25%	30%	24%	35%	13%
Not too fair	41%	43%	38%	50%	37%	42%	51%	41%	40%	62%
Not at all fair	28%	29%	26%	39%	29%	28%	13%	30%	18%	18%
Refused	2%	1%	2%	2%	3%	1%	0%	2%	1%	0%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	99%	100%	101%	100%	100%
(Unweighted N)	(1500)	(653)	(781)	(66)	(485)	(1000)	(15)	(1337)	(152)	(10)

		politicalLeaning:grouped			Race						
	Total	Democrat	Independent	Republican	White	Asian	Black Or African American	Hispanic Latino	American Indian	Two Or More Races	Other
Very fair	4%	4%	3%	7%	4%	8%	2%	1%	9%	2%	4%
Somewhat fair	25%	17%	29%	33%	25%	24%	28%	24%	48%	23%	30%
Not too fair	41%	44%	39%	41%	42%	36%	43%	38%	43%	43%	30%
Not at all fair	28%	34%	27%	18%	28%	27%	22%	35%	0%	32%	36%
Refused	2%	1%	2%	1%	1%	5%	4%	1%	0%	0%	0%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	99%	99%	100%	100%	100%
(Unweighted N)	(1500)	(458)	(814)	(222)	(1024)	(170)	(75)	(111)	(7)	(90)	(22)

Q4. How fair is the legacy admissions process that gives admission preferences to prospective students whose families donated to the university?

	gender:grouped				Financial Aid			Legacy		
	Total	Female	Male	Non Binary	No	Yes	Other	No	Yes	Other
Very fair	3%	3%	4%	0%	4%	3%	0%	3%	6%	0%
Somewhat fair	16%	13%	21%	13%	15%	16%	23%	15%	22%	55%
Not too fair	33%	33%	32%	26%	33%	32%	54%	32%	42%	23%
Not at all fair	47%	50%	41%	62%	45%	48%	23%	49%	29%	23%
Refused	2%	1%	3%	0%	3%	1%	0%	2%	1%	0%
Total	101%	100%	101%	101%	100%	100%	100%	101%	100%	101%
(Unweighted N)	(1500)	(653)	(781)	(66)	(485)	(1000)	(15)	(1337)	(152)	(10)

	politicalLeaning:grouped				Race						
	Total	Democrat	Independent	Republican	White	Asian	Black Or African American	Hispanic Latino	American Indian	Two Or More Races	Other
Very fair	3%	3%	3%	6%	3%	6%	2%	3%	9%	2%	0%
Somewhat fair	16%	11%	17%	26%	16%	18%	16%	11%	41%	17%	28%
Not too fair	33%	29%	35%	32%	33%	30%	32%	33%	36%	30%	25%
Not at all fair	47%	56%	44%	34%	47%	41%	45%	52%	14%	52%	47%
Refused	2%	1%	2%	2%	1%	5%	4%	1%	0%	0%	0%
Total	101%	100%	101%	100%	100%	100%	99%	100%	100%	101%	100%
(Unweighted N)	(1500)	(458)	(814)	(222)	(1024)	(170)	(75)	(111)	(7)	(90)	(22)

Q5. If two college applications were completely equal except for GPA and legacy status, which do you think should be given more weight?

		gender:grouped			Financial Aid			Legacy		
	Total	Female	Male	Non Binary	No	Yes	Other	No	Yes	Other
High school GPA	89%	89%	87%	94%	88%	89%	94%	89%	87%	94%
Legacy status	10%	9%	12%	6%	10%	10%	6%	10%	12%	6%
Refused	1%	1%	2%	0%	2%	1%	0%	1%	1%	0%
Total	100%	99%	101%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
(Unweighted N)	(1500)	(653)	(781)	(66)	(485)	(1000)	(15)	(1337)	(152)	(10)

		politicalLeaning:grouped			Race						
	Total	Democrat	Independent	Republican	White	Asian	Black Or African American	Hispanic Latino	American Indian	Two Or More Races	Other
High school GPA	89%	92%	88%	84%	90%	83%	84%	89%	79%	93%	86%
Legacy status	10%	7%	11%	14%	9%	12%	14%	10%	21%	7%	14%
Refused	1%	1%	1%	2%	1%	5%	2%	1%	0%	0%	0%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
(Unweighted N)	(1500)	(458)	(814)	(222)	(1024)	(170)	(75)	(111)	(7)	(90)	(22)

Q6. How much did family tradition impact your choices when selecting the list of colleges and universities you applied to?

	gender:grouped				Financial Aid			Legacy		
	Total	Female	Male	Non Binary	No	Yes	Other	No	Yes	Other
A great deal	4%	2%	5%	0%	7%	2%	5%	3%	13%	0%
Somewhat	13%	13%	12%	15%	15%	12%	19%	10%	33%	16%
Not too much	17%	14%	20%	11%	18%	16%	13%	16%	23%	50%
Not at all	66%	70%	60%	74%	57%	69%	64%	70%	31%	33%
Refused	1%	1%	2%	0%	3%	1%	0%	2%	1%	0%
Total	101%	100%	99%	100%	100%	100%	101%	101%	101%	99%
(Unweighted N)	(1500)	(653)	(781)	(66)	(485)	(1000)	(15)	(1337)	(152)	(10)

	politicalLeaning:grouped				Race						
	Total	Democrat	Independent	Republican	White	Asian	Black Or African American	Hispanic Latino	American Indian	Two Or More Races	Other
A great deal	4%	3%	4%	4%	5%	4%	1%	2%	0%	0%	7%
Somewhat	13%	12%	12%	16%	14%	17%	9%	10%	32%	8%	8%
Not too much	17%	14%	18%	18%	16%	17%	22%	14%	0%	19%	14%
Not at all	66%	70%	65%	61%	64%	57%	65%	74%	68%	73%	68%
Refused	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	5%	3%	1%	0%	1%	3%
Total	101%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	101%	100%	101%	100%
(Unweighted N)	(1500)	(458)	(814)	(222)	(1024)	(170)	(75)	(111)	(7)	(90)	(22)

Q7. Do you think being a “legacy” student has a positive or negative connotation on your campus?

		gender:grouped			Financial Aid			Legacy		
	Total	Female	Male	Non Binary	No	Yes	Other	No	Yes	Other
It makes no difference	63%	62%	62%	78%	62%	62%	83%	63%	60%	56%
Negative	23%	23%	23%	16%	22%	24%	12%	24%	16%	33%
Positive	13%	13%	12%	7%	13%	12%	5%	11%	24%	11%
Refused	2%	1%	3%	0%	3%	1%	0%	2%	1%	0%
Total	101%	99%	100%	101%	100%	99%	100%	100%	101%	100%
(Unweighted N)	(1500)	(653)	(781)	(66)	(485)	(1000)	(15)	(1337)	(152)	(10)

		politicalLeaning:grouped			Race						
	Total	Democrat	Independent	Republican	White	Asian	Black Or African American	Hispanic Latino	American Indian	Two Or More Races	Other
It makes no difference	63%	63%	64%	59%	65%	50%	61%	62%	59%	60%	68%
Negative	23%	27%	23%	15%	21%	32%	23%	29%	18%	26%	5%
Positive	13%	10%	12%	24%	14%	13%	12%	8%	23%	15%	21%
Refused	2%	1%	2%	2%	1%	5%	4%	1%	0%	0%	5%
Total	101%	101%	101%	100%	101%	100%	100%	100%	100%	101%	99%
(Unweighted N)	(1500)	(458)	(814)	(222)	(1024)	(170)	(75)	(111)	(7)	(90)	(22)

Q8. Would you like to see your children be given admission preferences to your college?

	gender:grouped				Financial Aid			Legacy		
	Total	Female	Male	Non Binary	No	Yes	Other	No	Yes	Other
Yes	21%	17%	29%	5%	24%	20%	35%	20%	27%	27%
No	50%	53%	45%	70%	46%	52%	47%	52%	34%	30%
Not sure	27%	29%	24%	25%	27%	27%	18%	25%	38%	43%
Refused	2%	1%	2%	0%	2%	1%	0%	2%	1%	0%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	99%	100%	100%	99%	100%	100%
(Unweighted N)	(1500)	(653)	(781)	(66)	(485)	(1000)	(15)	(1337)	(152)	(10)

	politicalLeaning:grouped				Race						
	Total	Democrat	Independent	Republican	White	Asian	Black Or African American	Hispanic Latino	American Indian	Two Or More Races	Other
Yes	21%	24%	17%	30%	21%	23%	22%	18%	41%	22%	11%
No	50%	50%	53%	43%	54%	43%	40%	53%	47%	46%	41%
Not sure	27%	25%	29%	25%	24%	29%	33%	28%	12%	32%	48%
Refused	2%	1%	1%	2%	1%	5%	4%	1%	0%	0%	0%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	99%	100%	100%	100%	100%
(Unweighted N)	(1500)	(458)	(814)	(222)	(1024)	(170)	(75)	(111)	(7)	(90)	(22)

Survey Methodology

This survey was designed and conducted by College Pulse. Interviews were conducted in English among a sample of 1501 undergraduate students who are currently enrolled in the U.S.

The initial sample was drawn from College Pulse's Undergraduate Student Panel that includes over 240,000 verified students representing more than 800 different colleges and universities in all 50 states. Panel members are recruited by a number of methods to help ensure diversity in the panel population, including web advertising, permission-based email campaigns, and partnerships with university organizations.

To reduce the effects of any non-response bias, a post-stratification adjustment was applied based on demographic distributions from the 2017 Current Population Survey (CPS). The post-stratification weight rebalanced the sample based on the following benchmarks: age, race and ethnicity, and gender. The sample weighting was accomplished using an iterative proportional fitting (IPF) process that simultaneously balances the distributions of all variables. Weights were trimmed to prevent individual interviews from having too much influence on the final results.

The margin of error for this survey is $\pm 2.9\%$. Margins of error are typically calculated on probability-based samples and are not technically correct for non-probability online samples. We supply them here to provide a general assessment of error ranges that may be associated with the data.

Legacy Admissions poll

October 2019 - 1501 US college students



About College Pulse

College Pulse is an online survey and analytics company dedicated to understanding the attitudes, preferences, and behaviors of today's college students. College Pulse offers custom data-driven marketing and research solutions, utilizing its unique Undergraduate Student Panel that includes 240,000 undergraduate college student respondents from more than 800 four-year colleges and universities in all 50 states.

For more information, visit <https://collegepulse.com>