

*Unrequited love in fall 2019, or  
Where did UMaine's admitted-but-nonmatriculating students go?*

**Data from the National Student Clearinghouse**

UMaine Office of Institutional Research and Assessment  
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The National Student Clearinghouse is a non-federal, independent, nonprofit organization that serves as a repository for student data on enrollment and degree attainment. More than 3,600 institutions of higher education participate in the Clearinghouse enrollment verification service, capturing over 99% of currently enrolled college students in the United States (<http://www.studentclearinghouse.org/colleges/studenttracker/>).<sup>1</sup>

The Office of Institutional Research and Assessment annually uses this service to obtain the names of schools that UMaine's admitted-but-nonmatriculating undergraduate applicants chose to attend. The present report summarizes our most recent effort in this regard.<sup>2</sup> Specifically, we determined the destination school for the 8,542 undergraduate applicants who

- were first-time students,
- had been admitted at UMaine for fall 2019,
- did not matriculate at UMaine, and
- according to the Clearinghouse, enrolled at another school instead.<sup>3</sup>

**Caveat:** These 8,542 students account for 88% of the first-time-student applicants who were admitted at UMaine for fall 2019 but did not matriculate here.<sup>4</sup> The remaining 12% reflect the fact that some individuals

- did not enroll at any school in fall 2019,
- enrolled elsewhere but did not authorize the Clearinghouse to release their enrollment information, or
- enrolled elsewhere but the destination school is not a Clearinghouse participant.

Thus although a marvelous data source, the Clearinghouse is not without imperfections.

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<sup>1</sup> The 2010 report *College graduation rates: Behind the numbers* (American Council of Education), though dated, includes an informative overview of the National Student Clearinghouse (see pp. 10-13). It is available online at <http://www.acenet.edu/news-room/Documents/College-Graduation-Rates-Behind-the-Numbers.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup> We also conduct an annual analysis of the first-time full-time students who did not return to UMaine for their second year. The most recent report can be found at <https://umaine.edu/oira/reporting/retention-graduation/>.

<sup>3</sup> If a student's Clearinghouse record showed only a single school for fall 2019, we counted students as enrolled at a school even if they did not complete the fall term. If a student enrolled at more than one school in fall 2019, we used these rules to decide which school to count: (a) a school from which the student had withdrawn is trumped by a school from which the student had not withdrawn, (b) full-time status trumps part-time status, and (c) other things being equal, a four-year school trumps a two-year school.

<sup>4</sup> We excluded from this base students who withdrew before the fall census date and for whom there is no evidence of enrollment elsewhere.

We begin by showing the top 20 destination schools for all UMaine's admitted-but-nonmatriculating undergraduate applicants, which capture 41% of the 8,542 students for whom the Clearinghouse reported an enrollment record:

*Top 20 destination schools*

	records reported	% of all records
University of New Hampshire	519	6.1
University of Massachusetts, Amherst	361	4.2
University of Southern Maine	330	3.9
University of Rhode Island	277	3.2
University of Vermont	274	3.2
University of Massachusetts, Lowell	215	2.5
Husson University	213	2.5
University of New England	180	2.1
University of Connecticut	167	2.0
Merrimack College	119	1.4
University of Maine at Farmington	116	1.4
Plymouth State University	100	1.2
University of Massachusetts, Boston	90	1.1
Wentworth Institute of Technology	88	1.0
Maine Maritime Academy	80	0.9
Roger Williams University	78	0.9
Keene State College	76	0.9
Westfield State University	75	0.9
Southern Maine Community College	71	0.8
University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth	70	0.8
	3,499	41.0%

We now turn to a brief summary of the Clearinghouse results for Maine residents ( $n = 2,231$ ) and then for nonresidents ( $n = 6,311$ ).

**Maine residents ( $n = 2,231$ )**

The top 20 destination schools for Maine residents appear below. These 20 institutions capture 61% of the 2,231 Maine residents for whom the Clearinghouse reported enrollment.

*Top 20 destination schools: Maine residents*

	records reported	% of all records
University of Southern Maine	294	13.2
Husson University	188	8.4
University of Maine at Farmington	104	4.7
University of New Hampshire	79	3.5
University of New England	79	3.5
Maine Maritime Academy	72	3.2
Southern Maine Community College	68	3.0
Thomas College	63	2.8
University of Vermont	51	2.3
Saint Joseph's College of Maine	47	2.1
University of Maine at Augusta	44	2.0
University of Maine at Presque Isle	43	1.9
Eastern Maine Community College	39	1.7
University of Maine at Fort Kent	36	1.6
Central Maine Community College	35	1.6
Merrimack College	28	1.3
Wheaton College	25	1.1
Worcester Polytechnic Institute	22	1.0
Clark University	22	1.0
Wentworth Institute of Technology	21	0.9
	1,360	61.0%

Over half (54.9%) of Maine residents—again, who were admitted at UMaine but enrolled elsewhere—stayed in Maine. Around one quarter of all Maine residents attended another UMS school, with USM and UMF predominating (as they invariably do):

		breakdown of Maine residents	
<b>attending another UMS campus: 24.1%</b>		USM	13.2%
		UMF	4.7%
		UMA	2.0%
		UMPI	1.9%
		UMFK	1.6%
		UMM	0.8%

Almost one third of all Maine residents attended a non-UMS school in Maine, with Husson University and the community colleges accounting for almost half of these students:

		breakdown of Maine residents	
<b>attending non-UMS school in Maine: 30.8%</b>		Husson University	8.4%
		a Maine community college	7.7%
		University of New England	3.5%
		Maine Maritime Academy	3.2%
		Thomas College	2.8%
		Bates, Bowdoin, Colby	2.3%
		Saint Joseph's College	2.1%
		other non-UMS school	0.6%

7.4% of Maine residents enrolled at one of the other New England land-grant universities, with University of New Hampshire and University of Vermont unfailingly predominating:

		breakdown of Maine residents	
<b>attending another NELGU: 7.4%</b>		UNH	3.5%
		UVM	2.3%
		URI	0.8%
		UMass	0.5%
		UConn	0.3%

**Nonresidents (n = 6,311)**

The top 20 destination schools for nonresidents appear below, capturing 42% of the 6,311 nonresidents for whom the Clearinghouse found an enrollment record.

*Top 20 destination schools: Nonresidents*

	records reported	% of all records
University of New Hampshire	440	7.0
University of Massachusetts, Amherst	349	5.5
University of Rhode Island	260	4.1
University of Vermont	223	3.5
University of Massachusetts, Lowell	214	3.4
University of Connecticut	161	2.6
University of New England	101	1.6
Merrimack College	91	1.4
Plymouth State University	89	1.4
University of Massachusetts, Boston	85	1.3
Westfield State University	75	1.2
Roger Williams University	72	1.1
University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth	69	1.1
Wentworth Institute of Technology	67	1.1
Keene State College	66	1.0
Bridgewater State University	65	1.0
Pennsylvania State University	62	1.0
Quinnipiac University	55	0.9
Salem State University	54	0.9
Endicott College	46	0.7
	2,644	41.9%

Among nonresidents who were admitted at UMaine but enrolled elsewhere, the overwhelming majority—96.2%—selected a school beyond the Maine border. Nearly one quarter of all nonresidents enrolled at another New England land-grant university, with University of New Hampshire being the clear favorite:

	breakdown of nonresidents	
<b>attending another NELGU: 22.7%</b>	UNH	7.0%
	UMass	5.5%
	URI	4.1%
	UVM	3.5%
	UConn	2.6%

Less than 1% of nonresidents attended a UMS school: 36 of these 58 students enrolled at USM, 12 at UMF, 5 at UMM, 2 each at UMA and UMFK, and 1 at UMPI. An additional 2.9% of nonresidents ( $n = 183$ ) enrolled elsewhere in Maine—the lion’s share, 101, at University of New England:

	breakdown of nonresidents	
<b>attending non-UMS school in Maine: <math>n = 183</math></b>	University of New England	101
	Husson University	25
	Unity College	18
	Bates, Bowdoin, Colby	13
	Saint Joseph’s College	11
	Maine Maritime Academy	8
	other non-UMS schools	7

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A list of destination schools for all UMaine’s admitted-but-nonmatriculating applicants is available upon request, as are lists for particular UMaine colleges, academic units, and majors.

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