

Unrequited love in fall 2020, 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. Nearly 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/>).¹

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. Specifically, we determined the destination school for the 9,682 undergraduate applicants who

- were first-time students,
- had been admitted at UMaine for fall 2020,
- did not matriculate at UMaine, or indicate their intent to matriculate to UMaine in an upcoming term (deferred students), and
- according to the Clearinghouse, enrolled at another school instead.²

Caveat: These 9,682 students account for 85% of the first-time-student applicants who were admitted at UMaine for fall 2020 but did not matriculate here (n = 11,373).³ The remaining 15% (n = 1,691) reflect the fact that some individuals

- did not enroll at any school in fall 2020,
- 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.

¹ 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>.

² If a student's Clearinghouse record showed only a single school for fall 2020, 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 2020, 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.

³ We excluded from this base students who withdrew before the fall census date and for whom there is no evidence of enrollment elsewhere.

Fall 2020 vs. Fall 2019

Given the COVID-19 pandemic, and its likely impact on students' choices, we compared fall 2020 with fall 2019 on some key statistics: the percentage of non-yielded applicants who are attending (a) another college (per the National Student Clearinghouse), (b) a community college, (c) a public institution, (d) an institution outside of their home state. Some key highlights of the findings are:

- Compared to fall 2019, the percentage of admitted, non-matriculated undergraduate applicants who chose to attend another institution decreased by 3 percentage points in fall 2020 (85% in fall 2020, 88% in fall 2019).
- Of those students who did matriculate elsewhere in fall 2020, the percentage of students who chose to matriculate to a community college increased from 5.4% in fall 2019 to 7.6% in fall 2020.
- We also saw a slight increase in the percentage of nonyields who chose to matriculate to a public institution (62.2% in fall 2020, 61.0% in fall 2019) and a slight decrease in students leaving their home state for college (48.6% in fall 2020, 50.2% in fall 2019).
 - This decrease was more pronounced in Maine residents, where we saw a 3.5 percentage-point increase in the percentage of Maine students staying in Maine for college (58.5% in fall 2020, 55.0% in fall 2019).

We resume our standard reporting on the next page by showing the top 20 destination schools for all UMaine's admitted-but-nonmatriculating undergraduate applicants, which capture 39% of the 9,682 students for whom the Clearinghouse reported an enrollment record:

Fall 2020 Results*Top 20 destination schools*

	records reported	% of all records
University of New Hampshire	557	5.8%
University of Massachusetts, Amherst	366	3.8%
University of Rhode Island	333	3.4%
University of Southern Maine	310	3.2%
University of Vermont	297	3.1%
University of Connecticut	264	2.7%
Husson University	220	2.3%
University of Massachusetts, Lowell	176	1.8%
University of New England	143	1.5%
Plymouth State University	137	1.4%
University of Maine at Farmington	134	1.4%
Merrimack College	122	1.3%
University of Massachusetts, Boston	106	1.1%
Southern Maine Community College	96	1.0%
University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth	88	0.9%
Southern New Hampshire – 15 Week	86	0.9%
Wentworth Institute of Technology	77	0.8%
Quinnipiac University	76	0.8%
Thomas College	75	0.8%
Saint Joseph’s College of Maine	75	0.8%
	3,738	38.6%

We now turn to a brief summary of the Clearinghouse results for Maine residents ($n = 2,160$) and then for nonresidents ($n = 7,522$).

Maine residents (n = 2,160)

The top 20 destination schools for Maine residents appear below. These 20 institutions capture 63% of the 2,160 Maine residents for whom the Clearinghouse reported enrollment.

Top 20 destination schools: Maine residents

	records reported	% of all records
University of Southern Maine	268	12.4%
Husson University	200	9.3%
University of Maine at Farmington	126	5.8%
Southern Maine Community College	92	4.3%
Thomas College	72	3.3%
University of New England	66	3.1%
University of Maine at Augusta	59	2.7%
Maine Maritime Academy	59	2.7%
University of New Hampshire	58	2.7%
Saint Joseph's College of Maine	53	2.5%
University of Maine at Presque Isle	51	2.4%
Central Maine Community College	41	1.9%
Eastern Maine Community College	37	1.7%
University of Vermont	34	1.6%
Plymouth State University	28	1.3%
Wheaton College	25	1.2%
University of Rhode Island	23	1.1%
Kennebec Valley Community College	23	1.1%
Saint Anselm College	21	1.0%
Merrimack College	20	0.9%
	1,356	62.8%

Over half (58.4%) of Maine residents—again, who were admitted at UMaine but enrolled elsewhere—stayed in Maine. One quarter of all Maine residents attended another UMS school, with USM and UMF predominating (as they invariably do):

		breakdown of Maine residents	
attending another UMS campus: 25%	USM	12.4%	
	UMF	5.8%	
	UMA	2.7%	
	UMPI	2.4%	
	UMFK	0.9%	
	UMM	0.7%	

One third (33%) of all Maine residents attended a non-UMS school in Maine, with the community colleges and Husson University accounting for the largest share of these students:

		breakdown of Maine residents	
attending non-UMS school in Maine: 33.4%	a Maine community college	9.8%	
	Husson University	9.3%	
	Thomas College	3.3%	
	University of New England	3.1%	
	Maine Maritime Academy	2.7%	
	Saint Joseph's College	2.5%	
	Bates, Bowdoin, Colby	1.8%	
	other non-UMS school	1.0%	

5.9% of Maine residents enrolled at one of the other New England land-grant universities:

		breakdown of Maine residents	
attending another NELGU: 5.9%	UNH	2.7%	
	UVM	1.6%	
	URI	1.1%	
	UMass	0.3%	
	UConn	0.2%	

Nonresidents (n = 7,522)

The top 20 destination schools for nonresidents appear below, capturing 39% of the 7,522 nonresidents for whom the Clearinghouse found an enrollment record.

Top 20 destination schools: Nonresidents

	records reported	% of all records
University of New Hampshire	499	6.6%
University of Massachusetts, Amherst	359	4.8%
University of Rhode Island	310	4.1%
University of Vermont	263	3.5%
University of Connecticut	259	3.4%
University of Massachusetts, Lowell	174	2.3%
Plymouth State University	109	1.4%
University of Massachusetts, Boston	105	1.4%
Merrimack College	102	1.4%
University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth	87	1.2%
University of New England	77	1.0%
Southern New Hampshire – 15 Week	76	1.0%
Pennsylvania State University	69	0.9%
Quinnipiac University	68	0.9%
Bridgewater State University	66	0.9%
Roger Williams University	65	0.9%
Wentworth Institute of Technology	63	0.8%
Keene State College	60	0.8%
Westfield State University	58	0.8%
University of Tampa	54	0.7%
	2,923	38.9%

Among nonresidents who were admitted at UMaine but enrolled elsewhere, the overwhelming majority—97.2%—selected a school beyond the Maine border. Almost one quarter of all nonresidents enrolled at another New England land-grant university (22.5%), with University of New Hampshire being the favorite:

	breakdown of nonresidents	
attending another NELGU: 22.5%	UNH	6.6%
	UMass	4.8%
	URI	4.1%
	UVM	3.5%
	UConn	3.4%

Less than 1% of nonresidents attended a UMS school: 42 of these 59 students enrolled at USM, 8 at UMF, 3 each at UMA and UMFK, 2 at UMM, and 1 at UMPI. An additional 2% of nonresidents ($n = 152$) enrolled elsewhere in Maine—the lion’s share, 77, at University of New England:

	breakdown of nonresidents	
attending school in Maine: $n = 152$	University of New England	77
	Saint Joseph’s College	22
	Husson University	20
	College of the Atlantic	7
	Maine Maritime Academy	6
	Unity College	5
	Bates, Bowdoin, Colby	5
	other non-UMS schools	10

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.