

Unrequited love in fall 2021, 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 97% 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-non matriculating undergraduate applicants chose to attend. The present report summarizes our most recent effort in this regard. Specifically, we determined the destination school for the 9,711 undergraduate applicants who:

- were first-time students,
- had been admitted at UMaine for fall 2021,
- 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 9,711 students account for 85% of the first-time student applicants who were admitted at UMaine for fall 2021 but did not matriculate here (n = 11,445).³ The remaining 15% (n = 1,734) reflect the fact that some individuals:

- did not enroll at any school in fall 2021,
- 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 2021, 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 2021, 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.

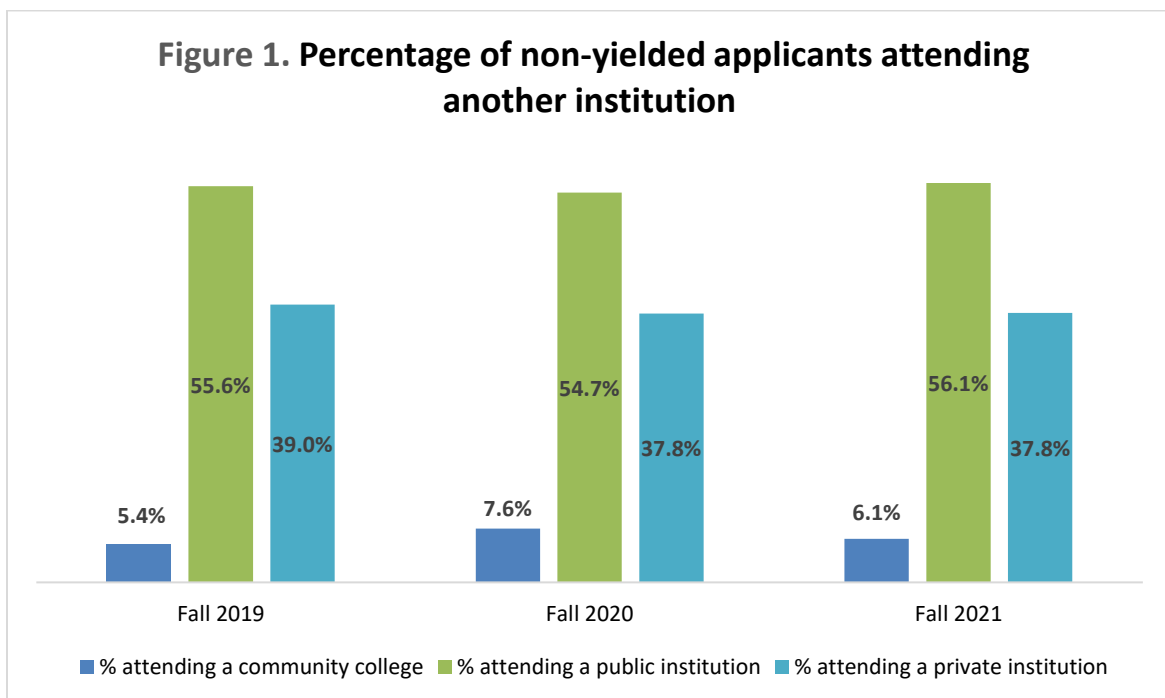
³ We excluded base students from this who withdrew before the fall census date and for whom there is no evidence of enrollment elsewhere.

Fall 2021 vs. Fall 2020/2019

Given the COVID-19 pandemic, and its likely impact on students' choices, we compared fall 2021 with fall 2019 and fall 2020 on the percentage of non-yielded applicants who are attending another college.

Some key highlights of the findings are:

- Over this three-year period, UMaine saw a decrease in the percentage of admitted, non-matriculated undergraduate applicants who chose to attend another institution. Compared to the fall term of 2019, the students who chose to matriculate elsewhere in fall 2020 and 2021 was three percentage points lower (85% in fall 2021, 85% in fall 2020, 88% in fall 2019).
- Between 2019 and 2020, the percentage of non-yielded students attending a community college increased by two percentage points. As Figure 1 shows, there was a change in the trend in fall 2021: The percentage of students who chose to matriculate to a community college decreased from 7.6% in fall 2020 to 6.1% in fall 2021.



As the table below reveals, compared to fall 2019 and fall 2020, we saw a slight increase in students leaving their home state for college. Between fall 2020 and fall 2021, we observe a four percentage-point increase in Maine students and five percentage-point increase in non-residents leaving their home state.

Percentage of students leaving their home state for college

<i>Term</i>	<i>Left Home State</i>	<i>Stayed In Home State</i>
2019 Fall	50%	50%
Maine Resident	45%	55%
Non-Resident	52%	48%
2020 Fall	48%	52%
Maine Resident	41%	59%
Non-Resident	50%	50%
2021 Fall	52%	48%
Maine Resident	45%	55%
Non-Resident	55%	45%

We resume our standard reporting on the next page by showing the top 20 destination schools for all UMaine's admitted-but-non matriculating undergraduate applicants, which capture 36% of the 9,711 students for whom the Clearinghouse reported an enrollment record.

Fall 2021 Results*Top 20 destination schools*

	records reported	% of all records
University of New Hampshire	524	5.4%
University of Southern Maine	401	4.1%
University of Vermont	283	2.9%
University of Rhode Island	281	2.9%
University of Massachusetts, Amherst	272	2.8%
University of Connecticut	223	2.3%
Husson University	214	2.2%
University of New England	141	1.5%
University of Maine at Farmington	134	1.4%
Plymouth State University	128	1.3%
University of Massachusetts, Lowell	116	1.2%
Pennsylvania State University	100	1.0%
Bridgewater State University	95	1.0%
Merrimack College	92	0.9%
University of Massachusetts, Boston	83	0.9%
Roger Williams University	82	0.8%
Southern Maine Community College	78	0.8%
University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth	73	0.8%
Westfield State University	73	0.8%
Keene State College	71	0.7%
	3,464	35.7%

We now turn to a summary of the Clearinghouse results for Maine residents ($n = 2,217$) and then for nonresidents ($n = 7,494$).

Maine residents (n = 2,217)

The top 20 destination schools for Maine residents appear below. These 20 institutions capture 61% of the 2,217 Maine residents for whom the Clearinghouse reported enrollment.

Top 20 destination schools: Maine residents

	records reported	% of all records
University of Southern Maine	348	15.7%
Husson University	194	8.8%
University of Maine at Farmington	118	5.3%
Southern Maine Community College	71	3.2%
University of New Hampshire	71	3.2%
Thomas College	67	3.0%
University of Vermont	58	2.6%
University of Maine at Augusta	57	2.6%
Maine Maritime Academy	48	2.2%
Saint Joseph's College of Maine	48	2.2%
University of New England	48	2.2%
University of Maine at Presque Isle	44	2.0%
Eastern Maine Community College	38	1.7%
Central Maine Community College	25	1.1%
Plymouth State University	23	1.0%
University of Rhode Island	19	0.9%
Kennebec Valley Community College	18	0.8%
Rochester Institute of Technology	18	0.8%
Wheaton College	18	0.8%
York County Community College	18	0.8%
	1,349	60.8%

Over half (55%) of Maine residents—again, who were admitted at UMaine but enrolled elsewhere—stayed in Maine. Over one quarter of all Maine residents attended another UMS school, with USM and UMF predominating:

			breakdown of Maine residents	
attending another UMS campus: 26.7%	USM		15.7%	
	UMF		5.3%	
	UMA		2.6%	
	UMPI		2.0%	
	UMFK		0.6%	
	UMM		0.5%	

Over one quarter (28.2%) of all Maine residents attended a non-UMS school in Maine, with Husson University and the Maine community colleges accounting for the largest share of these students:

			breakdown of Maine residents	
attending non-UMS school in Maine: 28.2%	Husson University		8.8%	
	A Maine community college		7.8%	
	Thomas College		3.0%	
	Maine Maritime Academy		2.2%	
	University of New England		2.2%	
	Saint Joseph's College		2.2%	
	Bates, Bowdoin, Colby		1.8%	
	other non-UMS school		0.3%	

7.7% of Maine residents enrolled at one of the other New England land-grant universities:

			breakdown of Maine residents	
attending another NELGU: 7.7%	UNH		3.2%	
	UVM		2.6%	
	URI		0.9%	
	UMass		0.6%	
	UConn		0.4%	

Nonresidents (n = 7,494)

The top 20 destination schools for nonresidents appear below, capturing 34.5% of the 7,494 nonresidents for whom the Clearinghouse found an enrollment record.

Top 20 destination schools: Nonresidents

	records reported	% of all records
University of New Hampshire	453	6.0%
University of Rhode Island	262	3.5%
University of Massachusetts, Amherst	259	3.5%
University of Vermont	225	3.0%
University of Connecticut	214	2.9%
University of Massachusetts, Lowell	113	1.5%
Plymouth State University	105	1.4%
Pennsylvania State University	95	1.3%
University of New England	93	1.2%
Bridgewater State University	89	1.2%
Merrimack College	83	1.1%
University of Massachusetts, Boston	81	1.1%
Roger Williams University	76	1.0%
University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth	73	1.0%
Westfield State University	73	1.0%
University of Delaware	67	0.9%
Keene State College	65	0.9%
Quinnipiac University	57	0.8%
Coastal Carolina University	53	0.7%
University of Southern Maine	53	0.7%
	2,589	34.5%

Among nonresidents who were admitted at UMaine but enrolled elsewhere, the overwhelming majority—96.7%—selected a school beyond the Maine border. Less than one fifth of all nonresidents enrolled at another New England land-grant university (18.9%), with University of New Hampshire being the favorite:

	breakdown of nonresidents	
attending another NELGU: 18.9%	UNH	6.0%
	UMass	3.5%
	URI	3.5%
	UVM	3.0%
	UConn	2.9%

1% of nonresidents attended a UMS school: 53 of these 84 students enrolled at USM, 16 at UMF, 7 at UMM, 5 at UMA, 2 at UMPI, and 1 at UMFK.

An additional 2.2% of nonresidents ($n = 162$) enrolled elsewhere in Maine—the largest share, 93, at University of New England:

	breakdown of nonresidents	
attending school in Maine (non-UMS): $n = 162$	University of New England	93
	Husson University	20
	A Maine community college	11
	Bates, Bowdoin, Colby	10
	Saint Joseph's College of Maine	8
	College of the Atlantic	6
	Maine Maritime Academy	5
	Thomas College	4
	Unity College	2
	other non-UMS schools	3

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

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