

Stanford University
Annual Report in Compliance with Education Code 66018.5
Regarding Undergraduate Admissions for Fall 2021 Enrollment
June 2022

Introduction

Stanford admits undergraduate students through a [holistic review](#) process that considers all of the achievements and attributes presented by each applicant to the university, including academic excellence, intellectual vitality, extracurricular activities and personal context.

When a student applies to Stanford, each piece of the application is treated as part of an integrated and comprehensive whole. We look at achievement within each individual student's context, and no portion of the application is considered without the rest. Academic excellence is our primary criterion for admission, and all students who are admitted to Stanford meet the university's admission standards; there are no exceptions.

We welcome each year a group of incredibly accomplished students who reflect astonishing diversity, in all dimensions. Our strong program of need-based financial aid plays a central role in providing accessibility for students of all financial means, and Stanford has further expanded this program in recent years. It now includes provisions that families with annual incomes below \$150,000 and assets typical of that income level receive at least enough scholarship support to cover tuition charges, and that those with incomes below \$75,000 receive support such that they do not need to pay tuition, room or board.

We believe the diversity in background and experience of our entering class each year adds immeasurably to the education of all our students. To get a sense of this diversity, you can view data on the characteristics of last year's enrolled class [here](#).

Most students who apply to and are admitted to Stanford each year have no previous connection to the university. As well, we're proud to welcome to Stanford each year many "first-generation" college attendees whose parents do not hold a bachelor's degree. Among undergraduates admitted to Stanford for Fall 2021, both first-year and transfer students, 19.3% were first-generation college attendees.

We also receive applications from students whose families do have some form of existing connection to Stanford. In recent years there has been increased national interest in two categories of college applicants: (1) "legacy" students who are the children of alumni and/or (2) the children of those who have contributed philanthropically to a university.

At Stanford, "legacy" applicants are defined as the children of Stanford graduates at either the undergraduate or graduate level. With respect to philanthropy, Stanford does not document in admission files the donor status of all applicants' families. However, some applicants' files may contain a notation about their family's giving. In the large majority of these cases, the parents

of the applicants are *also* graduates of Stanford. Philanthropy plays a significant role in supporting the opportunities available to all students at Stanford, including the ability to attend the university through our program of need-based financial aid.

In our holistic review process, applicants are evaluated based on the totality of their accomplishments and attributes, including “legacy” or philanthropic factors as described above, with academic excellence representing the primary criterion for admission. If an applicant to Stanford is not highly competitive academically, an existing family connection or historical giving to the university means nothing in the process.

Stanford’s report to the Legislature last year noted the following: *“In Fall 2020, a larger than usual number of newly admitted students delayed their enrollment at Stanford, due to the pandemic. Thus, in next year’s report, the Fall 2021 numbers of enrolled students who have a legacy or philanthropic affiliation with Stanford can be expected to increase relative to the Fall 2020 numbers in this report.”* Indeed, this year’s report on Fall 2021 reflects this dynamic.

Admission: Among undergraduates *admitted* for Fall 2021 entrance, 304 were the children of Stanford graduates. For some of these students, their admission files also noted a history of philanthropy. An additional 20 admitted students had no legacy affiliation with Stanford, but their admission files noted a history of philanthropy that could be considered along with all other factors in the admission process. Together, those with either of these two characteristics totaled 324 students, or 14.4% of the admitted class. As a point of comparison, first-generation college students represented 19.3% of the admitted class.

Enrollment: However, because an unusually large number of students who were admitted in 2020 delayed entering the university until 2021 due to the pandemic, the Fall 2021 *enrollment* figures reflect higher numbers of students than the 2021 admitted figures. Among undergraduates *enrolling* in the university for the first time in Fall 2021, 384 were the children of Stanford graduates (again, for some of these students, their admission files also noted a history of philanthropy). An additional 19 students had no legacy affiliation with Stanford, but their admission files noted a history of philanthropy that could be considered along with all other factors in the admission process. Together, those with either of these two characteristics totaled 403 students, or 18.4% of the newly enrolling class in Fall 2021. First-generation college students represented 17.6% of the newly enrolling class.

We work each year to help alumni families understand that, because of the volume of applications we receive, most applicants to Stanford unfortunately cannot be admitted. In addition, our development office takes active steps to prevent donors from making a gift to Stanford with any expectation that the gift will influence the admission process, and that understanding is codified in our gift policies.

We welcome to Stanford each year students whose families are already a part of Stanford’s history, and we welcome, in far greater numbers, new members of our community who are beginning new traditions with us. Together they form an inspiring and diverse class of students

from all over the world and all walks of life, contributing in countless varied ways to the educational experience we aspire to offer our students.

AB 697 reporting

As required by AB 697 (Ting, 2019 Session), the Stanford data for undergraduate applicants for Fall 2021 entrance with a relationship to donors or alumni as described above is provided below:

(1) The number of applicants who did not meet the institution's admission standards that apply to all applicants, but who were offered admission: Zero

(2) The number of applicants reported pursuant to paragraph (1) who accepted admission to the institution: Zero

(3) The number of applicants reported pursuant to paragraph (2) who enrolled at the institution: Zero

(4) The number of applicants who met the institution's admission standards that apply to all applicants and who were offered admission: 324

(5) The number of applicants reported pursuant to paragraph (4) who accepted admission to the institution: 295

(6) The number of applicants reported pursuant to paragraph (5) who enrolled at the institution: 403 (due to and including students who were admitted in a prior year and accepted the offer of admission but deferred their enrollment to Fall 2021, as described above)