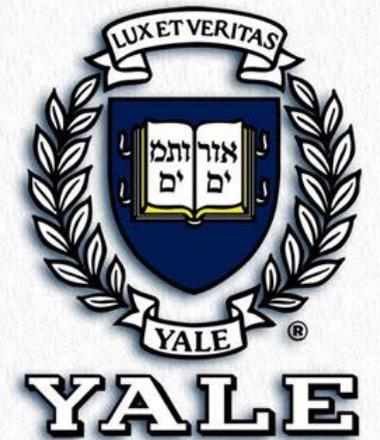


Yale Admissions: 1921- 2021



- Y-H-P before 1920: admit based on academics
 - 1920s: what to do about so many Jewish applicants who were inconveniently smart?
 - Solution: expand admissions criteria to include “character”
 - Y-H-P’s new strategy led US to diverge from the rest of the world
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- Source: Karabel, J. *The Chosen: The Hidden History of Admission and Exclusion at Harvard, Yale, and Princeton*. New York: Mariner, 2006.

1958

- Yale accepting ~60% of applicants
- Majority from prep schools
 - Yale lagged Harvard and Princeton in becoming majority public school
 - Lots of students from Andover etc., almost none from Bronx High School of Science (America's best science/math school at the time)
 - Lower percentage of Jews than any other Ivy school
 - Some observers viewed Yale as "the most inbred and backward-looking" of the Ivies

Since 1958

- US population up about 50% (180 million to 330 million)
- Yale College population up about the same amount
 - Morse and Stiles in 60s
 - Franklin and Murray a few years ago

1962-1965

- Griswold's Committee on the Freshman Experience reported 1962
 - "Where tradition and excellence are in conflict, tradition must give way, and Yale must step up to the responsibilities that America now expects of its institutions."
- Griswold dies 1963 (age 56)
- Kingman Brewster president in 1964
- Yale adopts need blind admissions
- R. Inslee "Inky" Clark admissions director in 1965
- Inky's first class (Class of '70)
 - More diverse in terms of race, ethnicity and geography
 - Much stronger academically (Yale's test scores made their biggest jump ever: about 80 points in Verbal, 60 points in math)
 -

Inky and a member of the corporation

- Corp. Member: You're admitting an entirely different class than we're used to. You're admitting them for a different purpose than training leaders.
- Clark: In a changing America, leaders might come from nontraditional sources, including high school graduates, Jews, minorities, even women.
- Corp Member: Look around you at this table. These are America's leaders. There are no Jews here. There are no public school graduates here.
- Source: Malkiel, N. W. *Keep the Damned Women Out*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2016.

1969

- Yale admits first women undergraduates (250 for class of '73)

1970 to 2021

- Applicant pool slowly drifted up from around 10,000 to 13,000 for class of 2000
- 1998: Common app goes digital
- Class of 2010: 21,000 applicants
- This year: test optional, 46,000 applicants

Questions

- Should Yale admissions favor people like us?
- Should Yale admit solely based on demonstrated academic achievement (forget character, athletics, legacy status etc.)?
 - Would favor Asian-Americans, disfavor Blacks, Hispanics and poor people
- Should it continue to affirmatively seek greater diversity in race, ethnicity, income?
- [Wild card question:] Should Yale clone itself by creating a new campus somewhere in the US far from New Haven?
 - Amazon strategy: make us an offer?