DUKE OFFERS ADMISSION TO 3,655 APPLICANTS

DURHAM, N.C. – Top students from every state and several nations have begun receiving acceptance letters for fall admission to Duke University.

Those accepting Duke’s offers of admission, which were mailed last week, along with 537 early-decision students, will comprise the 1,605 students the university targets for enrollment in the Class of 2003. Duke offered admission to a total of 3,655 students.

Christoph Guttentag, director of undergraduate admissions, said the admit rate, which dropped from 28 percent to 26 percent, will be the lowest since 1993. Last year, 90 more students than expected matriculated. This year, in order to keep the class size at about 1,600, Duke made 300 fewer offers.

“In other words, we will be the most selective we’ve been since 1993. I expect that our matriculant yield will be about where it was last year when the percentage of students accepting our offer of admission was the highest since 1990 and I expect it will be about the same this year.”

Guttentag said there was an increase since last year in the number of students seeking admission to Trinity College and a decrease in those seeking admission into Engineering. This year’s applicant pool of 13,840 applicants is down slightly from last year’s 13,940.

“One of the things we were pleased with was that the applicants from North Carolina were a stronger group academically than last year, allowing us to admit more,” Guttentag said. “When the dust settles, I certainly expect that North Carolina will again have more first year students than any other state.” I think at least 15 percent of the class will come from North and South Carolina.”

The states Guttentag named as the top five for admitted students are: California, New York, North Carolina, Florida and Texas.

This year, 4,200 applicants were students of color, a slight increase from last year. Duke received 900 applications from international students, slightly less than last year.

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“Sixty-three percent of the students we admitted indicated they would apply for financial aid,” Guttentag added. “To me, this is an indication that we continue to appeal to students from a broad range of backgrounds.”

About 40 percent applied from high schools that don’t rank their graduates.

“This takes more work on our part to understand a student’s academic performance within that high school,” he added.

Among the high schools that do provide class rankings, one in six of those admitted to Duke was ranked number 1 in his or her class and more than half were in the top 10. About 1,800 of the Duke applicants had SAT scores of 1,500 or higher (1,600 is the perfect score).

“We had 134 applicants who had perfect scores and not all of those were admitted,” Guttentag added. “I think that gives us some indication of how competitive admission to Duke has become.”

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