



# Admissions News



## Dear colleague:

If spring is here, summer has to be on its way, and I hope that means some well-deserved vacation! As we conclude a most unusual year of a significant increase in freshman applications to Ohio State, I wanted to make an observation that I think we probably all share. In all of my years in higher education (and I am old!), I have never known there to be such a college admissions frenzy as we have been experiencing for the past couple of years. The newspapers and television media carry weekly and sometimes daily stories about college application numbers, waitlists, yield statistics, essay tutors, etc., etc. The anxiety levels of families seem to be rising higher and higher. When students (and their parents) are applying to 10 and 15 institutions in the belief that they are protecting some of their options, in essence the feeding frenzy only grows and results in more denials. I know we are all facing this challenge of trying to get students and families on a calmer trajectory. There are enough spaces in our colleges and universities for every student who wishes to go to college.

Ohio State will work diligently to try to target as much of our recruitment materials and messages as possible to students who we believe will be admissible to the Columbus campus, and we will continue to remind students about their other options on our regional campuses. We know that most of the press is generated about a relatively small number of colleges, primarily on the east and west coasts, but our Midwestern families read those same stories and assume the same concerns. As we move ahead into the next admissions cycle, I look forward to working together to educate students and families about the broad spectrum of college opportunities.

On the reverse side of this newsletter, you'll find a story about our latest record first-year retention rate; we're proud to report that the gap between minority and majority student retention has nearly closed. In addition, we were pleased to welcome Julia Benz, director of Student Financial Aid, to Ohio State last fall. Julia's experience and commitment to access to education are a perfect match with university goals. Finally, we are so proud of our students—and there are many of them—who participate in service-learning to help with tough issues, learn about themselves, and strengthen their resumes; read about Alternative Spring Break on the other side.

As always, please don't hesitate to contact us with any questions or suggestions. Contact information for each of our territory-based admissions counselors can be found at [hscounselors.osu.edu](http://hscounselors.osu.edu), and we can always be reached during business hours at (614) 292-3980.

Thank you for all of your hard work this year. Enjoy that vacation!

Sincerely,

Mabel G. Freeman, Ph.D.  
Assistant Vice President, Undergraduate Admissions  
and First Year Experience

## Looking forward: 2007–08 admissions changes

In the upcoming autumn 2007 edition of *Admissions News* we'll be talking about changes to some of the following key programs, publications, and processes:

### 1. Ohio State's viewbook and application

In response to feedback from counselors, we'll be sending our viewbook and application to high schools as two separate documents (and we'll send fewer viewbooks and more applications).

### 2. Changes to Honors and Scholars eligibility

#### *Honors criteria:*

ACT score of 30 or higher OR  
combined SAT Critical Reading  
and Math score of 1340 or higher  
Top 10% of graduating class

#### *Scholars criteria:*

ACT score of 27 or higher OR  
combined SAT Critical Reading  
and Math score of 1220 or higher  
Top 20% of graduating class

### 3. Changes and updates to merit scholarships

### 4. Application deadlines

We will require that all supporting materials be postmarked by the same deadline as the application for admission.

### 5. Test score policy

We will only accept ACT and SAT scores sent from the testing agency. Scores from transcripts will not be used.

**Have a great summer!**

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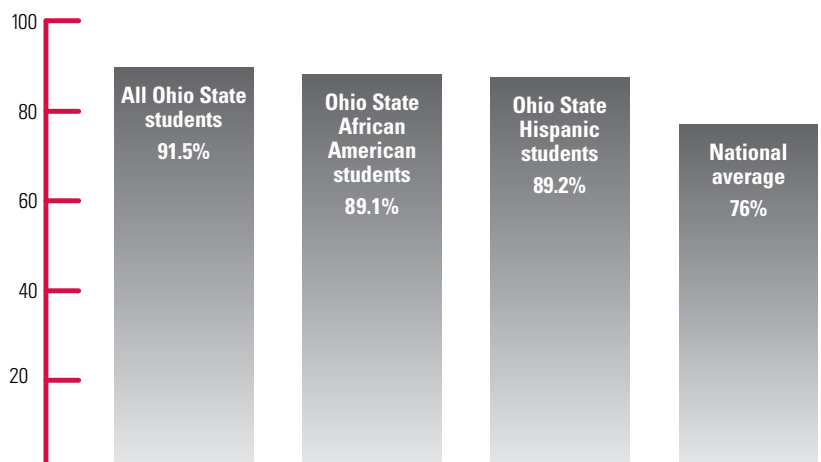
## Record-high retention once again

The freshman class of '05 returned to the university last fall in record numbers. Ohio State's overall first-year retention climbed to 91.5 percent, up from 89.7 percent a year ago. The national average first-year retention rate is 76 percent.

The gap between minority and majority student retention has nearly closed: 89.1 percent of first-year African American students and 89.2 percent of Hispanic students returned this fall for their second year, both all-time highs for Ohio State.

The strength of our freshman class profile (once again the strongest in university history) is certainly a major factor in retention gains. Stronger students are more likely to thrive in their first year and need far less remediation (the percentage of students enrolling in remedial English and math classes has declined dramatically over the last decade).

Strong orientation and first-year programs also translate into better student retention. Learn more about First Year Experience at Ohio State by visiting [fye.osu.edu](http://fye.osu.edu).



## Welcome to Julia Benz

Undergraduate Admissions and First Year Experience welcomes Julia Benz, who joined Ohio State last fall as director of the Office of Student Financial Aid. Julia replaced Tally Hart, who has gone on to serve as senior advisor for the university's Office of Economic Access.

Julia has 24 years of experience in public and private universities. Prior to coming to Ohio State, she was financial aid director at Rice University in Houston, and before that she served as associate director for student financial aid at Macalester College in St. Paul, and program director for student financial aid at the University of Minnesota.

Julia currently is a member of the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators. Her background includes serving on diversity task forces, working with technology, and facilitating superior staff development. She received her undergraduate degree from the University of Minnesota. Julia tells us she's excited to be at Ohio State, where the goals of access and quality education fit nicely with her personal philosophy.



Julia Benz

## Service / learning: Alternative Spring Break

This past March, 130 service-minded students spent a week participating in Ohio State's Alternative Spring Break (ASB). This annual program—now in its fourth year—sends groups to locales around the country (and one abroad) to learn about an important social, environmental, and/or health-related issue. This year's groups immersed themselves in:

- hunger and homelessness (the Bronx)
- urban and rural poverty (Quito, Ecuador)
- preserving ecosystems (the Everglades)
- teenage pregnancy and self-esteem (Atlanta)
- life-challenging illnesses (Washington, DC)
- children and HIV/AIDS (Willow River, Minnesota)
- poverty and homelessness (Habitat for Humanity in Hilton Head, South Carolina, and Slidell, Louisiana)
- animal rights (the Elephant Sanctuary in Hohenwald, Tennessee)

Activities ranged from preparing meals, building wheelchair ramps, and improving grounds, to working with children and meeting with organizers and activists to learn more about the issues.

Buckeyes are active volunteers, whether through programs like ASB, through a wide variety of service-based student organizations, or through service-learning courses that combine active community service and classroom learning. Ohio State is committed to service learning because it helps students develop citizenship skills and learn social responsibility while enhancing the impact the university can have on local and world communities.

