

## Macro Roundup Article

**Headline:** [Diversifying Society's Leaders? The Determinants and Causal Effects of Admission to Highly Selective Private Colleges](#)

### Article

**Link:** [https://opportunityinsights.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/CollegeAdmissions\\_Paper.pdf](https://opportunityinsights.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/CollegeAdmissions_Paper.pdf)

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Publication	National Bureau of Economic Research
Publication Date	July 24, 2023

**Tweet:** [@OppInsights](#) finds that the “Ivy-Plus” (Ivy League, plus UChicago, Duke, MIT, Stanford) admit students from the highest income families scoring in the top 1% of SAT/ACT at far greater rates than those from lower-income families.

**Summary:** Children from families in the top 1% are more than twice as likely to attend an Ivy-Plus college (Ivy League, Stanford, MIT, Duke, and Chicago) as those from middle-class families with comparable SAT/ACT scores. Two-thirds of this gap is due to higher admissions rates for students with comparable test scores from high-income families; the remaining third is due to differences in rates of application and matriculation. The high-income admissions advantage at private colleges is driven by three factors: (1) preferences for children of alumni, (2) weight placed on non-academic credentials, which tend to be stronger for students applying from private high schools that have affluent student bodies, and (3) recruitment of athletes, who tend to come from higher-income families. Highly selective public colleges that follow more standardized processes to evaluate applications exhibit smaller disparities in admissions rates by parental income than private colleges that use more holistic evaluations. Related: [Why Do Wages Grow Faster for Educated Workers?](#) and [Multidimensional Human Capital and the Wage Structure and The Economics of Inequality in High-Wage Economies](#)

**Primary Topic:** College

**Topics:** Academic paper, College, Database, Education, Important!, Test Scores, Weekly

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