

Nine for Nine: Yale's Commitments to Increase College Opportunity for Low-income Students

A progress update on the [White House Call to Action on College Opportunity](#)

In January 2014, Yale delivered nine commitments to increase college opportunity for low-income students as part of the President and First Lady's Call to Action on College Opportunity. After 18 months, Yale has met or exceeded its goals for all nine commitments. As the university pursues these commitments, socioeconomic diversity in Yale College continues to expand. The number of freshmen receiving Pell Grants has increased 43% from the Class of 2017 to the Class of 2019, and the number of first-generation college students has increased 22% during the same time.

- ❖ **Commitment 1:** Increase the number of QuestBridge finalists enrolling in the Yale College freshman class from roughly 50-60 to 75-80 in the Yale classes of 2018 and 2019.

Result: The number of QuestBridge finalists at Yale has increased dramatically: 80 members of the Yale Class of 2018 and 88 members of the Class of 2019 are QuestBridge finalists.

- ❖ **Commitment 2:** Continue providing a cohort of incoming low-income and first-generation students an early Yale experience by living and studying on campus for five weeks in the summer with the Freshman Scholars at Yale (FSY) program, and increase the number of students served.

Result: An extremely positive assessment of FSY's first two summer programs led to an expansion from 33 students to 48 students for summer 2015. Program administrators aim to further expand FSY in coming years.

- ❖ **Commitment 3:** Develop online course modules in pre-calculus that build on Yale's successes in offering different models for online courses.

Result: In collaboration with Jim Rolf in the Department of Mathematics, Yale College launched Online Experiences for Yale Scholars (ONEXYS), a five-week online summer math program for incoming freshmen. The successful pilot with 20 students in summer 2014 is expanding to more than 60 students for summer 2015 and will include three new tracks, an adaptive learning platform, and new peer support structures.

- ❖ **Commitment 4:** Beginning in fall 2014, conduct joint outreach sessions with an access-centered message with Harvard, Princeton, and the University of Virginia.

Result: In fall 2014, the consortium reached more than 5,000 students in 18 cities. Attendees at these sessions were the most diverse group of prospects reached through a travel initiative across all categories.

- ❖ **Commitment 5:** In the 2014-2015 academic year, send more than 300 Student Ambassadors to visit more than 600 high schools during term breaks to make presentations about Yale College admissions and financial aid.
Result: The program has successfully expanded to include 344 Yale students in 2014-2015, who visited a total of 676 high schools in 39 states.
- ❖ **Commitment 6:** Send three directed mailings to 20,000 high-achieving low-income students to raise awareness on aid policies, provide counseling, and encourage fee waivers.
Result: More than 20,000 students have been reached through the initiative, which will continue in summer 2015. Applications from targeted students have outpaced overall application growth in the past two years, and the number of admitted students from these targeted areas has increased 36%.
- ❖ **Commitment 7:** Sign on to Say Yes to Education's College Compact and pay the tuition and fees for any admitted student from the program whose family makes less than \$75,000/year.
Result: Yale joined the Say Yes to Education College Compact for the 2014-2015 application cycle.
- ❖ **Commitment 8:** Build on existing efforts to provide need-based financial aid to all admitted students who demonstrate financial need, with aid packages that meet the full cost of attendance without requiring loans.
Result: The average annual grant from Yale to students receiving financial aid is more than \$42,000, and the median net price for families receiving financial aid is less than \$12,000 per year. Since 2008 Yale has not included loans in its financial aid awards. Eighty-four percent of Yale College students in the Class of 2014 graduated debt -free.
- ❖ **Commitment 9:** Build on existing effort with programs that target low-income students such as Bulldog Days Fly-In, College Summit, and Y-Apply.
Result: Yale recently launched new partnerships with Say Yes to Education, the EMERGE-HISD Program, Leadership Enterprise for a Diverse America (LEDA), and the College Board's new Realize Your College Potential Program. More than 350 admitted students received the offer of full financial assistance to travel to campus for Bulldog Days in April 2015.