Caroline Neville

Department of Applied Psychology and Human Development, Boston College

APSY2243.01: Social Oppression and Transformation

Professor Scott Seider

May 9, 2021

Unit Compelling Question: How does your gender impact the college admissions process?

Title: The Universal College Application introduces gender identity questions.

Author: Nancy Griesemer

Text Type: Article

Link: [https://medium.com/@nancygriesemer/the-universal-college-application-introduces-gender-ident ity-questions-92b49b10dd7a](https://medium.com/@nancygriesemer/the-universal-college-application-introduces-gender-identity-questions-92b49b10dd7a)

Summary: The Universal College Application (UCA) announced that its application will now include a change in its question about an applicant’s sex along with the addition of a new gender identity question. The UCA is the first in its industry to make this change but the Common Application shortly followed. This change took place after requests from member universities and national LGBTQ student advisory organizations. The modifications to the UCA will allow applicants to fill out their legal sexual identity but also leave an optional open field regarding gender identity. It’s important to note that one of the motivations behind an inclusive college application is the legal concerns over Title IX.

Title: How Gender Influences College Admissions

Author: Ilana Kowarski

Text Type: Article

Link:

[https://www.usnews.com/education/best-colleges/articles/2018-11-02/how-gender-influences-col lege-admissions](https://www.usnews.com/education/best-colleges/articles/2018-11-02/how-gender-influences-college-admissions)

Summary: Although applicants may not realize it, their gender influences college admission decisions. Many colleges aim for diversity and this is accomplished by maintaining a 50/50 ratio between men and women. If the university aims for this then being part of the minority can increase the likelihood of being accepted. For example, coed schools that were previously single-sex schools tend to focus on recruiting students from the minority gender. Furthermore, students that have achievements in an academic area where their gender is typically the minority such as women in science then these students may have an advantage in the admissions process. These findings translate into the message that academic interests that coincide with traditional gender roles may negatively impact your admissions. It’s crucial to take your gender into account when applying to colleges.

Title: Why Men Are the New College Minority

Author: Jon Marcus

Text Type: Article

Link: [https://www.theatlantic.com/education/archive/2017/08/why-men-are-the-new-college-minority/ 536103/](https://www.theatlantic.com/education/archive/2017/08/why-men-are-the-new-college-minority/536103/)

Summary: In the past, men have outnumbered women when attending college but now this trend is reversing. In the fall of 2017, women represent over 56% of students on campuses across the U.S. This shift has caused men to become the new minority on college campuses. Colleges are aiming to attract male students, but face the problem of men not wanting to obtain a college degree. The gender disparity begins as early as kindergarten where boys take longer to learn reading than girls. By high school, many boys have lost interest in pursuing higher education. They don’t see the benefits of paying high prices to sacrifice years. Men lack the proper role models and feel that they have numerous alternatives. Overall, college men are more likely to drop out and graduate at lower rates than women. There’s also a racial factor at play because many boys are White and not from perceived oppressed groups. This prevents White young men from receiving the push needed to pursue higher education.

Title: Transgender Students at Women’s Colleges

Author: The New York Times

Text Type: article (opinion)

Link: https://www.nytimes.com/2015/05/05/opinion/transgender-students-at-womens-colleges.html Summary: In recent years, admissions officers at women’s colleges have been faced with questions surrounding the gender transition process in student applicants and whether they’re considered a woman. In 2015, Smith College became one of many universities to solve this problem by welcoming transgender women as applicants. Smith College has evolved as just two years prior, a transgender woman applicant publicly shared how she was denied because her birth certificate deemed her as male. This form of trans oppression is beginning to be recognized at colleges and colleges are becoming more intuned with the issues behind gender identity.

Title: ‘I Can Exist Here’: On Gender Identity, Some Colleges Are Opening Up

Author: Jessica Yarmosky

Text Type: Article

Link:

https://www.npr.org/2019/03/21/693953037/i-can-exist-here-on-gender-identity-some-colleges-a re-opening-up

Summary: A decade ago, the University of Vermont became the first school in the U.S. that gave students the option to enter pronouns into campus data systems. In 2019, at least 20 universities have followed suit. It’s significant to note that over 50 schools let students change their gender that’s listed on their school record without medical evidence and over 180 schools permit students to use a different name than their legal one. These efforts are to prevent the misgendering of transgender and gender-nonconforming individuals. This focus on gender identity is being played out both in the professional and legal realms. Pronouns have become part of the college culture where students and faculty introduce themselves via pronouns. Although colleges are becoming more gender-inclusive, there has been some backlash regarding the use of pronouns. Even schools that do incorporate pronouns still approach things from the gender binary approach, such as sports, which is discriminatory and problematic.