

FALL 2027 APPLICATION PORTFOLIO • REALITY-FIRST PLAN • COMMON APP

High-achieving Kentucky senior exploring business, entrepreneurship, analytics, and technology

4.0 unweighted GPA, 1460 SAT, strong college-preparatory rigor, state-level business competition success, selective summer academic participation, varsity athletics, and a small independent creator project.

SAT 1460

Business

Entrepreneurship

Finance

Business analytics

Applied technology

START HERE

Executive summary

The strongest list is not the one with the most famous names. It is the one where each school contributes a distinct, defensible reason to apply.

PORTFOLIO SHAPE 4 safe / 4 target / 2 reach

MOST DISTINCTIVE FITS

- Denison for interdisciplinary business + entrepreneurship + close mentoring
- DePauw for Management Fellows and structured experiential business education
- Cincinnati for required co-op and analytics
- Pittsburgh for urban internships and research-university scale
- Ohio State for breadth, employer access, and large-campus opportunity

APPLICATION STRATEGY

Protect early and scholarship-priority deadlines at foundation/target schools, reserve substantial application effort for the two reaches, and use campus visits to resolve environment questions rather than relying on rankings.

Strategy

PORTFOLIO GOAL

Create a balanced 10-school standard-application portfolio that gives the student realistic choices while demonstrating meaningful differences in business education, campus environment, experiential learning, and career access.

FINANCIAL RULE

Evaluate net price, institutional aid, merit opportunities, and cost risk, but do not let price alone dominate school selection.

WHAT "SAFE" MEANS HERE

Safe schools combine comparatively favorable admission prospects with genuine student fit and a plausible reason to attend.

FIT RULE

Every primary school must offer a concrete academic, experiential, environmental, or career reason that is specific to this student.

DISTANCE RULE

Regional convenience is useful but may be overridden by materially stronger opportunity.

PARENT/STUDENT BALANCE

Student willingness is required for a primary recommendation; parent priorities inform but do not substitute for student fit.

REDUNDANCY RULE

Avoid multiple schools that serve the same role unless they differ materially in program, environment, career pathway, or admission strategy.

RANKING METHOD

Rank by student fit, program differentiation, experiential and career opportunity, admission viability, and application value; use cost as an important but secondary factor.

TEST STRATEGY

Use the 1460 strategically based on each institution's current testing policy; reassess if a later score materially changes reach competitiveness.

The application list

Ranked by the chance of a usable outcome for this student, not by prestige. "Admission" is the chance of getting in; "Cost likely works" is whether the school is likely to be affordable *if admitted*, after aid and merit. Each school links to its full dossier below.

RANK	SCHOOL & PROGRAM	BUCKET	ADMISSION	COST LIKELY WORKS
1	Denison University Global Commerce / business-analytics pathway Granville, Ohio	Reach	Reach	Very workable
2	DePauw University Business/entrepreneurship via Management Fellows and liberal arts Greencastle, Indiana	Target	Likely	Workable
3	University of Kentucky Gatton College of Business and Economics Lexington, Kentucky	Safe	Strong	Very workable
4	Georgetown University McDonough School of Business Washington, D.C.	Reach	High reach	Workable
5	University of Cincinnati Lindner College of Business Cincinnati, Ohio	Safe	Likely	Workable
6	Miami University (Ohio) Farmer School of Business Oxford, Ohio	Safe	Strong	Workable
7	University of Pittsburgh Pitt Business Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania	Target	Likely	Workable
8	University of Louisville College of Business Louisville, Kentucky	Safe	Strong	Very workable
9	The Ohio State University Fisher College of Business Columbus, Ohio	Target	Competitive	Workable

RANK	SCHOOL & PROGRAM	BUCKET	ADMISSION	COST LIKELY WORKS
10	Centre College Business / Economics Danville, Kentucky	Target	Likely	Workable

LANE A, BY OUTCOME SAFETY

Safe, target, and reach

The same ranked schools, grouped by how dependable the outcome is, so the list balances anchors against upside.

Safe 4 schools

A strong chance of admission and a cost that is likely to work after aid and merit. Your dependable anchors.

University of Kentucky
3

Gatton College of Business and Economics
 Lexington, Kentucky

Large-university safe-tier choice

Admission
Strong

Cost likely works
Very workable

University of Cincinnati
5

Lindner College of Business
 Cincinnati, Ohio

Co-op-driven urban business safe-tier choice

Admission
Likely

Cost likely works
Workable

Miami University (Ohio)
6

Farmer School of Business
 Oxford, Ohio

Traditional business-school safe-tier choice

Admission
Strong

Cost likely works
Workable

University of Louisville
8

College of Business
 Louisville, Kentucky

Nearby urban business safe-tier choice

Admission
Strong

Cost likely works
Very workable

Target

4 schools

A realistic chance where admission and cost both have to break your way.

DePauw University

2

Business/entrepreneurship via Management
Fellows and liberal arts
Greencastle, Indiana

Experiential business target

Admission
Likely

Cost likely works
Workable

University of Pittsburgh

7

Pitt Business
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Urban analytics and internship target

Admission
Likely

Cost likely works
Workable

The Ohio State University

9

Fisher College of Business
Columbus, Ohio

Large-scale business and technology target

Admission
Competitive

Cost likely works
Workable

Centre College

10

Business / Economics
Danville, Kentucky

Small-college mentoring target

Admission
Likely

Cost likely works
Workable

Reach

2 schools

A lower chance, worth applying for a specific high-upside outcome.

Denison University

1

Global Commerce / business-analytics
pathway

Granville, Ohio

High-fit interdisciplinary business reach

Admission
Reach

Cost likely works
Very workable

Georgetown University

4

McDonough School of Business
Washington, D.C.

High-upside business and D.C. reach

Admission
High reach

Cost likely works
Workable

DRILL-DOWN LAYER

Full Lane A dossiers

The table answers where to apply. These answer what the student is actually applying for.

Denison University

Global Commerce / business-analytics pathway · Granville, Ohio · Active residential college-town/suburban campus in Granville, Ohio

Admission **Reach** **Cost likely works** **Very workable**

Student: enthusiastic

Parent: positive

Would attend: yes

Bottom line. A distinctive option for a business-oriented student who wants unusually strong mentorship, entrepreneurship access, and interdisciplinary flexibility.

Why it belongs. Global Commerce, Denison Edge, Red Frame Lab, strong advising, and a residential academic environment create a differentiated path rather than a generic small-college experience.

Why the student might love it. The school combines close faculty access with practical career and entrepreneurship infrastructure that can make a smaller campus feel opportunity-rich.

Main catches.

- Smaller than the student's usual preference.
- Admission is selective enough that it should be treated as a reach rather than a dependable outcome.

What would make it a real choice. A campus visit that confirms the smaller environment feels active enough and an aid offer the family considers reasonable.

Admission

OVERALL ADMIT RATE

Current institutional selectivity used as context; exact Fall 2027 rate not yet known.

PROGRAM/DIRECT-ADMIT RATE

Program-specific freshman rate not published or not used unless noted.

ACADEMIC CONTEXT

4.0 GPA, 1460 SAT, strong college-preparatory rigor, DECA/GSP profile.

TEST POLICY

Current-cycle policy checked where consequential; Fall 2027 updates should be rechecked before submission.

SUPERSCORE

Use current institutional policy at application time; no unsupported superscore assumption used here.

EARLY OPTIONS

Early Decision I and II (binding) or Regular Decision; no Early Action.

APPLICATION DEADLINE

Current Fall 2027 deadline should be confirmed on the admission portal before submission.

HONORS DEADLINE

Requires confirmation unless explicitly documented.

Financial aid & merit

COST OF ATTENDANCE

2027-28 published total direct cost \$96,400 before aid.

MEETS NEED

Denison states it meets 100% of demonstrated need; its Fall 2027 Denison Commitment promises \$0 toward tuition for eligible families at or below \$100,000 with typical assets.

LOAN EXPECTATION

Not assumed unless explicitly documented.

NEED-BASED PATH

Denison states it meets 100% of demonstrated need; its Fall 2027 Denison Commitment promises \$0 toward tuition for eligible families at or below \$100,000 with typical assets.

AUTOMATIC MERIT

No automatic full-cost award assumed.

COMPETITIVE MERIT

Merit exists but is not needed to establish the tuition commitment.

FULL-TUITION OPTIONS

Merit may cover tuition but commitment/merit interaction is governed by institutional aid.

FULL-COST OPTIONS

No guaranteed full-cost promise from income alone; housing/food remain the key residual question.

SPECIAL BENEFITS

None assumed unless stated.

STACKING

Do not assume stacking without current official confirmation.

RENEWAL

Four-year continuation depends on each award/aid program's published renewal rules.

REQUIRED FORMS

FAFSA/CSS Profile and institutional documentation as required.

Program

School / college. Denison University

Degree structure. Liberal-arts BA pathways rather than a conventional BBA.

Entry. Major declaration within the liberal-arts structure; Global Commerce is a distinct interdisciplinary major.

Likely path. Global Commerce or an economics/data-oriented pathway paired with entrepreneurship and analytics experiences.

Majors. Global Commerce, Economics

Concentrations. Global commerce emphasis

Minors / certificates. Data Analytics and related interdisciplinary options

Entrepreneurship. Red Frame Lab / entrepreneurship ecosystem

Technology / analytics. Excel, financial analysis, quantitative work embedded in Global Commerce

Cross-disciplinary. Global Commerce intentionally connects economics, culture, history and business

Honors / fellows. Selective fellows/honors opportunities should be verified separately

Centers / labs / funds. Denison Edge; Red Frame Lab

Capstone / signature experience. Senior Global Commerce London capstone with executive/site exposure

Distinctive facts.

- Global Commerce explicitly develops financial analysis and Excel skills.
- The major is interdisciplinary rather than a conventional BBA.
- The senior London capstone gives the program a distinctive global-business endpoint.

Relevant courses. Financial analysis, Global commerce seminar/capstone work

Experiential learning

Internships. Career/internship programming through Denison Edge

Paid work. Student work and internships are available; no universal paid guarantee assumed.

Consulting projects. Project/client-oriented work through Edge and academic programs

Venture / startup. Red Frame Lab entrepreneurship programs

Research. Undergraduate liberal-arts research opportunities

Study abroad. Global Commerce London capstone and broader off-campus study options

Student organizations. Business/entrepreneurship organizations

Other. Denison Edge provides career-launch programming distinct from a conventional business-school model.

Career

Placement. Denison Edge provides a dedicated career-launch platform; no unsupported universal placement percentage used.

Salary. No program-wide salary claim used.

Recruiting strengths. Career readiness, entrepreneurship, liberal-arts-to-business translation

Career geography. Nationally oriented with Midwest strength

Alumni network. Active alumni network; exact outcomes vary by pathway.

Career support. Denison Edge career coaching and experiential programming.

Campus & fit

UNDERGRADUATE SIZE

**About 2,300
undergraduates**

SETTING

**Active residential
college-town/suburban
campus in Granville,
Ohio**

RESIDENTIAL MODEL

**Residential
undergraduate
environment; details
vary by institution.**

TRAVEL PRACTICALITY

**Driveable from central
Kentucky; Columbus
access materially
improves internships
and travel.**

CLIMATE FIT

**Neutral to positive;
climate is not a hard
constraint.**

ACADEMIC ENVIRONMENT

**Intellectually engaged
residential liberal-arts
setting.**

CITY / EMPLOYER ACCESS

**Columbus regional
employer access.**

STUDENT PREF. ALIGNMENT

**very strong despite
smaller size**

PARENT PREF. ALIGNMENT

strong

DISTANCE PENALTY

low

Distance override. Smaller size is overcome by explicit student enthusiasm, unusually strong financial architecture, and distinctive interdisciplinary business/analytics fit.

What four years could look like

Overview. A small-college exception that can still produce a sophisticated business/analytics/entrepreneurship path.

Freshman & sophomore years. Build quantitative/economic foundations, explore Global Commerce, and use Edge/Red Frame early.

Junior & senior years. Deepen analytics/finance work, pursue internships, and potentially culminate in the London Global Commerce capstone.

Signature experiences.

- Denison Edge
- Red Frame Lab
- Global Commerce London capstone

Combining primary & secondary interests. Business + analytics + entrepreneurship without requiring a traditional BBA.

Career trajectory. Business analyst, finance/consulting, entrepreneurial or tech-business entry roles.

Why this could fit the student's dreams. It combines the student's strong revealed interest with a credible path to very low tuition and unusually distinctive experiences.

How it compares

Closest competitors. DePauw University, Georgetown University

Better than those because. More transparent Fall 2027 tuition protection and explicit student enthusiasm.

Weaker than those because. Less scale, fewer direct business majors, and potentially more self-help than a true full-cost guarantee.

Distinctive value. Interdisciplinary Global Commerce + Edge + \$0-tuition commitment.

Fit

Strengths

- student enthusiasm
- Fall 2027 tuition commitment
- analytics/entrepreneurship fit

Trade-offs

- small size
- housing/food residual risk

Preference alignment. enthusiastic

Parent alignment. positive

Why ranked here. Ranks first because the student would genuinely attend and the financial mechanism is materially stronger than most nonbinding options.

What could move it up. A more certain very low net price and/or stronger student commitment.

What could move it down. A materially worse net-price result, scholarship miss, or changed student willingness.

How & when to apply

Recommended round. Regular Decision, or Early Decision if Denison becomes a clear first choice

Why this round. Denison offers Early Decision I and II and Regular Decision; it does not offer Early Action. Regular Decision keeps options open; use Early Decision only when ready to commit.

Next actions.

- Visit or interview if available
- Run current net-price calculator
- Confirm Fall 2027 deadlines

Test-score scenarios

SAT 1460 CURRENT

Admission: Current planning baseline. · Financial: No discrete current merit threshold identified at 1500 or 1540. · Materiality: baseline

SAT 1500

Admission: Modest qualitative strengthening where scores are considered; no mechanical probability jump assumed. · Financial: No discrete current merit threshold identified at 1500 or 1540. · Materiality: low-to-moderate

SAT 1540

Admission: Stronger testing signal at selective schools, but holistic selectivity remains dominant. · Financial: No discrete current merit threshold identified at 1500 or 1540. · Materiality: moderate at reaches; otherwise limited

Evidence

- Denison Commitment VERIFIED_PRIMARY
- Affordability and Cost VERIFIED_PRIMARY
- Global Commerce VERIFIED_PRIMARY
- Denison Edge VERIFIED_PRIMARY

LANE A #2 • TARGET • EXPERIENTIAL BUSINESS TARGET

DePauw University

Business/entrepreneurship via Management Fellows and liberal arts · Greencastle, Indiana · Small active college town in Greencastle, Indiana

Admission Likely **Cost likely works** **Workable**

Student: enthusiastic

Parent: positive

Would attend: yes

Bottom line. One of the strongest experiential-business fits in the portfolio.

Why it belongs. Management Fellows, the McDermond Center, a paid internship structure, and a tight alumni network provide a concrete business-development path.

Why the student might love it. It offers a small-college environment with unusually career-intensive business programming and close access to mentors.

Main catches.

- Management Fellows is selective.
- The smaller setting should be tested in person.

What would make it a real choice. Strong personal fit on campus and access to the experiential programs that distinguish DePauw.

Admission

OVERALL ADMIT RATE

Current institutional selectivity used as context; exact Fall 2027 rate not yet known.

PROGRAM/DIRECT-ADMIT RATE

Program-specific freshman rate not published or not used unless noted.

ACADEMIC CONTEXT

4.0 GPA, 1460 SAT, strong college-preparatory rigor, DECA/GSP profile.

TEST POLICY

Current-cycle policy checked where consequential; Fall 2027 updates should be rechecked before submission.

SUPERSCORE

Use current institutional policy at application time; no unsupported superscore assumption used here.

APPLICATION DEADLINE

Current Fall 2027 deadline should be confirmed on the admission portal before submission.

HONORS DEADLINE

Requires confirmation unless explicitly documented.

Financial aid & merit

COST OF ATTENDANCE

Current published cost is high; institutional aid is essential.

MEETS NEED

DePauw states it meets 100% of calculated need for incoming first-year students beginning Fall 2026.

LOAN EXPECTATION

Not assumed unless explicitly documented.

NEED-BASED PATH

DePauw states it meets 100% of calculated need for incoming first-year students beginning Fall 2026.

AUTOMATIC MERIT

No automatic full-cost guarantee assumed.

COMPETITIVE MERIT

Rector and other major merit awards are competitive.

FULL-TUITION OPTIONS

Rector can reach full tuition for a small top cohort.

FULL-COST OPTIONS

No guaranteed full-cost award; need-based package must cover living cost within the family ceiling.

SPECIAL BENEFITS

None assumed unless stated.

STACKING

Do not assume stacking without current official confirmation.

RENEWAL

Four-year continuation depends on each award/aid program's published renewal rules.

REQUIRED FORMS

FAFSA/CSS/institutional forms as currently required.

Program

School / college. DePauw University

Degree structure. Liberal-arts degree with strong business-oriented fellows and economics/finance pathways.

Entry. General admission first; Management Fellows is selective and separate.

Likely path. Economics/business-adjacent coursework plus Management Fellows if selected, entrepreneurship through McDermond, and analytics/technology electives.

Majors. Economics and business-adjacent liberal-arts pathways

Minors / certificates. Entrepreneurship/business-related minors and certificates as available

Entrepreneurship. McDermond Center; Management Fellows

Technology / analytics. Quantitative liberal-arts and data coursework can complement business

Cross-disciplinary. Flexible liberal-arts combinations with technology/data

Honors / fellows. Management Fellows (selective; do not assume admission)

Centers / labs / funds. McDermond Center for Management & Entrepreneurship

Capstone / signature experience. Management Fellows includes a supervised full-semester internship

Distinctive facts.

- Management Fellows explicitly integrates liberal arts and business.
- A full-semester supervised internship is a signature fellows component.
- McDermond supplies entrepreneurship programming outside the classroom.

Relevant courses. Economics, finance/accounting/business fundamentals through relevant offerings

Experiential learning

Internships. Management Fellows full-semester internship if admitted; broader internships available

Paid work. Management Fellows internship is paid according to program materials; do not generalize to all students.

Venture / startup. McDermond entrepreneurship/pitch programming

Research. Undergraduate research available

Study abroad. Study-abroad options within DePauw's liberal-arts model

Student organizations. Business/entrepreneurship groups

Other. Management Fellows is the standout experiential differentiator but is selective.

Career

Placement. Management Fellows reports strong internship/career outcomes for its cohort; these are not generalized to all students.

Salary. No all-student salary claim used.

Recruiting strengths. Management Fellows employer access; alumni-intensive liberal-arts network

Career geography. Midwest plus national alumni reach

Alumni network. Strong alumni culture.

Career support. Career services plus McDermond/Management Fellows networks.

Notes. Selective-cohort outcomes are labeled as such.

Campus & fit

UNDERGRADUATE SIZE

**About 1,700
undergraduates**

SETTING

**Small active college
town in Greencastle,
Indiana**

RESIDENTIAL MODEL

**Residential
undergraduate
environment; details
vary by institution.**

TRAVEL PRACTICALITY

**Driveable from central
Kentucky; Indianapolis
access is practical.**

CLIMATE FIT

**Neutral to positive;
climate is not a hard
constraint.**

ACADEMIC ENVIRONMENT

**Close-knit residential
liberal-arts
environment.**

CITY / EMPLOYER ACCESS

**Indianapolis regional
access.**

STUDENT PREF. ALIGNMENT

**very strong by explicit
exception**

PARENT PREF. ALIGNMENT

positive

DISTANCE PENALTY

low

Distance override. The student explicitly prefers DePauw over a safer Kentucky public because its program/career value is more compelling.

What four years could look like

Overview. A small-college exception built around experiential business and entrepreneurship.

Freshman & sophomore years. Develop economics/quantitative foundations and apply to Management Fellows if desired while engaging McDermond.

Junior & senior years. If selected, complete the signature semester internship; otherwise build equivalent internship/startup experiences and a strong business-oriented liberal-arts portfolio.

Signature experiences.

- Management Fellows internship
- McDermond entrepreneurship

Combining primary & secondary interests. Business leadership plus entrepreneurship and quantitative coursework.

Career trajectory. Consulting, finance, corporate leadership or startup roles, with outcomes especially strong for selective fellows.

Why this could fit the student's dreams. It matches the student's explicit enthusiasm and preference for richer career opportunity over a redundant regional safety.

How it compares

Closest competitors. Denison University, Centre College

Better than those because. Stronger revealed student interest and a more differentiated experiential business path than Centre.

Weaker than those because. Smaller scale and less explicit tuition guarantee than Denison.

Distinctive value. Management Fellows + McDermond + explicit student preference.

Fit

Strengths

- revealed preference
- experiential business
- alumni network

Trade-offs

- small size
- selective fellows dependency if over-weighted

Preference alignment. enthusiastic

Parent alignment. positive

Why ranked here. Ranks just below Denison because financial certainty is less transparent, but combined admission/affordability planning is stronger.

What could move it up. A more certain very low net price and/or stronger student commitment.

What could move it down. A materially worse net-price result, scholarship miss, or changed student willingness.

How & when to apply

Recommended round. Early Action or Regular Decision, nonbinding

Why this round. Preserve a core nonbinding option and maximize scholarship/aid consideration without binding intent.

Special applications.

- Management Fellows application if pursued

Next actions.

- Confirm Fall 2027 aid/deadline details
- Treat Management Fellows as upside, not baseline

Test-score scenarios

SAT 1460 CURRENT

Admission: Current planning baseline. · Financial: No discrete current merit threshold identified at 1500 or 1540. · Materiality: baseline

SAT 1500

Admission: Modest qualitative strengthening where scores are considered; no mechanical probability jump assumed. · Financial: No discrete current merit threshold identified at 1500 or 1540. · Materiality: low-to-moderate

SAT 1540

Admission: Stronger testing signal at selective schools, but holistic selectivity remains dominant. · Financial: No discrete current merit threshold identified at 1500 or 1540. · Materiality: moderate at reaches; otherwise limited

Evidence

- Admission & Aid **VERIFIED_PRIMARY**
- Scholarships **VERIFIED_PRIMARY**
- Management Fellows **VERIFIED_PRIMARY**
- McDermond Center **VERIFIED_PRIMARY**

University of Kentucky

Gatton College of Business and Economics · Lexington, Kentucky · Active college-town/urban-adjacent campus in Lexington, Kentucky

Admission Strong Cost likely works Very workable

Student: positive

Parent: enthusiastic

Would attend: yes

Bottom line. A strong large-university option with broad campus life, business resources, and relatively low admission risk for this profile.

Why it belongs. The combination of a major flagship environment, Gatton business resources, student organizations, athletics, and proximity creates a useful safe-tier choice.

Why the student might love it. It delivers the scale and activity level the student prefers while keeping a wide range of academic and extracurricular options open.

Main catches.

- It may feel less distinctive than some smaller or more selective options.
- Competitive scholarships should be treated as upside rather than assumed.

What would make it a real choice. A visit confirming that the student likes the campus culture and a competitive overall offer.

Admission

OVERALL ADMIT RATE

Current institutional selectivity used as context; exact Fall 2027 rate not yet known.

PROGRAM/DIRECT-ADMIT RATE

Program-specific freshman rate not published or not used unless noted.

ACADEMIC CONTEXT

4.0 GPA, 1460 SAT, strong college-preparatory rigor, DECA/GSP profile.

TEST POLICY

Current-cycle policy checked where consequential; Fall 2027 updates should be rechecked before submission.

SUPERSCORE

Use current institutional policy at application time; no unsupported superscore assumption used here.

APPLICATION DEADLINE

Current Fall 2027 deadline should be confirmed on the admission portal before submission.

HONORS DEADLINE

Requires confirmation unless explicitly documented.

Financial aid & merit

COST OF ATTENDANCE

In-state public cost; exact Fall 2027 COA should be confirmed.

MEETS NEED

Ordinary need-based aid alone is not assumed to eliminate housing/food.

LOAN EXPECTATION

Not assumed unless explicitly documented.

NEED-BASED PATH

Ordinary need-based aid alone is not assumed to eliminate housing/food.

AUTOMATIC MERIT

Current academic scholarships have published eligibility criteria but the full-cost options are competitive.

COMPETITIVE MERIT

Singletary and Presidential are competitive; 1460 clears the published Singletary SAT eligibility point (1450) with the GPA criterion.

FULL-TUITION OPTIONS

Presidential covers full in-state tuition and mandatory fees.

FULL-COST OPTIONS

Singletary includes full in-state tuition, mandatory fees and a housing/dining stipend; it is highly competitive and limited.

SPECIAL BENEFITS

None assumed unless stated.

STACKING

Do not assume stacking without current official confirmation.

RENEWAL

Four-year continuation depends on each award/aid program's published renewal rules.

REQUIRED FORMS

FAFSA and scholarship requirements.

Program

School / college. Gatton College of Business and Economics

Degree structure. Direct undergraduate business majors within a large public research university.

Entry. Business-school progression follows Gatton rules; no unsupported special direct-admit guarantee used.

Likely path. Finance/Management plus Business Analytics or International Business, with entrepreneurship and honors/global options.

Majors. Finance, Management, Marketing, Economics, Accounting

Minors / certificates. Business Analytics minor, International Business minor

Entrepreneurship. Entrepreneurship offerings and university startup ecosystem

Technology / analytics. Business Analytics minor and quantitative coursework

Cross-disciplinary. Possible technology/data electives elsewhere at UK

Honors / fellows. Gatton Honors Pathway; Global Scholars Pathway; Wall Street Scholars (selective)

Centers / labs / funds. Gatton career and specialty programs

Capstone / signature experience. Global Scholars can integrate an international-business minor and semester abroad

Distinctive facts.

- Gatton offers multiple direct business majors.
- Business Analytics is available as a minor.
- Global Scholars offers a structured international-business/study-abroad pathway.

Relevant courses. Finance, statistics/analytics, management, marketing

Experiential learning

Internships. Internships supported by the Graham Office of Career Management

Paid work. Paid status varies by employer.

Consulting projects. Applied projects and specialty-program experiences

Venture / startup. Entrepreneurship ecosystem and competitions available

Investment / finance. Wall Street Scholars offers selective finance exposure

Research. Research-university opportunities

Study abroad. Global Scholars semester abroad if selected

Student organizations. Finance/business/DECA-adjacent organizations

Other. Large-university scale creates substantial organization and employer access.

Career

Placement. Dedicated Graham Office supports Gatton students; no unsupported placement percentage used.

Salary. No unsupported school-wide salary used.

Recruiting strengths. Kentucky/regional corporate recruiting; finance and business employer partnerships

Career geography. Strong Kentucky and regional network with broader reach

Alumni network. Large statewide alumni network.

Career support. Graham Office of Career Management and employer partnerships.

Campus & fit

UNDERGRADUATE SIZE

Large undergraduate population

SETTING

Active college-town/urban-adjacent campus in Lexington, Kentucky

RESIDENTIAL MODEL

Residential undergraduate environment; details vary by institution.

TRAVEL PRACTICALITY

Very easy from central Kentucky.

CLIMATE FIT

Neutral to positive; climate is not a hard constraint.

ACADEMIC ENVIRONMENT

Large research-university environment with broad organizations and peer options.

CITY / EMPLOYER ACCESS

Lexington employers plus regional access.

STUDENT PREF. ALIGNMENT

strong

PARENT PREF. ALIGNMENT

very strong

DISTANCE PENALTY

none

Distance override. No distance override needed.

What four years could look like

Overview. The strongest nearby large-university choice, with real student willingness and scholarship upside.

Freshman & sophomore years. Enter Gatton, build finance/analytics foundations, and explore honors/global/entrepreneurship options.

Junior & senior years. Pursue internships, a selective specialty pathway if earned, and a finance/analytics or management capstone sequence.

Signature experiences.

- Gatton Honors/Global Scholars
- Graham career programming
- Wall Street Scholars if selected

Combining primary & secondary interests. Business major + analytics/international-business minor can bridge entrepreneurship and technology interests.

Career trajectory. Finance, analytics, corporate leadership or entrepreneurial entry roles.

Why this could fit the student's dreams. It supplies a large, active, familiar campus without sacrificing the opportunity-rich environment the student values.

How it compares

Closest competitors. University of Louisville, University of Cincinnati

Better than those because. Much stronger family/student preference and easier geography than most regional alternatives.

Weaker than those because. Its full-cost route is less dependable than Denison's tuition commitment or stronger institutional-aid packages.

Distinctive value. Large local flagship experience + competitive full-cost scholarship path.

Fit

Strengths

- student willingness
- parent preference
- large-campus fit

Trade-offs

- competitive scholarship dependency

Preference alignment. positive

Parent alignment. enthusiastic

Why ranked here. Ranks high on actual choice viability and proximity; affordability uncertainty keeps it below Denison/DePauw.

What could move it up. A more certain very low net price and/or stronger student commitment.

What could move it down. A materially worse net-price result, scholarship miss, or changed student willingness.

How & when to apply

Recommended round. Early Action / priority submission before scholarship deadline

Why this round. Submit early enough to preserve all major scholarship and honors consideration.

Critical deadlines.

- December 1, 2026: current academic-scholarship deadline

Special applications.

- Competitive scholarship materials if requested

Next actions.

- Submit by scholarship deadline
- Verify Singletary/Presidential requirements and non-superscore testing rule

Test-score scenarios

SAT 1460 **CURRENT**

Admission: Current planning baseline. · Financial: At 1460 the student already clears UK's published 1450 Singletary SAT eligibility point; higher scores do not make the award automatic. · Materiality: baseline

SAT 1500

Admission: Modest qualitative strengthening where scores are considered; no mechanical probability jump assumed. · Financial: At 1460 the student already clears UK's published 1450 Singletary SAT eligibility point; higher scores do not make the award automatic. · Materiality: low-to-moderate

SAT 1540

Admission: Stronger testing signal at selective schools, but holistic selectivity remains dominant. · Financial: At 1460 the student already clears UK's published 1450 Singletary SAT eligibility point; higher scores do not make the award automatic. · Materiality: moderate at reaches; otherwise limited

Evidence

- Incoming Freshmen Scholarships **VERIFIED_PRIMARY**
- Gatton Majors, Minors & Certificates **VERIFIED_PRIMARY**
- Global Scholars Pathway **VERIFIED_PRIMARY**
- Gatton Career Services **VERIFIED_PRIMARY**

Georgetown University

McDonough School of Business · Washington, D.C. · Urban Washington, D.C.

Admission **High reach** **Cost likely works** **Workable**

Student: positive

Parent: positive

Would attend: yes

Bottom line. A high-upside reach for a student interested in business, finance, global affairs, and a highly professional urban environment.

Why it belongs. McDonough, Washington D.C., strong employer access, international orientation, and broad intellectual resources create a combination that is difficult to replicate.

Why the student might love it. The student would be surrounded by ambitious peers and unusually direct access to business, policy, consulting, finance, and international opportunities.

Main catches.

- Highly selective admission.
- The application deserves significant effort only if the student genuinely wants the D.C. environment.

What would make it a real choice. Admission plus a campus experience that confirms the intense, urban-professional culture is appealing.

Admission

OVERALL ADMIT RATE

Current institutional selectivity used as context; exact Fall 2027 rate not yet known.

PROGRAM/DIRECT-ADMIT RATE

Program-specific freshman rate not published or not used unless noted.

ACADEMIC CONTEXT

4.0 GPA, 1460 SAT, strong college-preparatory rigor, DECA/GSP profile.

TEST POLICY

Current-cycle policy checked where consequential; Fall 2027 updates should be rechecked before submission.

SUPERSCORE

Use current institutional policy at application time; no unsupported superscore assumption used here.

APPLICATION DEADLINE

Current Fall 2027 deadline should be confirmed on the admission portal before submission.

HONORS DEADLINE

Requires confirmation unless explicitly documented.

Financial aid & merit

COST OF ATTENDANCE

Private-university COA; exact Fall 2027 cost will be updated.

MEETS NEED

Georgetown states it meets full demonstrated financial need; aid is need-based.

LOAN EXPECTATION

Not assumed unless explicitly documented.

NEED-BASED PATH

Georgetown states it meets full demonstrated financial need; aid is need-based.

AUTOMATIC MERIT

No merit scholarship is assumed.

COMPETITIVE MERIT

No competitive merit strategy is relied upon.

FULL-TUITION OPTIONS

Not applicable as core strategy.

FULL-COST OPTIONS

Need-based aid is the route; no claim of guaranteed \$0 family contribution.

SPECIAL BENEFITS

None assumed unless stated.

STACKING

Do not assume stacking without current official confirmation.

RENEWAL

Four-year continuation depends on each award/aid program's published renewal rules.

REQUIRED FORMS

FAFSA, CSS Profile and Georgetown financial-aid documentation.

Program

School / college. McDonough School of Business

Degree structure. Undergraduate business degree inside a globally oriented university in Washington, D.C.

Entry. First-year admission to Georgetown/MSB route; current program specifics should be confirmed in the application.

Likely path. Business major/concentrations with finance/analytics/entrepreneurship and global/policy crossovers.

Majors. Undergraduate business

Concentrations. Finance and business-related concentrations

Minors / certificates. Cross-campus minors/certificates where permitted

Entrepreneurship. Entrepreneurship programs and D.C. ecosystem

Technology / analytics. Analytics and technology-oriented business coursework

Cross-disciplinary. Unusually strong access to policy, international affairs and broader Georgetown programs

Honors / fellows. Honors/selective programs require separate confirmation

Centers / labs / funds. McDonough entrepreneurship/career resources

Capstone / signature experience. Global/business experiential coursework and D.C. projects

Distinctive facts.

- D.C. location tightly connects business with policy/international affairs.
- McDonough has a dedicated undergraduate career operation.
- The school's current career report shows national consulting/finance employer penetration.

Relevant courses. Finance, analytics, strategy, global business

Experiential learning

Internships. D.C.-based internships during the academic year and summer

Paid work. Paid status varies.

Consulting projects. Consulting/project opportunities through coursework and clubs

Venture / startup. Entrepreneurship ecosystem

Investment / finance. Finance/investment clubs and employer access

Research. Research and policy/business work

Study abroad. Global programs and study abroad

Student organizations. Business, consulting, finance and entrepreneurship clubs

Other. Washington location allows semester-time professional exposure.

Career

Placement. McDonough Class of 2024 reported 96.3% of job-seekers receiving an offer within three months.

Salary. Class of 2024 average salary reported at \$100,733; cohort-specific, not a guarantee.

Employers. Bank of America, Barclays, BCG, Citi, Jefferies, JPMorgan, McKinsey, Morgan Stanley, PwC, RBC

Recruiting strengths. Consulting; finance; policy-adjacent business

Career geography. National/international

Alumni network. Large Georgetown alumni network with strong D.C./NY reach.

Career support. McDonough undergraduate career center.

Campus & fit

UNDERGRADUATE SIZE

Medium-large undergraduate population

SETTING

Urban Washington, D.C.

RESIDENTIAL MODEL

Residential undergraduate environment; details vary by institution.

TRAVEL PRACTICALITY

Direct flights/drive possible; farther than parents prefer but manageable.

CLIMATE FIT

Neutral to positive; climate is not a hard constraint.

ACADEMIC ENVIRONMENT

Nationally recognized, cosmopolitan and intellectually serious environment.

CITY / EMPLOYER ACCESS

Exceptional access to D.C. employers, policy institutions and internships.

STUDENT PREF. ALIGNMENT

strong

PARENT PREF. ALIGNMENT

very strong

DISTANCE PENALTY

moderate

Distance override. Academic/cultural fit, career access and need-based aid justify the distance.

What four years could look like

Overview. A high-reach, high-upside business/policy/global option whose environment closely matches stated family values.

Freshman & sophomore years. Build business core and quantitative foundations while using D.C. for clubs, policy-business exposure and early internships.

Junior & senior years. Deepen finance/analytics/strategy, pursue internships in D.C./NY, and use global/cross-school options.

Signature experiences.

- D.C. semester internships
- McDonough recruiting
- global business exposure

Combining primary & secondary interests. Business + finance/analytics + international/policy context creates a broader leadership profile.

Career trajectory. Consulting, finance, corporate strategy, technology-business or public-private-sector leadership.

Why this could fit the student's dreams. This is the kind of cosmopolitan, nationally oriented environment the family explicitly values while still offering direct business.

How it compares

Closest competitors. Denison University, Vanderbilt University, George Washington University

Better than those because. Stronger need-based architecture and verified business outcomes than GW; nonbinding choice preserves optionality while preserving optionality.

Weaker than those because. Much lower admission probability than regional targets.

Distinctive value. Direct business + Washington + full-need policy + cosmopolitan fit.

Fit

Strengths

- business/career fit
- cosmopolitan environment
- need-based aid

Trade-offs

- admission reach
- CSS uncertainty

Preference alignment. positive

Parent alignment. positive

Why ranked here. Ranks above several safer-admission schools because if admitted and affordable it is a much more compelling choice.

What could move it up. A more certain very low net price and/or stronger student commitment.

What could move it down. A materially worse net-price result, scholarship miss, or changed student willingness.

How & when to apply

Recommended round. Early Action only if Georgetown is a clear early priority; otherwise Regular Decision

Why this round. Use the round that best fits the overall application strategy rather than forcing an early commitment.

Critical deadlines.

- Confirm Fall 2027 Georgetown deadline when posted

Next actions.

- Confirm Fall 2027 deadlines and testing policy
- Plan sufficient time for Georgetown-specific application work

Test-score scenarios

SAT 1460 CURRENT

Admission: Current planning baseline. · Financial: No discrete current merit threshold identified at 1500 or 1540. · Materiality: baseline

SAT 1500

Admission: Modest qualitative strengthening where scores are considered; no mechanical probability jump assumed. · Financial: No discrete current merit threshold identified at 1500 or 1540. · Materiality: low-to-moderate

SAT 1540

Admission: Stronger testing signal at selective schools, but holistic selectivity remains dominant. · Financial: No discrete current merit threshold identified at 1500 or 1540. · Materiality: moderate at reaches; otherwise limited

Evidence

- Georgetown Undergraduate Financial Aid **VERIFIED_PRIMARY**
- First-Year Applicants **VERIFIED_PRIMARY**
- McDonough Undergraduate Career Outcomes **VERIFIED_PRIMARY**
- McDonough Costs & Financial Aid **VERIFIED_PRIMARY**

University of Cincinnati

Lindner College of Business • Cincinnati, Ohio • Urban Cincinnati, Ohio

Admission Likely Cost likely works Workable

Student: positive

Parent: positive

Would attend: yes

Bottom line. One of the portfolio's strongest combinations of business education, urban setting, and built-in work experience.

Why it belongs. Lindner, Business Analytics, entrepreneurship resources, and required co-op align directly with the student's interest in practical business and technology.

Why the student might love it. Real work experience is structurally embedded rather than something the student has to discover independently.

Main catches.

- The urban campus experience is materially different from a traditional residential college.
- Major merit awards are competitive.

What would make it a real choice. A positive campus reaction and confidence that the co-op structure fits the student's preferred college experience.

Admission

OVERALL ADMIT RATE

Current institutional selectivity used as context; exact Fall 2027 rate not yet known.

PROGRAM/DIRECT-ADMIT RATE

Program-specific freshman rate not published or not used unless noted.

ACADEMIC CONTEXT

4.0 GPA, 1460 SAT, strong college-preparatory rigor, DECA/GSP profile.

TEST POLICY

Current-cycle policy checked where consequential; Fall 2027 updates should be rechecked before submission.

SUPERSCORE

Use current institutional policy at application time; no unsupported superscore assumption used here.

APPLICATION DEADLINE

Current Fall 2027 deadline should be confirmed on the admission portal before submission.

HONORS DEADLINE

Requires confirmation unless explicitly documented.

Financial aid & merit

COST OF ATTENDANCE

Public OOS cost; exact Fall 2027 COA should be confirmed.

MEETS NEED

Ordinary aid is not assumed to cover full cost.

LOAN EXPECTATION

Not assumed unless explicitly documented.

NEED-BASED PATH

Ordinary aid is not assumed to cover full cost.

AUTOMATIC MERIT

No automatic full-cost award assumed.

COMPETITIVE MERIT

Cincinnatus Presidential is highly competitive.

FULL-TUITION OPTIONS

**Smaller awards exist;
not sufficient alone.**

FULL-COST OPTIONS

**20 Cincinnatus
Presidential
scholarships provide up
to \$120,000
(\$30,000/year),
described as covering
tuition, fees, room,
board and a book
allowance.**

SPECIAL BENEFITS

**None assumed unless
stated.**

STACKING

**Do not assume stacking
without current official
confirmation.**

RENEWAL

**Four-year continuation
depends on each
award/aid program's
published renewal
rules.**

REQUIRED FORMS

**FAFSA and scholarship
requirements.**

Program

School / college. Carl H. Lindner College of Business

Degree structure. Direct business degrees at a large urban public research university.

Entry. Business majors follow Lindner admission/progression requirements.

Likely path. Business Analytics or Finance/Entrepreneurship with mandatory co-op exposure.

Majors. Business Analytics, Finance, Entrepreneurship and other business majors

Minors / certificates. Business minors/certificates

Entrepreneurship. Entrepreneurship major/ecosystem

Technology / analytics. Business Analytics is a direct major

Cross-disciplinary. Technology and analytics integration across UC

Honors / fellows. Honors opportunities require confirmation

Centers / labs / funds. Lindner career/co-op infrastructure

Capstone / signature experience. All new first-year Lindner students complete two co-op rotations

Distinctive facts.

- Business Analytics is a dedicated undergraduate major.
- Two co-op rotations are required for new first-year Lindner students.
- Urban Cincinnati supplies employer access during the academic year.

Relevant courses. Database/analytics coursework, business core, quantitative methods

Experiential learning

Internships. Two required co-op rotations for new first-year Lindner students

Co-op. Two rotations required for the relevant entering cohort.

Paid work. Co-op is commonly paid; exact compensation varies by placement.

Consulting projects. First-Year Experience and applied client/project work

Venture / startup. Entrepreneurship activities and startup ecosystem

Research. Research-university opportunities

Study abroad. Study-abroad options

Student organizations. Business/analytics/entrepreneurship organizations

Other. Co-op is the principal differentiator.

Career

Placement. Current Lindner outcome reporting includes co-op and post-graduation salary data.

Salary. 2024-25 reported Business Analytics starting salary about \$69,000; finance about \$63,500; cohort-specific.

Recruiting strengths. Co-op-driven employer experience; analytics recruiting

Career geography. Cincinnati/Midwest with broader reach

Alumni network. Large UC alumni network.

Career support. Lindner career services and co-op system.

Campus & fit

UNDERGRADUATE SIZE

Large undergraduate population

SETTING

Urban Cincinnati, Ohio

RESIDENTIAL MODEL

Residential undergraduate environment; details vary by institution.

TRAVEL PRACTICALITY

Easy drive from central Kentucky.

CLIMATE FIT

Neutral to positive; climate is not a hard constraint.

ACADEMIC ENVIRONMENT

Large research-university and professional environment.

CITY / EMPLOYER ACCESS

Excellent Cincinnati employer access.

STUDENT PREF. ALIGNMENT

strong

PARENT PREF. ALIGNMENT

strong

DISTANCE PENALTY

none

Distance override. No distance override needed.

What four years could look like

Overview. A strong large-city target distinguished by required co-op and direct analytics/business options.

Freshman & sophomore years. Complete business core and first co-op preparation; begin Business Analytics/Finance/Entrepreneurship pathway.

Junior & senior years. Complete two co-op rotations, deepen analytics/finance and translate work experience into a full-time search.

Signature experiences.

- Two co-op rotations
- Lindner applied projects

Combining primary & secondary interests. Business + analytics + entrepreneurship can be combined directly.

Career trajectory. Business analytics, finance, operations, consulting or tech-business roles with substantial pre-graduation work experience.

Why this could fit the student's dreams. It closely matches the student's desired active, internship-rich university environment.

How it compares

Closest competitors. University of Pittsburgh, Ohio State University, University of Louisville

Better than those because. Required co-op and direct analytics create clearer experiential differentiation.

Weaker than those because. Full-cost path is much less dependable than Denison/need-based elite options.

Distinctive value. Required co-op + urban business analytics.

Fit

Strengths

- co-op
- urban setting
- analytics

Trade-offs

- competitive scholarship dependency

Preference alignment. positive

Parent alignment. positive

Why ranked here. Program fit is stronger than its financial probability; it remains because the student could genuinely choose it.

What could move it up. A more certain very low net price and/or stronger student commitment.

What could move it down. A materially worse net-price result, scholarship miss, or changed student willingness.

How & when to apply

Recommended round. Priority / Early Action if offered nonbinding

Why this round. Apply by the scholarship priority date to preserve Cincinnatus consideration.

Critical deadlines.

- November 1: current Cincinnatus priority deadline

Next actions.

- Confirm Fall 2027 application cycle dates
- Treat Cincinnatus as upside, not safety

Test-score scenarios

SAT 1460 CURRENT

Admission: Current planning baseline. · Financial: No discrete current merit threshold identified at 1500 or 1540. · Materiality: baseline

SAT 1500

Admission: Modest qualitative strengthening where scores are considered; no mechanical probability jump assumed. · Financial: No discrete current merit threshold identified at 1500 or 1540. · Materiality: low-to-moderate

SAT 1540

Admission: Stronger testing signal at selective schools, but holistic selectivity remains dominant. · Financial: No discrete current merit threshold identified at 1500 or 1540. · Materiality: moderate at reaches; otherwise limited

Evidence

- Cincinnatus Scholarship Program **VERIFIED_PRIMARY**
- BS Business Analytics **VERIFIED_PRIMARY**
- Career Outcomes **VERIFIED_PRIMARY**
- Lindner College of Business **VERIFIED_PRIMARY**

Miami University (Ohio)

Farmer School of Business · Oxford, Ohio · Active college town in Oxford, Ohio

Admission Strong Cost likely works Workable

Student: positive

Parent: positive

Would attend: yes

Bottom line. A polished residential-college experience paired with a strong undergraduate business identity.

Why it belongs. Farmer School of Business, Business Analytics, entrepreneurship options, and an active college-town environment match several stated preferences.

Why the student might love it. It offers the classic campus experience while still providing a direct and recognizable undergraduate business path.

Main catches.

- The Oxford setting is less urban than several alternatives.
- Top scholarship opportunities are highly competitive.

What would make it a real choice. A campus visit confirming that Oxford feels lively enough and that Farmer feels like the right business environment.

Admission

OVERALL ADMIT RATE

Current institutional selectivity used as context; exact Fall 2027 rate not yet known.

PROGRAM/DIRECT-ADMIT RATE

Program-specific freshman rate not published or not used unless noted.

ACADEMIC CONTEXT

4.0 GPA, 1460 SAT, strong college-preparatory rigor, DECA/GSP profile.

TEST POLICY

Current-cycle policy checked where consequential; Fall 2027 updates should be rechecked before submission.

SUPERSCORE

Use current institutional policy at application time; no unsupported superscore assumption used here.

APPLICATION DEADLINE

Current Fall 2027 deadline should be confirmed on the admission portal before submission.

HONORS DEADLINE

Requires confirmation unless explicitly documented.

Financial aid & merit

COST OF ATTENDANCE

OOS public COA; exact Fall 2027 figure should be confirmed.

MEETS NEED

Need-based aid alone is not assumed to solve total cost.

LOAN EXPECTATION

Not assumed unless explicitly documented.

NEED-BASED PATH

Need-based aid alone is not assumed to solve total cost.

AUTOMATIC MERIT

No automatic full-cost award assumed.

COMPETITIVE MERIT

Presidential Fellows is extremely competitive.

FULL-TUITION OPTIONS

General merit may reduce tuition but is not treated as sufficient.

FULL-COST OPTIONS

Presidential Fellows for Fall 2027 selects 15 students and covers tuition, fees, housing and food for four years plus a \$5,000 enrichment stipend.

SPECIAL BENEFITS

None assumed unless stated.

STACKING

Do not assume stacking without current official confirmation.

RENEWAL

Four-year continuation depends on each award/aid program's published renewal rules.

REQUIRED FORMS

Required admission/scholarship materials; self-reported test required for PFS.

Program

School / college. Farmer School of Business

Degree structure. Direct undergraduate business school with multiple majors/co-majors.

Entry. Admission to Farmer follows Miami's business admission process.

Likely path. Business Analytics/Finance plus Entrepreneurship co-major and emerging-technology options.

Majors. Business Analytics, Finance, Marketing and other FSB majors

Concentrations. Entrepreneurship co-major

Minors / certificates. Business/technology options

Entrepreneurship. Entrepreneurship co-major and programming

Technology / analytics. Business Analytics and information-systems/cybersecurity options

Cross-disciplinary. Emerging technology/entrepreneurship combinations

Honors / fellows. Presidential Fellows is an institutional scholars program, not a business admit.

Centers / labs / funds. Farmer career development and experiential programs

Capstone / signature experience. Applied/project-based business experiences vary by major

Distinctive facts.

- Farmer offers 11 majors/co-majors.
- Entrepreneurship is available as a co-major.
- Business Analytics and technology-adjacent options directly match secondary interests.

Relevant courses. Analytics, finance, business core

Experiential learning

Internships. Career office supports internships; major-specific experiential opportunities available

Paid work. Paid status varies.

Consulting projects. Applied coursework and employer projects

Venture / startup. Entrepreneurship activities

Investment / finance. Finance organizations available

Research. Undergraduate research options

Study abroad. Study abroad supported

Student organizations. Business/DECA-like organizations

Other. Farmer career fairs and Handshake employer access.

Career

Placement. Farmer career-development resources include employer fairs and a large job/internship pipeline.

Salary. No unsupported universal salary claim used.

Recruiting strengths. Midwest corporate recruiting; finance/business roles

Career geography. Ohio/Midwest with national employers

Alumni network. Large Miami alumni network.

Career support. Farmer career development; current page references roughly 30,000 Handshake jobs and 400 employers in programming.

Campus & fit

UNDERGRADUATE SIZE

Medium-large undergraduate population

SETTING

Active college town in Oxford, Ohio

RESIDENTIAL MODEL

Residential undergraduate environment; details vary by institution.

TRAVEL PRACTICALITY

Easy drive from central Kentucky.

CLIMATE FIT

Neutral to positive; climate is not a hard constraint.

ACADEMIC ENVIRONMENT

Traditional residential university with strong business identity.

CITY / EMPLOYER ACCESS

Regional access to Cincinnati/Dayton employers.

STUDENT PREF. ALIGNMENT

positive

PARENT PREF. ALIGNMENT

positive

DISTANCE PENALTY

none

Distance override. No distance override needed.

What four years could look like

Overview. A classic active-college-town business target with strong entrepreneurship/analytics curricular fit.

Freshman & sophomore years. Build Farmer core, explore Business Analytics/Finance and add Entrepreneurship co-major if useful.

Junior & senior years. Intern, deepen analytics/finance, engage entrepreneurship and use Farmer employer recruiting.

Signature experiences.

- Farmer career fairs
- Entrepreneurship co-major

Combining primary & secondary interests. Business + analytics + entrepreneurship maps directly to the student's stated secondary interests.

Career trajectory. Corporate finance, analytics, marketing, consulting or startup roles.

Why this could fit the student's dreams. It offers a bigger, more active setting than the small-college options while remaining close enough for the family.

How it compares

Closest competitors. University of Cincinnati, University of Kentucky

Better than those because. More traditional campus/business-school feel and entrepreneurship co-major.

Weaker than those because. Less dependable affordability and no required co-op.

Distinctive value. Entrepreneurship co-major + 15-seat full-cost Presidential Fellows upside.

Fit

Strengths

- business curriculum
- college-town fit
- entrepreneurship

Trade-offs

- rare full-cost scholarship

Preference alignment. positive

Parent alignment. positive

Why ranked here. Ranks below Cincinnati because experiential differentiation is weaker and full-cost odds are similarly uncertain.

What could move it up. A more certain very low net price and/or stronger student commitment.

What could move it down. A materially worse net-price result, scholarship miss, or changed student willingness.

How & when to apply

Recommended round. Apply by Presidential Fellows deadline

Why this round. Keep a strong, well-supported financial path in view.

Critical deadlines.

- December 1, 2026: Presidential Fellows deadline

Special applications.

- Presidential Fellows consideration

Next actions.

- Submit testing as required for PFS
- Verify all Fall 2027 scholarship materials

Test-score scenarios

SAT 1460 CURRENT

Admission: Current planning baseline. · Financial: No discrete current merit threshold identified at 1500 or 1540. · Materiality: baseline

SAT 1500

Admission: Modest qualitative strengthening where scores are considered; no mechanical probability jump assumed. · Financial: No discrete current merit threshold identified at 1500 or 1540. · Materiality: low-to-moderate

SAT 1540

Admission: Stronger testing signal at selective schools, but holistic selectivity remains dominant. · Financial: No discrete current merit threshold identified at 1500 or 1540. · Materiality: moderate at reaches; otherwise limited

Evidence

- Presidential Fellows Program **VERIFIED_PRIMARY**
- Farmer Undergraduate Programs **VERIFIED_PRIMARY**
- Farmer Career Development **VERIFIED_PRIMARY**

University of Pittsburgh

Pitt Business · Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania · Urban Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Admission Likely Cost likely works Workable

Student: positive

Parent: positive

Would attend: yes

Bottom line. A strong urban research-university target with substantial internship density and a direct business-analytics path.

Why it belongs. Pitt combines city access, a major university environment, business analytics, and strong internship participation.

Why the student might love it. The student gets the scale and energy of a research university while living directly in a major employment market.

Main catches.

- The campus is embedded in the city rather than self-contained.
- Net price should be compared carefully with alternatives.

What would make it a real choice. A strong reaction to the Oakland/Pittsburgh environment and a competitive final offer.

Admission

OVERALL ADMIT RATE

Current institutional selectivity used as context; exact Fall 2027 rate not yet known.

PROGRAM/DIRECT-ADMIT RATE

Program-specific freshman rate not published or not used unless noted.

ACADEMIC CONTEXT

4.0 GPA, 1460 SAT, strong college-preparatory rigor, DECA/GSP profile.

TEST POLICY

Current-cycle policy checked where consequential; Fall 2027 updates should be rechecked before submission.

SUPERSCORE

Use current institutional policy at application time; no unsupported superscore assumption used here.

APPLICATION DEADLINE

Current Fall 2027 deadline should be confirmed on the admission portal before submission.

HONORS DEADLINE

Requires confirmation unless explicitly documented.

Financial aid & merit

COST OF ATTENDANCE

OOS public/private-like total cost; exact Fall 2027 COA should be checked.

MEETS NEED

Need-based aid alone is not assumed to cover the full cost.

LOAN EXPECTATION

Not assumed unless explicitly documented.

NEED-BASED PATH

Need-based aid alone is not assumed to cover the full cost.

AUTOMATIC MERIT

No automatic full-cost mechanism verified.

COMPETITIVE MERIT

Pitt Business scholarships are available but generally not treated as full-cost guarantees.

FULL-TUITION OPTIONS

No verified dependable full-tuition path used.

FULL-COST OPTIONS

No credible current full-cost mechanism verified for this profile.

SPECIAL BENEFITS

None assumed unless stated.

STACKING

Do not assume stacking without current official confirmation.

RENEWAL

Four-year continuation depends on each award/aid program's published renewal rules.

REQUIRED FORMS

FAFSA and scholarship applications as required.

Program

School / college. College of Business Administration

Degree structure. BSBA majors at a large urban research university.

Entry. Business-school admission/progression applies; exact direct-entry mechanics should be confirmed.

Likely path. Business Analytics or Finance with technology/data and entrepreneurship opportunities.

Majors. Business Analytics, Finance, Business Information Systems, Global Management, Supply Chain, Marketing

Minors / certificates. Complementary minors/certificates across Pitt

Entrepreneurship. Entrepreneurship programming across Pitt

Technology / analytics. STEM-designated Business Analytics curriculum

Cross-disciplinary. Cross-campus technology/data opportunities

Honors / fellows. Honors opportunities require confirmation

Centers / labs / funds. Pitt Business career and experiential resources

Capstone / signature experience. Applied Business Analytics Project

Distinctive facts.

- Business Analytics includes programming and data-mining coursework.
- The analytics major has an applied project component.

- Pitt Business advertises real-client project examples with organizations including MLB/Fox Sports/PNC.

Relevant courses. Database management, optimization/simulation, data visualization/storytelling, data mining, applied analytics project, programming essentials

Experiential learning

Internships. Pitt Business reports students average about 2.5 internships by graduation and 95% complete at least one.

Paid work. A qualifying career-internship scholarship can provide a \$3,000 stipend; not universal.

Consulting projects. Real-client projects with companies/organizations

Venture / startup. Entrepreneurship ecosystem

Investment / finance. Finance organizations and internships

Research. Research-university opportunities

Study abroad. Global programs; Pitt Business reports 75+ global locations

Student organizations. Business/analytics/finance organizations

Other. Career & Internship Scholarship Program can fund qualifying 10-week placements.

Career

Placement. Pitt Business currently reports a 96% first-destination rate.

Salary. No major-specific salary claim relied upon.

Recruiting strengths. Urban internships; analytics; finance; regional/national employers

Career geography. Pittsburgh plus national

Alumni network. Large Pitt alumni network.

Career support. Dedicated Pitt Business career services.

Campus & fit

UNDERGRADUATE SIZE

Large undergraduate population

SETTING

Urban Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

RESIDENTIAL MODEL

Residential undergraduate environment; details vary by institution.

TRAVEL PRACTICALITY

Moderate drive/flight; within broad family tolerance.

CLIMATE FIT

Neutral to positive; climate is not a hard constraint.

ACADEMIC ENVIRONMENT

Large research-university environment.

CITY / EMPLOYER ACCESS

Excellent Pittsburgh employer and startup access.

STUDENT PREF. ALIGNMENT

positive

PARENT PREF. ALIGNMENT

positive

DISTANCE PENALTY

low

Distance override. Urban research/business opportunity justifies modest extra distance.

What four years could look like

Overview. A strong urban-research target whose academic and internship fit is much better than its financial path.

Freshman & sophomore years. Enter business core, sample Business Analytics/Finance, join clubs and begin early internships.

Junior & senior years. Complete applied analytics/project work, stack internships and use Pittsburgh employer access.

Signature experiences.

- Applied Business Analytics Project
- multiple internships
- real-client projects

Combining primary & secondary interests. Business + analytics + technology adjacency is direct and practical.

Career trajectory. Analytics, finance, operations, consulting or tech-business roles.

Why this could fit the student's dreams. The urban research environment and internship density align closely with the student's stated preferences.

How it compares

Closest competitors. University of Cincinnati, Ohio State University

Better than those because. Stronger explicit student signal and unusually clear internship density.

Weaker than those because. Much weaker financial protection than Denison or full-need private reaches.

Distinctive value. Urban analytics + multiple-internship culture.

Fit

Strengths

- urban fit
- analytics
- internships

Trade-offs

- financial weakness

Preference alignment. positive

Parent alignment. positive

Why ranked here. Ranks below financially stronger choices but above weaker-fit scholarship hacks.

What could move it up. A more certain very low net price and/or stronger student commitment.

What could move it down. A materially worse net-price result, scholarship miss, or changed student willingness.

How & when to apply

Recommended round. Nonbinding early/regular route

Why this round. Apply only if the family accepts that the aid result may force a decline.

Next actions.

- Use net-price calculator
- Do not spend extra scholarship effort on small awards that cannot solve total cost

Test-score scenarios

SAT 1460 CURRENT

Admission: Current planning baseline. · Financial: No discrete current merit threshold identified at 1500 or 1540. · Materiality: baseline

SAT 1500

Admission: Modest qualitative strengthening where scores are considered; no mechanical probability jump assumed. · Financial: No discrete current merit threshold identified at 1500 or 1540. · Materiality: low-to-moderate

SAT 1540

Admission: Stronger testing signal at selective schools, but holistic selectivity remains dominant. · Financial: No discrete current merit threshold identified at 1500 or 1540. · Materiality: moderate at reaches; otherwise limited

Evidence

- Pitt Business Tuition & Financial Aid **VERIFIED_PRIMARY**
- Pitt Business Majors **VERIFIED_PRIMARY**
- Business Analytics Major **VERIFIED_PRIMARY**
- Pitt Business Career Services **VERIFIED_PRIMARY**
- Pitt Business **VERIFIED_PRIMARY**

University of Louisville

College of Business · Louisville, Kentucky · Urban Louisville, Kentucky

Admission Strong Cost likely works Very workable

Student: positive

Parent: positive

Would attend: yes

Bottom line. A practical urban foundation option with relevant business and analytics pathways.

Why it belongs. The school offers a major-university setting, city internships, and business programs that make it more than a generic fallback.

Why the student might love it. It provides a familiar regional option while still offering an urban environment and broad campus activity.

Main catches.

- It may offer less national differentiation than higher-ranked choices.
- The student should compare the business-school experience directly with Cincinnati, Miami, and Kentucky.

What would make it a real choice. A campus and business-school experience strong enough to compete with the student's other regional options.

Admission

OVERALL ADMIT RATE

Current institutional selectivity used as context; exact Fall 2027 rate not yet known.

PROGRAM/DIRECT-ADMIT RATE

Program-specific freshman rate not published or not used unless noted.

ACADEMIC CONTEXT

4.0 GPA, 1460 SAT, strong college-preparatory rigor, DECA/GSP profile.

TEST POLICY

Current-cycle policy checked where consequential; Fall 2027 updates should be rechecked before submission.

SUPERSCORE

Use current institutional policy at application time; no unsupported superscore assumption used here.

APPLICATION DEADLINE

Current Fall 2027 deadline should be confirmed on the admission portal before submission.

HONORS DEADLINE

Requires confirmation unless explicitly documented.

Financial aid & merit

COST OF ATTENDANCE

In-state public cost; exact Fall 2027 COA should be confirmed.

MEETS NEED

Need aid plus Kentucky scholarships may reduce cost, but full housing/food coverage is not assumed.

LOAN EXPECTATION

Not assumed unless explicitly documented.

NEED-BASED PATH

Need aid plus Kentucky scholarships may reduce cost, but full housing/food coverage is not assumed.

AUTOMATIC MERIT

Criteria-based merit exists but does not automatically create a major scholarship outcome.

COMPETITIVE MERIT

Higher awards are competitive.

FULL-TUITION OPTIONS

Some scholarships can cover substantial tuition.

FULL-COST OPTIONS

No dependable full-cost guarantee verified for this profile.

SPECIAL BENEFITS

None assumed unless stated.

STACKING

Do not assume stacking without current official confirmation.

RENEWAL

Four-year continuation depends on each award/aid program's published renewal rules.

REQUIRED FORMS

FAFSA and scholarship requirements.

Program

School / college. College of Business

Degree structure. BBA and direct business majors in a large urban Kentucky university.

Entry. Undergraduate business progression follows College of Business rules.

Likely path. BBA/finance/analytics/supply-chain-oriented path with entrepreneurship and technology electives.

Majors. Business Administration, Finance and other business majors, Global Supply Chain Management

Minors / certificates. Business minors/certificates

Entrepreneurship. Entrepreneurship programs available through the College/university

Technology / analytics. Computer systems, analytics and new AI/logistics emphasis in supply chain

Cross-disciplinary. Cross-campus technology opportunities

Honors / fellows. Honors opportunities require confirmation

Centers / labs / funds. College of Business experiential/career resources

Capstone / signature experience. Applied business projects/capstones vary by major

Distinctive facts.

- BBA core explicitly spans finance, statistics, operations and computer systems.
- Fall 2027 updates add Global Supply Chain Management with logistics, analytics and AI-driven operations emphasis.

- Urban Louisville supports employer access.

Relevant courses. Economics, marketing, accounting, finance, statistics, operations, leadership, computer systems

Experiential learning

Internships. Internships supported through College career resources

Paid work. Paid status varies.

Consulting projects. Applied business projects

Venture / startup. Entrepreneurship ecosystem

Research. Research-university opportunities

Study abroad. Study abroad available

Student organizations. Business/entrepreneurship organizations

Other. Louisville employer proximity supports academic-year internships.

Career

Placement. College career support available; no unsupported placement percentage used.

Salary. No unsupported salary claim used.

Recruiting strengths. Louisville regional employers; supply chain/logistics; business services

Career geography. Strong Louisville/Kentucky network

Alumni network. Large regional alumni network.

Career support. College of Business career resources.

Campus & fit

UNDERGRADUATE SIZE

Large undergraduate population

SETTING

Urban Louisville, Kentucky

RESIDENTIAL MODEL

Residential undergraduate environment; details vary by institution.

TRAVEL PRACTICALITY

Very easy drive from central Kentucky.

CLIMATE FIT

Neutral to positive; climate is not a hard constraint.

ACADEMIC ENVIRONMENT

Large public urban environment.

CITY / EMPLOYER ACCESS

Excellent Louisville employer/logistics access.

STUDENT PREF. ALIGNMENT

positive

PARENT PREF. ALIGNMENT

very strong

DISTANCE PENALTY

none

Distance override. No distance override needed.

What four years could look like

Overview. A pragmatic urban Kentucky option that is more opportunity-rich than a redundant small regional safety.

Freshman & sophomore years. Build BBA core, explore finance/analytics/supply chain and join business organizations.

Junior & senior years. Intern with Louisville employers, deepen technical/analytics courses and complete major-specific applied work.

Signature experiences.

- Urban internships
- new supply-chain/AI emphasis

Combining primary & secondary interests. Business + operations/analytics + technology can form a practical startup/corporate pathway.

Career trajectory. Regional corporate, logistics, finance, analytics or entrepreneurship roles.

Why this could fit the student's dreams. It offers a large active campus and employer-rich city while staying close to home.

How it compares

Closest competitors. University of Kentucky, University of Cincinnati

Better than those because. More urban employer access than UK and easier geography than Cincinnati.

Weaker than those because. Less differentiated career/program architecture than Cincinnati and less family enthusiasm than UK.

Distinctive value. Nearby urban business + new supply-chain/AI emphasis.

Fit

Strengths

- urban proximity
- high admission viability
- business core

Trade-offs

- full-cost uncertainty
- regional rather than national differentiation

Preference alignment. positive

Parent alignment. positive

Why ranked here. Combined planning is relatively strong because admission is likely, but recommendation rank is lower because the financial and program upside is less differentiated.

What could move it up. A more certain very low net price and/or stronger student commitment.

What could move it down. A materially worse net-price result, scholarship miss, or changed student willingness.

How & when to apply

Recommended round. Priority nonbinding application

Why this round. Preserve scholarship consideration and a high-admission local option.

Next actions.

- Confirm Fall 2027 scholarship deadlines
- Verify whether any award can credibly cover housing/food

Test-score scenarios

SAT 1460 CURRENT

Admission: Current planning baseline. · Financial: No discrete current merit threshold identified at 1500 or 1540. · Materiality: baseline

SAT 1500

Admission: Modest qualitative strengthening where scores are considered; no mechanical probability jump assumed. · Financial: No discrete current merit threshold identified at 1500 or 1540. · Materiality: low-to-moderate

SAT 1540

Admission: Stronger testing signal at selective schools, but holistic selectivity remains dominant. · Financial: No discrete current merit threshold identified at 1500 or 1540. · Materiality: moderate at reaches; otherwise limited

Evidence

- [2026 UofL Critical Updates](#) **VERIFIED_PRIMARY**
- [Kentucky & Southern Indiana Scholarships](#) **VERIFIED_PRIMARY**
- [Bachelor of Business Administration](#) **VERIFIED_PRIMARY**

The Ohio State University

Fisher College of Business · Columbus, Ohio · Urban/active Columbus, Ohio

Admission Competitive Cost likely works Workable

Student: positive

Parent: positive

Would attend: yes

Bottom line. A large-scale business target with exceptional organizational, alumni, employer, and extracurricular breadth.

Why it belongs. Fisher, Columbus, entrepreneurship options, and the scale of Ohio State align well with the student's preference for active universities and technology-adjacent business opportunities.

Why the student might love it. Few schools in the portfolio can match the breadth of organizations, employers, events, alumni reach, and big-campus energy.

Main catches.

- Admission to the university and business pathway is meaningfully more competitive than the safe-tier schools.
- The scale can feel impersonal.

What would make it a real choice. A campus visit confirming that the size feels energizing rather than overwhelming.

Admission

OVERALL ADMIT RATE

Current institutional selectivity used as context; exact Fall 2027 rate not yet known.

PROGRAM/DIRECT-ADMIT RATE

Program-specific freshman rate not published or not used unless noted.

ACADEMIC CONTEXT

4.0 GPA, 1460 SAT, strong college-preparatory rigor, DECA/GSP profile.

TEST POLICY

Current-cycle policy checked where consequential; Fall 2027 updates should be rechecked before submission.

SUPERSCORE

Use current institutional policy at application time; no unsupported superscore assumption used here.

APPLICATION DEADLINE

Current Fall 2027 deadline should be confirmed on the admission portal before submission.

HONORS DEADLINE

Requires confirmation unless explicitly documented.

Financial aid & merit

COST OF ATTENDANCE

OOS public cost; exact Fall 2027 COA should be confirmed.

MEETS NEED

Need-based aid is not assumed to meet very low OOS cost.

LOAN EXPECTATION

Not assumed unless explicitly documented.

NEED-BASED PATH

Need-based aid is not assumed to meet very low OOS cost.

AUTOMATIC MERIT

No guaranteed full-cost award verified.

COMPETITIVE MERIT

Morrill and other competitive awards may be substantial but are not treated as dependable for this case.

FULL-TUITION OPTIONS

Substantial merit may exist.

FULL-COST OPTIONS

No current guaranteed full-cost mechanism used in planning.

SPECIAL BENEFITS

None assumed unless stated.

STACKING

Do not assume stacking without current official confirmation.

RENEWAL

Four-year continuation depends on each award/aid program's published renewal rules.

REQUIRED FORMS

FAFSA and merit/honors materials.

Program

School / college. Fisher College of Business

Degree structure. Large direct business college with multiple specializations.

Entry. For 2027 Columbus first-years, admission to Columbus with Fisher as first choice leads to Fisher admission and first-choice specialization under current published guidance.

Likely path. Finance/Information Systems/analytics-oriented specialization plus Entrepreneurship minor; consider IBE Honors only if selected.

Majors. Business specializations including Finance and Information Systems

Minors / certificates. Entrepreneurship and Innovation minor

Entrepreneurship. Entrepreneurship and Innovation minor

Technology / analytics. Information Systems and technical business options

Cross-disciplinary. Integrated Business & Engineering Honors can add engineering science or computer science minor if admitted

Honors / fellows. Integrated Business & Engineering Honors (selective)

Centers / labs / funds. Fisher entrepreneurship/career resources

Capstone / signature experience. Specialization capstones and applied work vary by field

Distinctive facts.

- Current 2027 guidance describes direct Fisher admission for Columbus first-years who select Fisher.
- Entrepreneurship and Innovation minor is available.

- IBE Honors integrates business with engineering/CS but is selective.

Relevant courses. Business core, finance, information systems, analytics-related coursework

Experiential learning

Internships. Internships widely supported by Fisher

Paid work. 2025-26 Fisher internship data report average hourly pay around \$25 for reported internships.

Consulting projects. Applied business projects

Venture / startup. Entrepreneurship minor/practicum experiences

Investment / finance. Finance organizations

Research. Research-university opportunities

Study abroad. Global business programs

Student organizations. Many business organizations

Other. Large Columbus campus creates extensive employer and club access.

Career

Placement. Fisher publishes current salary/outcome data by specialization.

Salary. Class of 2026 career-job average about \$69,716; Finance about \$72,382; Information Systems about \$72,585.

Recruiting strengths. Finance; information systems; large-employer recruiting

Career geography. Columbus/Midwest with national reach

Alumni network. Very large Ohio State alumni network.

Career support. Fisher career services.

Campus & fit

UNDERGRADUATE SIZE

Very large undergraduate population

SETTING

**Urban/active
Columbus, Ohio**

RESIDENTIAL MODEL

Residential undergraduate environment; details vary by institution.

TRAVEL PRACTICALITY

Easy-to-moderate drive from central Kentucky.

CLIMATE FIT

Neutral to positive; climate is not a hard constraint.

ACADEMIC ENVIRONMENT

Large research university with ambitious peer and organization scale.

CITY / EMPLOYER ACCESS

Excellent Columbus corporate/employer access.

STUDENT PREF. ALIGNMENT

strong

PARENT PREF. ALIGNMENT

positive

DISTANCE PENALTY

none

Distance override. No major distance override needed.

What four years could look like

Overview. A scale-and-network play with direct business entry and strong technology adjacency.

Freshman & sophomore years. Enter Fisher, build business core, select finance/IS and explore Entrepreneurship minor.

Junior & senior years. Intern in Columbus or nationally; if admitted to IBE Honors, add deeper engineering/CS integration, otherwise keep a business-tech elective path.

Signature experiences.

- Fisher internships
- Entrepreneurship minor
- IBE Honors if selected

Combining primary & secondary interests. Business + information systems/finance + entrepreneurship can support technology-oriented leadership.

Career trajectory. Finance, information systems, analytics, consulting or corporate leadership.

Why this could fit the student's dreams. Its huge university ecosystem and Columbus employer market match the student's large-campus preference.

How it compares

Closest competitors. University of Cincinnati, University of Pittsburgh

Better than those because. Much larger network and broader research-university scale.

Weaker than those because. Weaker affordability and no required co-op.

Distinctive value. Direct Fisher + Columbus + business/engineering/CS pathways.

Fit

Strengths

- large-university fit
- network
- technology adjacency

Trade-offs

- OOS financial risk

Preference alignment. positive

Parent alignment. positive

Why ranked here. Kept as a differentiated large-university choice, but financial probability is weak.

What could move it up. A more certain very low net price and/or stronger student commitment.

What could move it down. A materially worse net-price result, scholarship miss, or changed student willingness.

How & when to apply

Recommended round. Apply by merit/honors priority date

Why this round. Preserve all major merit and honors opportunities.

Critical deadlines.

- November 1: current Fisher/Ohio State priority timing for merit and Honors consideration

Special applications.

- IBE Honors if genuinely desired

Next actions.

- Confirm Fall 2027 merit rules
- Do not assume Morrill or other competitive awards

Test-score scenarios

SAT 1460 CURRENT

Admission: Current planning baseline. · Financial: No discrete current merit threshold identified at 1500 or 1540. · Materiality: baseline

SAT 1500

Admission: Modest qualitative strengthening where scores are considered; no mechanical probability jump assumed. · Financial: No discrete current merit threshold identified at 1500 or 1540. · Materiality: low-to-moderate

SAT 1540

Admission: Stronger testing signal at selective schools, but holistic selectivity remains dominant. · Financial: No discrete current merit threshold identified at 1500 or 1540. · Materiality: moderate at reaches; otherwise limited

Evidence

- Fisher Future Students **VERIFIED_PRIMARY**
- Fisher Honors **VERIFIED_PRIMARY**
- Entrepreneurship Minor **VERIFIED_PRIMARY**
- Salary & Outcome Data **VERIFIED_PRIMARY**

Centre College

Business / Economics · Danville, Kentucky · Small college town in Danville, Kentucky

Admission Likely **Cost likely works** **Workable**

Student: reluctant

Parent: positive

Would attend: maybe

Compensating factors.

- Close mentoring
- CentreWorks
- strong residential academic community

Barriers.

- Small campus
- Lower current student enthusiasm

Bottom line. A smaller, mentoring-intensive alternative that tests whether the student values close academic attention more than expected.

Why it belongs. Centre provides a useful contrast to the large universities: close faculty access, CentreWorks, and a highly residential liberal-arts environment.

Why the student might love it. If the student responds well to close mentoring and a tight campus community, the experience could be more personal than the larger-university alternatives.

Main catches.

- The student has shown less enthusiasm for a small-college setting.
- It should remain only if a visit produces genuine willingness to attend.

What would make it a real choice. A campus visit that changes the student's reaction from hesitant to genuinely positive.

Admission

OVERALL ADMIT RATE

Current institutional selectivity used as context; exact Fall 2027 rate not yet known.

PROGRAM/DIRECT-ADMIT RATE

Program-specific freshman rate not published or not used unless noted.

ACADEMIC CONTEXT

4.0 GPA, 1460 SAT, strong college-preparatory rigor, DECA/GSP profile.

TEST POLICY

Current-cycle policy checked where consequential; Fall 2027 updates should be rechecked before submission.

SUPERSCORE

Use current institutional policy at application time; no unsupported superscore assumption used here.

APPLICATION DEADLINE

Current Fall 2027 deadline should be confirmed on the admission portal before submission.

HONORS DEADLINE

Requires confirmation unless explicitly documented.

Financial aid & merit

COST OF ATTENDANCE

Private-college COA; exact Fall 2027 figure should be confirmed.

MEETS NEED

Need aid may be significant, but zero-parent-cost is not assumed.

LOAN EXPECTATION

Not assumed unless explicitly documented.

NEED-BASED PATH

Need aid may be significant, but zero-parent-cost is not assumed.

AUTOMATIC MERIT

No guaranteed full-cost mechanism assumed.

COMPETITIVE MERIT

Lincoln/Grissom and premier awards are highly competitive.

FULL-TUITION OPTIONS

Major merit can cover tuition.

FULL-COST OPTIONS

Lincoln Scholars selects a very small cohort and covers tuition, fees, room and board plus enrichment support.

SPECIAL BENEFITS

None assumed unless stated.

STACKING

Do not assume stacking without current official confirmation.

RENEWAL

Four-year continuation depends on each award/aid program's published renewal rules.

REQUIRED FORMS

FAFSA/CSS or institutional forms plus scholarship materials.

Program

School / college. Centre College

Degree structure. Small liberal-arts college with business/economics pathways.

Entry. General college admission; business major availability follows current Centre curriculum.

Likely path. Business/economics plus entrepreneurship, data and experiential learning, but only if the student remains willing.

Majors. Business, Economics

Minors / certificates. Related minors/certificates

Entrepreneurship. CentreWorks and entrepreneurship activities

Technology / analytics. Data/quantitative electives can complement business

Cross-disciplinary. Liberal-arts flexibility

Honors / fellows. Premier scholarship cohorts are selective

Centers / labs / funds. CentreWorks and related innovation resources

Capstone / signature experience. Applied entrepreneurial/project experiences

Distinctive facts.

- Centre now offers direct business study within a liberal-arts setting.
- CentreWorks provides entrepreneurship/innovation programming.
- Premier scholarships can make the financial outcome unusually strong, but only for very small cohorts.

Relevant courses. Business core, economics, quantitative methods

Experiential learning

Internships. Internships available through Centre career programs

Paid work. Paid status varies.

Consulting projects. Applied business/entrepreneurial projects

Venture / startup. CentreWorks entrepreneurship

Research. Undergraduate research

Study abroad. Study abroad is a notable Centre strength

Student organizations. Business/entrepreneurship organizations

Other. Small-college mentoring can make opportunities accessible.

Career

Placement. Strong career support typical of Centre; no unsupported universal metric used.

Salary. No unsupported salary claim used.

Recruiting strengths. Kentucky/regional alumni; liberal-arts business pathways

Career geography. Kentucky/Midwest with broader alumni reach

Alumni network. Close-knit alumni network.

Career support. Career services and faculty mentoring.

Campus & fit

UNDERGRADUATE SIZE

About 1,400 undergraduates

SETTING

Small college town in Danville, Kentucky

RESIDENTIAL MODEL

Residential undergraduate environment; details vary by institution.

TRAVEL PRACTICALITY

Very easy drive.

CLIMATE FIT

Neutral to positive; climate is not a hard constraint.

ACADEMIC ENVIRONMENT

Academically serious small liberal-arts environment.

CITY / EMPLOYER ACCESS

Limited city employer access compared with Lexington/Louisville/Cincinnati

STUDENT PREF. ALIGNMENT

low-to-moderate

PARENT PREF. ALIGNMENT

strong

DISTANCE PENALTY

none

Distance override. No geographic problem; the barrier is student enthusiasm and size.

What four years could look like

Overview. A rational family-supported fallback inside Lane A only because the student says "maybe," not "no."

Freshman & sophomore years. Explore business/economics while testing whether the small campus feels acceptable; engage CentreWorks and study-abroad planning.

Junior & senior years. Pursue internships, entrepreneurship/project work and a senior business/economics capstone.

Signature experiences.

- CentreWorks
- study abroad

Combining primary & secondary interests. Business + liberal arts can build broad leadership skills, but technology/game adjacency is weaker.

Career trajectory. Regional/national business roles or graduate study depending on internships.

Why this could fit the student's dreams. It could become attractive only if the financial package is exceptional and the student finds the small academic environment compelling.

How it compares

Closest competitors. DePauw University, Denison University, University of Louisville

Better than those because. Closer and more family-supported than other small-college options.

Weaker than those because. Much weaker student preference and less large-university/city opportunity than DePauw/Denison/UofL.

Distinctive value. Conditional financial exception for a parent-supported close option.

Fit

Strengths

- family support
- academic seriousness
- full-cost scholarship upside

Trade-offs

- student reluctance
- small setting

Preference alignment. reluctant

Parent alignment. enthusiastic

Why ranked here. Choice viability is materially weaker than every school above it; prompt rules prohibit treating reluctance as a veto, so it remains a conditional final slot rather than being silently discarded.

What could move it up. A more certain very low net price and/or stronger student commitment.

What could move it down. A materially worse net-price result, scholarship miss, or changed student willingness.

How & when to apply

Recommended round. Apply only if willing to preserve premier-scholarship eligibility

Why this round. Do not spend application effort unless the student remains at least genuinely “maybe.”

Special applications.

- Lincoln/other premier scholarship materials

Next actions.

- Confirm student willingness before submitting
- Verify Fall 2027 premier scholarship deadlines

Test-score scenarios

SAT 1460 CURRENT

Admission: Current planning baseline. · Financial: No discrete current merit threshold identified at 1500 or 1540. · Materiality: baseline

SAT 1500

Admission: Modest qualitative strengthening where scores are considered; no mechanical probability jump assumed. · Financial: No discrete current merit threshold identified at 1500 or 1540. · Materiality: low-to-moderate

SAT 1540

Admission: Stronger testing signal at selective schools, but holistic selectivity remains dominant. · Financial: No discrete current merit threshold identified at 1500 or 1540. · Materiality: moderate at reaches; otherwise limited

Evidence

- Scholarships & Fellowships **VERIFIED_PRIMARY**
- Lincoln Scholars Program **VERIFIED_PRIMARY**

TESTING STRATEGY

How the portfolio moves with the test score

The test-score picture is the same across every school on your list, so here it is once. This student is on an SAT track. SAT and ACT are both first-class; your current score is marked.

SAT 1460 · CURRENT
baseline

SAT 1500
low-to-moderate

SAT 1540
moderate at reaches;
otherwise limited

CONSIDERED, NOT RECOMMENDED

Alternatives

Schools that surfaced in research but did not earn a Lane A slot, with what would change that.

ALTERNATIVE · CONSIDERED, NOT A PRIMARY PICK

George Washington University

Why it is here and not in the main list. D.C. access is attractive, but Georgetown offers a more differentiated version of the same geographic/professional role for this student.

ALTERNATIVE · HIGH REACH, KEPT AS AN ALTERNATIVE

University of Southern California

Why it is here and not in the main list. Outstanding California/business/technology fit, but adding another very high reach would weaken the intended 4/4/2 balance.

ALTERNATIVE · HIGH REACH, KEPT AS AN ALTERNATIVE

University of Notre Dame

Why it is here and not in the main list. Strong outcomes and institutional resources, but the standard sample portfolio limits reaches to schools with the clearest differentiated role.

ALTERNATIVE · HIGH REACH, KEPT AS AN ALTERNATIVE

Washington University in St. Louis

Why it is here and not in the main list. Excellent academic and career resources, but the portfolio already contains two reaches with clearer preference or environment signals.

ALTERNATIVE · HIGH REACH, KEPT AS AN ALTERNATIVE

Emory University

Why it is here and not in the main list. Strong business option, but it would add another selective private rather than filling a missing portfolio role.

EVERY SCHOOL YOU NAMED

What happened to each named school

Every school the student or family named is in the recommended list above, so nothing was dropped. When a named school does not fit, it appears here as considered or ruled out, with the reason.

APPLICATION TIMELINE

Key dates

Confirm exact dates on each school's official pages before filing.

2026-10

CRITICAL

Finalize testing strategy, activity list, core personal statement, and campus-visit priorities.

2026-11-01

CRITICAL

Protect current early/priority timing for schools such as Cincinnati and Ohio State where applicable; recheck each Fall 2027 deadline before submission.

2026-12-01

CRITICAL

Protect current scholarship-priority timing at Kentucky and Miami where applicable; recheck each Fall 2027 requirement before submission.

2026-12 to 2027-01

CRITICAL

Complete remaining regular-decision applications and any school-specific scholarship materials.

2027-spring

CRITICAL

Compare admission results, net prices, program access, campus fit, and career opportunities before enrollment.

READ BEFORE YOU RELY ON THIS

Research warnings

Where the research is uncertain, stale, conflicting, or depends on something you must confirm.

Admission probability ranges are planning estimates, not institutional forecasts or guarantees.

Fall 2027 deadlines, testing policies, scholarship rules, and published costs should be rechecked before submission because some institutions had not yet posted final-cycle details when the underlying research was completed.

Competitive scholarships are treated as upside, not guaranteed outcomes.

Public sample financial framing was intentionally generalized; a paid client report should use the family's actual budget and aid constraints.

30 candidates considered.

Generated 2026-09-22 for case SAMPLE-2027-001 (cycle Fall 2027). Admission and affordability figures are planning estimates, not guarantees; verify every consequential fact on official sources before submission. This report is research and decision support, not professional admissions, financial, or legal advice.