

Ivy Leagues Losing Their Touch?

Elite students, ivy covered walls, and prestigious alumni are all things that might come to mind when you talk about the eight notable Ivy League schools that cover the Northeast Coast. The schools consist of Brown, Columbia, Cornell, Dartmouth, Harvard, Princeton, Yale, and University of Pennsylvania.

You might consider these schools if you wish to live out your *Gilmore Girls* dreams; however, the schools may be losing their status and prestige.

At Harvard, Yale, Princeton, and very recently the University of Pennsylvania, the universities have had incidents regarding discrimination and holding back on financial aid, and the incidents continue to pile up.

Even as recently as January 2, 2024, Harvard University President Claudine Gay resigned over anti-semitic comments made in light of the Israel-Hamas war, leaving many Harvard faculty members and students to rush to her defense. It is also noted by [Nature](#) that Gay was facing concerns about her plagiarism in her scholarly papers.

“It is with a heavy heart but a deep love for Harvard that I write to share that I will be stepping down as president,” Gay wrote, “When my brief presidency is remembered, I hope it will be seen as a moment of reawakening to the importance of striving to find our common humanity—and of not allowing rancor and vituperation to undermine the vital process of education.”

The University of Pennsylvania president, M. Elizabeth Magill, resigned as well on December 9, 2023, four days after she appeared in Congress where she evaded answering the question of whether students who called for the genocide of Jews should be expelled or reviewed on campus. Even months prior, Magill had been facing controversy, causing many influential graduates to question her leadership, and some wealthy contributors moving to withdraw donations. Public officials, such as Pa. Gov Shapiro, called for the university to change its president.

With all of the recent issues surrounding the Ivy League schools within the past five years, their acceptance rates have dropped to a historic low, prompting concern from students and parents, with the schools' new test optional policies and their social and political controversies.

“The number of students who applied to Harvard in early admissions... fell about 17%” Harvard University said.

With the Supreme Court overturning Affirmative Action through higher education, many of these schools have begun to unenroll from some of the financial aid programs that allow students from lower income families that guarantee them a place at school.

This year, [Yale University](#) reports that they only admitted 9.02 percent of early applicants, making it the lowest admissions rate in over two decades.

This leads to the question, what does the future hold for these once prestigious institutions?

The prestigious flags of the Ivy Leagues at Columbia's Wien Stadium. Kenneth C. Zirkel wikimediacommons



Yale Law School building, known as the best law school in the United States. Pradipta Mitra wikimediacommons



The view that students see in Harvard Yard. Daderot

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