

## Recession impacts college admissions

by UPI

WASHINGTON -- The recession may make it easier to gain admission to some private colleges in the United States this year, college officials say.

A drop in the number of applications is prompting many private schools to send out more letters of acceptance, create bigger waiting lists and pump more money into financial aid, the Washington Post reported Wednesday.

At Baltimore's Johns Hopkins University, applications were down by as much as 35 percent last fall, giving those who applied a better chance of acceptance.

"We think more kids will be looking at lower-cost flagship publics," says Bill Conley, dean of enrollment.

Dickinson College in Pennsylvania experienced a doubling in the number of early-decision applicants who withdrew for financial reasons.

But the Post says schools like Harvard and Dartmouth are even more competitive than usual this year due to a record number of 3 million students in the high school class of 2009 and the ability to offer increased aid to needy applicants.

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