This paper explores how variation in the availability of affirmative action practiced by nearby colleges affected the application and enrollment decisions of three cohorts of students in 1972, 1982, and 1992. I find significant differences in the degree of preference given to minority applicants by various college characteristics, with less affirmative action used by private colleges and colleges in the Midwest (particularly in 1992), and more selective institutions giving larger preferences to minority applicants. Given the spatial distribution of college characteristics, I find substantial variation in the degree of affirmative action available to students. Preliminary results show very small effects of this variation in nearby affirmative action on application and enrollment choices. In the central results, more nearby affirmative action appears to modestly raise the quality of colleges at which both minority and non-minority students apply and enroll.