Admission Processes at Colleges of Varying Selectivity

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WACAC Share, Learn, Connect – Bay Area North
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Selectivity Funnel

- **Least Selective** (open enrollment)
- Less Selective
- Selective
- **Most Selective**

Accepts the MOST students

Accepts the FEWEST students
Institutions of Higher Learning
Public and Private (not-for-profit)

**2-year Colleges: 1,196**  **4-year Colleges: 2,353**


**Freshman Admit Rates for 4-Year Colleges**

As of the 2014-2015 academic year. **SOURCE:** U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS Data Center “Compare individual institutions” function. **Note:** These numbers are approximations. Some institutions did not report admission rates.
Selectivity & Application Review Process

As selectivity increases, the application review process becomes increasingly complex and nuanced.
Open Admission/Enrollment
(a.k.a., Open Door Policy)

➢ Public Community /Junior colleges
➢ Occasionally, four-year schools (public and private)

Typical Requirements for Degree-Seeking Enrollment

• Application
• High school transcript (with date of graduation) or GED
• Standardized test scores (e.g., state assessments, SAT, ACT, etc.; not typically required, often used for placement)
De Anza College  
(community college in CA)

- Admission to De Anza College is open to anyone (subject to the Residency Requirements) who meets one of the following requirements:
  - Has a high school diploma
  - Has a General Education Diploma (GED)
  - Has a proficiency certificate
  - Is at least 18 years old and shows evidence of being able to benefit from the instruction offered by the college.
Chadron State College (NE)

- Public, 4-year university, DII

- “Chadron State College shall admit as students those persons who have graduated from an accredited high school or who present evidence of the achievement of a High School Equivalency Certificate based on the General Educational Development examination.”
Formulaic, Sliding Scale, or Objective Review

➢ Many public universities
➢ Some private colleges/universities

**Typical Admission Considerations**

- Application
- High school transcript (sometimes self-reported)
  - Specific high school curriculum may be required
  - GPA may be recalculated by college
  - If no rank provided, it may be estimated by college
- SAT or ACT scores (sometimes self-reported, sometimes optional; e.g., KU uses self-reported grades and scores)
2017-2018 Admission Standards

Students are candidates for admission if they have a GPA of 2.0 or higher, an ACT English of 15 or higher, and an ACT Math of 15 or higher.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TEST SCORES*</th>
<th>CUMULATIVE HIGH SCHOOL GPA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>&gt;3.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGLISH</td>
<td>NATH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACT 25 and above</td>
<td>ACT 25 and above</td>
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<tr>
<td>Old SAT 570</td>
<td>Old SAT 570</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New SAT 620</td>
<td>New SAT 590</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACT 18-24</td>
<td>ACT 19-24</td>
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<tr>
<td>Old SAT 430-560</td>
<td>Old SAT 460-560</td>
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<tr>
<td>New SAT 470-610</td>
<td>New SAT 500-580</td>
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<tr>
<td>ACT 16-17</td>
<td>ACT 16-18</td>
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<tr>
<td>Old SAT 410-420</td>
<td>Old SAT 400-450</td>
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<tr>
<td>New SAT 450-460</td>
<td>New SAT 440-490</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACT 15</td>
<td>ACT 15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Old SAT 390-400</td>
<td>Old SAT 370-390</td>
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<tr>
<td>New SAT 430-440</td>
<td>New SAT 410-430</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Candidate for Presidential Scholars admission
- Candidate for admission
- Candidate for admission with conditions
University of Kansas

Assured admission criteria:

• 21+ ACT (1060+ SAT*) and 3.25+ GPA or
• 24+ ACT (1160+ SAT*) and 3.0+ GPA

• AND 2.0+ GPA (2.5+ for out-of-state students) in a college-prep curriculum

• If applicable, achieve a 2.0 GPA or higher on any college credit taken in high school
As selectivity increases, the application review process becomes increasingly complex and nuanced.
## NACAC Admission Trends Survey, 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Factor</th>
<th>Considerable Importance</th>
<th>Moderate Importance</th>
<th>Limited Importance</th>
<th>None</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grades in College Prep Courses</td>
<td>79.2%</td>
<td>13.0%</td>
<td>6.9%</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grades in all Courses</td>
<td>60.3%</td>
<td>31.0%</td>
<td>8.7%</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strength of Curriculum</td>
<td>60.2%</td>
<td>26.8%</td>
<td>10.0%</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>SAT/ACT Scores</td>
<td>55.7%</td>
<td>32.5%</td>
<td>7.9%</td>
<td>3.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essay/Writing Sample</td>
<td>22.1%</td>
<td>39.0%</td>
<td>21.6%</td>
<td>17.3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Counselor Rec</td>
<td>17.3%</td>
<td>42.4%</td>
<td>27.3%</td>
<td>13.0%</td>
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<td>Demonstrated Interest</td>
<td>16.9%</td>
<td>33.3%</td>
<td>26.8%</td>
<td>22.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher Rec</td>
<td>15.2%</td>
<td>43.5%</td>
<td>27.8%</td>
<td>13.5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class Rank</td>
<td>14.0%</td>
<td>37.7%</td>
<td>32.0%</td>
<td>16.2%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Holistic or Comprehensive Review

- Some public universities
- Many private colleges/universities

**Typical Admission Considerations**

- Application
- High school transcript (curriculum, grades, and/or rank evaluated; sometimes self-reported – e.g., UCs)
- SAT* or ACT Scores* (sometimes self-reported – e.g., Univ. of Chicago)
- Counselor* and/or teacher recommendations*
- Essay or writing sample*
- Extracurricular Activities*
- Other* (Interview, Portfolio/Audition, etc.)

*Sometimes optional or not required
Additional Considerations/Institutional Priorities

- Application decision plan (ED, EA, RD)
- Athletic recruit
- College’s relationship with high school
- Demographics (socioeconomics, first-gen to college, race, ethnicity, gender/gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, geography, nationality, multilingual, etc.)
- Demonstrated interest (*see next slide*)
- Legacy or sibling connection; child of faculty/staff
- Major or area of study
- Money (full pay; past or potential donors)
- SAT/ACT sub-scores, SAT Subject Test scores, and/or AP/IB/other scores related to proposed area of study
- Unusual talents, recognition, or experiences
- And more!
Examples of Demonstrated Interest*

- Campus information session/tour or other official on-campus programs (overnights, special visit days, etc.) through the college’s Admission Office
- High school visit by college rep or regional informational meeting (be sure to register)
- Interaction and inquiry card submission (or scan) at college fairs
- Speaking with faculty, alumni, or students who officially represent the Admission Office (only when there is a record of the conversation)
- Getting on the mailing list; opening and reading emails from the college
- Contacting admission representatives by email or phone
- Admission interview
- Early application (Early Decision, Early Action, Priority/Scholarship deadline)
- Supplemental essays (and optional essays) – showing particular interest in that college and how the well the student has researched it

*Different schools will measure demonstrated interest differently or not at all.
Admit rate: 57.2%

Yield 23.1%
The Most Highly Selective Schools
(“They don’t admit anyone!”)

➢ Few public universities
➢ Few private colleges/universities

Admission Considerations

• Almost everything in the Holistic Review process is **MAGNIFIED**.
• Stellar academics and test scores are *not* unique – they are assumed and expected.
• Achievements, talents, or unique experiences are even more important.
• *Institutional priorities drive the process.*
Questions and Discussion