Introducing NACAC’s New Statement of Principles of Good Practice (“SPGP”)
A Draft For Review by NACAC’s Membership

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How did this all begin??

• Had been 10 years since last major revision
• Time to modernize and update SPGP
• January 2016 - NACAC Board of Directors decided to assemble a Steering Committee to conduct a major review.
NACAC’s Steering Committee on Admission Practices

Todd Rinehart, Chair, Associate Vice Chancellor of Enrollment and Director of Admissions, University of Denver, Denver CO

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Beth Wiser, Director of Admissions, University of Vermont, Burlington VT
NACAC’s charge to the Steering Committee included:

• Engage a wide cross-section of NACAC members
• Adapt the SPGP so that it sets the ethical standards for a changing educational landscape in college admission
• Condense, simplify, or modernize its language
• Issue a final report with recommendations to the Board of Directors, the NACAC Assembly delegates, and membership at large by September 2017 (Boston NACAC conference)
The Steering Committee’s Objectives

To create a document that will:

1. Not require a PhD to understand! Easy to navigate and find specific topics
2. Protect students from unethical recruitment practices
3. Protect institutions from unfair competition
4. Provide clear ethical principles and clear rules for implementation
5. Offer rationale and context for principles and rules
6. Enjoy the support of both sides of the desk
7. Stand as the conscience of our profession – Industry standard!
Highlights of the New SPGP

Everything in the new SPGP is mandatory

• All principles and practices will be monitored and enforced.
• “Best Practices” section was eliminated. Some principles moved to mandatory (for example, Wait list). Others will be repurposed in an educational document.

Mandatory principles now include interpretations (implementation)

• Readers no longer have to flip back and forth between principles and interpretations.

Content is no longer organized by membership type (All, Postsecondary, or Counseling members).

• Content is organized by topic.
The new SPGP is organized around two broad themes:

1. The Ethical Core of College Admission
   • Truthfulness and Transparency
   • Individual Professional Conduct
   • Respect for Confidentiality

2. The Responsible Practice of College Admission
   • Application Plans
   • Dates, Deadlines, and Procedures
   • Wait Lists
   • Transfer Admission
   • Commissioned Agents for International Student Recruitment
Part One – Ethical Core: Truthfulness and Transparency – p.3

- Ethical imperatives that apply to all members
- Specifies what colleges must disclose to students and parents
- Specifies what high schools must disclose on transcripts or school profiles.
SPGP now references conflicts of interest and other forms of unethical misconduct.

Requires members to maintain business relationships only with “individuals, vendors, consultants, agents or agencies who adhere to the SPGP”
Current SPGP prohibits colleges from asking students to list or rank order their other college choices on applications and forms.

Not asking the question orally (during interviews, for example) was only an unenforced “Best Practice.”

The new SPGP now says that colleges may not “ask the question verbally if the answer will be used to influence an admission, scholarship, or financial aid decision.”
• Revised definitions and additional guidelines for Regular Decision, Rolling Admission, Early Action, Restrictive/Single Choice Early Action, and Early Decision.

• Colleges must use these terms/plans!
Admission Cycle Dates and Deadlines – p. 10

• Stronger emphasis on “May 1 means May 1”
• Tighter restrictions on the use of housing deadlines to manipulate commitments before May 1
• Tighter restrictions on recruiting students who have already committed to attending other colleges
• Guidance for postsecondary member institutions outside the United States (May 1)
More transparency when students are placed on a wait list

- History of wait list activity
- Housing and financial aid available?
- Is financial need a factor in admitting students?

In exchange, greater flexibility for colleges

- Can assess waitlisted candidates’ likelihood of accepting an offer
- Can give students a 48-hour window to accept or decline a verbal offer
Colleges must publish admission requirements for transfer candidates and disclose opportunities for financial aid and housing.

Colleges need to provide transfer credit evaluations and financial aid packages prior to deposit deadlines.

No poaching! Unless students initiate a transfer inquiry, colleges may not solicit transfer applications without verifying that students are not currently enrolled at another college (unless at a two-year school allowing recruitment).
• Commissioned agents are paid *per capita* by colleges to recruit non-citizens.

• Colleges may have business relationships only with commissioned agents who fully disclose these relationships to their student clients.

• Colleges that use the services of commissioned agents must disclose that fact and the names of those agents.
The SPGP now includes a glossary that defines terms that are used throughout the new SPGP for consistent communication.
Please Remember:
The document is still a D-R-A-F-T!

- Nothing is carved in granite - The Steering Committee will continue to make changes based on the feedback from these sessions and the member survey.
- Here is a link where you can provide your feedback:
  
  www.nacacnet.org/SPGPreview
Quick Thoughts from the Panelists

• Perspectives from secondary schools
• Perspectives from colleges/universities
• Other thoughts?
Questions? Comments? Suggestions?

The Steering Committee would especially like to know:

1. Is the document organized in a logical, practical manner?
2. Do the headings/categories make sense?
3. Can you find things? If you are looking for a specific violation/principle, can you find it?
4. Does anything need to be eliminated? Are there any principles that would inhibit your ability to perform your job or hinder the success of your institution? Is there anything that is too intrusive for NACAC to monitor?
5. What are we missing? Any gaps in language or rules? Have we missed any cohorts of students? Any members? What still needs to be added?
Thank you!

Additional questions can be directed to the Steering Committee Chair:

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