F10: Beyond the Committee: A Peek at the Process of Holistic Admission at Public Research Universities

- Aaron Andersen, University of British Columbia, Canada
- Charles Murphy, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, IL
- Jim Rawlins, University of Oregon, OR
- Paul Seegert, University of Washington, WA
- Beth Shotton, University of St Andrews, Scotland
ADMISSIONS AT PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES

FIVE THINGS TO KNOW

SURVEY SAYS!

ADMISSIONS CASE STUDY

Aaron Andersen, University of British Columbia, Canada
Charles Murphy, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, IL
Jim Rawlins, University of Oregon, OR
Paul Seegert, University of Washington, WA
Beth Shotton, University of St Andrews, Scotland
Based on data from NCES and IPEDS and NAICU

707 Public Universities and Colleges in the U.S.
6 year Graduation Rate of 58%
Freshman Retention Rate of 80%

1,626 Private Non-Profit College in the U.S.
6 year Graduation Rate of 65%
Freshman Retention Rate of 81%
Public universities tend to be larger.
Degree programs vary greatly.
Larger numbers mean more opportunities.
WHICH ONE OF THESE FOUR CAN NOT CLAIM TO BE THE OLDEST PUBLIC UNIVERSITY IN THE UNITED STATES

A) UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
B) UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA
C) THE COLLEGE OF WILLIAM AND MARY
D) PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY
WHICH ONE OF THESE FOUR CAN **NOT** CLAIM TO BE THE OLDEST PUBLIC UNIVERSITY IN THE UNITED STATES

A) UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA  
B) UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
C) THE COLLEGE OF WILLIAM AND MARY  
D) PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY
LAND GRANT UNIVERSITIES WERE ESTABLISHED IN PART DUE TO THE HISTORIC PRACTICE OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOCUSING ON THE LIBERAL ARTS

WHAT WAS THE FIRST UNIVERSITY TO BE CREATED AS A FEDERAL LAND GRANT INSTITUTION?

A) UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE  
B) KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY  
C) UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII  
D) UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
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C) UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII
D) UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
#3 RESEARCH & RESOURCES

WHAT WILL YOU GET FROM A PUBLIC INSTITUTION?

- Larger universities can offer more degree programs
- State funding for research opportunities
- Attracting top scholars and researchers
#4 ADMISSIONS PROCESS

Open Enrollment, Competitive Or Selective

Holistic Review Or by a Formula

Early Action, Early Decision Or Regular Decision
#5 THE HOLISTIC REVIEW

WHAT TO EXPECT

To review holistically is to look at everything.

Blended process that typically looks at the middle of the pool.

Other ways to review holistically.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product</th>
<th>University</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pacemaker</td>
<td>UCLA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wetsuits</td>
<td>University of Toronto</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insulin</td>
<td>University of Florida</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electronic Digital Computer</td>
<td>University of Minnesota</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gatorade</td>
<td>Iowa State University</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
MATCH THE PRODUCT WITH THE PUBLIC UNIVERSITY WHERE IT WAS INVENTED

A) PACEMAKER
B) WETSUITS
C) INSULIN
D) ELECTRONIC DIGITAL COMPUTER
E) GATORADE

1) UCLA
2) UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
3) UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
4) UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
5) IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE
THE MOST IMPORTANT FACTOR.

THE ESSAY COMPLETES THE PICTURE

RECOMMENDATION LETTERS & LISTS OF ACTIVITIES
LESS IMPORTANT
## ADMISSIONS – SURVEY DATA TRENDS
SURVEY OF 90 STATE UNIVERSITIES IN UNITED STATES

### Are you test optional?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>YES</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public Universities Surveyed:</td>
<td>9 %</td>
<td>91 %</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Does you require letters of recommendation?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>REQUIRED</th>
<th>RECOMMENDED</th>
<th>NOT ACCEPTED/ CONSIDERED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public Universities Surveyed</td>
<td>30 %</td>
<td>13 %</td>
<td>57 %</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Do you require a resume or statement of activities?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YES</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public Universities Surveyed:</td>
<td>41 %</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Does demonstrated interest affect your admission decisions?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YES</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public Universities Surveyed:</td>
<td>26 %</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
When reviewing an application what factors do you consider to be most important?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>VERY UNIMPORTANT / SOMEWHAT UNIMPORTANT</th>
<th>SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT</th>
<th>VERY IMPORTANT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACADEMIC GRADES</td>
<td>0 %</td>
<td>0 %</td>
<td>100 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEST SCORES</td>
<td>0 %</td>
<td>9 %</td>
<td>91 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REFERENCE LETTERS</td>
<td>53 %</td>
<td>19 %</td>
<td>28 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APPLICATION ESSAYS</td>
<td>22 %</td>
<td>28 %</td>
<td>51 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RESUME / ACTIVITIES</td>
<td>31 %</td>
<td>25 %</td>
<td>43 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEMONSTRATED INTEREST</td>
<td>65 %</td>
<td>25 %</td>
<td>9 %</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Does your institution use a committee to review applications?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Chart</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes, all applications are brought to a committee</td>
<td></td>
<td>9.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No, a physical committee does not discuss applications</td>
<td></td>
<td>9.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specialized programs/majors only</td>
<td></td>
<td>6.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Only in exceptional or unusual cases</td>
<td></td>
<td>75.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How many people read each file?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Chart</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>46.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-4</td>
<td></td>
<td>53.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-8</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
When are the majority of your Out-of-state / International decisions delivered to students?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Chart</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>December - January</td>
<td></td>
<td>9.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January - February</td>
<td></td>
<td>32.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February - March</td>
<td></td>
<td>45.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March - April</td>
<td></td>
<td>12.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April - May</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
NAME FIVE PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES IN CANADA OR SCOTLAND

1) 
2) 
3) 
4) 
5)
NAME FIVE PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES IN CANADA OR SCOTLAND

1) 
2) 
3) 
4) 
5) 

NAME ANY - IT’S A PUBLIC SYSTEM!
UW ADMISSIONS PRINCIPLES

ADMISSIONS

- Academics top priority
- Holistic review: academic and personal
- Personal statement, short response, additional info
- Standardized test scores required
- Special circumstances considered
UW REVIEW PROCESS

- Student applies for admission by deadline of December 1
- Required: self-reported academic record, activities & writing sections, standardized test scores
- Letters of recommendation not accepted
- Holistic review readers review full application and assign assessments
- After all reviewed, directors determine which assessment levels admitted, denied, or waitlisted
- Students notified of decisions March 15-31
Academic Preparation and Performance

- An overall strong level of academic achievement as demonstrated by rigor of curriculum, grades
- Taking advantage of college-preparatory courses such as AP, IB, Running Start (Washington), college in the high school
- Senior year schedule
- Standardized test scores

Personal Achievements & Characteristics

- Significant achievement or responsibility in family, community, employment, arts, activities
- Academic achievement in the face of significant personal adversity or disability
ADMISSIONS
- Academics is top priority
- Review academics and personal characteristics to evaluate fit
- Standardized test is mandatory
- Required personal statement of 500 words, optional second essay on diversity
- Special circumstances may be taken into account
REVIEW PROCESS

I. Student applies for admission
II. Processing staff reviews basics, looks for special circumstances
III. System processes allow expedited admission for best students, review for the rest
IV. For holistic reading,
   a. counseling staff reviews by territory when possible
   b. each reader does complete review (not segmented)
V. Directors make toughest decisions
VI. All deny decisions are reviewed by senior leadership
After the processing team completes their initial review of the application, the counseling staff begins a comprehensive, holistic review.

- Strength of academic coursework
- Grade trend
- Senior schedule
- Test scores
- Personal statement/essay
- Extracurricular activities/special talents
- Ability to enhance the diversity of the university. The University of Oregon values diversity in its campus community: racial/ethnic background, socioeconomic background, and family educational history are among the many aspects of diversity that will be considered.
- Special Circumstances
Over the past few years we have started building a holistic review process for international applicants. While we have successfully started this process, the holistic review process for international applicants is not as sweeping, and requires a very individualized approach with each situation.

**INTERNATIONAL VS DOMESTIC**

**HOW INTERNATIONAL HOLISTIC REVIEW DIFFERS FROM DOMESTIC**

- Extracurricular activities/special talents are not required or formally considered
- Essay/Personal Statement is not required
- SAT/ACT are encouraged (increased chance of scholarship and admission), but not required
- TOEFL/IELTS scores and sub-scores are considered. (Conditional admission available)
Application Checklist Menu

- After you enter data in a section, click either the Checklist or Continue button to save your information. (See Note #1 Below)
- When you are done, click on Complete Application to pay the application fee and submit your application. (See Note #2 Below)
- Click Finish Later to return to the Application Menu (Incomplete applications may be updated at any time)
- After you complete and submit your application, you will be able to print a PDF copy for your records.

If you have questions, send us an email

*Note 1:* A checkmark will appear for a section even if you only provided partial information for the section. Please double-check that you have entered all your information before you click on Complete Application.

*Note 2:* Submitted applications cannot be updated or changed. If you previously paid the application fee for another term in the same academic year as this application, your payment confirmation number will be displayed after you click Complete Application and then QuikPay Payment on the next page.
Application Checklist Menu
- After you enter data in a section, click either the Checklist or Continue button to save your information. (See Note #1 Below)
- When you are done, click on Complete Application to pay the application fee and submit your application. (See Note #2 Below)
- Click Finish Later to return to the Application Menu (incomplete applications may be updated at any time.)
- After you complete and submit your application, you will be able to print a PDF copy for your records.

The University of Oregon offers Conditional Admission for students who meet our academic requirements but do not meet our English proficiency requirements. You can indicate your interest in conditional admission when you get to the "Request Conditional Admission" section of this application.

- Application Instructions
- Test Scores
- Name
- Personal Statement/Essay
- International Information
- Optional Second Essay
- Permanent Address and Phone
- Special Circumstances
- Mailing Address and Phone
- Honors College
- Contact/Emergency Person
- Accomplishments/Activities
- Major/Career Objective
- Request Conditional Admission
- High School
- Student Conduct
- College(s) Attended
- Certification Statement
- Complete Application
- Finish Later

If you have questions, send us an email

- Note 1: A checkmark will appear for a section even if you only provided partial information for the section. Please double-check that you have entered all your information before you click Complete Application.
- Note 2: Submitted applications cannot be updated or changed. If you previously paid the application fee for another term in the same academic year as this application, your payment confirmation number will be displayed after you click Complete Application and then QuikPay Payment on the next page.
UBC ADMISSION PRINCIPLES

ADMISSIONS
- Academics Priority
- Standardized tests supplement
- Personal Statement reviewed two times
  -> Rubric, Rubric, Rubric
- Academics reviewed separately from Essays etc.
- No committee review
Ready to apply?
To complete your application, you need to:
- be familiar with the programs that interest you
- review your admission requirements for Vancouver campus or Okanagan campus
- pay your application online with Visa, MasterCard or Interac

Start my application for:

- **Undergraduate Degree Programs**
  - Vancouver campus - Degree programs and UBC Vantage College
  - Okanagan campus - Degree programs and English Foundation Program

You have a saved application. Please click here to continue your application.

- **Doctor of Pharmacy or Pharmacy Residency**
  - Vancouver campus

- **Non-Degree Studies**
  - Includes Visiting, Unclassified and Access Studies
  - Vancouver campus or Okanagan campus

- **Conditional Admission Program (CAP)**
  - English Language Preparation leading to Undergraduate Degree Programs
  - Vancouver campus

Where can I learn more about UBC?
Visit the prospective students

Vantage One at UBC Vantage College?

UBC Vantage College is your starting point to a UBC degree. The college offers a unique first-year academic program for international students, consisting of 11 months of integrated English language study and academics. As a student in Vantage One you will be part of a small cohort of students from countries around the world, learning together in a diverse, engaging, and innovative environment. After successfully completing one year of academic courses and English preparation, enter the second year of your UBC degree program.

Start your application to UBC Vantage College by linking to Undergraduate Degree Programs.

How do I apply for graduate studies?
Visit Graduate Studies

What's my application deadline?
Find out deadlines for Vancouver campus and Okanagan campus programs.

What is the Conditional Admission Program (CAP)?
If you have a strong record of academic achievement but do not...
Please carefully review the summary of your academic history for accuracy and completeness. Failure to disclose your attendance at any school or academic establishment is considered academic misconduct and may result in the withdrawal of any offer of admission, whether accepted or not.
Post-Secondary Transfer Applicants: You must have a final overall average of 65% (2.30 on a 4-point scale). Applicants considered for year 2 must also have an average of 65% (2.30) calculated on all Economics, English and Math courses attempted. Applicants considered for year 3 must also have an average of 65% (2.30) calculated on all Commerce courses attempted.

Please note that as an applicant to the Bachelor of Commerce program you will be assessed a $81.00 Commerce application fee in addition to the general application fee.

**Required**

Explain how you responded to a problem and/or an unfamiliar situation. What did you do, what was the outcome, and what did you learn from the experience? (maximum 200 words)

*Testing*

**Required**

What constructive feedback have you received in a leadership or teamwork setting from others and what were your thoughts about the feedback? How has it impacted your approach in working with others since? (maximum 200 words)

*Testing*

**Required**

BCom Video Interview: Save your responses before you complete this next section by clicking save. To access the BCom Video Interview, please copy and paste http://www.sauder.ubc.ca/bcomvideointerview into a new browser and carefully follow all of the instructions listed at the website. After you have recorded answers to the two formal interview questions, copy the URL address provided on the final confirmation page and paste it into the field below. (maximum 200 words)

*Testing*
**Personal Profile**

Tell us about an experience, in school or out, that taught you something about yourself and/or the world around you.

My childhood experiences were a little different from most people's. I rode the subway with hundreds of other people who spoke a language that I couldn't understand. Instead of spending Christmas at home with extended family, we traveled to Cambodia, Malaysia, or Thailand for school holidays. From kindergarten until fourth grade, my family lived in Tokyo, Japan. Living in several different places has taught me a great deal, and each place has influenced who I am. Growing up around people from a vast number of cultures with many different opinions and perspectives helped me to learn to respect the opinions of others. When talking to someone, it's important to me not only to respect his or her opinion, but also to encourage those around me to do the same. Whether they align or conflict with my beliefs, a person's opinions should be respected. As a result of attending six different schools in three different cities, I learned how to be adaptable. More than once I've walked into a room full of strangers and have come out with a handful of friends. My experiences living abroad taught me things I could never have otherwise learned.

Be it inside or outside of the classroom, what have you done to challenge yourself intellectually? Describe an issue, topic or area of study that you have investigated or pursued.

I'm an athlete. I have been for almost my entire life, so when I was forced to retire from the sport I loved it broke my heart. During my sophomore swim season, I tore my labrum. It was my first serious injury and I was determined to learn as much about it as I could. I discovered that I loved learning about this type of injury, how it was caused, how to fix it, and how to diagnose it. It propelled me to research careers involving sports injuries and I found one – physical therapist/athletic trainer. I want to work with athletes because I know the sacrifices that have to be made and the benefits that come from being part of a successful team. I understand the devastation of life changing injury. This year I am taking a sports medicine class and volunteering at a physical therapy facility. These opportunities have confirmed my desire to go into this field. I love learning about the human body, how to discover what is wrong with someone, and how to fix it. I want to pass along the knowledge that I have learned and make it easier for people who are struggling.
WHO WAS THE LAST U.S. PRESIDENT TO GRADUATE FROM A STATE UNIVERSITY?

1) Ronald Reagan
2) Gerald Ford
3) Lyndon B Johnson
4) Harry Truman
5) Benjamin Harrison
WHO WAS THE LAST U.S. PRESIDENT TO GRADUATE FROM A STATE UNIVERSITY?

1) Ronald Reagan
2) Gerald Ford
3) Lyndon B Johnson
4) Harry Truman
5) Benjamin Harrison
ADMISSION PRINCIPLES

- Academics Priority
- Standardized tests supplement
- Personal Statement reviewed for demonstrated interest
- Letter of recommendation reviewed
- Committee review for borderline applications
UNIVERSITY OF ST ANDREWS: APPLICATION PROCESS

- Fee status: Scottish/EU, Rest Of UK, Overseas
  - Competition for places, and tuition fees, vary by cohort
- Three ways to apply: UCAS, Common Application & Direct Application

✓ Understand the Scottish degree system – it is different to the USA and England!
UNIVERSITY OF ST ANDREWS: HOW TO APPLY

- Determine fee status
- Understand our Entrance Requirements
- Apply to St Andrews
Applicant is:
✓ Classified as Scottish/EU/RUK/Overseas Fee Status
✓ Applying to more than one UK University (up to five)
Common Application

Applicant is:
✓ Classified as Overseas fee status
✓ Applying to US Universities and to those UK Universities listed as members of CA
Direct Application

Applicant is:

✓ Classified as Overseas fee status
✓ Applying to ONLY St Andrews in the UK
FACTORS IN UNIVERSITY OF ST ANDREWS HOLISTIC REVIEW

On receipt of application:

✓ Is the application complete?
  ➢ We require a transcript of grades with School Profile, a letter of reference, any test scores

✓ Admissions Officers review Overseas applications in a comprehensive and holistic process and take into consideration:
  ➢ Strength in academic course work
  ➢ Personal Statement
  ➢ Extracurricular activities/special talents
  ➢ Ability to enhance the diversity of the university: Because University of St Andrews values diversity in its campus community, racial/ethnic background, socioeconomic background, and family educational history are among the many aspects of diversity that will be considered.
  ➢ Special Circumstances

✓ Decisions are made by one reader
✓ Borderline applications are taken to a weekly Committee
✓ Decisions sent to applicants via email/portal and by letter
University of Illinois:
Required Materials

- **Application**
  - Demographic information
  - Self-Reported Academic Record
  - Major selection, including second choice major
  - Essay(s)
  - Extracurricular activities
- **Application fee or fee waiver**
- **Official test scores**
  - ACT or SAT required
  - TOEFL or IELTS encouraged for non-native English speakers

- **Letters of recommendation not accepted**
University of Illinois: Holistic Review

- Strength of academic record
- Test Scores – ACT/SAT/TOEFL/IELTS
- Program of study
- Achievements outside of the classroom
- Opportunities available to student
- Student background
- Extenuating or unique circumstances and talents

- [http://admissions.illinois.edu/Apply/Freshman/review](http://admissions.illinois.edu/Apply/Freshman/review)
### University of Illinois: Major Matters

#### MIDDLE 50% OF ADMITTED STUDENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Major</th>
<th>ACT Composite Scores</th>
<th>GPA*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACES</td>
<td>29  25</td>
<td>3.79 3.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AHS</td>
<td>30  25</td>
<td>3.76 3.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BUS</td>
<td>32  28</td>
<td>3.88 3.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DGS</td>
<td>30  25</td>
<td>3.65 3.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDU</td>
<td>29  24</td>
<td>3.68 3.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENG</td>
<td>31  34</td>
<td>4.00 3.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FAA</td>
<td>30  25</td>
<td>3.67 3.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAS</td>
<td>32  27</td>
<td>3.86 3.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MDIA</td>
<td>30  26</td>
<td>3.68 3.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSW</td>
<td>27  23</td>
<td>3.61 3.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAMPUS</td>
<td>33  27</td>
<td>3.88 3.32</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Based on academic courses only using an unweighted 4.0 scale.*
University of Illinois: Internal Process

• Each college has a review committee
  • Committee is made up of admissions and college staff
  • Level of involvement by college varies
• Applications are processed then show up on worklists for review
• Most applications get two reviews
  • Third read results in cases of disagreement
• Most difficult decisions are made by committee chair, college staff, and/or senior admissions staff
• Ability to route files to specific staff members
University of Illinois: The Review Sheet

### Specific Comments

- **Academic Achievements**
  - [ ] +
  - [ ] -

- **Test Scores**
  - [ ] +
  - [ ] -

- **Understanding/Commitment to Academic Area**
  - [ ] +
  - [ ] -

- **Personal Characteristics**
  - [ ] +
  - [ ] -

- **Other Achievements**
  - [ ] +
  - [ ] -

- **Other Circumstances**
  - [ ] +
  - [ ] -

### Decision

- **General Comments**
  - [ ]

- **Attribute**
  - [ ]

- **Decision**
  - **Select Decision**: [ ]

- **Hedge Factor**
  - [ ] +
  - [ ] -
  - [ ] Clear

- **Final**
  - [ ] Recommend

- **Extenuating Circumstances**
  - [ ]

- **Submit & Push To Banner**
  - [ ] Save
  - [ ] Submit & Exit

- **Submit & Push To Banner**
QUESTIONS

PANELISTS
Beth Shotton, University of St Andrews | beth.shotton@st.andrews.ac.uk
Paul Seegert University of Washington | pseegert@u.washington.edu
Jim Rawlins, University of Oregon | jrawlins@uoregon.edu
Charles Murphy, University of Illinois Champaign | murphych@illinois.edu
Aaron Andersen, University of British Columbia | aaron.andersen@ubc.ca