

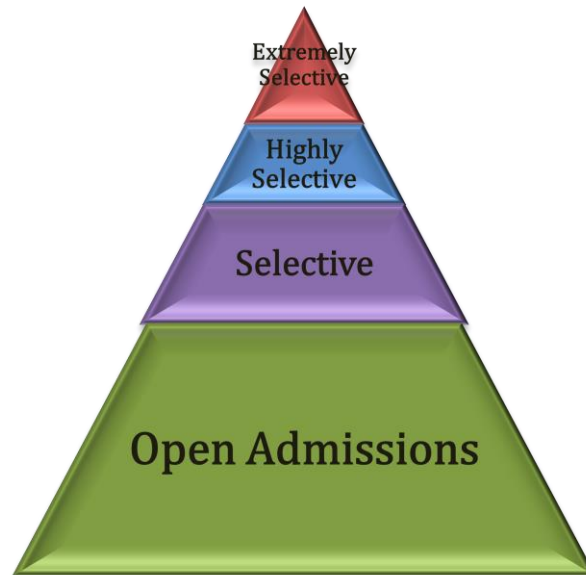


*Home of the Gentle Terriers*

## Mock Admission Committee Program

V FORM PARENTS' COLLEGE WORKSHOP – KENT SCHOOL

### The Concept of Selective Admissions



### The Selectivity Pyramid (based on percent of applicants admitted)

Of the more than 3000 four-year colleges and universities in the US, a few schools are extremely selective, some are highly selective, many are selective, but most have open admissions (admit most high school graduates or equivalent). The higher a school is on the pyramid, the more difficult it is to gain admission. Lintner College is in the highly selective category on the pyramid.

### ***What happens when colleges receive applications from more qualified applicants than they can admit?***

- Each college has its own agenda as it looks to build a class, but all colleges want students who are academically qualified, and all want people who will add to their communities in various ways.

### ***“Qualified” vs. “Competitive”***

- Qualified applicants = Have demonstrated they can do the work at the college
  - At selective colleges, most applicants fall into this category, but not all will be able to gain admission.
- Competitive applicants = Stand out in selective admissions pools
  - They generally bring something *extra* to the table, academically or otherwise.
  - They have a clear edge over the simply qualified, but sometimes a special factor can come into play.

### ***Special Factors in Admissions***

- Special factors can help a qualified applicant become a competitive applicant, but they are not a substitute for being qualified academically.
- Special factors can include but are not limited to:
  - Athletics - Can this student-athlete help the team win games?
  - Visual or Performing Arts talent ~ Is this student unusually talented in the arts?
  - Diversity ~ Will this student increase the presence of an under-represented group on campus?
  - Strong legacy ~ One or more relatives graduated from the school and have been active alumni (generally donated significant time and/or money)
  - Finances - Current or potential donors, “full pay” students
  - Community Involvement
  - Demonstrated significant leadership ability
  - “Demonstrated interest” in attending that school (campus visits, interviews, visits with reps, emails, letters; not all schools count DI)
- Different schools give different weight to these factors (or “hooks”)

### ***How do colleges determine that an applicant is both “qualified” and “competitive”?***

- The Application: Student Portion
  - Personal Data; Educational Data; Test Scores; Family Info; Extracurricular Activities & Work Experience; Short Essay on Activities/Experience; Major Essay
  - The Essay is the student’s best opportunity to “be heard” and should be both genuine and relevant.
- The Application: School’s Portion
  - The School Report
  - Transcript: Grades, Courses, Rigor, GPA & Rank (if provided)
  - School Profile (provides context, caliber of school)
  - Counselor Letter of Recommendation
  - Teacher Recommendations (usually from two teachers)
  - Supplementary Info - where applicable
- Finances: Some colleges do base their decisions in part on a student’s ability to pay (“need aware”).

### ***The Selection Process at Most Selective Schools***

- Admission Officers (also called “readers”) review the applications
  - Sometimes they can make decisions on their own
  - Readers might work by region, discipline, or special group
  - They often assign ratings for Academic & Non-Academic potential
- Admissions Committees then discuss applicants and make decisions
  - They strive for consistency, but the human element comes into play.



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### *Profile*

Lintner College is a leading liberal arts college featuring a vibrant residential community and a strong honor system. Lintner College is committed to diversity, international education and community service.

*Lintner College is a proud member of the Housatonic League, an NCAA Division III Athletic League.  
Go Terriers!*

#### *Student Body Profile:*

40% Men – 60% Women

17% Students of Color

Middle 50% of Test Scores

(25% of students scored lower and 25% scored higher)

SAT Scores: Evidenced-Based Reading and Writing 600 ~ 690; Math 600 ~ 690

ACT (w/Writing): 28 ~ 30

Overall Acceptance Rate: 35%

**Academic Criteria:** Grades & Course Load; Testing; Caliber of High School

**Extracurricular Contributions & Personal Qualities:** Personal Data; Activities Record; Depth of Interests; Counselor & Teacher Recs; Interviews; Outside Recs; Essays

**Lintner College's Institutional Needs:** Diversity and Gender Balance; Alumni & Development; Athletics or Artistic Talent; Leadership

**Financial Aid:** Lintner College is need aware in the application process.

#### *The Lintner College Admissions Office:*

*Maddie Brodeur, Jarrett Saunders, Robert Springall and Anne Springer*

*The Parents of Kent School's Class of 2019*

# Your Assignment

Before the Workshop:

- Read the applications. (Please note that these are *fictional* applications created for the purpose of this workshop.) Also, please note: we created these files a few years ago so dates in certain portions for the applications are off.
- Take ample notes on each applicant, and assign an academic and non-academic rating to each using the Reader Sheets.
- Be prepared to explain and defend your ratings.

On February 10<sup>th</sup>:

You will be a member of an “admission committee” led by Maddie Brodeur, Jarrett Saunders, Robert Springall and Anne Springer. You will review the applicants and your notes. As a group, you will discuss each of the four applications and you will select **two students to admit, one to wait list, and one to deny**.

After February 10<sup>th</sup>:

- Think about how to apply these “Lessons Learned” to help your child’s process.
- Encourage your child to work with his/her counselor to generate a good, balanced list.
- Take advantage of the resources in Family Connection.