

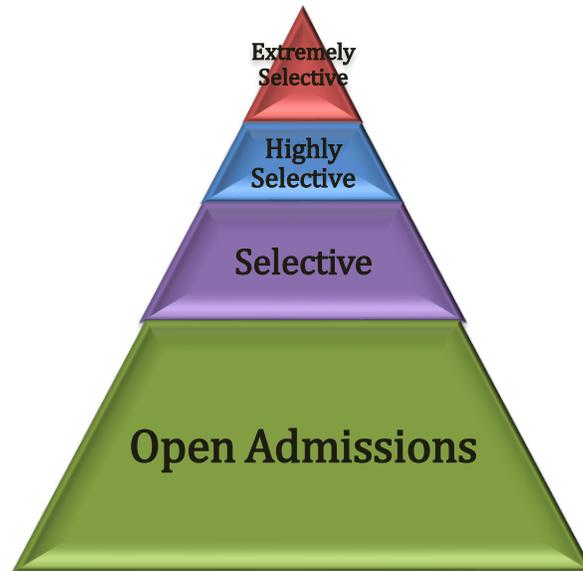


Home of the Gentle Terriers

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.



Home of the Gentle Terriers

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:

Rod Jackson, Robert Springall, Erin Stahl-Kiefer and John Yi

The Parents of Kent School's Class of 2020

Your Assignment

Before the Workshop:

- Read the applications. (Please note that these are *fictional* applications created for the purpose of this workshop.)
- 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 9th:

You will be a member of an “admission committee” led by our college admissions representatives. 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 9th:

- 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 Naviance.