

Admission Statistics

While searching for a university to attend, students often want to know how many applicants from that school have been admitted into a professional program. This seems like it should be a good indicator of how successful you would be if you attend that university or college. The truth? It doesn't matter. Although they seem like useful numbers, admissions statistics do not actually provide any insight into the quality of an undergraduate program. Comparing the numbers between schools confuses the issue even more. Here's why:

- Tracking admissions is difficult at best and sometimes not even possible as students must release this information to advisors, and students often forget to do this.
- It is difficult to know what to include in the statistics. For example, if looking at medical school admissions, what should you include?
 - Do you include just MD programs or MD and DO (osteopathic medical programs)?
 - Only first time applicants?
 - Only students with a completed undergrad degree from Purdue?
 - What about students who transferred to Purdue?
 - Graduate students or those with some graduate study?
 - Those who weren't really qualified? (for example, students with a 2.0 GPA)
 - Only those who met with a health professions advisor?
 - What about those who applied so late they didn't have a reasonable chance of acceptance?
- Some undergraduate institutions use different elements of these statistics when reporting their numbers. For example, their acceptance rate may be based only on those students with a particular GPA. Thus you cannot really use them to compare between undergraduate programs.
- Professional schools do not typically rank undergraduate institutions, nor do they generally favor undergraduate students from their own institutions.
- Professional school admissions committees look at the individual student's accomplishments and motivations, not which undergraduate institution was attended.

What is Useful in Choosing a School?

Instead of using admissions numbers, focus on the quality of the educational experiences, research and community involvement opportunities, and academic and pre-professional support and advising. Where do you feel comfortable? Where do you feel that you will have the overall college experience you are hoping for? Where will you have the support for all of the pursuits you hope to have during college?

National Statistics

National statistics can be useful to gauge about where you need to be as a competitive applicant to a professional program. This is an oversimplification of the process as professional programs use many factors in choosing students, but national statistics do provide a goal in terms of GPA and test scores.

In any given year, 30-50% of all applicants nationally are admitted to professional school. When you narrow this to students with a 3.6 GPA or better, it is about a 70% chance or better a student will be admitted. This pattern is true at most schools just as it is at Purdue. In fact, our students are accepted at rates slightly above these national averages.

Ultimately, professional school admissions statistics indicate little about undergraduate institutions. **No school "gets you in."** Purdue provides a multitude of opportunities, but it is up to you to make the most of these.

Preparing for your Giant Leap

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