



Admission Statistics

While searching for a university to attend, students often want to know how many applicants from that school have been accepted into a professional program. 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 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? Graduate students or those with some graduate study? Those who weren't really qualified? Only those who met with the 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 or higher. Thus you cannot really use them to compare between undergraduate programs.
- Professional schools do not rank undergraduate institutions, nor do they 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.

The Reality

Instead of using these numbers, focus on the quality of the educational experience, research and community involvement opportunities, and academic and pre-professional support and advising.

National statistics are also useful to know. In any given year, 40-50% of all applicants nationally are admitted to professional school. When you narrow this to students with a 3.6 GPA or better, it is generally an 80% chance or better they 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.**

