

AN INTERCULTURAL APPROACH TO CHINESE AND FOREIGN UNIVERSITIES



中外大学校园文化对比研究



Unit 2 Acceptance

Acceptance-related terms

- University website
- Fall-back
- Failsafe
- Safety school
- Letter of rejection
- Acceptance letter

Discussion 1:

What is college for?

From Bartleby's Dad

Society has rules.

And the first rule is you go to college.

You want to have a happy and successful life? You go to college.

If you want to be somebody, you go to college.

If you want to fit in, you go to college.

From Dean Lewis

There is only one reason kids want to go to school, which is, to get a good job and a great starting salary.

From Liz Murry

I just work as hard as I possibly can
and see what happens.

What is college for?

Going to college is one of the best
decisions you will ever make.

---Professor Drew Faust, Harvard President

Professor Faust says

College pays off financially.

College graduates lead more active lives.

College will take you to places you've never been before.

College introduces you to people you've never met before.

College helps you to discover dreams you've never dreamed
before.

College teaches us to "Think Slow".

In a word, college changes lives.

What did your parents say about it?

What did you say?

Discussion 2:

Is college worth its price?

父女的高考谈判： 上大学到底值不值？

随着很多大学的开学日陆续到来，在新生们忙着开始迎接大学生活时，家住四川省成都市槐树店路的玲玲，却在为上大学的事与父亲进行着一轮又一轮的谈判。虽然拿到了成都某高校的本科录取通知书，但玲玲的父亲固执地认为“读书无用”，他宁愿出钱资助玲玲做点小生意，也不愿“扔几万元学费进去打水漂”。

Discussion 3:

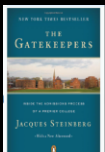
What are the secrets to get in?

From CNN report



名校录取的秘诀

Secret Formula for Admissions



There certainly is no formula.

Certainly they put a premium on your taking the hardest courses, ...see you get B's in the toughest courses in your school, in general, than A's in easy courses...you're the kind of person that really goes for it, and if a hard course is offered at your school, you take it.

In terms of extracurricular activities... see a couple of activities that you do really well, and for a long time and to the extent they can tell because you love them. To the point that you become a leader in them, rather than just taking a different activity every semester.

Discussion 4:

What are the “admissions policies”?

Admissions policies

- Affirmative action
- Legacy admission
- Need-blind admission
- New Jews

Policy 1

Affirmative Action

University admission: Affirmative action

Affirmative action, in the United States, an active effort to improve employment or educational opportunities for members of minority groups and for women. Affirmative action began as a government remedy to the effects of long-standing discrimination against such groups and has consisted of policies, programs, and procedures that give preferences to minorities and women in job hiring, admission to institutions of higher education, the awarding of government contracts, and other social benefits. The typical criteria for affirmative action are race, disability, gender, ethnic origin, and age.

(<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/7740/affirmative-action>)

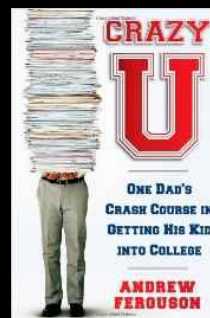
Policy 2

Legacy admission

Legacy admissions are the practice of giving preferential treatment to a college applicant because someone in his or her family attended the college. If you're wondering why the Common Application asks where your mom and dad went to college, it's because legacy status matters in the college admissions process.

<http://collegeapps.about.com/od/theartofgettingaccepted/f/legacy-admissions.htm>

Admission rate



(Fergusson 2011:185)

25-30%: Legacies

10-15%: URMs-under-represented minorities.

10%: Development cases are at least ten percent-those wealthy kids whose parents, though not alumni, show signs of incipient generosity.

Fifteen percent of the slots go to athletes of one kind or another.

....

One-third of a class with which the admissions dean can form a "famously diverse and culturally vibrant student body.

If you are unhooked, "slightly better than 3 percent" will be admitted.

Policy 3

Need-blind admission

A need-blind admission

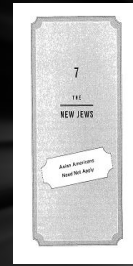
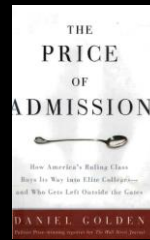
Need-blind admission is a term in the United States (and increasingly in the rest of the world) denoting a college admission policy in which the admitting institution does not consider an applicant's financial situation when deciding admission.

Need-blind admissions systems are rare in the private sector where institutional funds often make up the bulk of financial aid awarded but virtually all public institutions are need-blind. Most private universities cannot afford to offer financial aid to all admitted students and many will admit all students but cannot offer them sufficient aid to meet need.

From http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Need-blind_admission

Policy 4

The New Jews



Chapter 7: The new Jews: Asian Americans need not apply

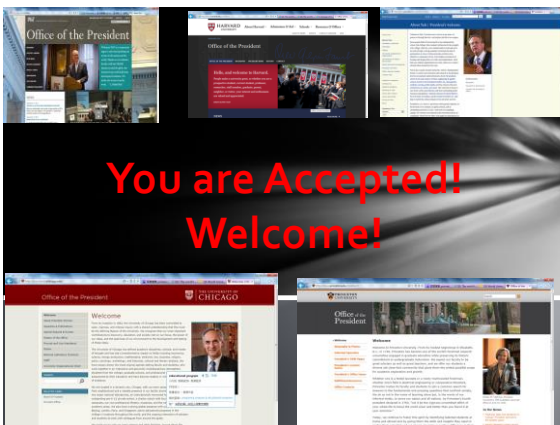
Racial bias

http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/language_tips/news/2012-02/16/content_14626430.htm (Listen)

The Education Department's Office of Civil Rights is investigating a complaint that Harvard and Princeton universities discriminates against Asian-Americans. The investigation began with a complaint from an Indian-American student in California who was near the top of his high school class but was rejected at both schools. The civil rights agency doesn't discuss the substance of pending cases, so there's no telling what evidence the Indian-American family might have to support a discrimination claim. Mere rejection - by either Harvard or Princeton - likely would not suffice, as both schools routinely reject students with perfect SAT scores and **grade-point averages**. A Harvard spokesman told reporter Golden the institution does not discriminate. Asian-Americans make up 16 percent of Harvard undergraduates. Asian-American students have challenged Ivy League admission policies before. Jian Li, a Chinese American, filed a civil rights complaint after Princeton rejected him in 2006. He'd scored a perfect 2400 on the SAT and graduated in the top 1 percent of his class, yet had been rejected at several Ivies. Golden reports that the agency received a fresh complaint in September targeting Yale, subsequently withdrawn. It's questionable, though, whether any student could prove discrimination by those schools without access to stacks of admission data. Harvard's admission rate has dipped to 6.2 percent, and Yale and Princeton aren't far behind. There is simply no guarantee of admission, no matter one's credentials. There's plenty of research to suggest, though, that Asian-American applicants must bring higher test scores and GPAs than whites, Hispanics or Blacks to gain entry. Golden cites a 2011 study of admissions at Duke: Asian-American enrollees scored 1457 on the reading and math sections of the SAT, compared to 1416 for whites, 1347 for Hispanics and 1275 for Blacks.

Discussion 5:

Fake university: Yes or no?



Talking the college talk

Curriculum
Tuition
Degree
Accreditation
Facility
Faculty
Letter of Acceptance
Letter of Rejection