

Websites like Grad Cafe have some built-in problems that make their data unreliable. The biggest issue is that people choose whether or not to post, so the results do not represent everyone who applied. Students who are very excited, very stressed, or very disappointed are more likely to share their outcomes, while many others stay silent. This means the data is biased. Moreover, there is no way to check if posts are accurate. People can make mistakes, exaggerate, or post guesses before they get an official decision. Since there is no standard format or verification, the information can be messy and inconsistent.

These sites also have limits that make them hard to use for serious analysis. Posting habits change from year to year, so trends over time can be misleading. Different users describe the same schools or programs in different ways, which can cause confusion or duplicate entries. Admissions decisions are also more complex than just “accepted” or “rejected,” but self-reported sites usually leave out important details like funding, waitlists, or deferrals. Therefore, data from Grad Cafe and similar sites should be seen as informal and anecdotal, not as a reliable source for drawing strong conclusions.

Looking at the analytical results, it is surprising that the American GPA is 4.10. This exceeds the standard 4.0 scale which suggests that some data includes weighted GPA or different grading scales. It is further surprising that the GRE AW is 8.46. The analytical writing section is scored 0-6, so the computed value is impossible. This is likely a data quality issue. Moreover, accepted GPA equals overall average (3.81). One would typically expect accepted applicants to have a higher GPA than the overall pool. Another surprising result is ‘University of California’ listed as a top university. This means that the LLM is likely grouping all UC campuses together rather than distinguishing Berkeley, UCLA, etc.