

Faculty Senate

[Faculty Senate](#) » [Committees/Councils](#) » [Undergraduate Admissions Committee](#) » [Annual Reports](#) » 2004-2005 Annual Report

Undergraduate Admissions Committee

Annual Report of the Undergraduate Admissions Committee
2004-05

Submitted by: Linda Bruslind, Chair

Committee members: David Pautsch, Tom Hill, Cheryl Middleton, Barbara Dowling, Richard Halse, Roy Rathja, Greg Thompson, Oscar Montemayor, Rosemary Garagnani (ex officio, Admissions)

The Undergraduate Admissions Committee (UAC) meets bi-weekly all year to decide whether to admit any potential undergraduate applicant not meeting the stated OSU admission requirements. Applicants must request this consideration by the UAC and submit all required materials.

Applicants requesting review by the UAC must submit a written personal statement and at least three letters of recommendation in addition to the standard application materials already on file to the UAC prior to the advertised UAC meeting. The Admissions Office collects the materials and presents these files to the UAC. Committee members use this information, as well as knowledge of support organizations on campus such as the Educational Opportunities Program (EOP), the Academic Success Center, and the office of Services for Students with Disabilities to make an informed decision on the applicant's ability to become a successful student. Applicants denied admission by the UAC during this first round of appeals, still have the opportunity to make a personal appeal to the UAC and are informed of this option by the Office of Admissions. If an applicant's personal appeal is denied, there is no other appeal option available and the student is denied admission to Oregon State.

A student file may be deferred by the committee for more information such as final term grades, or a specific grade in a core course. Deferred files do not need to be returned to the committee, unless specifically requested, if the student meets the minimum requirements set by the UAC.

The UAC held 25 meetings during the past academic year. A total of 250 files were reviewed. Of these, 81 were admitted, 40 were deferred, and 129 were denied. There were 33 personal appearances. Of these, 11 were admitted, 5 were deferred, and 17 were denied. UAC members spent some committee time discussing possible implementation of a committee rule regarding the presence of applicant representatives or liaisons during the personal appearances, but no consensus was reached. The issue was eventually tabled.

Recommendations:

- The letter that is currently sent to potential undergraduate applicants not meeting the stated OSU admission requirements is in the process of being revised, in an attempt to elicit information that would more accurately assist UAC members in making an informed decision on the applicant's ability to become a successful student at OSU. Continued revision by the committee may be necessary in the upcoming year, based on applicant response.
- Long term tracking of applicants admitted by the committee needs to be established, so UAC members can visualize trends and predictors for success.
- Training of new UAC members should be implemented in a consistent fashion.
- Periodic training of established UAC members should also occur, including informative sessions about the roles of various support organizations on campus.

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