

2023 Trustee Ad Hoc Committee on Undergraduate Admission Policy

Princeton University has developed an undergraduate admissions process guided by two key principles:

1. Princeton's admission process should be merit-driven, pursuant to an understanding of "merit" derived from the University's goals and defined as seeking students who will: a) benefit from and contribute to the very demanding education that Princeton offers; and b) use that education to do good in the world.
2. Princeton should create more opportunity for more students, including by ensuring that Princeton continues to identify, recruit, matriculate and graduate talented leaders from groups previously underrepresented in the student body at this and other research universities.

The recent decisions in *Students for Fair Admissions, Inc. v. President and Fellows of Harvard College* and *Students for Fair Admissions, Inc. v. North Carolina* imposed new, legally binding restrictions on the means by which the University may pursue these objectives. The University is making immediate changes to its admission practices to ensure that it is in full compliance with the law and that it can continue to seek and enroll talented students from all backgrounds during this year's admission cycle.

This Committee will examine whether the University should make additional changes to admission policies. In addition to considering the impact of the two recent Supreme Court cases, the Committee will review evidence about how the pandemic and the recent expansion of the University's undergraduate student body have affected the University's achievement of its admission priorities.

More specifically, the ad hoc committee will

1. Review historical data and trends relevant to the University's admission policies.
2. Review the University's strategy for ensuring that its admission policies and practices are fully compliant with the law.
3. Examine existing University priorities for admission policy and their relationship to the University's mission.
4. Examine the impact of the recent Supreme Court cases, the pandemic, and the expansion of the undergraduate student body on the University's admission policies.
5. Identify any other events, risks, or trends relevant to the assessment of the University's admission policies.
6. Recommend to the full Board any adjustment to admission policies that the committee might regard as desirable to maximize the University's ability to achieve its mission.
7. Provide to the full Board a report on the committee's work that may, after the Board's review, be shared publicly.

We anticipate that the ad hoc committee will complete its work and make any appropriate recommendations to the Board not later than its May 2024 meeting. Because these issues are of interest to the entire Board, we expect the committee to report regularly to the full Board about its deliberations.