

Recommendations from the International Undergraduate Student Recruitment, Retention and Campus Life Working Group

From Preliminary Report of January, 2011

English Proficiency

For all international applicants, including transfer students, increase minimum TOEFL requirement to 90 for Fall 2012 and to 100 for Fall 2013. Adjust other means of meeting proficiency requirements appropriately.

Rationale: Our English proficiency requirements are the lowest of the 25 institutions we benchmarked. Increased English proficiency will increase the likelihood of academic success and students' ability to engage in the broader university environment. A TOEFL of 100 is the common threshold for universities of our quality.

SAT Requirement

Require the SAT or ACT for all international applicants, including transfer students, beginning with the class entering in fall of 2012.

Rationale: Of the 25 institutions we benchmarked, we are the only institution that did not require the SAT or ACT. Students who come to the US to study have taken the SAT. Including the SAT will improve our evaluation of international students.

ELS Relationship/Conditional Admission

Discontinue conditional admission with the class that enters in Fall 2012. We would continue to welcome students from ELS, but they would need to come through normal application channels and meet the admission standards in place at the time of application.

None of the 25 institutions that we benchmarked offer conditional admission. As we raise the English proficiency requirement, ELS 112 (a current English proficiency standard) would not meet the higher standard and ELS students would have to show proficiency in another way. We also know from experience that the conditionally admitted students are the students with the most limited English skills.

Background Information and Approach

To inform our conversations we gathered extensive data on 25 universities. The universities were selected because they belonged to one of three groups: the “middle group” (a group of schools CWRU often uses for benchmarking purposes), schools that students most often turn down CWRU to attend and private universities closest to CWRU in the *US News* rankings. Information was gathered from publicly available resources on the following universities:

- Boston College
- Boston University
- Brandeis University
- Brown University
- Cornell University
- George Washington University
- Lehigh University
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- New York University
- Princeton University
- Rice University
- Stanford University
- Tulane University
- University of Chicago
- University of Notre Dame
- University of Pennsylvania
- University of Pittsburgh
- Vanderbilt University
- Washington University St. Louis

In depth interviews were conducted with six other universities to learn of their practices relative to international student recruitment, retention and student life. These universities were chosen for in depth interviews because we felt that they were most similar to CWRU and represented a mix of true “peer” universities and “aspirant” universities. Additionally, we attempted to conduct in depth interviews with Boston University and Washington University. Scheduling conflicts prevented the interview with Boston University and Washington University refused the interview request. Interviews were completed with the following universities:

- University of Rochester
- Carnegie Mellon University
- Johns Hopkins
- Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
- Northwestern University
- Emory University

Because the interviews were conducted on condition that their responses remain confidential, the information gathered from these interviews are not included in the publicly available copy of this report.