



What PENN AMBASSADORS should know about ADMISSIONS

1. More attention to admissions: There's an increasing level of *stress* and *anxiety* surrounding the college admission process, particularly with Penn, which has become much more selective over the past 10 years. The media has a lot to say about the topic. As a Penn ambassador, be aware of your potential influence on public perception of the institution.

2. Campus Visits: The best way to begin exploring Penn is to attend an **information session** and take a **campus tour**. These are offered frequently and reservations are not required! Other "Special Visiting Opportunities" are discussed on the Admissions website. A campus visit is always encouraged but never required.

Office of Undergraduate Admissions

Typical schedule, Mon-Fri:

Information Session 10:00 AM*, 1:00 PM

Campus Tour 11:00 AM*, 2:00 PM

(*Not offered every month)

To verify times, visit

www.admissions.upenn.edu/visiting/tours.php

Some weekend times available!

3. What is a Legacy? Children and grandchildren of Penn degree-holders are considered "legacies" in the undergraduate admissions process.

4. What is the ACA? The Alumni Council on Admissions (ACA) is a resource for alumni who have "legacies" considering an application to one of Penn's four undergraduate schools.

Alumni Council on Admissions Legacy Advising Sessions

Monday through Friday 12:15 PM and 3:15 PM

Saturdays in the fall 1:15 PM

(except University holidays)

No appointment necessary!

www.alumni.upenn.edu/aca/las.html

The ACA does not evaluate legacy candidates, and the ACA does not "advocate" for legacies. We offer advice and guidance about the college search and application process.

In order to accommodate all interested legacies, the ACA hosts open **Legacy Advising Sessions**. Legacy applicants may choose to visit the before submitting an application, in order to gain advice, guidance, and insights about the application process.

4. About "interviews:" The Office of Undergraduate Admissions does not offer individual on-campus interviews. They oversee a group of Penn Alumni volunteers known as the Secondary School Committee (SSC). These volunteers attempt to contact Penn applicants in their region to offer a personal interview. Interviews are **optional** and not universally available, so applicants are encouraged to rely on the application as a forum for presenting their candidacy. Only about half of Penn applicants receive alumni interviews.

Any visit to the ACA will satisfy this optional component since we do send a note to admissions confirming the legacy connection and the interest in Penn. There is no strategic advantage in meeting with the ACA, but we would love to offer our advice and guidance that may help with the application.

A visit to the ACA does not increase an applicant's chance of acceptance.

5. The Application and Selection Process: There are many components to an application, and each piece is carefully reviewed by the Admissions staff. Every application is thoroughly reviewed and discussed by the Admissions Committee. There are no minimum grades or test scores required. Prospective students tend to apply to Penn only if they think they have a chance. Therefore, nearly all applicants to Penn are very strong, making it a very competitive process.

Q: Is it OK if I submit supplemental materials?

A: Admission officers learn plenty about each candidate from the required application materials. If you must send extra materials, be judicious about the amount that you send.

Read more in our Opinion Forum:

www.alumni.upenn.edu/aca/opforum.html

6. Supplemental Support: An alumnus or someone else who knows the candidate may submit an extra letter of support. This letter should discuss the applicant's personal qualities and other strengths. Be sure to include the applicant's name and high school, and send the letter directly to the Office of Undergraduate Admissions.

7. Early Decision: Penn has retained its Early Decision plan, which involves a binding agreement to attend if admitted. Early Decision has attracted some of Penn's brightest and most enthusiastic student leaders. Legacies receive maximum consideration when they apply to Penn under the Early Decision Plan. We encourage all students to carefully consider their options before committing to an Early Decision application.

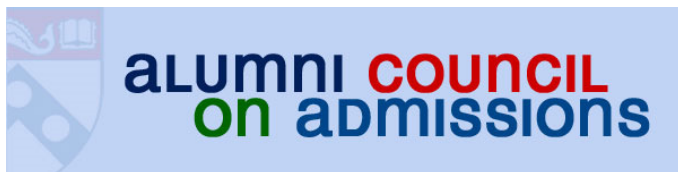
**Early Decision?
Regular Decision?**

Read more:

www.alumni.upenn.edu/aca/earlyregdec.html

8. Alumni volunteerism & contributions: This topic gains lots of attention in the media, but not in the Admissions Committee! The selection process is focused on the interests, strengths and talents of each candidate. Any attempt to change that focus could dilute the applicant's voice and efforts in the application process. It is important to allow each candidate's record and application materials to receive a fair, thorough and unbiased review.

9. Other questions not covered here? Please contact the **OFFICE OF UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS** or the **ALUMNI COUNCIL ON ADMISSIONS**.



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