

**When an alumnus is disappointed
with an Admissions decision...**

We know it can be a difficult conversation with an alumnus when their child or grandchild has been denied by Penn. There is really no "script" for handling this conversation. We wish more legacies could be admitted, so we share in the disappointment our alumni feel. A simple tip we can offer you is to speak slowly and sincerely, and be prepared to listen. Your sincerity is worth more than any facts or details.

Please listen to the person intently. We are interested in their comments and feedback. Offer to pass along their comments to the Alumni Office (more specifically the Alumni Council on Admissions), but be prepared to respect their privacy.

In recent years, Penn's selectivity has changed more than any other Ivy school. The goal in Admissions is to recruit about 2,400 new freshmen each year. Since 1995, applications to Penn have risen about 50 percent and the acceptance rate has been cut nearly in half. In 2007-2008, Penn admitted just under 17 percent of the applicants. For the past few years, average SAT scores have been above 700 on each section (Critical Reading, Math, and Writing); the average ACT score has been about 33. Most applicants are top performers in their school, taking the most rigorous courses available, and taking leadership in extracurricular activities. Admitted legacies have the same profile as the overall admitted group.

In building a class of freshmen, the Admissions Office is forced to look beyond the quantitative data, and choose the applicants who somehow stand apart, and whose interests represent the best match for Penn. The Admissions Office is forced to deny many very good students each year, among them many highly qualified legacies. These are difficult decisions that cannot be explained using statistics.

The Alumni Council on Admissions welcomes calls from concerned alumni. We have no information about the rationale behind any specific admission decisions, but we welcome any thoughts or feedback alumni would like to share with us. Please feel free to contact us directly, and feel free to give alumni our contact information. Alumni may also choose to provide confidential feedback using our online survey: www.alumni.upenn.edu/survey/ACA.

Alumni Council on Admissions
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