

Holistic Review Intro

What is holistic review?

Holistic review takes into consideration all aspects of the application to provide us with the most accurate impression of the student.

Why do we use holistic review?

It allows for a mission driven application process, and encourages students from varied backgrounds to apply.

Some areas to consider for Personal Qualities and Achievements:

- Overcoming significant obstacles:
 - educational* (first generation college student, under-resourced primary education)
 - economic* (worked significant amount during school, fee-waiver, consider how economic background influences institution selection)
 - personal* (family turmoil, physical/mental illness, lack of support system)
- Personal adversity or disability and ability to enhance diversity
- Has made significant contributions to community, institution, or family
- Letters of recommendation

Some areas to consider for Academic assessment:

- GPA (in context of institution attended, rigor of curriculum, and grade trends)
- GRE scores
- Essay quality
- Publications, significant projects, and research

Things to Remember:

- *Contextualize* the prior institutions attended.
 - Student may have started at a community college due to financial constraints and transferred to a university, thus having less overall research experience in a lab, but once at the university, excelled (as evidenced by strong letters of recommendation, for example)
 - Student may have attended Eastern Washington University over UW because of cost, ability to live at home, smaller school etc....
- Think in terms of transferable skills. Ex: Does their experience show dedication, leadership, teamwork, curiosity, initiative etc....
- If you see student lacking in one area, explore their application to see if they have other strengths. Ex: No publications, but transferred from community college to 4-year institution

