

Navigating Holistic Admissions At-A-Glance

At its core, holistic admissions is a method in which reviewers consider all available information to get the fullest picture of everything that an applicant can bring to a program. Implemented appropriately, it can support a fair and inclusive process that helps to identify applicants that effectively meet program needs and support institutional goals.



Programs conducting holistic admissions typically:

- Use information from multiple sources to gauge applicants' knowledge, skills and attributes
- Avoid using "cut scores" that use only undergraduate GPA and GRE® scores
- Give thought to the weighting and order in which components are reviewed



Preparing for the Admissions Process

Set goals and guiding principles.
Structure processes to achieve your goals.
Consider committee composition and training.

[Download: Discussion Guide](#)



Collecting Applicant Information

Determine evidence needed to evaluate applicants.
Ensure application explicitly requests desired information.
Collect comparable information from all applicants.

[Download: Benefits and Drawbacks of Application Components](#)



Evaluating the Admissions Process

Evaluate outcomes data against admissions inputs.
Reflect on past students to gain insight.
Understand typical reasons for dropping out.

[Download: Understanding and Improving Retention Rates](#)



Selecting Applicants

Balance quantitative and qualitative measures.
Consider composition of the class as a whole.
Use a scorecard or rubric for consistency.

[Download: Sample Holistic Admissions Scorecard/Rubric](#)



Reviewing Applicant Files

Adopt a holistic review process.
Consider multiple criteria and explore alternate processes.
Ensure applications are evaluated consistently.

[Download: Getting the Greatest Value Out of Test Scores](#)

Visit Holisticadmissions.org/Navigate for the full Navigating Holistic Admissions digital guide.