



# IB CONFERENCE OF THE AMERICAS 2015

*Chicago, IL • 23–26 July*



IB CONFERENCE  
OF THE AMERICAS 2015  
*Chicago, IL • 23–26 July*

# Admissions Case Studies

Mississippi Room  
July 24, 2015  
11:15am-12:30pm



IB CONFERENCE  
OF THE AMERICAS 2015  
Chicago, IL • 23–26 July

# Session Presenters

- **Jim Bock**, Vice President and Dean of Admissions, Swarthmore College
- **Kirk Brennan**, Director of Undergraduate Admission, University of Southern California
- **Pam Joos**, University Counselor, Washington International School
- **Michael Lai**, Student Outreach Lead, Minevra
- **David Zutautas**, Assistant Director, Office of Student Recruitment, University of Toronto



IB CONFERENCE  
OF THE AMERICAS 2015  
Chicago, IL • 23–26 July

# Methods to the Madness: Admissions Decision-Making Models

## Formulaic Models

- “By the numbers” – GPA, class rank, standardized test scores

## Holistic Models

- Comprehensive review of the complete application, essays, recommendations and other information



IB CONFERENCE  
OF THE AMERICAS 2015  
Chicago, IL • 23–26 July

# Application Components: What Is Important?

These factors vary in importance from institution to institution:

- Academic Achievement, Quality and Potential
- Nonacademic Characteristics and Attributes
- Institutional Needs

**Rigol (2003)**  
*Admissions Decision-Making Models*



IB CONFERENCE  
OF THE AMERICAS 2015  
Chicago, IL • 23–26 July

# Ivory Tower University

Welcome to Admission Officer Training!





IB CONFERENCE  
OF THE AMERICAS 2015  
Chicago, IL • 23–26 July

# Ivory Tower University

- See profile in your packet
- Large research institution
- Broad offerings at undergraduate and graduate levels
- National in scope, located in southwestern US
- Interdisciplinary studies encouraged of undergraduates



IB CONFERENCE  
OF THE AMERICAS 2015  
Chicago, IL • 23–26 July

# Ivory Tower University

- **Highly competitive admission.**
  - Faculty demand impact in and out of classroom
  - Best students in the US, even the world
- **Seek a diverse student body**, paying special attention to
  - academic excellence
  - willingness to engage
  - interest in collaboration
- **Consider personal attributes**, such as:
  - evidence of impactful leadership
  - passion for public service
  - strength of character in overcoming personal hardships
  - drive to succeed
  - First generation or under-represented students





IB CONFERENCE  
OF THE AMERICAS 2015  
Chicago, IL • 23–26 July

# Ivory Tower University

Last year's admission profile:

Applications	35,000
Admission offers	6,000
Admission rate	17%
Expected enrollment	4,200

Rank in class, by decile	
1st	39%
2nd	13%
3rd	6%
4th	4%
5th	3%
6th	1%
7th	0%
8th	0%
9th	0%
10th	0%
Not reported	34%

Interquartile ranges	25th %-ile	75th %-ile
GPA	3.82	4.20
SAT Critical Reading	610	710
SAT Math	620	760
SAT Writing	600	720

Sending high school:

Public:	59%
Private:	41%



IB CONFERENCE  
OF THE AMERICAS 2015  
Chicago, IL • 23–26 July

# Ivory Tower University

- 30 minutes to review cases
- 10 minute committee meeting to decide:
  - 1 admit, 1 wait-list, 1 deny
- 5 minutes: what would we do?
- 20 minute, discussion Q&A



IB CONFERENCE  
OF THE AMERICAS 2015  
*Chicago, IL • 23–26 July*

# Time to read

You are running behind.



IB CONFERENCE  
OF THE AMERICAS 2015  
*Chicago, IL • 23–26 July*

# What would we do?



IB CONFERENCE  
OF THE AMERICAS 2015  
*Chicago, IL • 23–26 July*

# Questions