Admission Committee Directions

You are an admission officer at Lehigh University and serve on the institution’s admission committee. It is late in February and decision letters need to be mailed within the coming days. You have four remaining candidates to consider. Unfortunately, you have run out of space and can only admit two of them. You will have to wait list and deny one of each of the other applicants. Read each application and carefully review the academic and personal credentials, all while keeping in mind Lehigh University’s profile and mission (please read the university’s profile carefully!). Make sure to make notes, as a committee you will need to discuss the strengths and weaknesses of each candidate and provide your recommendation to the Vice Provost of Admission.

Reading Tips and Questions to Consider

Personal Information
Is there anything specific about the student we should note? Is the student a legacy candidate? What type of diversity does the student bring to the table? Has the student ever been in trouble? Where does the student live? Parents? Parent’s occupations? Siblings?

Essay
Does the essay tell us something that goes beyond the transcript? What talents does the student reveal? Is there a strong voice? Do you get a sense of the student? Is the essay well written? Are the grammar, spelling, and punctuation correct?

Transcript
Has the student taken a rigorous curriculum? College preparatory curriculum? How many AP/Honors courses? What is offered at the high school? Does the high school limit the number of advanced courses? Is there a grade trend – an upward or downward trend? What is the student’s rank? Does the school rank? What kind of program does the student plan to take senior year?

Standardized Test Scores
What are the student’s scores? Are there areas that are significantly higher or lower? Do the scores fit the score ranges of Lehigh University? Do the scores correlate with the student’s GPA?

Letters of Recommendation
What did the teachers and counselors have to say about the student? Is the recommendation positive? What did the teacher love about the student? What qualities/characteristics are listed in the letter? Are there any warning signs?

Extracurricular Activities
What has the student done outside of the classroom? Is it one-dimensional? Is it sporadic? How much time has the student committed to the activities listed? Leadership roles? Part-time jobs?

High School Profile
Within the context of the high school profile, is this a strong student? Are there limited academic opportunities in comparison to other schools? What other information is listed that will assist us in making an informed decision?
Lehigh University - School Profile

The core, overarching mission of Lehigh University is to advance learning through the integration of teaching, research, and service to others. Since Lehigh’s founding in 1865, the faculty has emphasized the integration of academic disciplines, combining the cultural with the professional, the theoretical with the practical, and the humanistic with the technological in a modern education that serves as preparation for a useful life.

The University’s four colleges – College of Arts and Sciences, College of Business and Economics, College of Education, and the P.C. Rossin College of Engineering and Applied Science – provide opportunities to 4,900 undergraduate and 2,200 graduate students to discover and grow in a learning community that promotes interdisciplinary programs with real-world experience. Two integrated, cross-college honors programs, IBE and IDEAS have grown in applications recently.

Lehigh’s campus is located in Pennsylvania’s Lehigh Valley – in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, centrally situated just 50 miles north of Philadelphia and 75 miles southwest of New York City. Undergraduates hail from nearly every state and U.S. territory and nearly 50 other nations, with the majority of students coming from the Middle Atlantic region.

Particularly strong programs within the liberal arts include: lab sciences, psychology, international relations, and the arts (both visual and performing). Additionally, Lehigh is known for its highly selective and unique engineering program, and well-connected and hands-on Business programs. A brand new science facility (STEPS) was completed in 2011 and students have the opportunity to take advantage of the numerous laboratory facilities (for both independent and collaborative research opportunities). Classes are small and taught by full-time professors. The university has a partnership with the UN, and a new hands-on program called the Mountaintop Initiative.

In addition to academics, Lehigh University is known for its Division I athletic programs. With numerous academic and athletic regional and national All-American honors, Lehigh University athletes excel at the highest level.

Admission is highly selective, with approximately 31% of applicants admitted. The admission committee seeks a talented group of students, within the academic and extracurricular realms, respectively. Important academic and non-academic factors for admission include: academic record (high school transcript), standardized test scores, application essay, recommendation letters, extracurricular activities, volunteer experience, work experience, personal qualities, and demonstrated interest.

Moreover, the committee takes diversity into consideration. The President of the college has asked the Vice Provost of admission to be mindful of geographic, ethnic, and gender diversity. Approximately 23% of Lehigh’s student population identifies as students of color, and over 50% of matriculated students receive some sort of financial aid.

**SAT Reasoning (Middle 50%)**:  
Critical Reading - 620-720  
Mathematics - 670-750

**Grade Point Average**:  
Middle 50% - A-/B+