Evaluation Criteria – Other Factors

Context
Some 18,000 students competed for approximately 2,000 places in the incoming First Year class. Most of the students who apply to Notre Dame will be ranked at or near the top of their high school class, will have performed well on standardized tests, and will be highly active in their local and high school communities. As our admissions committee evaluates applications and makes decisions regarding them we make difficult choices among an extraordinary group of students. We assess the following factors and admit students who excel, not just in terms of their personal achievement, but also within the context of our highly competitive applicant pool. Although we are very proud of the class we enroll every year, we also realize that we are unable to admit all of the excellent young people who apply.

Extracurricular Activities
The most competitive of our applicants are very involved, dedicating time outside the classroom to various clubs, teams, organizations, community service activities, and part-time employment.

Evaluations
- Guidance counselor evaluation will help gauge performance in the student’s high school environment. Usually guidance counselors will include a short personal letter of evaluation.
- High school teacher will complete the second letter of evaluation to assess performance in class as well as character and personality.
- Additional letters of recommendation are not encouraged

Essay
- Common Application essay
- Notre Dame Writing Supplement to the Common Application
- Interviews are not offered as part of the admissions process

Process
- At least two admissions counselors will review each application – one will be the area-admissions counselor.
- After reviewing the application, each counselor will recommend the applicant be admitted, denied, or reviewed in committee.
- The committee meets twice a year – once at the end of Restrictive Early Action and once at the end of Regular Decision – to discuss the applicants who do not have final decisions.
- All decisions are reviewed by the Director of Admissions before they are mailed to the applicants.