

ABSTRACT

This feasibility report examines the correlation between the high admission rate for Western Kentucky University and its low academic prestige. The low academic standards Western Kentucky University has for student admissions are an increasing problem for our University. The possible complications that may occur are as follows: low retention rate, overcrowding, low expectations for success, and the loss of academic prestige. These problems that have developed on WKU's campus, in result of low academic standards, are extremely vital to the growth and succession of the University. These predicaments, such as the academic expectancy being at such a low, and statistically the low retention rate among returning freshman, create a low standard and reputation for the University and its students.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ABSTRACT	2
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	4
INTRODUCTION	5
PROBLEM ANALYSIS	6
Problem.....	6
Research & Statistics	7
RECOMMENDATIONS	1
CONCLUSION	
WORKS CITED	

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This feasibility report examines the high admission rate for Western Kentucky University. The low academic standards Western Kentucky University has student admissions are producing problems for our University. The possible complications that may occur are as follows: the low retention rate, overcrowding, low expectations for success, and the loss of academic prestige.

As a result of the high acceptance rate, WKU is experiencing overcrowding around the University. The students, teachers, and guests experience this problem in classrooms, housing, dining services, and parking.

Due to the low retention rate for students and lack of academic standards for admissions, the University's prestige and standards for academic success are inevitably lowered. Accepting all who apply creates a "whosoever will" environment at our University. Although high acceptance is ideal for students with low academic achievement, it is causing the reputation of our school and its students to suffer.

These problems that have developed on Western's Kentucky University's campus in result of low academic standards are extremely vital to the growth and succession of the University. These predicaments, such as the academic expectancy being at such a low, and statistically the low retention rate among returning freshman, create a low standard and reputation for the University and its student.

The low academic expectancy is the main cause. Our solution was to use the University of Kentucky's admission process as a model. They practice the selective application process, which involves not accepting people based on a number but as a person as a whole. They accept 25% below average, 25% above average, and 50% average. Using this process should decrease our acceptance rate to 70% in 10 years.

With these solutions in place, the University can expect to raise their prestige and standards for academic success in the years to come. Although this process cannot occur over night, it will improve over the next few years. WKU has several award winning programs and majors that are undermined because of its reputation as a whole. These solutions will allow the University to receive the recognition it and its students and faculty deserve.

CONCLUSION

As clarified earlier, WKU's low academic standards for student admissions are increasingly producing problems for our University. By accepting so many people, we have a low retention rate, are overcrowded, have low expectations for success, and low academic prestige. Through countless hours of research, interviews, phone calls, and surveying, we concluded that there is a positive correlation between acceptance rates and the University's success. To enhance WKU's reputation and achievement, we propose to model admission standards from those of the University of Kentucky. This would allow WKU to improve their quality of student, reduce overcrowding, and prove how good of a school it truly is. We propose to implement this plan for the graduating class of 2016 and review its success after its first 5 years.

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