
April 21, 2006

Kathryn Flint
BTW Instructor
University of Illinois
Champaign, IL 61820

Dear Ms. Flint:

Along with this letter, we are enclosing the report on the ethnography of the University of Illinois, focusing on the activity system of the Admissions Department, that you assigned to us as a final course project. The report explains, compares, and contrasts the past and present requirements the Admissions Department uses during the admittance process.

The University of Illinois was established in 1867 on the notion that any high school graduate residing in Illinois could attend the state university. In the past forty years, there have been more applicants than seats available. Because of this, the Admissions Department had to establish new admission criteria for the admittance process of incoming freshmen. Many people currently feel these new requirements are not allowing the University to fulfill its original intent of admitting any Illinois high school student seeking a college education.

This report analyzes these concerns, explaining why the Admissions Department has established new admittance standards. Because the admissions process is the same for each college, we decided to focus on the largest college, the College of Liberal Arts and Science. The categories of the 2006 incoming freshmen application form are each described and related to the Admissions Department's original purpose. An analysis and explanation is provided for the past and present student requirements as well as for the Admission Department's Objectives.

The report provides assumptions as to why the new criteria was established as well as how it currently helps the Admissions Department pursue its initial goal. Recommendations are also provided at the end of the report explaining addition research readers can do to gain more insight on the Admissions Department. We hope you will find this report useful and relevant in your efforts to learn more about the University and its occupants.

Sincerely,

BTW 250-B2_06-01

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Enclosure
