



# Research Week 2021

## Why Not OHSU: Reasons Admitted Applicants Decline Admissions Offers

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### Abstract

#### Introduction

With a newly implemented integrative undergraduate medical education curriculum – YourMD and numerous prestigious graduate medical education programs, Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU) School of Medicine (SOM) attracts over 7000 applicants each year. However, a significant amount of admitted applicants declined their admissions offers. Post-acceptance surveys were conducted in the past few application cycles hoping to close this gap in admissions.

#### Objectives

Identify and analyze reasons admitted applicants decline OHSU SOM's admissions offers and strategize tangible actions to improve acceptance to matriculation ratio.

#### Methods

Post-acceptance surveys were administered and collected from admitted applicants between 2012 and 2017. Fifty-one variables including demographics, interview day experience, second look day experience, and reasons to accept or decline the offer were selected for baseline statistical analysis. Data was further stratified by matriculation plan with chi-square analysis.

#### Results

Among admitted applicants (n=603), 319 (57.0%) were female and 291 (51.8%) were under the age of 25. Majority (85.3%) interviewed for the M.D. program and more than half (64.5%) planned to matriculate in the fall. The top reason admitted applicants planned to matriculate was the reputation of OHSU, and the top reason they did not plan to matriculate was the cost of tuition and fees. Further comparing the characteristics of admitted applicants based on matriculation plan, there were

significant associations between matriculation plan and age ( $p=0.02$ ), program interviewed ( $p<0.01$ ), as well as underrepresented minority ( $p=0.01$ ).

## Conclusions

Knowing the demographic groups of admitted applicants who did not accept their admissions offers and the top reasons for their decisions provide valuable information to the Admissions team. These new findings will guide strategic planning and implementation of specific aims targeting underrepresented minority and dual degree applicants, as well as initiate more financial support and maintain excellent reputation with the overall goal to increase admitted applicants' desire of choosing OHSU.