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## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Julio Frenk, President

**From:** Tomás A. Salerno  
Chair, Faculty Senate

**Date:** April 24, 2019

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'TAS', is written over the 'Date' field.

**Subject:** Faculty Senate Legislation #2018-67(D) – Faculty Senate Academic Standards  
Committee Fall 2018 Undergraduate Admissions Report

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At its April 17, 2019 meeting, the Faculty Senate unanimously to accept the Faculty Senate  
Academic Standards Committee Fall 2018 Undergraduate Admissions Report.

This legislation is now forwarded to you for your information.

TAS/rh

**cc:** Jeffrey Duerk, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs  
Uzma Khan, Chair, Academic Standards Committee

## APRIL 2019 UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS REPORT, FALL 2018

*Annual Report on Admissions and Undergraduate Student Quality  
Prepared by the Faculty Senate Committee on Academic Standard<sup>1</sup>*

### **Summary**

The purpose of this report is to provide a Faculty Senate sponsored assessment of the profile of the new students enrolled in the Fall 2018 semester. The number of new student applications submitted to the University of Miami (University) was 34,268; of which 10,990 students were offered admission (32% admit rate), and 2,342 enrolled as full-time degree-seeking students (21% yield). The number of degree-seeking transfer applications submitted to the University was 2,474 of which 1,284 students were admitted (52% admit rate) and 500 enrolled (39% yield). This report is based on these 2,342 full-time enrolled students and 500 full-time enrolled transfer students (Table 1 and Table 2).

The quality of incoming students improved since 2017 considering the admit rate, admissions test scores, and high school class rank: Admit rate improved 4 percentage point (from 36% in 2017 to 32% in 2018). SAT Concordance score went up to 1365 for the incoming class of 2018 compared to 1358 in 2017 (Table 3). High school GPA increase by 3% (Table 5). Of the incoming students who reported high schools class rank, 56% were in the top 10% of their class, indicating a 10 percentage point improvement from 2017 (Table 6).

The University ranking of *US News and World Report* dropped seven spots to 53 in 2018 from 46 in 2017 (Table 14). These rankings are lagged such that 2018 rankings are based on the incoming class of 2017. While Academic Reputation ranking stayed stable, Graduation and Retention, and Student Selectivity rankings decreased. The University is also under-performing per what *US News* says our graduation rank should be. Our underperformance on this key indicator has made an impact on our ranking.

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<sup>1</sup>Members of the Academic Standards Committee are Uzma Khan (Chair), Ricardo Bascuas, Mary Beth Calhoon, Anthony Joseph Hynes, Latoya Janelle Lewis-Pierre, Dennis Smith, Joseph B. Treaster, Jamie Walls, Xiangyang Zhou, Stephen Cantrell (Ex officio), and William Scott Green (Ex officio). Data for this report was provided by the Division of Enrollment Management and the Office of Planning, Institutional Research, and Assessment.

- Fall 2014 and later reflects applicant pool defined by Undergraduate Admission upon conversion to CaneLink and Excludes Continuing Studies.
- Full-time enrollment data includes summer admits enrolled at fall benchmark, as defined by Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS).
- Fall 2014 and later transfer data reflects applicant pool as defined by Undergraduate Admission upon conversion to CaneLink. Excludes Continuing Studies and Accelerated Nursing.

## Academic Quality of Newly Enrolled Students

### Overview

The Fall 2018 first-year class consisted of 2,342 students (a 7% change since 2017 Fall). New transfer students decreased from 516 to 500 (-3%). Reversing the trend of the past few years, the number of first year applications submitted increased (12%) from 30,625 in 2017 to 34,268 for 2018. The admissions rate for submitted applications was 32%, and the yield rate (the number of students who enrolled vs. accepted) increased to 21% from 20% in 2017 (Table 1 and Table 2).

Table 1. Fall 2018 New Degree Seeking Students							
Applicant Pool	2014*	2015	2016	2017	2018	5-yr Change	1-yr Change
Applied	31,584	33,411	32,518	30,625	34,268	8%	12%
Admitted	11,964	12,585	12,280	10,927	10,990	-8%	1%
Enrolled (Full-Time)	2,052	2,056	2,042	2,185	2,342	14%	7%
Admit Rate	38%	48%	38%	36%	32%	-6%	-4%
Yield	17%	16%	17%	20%	21%	4%	1%

Source: CaneLink (Student Information System)

Full-time enrollment data includes summer admits enrolled at fall benchmark, as defined by IPEDS.

Table 2. Fall 2018 Degree Seeking Transfer Students							
Applicant Pool	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	5-yr Change	1-yr Change
Applied	2,547	2,537	2,686	2,396	2,474	-3%	3%
Admitted	1,506	1,455	1,292	1,402	1,284	-15%	-8%
Enrolled (Full-Time)	557	515	472	516	500	-10%	-3%
Admit Rate	59%	57%	48%	59%	52%	-7%	-7%
Yield	37%	35%	37%	37%	39%	2%	2%

Source: CaneLink (Student Information System)

Enrollment data includes summer admits enrolled at fall benchmark, as defined by IPEDS.

## Academic Quality of First-Year Class (Full-Time Enrolled)

### Concordance Scores

The average concordance score for 2018 was 1365, up seven points from 1358 in 2017 and up 49 points from 2016 (Table 3). Students enrolled in the School of Engineering had the highest mean SAT concordance as well as the highest mean GPA, whereas students enrolled in the School of Communication had the lowest mean SAT concordance and the lowest mean GPA (Table 4).

Table 3. SAT Concordance Mean (Full-Time Enrolled)							
SAT Concordance	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	5-yr Change	1-yr Change
SAT Concordance mean	1325	1319	1316	1358	1365	3%	1%
75 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	1420	1400	1415	1430	1450	2%	1%
Median	1340	1330	1330	1360	1380	3%	1%
25 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	1260	1250	1240	1290	1290	2%	0%
SAT Concordance Distribution	2014	2015	2016*	2017	2018	5-yr Change	1-yr Change
1400-1600	30%	26%	27%	45%	47%	17%	2%
1200-1399	55%	59%	57%	46%	44%	-11%	-2%
1000-1199	13%	13%	15%	8%	8%	-5%	0%
Below 1000	2%	2%	2%	1%	1%	-1%	0%
<b>Percent of Students Reporting</b>	<b>87%</b>	<b>87%</b>	<b>91%</b>	<b>92%</b>	<b>94%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>2%</b>

Source: CaneLink (Student Information System)

Table 4. Fall 2018 SAT Concordance Mean and Average GPA (Full-Time Enrolled) by School/College		
School/College	SAT Concordance	GPA
School of Architecture	1327	3.6
College of Arts and Sciences	1380	3.6
School of Business Administration	1360	3.5
School of Communication	1295	3.4
School of Education & Human Development	1325	3.5
College of Engineering	1404	3.7
Rosenstiel School of Marine & Atmospheric Science	1388	3.6
Frost School of Music	1321	3.5
School of Nursing and Health Studies	1360	3.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>1366</b>	<b>3.6</b>

Source: CaneLink (Student Information System)

### High School Class Rank and GPA

The mean High School GPA went up to 3.6 in 2018 compared to 3.5 in 2017 (Table 5). For the Fall 2018 incoming class, only 32% of students reported a class rank. The small percentage of schools reporting class rank diminishes the analytical value of the data to assess the quality of the incoming class. However, since *US News & World Report* continues to use class rank to determine selectivity scores, it is included in this report. Specifically, the percentage of students in the top 10% of their high school class is part of the student selectivity score for *US News & World Report*. The number of students that reported to be in the top 10% of their class is up (56%) from last year (46%) suggesting an increase in the quality of students based on the number that fall in the top 10% of their respective graduating high school class (Table 6).

**Table 5. High School Students (Full-Time Enrolled) GPA**

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	5-yr Change	1-yr Change
<b>High School GPA Mean</b>	4.3	3.6	3.6	3.5	3.6	-16%	3%

Source: CaneLink (Student Information System).  
 GPA values converted from weighted GPA to unweighted GPA, starting Fall 2015.

**Table 6. High School Percentile Mean and Percentage of Students in Top 10%**

High School Rank Percentile	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	5-yr Change	1-yr Change
Class Rank Percentile Mean	87.6	87.8	86.5	82.5	85.5	-2%	3%
Percent of Students in Top 10%	65%	64%	60%	46%	56%	-9%	10%
Percent of Students in 2 <sup>nd</sup> Decile	17%	20%	20%	23%	22%	5%	-1%
Percent of Students in 3 <sup>rd</sup> Decile	7%	9%	9%	12%	10%	3%	-2%
Percent of Students in 4 <sup>th</sup> Decile	4%	3%	3%	9%	4%	0%	-5%
Percent of Students below 4 <sup>th</sup> Decile	7%	4%	9%	9%	9%	2%	0%
<b>Percent of Students Reporting</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>4%</b>

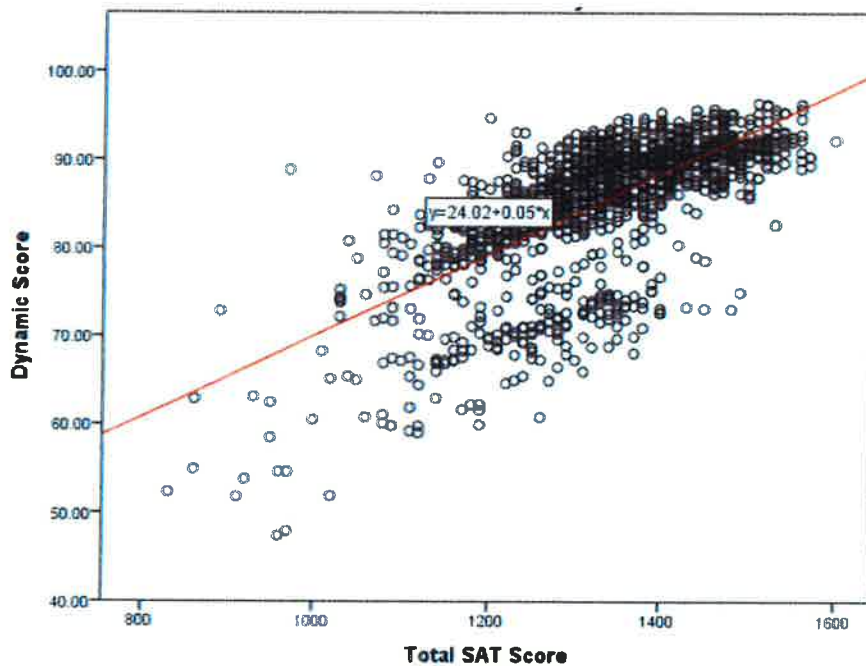
Source: CaneLink (Student Information System)  
 New business process to standardize high school class rank and percentile was implemented, effective Fall 2016.



### *Dynamic Score*

Since 2017 the Office of Undergraduate Admission started using the Dynamic Score to evaluate admissions applications. This score (100-point scale, carried out three decimal points) tracks many elements such as strength of high school, strength of curriculum, extra-curricular activities and allows the admission staff to get a better picture of the students for any segment of the applicant pool. Dynamic score is also used to determine Academic Ranks (ACRK, Table 7), which are used for financial aid and non-need-based aid awarding. Dynamic Score ranges by academic ranks shift each year to allow Admissions to maintain the correct distribution of need- and non-need-based dollars. Dynamic Score is well correlated with SAT scores (Correlation coefficient: .693; Figure 1) and is a statistically significant predictor of first year GPA ( $p < 0.05$ )

Figure 1. Fall 2018 Cohort Total SAT SCORE VERSUS DYNAMIC SCORE



Source: Office of Admissions

The Dynamic Score has been modified by the Office of Admissions over the years, which makes it difficult to compare it across the years. Going forward the committee would like to get more information on these scores and keep track of these over the years.

<b>Table 7. Fall 2018 New Student Applicant Pool by Academic Rank (ACRK) ***</b>										
<b>ACRK*</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>No ACRK</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Applied</b>	8696	12072	2038	1205	1248	1334	1611	1299	4765	<b>34268</b>
<b>Admitted</b>	532	3401	1277	962	1049	1150	1441	1149	29	<b>10990</b>
<b>Enrolled (Full Time)**</b>	343	895	162	181	201	171	220	153	16	<b>2342</b>
<b>% of Enrolled**</b>	15%	38%	7%	8%	9%	7%	9%	7%	1%	<b>100%</b>
<b>Admit Rate</b>	6%	28%	63%	80%	84%	86%	89%	88%	1%	<b>32%</b>
<b>Yield</b>	64%	26%	13%	19%	19%	15%	15%	13%	55%	<b>21%</b>

Source: CaneLink (Student Information System)

\* Effective Fall 2017, ACRK values are determined based on Dynamic Score.

\*\* Full-time enrollment data includes summer admits enrolled at fall benchmark, as defined by IPEDS.

### *Notification Plan*

More students want to apply to early admission programs, like Early Action and Early Decision. This is a national trend especially among talented students. In 2018, early admissions programs saw a small increase in applicant yield (Table 8). Early Action program yield went up 2 percentage points compared to 2016 and Early Decision programs (1 & 11) yield went up 3 percentage points compared to 2016. Committee would track applications to these programs.

<b>Table 8. Fall 2018 Application Funnel by Notification Plan (Full-Time)</b>					
<b>Notification Plan</b>	<b>Applicants</b>	<b>Admits</b>	<b>Enrolled</b>	<b>Admit Rate</b>	<b>Yield</b>
Early Action	14633	6483	1006	44%	16%
Early Decision 1	728	572	535	79%	94%
Early Decision 11	504	113	90	22%	80%
Regular Decision	18403	3822	711	21%	19%
<b>Total</b>	<b>34268</b>	<b>10990</b>	<b>2342</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>21%</b>

Source: CaneLink (Student Information System)

\* Note that Notification Plan here refers to a student's Final Notification Plan and not the Initial Notification Plan they may have started in.

**Demographics**

Table 9 and Table 10 show that gender and ethnic distribution of students has stayed steady over the past five years.

<b>Table 9. New Student Applicant Pool and Enrolled (Full-Time) by Gender</b>							
<b>Gender</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>5-yr Change</b>	<b>1-yr Change</b>
<b>Female</b>							
Applied	53%	53%	55%	54%	55%	2%	1%
Enrolled (Full-Time)	51%	51%	55%	52%	52%	1%	0%
<b>Male</b>							
Applied	47%	47%	45%	46%	45%	-2%	-1%
Enrolled (Full-Time)	49%	49%	45%	48%	48%	-1%	0%

Source: CaneLink (Student Information System)

<b>Table 10. New Students (Full-Time Enrolled) by Race/Ethnicity</b>							
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>5-yr Change</b>	<b>1-yr Change</b>
African American/Black	9%	8%	11%	10%	10%	1%	0%
American Indian/Alaska Native	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Asian/Pacific Islander	15%	11%	13%	14%	13%	-2%	-1%
Hispanic/Latino	21%	26%	20%	19%	20%	-1%	1%
Two or More Races	3%	4%	4%	3%	4%	1%	1%
White	51%	50%	53%	53%	52%	1%	-1%
<b>Total (excluding unknown)</b>	<b>1,969</b>	<b>1,940</b>	<b>1,950</b>	<b>2,062</b>	<b>2,218</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>8%</b>

Source: CaneLink (Student Information System)



## Academic Quality of Transfer Students

Transfer students are not required to submit standardized test scores, thus SAT and ACT scores for transfer students are not reported. Incoming transfer GPA is the primary determinate of academic quality for transfer students. The average incoming GPA for Fall 2018 transfer students is 3.40, (no difference from last year; Table 11). As listed in Table 12, 89% percent of the incoming transfer class had a GPA of 3.0 or greater, 10% had a GPA between 2.50-2.99, and 0% of students had a GPA between 2.00-2.40. Transfer GPA by schools/colleges is listed in Table 13. The committee believes it would be useful to require transfer students to provide SAT/ACT scores going forward.

Table 11. Transfer Students (Full-Time Enrolled) by Transfer GPA Mean							
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	5-yr Change	1-yr Change
<b>Transfer GPA Mean</b>	3.4	3.3	3.4	3.4	3.4	0%	0%

Source: CaneLink (Student Information System). School/College determined as of Fall 2018 Benchmark.

Tables 12. Transfer Admit Yield Rates by Transfer GPA												
Transfer GPA Distribution	2014 Yield	2014 % (N)	2015 Yield	2015 % (N)	2016 Yield	2016 % (N)	2017 Yield	2017 % (N)	2018 Yield	2018 % (N)	5-yr Chg	1-yr Chg
3.50 - 4.00	36%	55% (540)	33%	50% (569)	32%	51% (649)	32%	50% (686)	33%	55% (629)	-3%	1%
3.00 - 3.49	48%	34% (329)	44%	35% (400)	38%	36% (455)	39%	36% (501)	45%	34% (384)	-3%	6%
2.50 - 2.99	52%	9% (86)	58%	11% (128)	50%	12% (154)	48%	14% (188)	53%	10% (117)	1%	5%
2.00 - 2.49	60%	2% (15)	59%	3% (29)	75%	1% (16)	67%	0% (6)	100%	0% (4)	40%	33%
< 2.00	80%	1% (10)	78%	1% (9)	--	--	0%	0% (2)	--	--	--	--
% Reporting GPA	<b>97%</b>	<b>1,541</b>	<b>78%</b>	<b>1,135</b>	<b>99%</b>	<b>1,274</b>	<b>99%</b>	<b>1,383</b>	<b>88%</b>	<b>1,134</b>	<b>-9%</b>	<b>-11%</b>

Source: CaneLink (Student Information System)

Table 13. Fall 2018 Transfer GPA Mean (Full-Time Enrolled) by School/College*											
	AR	AS	BU	CO	ED	EN	MS	MU	NU	Total	
<b>Transfer GPA Mean</b>	3.3	3.4	3.6	3.4	3.3	3.4	3.2	3.7	3.5	<b>3.4</b>	
<b>Percent Reporting</b>	100%	89%	88%	89%	88%	81%	83%	82%	97%	<b>89%</b>	

Source: CaneLink (Student Information System). School/College determined as of Fall 2018 Benchmark.

## **UM Rankings by *U.S. News & World Report***

Information from *U.S. News & World Report* is published during the late summer or early fall for the previous academic year. Thus, the 2018 edition of *U.S. News & World Report* is based on the characteristics and profile of the freshmen class entering in the Fall of 2017. The University's overall rank decreased from 46 to 53 out of the 312 institutions (Table 14). This rank is earned in seven areas (Table 14). On two of these areas, Graduation and Retention Rank and Student Selectivity Rank, University ranking decreased significantly from last year. Our rank remained stable on Academic Reputation and Graduation Rate Performance. The other three categories, Faculty Resources, Financial Resources, and Alumni Giving are not addressed in this report.

### ***Academic Reputation Rank (25 % of total score)***

In 2018, the University ranked 64 in Undergraduate Academic Reputation Index, same as in 2017. The Undergraduate Academic Reputation Index combines a peer assessment score and high school counselor assessment score.

### ***Graduation and Retention Rank (22 % of total score)***

University's ranking declined significantly moving from 60 to 70. The score used for ranking in this category is determined by a 4-year average of 6-year Graduation Rate, and a 4-year average of Freshman Retention rate (Table 15). These rates have been stable over the past 5 years, hence the decline in University's ranking in this category is not due to declining graduation or retention rates. Our declining ranking is more likely due to improving performance of other schools in this category. The committee recommends that going forward we closely study what peer schools are doing to improve this score.

### ***Student Selectivity Rank (10 % of total score)***

Student Selectivity rank also decreased significantly from 47 in 2017 to 64 in 2018. This measure takes into account admissions test scores and the proportion of enrolled first-year students who graduated in the Top 10% of their high school class. Given that University's performance in 2018 improved on admission test score as well as percentage of students in Top 10% in their high school class, we can anticipate our ranking to improve next year (assuming no change in scores of other schools).

### ***Graduation Rate Performance (8% of total score)***

The University's rank for Graduation Rate Performance stayed steady (209 in 2018 compared to 211 in 2017). *US News* also indicates a predicted graduation rate of 86% for the University. We were 4% short of this predicted rate putting us 209 out of 312 schools.

<b>Table 14. UM's Ranking in U.S. News and World Report Five-Year Trend</b>					
<b>RANKINGS</b>	<b>Year Ranking was Published</b>				
	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
<b>OVERALL</b>					
UM's Rank	48	51	44	46	53
# of Schools/Universities in the ranking	280	248	298	300	312
<b>CATEGORY RANKINGS</b>					
Academic Reputation Rank	72	70	66	64	64
<b>Graduation and Retention Rank</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>70</b>
Faculty Resources Rank	44	43	38	36	39
<b>Student Selectivity Rank</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>64</b>
Financial Resources Rank	25	26	26	26	25
<b>Graduation Rate Performance</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>209</b>
Alumni Giving Rank	65	62	62	67	62

Note: Ranking published is based on data from previous Fall.

Source: U.S. News and World Report undergraduate ranking published in September each year

<b>Table 15. UM's Ranking in U.S. News and World Report Five-Year Trend</b>					
<b>SCORES</b>	<b>Year Ranking was Published</b>				
	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
Overall Score	60	59	63	64	62
Peer Assessment Score (5.0=Highest)	3.2	3.2	3.3	3.4	3.4
<b>High School Counselor Rating (5.0=Highest)</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>4.1</b>
6-Year Graduation Rate (2010 cohort only)*	82%	81%	82%	82%	84%
<b>Freshman Retention Rate (4-year avg.)</b>	<b>91%</b>	<b>92%</b>	<b>92%</b>	<b>92%</b>	<b>92%</b>
% of Freshmen in Top 10% of HS Class	72%	66%	63%	60%	46%
<b>Freshman Acceptance Rate</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>36%</b>

Note: Ranking published is based on data from previous Fall.

Source: U.S. News and World Report undergraduate ranking published in September each year

### Summary Recommendations

1. *U.S. News & World Report* rankings of Student Selectivity now rely on admission test scores and percentage of students in Top 10% of high school class only. These criteria are limited in providing a more holistic view of the student quality. The committee recommends that the Office of Undergraduate Admissions develop a Selectivity Index for University's internal use that represents a more encompassing review of the admits at a glance. For example, the Office of Undergraduate Admission started using the Dynamic Scores for the purpose of admissions in 2017. The Dynamic Score includes other markers of student quality including strength of curriculum and extra-curricular activities. The committee recommends developing a similar index or using the Dynamic Score to compare student quality at a more holistic level across years.
2. Moving forward the committee would like the Office of Admissions to provide some indications of how well things like SAT and the Dynamic Score predict student outcomes like graduation, GPA etc.
3. The committee also recommends that transfer students be required to submit their ACT/SAT scores.
4. The committee feels that two critical areas for the University to improve on are Freshmen Retention rate and Graduation rates. These factors are used in Graduation and Retention Rank by *U.S. News & World Report*. Though the University's Retention and Graduation rates have remained stable over the years (Table 15), our Graduation and Retention Rank ranking has declined because of better relative performance of other schools. We recommend a careful examination of the initiatives other schools are taking to improve their Freshmen Retention and Graduation rates.