

Proposal to Change CPI Requirements for Admission to Lehman College

The Situation:

To be admitted to Lehman College, freshmen require a Combined SAT (Critical Reading and Math) of at least 950 and a College Admission Average CAA of at least 83. As our admission standards have increased over the last years, our freshman population has decreased. In addition to these two criteria, Lehman College also requires the completion of 16 CPI academic units in high school. The latter goes back to a 1993 Board of Trustees issued requirement that students entering a senior college will have completed sixteen academic units: four units in English, three units in mathematics, two units in laboratory sciences, four units in social sciences, two units in languages other than English, and one unit in fine arts. It also stipulates that all students who have not satisfied these requirements prior to admission will be required to complete them before their graduation from Lehman College.

The Problem:

Lehman College is struggling to meet its targets for freshman admissions. As a result of the CPI requirement, Lehman College has rejected the applications of numerous students who do qualify based on their SAT and CAA scores. In Fall 2015, Lehman could have admitted numerous additional freshmen (see attached explanation). Lehman requires a higher number of CPI units than any other senior CUNY college (Baruch requires 14; City, Brooklyn and York require 12; Queens requires 13; Hunter and John Jay do not have a minimum requirement).

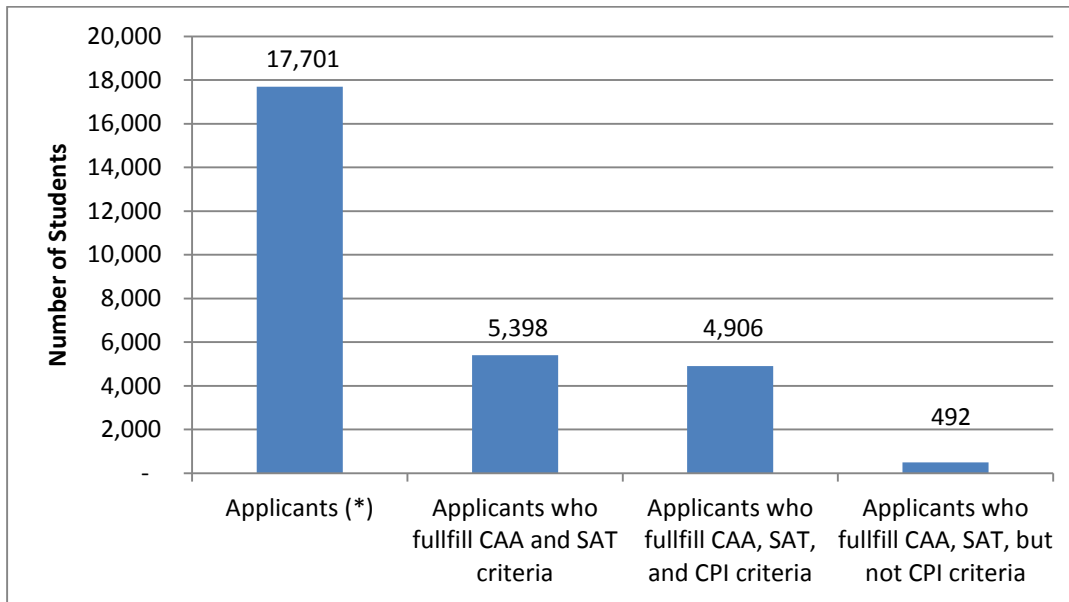
The Proposal:

The number of required CPI units will be lowered from 16 to 14 for admission to Lehman College. Students with 14 academic units after their junior year will have 16 units by the time they graduate from high school. This solution has been recommended by CUNY Central and has been discussed and approved by the President's Cabinet.

If this solution would have been implemented for Fall 2015, 379 students who were rejected would have met our admission standards. 190 students allocated to SEEK would have qualified for regular admission.

Explanation:

The following chart illustrates the accomplishments of students who listed Lehman College as an option in their application to CUNY for Fall 2015. As a result of Lehman’s admission standards (SAT > 950, CAA >83), only 5,398 (30%) of the 17,701 applicants were eligible to be admitted. The CPI criterion excluded another 492 students (9.1% of those meeting SAT and CAA standards) from receiving a positive response.



(*) Applicants refers to students who listed Lehman College as an option in their application to CUNY.

The following graph illustrates the SAT score ranges for the 492 students who were excluded as a result of the CPI criterion. It demonstrates that Lehman has rejected the applications of sizable number of students with impressive SAT scores.

