Highlights from Kaplan's 2011 Graduate School Admissions Officers Survey

To ensure that prospective graduate school students receive accurate and up-to-date information on key trends and relevant issues in the graduate school admissions process, every year Kaplan Test Prep surveys admissions officers at the top graduate schools across the U.S. The survey data collected helps us to provide informed guidance to the tens of thousands of graduate school applicants we work with each year.

Following are the results from this year's survey of graduate school admissions officers.

Topics: ▶ General Admissions and Financial Aid Trends ▶ 2011 GRE* Changes ▶ Applicants ▶ Social Networking

About the survey methodology: For the 2011 survey, admissions officers from 123 of the top 200 graduate programs in education, engineering, psychology and public administration—as designated by U.S. News & World Report—were polled by telephone in May 2011. Percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number.

General Admissions and Financial Aid Trends

Which of the following does your program require applicants to submit?

| GRE General Test | 94% |
|--------------------------|------|
| Both General and Subject | . 6% |
| None | . 1% |

For admission to your program, how important is an applicant's GRE General Test writing score?

| As important as the Quantitative | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| and Verbal Section score 54% | |
| Less important than the Quantitative | |
| and Verbal Sections score 44% | |
| More important than the Quantitative | |
| and Verbal Sections score 3% | |

For the current application cycle compared to the previous cycle, has the amount of financial aid your school has been able to provide students...

| Increased somewhat66% | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Decreased somewhat 28% | |
| Decreased significantly 5% | |
| Increased significantly 2% | |

When more than one GRE score is submitted by an applicant, does your program use...

| Is there any disadvantage to an applicant's | | |
|---|--|--|
| applicant earned | | |
| The average of all scores the | | |
| Some other method25% | | |
| earned69% | | |
| The highest single score the applicant | | |

Is there any disadvantage to an applicant's submitting more than one GRE score?

No 98%

| 103 | 2 70 |
|--|------|
| Is there any disadvanta submitting three or mo | • ,, |
| No | 89% |
| Yes | 11% |

▶ 68% of admissions officers said that compared to last year, the amount of financial aid they were able to provide students increased.

2011 GRE Changes

How well informed do you think your program is about the new exam's changes in content, scoring and format?

| Somewhat informed 48% | |
|------------------------|--|
| Very informed22% | |
| Not too informed21% | |
| Not at all informed 9% | |

Is there any admissions advantage if an applicant submits a score from one version of the GRE instead of the other?

| There is no advantage 83% | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|
| There is an advantage to submitting | | |
| a score from the old GRE12% | | |
| There is an advantage to submitting | | |
| a score from the new GRE 5% | | |

Applicants

About what proportion of your program's students are graduates of the college or university you are affiliated with?

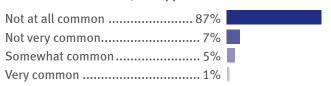
| Less than a quarter | . 84% |
|--------------------------------------|-------|
| One quarter to less than one half | . 13% |
| One half to less than three quarters | 3% |
| Three quarters or more | 1% |

Compared to two years ago, would you say the number of international students as a percentage of your total student population is:

| About the same 67% | |
|---------------------|--|
| Somewhat larger 26% | |
| Somewhat smaller4% | |
| Much larger2% | |
| Much smaller 1% | |



How common is it for you to discover an applicant has been dishonest on his/her application?



How common is it for you to receive a negative letter of recommendation submitted on behalf of an applicant?

| Not at all common71% | |
|----------------------|--|
| Not very common 22% | |
| Somewhat common6% | |
| Very common 0% | |

Social Networking

Do you think it's appropriate or inappropriate for applicants to reach out to admissions officers via social media?

| Inappropriate65% | |
|------------------|--|
| Appropriate35% | |

Are you permitted to visit applicants' social networking pages like Facebook, LinkedIn or Twitter to help you make an admissions decision/learn more about them?

| No | 88% | |
|-----|-----|--|
| Yes | 12% | |

(IF YES) Have you ever discovered something on an applicant's social networking site that made you reject the applicant?

| No | 71% | |
|-----|-----|--|
| Yes | 29% | |

▶ 83% of admissions officers reported that there is no advantage to submitting one version of the GRE (new v. old) over the other.