



## Admission to Yale and Alumni Interviewing

### The Role of Interviewing in Admission to Yale

Yale has long considered interviews with prospective undergraduate students to be helpful in the application process. Like many colleges and universities in the United States, Yale does not consider standardized test scores exclusively when making admissions decisions. Yale also considers high school grades, leadership potential, academic ranking, extra-curricular activities, special talents, student motivation, and a variety of other factors. While these factors may be difficult to compare, an interview with the applicant can help put them in perspective.

#### ***A Benefit to Yale***

*Often, the alumni interview is the only direct personal contact between Yale and the applicant, since not all applicants are able to travel to New Haven and staff time at the admissions office is limited. The report may be particularly useful where the admissions office is trying to decide between two equally qualified candidates.*

Many applicants, however, live far from Yale, and not every applicant is able to visit. In addition, Yale just does not have sufficient staff to interview the almost 30,000 students who apply every year. For that reason, Yale does not require an interview. But believing in the interview's importance, Yale relies on alumni volunteers around the country and around the world to interview students in their home towns.



*Yale Office of Undergraduate Admissions*

### The Role of the Alumni Schools Committee

The Yale Alumni Schools Committee consists of Yale alumni devoted to the interviewing of students applying to Yale. Historically, 80% of the students applying to Yale receive a one-on-one interview with an alumnus or alumna.

The alumnus or alumna conducting the interview writes a one-page report to the Admissions Office answering the following four questions:

- To what extent will the applicant contribute to the Yale community?
- To what extent will the applicant benefit from the Yale community?
- To what extent does the applicant pursue his or her interests?
- To what extent does the applicant make sacrifices to pursue his or her interests?

### The Benefit of the Interview to the Applicant

The interview is 60 to 90 minutes long and can be used as a two-way street, with the interviewer providing the applicant with information about Yale while at the same time obtaining information from the applicant for his report. This turns the interview into a conversation, rather than a trial, enabling the applicant to show his or her personality more comfortably. Finally, while the interview is intended to be private, the interviewer may invite the applicant's parents to have their questions answered, particularly about financial aid.

### The Benefit to the Alumni

The Alumni Schools Committee is one of the most popular ways for alumni to participate in the life of the University. Applicants often remember the alumni interviewers – and remember how the interaction with that person helped him or her choose Yale.