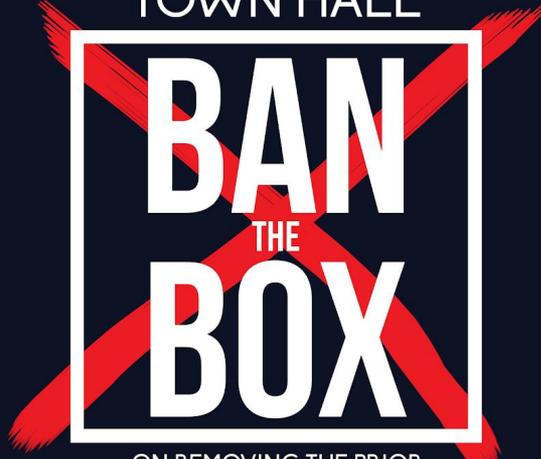


Princeton Admissions Opportunity Campaign

Presentation before
CPUC 11/12/2018

TUESDAY MAY 8
7:00PM
WHIG SENATE CHAMBER

TOWN HALL



ON REMOVING THE PRIOR
CONVICTION HISTORY QUESTION
ON PRINCETON APPLICATIONS

CO-SPONSORED BY:



Proposal

1. The University should not include any question asking about conviction history on their supplemental application materials for the Common Application or Coalition Application, and not receive information from the question on the Universal Application.
2. The University should explicitly disclose in admissions materials that it will not receive information about criminal history.

“Only by including people with a broad range of experiences and perspectives are we able to realize our potential.”

- University Statement on Diversity and Inclusion¹

1. Princeton University, Report of The Special Task Force on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. (2015, May). Retrieved from <http://www.princeton.edu/vpsec/cpuc/dei-report.pdf>

A Discriminatory “Justice” System

Black people arrested

Median annual
income **41%** less ¹

at a **2.3X** higher
rate than whites ²

MORE THAN 60% of people in prison
are people of color



1. Rabuy, Bernadette, and Daniel Kopf. "Prisons of Poverty: Uncovering the Pre-Incarceration Incomes of the Imprisoned." Prison Policy Initiative, 9 July 2015.

2. Snyder H. N., Mulako-Wangota J. (2014). Arrests in the United States, 1980-2012 (Arrest Data Analysis Tool).

3. "Shadow Report to the United Nations on Racial Disparities in the United States Criminal Justice System." The Sentencing Project, 31 Aug. 2013

This is not an unbiased indicator of culpability or character - this enables discrimination and undermines qualified students' efforts to compete equally.

How does this affect how students with histories apply?

Research indicates a strong deterrent effect:

- For each denied applicant who checked the box, 15 other applicants who also checked 'yes' failed to complete the application¹
- Attrition rate 3x higher for formerly incarcerated applicants²

How does this interact with public safety?

- Graduate college application **does not** include the question on its application₁
- **No statistically significant difference** in crime rates for schools with and without “the box”₂
- **97%** of students who commit misconduct on campuses have no prior history of misconduct₃

1. Information obtained through interviews with numerous directors of graduate studies in the fall of 2017.

2. <http://www.communityalternatives.org/pdf/Reconsidered-criminal-hist-recs-in-college-admissions.pdf>

3. <http://injuryprevention.bmj.com/content/early/2013/02/22/injuryprev-2012-040644>

What precedent is there for this in other universities/communities?

- Over 50 schools removed the question, including the UC and SUNY systems, Louisiana and Maryland public universities¹
- In 2016, US Dept of Education called on Universities to reconsider these questions, noting their “chilling effects”²
- Association of American Colleges & Universities called upon member institutions to review BTB proposals, expressed support for institutions to revise their policies³

1. Nixon, Vivian. "We Must Ban the Box in Higher Education." The Huffington Post. May 18, 2017. https://www.huffingtonpost.com/rev-vivian-nixon/we-must-ban-the-box-in-hi_b_9996780.html.

2. King, J. B., Jr. (n.d.). [Letter written May 9, 2016 to College and University Leaders]. Retrieved from <https://www2.ed.gov/documents/beyond-the-box/secretary-letter.pdf>

3. Jacobs, Seth. "Expanding the American Dream: Destigmatizing Past Criminal Justice Involvement." AACU. June 29, 2018.

What changed in 2018

Common App Drops Criminal History Question

Decision reverses one made a year ago to keep the question. Individual colleges may still ask it.
Disciplinary records question remains.

- Change goes into effect August 2019¹
- Princeton & all schools on the common app must decide whether or not to include some version of the question on their application supplements

Student Activism

Students gather at town hall to 'Ban the Box'

- Originated in 2014: over 1,000 students and faculty signed original petition
- Continuing campaign with a broad coalition of organizations:
 - SPEAR, BSU, Pride Alliance, MASJID, YDS, DREAM Team
- Town Hall in May 2018 drew over 100 interested students

Given CPUC's responsibility to make recommendations to the administration regarding relevant policy issues, we ask that CPUC discuss this proposal in anticipation of the changes in the 2019 Common Application.