

# The Pouncing Partying Panthers Consulting Team

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**Topic Title:** Legacy Admissions

**Audience:** American Association of Colleges and Universities Forum on Transformational Leadership

## Sustainable Development Goal

SDG #4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.

## Executive Summary

Legacy admissions, favoring applicants with familial ties to alumni, stir controversy in higher education due to ethical concerns. The Pouncing Partying Panthers Consulting Team investigates the moral, legal, and financial aspects of this issue, seeking solutions.

This practice raises ethical red flags regarding fairness, meritocracy, and social justice. Prioritizing lineage over merit perpetuates privilege, disadvantaged underrepresented groups, and erodes trust in admissions fairness.

By perpetuating privilege based on lineage, legacy admissions undermine meritocracy and hinder diversity efforts, reinforcing elitism. They also impede universities' ability to foster diverse, inclusive environments, limiting educational benefits and societal progress.

Addressing legacy admissions requires a multifaceted approach. Legally, reforms within the US Department of Education and state-level legislation banning legacy admissions can be pivotal. These changes would set clear guidelines and eliminate preferential treatment based on familial ties. Ethically, increasing Title IV funding and actively promoting equality and fairness can help counteract the perpetuation of privilege. Financially, eliminating both state and federal financial aid tied to legacy admissions would remove incentives for universities to uphold this discriminatory practice. Together, these solutions can work synergistically to promote a more equitable and merit-based admissions process within higher education.

In conclusion, legacy admissions pose a moral quandary by perpetuating privilege, hindering diversity, and compromising fairness. Universities must confront these ethical challenges, prioritizing fairness, equity, and inclusivity to fulfill their educational and societal missions.