# Table of Contents

Summary ........................................................................................................................................ 3

Historical Note ................................................................................................................................ 5

Scope and Content Note .................................................................................................................. 5

Series Descriptions and Container List ............................................................................................ 6

Series I: Open Admissions Policy and Reactions .............................................................................. 6
### Summary

**Title:** Open Admissions Collection  
**Dates:** 1969-1977  
**Extent:** 1 box, 0.5 linear feet  
**Creator:** Queens College (New York, N.Y.)  
**Language:** English  
**Abstract:** The City University of New York was among the largest university systems to support a universal open admissions policy. The Open Admissions Collection contains reports, articles, transcripts, and guidebooks from the first decade of this effort.  
**Source:** Queens College Department of Special Collections and Archives (New York, N.Y.)  
**Access:** Collection is open for research. Staff may restrict access at its discretion on the basis of physical condition.  
**Copyright:** The Open Admissions Collection is physically owned by the Queens College Libraries. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assignees. The collection is subject to all copyright laws. Queens College assumes no responsibility for the infringement of copyrights held by the original authors, creators, or producers of materials.  
**Special Formats:** N/A  
**Preferred Citation:** Item, date (if known), box, folder, Warren Phillips Papers, Department of Special Collections and Archives, Queens College, City University of New York.  
**Related Collections:** [Mark Levy Collection](#), Queens College, NY  

### Controlled Access Terms

**Organizations:** City University of New York  
**Subjects:** Colleges and universities--Admission--Social aspects--United States
Inclusive education--United States--History
Remedial teaching--United States
Historical Note

In 1970, amidst a national atmosphere of civil action, the City University of New York implemented a policy of open admissions. Aiming at broadening educational opportunities, the policy stated that all freshman applicants with a high school diploma, valid New York City residency, and a clean bill of health would be eligible for enrollment to any of its two- and four-year schools. At the same time, the University reevaluated and expanded its efforts at remedial education on the basis that lack of prior achievement is a “shortcoming of the system and not an indication of (the student’s) inability.” While other institutions had already committed to open admissions, none were as large or served as heterogeneous of a community as CUNY.

Two financial crises eventually led to the reversal of these policies. The first, in 1976, caused the university to begin charging tuition. Two decades later, the second compelled a restructuring of the entire CUNY system, which included a push for higher standards. In 1999 the open admissions policy and remedial education programs at four-year colleges, including Queens, were suspended. They are still in place at the system’s two-year schools.

Scope & Content Note

The materials in the Open Admissions Collection consist of official University documents and outside literature on the policy that were collected at Queens College. At present, they cover the first few years of the policy, which remained in effect for three decades in various forms. Additional materials will be added to the collection as they are received or processed from other institutional sources.

Arrangement Note

Items are arranged by type and date.

Series I: Open Admissions Policy and Reactions
Series Description & Container List

Series I: Open Admissions Policy and Reactions
This series contains guides for incoming students, surveys and transcripts conducted for CUNY, as well as bibliographies and examples of articles written on open admissions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Folder</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Bibliographies</td>
<td>1973, 1974</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>CUNY Conference on Open Admissions</td>
<td>1971</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>CUNY Admissions Guides</td>
<td>1969, 1975, 1977</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Freshman Enrollment Surveys</td>
<td>1972, 1974</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>