

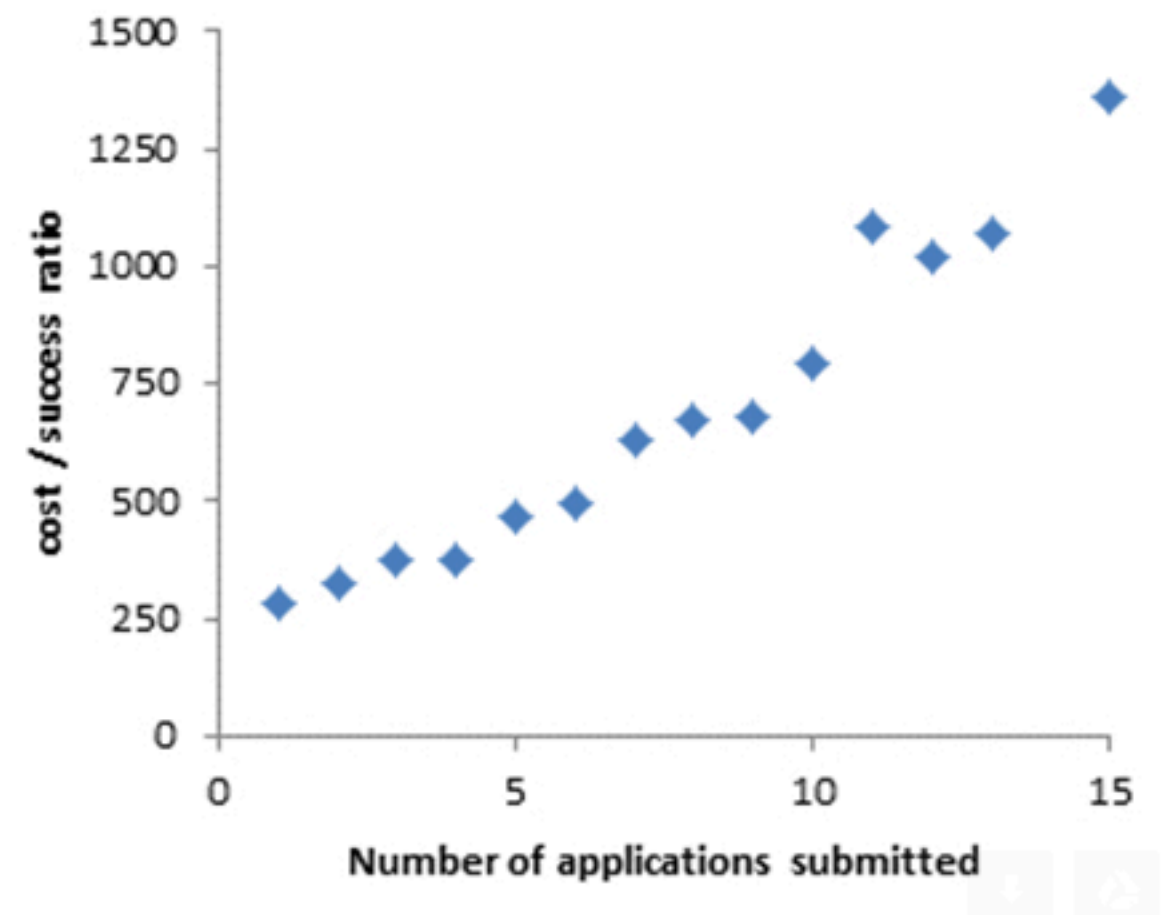
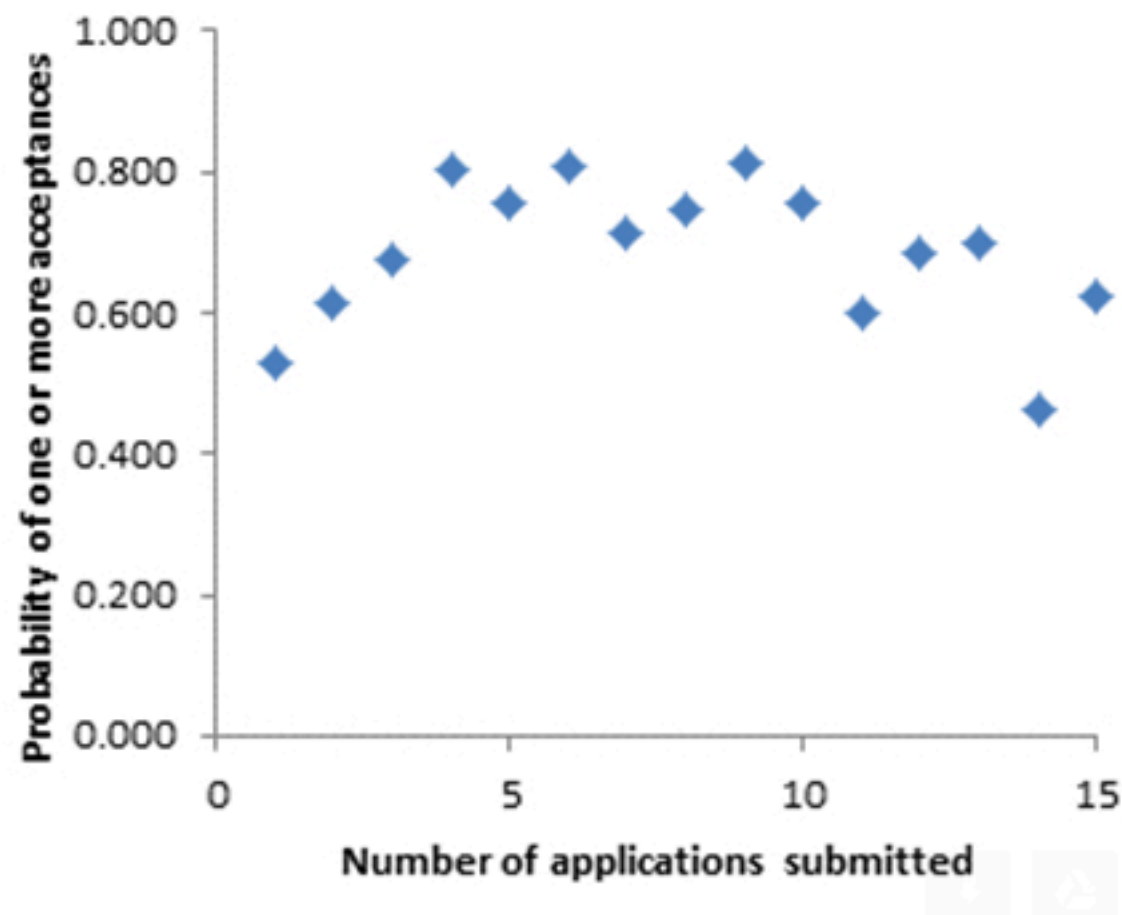
Thanks to Paige Pence for sharing her excellent summary of the 2013-2014 OPTOMCAS application cycle.

Some highlights:

- 2604 persons applied to optometry school during the 2013-2014 application cycle.
- The largest number of candidates (474) applied to five schools. The mean was 5.06 schools per applicant.
- 1846 applicants (71%) received at least one offer of admission.
- One individual applied to all 21 participating optometry schools. He or she received no offers.

My analysis of Paige's data suggests that

- Success rate (defined as the probability of receiving one or more offers) increases linearly from 1 to 4 applications.
- Success rate does not significantly increase when a candidate applies to more than four schools.
- Success rate tends to **decrease** for candidates who apply to more than ten schools. This may be because candidates with weaker metrics tend to apply to more schools.
- Cost / benefit ratio (defined as the OPTOMCAS fee paid divided by success rate) increases linearly from 1 to 6 applications.
- Cost / benefit ratio increases exponentially for candidates who apply to more than six schools.
- OPTOMCAS collected \$918,600 in fees, disregarding any fee waivers or discounts that may have been given.



Data for candidates who applied to 16 or more schools was omitted from these graphs due to the small number of individuals.