Dear colleague,

I imagine your back-to-school 2020 was filled with unprecedented circumstances, uncharted questions, and unknowable futures, and for facing these challenges we want you to know that you have our unwavering appreciation.

If there is anything we can do better to support you and your students in the college search, please connect with us! You can email us at admissions@umn.edu or call 1-800-752-1000.

As the 2021 application season ramps up, I want to keep you informed about important admissions changes at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities this year. New updates in this email include:

- **Applicant reports through Slate.org**
  Starting this fall, high school counselors can access detailed information about their students’ applications through Slate.org. This system will replace the weekly emailed reports we sent over the last two years. [Slate.org access information and instructions](#) are on our website.

- **Additional application deadline: December 1 Early Action II**
  To provide students even more flexibility this year, we have added a December 1 Early Action II Deadline in between our November 1 Early Action I Deadline and our January 1 Regular Deadline. December 1 Early Action II applicants will receive an admit, defer, or deny decision by February 15.
High School Counselor Handbook coming soon

Our High School Counselor Handbook, a comprehensive resource for admissions at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities, will be published online soon. We will email you when it's ready!

The following updates were shared in our July email, but we wanted to include them again for your reference:

- **No ACT/SAT score required**
  Students applying for 2021 undergraduate admission are not required to submit an ACT/SAT score as part of their application. All students—whether they submit a score or not—will receive full consideration for admission, scholarships, and our University Honors Program.

- **Updated application review factors**
  We have updated our holistic review considerations into “Academic and Context Factors” (formerly primary and secondary factors) while maintaining our dedication to individualized review of each application.

- **Endorsement of Care Counts in Crisis**
  I have joined admissions leaders at 350+ institutions in signing a statement to students and families about what matters most to our office in a year upended by COVID-19. The statement follows our long-standing dedication to holistic review and shows our support of each student interested in the U of M.

- **Discontinuing our Coalition for College application**
  We will not be offering the Coalition for College application for the 2021 season because the overwhelming majority of our applicants use the Common App or our Golden Gopher Application.

Stay tuned for more information about the 2021 admissions season. We look forward to supporting you and your students this coming school year.

Sincerely,

Heidi Meyer
Executive Director
Office of Admissions
Holistic review

Our holistic application review process has long been a point of pride at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities. I’m thankful for the thoughtful assessments of our readers to ensure that every student’s application gets the attention it deserves. This strong commitment to holistic review carries on this year—but like many things in 2020, it’s undergone a few adjustments.

Summary of changes:

- **FACTOR NAMES**
  
  Academic and Context factors have replaced our former language of primary and secondary factors. This is to help better explain how we view the factors. They are all taken into consideration as part of the holistic review process. No one factor is the deciding factor for an admission decision.

- **CATEGORIZATION**
  
  Course rigor (previously listed with secondary factors) is now grouped with our academic factors. An applicant’s academic interests—the major and college for which they are seeking admission—is a new academic factor to create more transparency around how the student’s interests and preparation both play a role in determining the best fit within the U of M.

- **NOTE ON ACT/SAT POLICY**
  
  ACT/SAT scores are an academic factor, but we’re providing students

ACT/SAT not required

Students applying for 2021 undergraduate admission to the University of Minnesota are not required to submit an ACT or SAT score. More FAQs about ACT/SAT scores can be found online, but here are a few highlights:

- This is a policy exception being made for the 2021 admission cycle to ensure all students have the opportunity to submit a complete application during an unprecedented pandemic.

- Whether students submit a test score or not, they will receive full consideration for admission, scholarships, and our University Honors Program.

- As always, all applications will be read in their entirety and reviewed for academic and context factors.

- Students will indicate on their application whether they wish to have their ACT/SAT scores considered during application review. Students will not be able to change their selection once their application is submitted.

(Exception: students who submit an application and state they would like to have an ACT/SAT score considered as part of their application can change their response if their application is
with more details on our website regarding what this means now that ACT/SAT scores are not required on our 2021 application.

ACADEMIC FACTORS

- Coursework through high school graduation
  (Admitted students typically exceed the University's high school requirements. See course requirements.)

- Grades in academic coursework

- Class rank/Grade Point Average

- Rigor of academic curriculum based on what is available in the high school
  (including enrollment in honors, AP, IB, or college-level courses when available)

- ACT or SAT scores
  (Submitting an ACT/SAT score is not required for 2021 applicants. All students, whether or not they submit a test score, will receive full consideration for admission, scholarships, and the University Honors Program. Application review for students who do not submit a score will place greater emphasis on the academic factors listed above and context factors listed below.)

- Applicant’s academic interests
  (A student’s preparation for the major/college for which they seek admission is considered in our review process.)

CONTEXT FACTORS

Our holistic review takes into consideration the individual circumstances that make each student incomplete due to no test score on file and they are no longer able to take the test due to cancellations by the testing agency.

- International students must still submit an English proficiency score. Access to online English proficiency exams has not been significantly affected by the pandemic, and this is a crucial piece of context about a student’s ability to be successful in an English-speaking university setting.

Care Counts in a Crisis

I have joined admissions leaders from 350 institutions across the country in signing the Care Counts in a Crisis: College Admissions Deans Respond to COVID-19 statement. Care Counts informs students and their families what admissions professionals value as we review applications this year. The University of Minnesota Twin Cities’ holistic review philosophy aligns well with these Care Counts values:

- Self-care
- Academic work
- Service and contributions to others
- Family contributions
- Extracurricular activities

Care Counts encourages students to communicate on their application any factors that influenced, impacted or impeded their academic performance. Both the Common App and our Golden Gopher Application include short answer questions for students to share their story.
unique. We consider the following context factors in our decision review.

- Outstanding talent, achievement, or aptitude in a particular area
- Strong commitment to community service and leadership
- Military service
- Contribution to the cultural, gender, age, economic, racial, or geographic diversity of the student body
- Evidence of having overcome social, economic, or physical barriers to educational achievement
- First-generation college student
- Significant responsibility in a family, community, job, or activity
- Family employment or attendance at the University of Minnesota
- Personal or extenuating circumstances
- Information received in open-ended questions

### Discontinuing our Coalition for College application

The University of Minnesota Twin Cities will not be offering the Coalition For College application this fall. While we believe deeply in the ideals and values of the Coalition, the pandemic has put us in a space where we must thoughtfully review resources and returns on investment. The small volume of applications (and small numbers of subsequent confirmations) we received from the Coalition platform isn’t commensurate with the staff resources required to continue participating. We encourage students interested in the University to apply via the Common App or our Golden Gopher Application.

### Key dates: 2021 admission

- **August 2020:**
  Common App and Golden Gopher Application launch
- **Sunday, November 1, 2020:**
  Early Action I Deadline (applicants receive an admit, defer, or deny decision by January 31). Students interested in the School of Nursing must apply by this deadline.
- **November 2020:**
  housing application opens
- **Tuesday, December 1, 2020:**
  Early Action II Deadline (applicants receive an admit, defer, or deny decision by February 15)
- **Friday, January 1, 2021:**
  Regular Deadline (applicants receive an admit, waitlist, or deny decision by March 31)
• Wednesday, March 31, 2021: scholarship recipients and University Honors Program admits are informed

• Saturday, May 1, 2021: confirmation deadline

Office of Admissions, a Division of the Office of Undergraduate Education
240 Williamson Hall * 231 Pillsbury Drive S.E. * Minneapolis, MN 55455-0213
admissions.tc.umn.edu * admissions@umn.edu