



Dear Colleague,

I hope that you have had a wonderful start to your school year! We kick off the 2016-17 year with heartfelt appreciation. Your partnership is so important to the work we do to serve students and support student success. *On behalf of the University, we thank you for all you do to make a difference in the lives of our students!*

This year is one of change and we want to be sure that you have the important information you need to work with your students and families. We recognize there is a lot to remember with the test changes, Prior-prior year, and the U of M admission application deadline changes. We will be sure to communicate with you and with students and families in an ongoing and timely manner. However, we know that you may have additional questions or you may want to connect on matters specific to your school or your students. When you have questions, we invite you to contact us. We are happy to provide any information that would be helpful as you work with students and families.

We will be hosting several expanded workshops this year, where we look forward to connecting with folks in person, sharing key information, and hearing from you about your needs. We will walk through our admission application review process and conduct some case study reviews so you can better understand our process of direct-college admission. For a complete schedule of our upcoming fall workshops, please visit <http://z.umn.edu/counselorworkshops16>. You may also find information that may be helpful as you work with your students and families by visiting <http://admissions.tc.umn.edu/counselors>.

This newsletter calls out some key information around admission changes and updates. We hope you find this information helpful as you work with your students.

Sincerely,

Rachelle Hernandez
Associate Vice Provost for Enrollment Management &
Director of Admissions
University of Minnesota Twin Cities

Key Information Regarding University of Minnesota Freshman Admissions

Counselor Handbook

Our **counselor handbook** provides up-to-date information for counselors to assist you as you work with your students considering attending the U of M Twin Cities. In particular, we'd like to call your attention to some key information that is new or different this year. The additional links are included below to help you find the information you need:

1. **Freshman application deadline change**
2. **Financial aid timeline**
3. **Holistic review process**
4. **New wording for short answer question**
5. **Secondary admissions programs - Additional application materials required**
 - a. **Freshman Nursing Guarantee Program supplemental application**
 - b. **BA/MD Joint Admissions Scholar Program**
 - c. **U of M auditions programs**

Freshman admission application deadline changes

Priority deadline - Tuesday, November 1, 2016. Students who apply by November 1st will receive full consideration for admission, University Honors Program, and scholarships, and decisions will be provided by the end of January.

The U of M does not participate in either the early action or early decision programs.

Please note: We were recently alerted that the Minnesota Office of Higher Education's *Choosing a College* publication included an incorrect priority deadline for the University of Minnesota Twin Cities. Their online version has been corrected, but they are not able to correct the paper copies.

Regular deadline - Thursday, December 15, 2016. Students who apply by December 15th will receive full consideration for admission, University Honors Program, and scholarships, and decisions will be provided by the end of March.

Financial aid timeline

Wednesday, March 1, 2017

FAFSA priority deadline remains the same. The Department of Education has requested that institutions not move our priority financial aid deadlines earlier as a result of PPY (prior-prior year). However, we strongly encourage students to apply for financial aid as soon after October 1, 2016, as possible. This will help to ensure students and families have submitted the information necessary to receive their financial aid award notice as soon as it is available. The University of Minnesota will begin sending financial aid award notices to admitted students by early February.

2016-2017 Admission Updates and Reminders

A Few Important Notes About the University of Minnesota Twin Cities Holistic Review Approach

The University's Holistic Review Approach - Student Success

Student success is at the center of everything we do, and we consider the recruitment and admissions cycle to be the start of that work. Our focus on student success over the last decade has resulted in freshman retention rates that are at an all-time high. We encourage strong student preparation at the junior high and high school levels, as academic preparation is key to a student's college success. We require submission of senior year grades to not only confirm high school graduation for financial aid eligibility, but also to confirm academic progress has remained strong during this important foundation-building year. Although academic preparation is the foundation for a student's success on campus, we also take into consideration other factors that may lead to a student's preparation for success at the University.

As outlined in our University "Student Learning and Development Outcomes," it is our goal to provide an educational environment that prepares our students "to be responsible and engaged citizens who, upon University graduation, are ready to participate in and meet the challenges of a complex, diverse, and global society." Our review process ensures that we look at *the whole student*, which allows us to admit students who are not only academically ready for University study, but also those who will most benefit from and contribute to our thriving and diverse campus environment.

We do not base our admissions decisions on an automated or numeric process. Our review process considers many factors, including a student's likelihood of success at the University. In our admissions review process, we consider those characteristics that lend themselves to the success of our enrolled students. We positively recognize and consider characteristics that we know enhance student success and likelihood of timely graduation.

No two students are alike. Students with similar academic credentials may have different interests and experiences, and the pool of applicants and fit for a particular program at the U of M can vary by student and freshman-admitting college. Our holistic review allows us to get to know our applicants, so that we can make the best decision possible for students and the University. The holistic review of each applicant, coupled with the fact that we admit students directly to one of seven freshman-admitting colleges means our application review process can take some time to complete.

This past year we received over 49,000 applications for freshman admission, so we must take the time necessary to ensure our holistic and consistent review of each student's application. We try to get decisions out as quickly as possible, and we do try to send decisions out on a rolling basis, beginning in November. However, depending on the number of applicants to the University or program, as well as the competitiveness of the applicants, decision timing does vary. (Students who complete their applications by the November 1st priority deadline will receive an admission decision by January 31st.)

New wording of short answer questions

Although the U of M Twin Cities campus does not require an essay, we do give students the opportunity to submit answers to optional short answer questions. We have added one new question this year, and have modified the wording of another question to make it easier for students to share information about who they are. Answers to these questions are considered in our admissions review among our secondary factors. This year's application questions include:

Optional Short Response: Diversity

The University values diversity, broadly defined to include diversity of experiences, perspectives, backgrounds, and talents. Enrolling a diverse community of scholars interested in learning with and from each other fosters discussion and discovery inside and outside of the classroom. Please share briefly how you feel you might contribute to, or benefit from our community of scholars. (Please limit your answer to 1,000 characters.)

Optional Short Response: Additional Information / Special Circumstances

If you have additional information or special circumstances that you would like the admissions committee to consider in its holistic review of your application, please share that information below. (Maximum 4,000 characters.)

Coalition for Affordability, Access, and Success Application Update

The University of Minnesota will not be using the Coalition Application for fall 2017 admission. We plan to implement the Coalition Application as an option for prospective students applying for fall 2018 admission.

Secondary Admissions Programs - Additional Application Materials Required

Freshman Nursing Guarantee Program - Supplemental Application

The Freshman Nursing Guarantee Program is now the primary path to enrollment in the University's School of Nursing. Students selected for the program begin their studies in the College of Liberal Arts, and are then guaranteed transfer admission to the School of Nursing to complete their sophomore through senior years. To be considered for the Freshman Nursing Guarantee Program, students must submit the supplemental application for admission and all required supporting materials by November 1, 2016.

BA/MD Joint Admissions Scholars Program

This program, designed to attract top Minnesota students, especially those from underrepresented and under-resourced populations, provides a unique opportunity to obtain a Doctor of Medicine (MD) degree within seven years. Students are admitted to the University of Minnesota College of Liberal Arts as freshmen and guaranteed admission to the Medical School provided they meet certain GPA and course requirements.

U of M Audition Programs (BFA Acting, Dance, Music)

Applicants to some of the University's fine arts programs, including acting/theater arts, dance and music, are required to audition for acceptance into these programs. Applicants must submit supplemental applications, which can be found at <http://z.umn.edu/suppapp>. The supplemental application links also lead to audition details for each area of study where applicable.

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