

Tech Team Update 5/12/21

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Current cycle updates and proposals (David Muck):

- For the incomplete Fall 2021 semester, we are down 7% on submitted applications compared to the same time last year. Four-year application submissions are down 5% while two-year application submissions are down 14%. There has been steady improvement in these numbers as statewide application submissions were down 35% in early November.
- There was some impact to ApplyTexas from the February weather event we all experienced. Due to emergency maintenance issues on UT-Austin campus, we made the decision to take ApplyTexas offline from 8 pm February 17 through 10 am February 18. This 14-hour period represents the longest continuous downtime ApplyTexas has experienced in at least 15 years. There were no scheduled application deadlines during this outage so no applicants were prevented from submitting applications. There were delays over the two week period from February 13 through February 28 in our responding to applicants as quickly as we usually do as the University of Texas at Austin was closed for most of that time and our team had intermittent and infrequent access to many of our normal functions. The weather event also put much of our development work behind schedule.
- Testing with our administrative users continues and the feedback has been very helpful. We've implemented many of the suggestions for improvement already and ticketed some others for future development. Please keep your suggestions coming.
- Fraudulent applications continue to be a problem for some of our institutions. We continue to work to reduce this issue.
- Additional daily application deliveries – We have a number of institutions participating in additional deliveries times of 7 am and 12 pm (in addition to the normal 6 pm application delivery). Please reach out to us if you are interested in either of these additional delivery times.
- We would like to encourage more high schools to participate in the transcript request service that we continue to maintain in collaboration with the Texas Education Agency

Future cycle proposals and updates (David Muck):

- A proposal to add a "grade received" field to the Educational Information section to facilitate self-reporting of grades (request by University of Houston from last cycle)
- A proposal to add a question if the applicant enters a cell phone number: "[Institution name] uses text messaging to communicate important admissions information to prospective students. Your information is not shared with third parties and you may opt out at any time. Standard messaging rates may apply."
 - Allow (default) - Do not Allow" (proposal by University of The Incarnate Word)

- A proposal to add fields to collect Pearson Test of English scores to the test pages (proposal by Pearson)
- A proposal to expand the option of the parent information questions to all application types, but to not require that information on application types other than the US Freshman. Request text below (request from Tarleton State University):
 - “I noticed the Parent information can be "turned on or off" but if it is "on", it is required. Can this also be an option for transfers and readmits to be "turned on" but not required since transfer students can be a wide range of ages. Our administration wants to communication with parents more so I wondered if this was an option. Thank you.”

- Development continues on moving the Counselor Reporting Suite to AWS
- Development continues on moving the Administrative site to AWS
- Development continues on moving the Applicant site to AWS