

Tech Team Update 10/26/21

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Current cycle updates and proposals (David Muck):

- For the incomplete Fall 2021 semester, we are down 5% in submitted applications compared to the same time last year. Four year application submissions are down 7% while two year application submissions are down 3%. There has been steady improvement in these numbers as statewide application submissions were down 35% in early November of last year.
- For the Fall 2022 semester, we have seen an increase of 45% in total applications and an increase of 30% in submitted applications compared to the same time last year. Comparing the same time period to the Fall 2020 semester we are up 1% in total applications and we are down 17% in submitted applications.
- 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.
- All three of our main portals (applicant, administrator, and counselor) are now hosted on Amazon Web Services. We will gradually retire the legacy system hosted on campus at the University of Texas at Austin over the course of Spring 2022 as that ApplyTexas application semester winds down.

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) [carried forward from last year]
- 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) [carried forward from last year]
- A proposal to add fields to collect Pearson Test of English scores to the test pages (proposal by Pearson) [carried forward from last year]
- A proposal to extend the length of the field that collects the name of high school senior courses (suggestion from the ApplyTexas technical team and requested by many applicants)
- A proposal to include relevant questions about Selective Service registration (proposal by the University of Texas at Austin):

“Federal regulations have been changed to no longer require institutions to verify that male recipients of federal aid be registered with Selective Service. The FAFSA document will no longer include questions

related to Selective Service registration and the response will not be matched against the Selective Service database. This means that the results of the database match will not be data that is provided to institutions.

The issue at hand is that State of Texas regulations (SEC. 51.9095) require males who receive state funded aid, which includes state grants, work-study and exemptions/waivers, to file a statement attesting that they are registered or exempted. The student's response on the FAFSA will no longer satisfy Texas regulations as providing a "statement".

If the ApplyTX application included relevant questions about Selective Service registration, this could serve as the "statement". The responses could be imported into an institutions enterprise system allowing for automate processes to deal with the exceptions rather than collecting a new document from each recipient.

- A proposal to add a second optional deadline for graduate majors (proposal by UT Permian Basin):

Currently the major-specific deadline for graduate programs only gives the option for one deadline. Can we add another deadline (similar to the optional deadlines provided in the regular semester-specific setting)? Example scenario: UTPB's online graduate programs have a Fall A (August 9) and Fall B (October 14) deadline. The deadline for all on-campus graduate programs is August 16 only.

- A proposal to extend the maximum length of major titles. Currently set at 60 characters. (proposal by Dallas Baptist University)
- A proposal to add additional terms to the ApplyTexas application. We currently offer Spring, Summer I, Summer, Summer II, and Fall. The specific request was for a Fall II term. (proposal by Trinity Valley Community College).
- Consideration for making the gender question on the profile required (requested by numerous schools over the course of this cycle)
- Consideration for making the international Application Representative address collection fields consistent with the rest of the address fields on the application. Currently they are just two free-form text inputs to collect address, city, country, zip. (suggestion from the ApplyTexas technical team)
- Consideration for expanding address verification to additional address fields. Currently only permanent and physical addresses are passed through verification. (suggestion from the ApplyTexas technical team).
- Consideration for the formation of a sub-committee to review the current rules, flow, and information collected for determining Texas residency. (suggestion from the ApplyTexas technical team)
- Consideration for creation of scholarship-associated custom questions. Currently schools can establish a link between applicant-selected university and major-specific scholarships and associated essay requirements. It would be good to consider a similar link between university and major-specific scholarships and associated custom questions, similar to how major-specific custom questions operate. (suggestion from the ApplyTexas technical team)

