College Application Info Session

Impact of COVID-19 on College Admissions

October 19, 2020 @ 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM
University of Washington Dream Project
Holistic Review

UW Office of Admissions:

“We’re looking for students who will not only benefit from the academic and cultural opportunities available at the UW, but for students who will also contribute to our energy and diversity of experience. The entire application, including the essays and extracurricular activities, is important in the individualized review. We encourage you to use the application to share who you are and what is important to you.”
What does holistic review mean?

- **Academic preparation & performance**
  An overall strong level of academic achievement, as demonstrated by grades and rigor of curriculum. Taking advantage of college-preparatory courses during high school, such as Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), Running Start or college in the high school; or academic subjects beyond the minimum required for college entrance.

- **Taking full advantage of the senior year**
- **Demonstrating a positive grade trend**

- **Personal achievements & characteristics**
  - Demonstrating a commitment to community service and leadership
  - Exercising significant responsibility in a family, community, employment situation or through activities
  - Demonstrating cultural awareness or unique perspectives or experiences
COVID-19 Admissions FAQs (UW)

▸ SAT & ACT
  ▸ With the reduction of testing dates globally, the UW will not require SAT or ACT scores for any autumn 2021 freshman applicant or beyond.
  ▸ Not submitting an SAT or ACT will not harm any applicant in the review process.

▸ Schedules & Grades
  ▸ Rest assured that we will be able to take unanticipated schedule changes due to COVID-19 into consideration in future application cycles.
  ▸ If a school changes the grading scale to Pass/No Pass, Credit/No Credit or A/Incomplete, this will not impact a student’s admissibility to the University of Washington.

▸ Financial Aid
  ▸ We understand that your family’s financial situation may have changed as a result of COVID-19. Students can request changes to their award by completing a “change in financial situation – parent,” or “change in financial situation – student” form using the revision request website.

https://admit.washington.edu/covid-19
SAT

- Test Date: November 7, 2020
  - Late Registration Deadline: October 27, 2020
  - Limited spots available
- Finding test centers
  - https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/register/find-test-centers
- Updates on test center closings
  - https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/register/test-center-closings
Timeline of Important Dates (UW)

- **September 1**
  - Autumn application opens
- **October 1**
  - Financial aid applications (FAFSA and WASFA) open
- **November 15**
  - Autumn application deadline
- **January 15**
  - Priority deadline for financial aid application
- **March 1-15**
  - Autumn notification period
- **July 15**
  - Deadline to submit official transcript
  - Or as soon as possible if COVID-19 has caused school closures

*Dates may vary depending on university (e.g. early decision and early action admission)*
Types of College Applications

▸ Common Application
  ▪ [https://www.coalitionforcollegeaccess.org](https://www.coalitionforcollegeaccess.org)
  ▪ Example: Seattle University

▸ Coalition Application
  ▪ [https://www.commonapp.org](https://www.commonapp.org)
  ▪ Example: University of Washington

▸ University’s own admission application
  ▪ Example: Washington State University
Steps for Coalition & Common App

▸ Create an account using an email address that you check regularly
▸ Search for colleges you plan on applying to and add them to your college list
▸ Gather materials
  ▪ Copy of transcript with courses and grades
  ▪ List of extracurricular activities, work, and family responsibilities
  ▪ Parent information (occupation, employment status, education level)
  ▪ Academic honors and test scores (*if applicable*)
▸ Complete your profile
  ▪ Coalition: Personal Info | Contact Info | Demographic Info | Citizenship Info | Family Info | High School Info | College Info | 9th-11th Grade Coursework | 12th Grade Coursework | College Coursework | SAT/ACT | Additional Tests | Fee Waiver | Honors & Distinctions | Activities/Experience
▸ Write your personal statement(s) for the writing prompts
  ▪ Common App or Coalition Essay (may be optional or required)
  ▪ College-specific essays and questions
▸ **Optional:** invite and assign recommenders
▸ Review application, pay the application fee (or use fee waiver), and submit
UW 2021 Freshman Writing Section

▸ Essay [required]
  ▸ Tell a story from your life, describing an experience that either demonstrates your character or helped to shape it.
  ▸ Maximum length: 650 words

▸ Short Response [required]
  ▸ Our families and communities often define us and our individual worlds. Community might refer to your cultural group, extended family, religious group, neighborhood or school, sports team or club, co-workers, etc. Describe the world you come from and how you, as a product of it, might add to the diversity of the UW.
  ▸ Maximum length: 300 words

▸ Additional information about yourself or your circumstances [optional]
  ▸ You are not required to write anything in this section, but you may include additional information if something has particular significance to you. For example, you may use this space if:
    ▸ You have experienced personal hardships in attaining your education
    ▸ Your activities have been limited because of work or family obligations
    ▸ You have experienced unusual limitations or opportunities unique to the schools you attended
  ▸ Maximum length: 200 words
Tips for Personal Statement

▸ Purpose of personal statement:
  ▸ Revealing something about yourself that persuades the admission committee to admit you to their school
    ▸ Example: personal story that demonstrates your persistence and ability to overcome adversity
  ▸ Don’t rehash information from other portions of the application (e.g. extracurricular activities)

▸ Three important components of a personal statement:
  1. The experience you had
  2. What you learned from the experience
  3. How you will apply what you learned to your endeavours in the future

▸ Proofread!
  ▸ Content is important but spelling, grammar, and punctuation are also considered
  ▸ Concise and straightforward writing is the most effective
Running Start

▸ How do I know if my Running Start courses are eligible to transfer to a four-year college in Washington State?
  ▸ Equivalency Guide for Washington state community & technical colleges
  ▸ UW: https://admit.washington.edu/apply/transfer/equivalency-guide

▸ Will my credits transfer to private or out-of-state universities?
  ▸ Possibly, but there is no guarantee (the receiving institution has the right to determine which college credits it will accept)

▸ Will I be a Sophomore or Junior in credit?
  ▸ If you are applying for the autumn quarter of the year you graduate from high school, apply as a freshman.
  ▸ Once you enroll as a student, your college credit may qualify you for sophomore or junior standing.
    ▸ 0~44 credits = Freshman
    ▸ 45~89 credits = Sophomore
    ▸ 90~134 credits = Junior
    ▸ 135 credits or more = Senior
(Virtual) College Visits

- Self-guided tours
  - No need for travel
  - Explore campus at your own pace
  - Hear student stories & learn about resources

- Join the email list
  - Important deadlines
  - Updates on campus events
  - Majors and academic programs
  - Tips for submitting strong applications
UW Online Events

- **Washington Wednesday series recordings**
  - Meet the UW: Seattle, Tacoma and Bothell campuses
  - Admission to majors overview
  - Removing the SAT/ACT requirement
  - Writing your UW essays
  - Maximizing your college search
  - UW student panel
  - How to fill out the Coalition application
  - Dual Credit (Running Start, UW College in the High School and other dual enrollment programs) and the UW application
  - Applying to the UW Honors Program
  - Admissions presentation in Spanish

https://admit.washington.edu/visit/events
UW Online Events

Freshman Application Webinars

- Hear directly from an admissions counselor about how to complete the Coalition Profile and get tips for essay writing and more. Create your Coalition account in advance and bring your questions! All webinars are 4 – 5 p.m. Pacific Time.
  - Tuesday, October 20
  - Monday, October 26
  - Monday, November 2
  - Friday, November 6
  - Tuesday, November 10
  - Thursday, November 12

- Register online: https://admit.washington.edu/apply/freshman
Thank you for coming!

Questions?

You may reach Michelle Um at mum53@uw.edu

University of Washington | Psychology & Education Major | College and Career Readiness Assistant