Question and Answers from Delaware Colleges

As of April 28, 2020

Below is a record of the Q & A session that our colleges held with school counselors on April 28, 2020. The purpose of the call was to discuss changes related to Covid-19 and the impact on admissions and financial aid. Please note that many of these policy changes are limited to this season of remote learning and closed campuses. They may change to normal policies once this season ends. Please stay in communication with the schools to ensure you have the latest information.

College Representatives:
Goldey Beacom College (GBC): Alison Boord White, Chuck Hammond, Larry Eby, Brittany Hobbs
Wesley College (Wesley): David Nelson
University of Delaware (UD): Doug Zander, David Satran
Delaware State University (DSU): Kareem McLemore, Pia Stokes
Delaware Technical Community College (DTCC): Melissa Rakes
Wilmington University (Wilm U): Laura Morris, Jim Wilson, Nicole McDaniel
Delaware College of Art and Design (DCAD): Randle Reed, Wydelah Llanos, Jane Campbell

Other Representatives:
College Board: Dianna Frank
DOE: Shana Payne, Karen Keegan, Jennifer Davis
StandByMe: Sally Coonin

General updates by college: Colleges were asked to generally share any updates and changes related to covid-19. The formal questions and responses are in the next section.

DCAD: DCAD waived all application and Slide Room portfolio fees. Students who have submitted their application and portfolios will be offered conditional acceptance until final transcripts can be received.
**DSU:** DSU has established a test optional policy for this school year that will apply to admissions only, not academic merit scholarships. Students will need to demonstrate they have met the academic criteria including test scores for academic merit scholarships. Scholarship application has been extended to July 15th.

**DTCC:** Multiple measures policy for placement will be used to determine if a student is ready for credit-bearing coursework in math or English (implemented prior to Covid-19 and will continue). Measures include the following:
- students with a 3.0 GPA as a junior or senior in high school
- receiving an A or B in senior year English or Math course,
- any coursework this year with A or B in most recent marking period (change because of covid-19),
- A or B in pre-calculus or calculus (for math placement)
- A or B in other math courses reviewed on a case by case basis (for math placement only)
- IB or Academic Challenge enrollment
- Option to complete English or Math prep courses with no placement test required
- Remote Accuplacer testing

Final decision on fall courses will be made by August 1st regarding online instruction vs in person. Virtual support office is available. Text is the easiest way to reach DTCC staff. If you call you will be asked to leave a voicemail and receive a call back.

The best contact info for Delaware Tech is e-advising@dtcc.edu, (302)259-7145 (call/text), and http://www.dtcc.edu/virtual/support

**GBC:** The school has rolling admissions and did not require significant changes related to covid-19. The school does not have deadlines for application or deposits normally. GBC is considering becoming test optional for 2020-21 but a final decision has not been made. GBC always makes exceptions for students who have not taken standardized tests. GBC is seeing an increase in enrollment for summer courses. Students can take a virtual tour of the campus. The housing deposit will be added to the fall bill and not due when the admissions contract is submitted. Virtual open house on YouTube

**Wesley:** Will push back campus re-opening date to June 4th. Counselors are available virtually to answer questions about admissions, financial aid and course registration. Registration deposit date is extended to July 1. Housing deposit is reduced to $75.

**UD:** May 1 is holding for fall deposit. Any student can request an extension for this deposit by sending an email to admissions@udel.edu. Extensions are being reviewed and almost all are being approved. Need-based aid recipients can request the deposit be
waived. UD has re-opened the application for main campus. The application for the Associate in Arts programs remains open (associateinarts@udel.edu). For information on UD's Associate in Arts Program: https://www.aap.udel.edu/ UD will continue to review applications for students as long as slots are open. UD continues to remain test optional for Delaware residents.

**Wilm U:** Wilm U will maintain a rolling and open admissions process. Other than staff working remotely there have been no core changes related to admissions or financial aid. Wilm U does not require the SAT/ACT for admissions. Students can take the Accuplacer online for placement into English and math courses. The date for summer virtual open house has not been established (will be early to mid-June). Students can submit the official transcript upon graduation. WilmU will also accept transcripts sent via email directly from school administrators for the fall 2020 term. At WilmU, prospective students can email, text or call to set up a virtual appt or to speak with an Admissions Specialist: http://wilmu.edu/admission/index.aspx

**College Board:** AP exam at home testing guide is released today; dfrank@collegeboard.org make sure students are checking emails for links to testing site and social media for updates

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**Open Q&A:** Attendees raised questions and allowed each college to provide an answer. In cases where the answers are generally the same across campus a single response is recorded.

1. **How are colleges accepting transcripts?**
   a. All schools will accept them via Parchment or email that comes directly from the school; some schools identified additional options below:
      i. Wesley: Will accept unofficial through snapshot of student account, official will be required before fall enrollment
      ii. DSU: send to admissionsdocs@desu.edu
      iii. UD: send to admissions@udel.edu
      iv. DTCC: assuming students are eligible for now and will re-evaluate when official transcripts are available; for placement purposes students may send to admissions@dtcc.edu or text to (302) 259-7145
2. Has the application fee been waived for schools that have them?
   a. UD: case-by-case with standard waivers
   b. DSU:
   c. DCAD: yes and Slide Room fees are waived as well
   d. Wesley:
   e. GBC, Wilm U and DTCC do not have application fees

3. Will transcripts require specific dates (month/day/year) or is month/year acceptable?
   a. Month/year is acceptable

4. Will the FAFSA deadline be extended?
   a. DOE: The state FAFSA deadline for scholarships has been extended to June 15th. SCIP and professional loan incentive program applications are extended to July 15th.
   b. DTCC: FAFSA deadline for 2020-21 school year will be June 30, 2021; FAFSA date to have bookstore money for 2020 fall semester is Aug 1

5. Will there be changes in how AP credits are awarded as a result of the changes in AP testing procedures this year?
   a. No changes at Delaware institutions; minimum score requirements will remain the same

6. When will DSU students be given information about summer academy registration?
   a. Emails are going out; go to www.desu.edu/summer-academy for more information

7. Will summer applicants to UD AAP be eligible for SEED?
   a. Yes there are no changes to how SEED will be awarded to summer applicants; they will continue to remain eligible for SEED

8. Are there conversations about reducing tuition for students if colleges continue with remote learning in the fall?
   a. Conversations are happening but no decisions have been made
9. Grading for 3rd and 4th marking period are happening in a variety of ways. How can we best address student questions as to how those will be received from colleges since grading will be different from how it was done prior to school closures?
   a. All: We are reading transcripts with a great deal of flexibility. We will use the grading key from schools to interpret grades and what’s included in the GPA. School can include information in the key that may help us understand what’s in the GPA and what is not in the GPA. This is extremely helpful to understand what the final grade represents. We will reach out to schools where things are not clear or need additional clarification. The main concern for students already admitted is that they are not suddenly failing. Schools can send one grading key per high school. There are some additional points added by some of the schools below:
   b. DSU: We have gone to a pass/fail system on our campus. We are looking to determine if you passed the course. We are also focused on the overall GPA.
   c. DCAD: We look at the whole student, including the application and portfolio, not just the GPA.
   d. UD: We will look at GPA at the time of admission; appeal process can be used to dig deeper to facilitate eligibility

10. Any advice for current juniors?
   a. Be the best you can be today. Keep working and focusing on your future. Remember we are all going through this together. Do not overly stress.
   b. One possible essay topic for applications and scholarships could be how they stay connected to being a scholar during this season when learning became more independent.
   c. Virtual tours are available online for most campuses
      i. DSU: students can engage with a live tour guide virtually
      ii. UD: students can engage with Blue Hen Ambassadors to ask questions online through chat
      iii. Wilm U: is hosting webinars and virtual open houses
      iv. DCAD: increasing online presence and 1:1 virtual discussions
v. DTCC: Virtual info sessions are held every month:
https://www.dtcc.edu/admissions-financial-aid/prospective-student-information/info-sessions-open-house/virtual-info-sessions

11. Final GPA might go down depending on how the pass/fail is included or not included in the GPA. How will this impact merit based scholarships, SEED/Inspire?
   a. DSU: some schools send a grading scale/key when submitting transcript, include the information to the school to help with interpreting the transcript and it helps us to factor that into the review, esp if they are on the cusp
   b. UD: Admission and merit-based financial aid decisions are based on what the GPA was at time of application. If a student was borderline for SEED GPA prior to the school closure and pass/fail course brings their GPA down they can appeal and we will work to see if we can make the student eligible.
   c. DTCC: cumulative GPA will be used for SEED and merit-based; if a student was borderline for SEED GPA prior to the school closure and pass/fail course brings their GPA down they can appeal and we will work to see if we can make the student eligible.

12. Is there help with FAFSA completion:
   a. Counselors. Please direct your students who need help with FAFSA to the StandByMe website Get Help With FAFSA form. StandByMe will respond to them. They can also call Delaware 2-1-1 line and will be directed to StandByMe.

13. Are schools hosting virtual tours?
   a. See question 10

14. What will be the deferment policies for next year if classes are online?
   a. UD: Students can apply for deferral. Approval requires students to be engaged in an educational project.
b. All others: Notify the school in writing, deferrals are granted for up to a semester or a year depending on the campus, no justification is required; this will impact eligibility for SEED/Inspire

15. If a student defers will they lose eligibility for SEED/Inspire?
   a. Yes

16. Will students denied admissions be re-considered now that schools are test optional?
   a. Students would not be denied admission solely based on test scores
   b. UD: Test optional policy was in place for Delaware residents prior to school closures

17. Is there any chance that UD might look to draw from students admitted to AAP to fill main campus enrollment gaps (if gaps exist)?
   a. UD - Not in general, but students can always appeal

18. College Board Announcement:
   a. AP at-home testing guide will be released today along with teacher webinars www.apcoronavirusupdates.collegeboard.org (how to support students and what information they need for at-home testing). Webinars start tonight (will be recorded).