Performance Assessment in College Admissions: How Students Show What They Know and Can Do

June 23, 2020
Moderator

Monica Martinez
Director of Strategic Initiatives
Learning Policy Institute

@drmonie | @LPI_Learning
The Reimagining College Access Initiative

1st Convening
June 2017
Tested & Validated the Vision

2017-2018
Task Forces
- Recognition
- Technology
- Leading Places

May 2018
2nd Convening
Feedback on the Task Forces’ Recommendations

2018-19
Work Strands
- Criteria
- Transfer of student info
- Pilots

May 2019
3rd Convening
Workshopping the Work Strands

2019-2020
Pilot RCA
K-12 & IHE learning community to increase quality, equity, and access
In New England, five public and private colleges and one supporting institution (MIT) have begun to participate in the RCA initiative in 2019-20
The Maker Portfolio
  Stu Schmill, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Piloting Performance Assessment in Admissions
  Judy Purdy, Wheaton College

Expanding Admissions Submissions
  Scott Anderson, The Common App

Panel Discussion and Q&A

Lessons Learned
  Monica Martinez, Learning Policy Institute
Presenter

Stu Schmill
Dean of Admissions and Student Financial Services
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

@MIT
Creative portfolios

While we neither expect nor require additional material beyond the application, we know that many students are involved in many cool activities outside of class, and we love to hear about them!

Researchers, performing artists, visual artists, and makers may send in portfolios for review by MIT staff or faculty through SlideRoom. For more information on each type of portfolio, please review the descriptions below.

Portfolios must be submitted by November 1 for Early Action or January 1 for Regular Action.

More in First-year applicants

- Deadlines & requirements
- First-year eligibility
- MyMIT
- Early vs Regular
- International applicants
- DACA & undocumented applicants
- Part 1: Biographical information
- Part 2: Essays, activities & academics
- Letters of recommendation
- Tests & scores
Introducing… Maker Portfolios!
by Dr. Dawn '04, MS '06, PhD '11

Making the world better, one portfolio at a time

August 22, 2013 in Admissions, Prepare for MIT, Process & Statistics

About Dr. Dawn '04, MS '06, PhD '11

Hi! I'm Dr. Dawn. I've been around MIT since the start of the millennium, first as...
• What kinds of thing do you make?
   *Drop down menu so we can sort*

• What do you make?
   *Explanation of the projects*

• How do you make?
   *This gives us context around resources, how much others support them, etc.*

• What’s the most meaningful thing you have made?
   *Brings out the personal in the projects, such as motivation and commitment*
“I am bumping up because of their motivation, grit, resourcefulness, problem-solving, and self-teaching ability.”
“I really like this portfolio because of how the story is told…. There is resourcefulness, self-awareness, and a willingness to take risks.”

“I appreciate the highly collaborative process of their making.”

“This applicant seems to be a strong communicator and they will probably bring others up with them as well.”

“It should be noted that for a student to have an opportunity like this, the stars must align. Having family members as mentors makes a project like this financially and realistically possible. The only detailed take of the applicant’s involvement in the project comes from his “How do you make” section.”
Presenter

Stu Schmill

Dean of Admissions and Student Financial Services
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

@MIT
Judy Purdy,
Director of Admission
Overview

• Context and Background
  • Wheaton
  • History with Portfolios
  • RCA partnership goals

• Process

• Value
Context and Background

Wheaton College
Massachusetts

- 1775 Undergraduates
- 40 states / 60 countries
- 96% Residential
- 100+ majors/minors
- Approximately 3500 applications for incoming class of 500

www.wheatoncollege.edu
Context and Background

- Historically, applicants to Wheaton have been able to submit portfolios for faculty review in various departments.

- RCA partnership goals
  - Get to know applicants better
  - Allow students to provide additional context to their applications
  - Yield opportunities
This year, Wheaton College is partnering with Reimagining College Access in an optional pilot program that will allow students to submit actual student work as part of their application to Wheaton. This may include students who, either individually or with the help of their high school, have created a portfolio or a compilation of their work, as part of classwork or a project. Please understand that not submitting work will not impact your application negatively. The optional Wheaton Admission Portfolio is an opportunity to tell us more about what makes you unique through an open-ended format.

- As part of your optional Wheaton Admission Portfolio, you may choose to submit:
  - A report or publication you authored
  - A recorded presentation or discussion you led (audio or video)
  - Entrepreneurial, leadership or community service pursuits
  - Other samples of your work that have meaning to you
Wheaton offers applicants the option to submit supplemental materials which you feel will convey helpful information that the Admission Committee may not be able to glean from other aspects of your application. Submitting supplemental materials is entirely optional and affords you the opportunity to showcase in detail one or more passions or skills you have, personal qualities you embody, or an experience you’ve had that represents your potential to succeed at Wheaton. For example, you might showcase:

- **passion for a subject area** through a research project;
- **creativity and collaboration** through an entrepreneurial endeavor, leadership experience, or group project;
- **leadership skills and/or expertise developed** through an internship, job, or other experience;
- **commitment to community** through a community service portfolio;
- **unique skills or experiences** through a short video

Applicants wishing to submit supplemental materials are required to submit a brief reflection that addresses the following questions in less than 500 words:

- What are you submitting?
- What are you hoping we will gain from this submission and learn about you?
- What was your role in this work? (Required only for submissions highlighting work completed as part of a group.)

Applicants should feel comfortable being creative and using the medium that best communicates the information they wish to submit. Please note that these submissions will be evaluated by the Admission committee alongside the rest of your application materials.
Process

Changes from 2019-2020 to 2020-2021 cycle

• Portfolio now called supplemental materials
• Focus on qualities/skills they could convey vs. simply listing examples of submission types
• Requesting brief student reflection
Process

Submission Reviews

• 19-20 cycle: small, 2-3 person committee review
• Moving forward: entire counseling staff to review submissions during application review
• Most submissions took only a couple of minutes to review
• Submissions could only help students
Value

Example #1

• 12-page research paper submission

• Very strong
  – Paper itself was very impressive (“The Effect of CaCl$_2$ concentration on transformation efficiency in _E. coli_”)
  – Description (to the right) was most helpful during review
Value

Example #2

After reading the novel "A Thousand Splendid Suns" by Khaled Hosseini, our teachers gave us the opportunity to pursue a creative partner-based project. The novel focuses on two women’s narratives growing up in Afghanistan from 1960-2000. It highlights the pain they faced due to a lack of political, economic, and social freedoms. After completing the novel, my partner and I felt a strong desire to promote feasible change for women in similar scenarios. We were immediately drawn to the organization “Women for Women International.” This non-profit sponsors struggling women around the world by helping them take a year-long course that teaches them valuable political, economic, and family planning skills. We decided to sponsor a woman named Arifa in Afghanistan, and raised $500 by selling handmade Mother’s Day cards (as pictured,) so she could participate in the program without worrying about basic living essentials. It was rewarding to see how our hard work could truly change a life.
Exceptionally produced 5-minute video

Description:
For the past four years, I have been a part of an Interact Club at my high school called the Hillsdale Effect. We partner with the San Mateo Rotary Club and a non-profit organization called Namaste Direct in order to raise microloans and provide business education for women in Guatemala. This past summer I had the privilege of going on a study tour to meet some of these amazing women. Their stories were incredibly inspirational due to their drive and motivation to give their children a better life. I filmed and translated our interviews with these women, then made this video, which our club showed at the school-wide rally for one of our annual fundraisers; as a result, we ended up breaking our record and raising over $8,000, enough to provide loans and education for 10-12 women. Namaste Direct has now decided to publish the video for fundraising purposes on their social media, which will lead to making an even greater difference!
Wheaton Admission Team

Judy Purdy, Director of Admission

Wanda Suriel, Senior Associate Director of Admission

Jason Laperriere, Associate Director of Admission
Presenter

Judy Purdy
Director of Admission
Wheaton College

@wheaton
Common App

A not-for-profit membership association committed to the pursuit of access, equity, and integrity in the college admission process.

- 900+ member institutions
- 1 million applicants
- 33% first-generation
- 5.6 million applications
Common App + Reach Higher

Reach Higher seeks to empower underrepresented youth to chart their own post-secondary pathways by equipping them with information, inspiration, and guidance.
Common App + SlideRoom

- Partners since 2013 - 2014
- Supports supplemental portfolio submissions
- Seamless integration of student Common App and SlideRoom accounts
- Supports flexible data import and review needs for member colleges
- Common App fee waiver carries over to SlideRoom
Wheaton Admission Portfolio

This year Wheaton College is partnering with Reimagining College Access in an optional pilot program that will allow students to submit actual student work as part of their application to Wheaton. This may include students who, either individually or with the help of their high school, have created a portfolio or a compilation of their work, as part of classwork or a project. Please understand that not submitting work will not impact your application negatively. The optional Wheaton Admission Portfolio is an opportunity to tell us more about what makes you unique through open-ended format.

As part of your optional Wheaton Admission Portfolio, you may choose to submit:
- a report or publication you authored,
- a recorded presentation or discussion you led (audio or video)
- entrepreneurial, leadership or community service pursuits
- other samples of your work that have meaning to you

Do you intend to submit an optional Wheaton Admission Portfolio?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>✗</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
To complete your Common Application supplement, login with your existing SlideRoom account or sign up.

Log in to your SlideRoom Account or Sign Up

Email

Password

Forgot password?

Log In  Sign Up

Portfolio?

Yes
Common App + SlideRoom + RCA

• Opportunity to build upon existing integrations and familiar tools

• Mission alignment: access, equity, integrity
  • How can we use our reach to help members collect meaningful information that will assist them in gauging potential for success?

• Detailed applicant and college views available at slideroom.com/commonapp
Presenter

Scott Anderson
Senior Director
Common App

@901cravings | @CommonApp
Panel Discussion and Q&A

Monica Martinez
Director of Strategic Initiatives
Learning Policy Institute
@drmonie

Stu Schmill
Dean of Admissions and Student Financial Services
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
@MIT

Judy Purdy
Director of Admission
Wheaton College
@Wheaton

Scott Anderson
Senior Director
Common App
@901cravings
Steps IHEs Can Take

Know what you’re looking for to develop the right ask.

K-12 systems can strengthen the pipeline.

Admissions is just the beginning.

Anticipate iteration.
Thank you for joining!

Learn more
learningpolicyinstitute.org/rca

Contact: Monica Martinez
mmartinez@learningpolicyinstitute.org

Next RCA Webinar
July 21, 2020

Twitter
@LPI_Learning

Email
bit.ly/LPIupdates