

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Is being a legacy applicant a factor in U-M's holistic review process?

Legacy status is not a preference in the admissions process but does serve as context - outside of the admissions review - in understanding a student's interest. Most importantly, it helps us calculate the likelihood of enrollment. Information about a student's status as a legacy can also be used to acknowledge their relationship to U-M in communications with families during both the application process and when it renders their admissions decisions.

What are the possible decisions for an applicant?

When final decisions are released by our office in early April, applicants will receive one of three possible decisions: they can be admitted to University of Michigan's Class of 2023, they can be denied admission, or they could be offered a spot on the admissions waitlist. Being "waitlisted" means that after several thorough reviews of their application, U-M is not able to offer the applicant a place in the incoming class because of space limitations.

However, occasionally a very limited number of spaces become available after the May 1 enrollment deposit deadline. By placing their name on our waitlist by May 1, an applicant may be offered admission when and if spaces become available. Students who are offered the waitlist are, in the meantime, encouraged to pay an enrollment deposit to another institution where they have been admitted.

What is the University of Michigan's "holistic" application review process?

Application evaluators look at each student as a whole package – a combination of talents, interests, passions, and skills. In this way, evaluators can look beyond grades and test scores to recruit the most dynamic group of students possible.

The admissions process considers all aspects of a student's record and experience in the context of their high school, including grades in rigorous courses, ACT/SAT scores, participation in extracurricular activities, professional arts training, and evidence of leadership, awards, and service. Letters of recommendation should only come from the student's high school. Other documents are not needed and could, unfortunately, delay the student's admission decision.

The University of Michigan conducts multiple reviews of each application for admission.

The First Review

An Application Reader performs the first review. The Application Reader is someone who works for the Office of Undergraduate Admissions part-time and whose professional experience brings value and insight to the task of helping to make admissions decisions. Made up of former educators and admissions professionals, this is a talented and diverse group. This review is considered a "blind read" in that the Application Reader will not share their recommendation for admissions status with the next reviewer so that it will not influence future assessment of the student's file.

The Second Review

A Territory Counselor performs the second review without knowledge of the outcome of the first review. Each counselor is responsible for applications from a specific geographic region. This allows each counselor to develop a deeper knowledge of schools and school systems in their region. This staff member knows the applicant's high school and, in particular, the strength of the curriculum, how grades are earned and distributed, and what students can accomplish there. The counselor makes a recommendation for admissions status based on this specialized level of knowledge.

The Third Review

In some instances the application is assigned to a third reviewer. If necessary, they will refer the file to the admissions review committee for a final review and recommendation.

In the end, each final decision is influenced by a number of personalized factors, each carefully weighed and considered to make the best possible decision for the applicant and the University of Michigan.

Is there an appeal process for students who are denied admission or offered a spot on the waitlist?

Since each application goes through multiple comprehensive, holistic, and individualized reviews before an admission decision is released, we are confident in our decision and there is no appeal process. We encourage applicants who have been denied freshman admission to consider applying as a transfer student in the future. Many students come to the University of Michigan in this way and go on to earn a Michigan degree.