NKU SIMPLIFIES ADMISSIONS, ADOPTS TEST-OPTIONAL APPROACH

NKU announces significant changes to its admissions and student support process, including eliminating standardized test scores, such as the ACT and SAT, for many students applying for the Fall 2021 semester.

The simplified admissions process reduces barriers to higher education for diverse learners. Freshman applicants with an unweighted 2.75 or greater high school GPA are automatically admitted to NKU without submitting standardized test scores. Applicants with an unweighted GPA lower than 2.75 will need to submit test scores as part of the admissions application.

“Multiple studies have shown that student high-school grade point averages are significantly stronger predictors of college success than standardized test scores,” said NKU President Ashish Vaidya. “We must break down barriers, meet the needs of diverse learners and create greater access opportunities to an NKU education.”

NKU’s commitment to student success remains a priority throughout the pandemic. NKU is also waiving application fees through November 15. “We changed our admissions requirements and aligned them with institutional aid to be more equitable and enable greater student success,” said Kimberly Scranage, NKU’s vice president for Enrollment and Degree Management. “NKU is unique because of the way we’re uplifting students through enhanced academic support.”

The university continues investing in high-impact initiatives that address affordability, including an undergraduate tuition freeze for the 2020-21 academic year and making education more accessible for out-of-state learners with the EDGE program. NKU offers merit- and need-based support for first-year students, and in-state scholarships are also automatically awarded to those who meet criteria.

LEARN MORE: https://tinyurl.com/y5wrjrp3
NKU STUDENTS COVERING UPCOMING ELECTION WITH LOCAL NEWS OUTLET

NKU Students are taking a deep dive into regional and state races in the 2020 General Election. The university’s independent student-run news organization, The Northerner, partnered with local news outlet Northern Kentucky Tribune to cover contested city council races in Boone, Kenton and Campbell counties. The Tribune staff is covering state and congressional candidates.

“Local journalism is vital, and I’m thrilled I get to contribute to informing Northern Kentuckians of the issues that matter to them,” said Natalie Hamren, Northerner Editor-in-Chief and NKU student. “This upcoming election, it’s essential that everyone votes, so I’m hoping our collaboration helps encourage that.”

The online election guide featuring local government elections has been published on Northern Kentucky Tribune’s website. In addition to the Tribune project, The Northerner staff have produced a special print edition of focusing on the NKU community’s involvement in the election and resources for student voters. Michele Day, co-director of NKU’s journalism program and student media advisor, sees the joint project as a valuable education experience. “The students are experimenting with different approaches and different ways of thinking to make sure they produce the most relevant and useful information for these new readers in a different kind of publication. Every decision and choice they make will lead to rich learning possibilities.” LEARN MORE: https://tinyurl.com/y34a6bu8

BRIEFS

NEW BOARD OF REGENTS

Gov. Andy Beshear has appointed Ken Perry to NKU’s Board of Regents for a six-year term. During its Sept. 9 meeting, the 11-member Board unanimously elected Andrá R. Ward as Chairman. Ward will serve a one-year term and assumes the position from Lee Scheben, who will return to serving as a Regent on the university’s governing body. The Board also welcomed new officers Normand G. Desmarais as Vice Chairman, and Gregory Shumate as Secretary.

“I’m deeply grateful for the Board’s commitment to advancing student success with their continued support and advocating for a more student-ready and regionally engaged university,” said President Ashish Vaidya.

LEARN MORE: https://tinyurl.com/y46dmnbr

CARMEN HICKERSON

NKU names Carmen Hickerson as its assistant vice president for Economic Engagement and Government Relations. She replaces Adam Caswell, who left the university in May.

With over 25 years of executive-level leadership, Hickerson brings extensive experience in community engagement, advocacy and building national strategic partnerships. She has been responsible for cultivating the vision and advancement of corporate events, brand experiences and sponsorships. Prior to her role with Metro United Way, she held leadership roles at the American Chamber of Commerce Executives, Greater Louisville Inc. and Fifth Third Bank.

LEARN MORE: https://tinyurl.com/y6sbjlz9

NKU CREATES THE COLLABORATIVE FOR ECONOMIC ENGAGEMENT

NKU and the City of Covington recently unveiled the one-stop innovation hub for businesses and entrepreneurs to accelerate economic growth in the region.

NKU is utilizing Covington’s Innovation Alley space to create a “front door” and one-stop for entrepreneurial engagement and outreach, counseling and mentorship, and programming and education. The Collaborative leverages regional agencies and programs as well as NKU’s expertise in data analytics, health, logistics and entrepreneurial innovation to provide the tools that entrepreneurs need to thrive. Given the financial impacts of the pandemic, the Collaborative will play an essential role in helping the local economy move from recovery into growth.

LEARN MORE: https://tinyurl.com/y4sana8h

HONORS COLLEGE LAUNCHES VARSITY ESPORTS

Starting this fall, five students are competing on NKU’s first varsity esports program. The inaugural varsity team is competing in Rocket League, an arcade-style game blending soccer and vehicular mayhem. NKU sits undefeated at 8-0.

While varsity competition might be new to NKU, electronic gaming at the university is not. The student led NKU Esports Club has been around since 2016 and continues to grow. This year the club swelled to nearly 600 active members.

LEARN MORE: https://tinyurl.com/y57b693v

FACULTY FOCUS

Dr. Shauna Reilly’s research finds race trumps partisanship and economics in voting barriers. Her recent publication examines the voting restrictions that have been implemented across the United States in the post-2008 recession era. Navigating the literature and conventional wisdom, she breaks down and explores the role of fiscal, partisan and racial influences on voting rights laws in a post-recession period.

LEARN MORE: https://tinyurl.com/y22ejkb4

ALUMNI NEWS

A PICTURE IS WORTH 5.5 BILLION WORDS

Jeff McCurry (’96) might not be a household name, but many people are familiar with his work. In fact, 5.5 billion people shared his photo in 2016 after the death of Harambe, the well-known Cincinnati Zoo gorilla.

But McCurry didn’t always plan to turn his photography hobby into a career. Before he began his academic journey at Northern Kentucky University, the then 24-year-old was struck by a drunk driver and was left permanently disabled. Things changed for McCurry when he saw an ad in The Northerner, NKU’s student-run newspaper, looking for a photographer to cover men’s and women’s basketball games.

McCurry, who received his first camera when he was 17 years old, always considered photography a hobby. But he applied for the job anyway, and his spur-of-the-moment decision paid off.

LEARN MORE: https://tinyurl.com/y3kn4nt2