

# Reaction mixed to U-M's admission policy

By Janice Brunson  
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staff writers

High school counselors from the Farmington area say changed admission policies at the University of Michigan have done little but cause students to wait longer for acceptance.

None have encountered negative reactions to the changes, they said. Yet other Observer & Ecclesville-area counselors and college admission officers say altered policies at the Ann Arbor university are causing noticeable increases in applications to other universities.

With a new policy beginning this year, an estimated 30 percent of applicants to U-M's freshman class were placed on "delayed-decision" status. Previously, only 2 percent were categorized as such.

According to Cliff Sjogren, director of admissions for the University of Michigan, it will be early April before these students are notified whether they have been admitted.

So far, 7,000 freshman students have been admitted, only 4,500 of whom are will actually attend,

Sjogren said. To complete the freshman class, an estimated 300-600 more will be accepted—primarily, from those on delayed decision status.

In the meantime, students who are pending "obviously keep other options open and make second-choice plans," according to Courtney Carr, counseling chairman at West Bloomfield High School.

Carr said students apply to other universities, notably Oakland University in Rochester and Michigan State University at East Lansing.

HARRISON HIGH School's counseling chairman Robert Hickox said the U-M policy change has caused no difference in applications at his school, while counseling officials at Farmington and North Farmington high schools are eyeing "situation closely to see how it will affect student applicants."

"We really haven't had any adverse reaction to it," said Jim Wentledge, counseling chairman at Farmington High School. "It's caused more confusion, although it's (applying to U of M) pretty competitive to begin with."

He said because of the change, students realize they will hear from the

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— Jim Wentledge,  
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Farmington High School

university later than usual.

Richard Wilson said some students are applying to another couple of schools due to the fact they won't know (about U of M applications) until April. He said he didn't notice any decline in the numbers of students applying to U of M.

Counseling chairman for North Farmington High School, Wilson speculated that there might be more students applying to college in general, causing additional applications throughout the system.

Other area high school counselors said the U-M policy has prompted increased applications to other colleges.

"LOTS OF our kids are sending in deposits (to other universities) just to hold down a spot in case U-M doesn't come through," Lou Ruggirello, counseling supervisor at Bloomfield Hills Laber High School, agreed.

"By this time last year, 72 seniors had been admitted to U-M," Ruggirello said. "My most recent figures for this year show 43 have been ac-

cepted. That's a pretty big difference."

The situation is similar in other area schools. Of 89 students at Groves High School in Birmingham who applied to Michigan, a third, or 29, were placed on delayed-decision status, according to counseling chairman Jim Stone.

The number, Stone said, "is slightly higher than in the past. More would have had an answer by now."

Stone also said more students are applying to universities "they would not otherwise apply to" as back-up while they await a U-M decision.

JERRY ROSE, director of admissions and scholarships for Oakland University, said OU and others are being "impacted" by the delayed-decision status.

Based upon statistics maintained by admission officers throughout the state, Rose said admission applications to nearly all universities are up 18 percent.

Rose believes the practice of "multiple applications" — students

applying to other universities while awaiting final word from Michigan — accounts for at least part of the increase.

But Dr. William Turner, director of admissions for Michigan State University, said modified U-M admission policies only "marginally" affect the overall figures at that school.

Increased enrollment applications, he said, are a trend of the past four years, both by Michigan students as well as those from out-of-state.

Altered policies at the University of Michigan were designed, according to admissions director Sjogren, "to allow consideration for students with very strong senior years." In the past, he said, there has been very little room to consider students who fall into this category.

STUDENTS ALREADY accepted for the freshman class "typically represent the best 8 percent of students coming out of high school, with all the factors cranked in," Sjogren said.

These factors include quality of

course work completed in high school and patterns of success.

Sjogren also said an additional 346 to 600 students will be accepted in the second round of consideration, primarily from students on delayed-decision status.

In the past, he said, few would be admitted in the second round because most slots would have been filled in first-round considerations.

Don Swain, associate director of admissions at U-M, said the school's admission policies this year are not a total departure from the past. "We still have rolling admission (acceptance at the time of application). We've just tightened up on it."

Swain said the situation is not "unexpected." Many universities, especially private institutions in the east, do not notify any students of acceptance until April 1.

To date, the university had received 13,000 applications from out of state and 6,000 from within Michigan. Out-of-state students must meet stricter admission standards; in-state students are given preference, Sjogren said.

## Purim celebration set

On Friday, March 13, Sinai's Department of Rehabilitation Medicine will throw a Purim party for patients. Fifth graders from Hillside Day School in Farmington Hills will join the fun by putting on a play for the patients and staff.

Festive foods, noisemakers and balloons will add to the festivities.

Purim, which actually falls on Sunday, March 15, this year, marks the deliverance of Jews from a plot to annihilate them several thousand years ago. Every year, Jews commemorate this event on Purim, one of the most festive dates in the Hebrew calendar. The Purim story, in the Book of Esther, is read in synagogues all over the world.

It is traditional for Jews to give money to the poor on Purim and to exchange gifts of food, such as hamantaschen (triangular pastries filled with fruit or poppy seeds).

The Purim party is part of Sinai's Rehabilitation Medicine's program to help patients maintain normal social activities. Living as normal a life as possible, while in rehabilitation, helps patients fit into society after they leave the hospital.

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