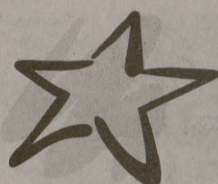


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# Expanding diversity

## Michigan unveils new admissions policy

By Marianne George  
KRT CAMPUS

DETROIT — The University of Michigan's new admissions policy released Thursday reaffirms its commitment to minority students and cracks open the door more widely to students — of all races — who have had a tough time getting in.

Last year, more than half of University of Michigan freshmen came from households with incomes of \$100,000 or more. Students from families with incomes less than \$50,000 made up one in five University of Michigan students.

"We want to get more information about students on many dimensions. I hope we get kids from all groups for U-M," said University of Michigan President Mary Sue Coleman.

The new policy aims to cure criticism that the University of Michigan paid too much attention to race. In June, the U.S. Supreme Court found unconstitutional a policy that awarded minorities an automatic 20 points on a 150-point scale. The court said the process was too rigid.

For the first time, the University of Michigan is asking about students' household income, whether they come from a single-parent household, the size of their household and whether a student must work to supplement the family's income. Admissions officers are instructed to give advantages — not quantified numerically — to students facing adversity.

"U-M is making the transition from simply saying they want socioeconomic diversity in their mission statement to making the commitment to moving it into their admissions process," said David Hawkins, director of public policy for the National Association for College Admission Counseling.

Still, University of Michigan officials emphasized that the school will put the top priority on academic performance. Coleman said admitting more low-income applicants does not mean the more affluent students will lose out.

"This is not a trade-off," she said. "We are

looking broadly at all youngsters. Everything will depend on the whole pool of applicants."

The new policy also involves more work by students, as well as their high school teachers and counselors.

Students will be asked to write two essays of 250 words or less and one 500-word essay on topics including cultural diversity, their possible contribution to the University of Michigan, meaningful experiences, their favorite book and their experiences with overcoming adversity.

Each applicant will have a teacher and counselor send admissions officials information on how they've performed. The student won't know what the teacher and counselor have reported to achieve an "arm's length adult review," said University of Michigan Provost Paul Courant.

The new process is patterned after the University of Michigan Law School's policy which tries to achieve a so-called critical mass of underrepresented minorities in its admissions.

"How much race matters will depend on the characteristics of the class," Courant said. "What matters most is the characteristics of the student. We'll know more about these students than an incoming class in 30 years."

Admissions officials will monitor who is being admitted using a daily tracking system similar to one used at the law school, Courant said.

The University of Michigan's new policy is much more like admissions systems at other major colleges and universities than its point-based policy was, Hawkins said.

University of Michigan General Counsel Marvin Krislov said the new policy will be used for a year and re-evaluated.

But some observers say the legal battle is done. "The school has certainly scrutinized the Supreme Court decisions, and the amendments adopted today fully reflect the law of the land," said Sheldon Steinbach, general counsel of the American Council on Education. "I see every issue raised by the court addressed, and this should draw the final curtain on the Michigan play."

### Bar

Continued from page 1A

Feldman's presentation, and two supported a rollback to midnight, citing the dangers related to alcohol consumption.

Councilwoman Anne Hazen, who turned in the single vote in favor of midnight, said her experience as a nurse and health educator left her with concerns about the health-related issues of drinking. She also said she disagreed that a later closing would alleviate other problems.

"Underage drinking and parties will not cease with a 2 a.m. closing," she said.

Councilman James Massey voted in favor of a later closing, but said he hopes to see safety issues alleviated in the future through education about the dangers of alcohol.

"Behavior has a chance of changing through education, not legislation," Massey said.

He said the council should support organizations and groups that educate people about alcohol-related issues.

Councilman John Happ also voted for 2 a.m. and suggested the police departments keep records relevant to the later closing time over the next year so a report on any changes can be made. He emphasized safety as the main concern in this issue.

"State regulation put us in this position," he said. "It's not a moral or economic issue. It's a safety issue."

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Vatican promotes suspect priest

DALLAS (AP) — The Vatican promoted a U.S. Roman Catholic priest through its diplomatic corps despite warnings he had molested a girl in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, according to a newspaper report.

A spokeswoman for the archdiocese, Tricia Hempel, told the Dallas Morning News that the Vatican knew of the allegations against the diplomat, Monsignor Daniel Pater. Pater had acknowledged molesting the girl when he was confronted about a decade ago, she said.

"The Vatican knew the status of the case," Hempel said. Pater had settled a lawsuit in 1995 that the woman had brought alleging he repeatedly abused her in the 1980s. The Cincinnati archdiocese had publicly reported the settlement but did not release specifics.

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