Dear Colleagues,

Thanks very much for the thoughtful input and feedback you have provided us regarding the gender identity, criminal history, and school discipline questions on the "common" portion of the application. Based on your guidance and with feedback from the Board of Directors and our advisory groups, we will be making the following modifications to the 2017-2018 Common Application:

**Gender Identity**
Gender identity remains an evolving national conversation. We are committed to ensuring that the Common Application acknowledges all applicants while still collecting the data required by our members. To that end, the 2017-2018 application will include the following changes:

- "Sex assigned at birth" will be redesignated as "Sex." It will remain a required question, and students will be able to select female or male so that colleges can continue to comply with federal reporting requirements.

- "Sex" will move off of the registration screen.

- Going forward, students will answer the question in the Profile section, where it will appear alongside a non-required, free-text question about gender identity.

- Single-sex institutions will maintain control over which applicants can add their institution to a My Colleges list.

- We will continue to evaluate data gathered through the gender identity free-response to help inform any future need for additional questions or question formats.

**Criminal History**

The criminal history question has been part of the Common Application since 2006. It was added in response to a thorough review of member supplements, a survey of the membership, and a desire to have a student answer the question just once. In the last decade, conversation on this topic has evolved significantly. The solution we implement must meet the diverse needs of our 700 members while also being responsive to the concerns of students and counselors. Specifically, we want to provide a solution that affords members the ability to ask what they are required to ask, either by institutional policy or state law; provides members the ability to describe their policy or practice if they do not wish to ask or use the question in their admission process; and that communicates requirements to students and counselors. To that end, we will implement the following solution:

- Within the Common App, the text of the criminal history question will remain the same. Students will still be required to respond to the question.

- We will add introductory text and FAQs to help students understand that their answer will be considered carefully as a part of their application and
does not preclude them from being admitted.

- We will add a custom text area that would be displayed (if you chose to employ it) on your college information page and on the preview and submit page to let students know about your criminal history and school discipline approach/process.

- You will still be able to "suppress" the responses to the criminal history question (i.e. prevent them from appearing on the application PDF). If you "suppress" the responses, you will still be able to choose whether or not you would like to receive the data from those responses.

- We will add information about each school's suppression decision to the "search results details" screen for each institution.

- We will add a bank question that will support your unique institutional language regarding criminal history.

- Members using the Custom platform will still have the ability to ask any question(s) within the Member Screen to gather the information needed for their unique process.

School Discipline

Similar to the criminal history question:

- Within the Common App, the text of the school discipline question will remain the same. Students will still be required to respond to the question.

- We will add introductory text and FAQs to help students understand that their answer will be considered carefully as a part of their application and does not preclude them from being admitted.

- You will still be able to "suppress" the responses to the school discipline question (i.e. prevent them from appearing on the application PDF). If you "suppress" the responses, you will still be able to choose whether or not you would like to receive the data from those responses.

- We will add information about each school's suppression decision to the "search results details" screen for each institution.

- We will add a bank question that will support your unique institutional language regarding school discipline.
Members using the Custom platform will still have the ability to ask any question(s) within the Member Screen to gather the information needed for their unique process.

Again, we will continue to work with members on all of these topics as campus and national conversations demand. I look forward to seeing you at the Member Summit and in the meantime, please reach out to me or our member service team if you have any questions.

All the best,
Jenny

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