The last weeks of August traditionally mark the start of New Student Orientation at Penn. With 2,445 new voices joining the broader Penn community, we share in their energy and optimism for a meaningful year ahead. Just as the Class of 2021 arrives in their Philadelphia home, we begin to think about the next group of bright and intrepid students, and the year ahead for Penn Admissions.

Penn will accept applications through the Coalition for Access, Affordability, and Success platform and the Common Application this academic year. Our office has no preference for either format and treats both applications equally. I encourage students to review the features of each application and use the platform that is the best fit for them.

This past year, Penn’s First-Generation, Low-Income Program (FGLI) opened at the Greenfield Intercultural Center. This transformative program supports students’ academic, personal, and social transition needs while facilitating community building and a sense of belonging. FGLI students are first in their families to go to college and/or who come from low-income households.

I, along with Dr. Sean Vereen, President of Steppingstone Scholars, Inc., created a free online course called, “How to Apply to College” available through Coursera. This course, intended to help students, families, and counselors, seeks to empower learners of all backgrounds to better understand the college search and selection process.

The Penn campus and community continue to be a center for innovation and impact. With the addition of the Pennovation Center—a business incubator and laboratory that integrates researchers, innovators, and entrepreneurs for the commercialization of research discoveries—Penn continues its tradition of developing promising ideas and discoveries into things that benefit society.

The ideas cultivated and collaborations realized across campus are all the richer over the next four years because of your efforts. Thank you for your partnership. I look forward to working with you.

Eric J. Purda C’87
Dean of Admissions

Academics: One University, Four Schools

When applying to Penn, applicants are asked to choose one of the four undergraduate schools or coordinated dual degree, accelerated, and specialized programs that will serve as home base throughout their academic journey. All students gain a strong foundation in the liberal arts and sciences and have the ability to take classes in all four schools. Penn seeks to enroll a class of 2,445 students across the four undergraduate schools and the coordinated dual degree, accelerated, and specialized programs.

**College of Arts and Sciences**

We would like to see:
- a curiosity in the humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences
- an ability to apply classroom knowledge to the real world
- a strong preparation in a balanced and advanced college preparatory curriculum

**SCHOOL OF NURSING**

We would like to see:
- a commitment to patient care
- a desire to explore issues in health care
- a strong preparation in the sciences, particularly in chemistry

**Penn Engineering**

We would like to see:
- an ability to innovate, design, and practically apply scientific discoveries
- expressed reasons for pursuing an engineering education
- a strong preparation in physics and mathematics, particularly calculus

**THE WHARTON SCHOOL**

We would like to see:
- an interest in business to fuel positive change to advance the world’s economic and social well-being
- demonstrated leadership
- a strong preparation in mathematics, particularly calculus

**COORDINATED DUAL-DEGREE, ACCELERATED, AND SPECIALIZED PROGRAMS**

Penn offers unique opportunities to pursue intensive integrated study across multiple schools. Applicants should articulate a strong understanding of the interdisciplinary nature of the intended program.

**College of Arts and Sciences and Penn Engineering**

- VIPER: Roy and Diana Vagelos Integrated Program in Energy Research

**School of Nursing and the Wharton School**

- NHCM: Nursing and Health Care Management

**Penn Engineering and the Wharton School**

- M&T: Jerome Fisher Program in Management and Technology

**College of Arts and Sciences and the Wharton School**

- Huntsman: Huntsman Program in International Studies and Business
- LSM: Roy and Diana Vagelos Program in Life Sciences and Management

**Penn Engineering**

- DMD: Digital Media Design
- NETS: Rajendra and Neera Singh Program in Networked and Social Systems Engineering

**College of Arts and Sciences and the School of Dental Medicine**

- Bio-Dent: Seven-Year Bio-Dental Program