



As you know, the college environment comes with its own brand of pressure as students try to figure out their place in the world. The pandemic has heightened the sense of anxiety they already feel about the college admissions process. We know that this has impacted their emotional health and their learning. It's important for all of us to recognize and react to the overwhelming amount of pressure students and their families are experiencing.

That's why at Geneseo, **we have modified our policies and practices to better support prospective and current students.** Beginning last spring, we immediately adjusted our enrollment deadline to June 1, allowing students and families to take more time to consider all their options during uncertain times. We also reached out to offer support if they were facing financial hardships as a result of the pandemic.

**Providing students with adequate funding** to support their education has become even more critical. To date, we have awarded 1,213 students more than \$800,000 in emergency funding as a result of pandemic-related hardships with more to be distributed in the coming weeks. We have also applied more funding for the 2020–21 cycle to our need-based financial aid, which better supports students with greater financial need.

Over the summer, **we implemented a test-optional policy** for the Fall 2020 cycle and intend to permanently apply this policy beyond 2021. As a result, we've revamped our admissions evaluation and scholarship awarding process, which do not require SAT or ACT scores; this includes our honors programs. Let me be clear: students who choose not to submit test scores will not be at disadvantage. It is our belief that test-optional policies promote both equity and excellence, and students should not be penalized based on one exam.

**If your students are feeling anxious** about their application to Geneseo, need more time to complete their application, or would appreciate additional guidance on the financial aid process, please don't hesitate to contact us. We love talking to students—please encourage them to connect with us. We are here to help.

I know that these are challenging times for you and your colleagues, and we're honored to partner with you as you guide your students toward their post-secondary goals. We hope the resources on our webpage [\*\*Information About Geneseo for School Counselors\*\*](#) will make your job a little easier.

Thank you for your tireless work to support your students while also taking care of yourselves and your own loved ones. I know that your students, particularly those who are most vulnerable, are grateful.

We appreciate you and the valuable role you play in guiding the leaders of the future.

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