



January 30, 2018

Dear Washington Association of Community and Technical Colleges Presidents,

The Admissions and Registration Council (ARC) would like to bring your attention to a concern regarding the student citizenship section in the online Admissions Application. Currently, students are able to opt out of answering the questions regarding citizenship. We have discovered an unintentional consequence when students opt out or respond with no answer for citizenship.

Citizenship status is considered in determining the tuition rate for a student. If a student does not answer the citizenship question, admissions staff must reach out to the student to ask the citizenship status, which becomes more intrusive than if the student answered the question on the application. Further, if staff are unable to confirm citizenship, the student's citizenship status will be coded as "undetermined," which results in the student being charged the highest tuition rate (the same as the international tuition rate). This creates a barrier for students who do not have the social capital to inquire about the high tuition cost. This barrier may especially impact students who would most benefit from a community or technical college education.

Our experience has shown greater ease in working with students when the citizenship question was required on the admission application. Staff did not have to inquire as much with the student about their status. The application is complete and the process for admissions is a better experience for the student as well as more efficient process.

ARC requests that you consider reinstating citizenship as a required question on the admissions application as we are mindful and supportive of equity, diversity and inclusion for all students, especially those who may already be marginalized. We appreciate your support and are available to provide any additional information you may need to help inform your decision.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Anne White".

Anne White
President, ARC