

Slate Implementation Update Fall 2017 DGS Meeting

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Slate Brief Overview

The Slate logo consists of the word "slate" in a white, lowercase, sans-serif font, centered within a solid blue square.

- Slate is a comprehensive prospect and application platform used by over 600 institutions. It's entirely online and browser-based.
- Slate was selected by all three UI campuses in 2015.
- Undergraduate Admissions went live in Slate in 2016 for Fall 2017 applications.
- The graduate application for Fall 2018 went live on September 5th, 2017 in a separate database from undergrad.

Slate Site and Access

<https://applygrad.uic.edu/manage/>

- Regular training sessions were held from mid-August through the first week of October.
 - Around 100 campus staff attended training sessions.
 - Training sessions now scheduled as needed.
- Access for additional staff is granted by request as long as someone within the department/program has undergone training.
 - FERPA tutorial completion is required for access.
 - Training for graduate is somewhat different from undergraduate, for staff involved in both admission processes.

Permissions & Roles

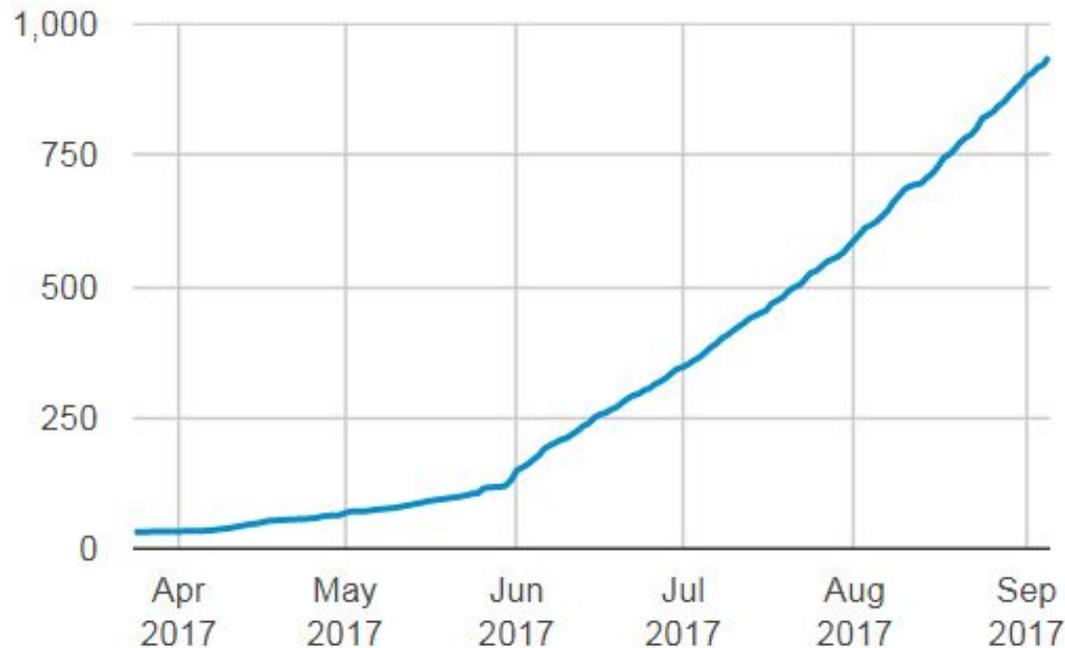
- Program staff can only view applications for applicants that selected their program(s), but view of person-scoped information is not restricted.
- **Program Primary Role**
 - Typically those in a coordinator role, DGS, or other staff that would enter the Program Decision.
 - Have access to program decision form, update administrative program fields, material upload, and checklist management.
- **Program Reader**
 - Typically Faculty/Committee reviewers.
 - Have access to reviewer forms and basic application lookup.
- **Program View-Only**
 - Read-Only access for other staff that would only be looking up information, such as advisors.

Process Comparison

Banner	Slate
Multiple, separate tools used to track applications and communicate with applicants. (Banner, BDM, WebIntelligence, BRM)	Everything is contained within one platform and records are tied together.
Difficult to track & communicate with unsubmitted applicants.	Tracking & communication can begin before an application is started or submitted.
Reporting (EDDIE/WebIntelligence/Data Warehouse) is based on previous day's information.	Reporting is based on real-time data.
The application had to be general to accommodate all programs. Program-specific questions had to be collected via external forms to upload.	Dynamic form functionality enables program-specific questions, reference formats and program requirements.
Applicants had to wait 1-2 days after submission to upload documents and initiate reference requests. Only PDFs could be uploaded.	Applicants upload requirements and initiate reference requests before submission. Multiple file types accepted.
Viewing and exporting documents from Banner/Banner Document Management is clunky.	Slate organizes a view of all application materials, and has easy document export capability.
Enhancements had to be developed by UI AITS, and often required 3-campus prioritization, along with limitations in Banner functionality.	We have much more flexibility with our own database. The vendor regularly implements enhancements and new functionality.

Some Numbers

- **Application Availability Sign-Up Form**
 - March 24 - September 5
 - 937 prospective applicants signed up
 - 313 of those have already begun an application
 - A followup email will be sent to those who haven't yet started an application.



Application Numbers

- Professional Applications for DPT, DMD, PharmD
 - Opened 6/1/17 - 8/1/17 in a brief application
 - 2110 Submitted
 - 156 Awaiting Submission
- Graduate and Other Professional Programs
 - 304 Submitted
 - 2401 Awaiting Submission
 - 2078 Awaiting Submission selected a program and term
 - 1096 is the average submitted by this time for the previous three Fall Terms in Banner, though those numbers don't take uploading requirements into account.
 - This is a shift from the previous process since requirements are now submitted prior to application submission.



Our Implementation

- We've put together a process that includes functionality and depth that most schools don't tackle until their second or third year in Slate (including our undergrad admissions).
- We've discovered efficiencies in the platform that many long-time Slate schools haven't considered.
- On top of basic vendor-delivered fields, we've added over 480 custom fields to accommodate the graduate application and process, which includes all the program-specific questions.
- Most functionality that existed in the old Banner process has been translated to Slate in one form or another.
- Varied approaches to Faculty/Committee reviews are still possible.
 - Materials viewed and review forms completed in Slate.
 - Materials viewed in Slate, with an external review form process in place.
 - Materials can be easily exported (to Box, Blackboard, other repository) for an external review



Looking Ahead

- There is no intention for us to become stagnant with Slate.
- The vendor regularly adds additional functionality and enhancements.
- Further into this cycle, we will begin soliciting feedback from program staff and reconvene the graduate program staff committee to discuss lessons learned, functionality updates and enhancements for the Fall 19 cycle.
- Recruitment/Prospect Efforts
 - The Graduate College has been using Slate in their recruitment efforts since late Spring/early Summer.
 - We do plan to expand recruitment options to Departments for Year 2.
 - Let us know if that's something your department is interested in. A couple of programs are already "in line".
 - More information will be sent out in January.

COMMENTS / QUESTIONS?

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