



Inventor:



Dr. Juan E. Gilbert
Professor & Dept. Chair
Computer & Information
Science & Engineering
University of Florida

References:

Gilbert & Johnson, "A Study of Admissions Software for Achieving Diversity," PsychNology Journal, 2013.
- Focuses on college admissions
(Link)

Contact:

Brian Wright
Auburn University
Innovation Advancement
& Commercialization
334-844-4977
dircomm@auburn.edu
iac.auburn.edu
Reference: Applications Quest



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Software for Diversity in Admissions

Auburn University is seeking a licensee or development partner for a software application that aids universities in selecting diverse applicants for admission.

Overview: In 2003, U.S. Supreme Court decisions struck down racial preferences and quotas in Michigan's undergraduate and law school admission. Since then, several groups — including the federal government — have challenged race-conscious admissions. This leaves universities with the challenge of meeting their diversity goals for admissions and scholarship awards while navigating ever changing rules of how various factors for diversity can be considered. Holistic review of applications is one approach, but that introduces significant work load and is also still subject to human error and bias. Applications Quest is an AI-driven software application that strives to help universities select a diverse and qualified applicant pool, without bias, quotas or determining factors.

Advantages:

- REMOVES BIAS – Utilizes artificial intelligence to remove human bias and modernize the admissions process
FAST– Reduces time spent sorting and reviewing applications
INEXPENSIVE - Reduces cost of human labor by automating application analysis.



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Description: Applications Quest helps universities narrow down potential candidates using a standardized computing approach to selecting diverse and qualified applicants. The software uses a combination of a patented mathematical method called nominal population metrics and standard clustering algorithms. This updates the admissions process, making it more efficient, quicker, and less tedious. This allows admissions professionals to shift their priorities from menial sorting to more crucial duties.

Applications Quest speeds up the initial sorting of applications by shifting a larger portion of the task to a software-based process. The software is able to compare each application to every other application and measure the difference between each combination of applications, using criteria set by the admissions office. Such a task would be nearly impossible for humans to complete in a timely manner on a large scale. Using these results, the applications are grouped into a user-specified number of clusters, each containing applications most similar to each other. The software then recommends candidates from each cluster that optimizes the diversity and quality of the incoming student class.

Status:

- Core algorithm patented under US Patent 8,612,176
Commercial-ready code developed
Piloted with several universities; a recent pilot achieved a more racially diverse and higher qualified applicant pool without using race as a factor
IP co-owned between Auburn University and University of Florida
This technology is available for non-exclusive or co-exclusive licensing

