



Optimized for Higher Education

Sacramento State: Integrating Optix and PeopleSoft to speed Admissions processing



SACRAMENTO
STATE

"The powerful scripting and customization capabilities of Optix provided an easy path to integration with our existing PeopleSoft installation, resulting in remarkable efficiencies in Admissions processing"

- Boyana Barbula
System Support Coordinator
for Enrollment Management

Sacramento State is a vibrant metropolitan university that is among the largest campuses in the California State University system. In early 2001 - with an annual application volume of over 35,000 - the decision was made to enhance their existing PeopleSoft student information system and folder-based processing with document management capabilities that would lift the paper burden and streamline admissions.

Sacramento State selected Optix for its ease of integration on the desktop and with web-based applications. Using a combination of Microsoft C# and .NET, in-house developers at Sacramento State were able to create an embedded web control that provided a unified view of student data in PeopleSoft and associated document records in Optix. Data entered in PeopleSoft and documents scanned into Optix are used to generate worklists based on internal processing events. This data is used not only to automate the indexing of Optix documents such as applications and transcripts, but also to auto-populate fields on internal forms and correspondence which are then automatically uploaded to Optix. As they consult with students or move through process-specific worklists, Enrollment Management staff can instantly view any document in Optix along with corresponding screens in PeopleSoft with a single click.

The database tracks the arrival of the varied documentation that forms a typical admissions application. All incoming paper documents are scanned when received and stored in Optix. Incoming data files such as electronic transcripts (EDI-TS130) and the online application for admission are automatically imported into PeopleSoft then converted to XML and used to populate eye-readable electronic forms which are stored and indexed in Optix. Once the system determines that all required documents have been received, the admissions package is flagged as ready for review by admissions decision makers. Admissions packages may be assigned to specific reviewers.

Since going paperless to process the Spring 2003 application peak, Sacramento State has stored millions of documents in Optix, realizing a significant reduction in admissions processing time - and a lot less frustration on the part of the Enrollment Management staff, who now have everything at their fingertips. Sacramento State's Optix installation is licensed for 20 concurrent users. Because of the dynamic methods used by the Optix Server, this license level supports an actual user community of over 130 users from Enrollment Management, Admissions, and other student service personnel across the campus. In the future, Sacramento State is looking to expand this popular system into additional departments.