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Texas Administrative Code

[TITLE 19](#)

EDUCATION

[PART 1](#)

TEXAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD

[CHAPTER 5](#)

RULES APPLYING TO PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES, HEALTH-RELATED INSTITUTIONS, AND/OR SELECTED PUBLIC COLLEGES OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN TEXAS

[SUBCHAPTER A](#)

GENERAL PROVISIONS

RULE §5.5

Uniform Admission Policy

(a) Each public university shall admit first-time undergraduate students for each semester in accordance with Texas Education Code, §§51.801 - 51.809. Only The University of Texas at Austin shall admit students under Texas Education Code §51.803(a-1) - (a-5) and subsection (e) of this section.

(b) All applicants from Texas schools accredited by a generally recognized accrediting agency and who graduate in the top 10 percent of their high school class or who graduate in the top 25 percent of their high school class, to the extent the governing board of a general academic teaching institution has adopted such an admission policy, shall be admitted to a general academic teaching institution if the student meets the following conditions:

(1) The student has met one of the following:

(A) Successfully completed the distinguished level of achievement under the Foundation, Recommended, or Advanced High School Program from a Texas public high school as outlined under Texas Education Code, §28.025, as well as, 19 TAC §§74.63, 74.64, 74.73, and 74.74 (relating to the distinguished level of achievement under the Foundation, Recommended High School Program, or Distinguished Achievement High School Program--Advanced High School Program);

(B) Successfully completed a curriculum from a high school in Texas other than a public high school that is equivalent in content and rigor to the distinguished level of achievement under the Foundation, the Recommended, or Advanced High School Program as outlined under subsection (c) of this section;

(C) Satisfied ACT's College Readiness Benchmarks on the ACT assessment; or

(D) Earned on the SAT assessment a score of at least a 1500 out of 2400, or the equivalent; and

(2) The student submitted an official high school transcript or diploma that must, not later than the end of the student's junior year, indicate whether the student has satisfied the requirements outlined under paragraph (1)(A) or (B) of this subsection.

(3) For applicants who graduate in the top 10 percent of their high school class and want to be considered for automatic admission under Texas Education Code, §51.803, the student must:

(A) Submit a complete application defined by the institution before the expiration of the institution's established deadline; and

(B) Have graduated from high school within the two years prior to the academic year for which the student is applying for admission.

(c) A student is considered to have satisfied the requirements of subsection (b)(1)(A) or (B) of this section if the student completed all or the portion of the distinguished level of achievement under the Foundation, Recommended, or Advanced High School Program of a curriculum equivalent in content and rigor, as applicable, that was available to the student. A student may be considered to have completed the distinguished level of achievement under the

Foundation, Recommended, or Advanced High School curriculum if a student was unable to complete the remainder of the curriculum solely because courses necessary to complete the remainder were unavailable to the student at the appropriate times in the student's high school career as a result of course scheduling, lack of enrollment capacity, or another cause not within the student's control. The standards for determining whether a student has satisfied the requirements of this subsection include the following:

(1) For a student in a Texas public high school, the public high school providing to a Texas public institution of higher education the Academic Achievement Record or transcript outlined under subsection (b)(2) of this section must indicate, in a form and manner prescribed by the Commissioner of Higher Education, whether the student has completed all or a portion of the distinguished level of achievement under the Foundation, Recommended, or Advanced High School Program or of the curriculum equivalent in content and rigor, as applicable, that was available.

(2) For a student in a Texas private high school, the private high school providing to a Texas public institution of higher education the transcript or diploma outlined under subsection (b)(2) of this section must:

(A) Be accredited by the Texas Private School Accreditation Commission or other accrediting organizations recognized by the Texas Education Agency; and

(B) Indicate, in a form and manner prescribed by the Commissioner of Higher Education, whether the student has completed all or a portion of the distinguished level of achievement under the Foundation, Recommended, or Advanced High School Program or of the curriculum equivalent in content and rigor, as applicable, that was available.

(d) All applicants from high schools operated by the United States Department of Defense and who graduate in the top 10 percent of their high school class shall be admitted to a general academic teaching institution if the student meets the following conditions, or if subsection (c) of this section applies whether the student has completed the portion of the distinguished level of achievement under the Foundation, recommended, or advanced curriculum or of the curriculum equivalent in content and rigor, as applicable, that was available to the student:

(1) The student graduated from high school within the two years prior to the academic year for which the student is applying;

(2) The student is a Texas resident as defined in Texas Education Code, §54.052 or is entitled to pay tuition and fees at the rate provided for Texas residents for the term or semester to which the student is admitted;

(3) The student submitted a complete application as defined by the institution before the expiration of the institution's established deadline; and

(4) The student meets the curriculum or the ACT/SAT test score requirements as outlined under subsection (b)(1) of this section.

(e) For the period from the 2011-2012 academic year through the 2017-2018 academic year, The University of Texas at Austin is not required to admit applicants in excess of the number needed to fill 75 percent of first-time resident undergraduate students.

(f) High school rank for students seeking automatic admission to a general academic teaching institution on the basis of their class rank is determined and reported as follows:

(1) Most recent available class rank, based on a point in time no earlier than the end of the 11th grade, shall be used for admission decision-making.

(2) The top 10 percent and top 25 percent of a high school class shall not contain more than 10 percent and top 25 percent, respectively, of the total class size.

(3) The student's rank shall be reported by the applicant's high school or school district as a specific number out of a specific number total class size.

(4) Class rank shall be determined by the school or school district from which the student graduated or is expected to graduate.

(g) A general academic teaching institution may limit the number of students admitted under this section if the number of applicants eligible and applying for admission to the institution under this section exceeds by more than 10 percent the average number of first-time freshmen admitted the previous two academic years. If an institution chooses to limit the number of students admitted under this section, it must ensure that:

(1) At least 97 percent of first-time freshmen admitted are in the top 10 percent of their high school class; and

(2) Clear guidelines are established for the selection of students based on one or a specified combination of the following methods:

(A) A lottery in which all students qualified for automatic admission have an equal chance for selection;

(B) Students are selected on a first-come, first-admitted basis following receipt of a complete application; or

(C) At least four or more criteria identified in Texas Education Code, §51.805 are used to select students admitted.

(h) The 18 admissions factors outlined in Texas Education Code, §51.805(b) may be considered by a general academic teaching institution when an applicant is eligible for admission under the "other admissions" provision as described in Texas Education Code, §51.805, but only after the applicant has met the curriculum or the ACT/SAT test score requirements as outlined under Texas Education Code, §51.805(a). Applicants participating in the minimum, recommended, or advanced high school program may be considered under the "other admissions" provision according to this subsection.

(i) Each public institution of higher education shall admit a student as an undergraduate if the student meets the following conditions:

(1) Is the child of a public servant listed in Texas Government Code, §615.003 who was killed or sustained a fatal injury in the line of duty according to requirements for verification outlined by the institution; and

(2) Meets the minimum admissions requirements established for purposes of this subsection by the governing board of the institution for high school or prior college-level grade point average and performance on standardized tests.

(j) Each general academic teaching institution shall annually report to the Board the composition of the entering class of first-time freshmen students admitted under this section. The report shall include a demographic breakdown of the class including race, ethnicity, and economic status. Each general academic teaching institution shall provide this report to the Board annually on or before a date set by the Board.

Source Note: The provisions of this §5.5 adopted to be effective May 28, 2003, 28 TexReg 4124; amended to be effective November 29, 2007, 32 TexReg 8490; amended to be effective August 26, 2009, 34 TexReg 5676; amended to be effective November 26, 2009, 34 TexReg 8320; amended to be effective May 26, 2010, 35 TexReg 4150; amended to be effective November 24, 2013, 38 TexReg 8426

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