



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

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Via Hand Delivery

Mr. Mike Morath
Commissioner
Texas Education Agency
William B. Travis Building, Room 2-185
Agency Code: 701

Dear Commissioner Morath:

Senate Bill 175, passed by the 81st Legislature, modified the “Top 10%” automatic admission program at The University of Texas at Austin. Under SB 175, UT Austin is required to offer automatic admission to “75 percent of the university’s enrollment capacity designated for first-time resident undergraduate students in an academic year.”

Section 51.805 (a-2) of the Texas Education Code (TEC) requires the university, in a manner prescribed by the Texas Education Agency (TEA) and not later than September 15 annually, to:

provide to each school district, for dissemination of the information to high school junior-level students and their parents, notice of which percentile ranks of high school senior-level students who qualify for automatic admission under Subsection (a) are anticipated by the institution to be offered admission under Subsection (a-1) during the next school year.

Using data from recent years, the university has determined that automatically admitting students in the top 6 percent of their high school graduating class to the 2021 entering freshman class will fill 75 percent of available spaces. As a result, The University of Texas at Austin will automatically admit all eligible summer/fall 2021 and spring 2022 freshman applicants who rank in the top 6 percent of their high school graduating classes. This is the same percentage in use for summer/fall 2020 and spring 2021.

SB 175, passed in 2009, took effect with the 2011-12 academic year. With one exception, UT Austin has met the 75 percent threshold each year. As you are undoubtedly aware, growth in the number of Texas high school graduates over the past decade has translated into growth in applications for admission to UT Austin, as well as the number of UT Austin applicants eligible for automatic admission. According to the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE), the number of high school graduates in Texas is projected to continue to increase through 2024-25 (*Knocking at the College Door*, December 2016).

Year	Percentile	% Auto Admit
2011	Top 8%	77%
2012	Top 9%	78%
2013	Top 8%	80%

2014	Top 7%	73%
2015	Top 7%	75%
2016	Top 8%	76%
2017	Top 7%	75%
2018	Top 7%	75%
2019	Top 6%	75%

This information is provided to you in accordance with provisions of SB 175. If you have any questions, or require additional information, please contact Rachelle Hernandez, senior vice provost for enrollment management. UT Austin will send a copy of this letter to the Regional Education Service Center (ESC) executive directors with a request that they assist in the dissemination of the information to all school districts in Texas.

I appreciate your assistance and that of the TEA in disseminating this information to high school juniors and their parents across the state.

Sincerely,



Gregory L. Fenves
President

GLF/daw

cc: The Honorable Brandon Creighton, Chair, Senate Committee on Higher Education
The Honorable Chris Turner, Chair, House Committee on Higher Education
Maurie McInnis, Executive Vice President and Provost
Rachelle Hernandez, Senior Vice Provost for Enrollment Management
Miguel Wasielewski, Executive Director of Admissions