



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

OFFICE OF ADMISSIONS

The Performance of Students Attending The University of Texas at Austin as a Result of the Coordinated Admission Program (CAP) Students Applying as Freshmen 2005

Report 5

Prepared by

The Office of Admissions

Background

The University of Texas at Austin (UT Austin) is the flagship higher educational institution of the State of Texas, but it also has a heritage of being accessible to all, or nearly all, of its in-state applicants. The Coordinated Admission Program (CAP) is the University's current effort to avoid permanently "closing the door" on any Texas resident.

From 1962 to the implementation of CAP in 2001, UT Austin offered a summer Provisional Admission (PA) program to its Texas resident applicants not admitted to the fall semester. It was a conditional admission alternative requiring the completion of twelve hours of basic college coursework during the summer with a minimum GPA of 2.25. Upon successful completion of the program, participants were eligible to enroll for the fall semester as regularly-admitted freshmen. Over time, the success rate of the provisional admits varied, but in the latter years it was approximately 50-60 percent.

At UT Austin enrollment pressures peaked during the summer/fall 2000 admissions cycle when the applicant pool increased from 18,930 in 1999 to 21,539 (+13.7%). In the same period, the number of admits increased from 11,949 to 13,256 (+10.9%). PA offers increased to more than 4,000 students and of that pool approximately 1,500 actually enrolled; 905 continued into the fall. The unexpectedly large number of enrolling freshmen brought about a review and evaluation of PA.

After the passage of HB 588 (the Texas Top 10% Automatic Admissions Law) in 1997, the profile of PA participants changed. The automatic admission of top 10% students resulted in increased competition for fewer available fall semester spaces. This produced a body of PA students with stronger academic backgrounds. The PA Program had transformed from a conditional admission program with performance contracts to a selective fall-admissions alternative for highly-qualified non-top 10% freshmen.

On November 16, 2000, the University of Texas System Board of Regents approved a revision to the Provisional Admission policy. It allowed for the creation of an off-site Provisional Admission Program and simultaneously placed a moratorium on spring 2001 freshman and transfer admissions. Beginning with the fall 2001, Texas resident applicants were offered fall admission, summer freshman admission (with no performance contract conditions), or the new off-site PA (which was then called "Off-campus Provisional Admission"). Eventually, the program came to be known as the Coordinated Admission Program—or CAP.

CAP required the completion of 30 semester hours of prescribed coursework and a minimal grade point average of 3.0.¹ This coursework must be completed at one of seven participating University of Texas component institutions during the fall and spring semesters immediately following a student's high school graduation.²

After successfully completing the program requirements, participants are guaranteed unconditional acceptance into the College of Liberal Arts or Natural Sciences at UT Austin. Although the admissions guarantee only applies to those two colleges, participants are afforded an opportunity to compete with other transfer students for admission into UT's other major programs.

“CAP05” Students

The summer/fall 2005 cycle included 5364 CAP offers; 1540 students returned their CAP contracts. In the fall of 2006, 495 returned to enroll as transfer students at UT Austin. These students (n=495) are referred to as “CAP05” i.e., they were offered CAP in 2005 and arrived in 2006.

Table 1 provides a demographic breakdown of that subset and illustrates its dramatic growth.

Table 1
Racial/Ethnic and Gender Breakdown of CAP Students
CAP05 Cohort

	CAP05	
	N	%
AMERICAN INDIAN	3	1%
ASIAN AMERICAN	100	20%
AFRICAN AMERICAN	10	2%
HISPANIC	107	22%
INTERNATIONAL	18	4%
WHITE	256	52%
UNKNOWN	1	<1%
TOTAL	495	100%

CAP05 Performance Compared to Classmates Admitted as Entering and Summer Freshmen

Since CAP was designed to accommodate as many Texas residents as possible, in the freshman cohort this study is limited to graduates of Texas High Schools. Specifically, four subsets of entering 2005 freshmen are analyzed:

1. **Top 10%** are those students automatically admitted as a result of HB 588 (the Texas Automatic Admissions Law). These Texas high school graduates did not compete with CAP students. They are included for illustrative purposes only.
2. **Non-Top 10%** admits are those Texas high school graduates who were admitted to the semester of their choice. They competed for remaining slots after the top 10% students were admitted. (This group does not include the Summer Freshmen described below.)

¹ Starting with the CAP05 cohort the GPA requirement increased to 3.20. Additionally, a mathematics requirement of at least one course at a level higher than college algebra was added.

² The participating UT System component schools are UT Arlington, UT San Antonio, UT Pan American, UT Permian Basin, UT Brownsville, UT El Paso and UT Tyler (beginning with CAP05).

3. **Summer Freshmen** admits are Non-Top 10% Texas high school graduates who were admitted, but on the condition that they begin coursework during the summer semester. This group most closely resembles the CAP groups and is the best group for comparison.
4. **CAP05** students are as described above.

Tables 2 through 4 provide demographic information about the groups enumerated above.

Table 2
Racial/Ethnic and Gender Breakdown of Top 10% Students
Texas High School Graduates Only
Summer/Fall 2005

	2005	
	N	%
AMERICAN INDIAN	18	<1%
ASIAN AMERICAN	795	18%
AFRICAN AMERICAN	250	6%
INTERNATIONAL	62	1%
HISPANIC	923	21%
WHITE	2282	53%
UNKNOWN		<1%
TOTAL	4330	100%

Table 3
Racial/Ethnic and Gender Breakdown of Non-Top 10% Students
(Excluding Summer Freshmen)
Texas High School Graduates
Summer/Fall 2005

	2005	
	N	%
AMERICAN INDIAN	8	1%
ASIAN AMERICAN	226	18%
AFRICAN AMERICAN	57	5%
INTERNATIONAL	22	2%
HISPANIC	160	13%
WHITE	778	62%
UNKNOWN	7	1%
TOTAL	1258	100%

Table 4
Racial/Ethnic and Gender Breakdown of Summer Freshmen
Texas High School Graduates
Summer/Fall 2005

	2005	
	N	%
AMERICAN INDIAN	2	<1%
ASIAN AMERICAN	135	17%
AFRICAN AMERICAN	32	4%
INTERNATIONAL	11	1%
HISPANIC	117	15%
WHITE	477	62%
UNKNOWN		
TOTAL	774	100%

Table 5 is a breakdown of the study groups by ACT/SAT Score intervals.³ It is not surprising that the groups with the highest mean scores are the Non-Top 10% and the Summer Freshman group. These students competed for slots and test scores played a large role in their admission.

Table 5
Breakdown of ACT/SAT Intervals

	Entering Summer/Fall 2005							
	Top 10%		Non-Top 10% (Excl Summer Frosh.)		Summer Freshmen		CAP05	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
<900	127	3%	25	2%	6	1%	5	1%
900-990	236	5%	37	3%	6	1%	32	6%
1000-1090	558	13%	114	9%	26	3%	109	22%
1100-1190	828	19%	156	12%	82	11%	161	33%
1200-1290	1012	23%	311	25%	269	35%	136	27%
1300-1390	857	20%	333	26%	279	36%	46	9%
1400-1490	507	12%	208	17%	96	12%	5	1%
1500-1600	205	5%	64	3%	10	1%	1	<1%
Total	4330	100%	1258	100%	774	100%	495	100%
Mean	1228		1271		1286		1157	

³ The University of Texas at Austin accepts either the ACT Assessment or the SAT 1: Reasoning Test. For purposes of this study, ACT values were concorded to the SAT scale. The largest score value was used for each individual. For more information on how ACT were concorded to the SAT scale, see <http://www.utexas.edu/student/admissions/research/ACT-SATconcordance.html>

Performance

Table 6 illustrates performance by the study groups during their freshman year. For the groups matriculating at UT Austin during their freshman year (Top 10%, Non-Top 10%, and Summer Freshmen) the mean grade point averages (MGPA) are for “in resident” or actual coursework taken, i.e., credit-by-exam, correspondence, and extension course grades were eliminated. The MGPA for the CAP students (matriculating at the component campuses) is significantly higher than the other groups, but this was predictable, since CAP students had to meet a minimal GPA requirement (≥ 3.20) to transfer to UT Austin for their sophomore year.

Table 6
Freshman Year Group Performance
CAP05

Note: Some n-counts differ from Table 5 because students with no hours attempted were eliminated.

	Entering Summer/Fall 2005							
	Top 10%		Non-Top 10% (Excl Summer Freshmen)		Summer Freshmen		CAP05	
	N	MGPA (InRes)	N	MGPA (InRes)	N	MGPA (InRes)	N	MGPA (Transfer)
<900	125	2.16	25	2.02	5	1.91	5	3.44
900-990	235	2.41	33	2.35	5	2.78	32	3.48
1000-90	550	2.67	112	2.45	25	2.51	109	3.52
1100-90	825	2.89	154	2.70	80	2.55	161	3.56
1200-90	1009	3.13	309	2.85	263	2.82	136	3.59
1300-90	850	3.33	329	3.00	275	2.90	46	3.63
1400-90	507	3.49	206	3.10	95	2.89	5	3.52
1500+	205	3.69	63	3.31	10	2.69	1	3.42
Total	4306	3.07	1239	2.87	758	2.81	495	3.56

Table 7 illustrates performance by all groups during the sophomore year. For each CAP cohort this would be the first semester in which all of the groups attended classes on the same campus at the same time. For that reason it is the optimal period to consider different admissions routes, differential freshman year experiences and whether each prepares students for success while on the Austin campus.

Table 7
Sophomore Year Group Performance

Note: Some n-counts differ from Table 5 because students with no hours attempted were eliminated.

	Applying Summer/Fall 2005—Performance for 2006-07							
	Top 10%		Non-Top 10% (Excl Summer Freshmen)		Summer Freshmen		CAP05	
	N	MGPA (InRes)	N	MGPA (InRes)	N	MGPA (InRes)	N	MGPA (InRes)
<900	103	2.39	20	2.31	3	1.92	5	1.93
900-990	205	2.53	26	2.75	5	2.23	32	2.61
1000-1090	498	2.78	101	2.58	23	2.61	109	2.77
1100-1190	756	2.97	144	2.80	73	2.79	161	2.79
1200-1290	949	3.14	289	2.86	242	2.89	135	2.97
1300-1390	816	3.29	305	2.94	261	3.00	46	2.97
1400-1490	491	3.42	194	3.06	89	2.91	5	2.16
1500+	200	3.63	62	3.16	8	2.68	1	2.41
Total	4018	3.10	1141	2.89	704	2.90	494	2.82

Table 8 results from a search for classes most-often taken by returning CAP students during their sophomore year at UT Austin. The top five classes for CAP 05 were English 316K (E316K), Chemistry 301(CH301), Government 312L (GOV312L), and Math 302 (M302), and Government 310L (GOV310L). MGPA represents the average grade earned by the study groups.

English 316K is entitled *Masterworks of Literature* and is an introduction to masterpieces of the literary tradition taught in three topics (World, British or American Literature). Students may choose either topic to complete their sophomore literature degree requirement. The prerequisite for this course is the completion of at least twenty-seven semester hours of coursework, including “freshman English” and an appropriate score on the reading section of the TASP test.

Government 312L is entitled *Issues and Policies in American Government* and is a topics course in American Government covering political institutions and may include the United States and Texas Constitutions. Completion of this course, along with Government 310L satisfies the legislative requirement for government in all degree programs. It can only be taken once for credit. The prerequisite for this course is twenty-four semester hours of college coursework, including Government 310L, and an appropriate score on the reading section of TASP.

Chemistry 301 is entitled *Principles of Chemistry I* and is an introductory course that satisfies the Natural Sciences requirement toward most degree programs, but can not be used toward the Bachelor of Science in Chemistry degree. The prerequisite for this course is credit or registration for pre-calculus, or an appropriate score on the Math placement exam.

Government 310L is a standardized three-hour introduction to American national, state, and local political institutions and policies, and includes a study of the United States and Texas constitutions. The prerequisite for GOV 310L is twelve semester hours of college coursework.

Mathematics 302 is intended primarily for general liberal arts students. It may not be included in the major requirement for the Bachelor of Arts or the Bachelor of Science degree with a major in mathematics.

Table 8
Sophomore Year Group Performance
Selected Courses

Applied Summer/Fall 2005—Performance at UT Austin for 2006-07								
	Top 10%		Non-Top 10% (Excl Summer Freshmen)		Summer Freshmen		CAP05	
	N	MGPA	N	MGPA	N	MGPA	N	MGPA
E316K	782	3.20	228	2.96	149	3.14	171	3.03
CH301	116	2.48	28	2.18	31	2.23	97	2.43
GOV312L	771	2.84	233	2.72	198	2.59	108	2.34
GOV310L	678	2.79	198	2.66	125	2.56	73	2.71
M302	91	2.58	29	2.38	11	2.00	1	3.00

Comparing CAP Students to Other Transfers

Since applicants who accept the conditions of the Coordinated Admission Program agree to do at least 30 hours of coursework on another campus, it is appropriate to compare CAP performance with that of transfer students who entered at the same time and with a comparable amount of coursework completed. "Transfer Students" as it is used in the tables below are limited to those students who transferred with 24-36 transferable credit hours to UT. This subset of transfers most closely resembles the CAP groups. (Some students transfer to UT Austin with as much as 60+ or even 100+ hours; they were excluded.)

Table 9 below is a racial/ethnic breakdown of transfer students.

Table 9
Racial/Ethnic Breakdown of Transfer Students
(With 24-36 Transferable Credit Hours)
Entering 2006

	Entering 2006 as Transfers	
	N	%
AMERICAN INDIAN	2	1%
ASIAN AMERICAN	40	13%
AFRICAN AMERICAN	9	3%
INTERNATIONAL	11	4%
HISPANIC	37	12%
WHITE	211	68%
UNKNOWN		
TOTAL	310	100%

Table 10 below provides mean grade point averages of the transfers and the CAP groups during the freshman year (which was not spent on the Austin campus). Since the transfers were successfully admitted to UT Austin as a result of their GPA, it is not surprising that the mean for that group would be very high.

Table 10
Group Performance During Off-Campus Matriculation
Entering 2006

	N	MGPA (Transfer)
TRANSFER	310	3.62
CAP05	495	3.56

Table 11 compares the group performance of Transfers and CAP students. As measured by mean GPA during a time when all of the students were on the UT Austin campus. There is no significant or practical difference between the mean GPAs.

Table 11
Sophomore Year Group Performance
(In Resident GPA at UT Austin)

Academic Year 2006-2007		
	N	MGPA at UT Austin (In Res)
TRANSFER STUDENT GPA	306	2.87
CAP05 GPA	494	2.82

Table 12 compares performance in selected courses (as described above) between transfers and CAP students.

Table 12
Sophomore Year Group Performance
Selected Courses

	Academic Year 2006-2007			
	TRANSFERS		CAP05	
	N	MGPA	N	MGPA
E316K	116	3.11	171	3.03
CH301	43	2.33	97	2.43
GOV312L	54	2.69	108	2.34
GOV310L	116	2.82	73	2.71
M302	28	3.25	1	3.00