



**IMPLEMENTATION AND RESULTS OF THE TEXAS AUTOMATIC ADMISSIONS LAW  
(HB 588)  
at  
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN  
Volume I (part 2)**

**STUDENT FLOW**

**TEXAS HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES  
SUMMER AND FALL ENTERING FRESHMEN  
ACADEMIC YEARS 1996-2005**

**Prepared by:**

**The Office of Admissions  
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**Introduction**

One of the concerns expressed during emotional debates over the Texas Automatic Admissions Law (HB 588), otherwise called the “Top 10% Law,” was that large numbers of students were being encouraged to reach beyond their academic ability, apply to UT Austin, and be automatically admitted. This often led to predictions of lower retention and graduation rates.

At the University of Texas one-year persistence is defined as the percent of students who returned for their sophomore year and were enrolled on the 12<sup>th</sup> Class Day of the fall semester. And of course, two-year persistence is the percent of students enrolling the following fall.

As stated in Volume I, which contains HB588 Reports 1-9, this paper is designed to present simple, descriptive statistics relative to graduates of Texas high schools matriculating as entering freshmen from 1996-2005. This is not a position paper. It is not an evaluation of past or present affirmative action policies. It is not a proposed blueprint for other universities or public institutions seeking diversity. It is not representative of the

higher education experience in all of Texas. It is merely another chapter about what has happened at The University of Texas at Austin the year before the interruption of affirmative action (1996), the years in which there was no affirmative action (1997-2004), and its return (2005 to present).

**Methodology**

The students selected for this study are the same as cohorts studied in Volume 1 of this report. This is limited to entering freshmen from Texas high schools for the summer/fall semesters from 1996 through 2005. Since the cohorts are filtered to exclude all but graduates of Texas high schools, i.e., the group eligible for the top 10% entitlement, persistence and graduation rates will not match exactly what is reported by the Office of Institutional Research (now called the Office of Information Management and Analysis) in its *Statistical Handbook*, which includes all entering freshmen. Table 1 below provides the n-counts used in the tables that follow. The American Indian, International, and “unknown” groups are excluded due to low n-counts. Table 2, however, illustrates whole entering classes from Texas high schools and thus includes those groups.

In Tables 2-7 a student is counted as “continuing” if he/she had courses listed in the next and following fall semesters. During these “snapshots” a check was made to determine if an individual had graduated.

**Table 1**  
**N-Counts of Cohorts**  
**Enrolled Freshmen from Texas High Schools**  
**1996-2005**

	1996		1997		1998		1999		2000		2001		2002		2003		2004		2005	
	Top 10%	Non-Top 10%	Top 10%	Non-Top 10%	Top 10%	Non-Top 10%	Top 10%	Non-Top 10%	Top 10%	Non-Top 10%	Top 10%	Non-Top 10%	Top 10%	Non-Top 10%	Top 10%	Non-Top 10%	Top 10%	Non-Top 10%	Top 10%	Non-Top 10%
White	1497	2215	1408	2781	1497	2457	1620	2472	1921	2529	1942	2076	2203	2188	2378	1202	2270	1384	2288	1230
African American	91	164	50	135	69	119	160	113	156	129	137	98	156	99	194	64	225	77	252	87
Asian American	430	461	505	567	519	542	609	559	653	606	718	607	800	562	781	299	776	388	782	350
Hispanic	396	506	358	519	414	441	513	424	591	401	575	426	703	411	858	199	887	251	966	264
All Students	2428	3375	2332	4033	2513	3597	2925	3596	3346	3713	3423	3255	3932	3302	4289	1804	4241	2157	4391	1997

**Table 2**  
**Continuing and Graduation Rates for First-Time Freshmen**  
**Graduates of Texas High Schools**  
**1996-2005**

	1996		1997		1998		1999		2000		2001		2002		2003		2004		2005		
	Top 10%	Non-Top 10%	Top 10%	Non-Top 10%	Top 10%	Non-Top 10%	Top 10%	Non-Top 10%	Top 10%	Non-Top 10%	Top 10%	Non-Top 10%	Top 10%	Non-Top 10%	Top 10%	Non-Top 10%	Top 10%	Non-Top 10%	Top 10%	Non-Top 10%	
<b>Continuing</b>																					
After 1 yr	89.66	84.09	91.60	82.74	92.32	85.65	92.34	85.93	93.19	89.52	91.29	88.20	91.53	90.25	93.05	92.57	93.23	92.30	92.30	90.74	
After 2 yrs	85.30	76.86	87.56	75.33	87.78	80.40	89.06	79.95	89.15	84.24	87.64	82.06	87.72	85.25	88.55	87.25	88.59	85.91			
After 3 yrs	80.85	72.06	82.72	71.06	82.57	75.59	84.27	74.67	83.20	77.86	81.60	75.55	80.98	78.10	82.16	78.94					
After 4 yrs	36.66	39.64	38.51	41.56	37.33	43.09	37.71	38.71	34.34	36.68	32.90	34.16	31.77	35.61							
After 5 yrs	8.98	12.39	9.05	12.65	8.44	11.65	6.80	10.07	7.56	8.94	7.36	7.65									
After 6 yrs	2.92	5.33	3.34	4.46	2.79	4.20	2.22	3.59	2.45	3.96											
<b>Graduated</b>																					
After 1 yr											0.03										
After 2 yrs	0.08	0.03	0.17	0.12	0.12	0.11	0.03	0.17	0.09	0.08	0.18	0.34	0.10	0.18	0.07	0.28	0.07	0.19			
After 3 yrs	3.17	1.84	3.39	1.73	2.99	2.11	3.07	2.37	3.92	3.10	4.47	3.50	4.50	3.63	3.92	5.54					
After 4 yrs	45.18	30.73	45.46	28.76	46.80	32.50	47.79	35.32	51.05	39.64	51.15	40.61	51.58	42.88							
After 5 yrs	71.87	56.86	73.80	55.99	74.69	61.66	77.06	61.15	76.15	65.28	76.37	66.39									
After 6 yrs	78.09	63.94	79.07	63.33	80.78	69.06	81.78	68.02	81.41	71.86											
<b>Combined*</b>																					
After 1 yr	89.66	84.09	91.60	82.74	92.32	85.65	92.34	85.93	93.19	89.52	91.32	88.20	91.53	90.25	93.05	92.57	93.23	92.30	92.30	90.74	
After 2 yrs	85.38	76.89	87.73	75.45	87.90	80.51	89.09	80.12	89.24	84.32	87.82	82.40	87.82	85.43	88.62	87.53	88.66	86.10			
After 3 yrs	84.02	73.90	86.11	72.79	85.56	77.70	87.34	77.04	87.12	80.96	86.07	79.05	85.48	81.73	86.08	84.48					
After 4 yrs	81.84	70.37	83.97	70.32	84.13	75.59	85.50	74.03	85.39	76.32	84.05	74.77	83.35	78.49							
After 5 yrs	80.85	69.25	82.85	68.64	83.13	73.31	83.86	71.22	83.71	74.22	83.73	74.04									
After 6 yrs	81.01	69.27	82.41	67.79	83.57	73.26	84.00	71.61	83.86	75.82											

\* The "Combined" value is the sum of the "Continuing" and "Graduated" values.

**Table 3**  
**Continuing and Graduation Rates for First-Time Freshmen**  
**White Graduates of Texas High Schools**  
**1996-2005**

	1996		1997		1998		1999		2000		2001		2002		2003		2004		2005		
	Top 10%	Non-Top 10%	Top 10%	Non-Top 10%	Top 10%	Non-Top 10%	Top 10%	Non-Top 10%	Top 10%	Non-Top 10%	Top 10%	Non-Top 10%	Top 10%	Non-Top 10%	Top 10%	Non-Top 10%	Top 10%	Non-Top 10%	Top 10%	Non-Top 10%	
<b>Continuing</b>																					
After 1 yr	88.91	84.47	91.48	82.56	92.38	84.82	92.53	86.37	93.91	88.61	91.66	87.52	91.74	90.08	93.31	92.51	94.14	92.34	92.79	91.30	
After 2 yrs	84.84	77.43	87.93	75.69	87.71	80.26	89.32	80.02	89.22	83.43	87.49	81.79	87.61	85.88	89.66	86.61	89.91	86.69			
After 3 yrs	80.56	73.36	82.53	72.13	82.50	75.38	84.75	75.44	83.55	77.82	81.67	75.92	80.44	78.93	83.68	78.20					
After 4 yrs	34.27	39.05	37.57	41.57	35.60	41.15	35.19	37.30	31.44	34.80	30.33	32.56	29.19	33.59							
After 5 yrs	7.15	11.33	7.46	12.12	6.95	9.08	5.43	9.43	6.45	8.07	6.39	7.37									
After 6 yrs	2.74	5.10	2.56	4.06	2.27	3.66	1.79	3.48	1.98	3.32											
<b>Graduated</b>																					
After 1 yr																					
After 2 yrs	0.07		0.07	0.11	0.07	0.08	0.06	0.20	0.16	0.04	0.21	0.24	0.18	0.14	0.13	0.25	0.09	0.22			
After 3 yrs	3.21	1.85	3.55	1.66	3.08	2.12	3.21	2.22	4.84	2.93	4.79	2.84	5.76	3.70	4.08	5.41					
After 4 yrs	48.37	32.73	47.87	30.17	49.31	34.56	51.36	37.30	55.28	41.48	53.76	42.10	55.20	46.07							
After 5 yrs	74.89	60.00	76.56	58.11	76.69	64.55	80.37	63.43	79.13	66.59	77.91	67.34									
After 6 yrs	80.23	66.95	81.39	65.73	81.83	70.21	84.20	70.02	83.76	72.52											
<b>Combined*</b>																					
After 1 yr	88.91	84.47	91.48	82.56	92.38	84.82	92.53	86.37	93.91	88.61	91.66	87.52	91.74	90.08	93.31	92.51	94.14	92.34	92.79	91.30	
After 2 yrs	84.91	77.43	88.00	75.80	87.78	80.34	89.38	80.22	89.38	83.47	87.70	82.03	87.79	86.02	89.79	86.86	90.00	86.91			
After 3 yrs	83.77	75.21	86.08	73.79	85.58	77.50	87.96	77.66	88.39	80.75	86.46	78.76	86.20	82.63	87.76	83.61					
After 4 yrs	82.64	71.78	85.44	71.74	84.91	75.71	86.55	74.60	86.72	76.28	84.09	74.66	84.39	79.66							
After 5 yrs	82.04	71.33	84.02	70.23	83.64	73.63	85.80	72.86	85.58	74.66	84.30	74.71									
After 6 yrs	82.97	72.05	83.95	69.79	84.10	73.87	85.99	73.50	85.74	75.84											

\* The "Combined" value is the sum of the "Continuing" and "Graduated" values.

**Table 4**  
**Continuing and Graduation Rates for First-Time Freshmen**  
**African American Graduates of Texas High Schools**  
**1996-2005**

	1996		1997		1998		1999		2000		2001		2002		2003		2004		2005		
	Top 10%	Non-Top 10%	Top 10%	Non-Top 10%	Top 10%	Non-Top 10%	Top 10%	Non-Top 10%	Top 10%	Non-Top 10%	Top 10%	Non-Top 10%	Top 10%	Non-Top 10%	Top 10%	Non-Top 10%	Top 10%	Non-Top 10%	Top 10%	Non-Top 10%	
<b>Continuing</b>																					
After 1 yr	89.01	83.54	100.0	84.44	95.65	94.12	92.50	89.38	92.95	94.57	90.51	91.84	89.10	92.93	89.69	92.19	87.56	92.21	89.68	88.51	
After 2 yrs	83.52	79.88	90.00	71.11	95.65	82.35	87.50	82.30	90.38	87.60	80.29	83.67	86.54	79.80	82.47	82.81	84.00	84.42			
After 3 yrs	81.32	71.95	92.00	73.33	89.86	84.03	81.25	77.88	83.33	79.84	81.75	77.55	81.41	73.74	77.84	75.00					
After 4 yrs	42.86	44.51	42.00	49.63	36.23	43.70	50.63	46.90	43.59	41.09	41.61	39.80	39.74	44.44							
After 5 yrs	13.19	17.07	10.00	12.59	15.94	22.69	10.63	13.27	12.18	13.18	11.68	9.18									
After 6 yrs	6.59	6.71		4.44	8.70	5.88	2.50	4.42	3.85	3.88											
<b>Graduated</b>																					
After 1 yr																					
After 2 yrs																					
After 3 yrs		1.22			2.90	0.84	2.50		2.56	3.10	1.46	3.06	1.28	2.02	1.55	3.13					
After 4 yrs	34.07	21.95	40.00	13.33	49.28	30.25	33.13	26.55	38.46	32.56	37.96	33.67	37.82	25.25							
After 5 yrs	54.95	43.29	76.00	43.70	68.12	52.94	67.50	51.33	67.95	58.14	66.42	61.22									
After 6 yrs	60.44	53.66	88.00	51.85	76.81	67.23	76.25	60.18	76.92	67.44											
<b>Combined*</b>																					
After 1 yr	89.01	83.54	100.0	84.44	95.65	94.12	92.50	89.38	92.95	94.57	90.51	91.84	89.10	92.93	89.69	92.19	87.56	92.21	89.68	88.51	
After 2 yrs	83.52	79.88	90.00	71.11	95.65	82.35	87.50	82.30	90.38	87.60	80.29	83.67	86.54	79.80	82.47	82.81	84.00	84.42			
After 3 yrs	81.32	73.17	92.00	73.33	92.76	84.87	83.75	77.88	85.89	82.94	83.21	80.61	82.69	75.76	79.39	78.13					
After 4 yrs	76.93	66.46	82.00	62.96	85.51	73.95	83.76	73.45	82.05	73.65	79.57	73.47	77.56	69.69							
After 5 yrs	68.14	60.36	86.00	56.29	84.06	75.63	78.13	64.60	80.13	71.32	78.10	70.40									
After 6 yrs	67.03	60.37	88.00	56.29	85.51	73.11	78.75	64.60	80.77	71.32											

\* The "Combined" value is the sum of the "Continuing" and "Graduated" values.

**Table 5**  
**Continuing and Graduation Rates for First-Time Freshmen**  
**Asian American Graduates of Texas High Schools**  
**1996-2005**

	1996		1997		1998		1999		2000		2001		2002		2003		2004		2005		
	Top 10%	Non-Top 10%	Top 10%	Non-Top 10%	Top 10%	Non-Top 10%	Top 10%	Non-Top 10%	Top 10%	Non-Top 10%	Top 10%	Non-Top 10%	Top 10%	Non-Top 10%	Top 10%	Non-Top 10%	Top 10%	Non-Top 10%	Top 10%	Non-Top 10%	
<b>Continuing</b>																					
After 1 yr	95.35	87.64	94.26	88.36	95.95	90.77	96.22	87.84	96.32	94.55	94.01	91.93	93.88	92.17	97.31	94.98	96.13	95.88	95.40	93.43	
After 2 yrs	91.40	80.91	90.10	79.72	91.14	83.95	93.76	82.29	94.03	89.27	92.90	85.34	91.63	86.83	92.06	89.97	93.04	90.72			
After 3 yrs	87.21	74.62	87.33	71.43	86.32	78.78	89.49	75.85	87.29	79.54	85.38	76.94	84.88	79.72	85.02	83.95					
After 4 yrs	37.44	41.43	42.18	44.97	42.00	51.29	37.11	45.08	34.76	42.08	36.07	38.06	30.75	37.54							
After 5 yrs	10.23	14.53	10.50	15.52	8.86	18.63	8.37	10.73	4.90	8.42	7.10	6.92									
After 6 yrs	3.02	6.72	4.75	5.47	2.50	5.54	2.46	3.58	1.68	4.79											
<b>Graduated</b>																					
After 1 yr											0.14										
After 2 yrs	0.23	0.22	0.40	0.35	0.39	0.18		0.18		0.17	0.14	0.99		0.36		0.67		0.26			
After 3 yrs	4.42	2.82	4.36	3.00	3.09	1.84	2.63	3.58	2.60	3.96	4.04	5.60	3.50	3.20	3.97	6.69					
After 4 yrs	49.54	32.32	45.94	26.99	46.44	28.04	53.53	31.13	54.36	38.12	52.79	40.53	55.75	41.28							
After 5 yrs	77.21	58.13	77.03	53.97	79.00	58.30	80.62	59.39	81.62	67.99	80.92	70.51									
After 6 yrs	83.72	64.20	81.78	60.85	86.13	70.30	86.21	67.44	85.45	74.75											
<b>Combined*</b>																					
After 1 yr	95.35	87.64	94.26	88.36	95.95	90.77	96.22	87.84	96.32	94.55	94.15	91.93	93.88	92.17	97.31	94.98	96.13	95.88	95.40	93.43	
After 2 yrs	91.63	81.13	90.50	80.07	91.53	84.13	93.76	82.47	94.03	89.44	93.04	86.33	91.63	87.19	83.68	90.64	93.04	90.98			
After 3 yrs	91.63	77.44	91.69	74.43	89.41	80.62	92.12	79.43	89.89	83.50	89.42	82.54	88.38	82.92	88.99	90.64					
After 4 yrs	86.98	73.75	88.12	71.96	88.44	79.33	90.64	76.21	89.12	80.20	88.86	78.59	86.50	78.82							
After 5 yrs	87.44	72.66	87.53	69.49	87.86	76.93	88.99	70.12	86.52	76.41	88.02	77.43									
After 6 yrs	86.74	70.92	86.53	66.32	88.63	75.84	88.67	71.02	87.13	79.54											

\* The "Combined" value is the sum of the "Continuing" and "Graduated" values.

**Table 6**  
**Continuing and Graduation Rates for First-Time Freshmen**  
**Hispanic Graduates of Texas High Schools**  
**1996-2005**

	1996		1997		1998		1999		2000		2001		2002		2003		2004		2005		
	Top 10%	Non-Top 10%	Top 10%	Non-Top 10%	Top 10%	Non-Top 10%	Top 10%	Non-Top 10%	Top 10%	Non-Top 10%	Top 10%	Non-Top 10%	Top 10%	Non-Top 10%	Top 10%	Non-Top 10%	Top 10%	Non-Top 10%	Top 10%	Non-Top 10%	
<b>Continuing</b>																					
After 1 yr	86.36	79.05	86.87	77.84	87.44	81.86	87.13	79.25	87.99	86.53	86.61	84.74	88.19	87.10	89.04	88.94	89.74	85.66	89.13	87.88	
After 2 yrs	81.31	69.76	82.12	69.94	82.85	76.42	83.04	75.24	83.76	80.80	82.43	77.70	83.64	80.78	83.68	86.93	82.41	78.09			
After 3 yrs	75.25	64.43	75.70	64.55	77.29	70.75	78.17	67.22	77.83	75.31	76.87	70.19	77.81	72.99	76.34	77.39					
After 4 yrs	42.68	39.13	36.59	35.84	38.16	42.86	42.30	36.79	40.27	38.65	36.17	35.68	38.41	42.34							
After 5 yrs	13.13	13.64	13.13	12.14	12.32	14.51	8.38	11.79	12.35	13.22	10.09	9.86									
After 6 yrs	2.78	4.15	4.75	5.20	4.11	4.54	3.12	4.01	4.23	6.48											
<b>Graduated</b>																					
After 1 yr																					
After 2 yrs			0.28			0.23				0.25	0.17			0.24							
After 3 yrs	2.53	0.99	1.96	1.35	2.42	2.72	2.73	2.12	2.88	2.74	3.83	4.23	2.56	3.65	3.96	5.53					
After 4 yrs	32.33	23.32	36.32	27.75	37.69	27.89	34.50	30.42	37.90	32.67	42.26	34.27	39.54	32.12							
After 5 yrs	59.60	46.44	58.39	51.06	63.29	51.93	65.50	51.89	63.28	55.61	66.96	56.57									
After 6 yrs	68.69	54.15	65.08	57.42	71.26	61.90	70.76	58.49	71.07	64.84											
<b>Combined*</b>																					
After 1 yr	86.36	79.05	86.87	77.84	87.44	81.86	87.13	79.25	87.99	86.53	86.61	84.74	88.19	87.10	89.04	88.94	89.74	85.66	89.13	87.88	
After 2 yrs	81.31	69.76	82.40	69.94	82.85	76.65	83.04	75.24	83.76	81.05	82.60	77.70	83.64	81.02	83.68	86.93	82.41	78.09			
After 3 yrs	77.78	65.42	77.66	65.90	79.71	73.47	80.90	69.34	80.71	78.05	80.70	74.42	80.37	76.64	80.30	82.92					
After 4 yrs	75.01	62.45	72.91	63.59	75.85	70.75	76.80	67.21	78.17	71.32	78.43	69.95	77.95	74.46							
After 5 yrs	72.73	60.08	71.52	63.20	75.61	66.44	73.88	63.68	75.63	68.83	77.05	66.43									
After 6 yrs	71.47	58.30	69.83	62.62	75.37	66.44	73.88	62.50	75.30	71.32											

\* The "Combined" value is the sum of the "Continuing" and "Graduated" values.