

**MEMORANDUM**

**RECEIVED** *John* **AUG 11 2009**

DATE: July 22, 2009  
TO: Larry Williams  
FROM: Ed Hugetz  
RE: Proposed Freshman Admissions Standards

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Attached for your consideration is the proposal and supporting materials for increasing the FTIC freshman admissions standards in fall 2011. The appendices are the same as we reviewed with you earlier, except for one: In Appendix C, the total number of students meeting the current admissions standards has been reduced from 2,438 to 2,022. In the original calculation, for students who did not meet the top 20% automatic admissions standard, we included all students who scored 1000+ on the SAT or 21+ on the ACT regardless of class rank. In the new calculation, we included only students who met the 1000 SAT/21 ACT threshold and were also in the top 50% of their graduating class.

Also, one idea that has been put forward is to require individual review for all students who don't meet the top 10% class rank threshold (and not have automatic acceptance for students with certain test scores and class ranks between 11% and 50%). We would be interested in hearing the thoughts of the Undergraduate Council on this approach.

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**University of Houston****Proposal to Raise Freshman Admission Standards in 2011**

Consistent with the University of Houston's goals of national competitiveness and student success, as well as to better differentiate UH's mission from that of its sister UH System institutions, the following freshman admissions standards are proposed:

	<b>Rank in High School Class</b>	<b>SAT/ACT</b>
Level 1: Automatic Admission	Top 10%	No minimum score
Level 2: Conditional Admission	11-25%	1000/21
Level 3: Conditional Admission	26-50%	1100/24
Level 4: Individual Review*	51% or lower	

\*To be conducted by faculty committees

If approved, these new standards would be used to admit the cohort of FTIC students entering in the fall of 2011. A primary goal of these new standards is to make admission to the University of Houston more selective. They are intended to send a clear signal to prospective students and their parents that UH is on the path to becoming a tier-one, nationally competitive research institution and that we will aggressively recruit students graduating in the top 10% of their high school class.

Another primary goal is to improve student success at the university (also a key component to achieving tier-one status). It is our expectation that enrolling a more academically talented and committed student body will have a positive impact on freshman retention and graduation rates. Indeed, UH data show that students admitted under the proposed standards would have higher retention and graduation rates than students admitted under the existing standards.

With increased selectivity also comes the challenge of maintaining student enrollment and diversity. Given the strong population growth and ethnic diversity of Houston and Texas, we anticipate that enrollment will continue to increase for the foreseeable future and that UH will maintain its status as the most ethnically diverse research university in the nation. Nevertheless, we will be more aggressive than ever in our efforts to recruit and provide scholarship support for top students, particularly those from ethnic groups underrepresented in higher education.

The following materials have been included as a reference for this proposal:

Appendix A: Proposed University of Houston freshman admissions standards

Appendix B: Current admissions standards at Texas research and emerging research universities

Appendix C: Demographic profile of FTIC freshmen meeting current and proposed admissions standards

Appendix D: One-year retention of FTIC freshmen meeting current and proposed admissions standards

Appendix E: Six-Year graduation rate profile of FTIC freshmen


**Appendix A**

**Proposed Standards for Automatic Admission to UH**  
**Starting with the FTIC cohort in fall 2011**

**Percentile Rank and SAT/ACT**

<b>Level 1:</b>	Top 10%
<b>Level 2:</b>	11-25% AND 1000 SAT/21 ACT
<b>Level 3:</b>	26-50% AND 1100 SAT/24 ACT
<b>Level 4:</b>	Individual Review

Appendix B      Texas Research and Emerging Research Institutions  
Admissions Criteria

Texas A & M									
UT Austin		Texas Tech		UNT		UT Arlington		UT Dallas	
PERCENTILE SAT/ACT		PERCENTILE SAT/ACT		PERCENTILE SAT/ACT		PERCENTILE SAT/ACT		PERCENTILE SAT/ACT	
Top 10% Auto Admit	✓	11-25 % SAT - 1300 (600+ each test) ACT - 30	11-25 % SAT - 1140 ACT - 25	11-25 % SAT - 950 ACT - 20	Top 25% Auto Admit	Top 15% Auto Admit	Top 25% Auto Admit	Top 25% Auto Admit	Top 20% Auto Admit
"Level 2" Admits	 Individual Review	26-50 % SAT - 1230 ACT - 28	26-50 % SAT - 1050 ACT - 23	26-50 % SAT - 1050 ACT - 22	Individual Review	16-100 % SAT - 1200 ACT - 26	26-50 % SAT - 920 ACT - 20	26-50 % SAT - 920 ACT - 20	21-50 % SAT - 1000 ACT - 21
"Level 3" Admits		51-100 % SAT - 1270 ACT - 28	51-75 % SAT - 1180 ACT - 26	51-75 % SAT - 1150 ACT - 25					
"Level 4" Admits		Individual Review							
"Level 5" Admits		Individual Review							
UT El Paso									
PERCENTILE SAT/ACT		PERCENTILE SAT/ACT		PERCENTILE SAT/ACT		PERCENTILE SAT/ACT		PERCENTILE SAT/ACT	
Top 10% Auto Admit		11-25 % SAT - 1140 ACT - 25		11-25 % SAT - 950 ACT - 20		Top 25% Auto Admit		Top 25% Auto Admit	
"Level 2" Admits		26-50 % SAT - 1050 ACT - 23		26-50 % SAT - 1050 ACT - 22		26-50 % SAT - 920 ACT - 20		26-50 % SAT - 920 ACT - 20	
"Level 3" Admits		51-100 % SAT - 1270 ACT - 28		51-75 % SAT - 1180 ACT - 26		51-75 % SAT - 1150 ACT - 25		51-75 % SAT - 970 ACT - 20	
"Level 4" Admits		Individual Review		Individual Review		Individual Review		75-100 % SAT - 1020 ACT - 21	
"Level 5" Admits		Individual Review		Individual Review		Individual Review		Individual Review	
UT San Antonio									
PERCENTILE SAT/ACT		PERCENTILE SAT/ACT		PERCENTILE SAT/ACT		PERCENTILE SAT/ACT		PERCENTILE SAT/ACT	
Top 10% Auto Admit		11-25 % SAT - 1140 ACT - 25		11-25 % SAT - 950 ACT - 20		Top 25% Auto Admit		Top 25% Auto Admit	
"Level 2" Admits		26-50 % SAT - 1050 ACT - 23		26-50 % SAT - 1050 ACT - 22		26-50 % SAT - 920 ACT - 20		26-50 % SAT - 920 ACT - 20	
"Level 3" Admits		51-100 % SAT - 1270 ACT - 28		51-75 % SAT - 1180 ACT - 26		51-75 % SAT - 1150 ACT - 25		51-75 % SAT - 970 ACT - 20	
"Level 4" Admits		Individual Review		Individual Review		Individual Review		75-100 % SAT - 1020 ACT - 21	
"Level 5" Admits		Individual Review		Individual Review		Individual Review		Individual Review	
UH									
PERCENTILE SAT/ACT		PERCENTILE SAT/ACT		PERCENTILE SAT/ACT		PERCENTILE SAT/ACT		PERCENTILE SAT/ACT	
Top 10% Auto Admit		11-25 % SAT - 1140 ACT - 25		11-25 % SAT - 950 ACT - 20		Top 25% Auto Admit		Top 25% Auto Admit	
"Level 2" Admits		26-50 % SAT - 1050 ACT - 23		26-50 % SAT - 1050 ACT - 22		26-50 % SAT - 920 ACT - 20		26-50 % SAT - 920 ACT - 20	
"Level 3" Admits		51-100 % SAT - 1270 ACT - 28		51-75 % SAT - 1180 ACT - 26		51-75 % SAT - 1150 ACT - 25		51-75 % SAT - 970 ACT - 20	
"Level 4" Admits		Individual Review		Individual Review		Individual Review		75-100 % SAT - 1020 ACT - 21	
"Level 5" Admits		Individual Review		Individual Review		Individual Review		Individual Review	
FTICs enrolled									
Top 10% N		8093		3544		2340		1117	
% Top 10		3827		607		430		337	
		47.3%		17.1%		18.4%		30.2%	
SAT Mean		1190		1095		1040		1240	
Retention		92.4%		73.4%		58.2%		82.4%	
Graduation		77.4%		44.4%		37.0%		55.5%	

FTIC count from THECB AAE report; includes all enrolled first-time summer and fall 2008 undergraduates regardless of full-time or other status  
Admission standards taken from institutional web sites 06/26/09  
SAT means estimated from 25th and 75th percentile distributions reported in US News & World Report 2009 edition or institutional web sites  
Retention and Graduation rates from THECB Accountability System 06/27/09

## Appendix C

Demographic Breakdown of Students Meeting Current and  
Proposed Standards for Automatic AdmissionFTICs Who Met Published Standard for Automatic  
Admission\*

	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
White	567	28.0
African American	345	17.1
Hispanic	467	23.1
Asian or Pacific Islander	606	30.0
American Indian or Alaskan Native	5	0.2
International	19	0.9
Unknown	13	0.7
Total	2,022	100.0

\*Top 20% OR 20%-50% and 1000 SAT/21 ACT

\*Source: 2007 FTIC Cohort

FTICs Who Would Meet Proposed Standard for  
Automatic Admission\*

	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
White	469	31
African American	193	13
Hispanic	335	22
Asian or Pacific Islander	467	31
American Indian or Alaskan Native	4	0
International	14	1
Unknown	11	1
Total	1,493	100

\* Top 10% OR 11-25% and 1000 SAT/21ACT OR 26-50% and 1100 SAT/24ACT

\*Source: 2007 FTIC Cohort

## Reference Point: All Enrolled 2007 FTICs

	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
White	913	27.7
African American	648	19.7
Hispanic	752	22.8
Asian or Pacific Islander	869	26.4
American Indian or Alaskan Native	13	0.4
International	73	2.2
Unknown	24	0.7
Total	3,292	100.0

\*Source: 2007 FTIC Cohort

## Appendix D

# One-Year Retention for Students Meeting Current and Proposed Standards for Automatic Admission

## One-Year Retention for FTICs Who Met Published Standard for Automatic Admission\*

(Cohort N = 2022)	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
White	435	76.7
African American	265	76.8
Hispanic	367	78.6
Asian or Pacific Islander	549	90.6
American Indian or Alaskan Native	5	100.0
International	15	78.9
Unknown	11	84.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,647</b>	<b>81.5</b>

\*Top 20% OR 20%-50% and 1000 SAT/21 ACT

\*Source: 2007 FTIC Cohort

## One-Year Retention for FTICs Who Would Meet Proposed Standard for Automatic Admission\*

(Cohort N = 1493)	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
White	374	79.7
African American	144	74.6
Hispanic	273	81.5
Asian or Pacific Islander	424	90.8
American Indian or Alaskan Native	4	100.0
International	11	78.6
Unknown	9	81.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,239</b>	<b>83.0</b>

\*Top 10% OR 11-25% and 1000 SAT/21ACT OR 26-50% and 1100 SAT/24ACT

\*Source 2007 FTIC Cohort

## Reference Point: One-Year Retention for 2007 FTIC Cohort

(Cohort N = 3292)	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
White	670	73.4
African American	479	73.9
Hispanic	590	78.5
Asian or Pacific Islander	777	89.4
American Indian or Alaskan Native	9	69.2
International	62	84.9
Unknown	20	83.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,607</b>	<b>79.2</b>

Appendix E

Fall 2002 Cohort - All FTIC - Six Year Graduation

SAT Scores	High School Quartile											
	TOP 10%				1st Quartile				2nd Quartile			
	Non-Grad	Graduated	N	%	Non-Grad	Graduated	N	%	Non-Grad	Graduated	N	%
910 or below	73	60.8	47	39.2	100	66.7	50	33.3	151	64.3	84	35.7
920-990	44	52.4	40	47.6	70	50.7	68	49.3	128	67.7	61	32.3
1000-1070	46	50.5	45	49.5	82	53.6	71	46.4	126	63.0	74	37.0
1080-1170	43	43.4	56	56.6	71	44.4	89	55.6	90	58.4	64	41.6
1180 or above	56	33.7	110	66.3	72	48.0	78	52.0	80	63.5	46	36.5

Fall 2002 Cohort - All FTIC - Six Year Graduation

SAT Scores	High School Percentile											
	0-10%				11-20%				21-50%			
	Non-Grad	Graduated	N	%	Non-Grad	Graduated	N	%	Non-Grad	Graduated	N	%
910 or below	73	60.8	47	39.2	69	68.3	32	31.7	182	64.1	102	35.9
920-990	44	52.4	40	47.6	37	44.6	46	55.4	160	66.7	80	33.3
1000-1070	47	50.5	46	49.5	56	53.3	49	46.7	149	61.3	94	38.7
1080-1170	43	43.4	56	56.6	47	42.0	65	58.0	112	56.3	87	43.7
1180 or above	56	33.7	110	66.3	50	44.6	62	55.4	101	63.1	59	36.9

Fall 2002 Cohort - All FTIC - Six Year Graduation

SAT Scores	High School Top 20% with Percentile/Quartile Breakdown											
	Top 20				21-50 Percentile				3rd Quartile			
	Non-Grad	Graduated	N	%	Non-Grad	Graduated	N	%	Non-Grad	Graduated	N	%
910 or below	142	64.3	79	35.7	182	64.1	102	35.9	75	65.8	39	34.2
920-990	81	48.5	86	51.5	160	66.7	80	33.3	82	70.1	35	29.9
1000-1070	103	52.0	95	48.0	149	61.3	94	38.7	69	67.0	34	33.0
1080-1170	90	42.7	121	57.3	112	56.3	87	43.7	58	72.5	22	27.5
1180 or above	106	38.1	172	61.9	101	63.1	59	36.9	34	63.0	20	37.0

\*Bold indicates a higher graduation rate compared to the overall rate for the fall 2002 full-time, degree seeking FTIC cohort (41.8%).



**UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON SYSTEM**  
**UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON**

Office of the Executive Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs  
UH System

Office of the Executive Associate Vice President for Academic and Faculty Affairs  
University of Houston

**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Dan Wells  
Chair, University Coordinating Commission

**From:** Elaine Charlson *Elaine*

**Date:** August 11, 2009

**Re:** Undergraduate Council Approval of UC 10295 09S

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On July 29, 2009 the Undergraduate Council unanimously approved UC 10295 09S: Proposal to Raise Freshman Admission Standards in 2011. I would like to submit this proposed policy to the University Coordinating Commission for review. Thank you for your consideration.