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**JOHN J. ANTEL, PH.D.**

Theresa M. Monaco Chair


Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, UH System

Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, UH

**MEMORANDUM**

**Date:** April 7, 2010

**To:** Larry Williams  
Chair, Undergraduate Council

**From:** John J. Antel 

**Re:** Proposed Freshman Admissions Standards

Attached for your consideration is the proposal and supporting materials for the modification to the previously approved increase in freshman admissions standards. The current proposal arrives at the same standards that were initially proposed, but on a longer timeline and with the addition of an intermediary step. Reviewing the proposed changes with our external constituencies has led us to this modification. We remain committed to increasing our standards, but it is now clear a phased approach to implementation is appropriate.

The newly added intermediary standards are based on an initial class rank threshold of top 15% rather than top 10%. The data suggest the intermediary and final thresholds have a relatively small difference in terms of impact on the FTIC cohort. Nevertheless, the implementation dates are separated by two years, which will give us ample time for Undergraduate Council to examine the impact of the first change in standards before we implement the second.

JJA/ss

Attachments

## University of Houston

## Proposal to Raise Freshman Admission Standards

April 7, 2010

Previously the Undergraduate Council approved a proposal to change the Freshman Admission Standards as follows for the Fall 2011 entering cohort:

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

The current proposal moves the originally proposed changes to become effective for the Fall 2014 entering class, and recommends the following standards for the Fall 2012 entering class:

	Rank in High School Class	SAT/ACT
Level 1: Automatic Admission	Top 15%	No minimum score
Level 2: Automatic Admission	16-25%	1000/21
Level 3: Automatic Admission	26-50%	1100/24
Level 4: Individual Review	51% or lower	

Put together, the current proposal is shown below. If approved, the new standards would be implemented in two stages. The first would be used to admit the entering classes of 2012 and 2013, and the second to admit the entering class of 2014 and beyond.

	Fall 2012 Entering Cohort		Fall 2014 Entering Cohort	
	H.S. Class Rank	SAT/ACT	H.S. Class Rank	SAT/ACT
Level 1: Automatic Admission	Top 15%	No minimum	Top 10%	No minimum
Level 2: Automatic Admission	16-25%	1000/21	11-25%	1000/21
Level 3: Automatic Admission	26-50%	1100/24	26-50%	1100/24
Level 4: Individual Review	51% or lower		51% or lower	

The goals of the current proposal are consistent with those of the original proposal: to make admission to the University of Houston more selective and to improve student success at the university while maintaining student enrollment and diversity. To this end, the impact of the 2012 standards will be reviewed before the 2014 standards are implemented.

Data related to this proposal follows.

	Fall 2009 UH FTIC Cohort		Fall 2009 UH FTIC Auto Admits (Top 20% or 21-50/1000 SAT)		Entering Class of 2012 (Top 15% or 16-25%/1000 SAT or 26-50%/1100 SAT)		Entering Class of 2014 (Top 10% or 11-25%/1000 SAT or 26-50%/1100 SAT)	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Mean SAT	1079		1088		1110		1129	
African American	545	18%	384	17%	284	15%	236	14%
Asian	845	27%	649	28%	546	29%	504	30%
Hispanic	786	25%	612	27%	512	27%	440	26%
White	785	25%	569	25%	486	26%	465	27%
Other	139	5%	60	3%	53	3%	45	3%
Total	3,100	100%	2,274	100%	1,881	100%	1,690	100%
Women	50.6%		52.7%		52.8%		51.9%	
Men	49.5%		47.3%		47.2%		48.1%	
One-Year Retention (Fall 08 cohort)	79%		82%		83%		84%	
Six-Year Graduation (Fall 2003 cohort)	3085	41%	1794	49%	1448	51.4%	1342	50.6%

11/19/10