



**The Performance of Students Attending The University of Texas at Austin as a Result of
the Coordinated Admission Program (CAP)
Students Applying as Freshmen 2007**

Report 7

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 highly 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. Beginning with the fall 2001 semester, 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 eight 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 an unconditional transfer 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.

"CAP07" Students

The summer/fall 2007 freshman admissions cycle included 6327 CAP offers; 1865 students returned their CAP contracts. In the fall of 2008, 600 returned to enroll as transfer students at UT Austin. These students (n=600) are referred to as "CAP07" i.e., they were offered CAP in 2007 and arrived in 2007.

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

Table 1
Racial/Ethnic and Gender Breakdown of CAP Students
CAP07 Cohort

	CAP07	
	N	%
AMERICAN INDIAN	1	< 1%
ASIAN AMERICAN	138	23%
AFRICAN AMERICAN	25	4%
HISPANIC	104	17%
INTERNATIONAL	22	4%
WHITE	309	52%
UNKNOWN	1	< 1%
TOTAL	600	100%

CAP07 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 2007 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, CAP now requires at least one mathematics course at a level higher than algebra.

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. UT Dallas joined the component schools in 2009.

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. **CAP07** 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 2007

	2007	
	N	%
AMERICAN INDIAN	16	< 1%
ASIAN AMERICAN	1009	21%
AFRICAN AMERICAN	274	6%
INTERNATIONAL	84	2%
HISPANIC	1093	23%
WHITE	2355	49%
UNKNOWN	1	< 1%
TOTAL	4832	100%

Table 3
Racial/Ethnic and Gender Breakdown of Non-Top 10% Students
(Excluding Summer Freshmen)
Texas High School Graduates
Summer/Fall 2007

	2007	
	N	%
AMERICAN INDIAN	8	1%
ASIAN AMERICAN	259	20%
AFRICAN AMERICAN	91	7%
INTERNATIONAL	24	2%
HISPANIC	192	15%
WHITE	732	56%
UNKNOWN		
TOTAL	1306	100%

Table 4
Racial/Ethnic and Gender Breakdown of Summer Freshmen
Texas High School Graduates
Summer/Fall 2007

	2007	
	N	%
AMERICAN INDIAN	3	< 1%
ASIAN AMERICAN	128	17%
AFRICAN AMERICAN	48	7%
INTERNATIONAL	12	2%
HISPANIC	157	21%
WHITE	388	53%
UNKNOWN	1	< 1%
TOTAL	737	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 2007							
	Top 10%		Non-Top 10% (Excl Summer Frosh.)		Summer Freshmen		CAP07	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
<900	131	3%	40	3%	2	< 1%	16	3%
900-990	319	7%	84	6%	24	3%	44	7%
1000-1090	631	13%	109	8%	72	10%	130	22%
1100-1190	901	19%	202	15%	118	16%	179	30%
1200-1290	1085	22%	306	23%	228	31%	168	28%
1300-1390	957	20%	307	24%	243	33%	53	9%
1400-1490	600	12%	191	15%	49	7%	9	2%
1500-1600	207	4%	67	5%	1	< 1%	1	< 1%
Total	4832	100%	1306	100%	737	100%	600	100%
Mean	1226		1248		1243		1151	

Note: One Top 10% student had no test scores on record.

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
CAP07

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

	Entering Summer/Fall 2007							
	Top 10%		Non-Top 10% (Excl Summer Freshmen)		Summer Freshmen		CAP07	
	N	MGPA (InRes)	N	MGPA (InRes)	N	MGPA (InRes)	N	MGPA (Transfer)
<900	128	2.11	40	2.04	1	1.75	16	3.55
900-990	315	2.42	83	2.22	24	2.08	44	3.58
1000-90	625	2.64	108	2.39	72	2.42	130	3.57
1100-90	896	2.90	201	2.67	117	2.61	179	3.61
1200-90	1077	3.16	306	2.88	227	2.82	168	3.66
1300-90	954	3.38	304	3.05	234	2.95	53	3.63
1400-90	599	3.54	190	3.07	47	2.88	9	3.60
1500+	207	3.68	67	3.15	1	3.30	1	3.52
Total	4801	3.08	1299	2.82	723	2.77	600	3.61

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 2007—Performance for 2008-09								
	Top 10%		Non-Top 10% (Excl Summer Freshmen)		Summer Freshmen		CAP07	
	N	MGPA (InRes)	N	MGPA (InRes)	N	MGPA (InRes)	N	MGPA (InRes)
<900	100	2.46	32	2.35	1	2.64	16	2.32
900-990	267	2.66	66	2.56	22	2.38	44	2.68
1000-1090	554	2.80	91	2.78	62	2.62	129	2.79
1100-1190	812	2.98	185	2.78	105	2.88	178	2.84
1200-1290	1012	3.16	281	2.99	217	2.94	167	3.04
1300-1390	915	3.34	291	3.05	226	3.01	53	2.93
1400-1490	581	3.48	178	3.10	45	3.02	9	3.09
1500+	198	3.65	62	3.18	1	2.69	1	3.46
Total	4440	3.14	1186	2.94	679	2.91	597	2.87

Note: One Top 10% student had no test scores on record.

Table 8 results from of a periodic 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, *Masterworks of Literature*, broadly surveys masterpieces of the literary tradition. Students choose one of three topics – World, British or American literature – to satisfy the Humanities core curriculum requirement (statewide core code 040). At UT Austin, the prerequisite is completion of at least thirty semester hours, including first-semester freshman composition, and a passing score on the reading section of the THEA test. E 316K is normally a second-year course, but often taken by CAP students with credit-by-exam or high school dual credit for freshman English composition. Texas Common Course Numbering (TCCN) equivalents: ENGL 2321, 2322, 2323, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2331, 2332, or 2333.

Government 312L, *Issues and Policies in American Government*, is an analysis of varying topics concerned with American political institutions and policies. Combined with Government 310L, this course satisfies the American & Texas Government core curriculum requirement (statewide core code 070). At UT Austin, the prerequisite is completion of at least twenty-four semester hours, including Government 310L, and a passing score on the reading section of the THEA test. TCCN equivalent: GOVT 2302.

Chemistry 301, *Principles of Chemistry I*, is the entry-level course for chemistry majors and is required in many other degree programs; it applies toward the Natural Science Part I core curriculum requirement (statewide core code 030). At UT Austin, the prerequisite is prior credit for, or concurrent registration in, a Calculus I course. TCCN equivalent: CHEM 1311.

Government 310L, *American Government*, is a basic survey of American federal, state, and local political institutions and policies, including a study of the United States and Texas constitutions. Combined with Government 312L, this course satisfies the American & Texas Government core curriculum requirement (statewide core code 070). At UT Austin, the prerequisite is completion of at least twelve semester hours and a passing score on the reading section of the THEA test. TCCN equivalent: GOVT 2301.

Mathematics 302, *Introduction to Mathematics*, is a terminal survey course for general liberal arts students and for others in degree plans that do not require specific mathematics coursework;

it satisfies the Mathematics core curriculum requirement (statewide core code 020). At UT Austin, the prerequisite is completion of three units of high school mathematics at the level of Algebra I or higher and a passing score on the mathematics section of the THEA test. TCCN equivalent: MATH 1332.

Table 8
Sophomore Year Group Performance
Selected Courses

Applied Summer/Fall 2007—Performance at UT Austin for 2008-09								
	Top 10%		Non-Top 10% (Excl Summer Freshmen)		Summer Freshmen		CAP07	
	N	MGPA	N	MGPA	N	MGPA	N	MGPA
E316K	1092	3.22	304	2.99	205	3.02	277	2.94
CH301	133	2.39	45	2.53	25	2.12	123	2.54
GOV312L	694	2.89	198	2.60	165	2.75	99	2.67
GOV310L	625	3.04	215	2.78	127	2.82	96	3.00
M302	77	2.64	32	2.22	15	2.40	**	**

** Data masked to assure confidentiality under FERPA regulations.

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 2008

	Entering 2008 as Transfers	
	N	%
AMERICAN INDIAN		
ASIAN AMERICAN	22	11%
AFRICAN AMERICAN	6	3%
INTERNATIONAL	11	5%
HISPANIC	32	16%
WHITE	132	64%
UNKNOWN	3	1%
TOTAL	206	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 2008

	N	MGPA (Transfer)
TRANSFER	200	3.61
CAP07	600	3.61

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 2008-2009		
	N	MGPA at UT Austin (In Res)
TRANSFER STUDENT GPA	204	2.98
CAP07 GPA	597	2.87

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 2008-2009			
	TRANSFERS		CAP07	
	N	MGPA	N	MGPA
E316K	85	2.99	277	2.94
CH301	22	3.00	123	2.54
GOV312L	29	2.69	99	2.67
GOV310L	60	3.05	96	3.00
M302	15	2.93	**	**

** Data masked to assure confidentiality under FERPA regulations.