

1. Title

Establishing Both Admission Policies and Criteria for Award of Scholarships and Fellowships

2. Rule and Regulation

Sec. 1 Establishing Admission Policies. *Texas Education Code* [Section 51.352](#) assigns responsibility to governing boards to "set campus admission standards consistent with the role and mission of the institution and considering the admission standards of similar institutions. . . ." In addition, [Chapter 51 \(Subchapter U\)](#) establishes guidelines for admission of freshman students and requires that institutions of higher education adopt guidelines for admission of students to other programs. The policies governing admission to academic programs shall be designed to maximize opportunity and access for all Texans, within parameters established by applicable laws.

1.1 Automatic Admission. Each covered institution shall adopt a policy for admission of first-time freshman students that incorporates criteria consistent with the *Texas Education Code* [Sections 51.803](#), [51.804](#), and [51.805](#). The admissions policy must provide, in keeping with regulations promulgated by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, for automatic admission for students who have graduated in the top ten percent of the graduating class from an accredited Texas high school. For students who do not qualify for automatic admission, the policy shall specify the criteria, which will be considered in making the admission decision.

1.2 Graduate and Professional School Admissions. Each covered institution shall also adopt policies for admission of transfer students and for admission to graduate, postgraduate, and/or professional programs. The factors to be considered in graduate and professional school admissions decisions must be consistent with *Texas Education Code* [Section 51.842](#).

1.3 Delegation to President. In keeping with the requirement of the *Texas Education Code* [Section 51.804](#), that governing boards determine for each academic year whether automatic admission to a general academic institution shall be granted to students who graduate in

the top 25 percent of their graduating class, the responsibility for this annual determination is delegated to the president of each institution covered by this policy. If a change in the admissions policy were proposed, Board of Regents' approval would follow established procedures for administrative approval and inclusion in the Consent Agenda.

- Sec. 2 Establishing Scholarship Award Policies. The *Texas Education Code*, [Section 51.809](#) requires that institutions of higher education adopt guidelines for awarding of competitive scholarships and fellowships. For the award of institutional competitive scholarships and fellowships, each covered institution shall adopt policies that identify the criteria to be considered in making the awards. The policies governing the award of institutional competitive scholarships and fellowships shall be designed to maximize opportunity and access for all Texans, within parameters established by applicable laws.
- Sec. 3 Inclusion of Policy Changes in Catalog. The admissions policies and criteria for award of scholarships and fellowships shall be included in institutional catalogs and shall be available to the public on request.
- 3.1 Changes in admission policies must be published in the institutional catalog and made available to the public not later than one year before the date that applications for admission are first considered.
- 3.2 Changes in the factors to be considered for the award of competitive scholarships/fellowships for a graduate or professional program must be published in the institutional catalog and made available to the public not later than one year before the date that applications for competitive scholarships/fellowships are first considered. Changes in factors to be considered for the award of all other competitive scholarships/fellowships must be published in the institutional catalog and made available to the public prior to the deadline for submission of applications.
- Sec. 4 Board Approval. Regental approval of the initial policies and subsequent amendments, if any, shall be made via the Consent Agenda following administrative review and approval by the

appropriate Executive Vice Chancellor for inclusion in the institutional catalog(s).

3. Definitions

None

4. Relevant Federal and State Statutes

Texas Education Code [Section 51.352](#) – Responsibility of Governing Boards

Texas Education Code [Sections 51.803](#) – Automatic Admissions: All Programs

Texas Education Code [Section 51.804](#) – Additional Automatic Admissions: Selected Institutions

Texas Education Code [Section 51.805](#) – Other Admissions

Texas Education Code [Section 51.809](#) – Scholarships and Fellowship Awards

Texas Education Code [Section 51.842](#) – Admission and Scholarship Factors for Graduate and Professional Programs

5. Relevant System Policies, Procedures, and Forms

None

6. Who Should Know

Administrators
Students

7. System Administration Office(s) Responsible for Rule

Office of Academic Affairs
Office of Health Affairs

8. Dates Approved or Amended

Editorial amendments to Sections 1.3 and 4 made April 12, 2012

Editorial amendments made to Section 3 and Number 4 on September 16, 2008

December 10, 2004

9. Contact Information

Questions or comments regarding this Rule should be directed to:

- bor@utsystem.edu