



INTERCULTURAL DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH ASSOCIATION
MARIA "CUCA" ROBLEDOR MONTECEL, PH.D., PRESIDENT & CEO
5815 CALLAGHAN ROAD, SUITE 101
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78228
210.444.1710 • FAX 210.444.1714
CONTACT@IDRA.ORG • WWW.IDRA.ORG

An Analysis of Minority Student Access to the University of Texas at Austin, 1998 to 2008

In recent months, there has been extensive debate regarding student access to the University of Texas at Austin, particularly Hispanic and African American student access. Much of the debate has centered on proposed changes to the state's Top Ten Percent Plan, which guarantees all high achieving Texas high school students – those who graduate in the top 10 percent of their graduating class – are granted automatic admission to any Texas state-funded college or university.

Proponents argue that the Top Ten Percent Plan improves the chances for low-income students and minority students to get into the state's major universities. Some critics of the plan complain that it diminishes a university's ability to select students of its own choosing. Others suggest that the Top Ten Percent Plan has diminished opportunities for the state's White students.

To test the accuracy of these and other assertions, IDRA developed an index to measure the chances (probability) that different subgroups of students applying for admission to a university had of actually being admitted into that institution.

About the Index

The Admission Probability Index (API) is a way of looking at the probability of admission for individual groups in a given year. The formula is: Overall admission rate for the academic year times (the number admitted of a particular group / number applied of the same group) or:

$$\text{OAR} * (\text{N-ADM}/\text{N-APP})$$

Where OAR = the Overall institutional Admissions Rate for a given academic year computed by taking the overall number of *admissions* and dividing it by the overall number of *applications* for that given year;

N-ADM = the total number of admitted students of a particular group; and

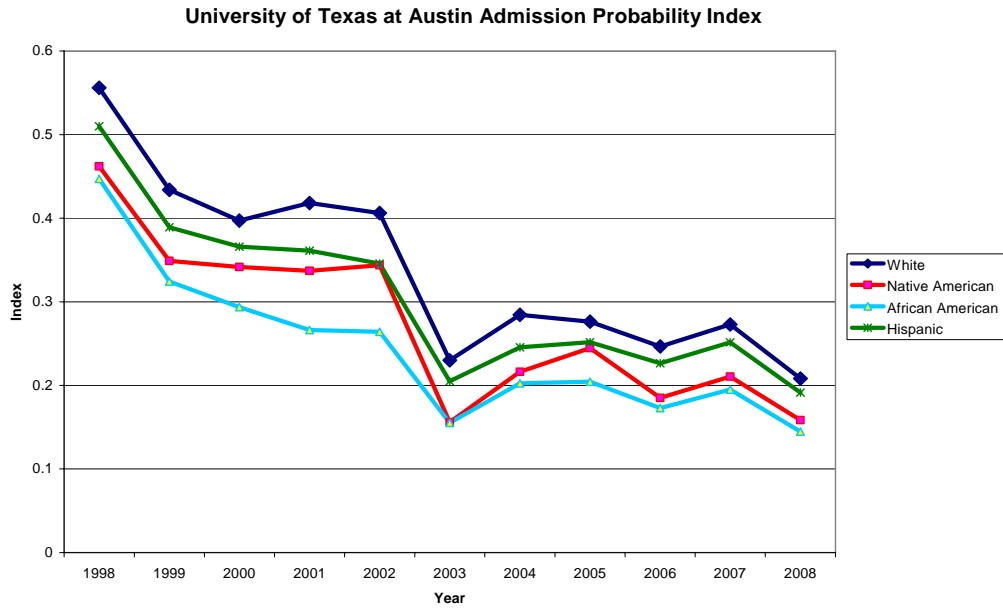
N-APP = the total number of applicants from that same group.

What We Found

Over the years, there have been more freshmen applicants as a whole, which means that there is a greater chance that all student groups, including minority students, will not be admitted. Even with this, though, White students have the highest chance of being admitted to UT-Austin – more than African American students, Hispanic students, and Native American students. Here are the key findings from 1998 to 2008.

- 1. White students have had the best chance of being admitted into UT-Austin.**
- 2. Every year between 1998 and 2008, African American students had the lowest chance of being admitted to UT-Austin.**

3. Though improving, Hispanic students still have a smaller chance of being admitted to UT-Austin than their White counterparts.



UT-Austin Admission Probability Index by Ethnicity for Years 1998 through 2008															
	White			Native American			African American			Hispanic			Total		
	Applications	Admits	API	Applications	Admits	API	Applications	Admits	API	Applications	Admits	API	Applications	Admits	Admit Rate
1998	10,138	7,659	0.556127	94	59	0.462039	660	401	0.447255	2,338	1,620	0.510064	13,230	9,739	0.736130
1999	11,051	7,421	0.433833	87	47	0.349012	1,030	517	0.324276	2,831	1,705	0.389086	14,999	9,690	0.646043
2000	12,737	8,162	0.397058	107	59	0.341658	1,186	562	0.293613	3,087	1,823	0.365910	17,117	10,606	0.619618
2001	11,723	7,787	0.418179	127	68	0.337083	1,053	445	0.266050	3,164	1,815	0.361136	16,067	10,115	0.629551
2002	12,603	8,258	0.406076	110	61	0.343672	1,159	494	0.264150	3,487	1,945	0.345680	17,359	10,758	0.619736
2003	13,944	6,852	0.230041	111	37	0.156047	1,351	448	0.155238	4,101	1,795	0.204904	19,507	9,132	0.468140
2004	12,417	6,814	0.284408	127	53	0.216286	1,456	569	0.202538	4,035	1,911	0.245456	18,035	9,347	0.518270
2005	12,552	6,745	0.276203	124	59	0.244562	1,552	617	0.204340	4,457	2,183	0.251750	18,685	9,604	0.513995
2006	14,301	7,280	0.246635	178	68	0.185088	1,915	683	0.172799	5,148	2,406	0.226437	21,542	10,437	0.484495
2007	13,659	7,310	0.272796	126	52	0.210364	1,952	747	0.195065	5,335	2,632	0.251472	21,072	10,741	0.509729
2008	14,038	6,582	0.208056	140	50	0.158478	2,234	728	0.144602	6,081	2,621	0.191258	22,493	9,981	0.443738

Data Source: University of Texas at Austin, Office of Admissions, 2009