


MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 29, 2011

FROM: Bennie J. Wilson III, College of Business 
Chairperson, Academic Policy & Requirements (AP&R) Committee

THRU: Academic Policy & Requirements (AP&R) Committee
Andrey Chabanov, College of Sciences
Anuradha Roy, College of Business
Clyde Phelix, College of Sciences
James Balentine, College of Liberal and Fine Arts
Kimberly Bilica, College of Education and Human Development
Patricia McGee, College of Education and Human Development
Randy Manteufel, College of Engineering
Richard Lewis, College of Liberal and Fine Arts
Rolando Quintana, College of Business
Sandy Norman, College of Sciences
Seok Kang, College of Liberal and Fine Arts

TO: Carola Wenk, College of Sciences
Chairperson, UTSA Faculty Senate

SUBJECT: Proposal for Revising the Honors College Admission Policy

The Committee recommends approving the proposed revision to the Honors College Admission Policy (attached). The voting process & results were:

- 12 – Number of voting-eligible committee members
- 9 - Number of members who voted (excludes chair unless to break tie vote)
- 7 – Quorum required to conduct vote
- 9 – Number voting for the proposal
- 0 – Number voting against the proposal
- 0 – Number abstaining

I certify that these results are accurate.

April 19, 2011

MEMORANDUM

TO: Faculty Senate

FROM: Lawrence R. Williams *L.R.W.*
Vice Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Studies

SUBJECT: Proposal to Revise the Honors College Admission Policy

Please review and consider for approval the attached proposal from the Honors College to revise its admission policy. Consistent with the increase in admission standards offered by the proposed UTSA undergraduate admission policy, the proposed revised policy would raise the admission standards for the UTSA Honors College to the level of the admission standards of honors colleges at other comparable institutions. The revised admission standards were suggested by the external reviewers for the recent Honors College program review.

I have reviewed the proposal and endorse it for approval.



April 18, 2011

MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. Lawrence Williams
Dean of Undergraduate Studies

FROM: Dr. Ann R. Eisenberg
Associate Dean of the Honors College

CC: Dr. Richard Diem
Dean of the Honors College

RE: Proposed Changes in Admission Standards for the Honors College

The Honors College is asking to change its admission criteria in the 2012-14 catalog. The new admission criteria would read as follows:

Admission

Students must make special application to be considered for admission to the Honors College either as an entering freshman or as a continuing UTSA or transfer student. In general, threshold application requirements for incoming freshmen are a composite SAT (critical reading and math only) of 1200 or above, a composite ACT score of 27 or above, and/or graduation in the top 10 percent of the high school class. However, the Honors College applies a holistic review approach to student admission by considering in the admission process such factors as writing skills, student leadership, special skills and abilities, and special circumstances. Therefore, students whose SAT, ACT, or class rank do not meet the threshold requirement may still gain admission if they offer a compelling reason why they should be part of the program, just as students who meet those requirements are not guaranteed admission. For continuing UTSA students and transfer students, eligibility to apply is based on a college GPA of 3.4 or better. Admission is competitive and contingent upon the pool of applicants for any given year. Admission information is posted online at www.utsa.edu/honors.

The following were the admission criteria in the 2010-12 catalog:

High school students are generally expected to rank in the top 20 percent of their class and have a combined SAT score of 1100 or a composite ACT score of 24 to qualify for admission. High school students who meet either the class rank or the test score criterion but not both are also invited to apply. All new freshman applicants are evaluated on the basis of high school grades, test scores, writing samples, and letters of recommendation. Continuing students and transfer students who have completed at least 12 hours of college coursework and have attained at least a 3.30 grade point average are also invited to apply for admission.



The rationale for making this change is as follows:

Rationale

The Honors College is proposing this increase in the admission standards for the Honors College for two reasons. First, in light of the University's move to increase admission standards for the institution, it seemed logical to raise admission standards for the Honors College. As a greater proportion of all UTSA students come from the top 25% of their high school classes, the Honors College should be tougher to enter to keep the number of students eligible for Honors admission at roughly the same proportion of the total population. In addition, this winter, the Honors College completed its external review and one of the strong recommendations of the external evaluators was that the guidelines for Honors admission should be a 1200 M+CR SAT (or comparable ACT) and top 10% high school rank to keep the UTSA Honors College comparable to Honors Colleges and Programs at similar institutions. To ensure that this change does not alter the demographic composition of the Honors College, we are maintaining a holistic review process for all candidates and will recruit even more aggressively from among second-semester freshman, transfer students, and other continuing UTSA students with a GPA of 3.5+. In addition, the new criteria are clearer about the use of holistic review for all candidates.