

# Texas Top 10 Rule

## What is the type of admissions redesign?

**Guaranteed Admissions:** High school students are assured of admission to one or more four-year institution(s) if they apply and meet established academic criteria.

## In which state is it based?

Texas

## What state postsecondary agency or system sponsors the program?

Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB)

## When was the program first started?




Law was passed in 1997 and policy was implemented in 1998; in 2009 it was adjusted for the University of Texas (UT) - Austin

## Does the student or state agency/system initiate the admissions process?

Students through their application

## What are the central characteristics of the program?

Students who graduate in the top 10% of their class are guaranteed admission to any Texas public university, except UT Austin, which has more competitive requirements due to high demand. UT Austin admits a smaller percentage of top-ranked students (6% currently, 5% as of fall 2026) under a modified version of the rule and can cap its admittees under the rule to 75% of each freshman class, with the remaining 25% admitted through a more holistic process.<sup>1</sup>

<b>Program Scope</b> 	Does the program include <b>all high school districts or only a portion</b> ? Is <b>opt-in</b> required?	Not applicable; students individually determine whether to apply to a public university in Texas.
	Does the program support admission to <b>four-year institutions, two-year institutions, or both</b> ?	Four-year institutions
	<b>Which institutions</b> are participating in the program?	All state-funded universities
<b>Eligibility Criteria and Application</b> 	What are the <b>academic eligibility criteria</b> for students?	Class rank: Graduate in the top ten percent of high school class for automatic admission to all state-funded universities, with the exception of UT-Austin.
	Are students <b>still required to apply</b> to postsecondary institutions?	Yes
	Is the <b>application fee waived</b> ?	No
<b>Data and Policy</b> 	What is the <b>data source</b> for the program?	Student Application Data
	Did the state or system <b>adopt policy</b> related to the program, and if so what does the policy include?	The "Top 10 Percent Law" is the common name for <a href="#">Texas House Bill 588</a> , passed in 1997 that guarantees Texas students who graduated in the top ten percent of their high school class automatic admission to all state-funded universities. Lawmakers approved an amendment to the law for UT-Austin under Senate Bill 175 passed in 2009, under which 75 percent of the first-year in-state students must be automatically admitted.

Information above is up to date as of December 2025

<https://www.texastribune.org/2024/09/16/ut-austin-top-five-percent-threshold/#:~:text=High%20school%20students%20in%20Texas,meet%20than%20the%20current%206%25.>