

Changes in Texas Universities' Applicant Pools after the *Hopwood* Decision

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Abstract: This paper evaluates how the distribution of applicant attributes at seven Texas universities changed after the *Hopwood* decision and the implementation of the Top-10% policy. Using a variety of empirical methods, we analyze changes in the standardized test scores and high school class ranks for underrepresented minority groups as well as white and Asian American applicants across institutions and between admission regimes. Our analysis shows that the elimination of affirmative action and subsequent admissions policy changes, which have direct effects on the admissions systems of only the most selective institutions, have substantial indirect effects at other institutions. Average SAT/ACT test scores of applicants to less selective institutions rose following the change in admission criteria, as students with high test scores who did not qualify for the admission guarantee applied to a broader set of institutions. Furthermore, as the share of top-10 percent applicants at UT-Austin rose, the steady ascent in the test scores of their applicants stagnated.