



**The Performance of Students Attending The University of Texas at Austin as a Result  
of the Coordinated Admission Program (CAP)  
Students Applying as Freshmen 2009**

**Report 9**

Prepared by

The Office of Admissions

**Background**

The University of Texas at Austin (UT Austin) is the flagship higher educational institution of the State of Texas, but it also has a heritage of being accessible to all, or nearly all, of its in-state applicants. The Coordinated Admission Program (CAP) is the University's current effort to avoid permanently "closing the door" on any Texas resident.

From 1962 to the implementation of CAP in 2001, UT Austin offered a Summer Provisional Admission (PA) program to its Texas resident applicants who were not admitted to the fall semester. PA was a conditional admission alternative requiring the completion of twelve hours of basic college coursework during the summer with a minimum GPA of 2.25. Upon successful completion of the program, participants were eligible to enroll for the fall semester with other regularly-admitted freshmen. Over time, the success rate of the provisional admits varied, but in the latter years it was approximately 50-60 percent.

At UT Austin enrollment pressures peaked during the summer/fall 2000 admissions cycle when the applicant pool increased from 18,930 in 1999 to 21,539 (+13.7%). In the same period, the number of admits increased from 11,949 to 13,256 (+10.9%). PA offers increased to more than 4,000 students and of that pool approximately 1,500 actually enrolled; 905 successfully continued into the fall. The unexpectedly large number of enrolling freshmen brought about a review and evaluation of PA.

Moreover, after the passage of HB 588 (the Texas Top 10% Automatic Admissions Law) in 1997, the profile of PA participants changed. The automatic admission of large numbers of top 10% students resulted in increased competition for fewer available fall semester spaces. This produced a body of PA students with increasingly strong academic backgrounds. The PA Program had transformed from a conditional admission program requiring performance contracts to a highly selective fall-admissions alternative for highly-qualified non-top 10% freshmen.

On November 16, 2000, the University of Texas System Board of Regents approved a revision to the Provisional Admission policy. It allowed for the creation of an off-site Provisional Admission Program. Beginning with the fall 2001 semester, Texas resident applicants were offered fall admission, summer freshman admission (with no performance contract conditions), or the new off-site PA (which was then called “Off-campus Provisional Admission”). Eventually, the program came to be known as the Coordinated Admission Program—or CAP.

CAP requires the completion of 30 semester hours of prescribed coursework and a minimal grade point average of 3.20.<sup>1</sup> This coursework must be completed at one of eight participating University of Texas component institutions during the fall and spring semesters immediately following a student’s high school graduation.<sup>2</sup>

After successfully completing the program requirements, participants are guaranteed an unconditional transfer into Undergraduate Studies, Liberal Arts, or Natural Sciences at UT Austin. Although the admissions guarantee only applies to those three colleges, participants are afforded an opportunity to compete with other transfer students for admission into UT’s other major programs, i.e., their first choice major.

### “CAP09” Students

The summer/fall 2009 freshman admissions cycle included 9512 CAP offers; 2076 students returned their CAP contracts. In the fall of 2010, 778 returned to enroll as transfer students at UT Austin. These students (n=778) are referred to as “CAP09” i.e., they were offered CAP in 2009 and arrived in Austin in 2010.

Table 1 provides a demographic breakdown of that subset.

**Table 1**  
**Racial/Ethnic and Gender Breakdown of CAP Students**  
**CAP09 Cohort**

	CAP09 <sup>3</sup>	
	N	%
AMERICAN INDIAN	3	<1%
ASIAN AMERICAN	187	24%
AFRICAN AMERICAN	41	5%
HISPANIC	149	19%
FOREIGN	28	4%
WHITE	369	47%
Not Reported	1	<1%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>778</b>	<b>100%</b>

<sup>1</sup> The minimal GPA increased from 3.0 to 3.20 with the CAP05 cohort. Additionally, CAP now requires at least one mathematics course at a level higher than algebra.

<sup>2</sup> The participating UT System component schools are UT Arlington, UT San Antonio, UT Pan American, UT Permian Basin, UT Brownsville, UT El Paso and UT Tyler. UT Dallas joined the component schools in 2009.

<sup>3</sup> The CAP09 group is a unique cohort in that the race/ethnic counting methodology changed from their freshman application in 2009 to their transfer application (to enter UT Austin) in 2010. Tables 1-3 use the race designations of the freshman application since that is the only data available for the two other comparison groups.

### CAP09 Performance Compared to Classmates Admitted as Entering and Summer Freshmen

Since CAP was designed to accommodate as many Texas residents as possible, in the freshman cohort this study is limited to graduates of Texas High Schools. Specifically, three subsets of entering 2009 freshmen are analyzed:<sup>4</sup>

1. **Top 10%** are those students automatically admitted as a result of HB 588 (the Texas Automatic Admissions Law). These Texas high school graduates did not compete with CAP students for admission. They are included for illustrative purposes only.
2. **Non-Top 10%** admits are those Texas high school graduates who were not automatically admitted. They competed for remaining slots after the top 10% students were admitted.
3. **CAP09** students are as described above.

Tables 2 and 3 provide demographic information about the Top 10% and Non-Top 10% groups described above.

**Table 2**  
**Racial/Ethnic and Gender Breakdown of Top 10% Students**  
**Texas High School Graduates Only**  
**Summer/Fall 2009**

	2009	
	N	%
AMERICAN INDIAN	17	<1%
ASIAN AMERICAN	1135	20%
AFRICAN AMERICAN	307	5%
FOREIGN	142	3%
HISPANIC	1373	24%
WHITE	2659	47%
Not Reported	1	<1%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5634</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Table 3**  
**Racial/Ethnic and Gender Breakdown of Non-Top 10% Students**  
**Texas High School Graduates**  
**Summer/Fall 2009**

	2009	
	N	%
AMERICAN INDIAN	4	<1%
ASIAN AMERICAN	181	19%
AFRICAN AMERICAN	34	4%
FOREIGN	20	2%
HISPANIC	93	10%
WHITE	914	65%
Not Reported		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>946</b>	<b>100%</b>

<sup>4</sup> From 2001 to 2008 UT offered a "Summer Freshman Admission" option and that cohort was illustrated in previous reports. Summer Freshman Admission was discontinued in 2009.

Table 4 is a breakdown of the study groups by ACT/SAT Score intervals.<sup>5</sup> It is not surprising that the group with the highest mean scores is the Non-Top 10% cohort. These students competed for slots and test scores played a role in their admission.

**Table 4**  
**Breakdown of ACT/SAT Intervals**  
**Summer/Fall 2009**

<b>Top 10% Freshmen</b>						
<b>Sending SATs</b>				<b>Sending ACTs</b>		
<b>Interval</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>		<b>Interval</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
<900			<15	13	<1%	
900-1190	37	1%	15-19	161	3%	
1200-1490	631	11%	20-23	446	8%	
1500-1790	1967	35%	24-27	654	12%	
1800-2090	2082	37%	28-31	658	12%	
2100-2400	601	11%	32-36	322	6%	
No SAT	316	6%	No ACT	3380	60%	
<b>Total</b>	<b>5634</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>5634</b>	<b>100%</b>	
<b>Non-Top 10% Freshmen</b>						
<b>Sending SATs</b>				<b>Sending ACTs</b>		
<b>Interval</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>		<b>Interval</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
<900	1	<1%	<15			
900-1190	4	<1%	15-19	13	1%	
1200-1490	29	3%	20-23	29	3%	
1500-1790	204	22%	24-27	137	14%	
1800-2090	474	50%	28-31	240	25%	
2100-2400	142	15%	32-36	99	10%	
No SAT	92	10%	No ACT	428	45%	
<b>Total</b>	<b>946</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>946</b>	<b>100%</b>	
<b>CAP 09 Attending Component Campuses</b>						
<b>Sending SATs</b>				<b>Sending ACTs</b>		
<b>Interval</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>		<b>Interval</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
<900			<15			
900-1190			15-19	17	2%	
1200-1490	82	11%	20-23	94	12%	
1500-1790	405	52%	24-27	151	19%	
1800-2090	240	31%	28-31	69	9%	
2100-2400	4	1%	32-36	2	<1%	
No SAT	47	6%	No ACT	445	57%	
<b>Total</b>	<b>778</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>778</b>	<b>100%</b>	

<sup>5</sup> The University of Texas at Austin accepts either the ACT Assessment or the SAT. The largest score value for an individual test date was used for each individual.

## Performance

Table 5 illustrates performance by the study groups during their freshman year. For the groups matriculating at UT Austin during their freshman year (Top 10% and Non-Top 10%) the mean grade point averages (MGPA) are for “in resident” or actual coursework taken on campus, i.e., credit-by-exam, correspondence, and extension course grades were eliminated. The MGPA for the CAP students (matriculating at the component campuses) is significantly higher than the other groups, but this was predictable, since CAP students had to meet a minimal GPA requirement ( $\geq 3.20$ ) to transfer to UT Austin for their sophomore year.

**Table 5**  
**Freshman Year Group Performance**  
**Top 10%, Non-Top 10%, and CAP09**

Top 10% Freshmen						
Sending SATs				Sending ACTs		
Interval	N	Mean GPA		Interval	N	Mean GPA
<900				<15	13	2.13
900-1190	35	1.67		15-19	160	2.27
1200-1490	629	2.34		20-23	444	2.61
1500-1790	1952	2.79		24-27	649	2.93
1800-2090	2076	3.26		28-31	657	3.33
2100-2400	599	3.57		32-36	321	3.57
No SAT	312	2.86		No ACT	3359	2.98
<b>Total</b>	<b>5603</b>	<b>3.00</b>		<b>Total</b>	<b>5603</b>	<b>3.00</b>
Non-Top 10% Freshmen						
Sending SATs				Sending ACTs		
Interval	N	Mean GPA		Interval	N	Mean GPA
<900	1	3.67		<15		
900-1190	3	2.73		15-19	11	2.60
1200-1490	27	2.59		20-23	29	2.93
1500-1790	204	2.88		24-27	137	2.98
1800-2090	472	3.01		28-31	240	3.10
2100-2400	140	3.26		32-36	97	3.00
No SAT	91	3.16		No ACT	424	3.01
<b>Total</b>	<b>938</b>	<b>3.02</b>		<b>Total</b>	<b>938</b>	<b>3.02</b>
CAP 09 Attending Component Campuses						
Sending SATs				Sending ACTs		
Interval	N	Mean GPA		Interval	N	Mean GPA
<900				<15		
900-1190				15-19	17	3.44
1200-1490	82	3.49		20-23	94	3.54
1500-1790	405	3.56		24-27	151	3.60
1800-2090	240	3.69		28-31	69	3.70
2100-2400	4	3.90		32-36	2	3.64
No SAT	47	3.61		No ACT	445	3.59
<b>Total</b>	<b>778</b>	<b>3.60</b>		<b>Total</b>	<b>778</b>	<b>3.60</b>

Note: Students with 0 hours toward GPA are excluded from the computation of means.

Table 6 illustrates performance by all groups during the sophomore year. This would be the first semester in which all of the groups attended classes on the same campus at the same time. For that reason it is the optimal period to consider different admissions routes, differential freshman year experiences and whether each prepares students for success while on the Austin campus.

**Table 6**  
**Sophomore Year Group Performance**

Note: Some n-counts differ from Table 4 because students with no hours attempted were eliminated.

<b>Top 10% Freshmen</b>						
<b>Sending SATs</b>				<b>Sending ACTs</b>		
<b>Interval</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Mean GPA</b>		<b>Interval</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Mean GPA</b>
<900			<15	12	2.41	
900-1190	26	2.02	15-19	130	2.52	
1200-1490	524	2.57	20-23	385	2.76	
1500-1790	1776	2.88	24-27	593	3.01	
1800-2090	1993	3.24	28-31	639	3.29	
2100-2400	584	3.48	32-36	310	3.46	
No SAT	278	3.02	No ACT	3112	3.04	
<b>Total</b>	<b>5181</b>	<b>3.06</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>5181</b>	<b>3.06</b>	
<b>Non-Top 10% Freshmen</b>						
<b>Sending SATs</b>				<b>Sending ACTs</b>		
<b>Interval</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Mean GPA</b>		<b>Interval</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Mean GPA</b>
<900	1	2.96	<15			
900-1190	2	0.88	15-19	10	2.68	
1200-1490	25	2.73	20-23	27	3.12	
1500-1790	191	2.95	24-27	135	3.06	
1800-2090	446	3.10	28-31	232	3.20	
2100-2400	132	3.28	32-36	90	3.11	
No SAT	89	3.25	No ACT	392	3.05	
<b>Total</b>	<b>886</b>	<b>3.09</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>886</b>	<b>3.09</b>	
<b>CAP 09 Attending Component Campuses</b>						
<b>Sending SATs</b>				<b>Sending ACTs</b>		
<b>Interval</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Mean GPA</b>		<b>Interval</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Mean GPA</b>
<900			<15			
900-1190			15-19	17	2.53	
1200-1490	82	2.70	20-23	93	2.81	
1500-1790	405	2.89	24-27	150	2.98	
1800-2090	239	3.13	28-31	69	3.12	
2100-2400	4	3.54	32-36	2	3.30	
No SAT	46	2.92	No ACT	445	2.95	
<b>Total</b>	<b>776</b>	<b>2.95</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>776</b>	<b>2.95</b>	

Note: Students with 0 hours toward GPA are excluded from the computation of means.

Table 7 results from of a periodic search for classes most-often taken by returning CAP students during their sophomore year at UT Austin. The top five classes for CAP 09 were English 316K (E316K), Chemistry 310M (CH310M), Government 312L (GOV312L), and Biology (BIO325), and Government 310L (GOV310L). MGPA represents the average grade earned by the study groups.

**English 316K**, *Masterworks of Literature*, broadly surveys masterpieces of the literary tradition. Students choose one of three topics – World, British or American literature – to satisfy the Humanities core curriculum requirement (statewide core code 040). At UT Austin, the prerequisite is completion of at least thirty semester hours, including first-semester freshman composition, and a passing score on the reading section of the THEA test. E 316K is normally a second-year course, but often taken by CAP students with credit-by-exam or high school dual credit for freshman English composition. Texas Common Course Numbering (TCCN) equivalents: ENGL 2321, 2322, 2323, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2331, 2332, or 2333.

**Government 312L**, *Issues and Policies in American Government*, is an analysis of varying topics concerned with American political institutions and policies. Combined with Government 310L, this course satisfies the American & Texas Government core curriculum requirement (statewide core code 070). At UT Austin, the prerequisite is completion of at least twenty-four semester hours, including Government 310L, and a passing score on the reading section of the THEA test. TCCN equivalent: GOVT 2302.

**Chemistry 310M**, *Organic Chemistry I*, is a third-semester lecture course with General Chemistry I & II (CH 301 & 302 at UT Austin) as the prerequisite. In residence, UT Austin offers two parallel Organic Chemistry lecture sequences: CH 318M & 318N are intended primarily for chemistry and chemical engineering majors, while CH 310M & 310N are intended for all other students. At the request of the Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry, CH 310M & 310N are normally awarded in transfer (unless a sending institution also has separate major vs. nonmajor sequences), but such transfer credit is routinely substituted for 318M & 318N in chemistry and chemical engineering degree plans. TCCN equivalent: CHEM 2425 (combined lecture+lab version) or 2325 (lecture-only version).

**Government 310L**, *American Government*, is a basic survey of American federal, state, and local political institutions and policies, including a study of the United States and Texas constitutions. Combined with Government 312L, this course satisfies the American & Texas Government core curriculum requirement (statewide core code 070). At UT Austin, the prerequisite is completion of at least twelve semester hours and a passing score on the reading section of the THEA test. TCCN equivalent: GOVT 2301.

**Biology 325**, *Genetics*, is a third-semester lecture course with Introductory Biology I & II (BIO 311C & 311D at UT Austin) as the prerequisite. BIO 325 is required in all biology degree plans and is prerequisite to all other upper-division biology courses; as an upper-division course, it has no TCCN equivalent.

**Table 7**  
**Sophomore Year Group Performance**  
**Selected Courses**

	Applied Summer/Fall 2009--Performance at UT Austin for 2010-11					
	Top 10%		Non Top 10%		CAP09	
	N	MGPA	N	MGPA	N	MGPA
<b>E316K</b>	1045	<b>3.06</b>	157	<b>3.10</b>	245	<b>2.92</b>
<b>CH310M</b>	860	<b>2.66</b>	59	<b>2.68</b>	44	<b>2.94</b>
<b>GOV312L</b>	819	<b>2.96</b>	144	<b>3.10</b>	115	<b>2.79</b>
<b>GOV310L</b>	796	<b>2.71</b>	143	<b>2.76</b>	121	<b>2.66</b>
<b>BIO325</b>	778	<b>2.79</b>	43	<b>2.99</b>	77	<b>2.65</b>

### Comparing CAP Students to Other Transfers

Since applicants who accept the conditions of the Coordinated Admission Program agree to do at least 30 hours of coursework on another campus, it is appropriate to compare CAP performance with that of transfer students who entered at the same time and with a comparable amount of coursework completed. "Transfer Students" as it is used in the tables below are limited to those students who transferred with 24-36 transferable credit hours to UT; it is not a representative sampling of the entire transfer class and should not be interpreted as a measure of the class' overall performance. (Some students transfer to UT Austin with as much as 60+ or even 100+ hours; they were excluded.) This subset of transfers most closely resembles the CAP group.

Table 8 below is a racial/ethnic breakdown of transfer students.

**Table 8**  
**Racial/Ethnic Breakdown of Transfer Students<sup>6</sup>**  
**(With 24-36 Transferable Credit Hours)**  
**Entering 2010**

Race (THECB Methodology)	Total	%
Asian Alone	17	7%
Black	7	3%
Foreign	17	7%
Hispanic	33	14%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander Alone	1	0%
White Alone	142	62%
Multiracial	7	3%
Not Reported	6	2%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>100%</b>

<sup>6</sup> As stated above, the race/ethnic counting methodology changed in 2010, so the designations in Table 8 are not comparable to those reported in Table 1.

Table 9 below provides mean grade point averages of the transfers and the CAP groups during the freshman year (which for both groups were not spent on the Austin campus). Since the both groups were successfully admitted to UT Austin primarily as a result of their GPA, it is not surprising that the means would be very high.

**Table 9**  
**Group Performance During Off-Campus Matriculation**  
**Entering 2009**

	<b>N</b>	<b>MGPA (Transfer)</b>
<b>TRANSFER</b>	230	<b>3.70</b>
<b>CAP09</b>	778	<b>3.60</b>

Table 10 compares the group performance of Transfers and CAP students. As measured by mean GPA during a time when all of the students were on the UT Austin campus. There is no practical difference between the mean GPAs.

**Table 10**  
**Sophomore Year Group Performance**  
**(In Resident GPA at UT Austin)**

<b>Academic Year 2010-2011</b>		
	<b>N</b>	<b>MGPA at UT Austin (In Res)</b>
<b>TRANSFER STUDENT GPA</b>	226	<b>3.02</b>
<b>CAP09 GPA</b>	776	<b>2.95</b>

**Note:** Students with 0 hours toward GPA during 2010-2011 are excluded from the computation of means.

Table 11 compares performance in selected courses (as described above) between transfers and CAP students.

**Table 11**  
**Sophomore Year Group Performance**  
**Selected Courses**

	Academic Year 2010-2011			
	TRANSFERS		CAP09	
	N	MGPA	N	MGPA
<b>E316K</b>	73	<b>2.92</b>	245	<b>2.92</b>
<b>CH310M</b>	6	<b>3.00</b>	44	<b>2.94</b>
<b>GOV312L</b>	36	<b>2.73</b>	115	<b>2.79</b>
<b>GOV310L</b>	86	<b>2.96</b>	121	<b>2.66</b>
<b>BIO325</b>	9	<b>2.33</b>	77	<b>2.65</b>