Figure: 19 TAC §78.3001(a)(1)

EXPLANATION OF AUTOMATIC COLLEGE ADMISSION AND CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS FOR FINANCIAL AID FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Top Ten Percent Automatic Admission Requirements

In accordance with Texas Education Code (TEC), §51.803, a student is eligible for automatic admission to a Texas public college or university as an undergraduate student if the student earned a grade point average in the **top 10 percent** of the student's high school graduating class or in the percentage of qualified applicants that are anticipated to be offered admission to the University of Texas at Austin*, and the applicant

(1) earned the distinguished level of achievement under the Foundation High School Program; or

(2) satisfied ACT's College Readiness Benchmarks on the ACT assessment or earned on the SAT assessment. a minimum score of 480 on the Evidenced-Based Reading and Writing (EBRW) test and a minimum score of 530 on the mathematics test (no combined score)

High school rank for students seeking automatic admission to a general academic teaching institution is determined and reported as follows.

(1) Class rank must be based on a point in time no earlier than the end of the 11th grade.

(2) The top 10 percent of a high school class cannot contain more than 10 percent of the total class size.

(3) The student's rank must be reported by the student's high school or school district as a specific number out of a specific number total class size.

(4) Class rank shall be determined by the school or school district from which the student graduated or is expected to graduate.

A student is considered to have satisfied the course requirements of the distinguished level of achievement under the Foundation High School Program if the student completed the portion of those programs that was available to the student but which the student was unable to complete because the courses were unavailable as a result of circumstances not within the student's control.

To qualify for automatic admission an applicant must

(1) submit an application before the deadline established by the Texas college or university to which the student seeks admission; and

(2) provide a high school transcript or diploma that indicates whether the student has satisfied or is on schedule to satisfy the requirements of the distinguished level of achievement under the Foundation High School Program or the portion of the requirements that was available to the student; and

(3) have graduated from high school within the two years prior to the academic year for which the student is applying for admission.

Valedictorian Automatic Admission Requirements

A student who graduated as the valedictorian of the student's high school graduating class within the two school years preceding the academic year for which the student is applying is eligible for automatic admission, provided the student meets the applicable eligibility requirements described above.

Texas colleges and universities are required to admit an applicant for admission as an undergraduate student if the applicant is the child of a public servant who was killed or sustained a fatal injury in the line of duty and meets the minimum requirements, if any, established by the governing board of the college or university for high school or prior college- level grade point average and performance on standardized tests.

* The University of Texas at Austin (UT) is not required to automatically admit applicants in excess of 75% of its enrollment capacity for first-time resident undergraduate students. Should the number of applicants who qualify for automatic admission exceed 75% of enrollment capacity, UT must provide notice of the percentage of qualified applicants that are anticipated to be offered admission.

State Financial Aid Programs with Curriculum Requirements

Under TEC, Title 3, there are several state financial aid programs available for Texas public high school students. The following state financial aid programs include certain curriculum requirements to be considered when planning a student's high school career to ensure eligibility for financial aid under one of these programs. **Please note that this is not a complete list of requirements and additional eligibility requirements apply.** A full list of requirements for each program is available through the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's financial aid webpage at https://www.hhloans.com/types-of-financial-aid/.

Texas First Scholarship

The purpose of the program, in conjunction with the Texas Early High School Completion Program established under TEC, Section 28.0253, is to promote efficiency in the state public education system and incentivize the enrollment of high-performing students at eligible institutions.

To receive a Texas First Scholarship, a student must:

- be enrolled at a public college or university;
- be a Resident of Texas in accordance with Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board rules;
- have graduated early from high school under the Texas First Early High School Completion Program with a Texas First Diploma; and
- Complete the high school graduation requirement relating to the financial aid application.

TEXAS Grant

The purpose of the Toward EXcellence, Access, and Success (TEXAS) Grant program is to provide need-based grants to eligible students attending public universities and health-related institutions in this state.

Basic Initial Year (IY) Student Eligibility Curriculum Requirements

A student must be a Texas resident, have financial need, have completed a FAFSA/TASFA form, and meet other enrollment criteria. A full list of eligibility requirements may be found at https://www.hhloans.com/types-of-financial-aid/toward-excellence-access-and-success-grant-program-texas-grant/.

Priority Model Initial Year (IY) Student Curriculum Eligibility Requirements

In addition to the basic initial year (IY) student eligibility requirements, to receive priority consideration for an IY award through the TEXAS Grant Program, a student must meet at least one high school graduation requirement in at least two of the four following areas:

AREA	HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENT(S)
Advanced Academic Program	• Earn 12 hours of college credit (dual credit or AP courses) • Complete the distinguished level of achievement on the Foundation High School Program or • Complete the International Baccalaureate (IB) Program
TSI Readiness	• Meet the Texas Success Initiatives (TSI) assessment thresholds or qualify for an exemption
Class Standing	• Graduate in the top one-third of the HS graduating class or • Graduate with a GPA of at least 3.0 on a 4-point scale or the equivalent
Advanced Math	• Complete at least one math course beyond Algebra II or • Complete at least one advanced career and technical education course

Guarantee for Top 25% Students

Beginning with the 2026-27 academic year, institutions of higher education are required to ensure that any eligible student who graduated in the top 25% percent of their high school graduating class within the two prior academic years, has a Student Aid Index at/or below the state priority level, and who applies for financial aid by June 1 prior to the applicable fiscal year receives an initial-year TEXAS Grant.

My signature below constitutes my acknowledgement that I have been provided with a copy of the explanation of automatic college admission and curriculum requirements for financial aid form.

Date

Signature of Student

Date

Signature of Parent or Guardian

Date

Signature of School Counselor