

Earning your CAP:

A Comprehensive Analysis of The University of Texas System's Coordinated Admissions Program

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Abstract

Access to selective public institutions is an important issue. The competitive application process is the traditional path to gain access to selective public universities, and this path has been studied extensively. However, it is not the only way for students to gain admission to these institutions. We expand upon the scant research regarding alternative pathways to gain access to selective public universities by using a fuzzy regression discontinuity design to study the impact of transferring to The University of Texas at Austin via the Coordinated Admission Plan. We find that gaining access via this path has an impact on students' choice of major, financial aid package, and post-college earnings. These findings suggest that gaining access to The University of Texas at Austin through this alternative pathway is a viable option for students, and appears to improve those students' outcomes relative to their peers at less selective public universities.