UNIVERSITY OF AUSTIN

Undergraduate Admissions Policy

Section 1.1 Authority

(1) The Undergraduate Admissions Policy (the “Policy”) of the University of Austin (the “University”) has been adopted by the University in accordance with Article VI, Section 2 of the Constitution of the University of Austin (the “Constitution”).

Section 1.2 General

(1) Decisions regarding University of Austin student admissions shall be made on the basis of demonstrated (i) academic capability and (ii) capacity for creativity and leadership.

(2) Decisions regarding student admissions may, on the margin and among applicants of comparable strength, take into account truly distinctive individual circumstances and the contributions such individuals may make to the class as a whole, as set forth in Section 2.2.

(3) No decision regarding student admissions shall be made on the basis of any factor that would constitute a violation of the non-discrimination provisions of the Constitution.

Section 2.1 Admissions Criteria

(1) Academic Capability. Student applicants must demonstrate they possess the intellectual aptitude, rigor, and curiosity to thrive in a challenging academic and curricular environment. Academic capability shall principally be assessed by reference to the following:

- performance on standardized tests or other public examinations;
- grade point average and class ranking;
- enrollment in an academically rigorous course of study (e.g., Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate programs); and
- English composition and writing skills.

(2) Capacity for Creativity and Leadership. Student applicants must demonstrate they possess such creativity and leadership as would enable them to succeed in an institution that promotes and prioritizes agency and entrepreneurship, broadly understood. Creativity and leadership shall principally be assessed by reference to an applicant's reported activities, as well as the personal statement and essay.

(a) The University understands creativity as a person’s ability to generate, synthesize, recognize, or manifest ideas, alternatives, or possibilities. Often creativity is associated with originality or innovative problem-solving.
(b) The University understands leadership as a person’s ability to organize and motivate humans toward a common purpose or for the accomplishment of a common goal.

Section 2.2 Class Strength

(1) The University prepares thoughtful and ethical builders, leaders, and creators, in part, by fostering a culture of open inquiry and civil discourse. Such a culture draws strength from a pluralistic intellectual community where students are encouraged to engage in good faith with ideas, values, and perspectives from a variety of sources, including their classmates.

(2) Consequently, the University recognizes that the strength of any given class may be improved by enrolling individual students who, while meeting the academic, creativity, and leadership requirements above, enhance intellectual pluralism.

(3) In recognition thereof, and consistent with the Article VI, Section 2 of the Constitution, the Admissions Committee may, on the margin and among applicants of comparable strength, take into account truly distinctive individual circumstances and the contributions such individuals may make to the class as a whole, especially with respect to intellectual pluralism.

(4) Class strength shall not permit the Admissions Committee to make any decision regarding student admissions on the basis of any factor that would constitute a violation of the non-discrimination provisions of the Constitution.

Section 3 Policy Amendments

The Admissions Committee reserves the right to amend this Policy at any time. If the Policy is amended, the revised policy will be published on the University’s website, to be effective immediately upon publication.