

National Research University Fund Eligibility

September 1, 2021–August 31, 2022

A Report to the Texas Legislature
and Comptroller of Public Accounts

May 2023

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Agency Mission

The mission of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) is to serve as a resource, partner, and advocate for Texas higher education, resulting in a globally competitive workforce that positions Texas as an international leader.

Agency Vision

The THECB will be recognized as an international leader in developing and implementing innovative higher education policy to accomplish our mission.

Agency Philosophy

The THECB will promote access to and success in quality higher education across the state with the conviction that access and success without quality is mediocrity and that quality without access and success is unacceptable.

The THECB's core values are:

Accountability: We hold ourselves responsible for our actions and welcome every opportunity to educate stakeholders about our policies, decisions, and aspirations.

Efficiency: We accomplish our work using resources in the most effective manner.

Collaboration: We develop partnerships that result in student success and a highly qualified, globally competent workforce.

Excellence: We strive for excellence in all our endeavors.

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision of services.

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Executive Summary

In 2009, the 81st Texas Legislature, Regular Session, passed House Bill 51, codified as Texas Education Code (TEC), Chapter 62, Subchapter G, National Research University Fund (NRUF), which established a funding source for emerging research universities. In 2011, House Bill 1000, 82nd Texas Legislature, Regular Session, amended TEC, Section 62.146(b). The amendment requires the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) to annually verify and certify information about the criteria used for determining the eligibility of higher education institutions to receive monetary distributions from the NRUF. Reports on institutional eligibility are due to the Texas State Comptroller of Public Accounts (Comptroller) and Texas Legislature as soon as practicable in each state fiscal year.

This report provides an update to the Comptroller and the Legislature on the progress institutions are making on all eligibility criteria. The report also identifies institutions that meet or will meet the minimum requirements to become eligible to receive distributions from NRUF. The information is summarized below:

- Only institutions classified as emerging research universities are eligible for NRUF funding. Eight universities are designated as emerging research universities in the THECB's Accountability System: Texas State University (Texas State), Texas Tech University (Texas Tech), The University of Texas at Arlington (UT-Arlington), The University of Texas at Dallas (UT-Dallas), The University of Texas at El Paso (UT-El Paso), The University of Texas at San Antonio (UT-San Antonio), University of Houston (UH), and University of North Texas (UNT).
- Texas Tech, UH, UT-Dallas, and UT-Arlington have met the criteria for NRUF funding, so their data are not included in this report.
 - Texas Tech and UH both met the criteria in Fiscal Year (FY) 2012 and began receiving distributions from NRUF. Each institution received \$16.3 million for the 2012-13 biennium, \$17.9 million for the 2014-15 biennium, \$16.9 million for the 2016-17 biennium, \$15.4 million for the 2018-19 biennium, \$14.6 million for the 2020-21 biennium, and \$7.2 million in FY 2022.
 - UT-Dallas met the criteria in FY 2018 and began receiving distributions from NRUF. It received \$15.4 million for the 2018-19 biennium, \$14.6 million for the 2020-21 biennium, and \$7.2 million in FY 2022.
 - UT-Arlington met the criteria in FY 2021 and began receiving distributions from NRUF. It received \$6.4 million in FY 2021 and \$7.2 million in FY 2022.
- UT-San Antonio reported restricted research expenditures above the threshold of \$45 million in FY 2021 and 2022. In addition, for both fiscal years, the institution fulfilled the following four of six optional criteria required for NRUF eligibility:
 - Criterion 3: Freshman Class of High Academic Achievement
 - Criterion 4: Institutional Recognition of Research Capabilities and Scholarly Attainment
 - Criterion 5: High-Quality Faculty

- Criterion 6: High-Quality Graduate Education

UT-San Antonio fulfilled the requirements for two consecutive years and is eligible for fund distribution in FY 2023, pending a required audit by the State Auditor's Office in FY 2023.

- UT-El Paso reported restricted research expenditures above the threshold of \$45 million in FY 2021 and 2022, which is the mandatory requirement to receive distributions from NRUF. In addition, for both fiscal years, the institution fulfilled Criterion 4: Institutional Recognition of Research Capabilities and Scholarly Attainment. However, UT-El Paso is missing at least three of the other six optional criteria necessary for NRUF eligibility.
- Texas State and UNT did not reach the mandatory threshold in restricted research expenditures in FY 2021 or FY 2022.

Introduction

In 2009, the 81st Texas Legislature, Regular Session, passed House Bill 51, codified as Texas Education Code (TEC), Subchapter G, National Research University Fund (NRUF), Sections 62.141 to 62.149 (Appendix A). In 2011, the 82nd Texas Legislature, Regular Session, passed House Bill 1000, which amended TEC, Section 62.146(b). The amendment requires the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB or Coordinating Board) to verify and certify information annually about criteria used for determining the eligibility of higher education institutions to receive monetary distributions from NRUF. Reports on institutional eligibility are due to the Texas State Comptroller of Public Accounts (Comptroller) and Texas Legislature as soon as practicable in each state fiscal year.

This report provides an update to the Comptroller and the Legislature on the progress institutions are making on all criteria. The report includes data from Fiscal Years (FYs) 2021 and 2022. Eligibility criteria require data for the two fiscal years preceding the state fiscal year for which an appropriation is made, which is FY 2023 for this report. The next report, due in FY 2024, will include data from FY 2022 and FY 2023.

The NRUF statute created two categories of eligibility criteria: mandatory and optional. The mandatory criteria include designation as an emerging research university in the THECB's Accountability System and at least \$45 million in restricted research expenditures in each of the two state fiscal years preceding the state fiscal year for which the appropriation is made. The optional category allows institutions flexibility by allowing institutions to meet at least four of the six statutorily established criteria.

Eight universities are designated as emerging research universities in the THECB's Accountability System: Texas State University (Texas State), Texas Tech University (Texas Tech), The University of Texas at Arlington (UT-Arlington), The University of Texas at Dallas (UT-Dallas), The University of Texas at El Paso (UT-El Paso), The University of Texas at San Antonio (UT-San Antonio), University of Houston (UH), and University of North Texas (UNT).

In the FY 2012 NRUF Report, the THECB reported that Texas Tech and UH met eligibility. Both institutions received distributions from NRUF after the state auditor completed a mandatory audit in accordance with TEC 62.146(c). Similarly, UT-Dallas achieved eligibility in FY 2018 and UT-Arlington achieved eligibility in FY 2021.

UT-El Paso reported restricted research expenditures above the statutory threshold of \$45 million in FY 2021 and FY 2022. However, the institution did not fulfill four of the six optional criteria. Texas State and UNT did not reach the mandatory threshold in restricted research expenditures in FY 2021 or FY 2022.

During the FY 2021 review, UT-San Antonio was found to be eligible for NRUF, pending the outcome of the required audit. However, the audit determined that UTSA did not meet the eligibility requirements because it did not expend at least \$45 million in restricted research funds in fiscal year 2020.

For the current review, UT-San Antonio reported restricted research expenditures above the threshold of \$45 million for FY 2021 and FY 2022. UT-San Antonio has also fulfilled the optional criteria for Freshman Class of High Academic Achievement (3), Institutional Recognition of Research Capabilities and Scholarly Attainment (4), High-Quality Faculty (5),

and High-Quality Graduate Education (6). UT-San Antonio is therefore eligible for NRUF in FY 2023, pending the mandatory audit by the state auditor.

Overview of Eligibility

Table 1 presents the eligibility criteria each institution met for two consecutive years during the reporting period. An emerging research university must meet the threshold of at least \$45 million for restricted research expenditures and four of the six optional criteria identified in Texas Administrative Code (TAC), Sections 15.43(b)(3)(A) to 15.43(b)(3)(F) (Appendix B).

Table 1. Mandatory and Optional Criteria, Fulfilled in Fiscal Years 2020 and 2021

Mandatory Criteria	TXST	UTEP	UTSA	UNT
(A) Emerging Research University	√	√	√	√
(B) Restricted Research Expenditures	-	√	√	-
Optional Criteria	TXST	UTEP	UTSA	UNT
(1) Endowment Funds	-	-	-	-
(2) Number of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) Degrees Awarded	-	-	-	√
(3) Freshman Class of High Academic Achievement	-	-	√	√
(4) Institutional Recognition of Research Capabilities and Scholarly Attainment	√	√	√	√
(5) High-Quality Faculty	-	-	√	-
(6) High-Quality Graduate Education	-	-	√	-

Source: THECB

Mandatory Eligibility Criteria

Emerging Research Universities

TAC, Section 15.43(b)(1): The institution is designated as an emerging research university under the Coordinating Board's accountability system.

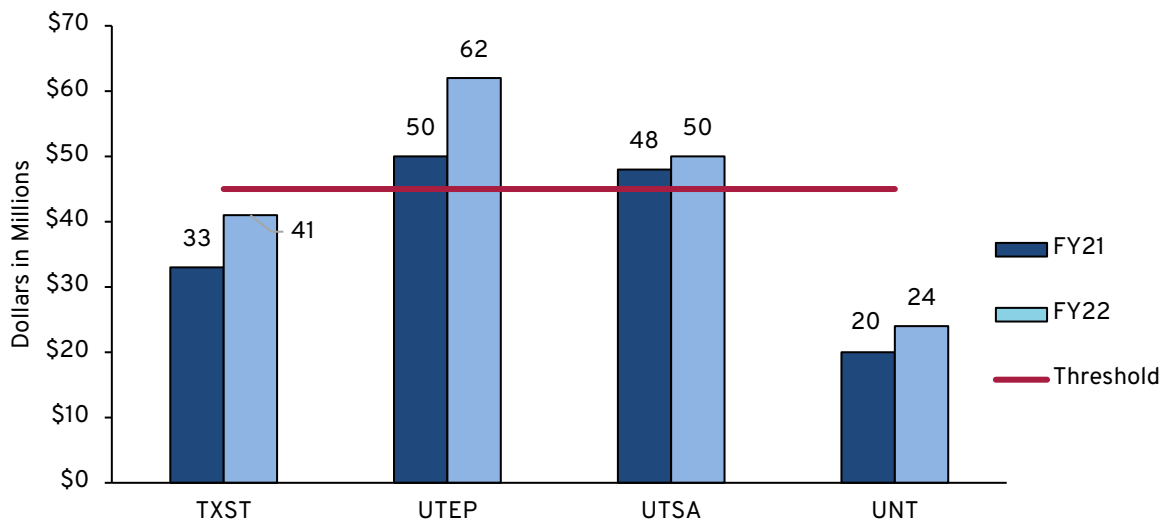
Eight public universities are classified as emerging research universities under the THECB's Accountability System:¹

- Texas State University
- Texas Tech University
- The University of Texas at Arlington
- The University of Texas at Dallas
- The University of Texas at El Paso
- The University of Texas at San Antonio
- University of Houston
- University of North Texas

Restricted Research Expenditures

TAC, Section 15.43(b)(2): In each of the two state fiscal years preceding the state fiscal year for which the appropriation is made, the institution expended at least \$45 million in restricted research funds.

Figure 1. Restricted Research Expenditures



Note: UTSA reflects updated FY 2021 expenditures compared to the May 2022 NRUF Eligibility report.
Source: Institutional data reported to the THECB ([Appendix H](#))

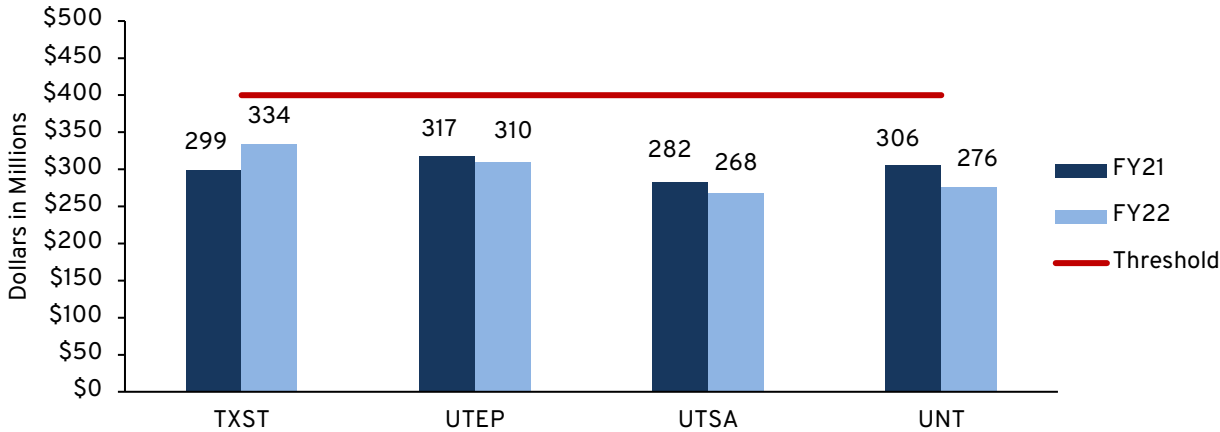
¹The following emerging research universities met eligibility criteria and began receiving distributions from NRUF following the mandatory audit by the state auditor: Texas Tech and UH (as of FY 2012), UT-Dallas (as of FY 2018), and UT-Arlington (as of FY 2021). This report, therefore, does not include data from these four institutions.

Optional Eligibility Criteria

Endowment Funds

TAC, Section 15.43(b)(3)(A): The value of the institution's endowment funds is at least \$400 million in each of the two state fiscal years preceding the state fiscal year for which the appropriation is made.

Figure 2. Endowment Funds

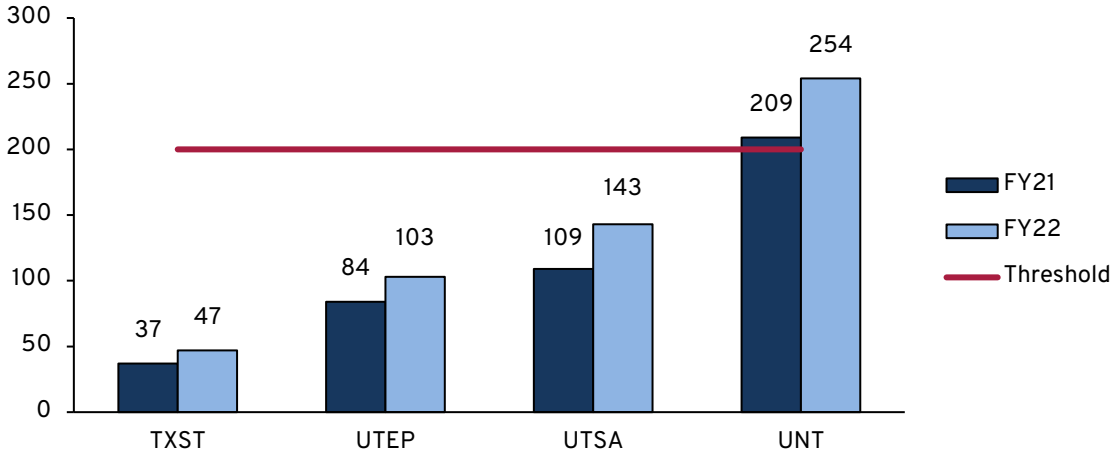


Source: Institutional data reported to the THECB ([Appendix H](#))

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) Degrees Awarded

TAC, Section 15.43(b)(3)(B): The institution awarded at least 200 doctor of philosophy degrees during each of the two academic years preceding the state fiscal year for which the appropriation is made.

Figure 3. Number of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) Degrees Awarded



Source: Institutional data reported to the THECB ([Appendix H](#))

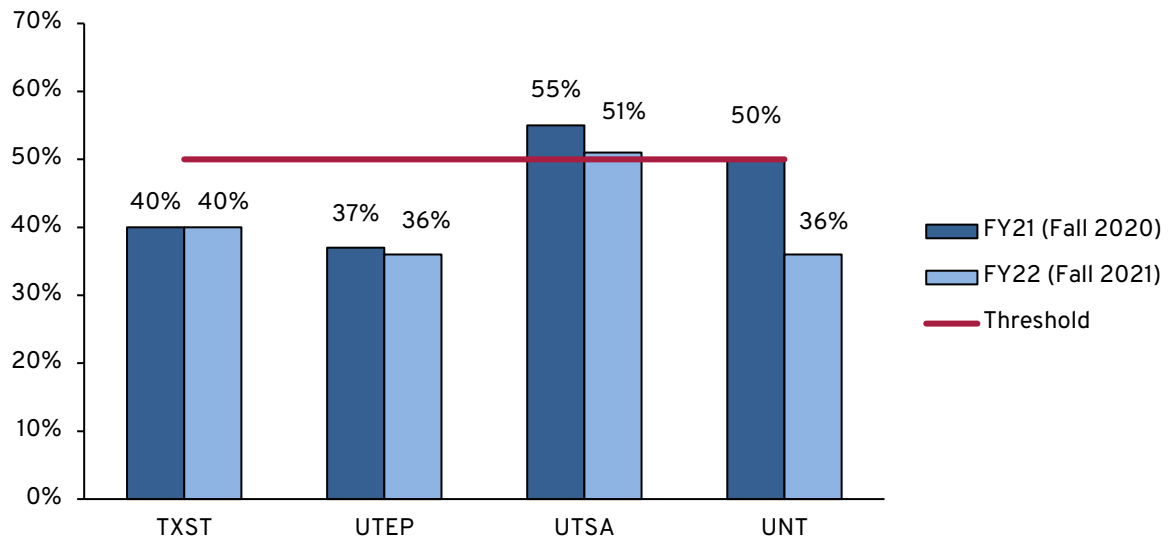
Freshman Class of High Academic Achievement

TAC, Section 15.43(b)(3)(C): In each of the two academic years preceding the state fiscal year for which the appropriation is made, the entering freshman class of the institution demonstrated high academic achievement.

Percentage of Freshman Class in Top 25% of their High School Class

(i) At least 50 percent of the first-time entering freshman class students at the institution are in the top 25 percent of their high school class; or (ii) and (iii).

Figure 4. Percentage of Freshman Class in Top 25% of High School Class

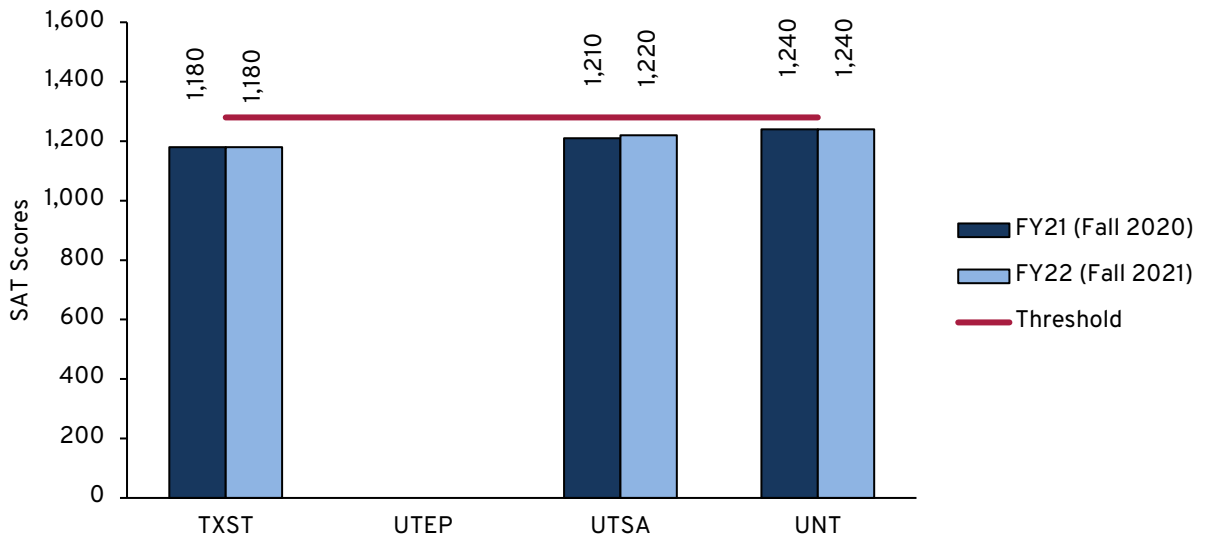


Source: Institutional data reported to the THECB ([Appendix H](#))

SAT or ACT Scores

(ii) The average SAT score of first-time entering freshman class students at or above the 75th percentile of SAT scores was equal to or greater than 1210 prior to fall 2017, consisting of the Critical Reading (CR) and Mathematics (M) Components, or equal to or greater than 1280 starting with fall 2017, consisting of the Evidence-Based Reading and Writing (ERW) and Mathematics (M) Components, or the average ACT score of first-time entering freshman class students at or above the 75th percentile of ACT scores was equal to or greater than 26; and (iii).

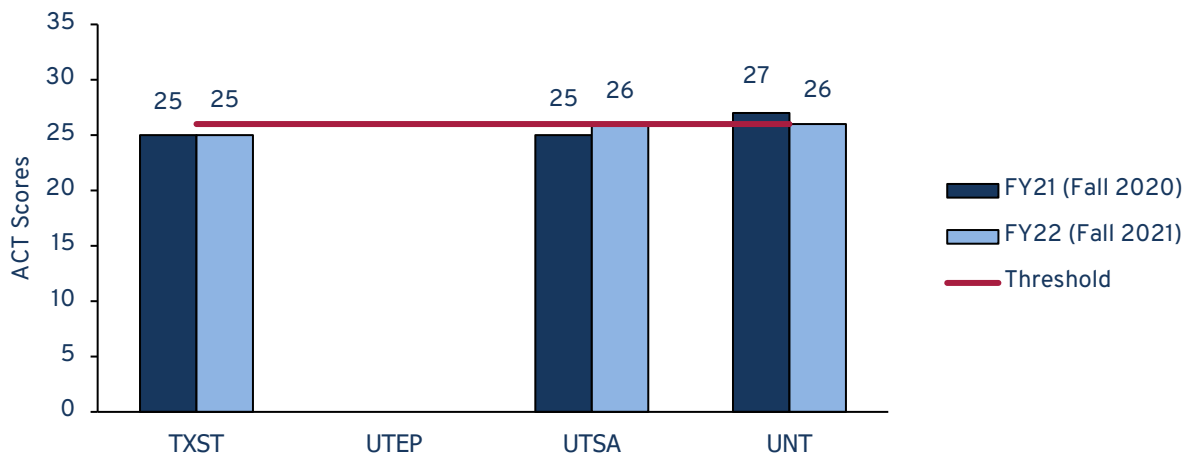
Figure 5. SAT Scores



Source: Institutional data reported to the THECB ([Appendix H](#))

NOTE: UT-El Paso did not submit SAT scores to the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System.

Figure 6. ACT Scores



Source: Institutional data reported to the THECB ([Appendix H](#))

NOTE: UT-El Paso did not submit ACT scores to the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System.

Institutional Commitment to Improving the Participation and Success of Underrepresented Students

(iii) The composition of the institution's first-time entering freshman class demonstrates progress toward reflecting the population of the state or the institution's region with respect to underrepresented students and shows a commitment to improving the academic performance of underrepresented students. One way in which this could be accomplished is by active participation in one of the Federal TRIO Programs, such as having one or more McNair Scholars in a particular cohort.

Table 2. Institutional Commitment and Progress Toward Improving the Academic Performance of Underrepresented Students, Fiscal Year 2022

Institution	Demonstrated Commitment and Progress to Improve Performance of Underrepresented Students
Texas State University	√
The University of Texas at El Paso	
The University of Texas at San Antonio	√
University of North Texas	√

Source: Institutional data reported to the THECB ([Appendix C](#))

NOTE: UT-El Paso did not submit a report describing its institutional commitment and progress toward improving the academic performance of underrepresented students.

Institutional Recognition of Research Capabilities and Scholarly Attainment

TAC, Section 15.43(b)(3)(D): The institution is designated as a member of the Association of Research Libraries, has a Phi Beta Kappa chapter, or is a member of Phi Kappa Phi.

Table 3. Institutional Recognition of Research Capabilities and Scholarly Attainment, Fiscal Year 2022

Institution	Association of Research Libraries	Phi Beta Kappa	Phi Kappa Phi
Texas State University	√	-	√
The University of Texas at El Paso	-	-	√
The University of Texas at San Antonio	-	-	√
University of North Texas	-	-	√

Source: Membership data reported by the associations ([Appendix H](#))

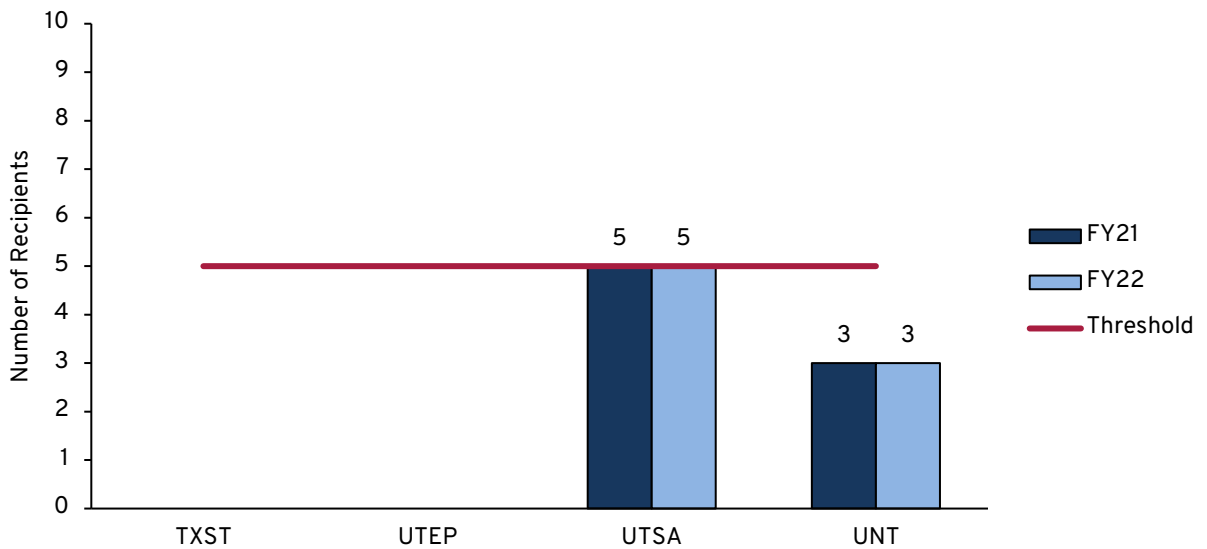
High-Quality Faculty

TAC, Section 15.43(b)(3)(E): In each of the two academic years preceding the state fiscal year for which the appropriation is made, the faculty of the institution was of high quality.

National Academy Members or Nobel Prize Recipients

(i) There must be five or more recognitions of national or international distinction of tenured/tenure-track faculty through membership in one of the National Academies (including National Academy of Sciences, National Academy of Engineering, and National Academy of Medicine), the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, or through receiving a Nobel Prize; or (ii).

Figure 7. National Academy Members and Nobel Prize Recipients

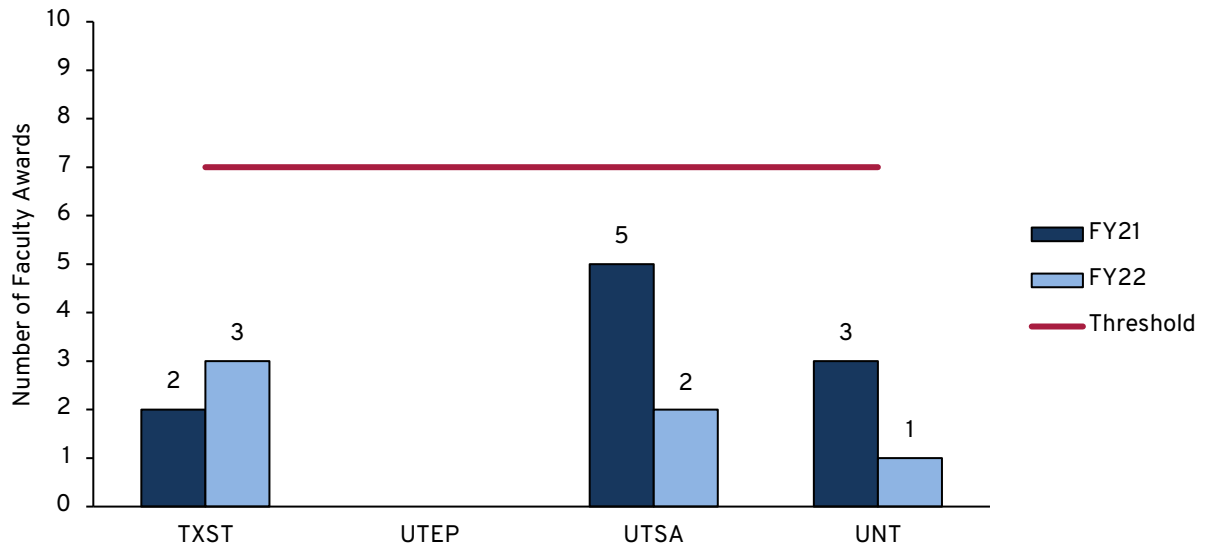


Source: Membership data reported by the associations ([Appendix D](#))

Other Faculty Awards

(ii) The annual number of awards of national and international distinction received by tenured/tenure-track faculty during a given academic year in any of the following categories is equal to or greater than seven for each year.

Figure 8. Other Faculty Awards



Source: Institutional data reported to the THECB ([Appendix E](#))

Comprehensive Review of Faculty in Five Doctoral Programs

(iii) In lieu of meeting either clause (i) or (ii) of this subparagraph, an institution may request that a comprehensive review of the faculty in five of the institution's Doctoral degree programs be conducted by external consultants selected by Coordinating Board staff in consultation with the institution, and said review must demonstrate that the faculty are comparable to and competitive with faculty in similar programs at public institutions in the Association of American Universities. Costs for the review shall be borne by the institution. This review is only available if the institution has already met or, as determined by Coordinating Board staff, is on track to meet three of the other eligibility criteria listed in subparagraphs (A) - (D) of this paragraph.

No institutions requested a comprehensive review of faculty in five doctoral programs for the FY 2022 reporting period.

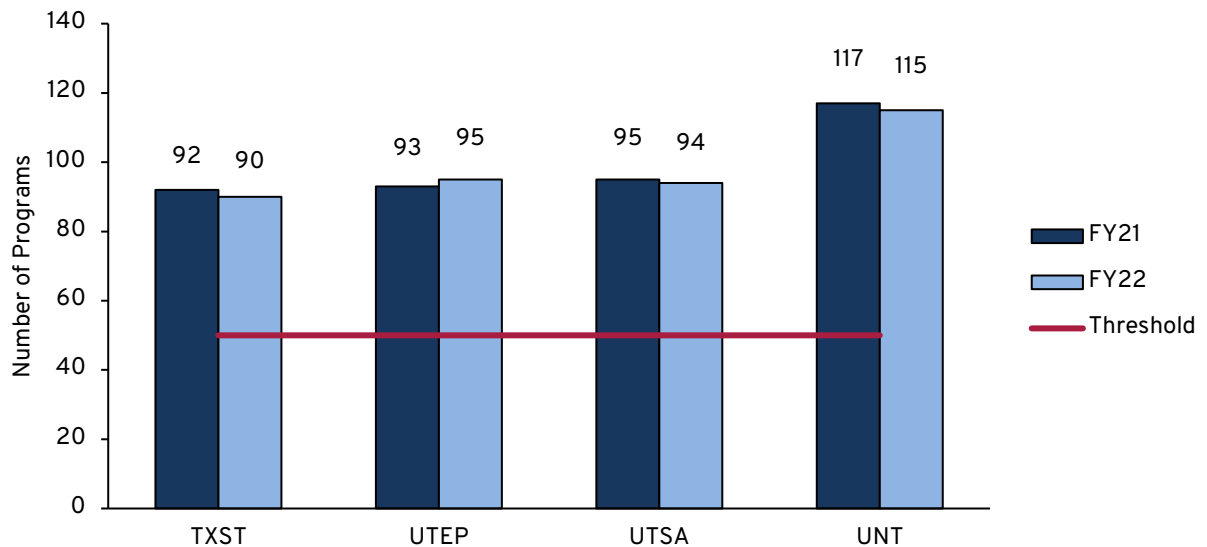
High-Quality Graduate Education

TAC, Section 15.43(b)(3)(F): In each of the two academic years preceding the state fiscal year for which the appropriation is made, the institution has demonstrated a commitment to high-quality graduate education.

Number of Graduate Programs

(i) The number of graduate-level programs at the institution is equal to or greater than 50.

Figure 9. Number of Graduate-Level Programs

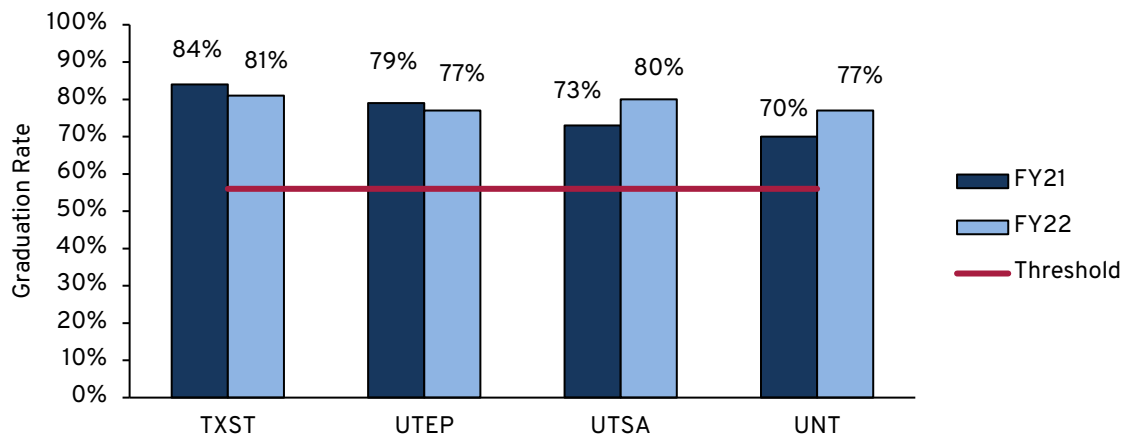


Source: THECB program inventory ([Appendix H](#))

Master's and Doctoral Graduation Rates

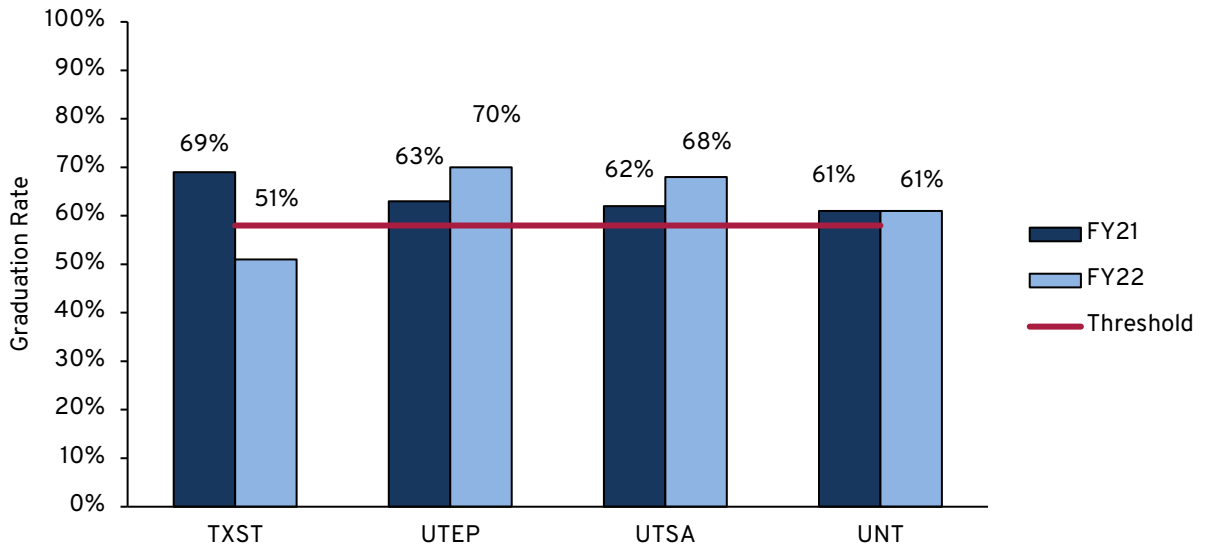
(ii) The Master's Graduation Rate at the institution is 56 percent or higher and the Doctoral Graduation Rate is 58 percent or higher.

Figure 10. Master's Graduation Rates



Source: Institutional data reported to the THECB ([Appendix H](#))

Figure 11. Doctoral Graduation Rates



Source: Institutional data reported to the THECB ([Appendix H](#))

Comprehensive Review of Five Doctoral Programs

(iii) The institution must demonstrate that the overall commitment to five Doctoral degree programs, including the financial support for Doctoral degree students, is competitive with that of comparable high-quality programs at public institutions in the Association of American Universities. The five Doctoral degree programs selected for this review must be those selected in subparagraph (E)(iii) of this paragraph or, if subparagraph (E)(iii) of this paragraph is not chosen by the institution, then any five Doctoral degree programs at the institution. Costs for the review shall be borne by the institution.

UT-San Antonio requested a comprehensive review of five doctoral programs for the FY 2021 reporting period, in accordance with TAC, Section 15.43(b)(3)(F)(iii). The charge to the review panels is in Appendix F. This review is considered applicable for the current eligibility determination process.

Table 4. Program Review of Doctoral Degree Programs at UT San Antonio

Program	Site Visit Date	Comparable Demonstrated Commitment
Anthropology	Feb. 28, 2022	✓
Biomedical Engineering	Nov. 1, 2021	✓
Cell and Molecular Biology	Oct. 1, 2021	✓
Computer Science	Nov. 19, 2021	✓
Management and Organization	Jan. 24, 2022	✓

Source: Membership review panels ([Appendix G](#))

Conclusions

The information in this status report on NRUF eligibility is summarized below.

- In FY 2021, eight universities were designated as emerging research universities in the THECB Accountability System: Texas State University (Texas State), Texas Tech University (Texas Tech), The University of Texas at Arlington (UT-Arlington), The University of Texas at Dallas (UT-Dallas), The University of Texas at El Paso (UT-El Paso), The University of Texas at San Antonio (UT-San Antonio), University of Houston (UH), and University of North Texas (UNT).
- Texas Tech, UH, UT-Dallas, and UT-Arlington data are not included in the report, as the first two institutions met eligibility in FY 2012, UT-Dallas met eligibility in FY 2018, and UT-Arlington met eligibility in FY 2021.
- UT-San Antonio and UT-El Paso reported restricted research expenditures above the threshold of \$45 million in FY 2021 and FY 2022, which is a mandatory requirement to receive distributions from the NRUF.
- UT-El Paso did not fulfill four of the six optional criteria in FY 2021 and FY 2022.
- UT-San Antonio fulfilled four of the six optional criteria in FY 2021 and FY 2022. The institution is eligible for fund distribution in FY 2023, pending a required audit by the State Auditor's Office.
- Texas State and UNT reported restricted research expenditures for FY 2021 and FY 2022 below the \$45 million threshold.

TEC, Section 62.146(b), requires the THECB to verify and certify information about criteria used for determining the eligibility of higher education institutions to receive monetary distributions from the NRUF each state fiscal year. The next report will include data from FY 2022 and FY 2023. The THECB will submit that report in 2024.

Appendix A: Texas Education Code

TITLE 3. HIGHER EDUCATION

SUBTITLE B. STATE COORDINATION OF HIGHER EDUCATION

CHAPTER 62, SUBCHAPTER G. NATIONAL RESEARCH UNIVERSITY FUND

Sec. 62.141. PURPOSE. The purpose of this subchapter is to allocate appropriations from the national research university fund to provide a dedicated, independent, and equitable source of funding to enable emerging research universities in this state to achieve national prominence as major research universities.

Added by Acts 2009, 81st Leg., R.S., Ch. 287 (H.B. 51), Sec. 13, eff. September 1, 2009.

Sec. 62.142. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

- (1) "Eligible institution" means a general academic teaching institution that is eligible to receive distributions of money under this subchapter.
- (2) "Endowment funds" means funds treated as endowment funds under the coordinating board's accountability system.
- (3) "Fund" means the national research university fund.
- (4) "General academic teaching institution" has the meaning assigned by Section 61.003.

Added by Acts 2009, 81st Leg., R.S., Ch. 287 (H.B. 51), Sec. 13, eff. September 1, 2009.

Sec. 62.143. ADMINISTRATION AND INVESTMENT OF FUND. (a) The national research university fund is a fund outside the state treasury in the custody of the comptroller.

(b) The comptroller shall administer and invest the fund in accordance with Section 43T2043T, Article VII, Texas Constitution.

Added by Acts 2009, 81st Leg., R.S., Ch. 287 (H.B. 51), Sec. 13, eff. September 1, 2009.

Sec. 62.144. FUNDING. (a) The fund consists of any amounts appropriated or transferred to the credit of the fund under the Texas Constitution or otherwise appropriated or transferred to the credit of the fund under this section or another law.

(b) The comptroller shall deposit to the credit of the fund all interest, dividends, and other income earned from investment of the fund.

(c) The comptroller may accept gifts or grants from any public or private source for the fund.

Added by Acts 2009, 81st Leg., R.S., Ch. 287 (H.B. 51), Sec. 13, eff. September 1, 2009.

Sec. 62.145. ELIGIBILITY TO RECEIVE DISTRIBUTIONS FROM FUND. (a) A general academic teaching institution becomes eligible to receive an initial distribution of money appropriated under this subchapter for a state fiscal year if:

- (1) the institution is designated as an emerging research university under the coordinating board's accountability system;
- (2) in each of the two state fiscal years preceding the state fiscal year for which the appropriation is made, the institution expended at least \$45 million in restricted research funds; and
- (3) the institution satisfies at least four of the following criteria:
 - (A) the value of the institution's endowment funds is at least \$400 million in each of the two state fiscal years preceding the state fiscal year for which the appropriation is made;
 - (B) the institution awarded at least 200 doctor of philosophy degrees during each of the two academic years preceding the state fiscal year for which the appropriation is made;
 - (C) the entering freshman class of the institution for each of those two academic years demonstrated high academic achievement, as determined according to standards prescribed by the coordinating board by rule, giving consideration to the future educational needs of the state as articulated in the coordinating board's "Closing the Gaps" report;
 - (D) the institution is designated as a member of the Association of Research Libraries or has a Phi Beta Kappa chapter or has received an equivalent recognition of research capabilities and scholarly attainment as determined according to standards prescribed by the coordinating board by rule;
 - (E) the faculty of the institution for each of those two academic years was of high quality, as determined according to coordinating board standards based on the professional achievement and recognition of the institution's faculty, including the election of faculty members to national academies; and
 - (F) for each of those two academic years, the institution has demonstrated a commitment to high-quality graduate education, as determined according to standards prescribed by the coordinating board by rule, including standards relating to the number of graduate-level programs at the institution, the institution's admission standards for graduate programs, and the level of institutional support for graduate students.

(b) A general academic teaching institution that becomes eligible to receive a distribution of money under this subchapter remains eligible to receive a distribution in each subsequent state fiscal year.

Added by Acts 2009, 81st Leg., R.S., Ch. 287 (H.B. 51), Sec. 13, eff. September 1, 2009.

Amended by: Acts 2011, 82nd Leg., R.S., Ch. 1131 (H.B. 1000), Sec. 1, eff. June 17, 2011.

Sec. 62.146. ACCOUNTING STANDARDS; VERIFICATION OF INFORMATION. (a) The coordinating board by rule shall prescribe standard methods of accounting and standard methods of reporting information for the purpose of determining:

- (1) the eligibility of institutions under Section 62.145; and
- (2) the amount of restricted research funds expended by an eligible institution in a state fiscal year.

(b) As soon as practicable in each state fiscal year, based on information submitted by the institutions to the coordinating board as required by the coordinating board, the coordinating board shall certify to the comptroller and the legislature verified information relating to the criteria established by Section 62.145 to be used to determine which institutions are eligible for distributions of money from the fund.

(c) Information submitted to the coordinating board by institutions for purposes of establishing eligibility under this subchapter and the coordinating board's certification or verification of that information under this section are subject to a mandatory audit by the state auditor in accordance with Chapter 321, Government Code. The coordinating board may also request one or more audits by the state auditor as necessary or appropriate at any time after an eligible institution begins receiving distributions under this subchapter. Each audit must be based on an examination of all or a representative sample of the restricted research funds awarded to the institution and the institution's expenditures of those funds, and must include, among other elements:

- (1) verification of the amount of restricted research funds expended by the institution in the appropriate state fiscal year or years; and
- (2) verification of compliance by the institution and the coordinating board with the standard methods of accounting and standard methods of reporting prescribed by the coordinating board under Subsection (a), including verification of:
 - (A) the institution's compliance with the coordinating board's standards and accounting methods for reporting expenditures of restricted research funds; and
 - (B) whether the institution's expenditures meet the coordinating board's definition of restricted research expenditures.

(d) From money appropriated from the fund, the comptroller shall reimburse the state auditor for the expenses of any audits conducted under Subsection (c).

Added by Acts 2009, 81st Leg., R.S., Ch. 287 (H.B. 51), Sec. 13, eff. September 1, 2009.

Amended by: Acts 2011, 82nd Leg., R.S., Ch. 1131 (H.B. 1000), Sec. 2, eff. June 17, 2011.

Sec. 62.147. INELIGIBILITY OF INSTITUTIONS RECEIVING PERMANENT UNIVERSITY FUND SUPPORT AND MAINTENANCE. The University of Texas at Austin and Texas A&M University are ineligible to receive money under this subchapter.

Added by Acts 2009, 81st Leg., R.S., Ch. 287 (H.B. 51), Sec. 13, eff. September 1, 2009.

Sec. 62.148. DISTRIBUTION OF APPROPRIATED FUNDS TO ELIGIBLE INSTITUTIONS. (a) In each state fiscal year, the comptroller shall distribute to eligible institutions in accordance with this section money appropriated from the fund for that fiscal year.

(b) The total amount appropriated from the fund for any state fiscal year may not exceed an amount equal to 4.5 percent of the average net market value of the investment assets of the fund for the 12 consecutive state fiscal quarters ending with the last quarter of the preceding state fiscal year, as determined by the comptroller.

(b-1) Expired.

(c) Subject to Subsection (e), of the total amount appropriated from the fund for distribution in a state fiscal year, each eligible institution is entitled to a distribution in an amount equal to the sum of:

- (1) one-seventh of the total amount appropriated; and
- (2) an equal share of any amount remaining after distributions are calculated under Subdivision (1), not to exceed an amount equal to one-fourth of that remaining amount.

(d) The comptroller shall retain within the fund any portion of the total amount appropriated from the fund for distribution that remains after all distributions are made for a state fiscal year as prescribed by Subsection (c). The appropriation of that retained amount lapses at the end of that state fiscal year.

(e) If the number of institutions that are eligible for distributions in a state fiscal year is more than four, each eligible institution is entitled to an equal share of the total amount appropriated from the fund for distribution in that fiscal year.

(f) For purposes of this section, the total amount appropriated from the fund for distribution in a state fiscal year does not include any portion of the amount appropriated that is used to reimburse the costs of an audit conducted under Section 62.146(c).

Added by Acts 2009, 81st Leg., R.S., Ch. 287 (H.B. 51), Sec. 13, eff. September 1, 2009.

Amended by: Acts 2011, 82nd Leg., R.S., Ch. 1131 (H.B. 1000), Sec. 3, eff. June 17, 2011.

Sec. 62.149. USE OF ALLOCATED AMOUNTS. (a) An eligible institution may use money received under this subchapter only for the support and maintenance of educational and general activities that promote increased research capacity at the institution.

(b) For purposes of Subsection (a), the use of money shall be limited to the following permitted activities:

- (1) providing faculty support and paying faculty salaries;
- (2) purchasing equipment or library materials;
- (3) paying graduate stipends; and
- (4) supporting research performed at the institution, including undergraduate research.

(c) Money received in a fiscal year by an institution under this subchapter that is not used in that fiscal year by the institution may be held and used by the institution in subsequent fiscal years for the purposes prescribed by this section.

Added by Acts 2009, 81st Leg., R.S., Ch. 287 (H.B. 51), Sec. 13, eff. September 1, 2009.

Appendix B: Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board Rules

Texas Administrative Code

Title 19. Education

Chapter 15. National Research Universities

Subchapter C. National Research University Fund

15.40 Purpose

15.41 Authority

15.42 Definitions

15.43 Eligibility

15.44 Accounting and Reporting

15.40. Purpose

This subchapter establishes rules for eligible institutions to receive funds under the National Research University Fund, which is established to support emerging research universities to achieve national prominence as major research universities.

15.41. Authority

Authority for this subchapter is provided by Texas Education Code, Sections 62.145-62.146, which directs the Coordinating Board to adopt standards for the purposes of determining an institution's eligibility for funding from the National Research University Fund (NRUF) and authorizes the Board to adopt rules for the standard methods of accounting and standard methods of reporting information for the purpose of determining eligibility of institutions to receive funds under the NRUF.

15.42. Definitions

The following words and terms, when used in this subchapter, shall have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

- (1) Coordinating Board or Board--The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.
- (2) Doctoral degree--An academic degree beyond the level of a master's degree that typically represents the highest level of formal study or research in a given field, e.g., a Doctor of Philosophy, Doctor of Education, Doctor of Musical Arts, Doctor of Engineering, Doctor of Public Health, Doctor of Nursing Practice.
- (3) Eligible institution--A general academic teaching institution that is eligible and meets the Coordinating Board's standards to receive distributions of money under the NRUF.

- (4) Emerging research university--A public institution of higher education designated as an emerging research university under the Board's accountability system.
- (5) Endowment funds--Funds treated as total endowment funds under the Board's accountability system.
- (6) Fund--The National Research University Fund (NRUF).
- (7) General academic teaching institution--As defined in Texas Education Code, §61.003.
- (8) Graduate-level program--Degree programs leading to master's, professional, and/or doctoral degree.
- (9) Master's degree--An academic degree that requires the successful completion of a program of study of at least 30 semester credit hours or the equivalent at the post-baccalaureate, graduate, or professional level.
- (10) Master's Graduation Rate--The Master's Graduation Rate is the percent of students in an entering fall and spring cohort for a specific degree program who graduate within five years.
- (11) Doctoral Graduation Rate--The Doctoral Graduation Rate is the percent of students in an entering fall cohort for a specific degree program who graduate within 10 years. Doctoral graduation rates do not include students who received a master's degree.
- (12) Restricted funds (restricted awards)--As defined in Section 13.122 of this title (relating to Definitions).
- (13) Restricted research expenditures--As defined in Section 13.122 of this title and further developed in Sections 13.123 - 13.127 of this title (relating to Research Development Fund).

15.43. Eligibility

- (a) The eligibility criteria for a general academic teaching institution to receive distributions from the Fund include: having an entering freshman class of high academic achievement; receiving recognition of research capabilities and scholarly attainment of the institution; having a high-quality faculty; and demonstrating commitment to high-quality graduate education.
- (b) A general academic teaching institution is eligible to receive an initial distribution from the Fund appropriated for each state fiscal year if:
 - (1) institution is designated as an emerging research university under the Coordinating Board's accountability system;
 - (2) in each of the two state fiscal years preceding the state fiscal year for which the appropriation is made, the institution expended at least \$45 million in restricted research funds; and
 - (3) the institution satisfies at least four of the following six criteria:
 - (A) the value of the institution's endowment funds is at least \$400 million in each of the two state fiscal years preceding the state fiscal year for which the appropriation is made;

(B) the institution awarded at least 200 doctor of philosophy degrees during each of the two academic years preceding the state fiscal year for which the appropriation is made;

(C) in each of the two academic years preceding the state fiscal year for which the appropriation is made, the entering freshman class of the institution demonstrated high academic achievement as reflected in the following criteria;

(i) At least 50 percent of the first-time entering freshman class students at the institution are in the top 25 percent of their high school class; or

(ii) The average SAT score of first-time entering freshman class students at or above the 75th percentile of SAT scores was equal to or greater than 1210 prior to fall 2017, consisting of the Critical Reading (CR) and Mathematics (M) Components, or equal to or greater than 1280 starting with fall 2017, consisting of the Evidence-Based Reading and Writing (ERW) and Mathematics (M) Components, or the average ACT score of first-time entering freshman class students at or above the 75th percentile of ACT scores was equal to or greater than 26; and

(iii) The composition of the institution's first-time entering freshman class demonstrates progress toward reflecting the population of the state or the institution's region with respect to underrepresented students and shows a commitment to improving the academic performance of underrepresented students. One way in which this could be accomplished is by active participation in one of the Federal TRIO Programs, such as having one or more McNair Scholars in a particular cohort.

(D) the institution is designated as a member of the Association of Research Libraries, has a Phi Beta Kappa chapter, or is a member of Phi Kappa Phi;

(E) in each of the two academic years preceding the state fiscal year for which the appropriation is made, the faculty of the institution was of high quality as reflected in the following:

(i) There must be five or more recognitions of national or international distinction of tenured/tenure-track faculty through membership in one of the National Academies (including National Academy of Sciences, National Academy of Engineering, and National Academy of Medicine), the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, or through receiving a Nobel Prize; or

(ii) The annual number of awards of national and international distinction received by tenured/tenure-track faculty during a given academic year in any of the following categories is equal to or greater than 7 for each year.

(I) American Academy of Nursing Fellows

(II) American Council of Learned Societies Fellows

(III) American Law Institute Members

(IV) Beckman Young Investigators

(V) Burroughs Wellcome Fund Career Award Winners

(VI) Cottrell Scholars

- (VII) Getty Scholars in Residence
- (VIII) Guggenheim Fellows
- (IX) Howard Hughes Medical Institute Investigators
- (X) Lasker Medical Research Award Winners
- (XI) MacArthur Foundation Fellows
- (XII) Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Distinguished Achievement Award Winners
- (XIII) National Endowment for the Humanities Fellows
- (XIV) National Humanities Center Fellows
- (XV) National Institutes of Health (R37) Winners
- (XVI) National Medal of Science Winners
- (XVII) National Medal of Technology and Innovation Winners
- (XVIII) National Science Foundation CAREER Award Winners (excluding those who are also PECASE winners)
- (XIX) Newberry Library Long-term Fellows
- (XX) Pew Scholars in Biomedicine
- (XXI) Pulitzer Prize Winners
- (XXII) Presidential Early Career Awards for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE) Winners
- (XXIII) Robert Wood Johnson Health Policy Fellows
- (XXIV) Searle Scholars
- (XXV) Sloan Research Fellows
- (XXVI) Fellows of the Woodrow Wilson Center

(iii) In lieu of meeting either clause (i) or (ii) of this subparagraph, an institution may request that a comprehensive review of the faculty in five of the institution's Doctoral degree programs be conducted by external consultants selected by Coordinating Board staff in consultation with the institution, and said review must demonstrate that the faculty are comparable to and competitive with faculty in similar programs at public institutions in the Association of American Universities. Costs for the review shall be borne by the institution. This review is only available if the institution has already met or, as determined by Coordinating Board staff, is on track to meet three of the other eligibility criteria listed in subparagraphs (A) - (D) of this paragraph;

(F) in each of the two academic years preceding the state fiscal year for which the appropriation is made, the institution has demonstrated a commitment to high-quality graduate education as reflected in the following:

- (i) The number of Graduate-level programs at the institution is equal to or greater than 50;

(ii) The Master's Graduation Rate at the institution is 56 percent or higher and the Doctoral Graduation Rate is 58 percent or higher; and

(iii) The institution must demonstrate that the overall commitment to five Doctoral degree programs, including the financial support for Doctoral degree students, is competitive with that of comparable high-quality programs at public institutions in the Association of American Universities. The five Doctoral degree programs selected for this review must be those selected in subparagraph (E)(iii) of this paragraph or, if subparagraph (E)(iii) of this paragraph is not chosen by the institution, then any five Doctoral degree programs at the institution. Costs for the review shall be borne by the institution.

15.44. Accounting and Reporting

(a) Emerging research universities shall report data pertaining to this subchapter according to the procedures outlined in the Coordinating Board's reporting manuals.

(b) As soon as practicable in each state fiscal year, the Coordinating Board shall certify to the comptroller and the legislature verified information relating to the criteria established by Texas Education Code, Section 62.145, which are addressed in this subchapter, to be used to determine which institutions are eligible for distributions of money from the Fund.

(c) Information submitted by institutions for the purpose of establishing eligibility is subject to a mandatory audit by the state auditor in accordance with Government Code, Chapter 321. The Coordinating Board reserves the right to request additional audits by the state auditor as deemed necessary and appropriate at any time after an eligible institution begins receiving distributions.

Appendix C: Report on High Academic Achievement of Entering Freshman Class

To complete the NRUF eligibility certification report, THECB staff need information from institutions regarding the Institutional Commitment to Improving the Academic Performance of Underrepresented Students (TAC, Chapter 15, Subchapter C, Section 15.43 (3)(C)(iii)). This report may fulfill a partial requirement of the optional criterion “Freshman Class of High Academic Achievement” for NRUF eligibility.

The information required must illustrate that the composition of an institution's first-time entering freshman class demonstrates progress toward reflecting the population of the state or the institution's region with respect to underrepresented students and shows a commitment to improving the academic performance of underrepresented students.

Institutions were asked to include the following components in their reports:

- Representation of Underrepresented Students - Provide comparison data of first-time entering freshman class to demographic data of the state and/or the institution's region. Show progress of representation of underrepresented students quantitatively and longitudinally for a minimum of seven years. Data may reflect specific underrepresented students for which progress is sought.
- Commitment to Improving the Academic Performance of Underrepresented Students - Provide a description of initiatives that demonstrate the institution's commitment to improving the academic performance of underrepresented students. For each initiative, provide a title, one or more defined goal(s) (possibly quantitative), and any outcome(s), which will serve as objective criteria for demonstrating the institution's commitment. If an initiative is directed toward the general student population, the goal(s) and outcome(s) should also specifically address how it benefits underrepresented students. Classify each initiative under one of the following categories:
 - Promoting college attainment to underrepresented middle and high school students and their guardians
 - Increasing completion rates of underrepresented students, including initiatives reducing the time to degree
 - Addressing the student debt burden for underrepresented students
 - Focusing on education programs for educationally underserved adults and/or stop-outs from underrepresented groups
 - Other strategic initiatives that show a commitment to improving the academic performance of underrepresented students

Institutions were asked to limit the length of the report to one page per initiative. There was no limit on the number of initiatives that could have been submitted.

NOTE: UT-EI Paso did not submit a report for FY 2022.

Appendix D: Detailed List of National Academy Members and Nobel Prize Recipients

Table 5. Detailed List of National Academy Members and Nobel Prize Recipients, Fiscal Years 2021 and 2022

Institution	Faculty Awards	FY21	FY22
Texas State University			
N/A		-	-
The University of Texas at El Paso			
N/A		-	-
The University of Texas at San Antonio			
H. Norman Abramson	National Academy of Engineering, 1976	✓	✓
Sergio M. Alcocer	National Academy of Engineering, 2017	✓	✓
Rena Bizios	National Academy of Medicine, 2015	✓	✓
Michael J. Yaszemski	National Academy of Medicine, 2016	✓	✓
Randall W. Poston	National Academy of Engineering, 2017	✓	✓
University of North Texas			
Michael I. Baskes	National Academy of Engineering, 2012	✓	✓
Richard A. Dixon	National Academy of Sciences, 2007	✓	✓
James C. Williams	National Academy of Engineering, 1987	✓	✓

Appendix E: Detailed List of Other Faculty Awards

Table 6. Detailed List of Other Faculty Awards, Fiscal Year 2021

Institution	Faculty Awards
Texas State University	
Yoichi Miyahara	National Science Foundation CAREER Award Winner
Hiro Tanaka	National Science Foundation CAREER Award Winner
The University of Texas at El Paso	
N/A	
The University of Texas at San Antonio	
Taha Ahmad	National Science Foundation CAREER Award Winner
Wei Gao	National Science Foundation CAREER Award Winner
Yanmin Gong	National Science Foundation CAREER Award Winner
Amir Jafari	National Science Foundation CAREER Award Winner
Gabriela Romero Uribe	National Science Foundation CAREER Award Winner
University of North Texas	
Diana Berman	National Science Foundation CAREER Award Winner
Hua Sun	National Science Foundation CAREER Award Winner
Hui Zhao	National Science Foundation CAREER Award Winner

Table 7. Detailed List of Other Faculty Awards, Fiscal Year 2022

Institution	Faculty Awards
Texas State University	
Justin Randolph	American Council of Learned Societies Fellow
Johanna Fauerso	Guggenheim Fellow
Nestor Guillen	National Science Foundation CAREER Award Winner
The University of Texas at El Paso	
N/A	
The University of Texas at San Antonio	
Anthony Rios	National Science Foundation CAREER Award Winner
Christopher Rathbone	National Science Foundation CAREER Award Winner
University of North Texas	
Angela Calcaterra	National Endowment for the Humanities Fellow

Appendix F: Charge for the Review of Programs and Faculty at UT-San Antonio

Thank you for agreeing to serve as a member of the expert site visit review team to evaluate the doctoral program and its faculty at The University of Texas at San Antonio (UT-San Antonio) for the purpose of determining the institution's eligibility for the National Research University Fund (NRUF).

The Texas legislature established NRUF "to provide a dedicated, independent, and equitable source of funding to enable emerging research universities in this state to achieve national prominence as major research universities." There are eight institutions in Texas potentially eligible for NRUF which are classified as "emerging research institutions." Of these eight, there are currently four institutions that meet the NRUF criteria: Texas Tech University, University of Houston, The University of Texas at Dallas, and the University of Texas at Arlington. UT-San Antonio proposes reaching the required NRUF criteria by including a review of five of its doctoral programs and a review of the program's faculty. Our agency's staff reports on NRUF eligibility for the last two years can be accessed on our website: www.highered.texas.gov/NRUF.

The virtual site visit with representatives of UT-San Antonio is scheduled for February 28, 2022. UT-San Antonio will provide you access to its supporting documentation in a dossier. I am attaching the application form which serves as an outline of the review and contains a summary of the charge. The site visit agenda and virtual meeting access will follow.

After the site visit is completed, you will be asked to write a collaborative detailed report of 5 to 10 pages that addresses the following general and specific questions. The collaborative report is due no later than two weeks after the site visit, on or before March 14, 2022. Please provide an assessment on the two general questions of your charge, which are based on the Texas Administrative Code (TAC).

The review of each of five doctoral programs would have to assess:

The institution's overall commitment to the doctoral degree program, including the financial support for doctoral degree students, is competitive with that of comparable high-quality programs at public institutions in the Association of American Universities. [TAC Title 19, Part 1, Ch. 15, Sub. C, Rule 15.43.43(b)(3)(F)(iii).]

The comprehensive review of the program's faculty for the doctoral program would have to assess:

The faculty are comparable to and competitive with faculty in similar programs at public institutions in the Association of American Universities. [TAC Title 19, Part 1, Ch. 15, Sub. C, Rule 15.43.43(b)(3)(E)(iii).]

In your evaluation of the general questions, please include special argumentation regarding specific questions:

- Are the program's goals and mission appropriate for a nationally ranked, high-quality program, comparable with those at Association of American Universities?
- Is the program's curriculum or curricula appropriate for a nationally ranked, high-quality program?
- Are the program's facilities on par with nationally ranked, high-quality programs?
- Is the program's doctoral student support competitive with nationally ranked, high-quality programs?
- Do doctoral students have appropriate opportunities for research, training, and publications?
- Is the faculty's research funding competitive with nationally ranked, high-quality programs?
- Are the programs faculty competitive with respect to publication, awards, and other academic activities?

Please preface your collaborative report with an Executive Summary.

Appendix G: Member List of UT-San Antonio Program and Faculty Review Panels

Table 8. UT-San Antonio Program and Faculty Review Panels

Panel Members by Program	Affiliation
Biomedical Engineering	
John P. Fisher, PhD, Fischell Family Distinguished Professor and Department Chair, Department of Bioengineering	The University of Maryland
Manu Platt, PhD, Professor and Associate Chair for Graduate Studies, Department of Biomedical Engineering	Georgia Institute of Technology
Krystyn J. Van Vliet, PhD, Professor of Biological Engineering and Koerner Professor of Materials Science and Engineering	Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cell and Molecular Biology	
Marisa Susan Bartolomei, PhD, Perelman Professor of Cell and Developmental Biology	University of Pennsylvania
Victoria D'Souza, PhD, Professor of Molecular and Cellular Biology	Harvard University
Manojkumar A. Puthenveedu, PhD, Associate Professor of Pharmacology, Department of Molecular and Cellular Neuroscience	University of Michigan
Anthropology	
Herbert Covert, PhD, Professor of Anthropology	University of Colorado-Boulder
Paul Nadasdy, PhD, Professor of Anthropology	Cornell University
Tiffany Tung, PhD, Gertrude Conaway Vanderbilt Chair in Social and Natural Sciences and Department Chair	Vanderbilt University
Computer Science	
Thomas Conte, PhD, Professor and Associate Dean for Research, College of Computing	Georgia Institute of Technology
Darko Marinov, PhD, Professor and Associate Director of Graduate Studies, Computer Science	University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Éva Tardos, PhD, Professor and Chair of Computer Science	Cornell University
Management and Organization	
Sanford E. DeVoe	University of California, Los Angeles
Paul Oyer	Stanford University
Elizabeth Umphress	University of Washington

Appendix H: Sources and Methodologies for Quantitative Measures

This appendix lists data sources and methodologies of data compilation for each section of the Texas Administrative Code for the National Research University Fund eligibility criteria.

The data types for all NRUF criteria are indicated below. The data type is either real, integer, or yes/no. *If the data type is real, fulfillment of eligibility requirement is based on the truncated whole number.* The number is truncated, according to standard practice, to the closest whole number that is equivalent to the number of the criterion's threshold. For example, the threshold for the restricted research expenditure is \$45 million. Expenditures larger or equal to \$45,000,000 and smaller or equal to \$45,999,999 are truncated to \$45 million. Expenditures smaller or equal to \$44,999,999 and larger or equal to \$44,000,000 are truncated to \$44 million.

Emerging Research Universities

TAC Rule: 15.43(b)(1)
Source: <http://www.txhigheredaccountability.org/AcctPublic/Resources/PeerGroup>
Methodology: University Peer Group Categories
Data type: Yes/No

Restricted Research Expenditures

TAC Rule: 15.43(b)(2)
Source: Institutional data reported to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, available at the webpage [Restricted Research](#) accountability system measure X07U
Methodology: Texas Administration Code, Sections 13.120 to 13.127, Restricted Research Expenditures, and [Standard and Accounting Methods](#) for Reporting Restricted Research Expenditures
Data type: Real

Endowment Funds

TAC Rule: 15.43(b)(3)(A)
Source: Institutional data reported to the Coordinating Board through the THECB Accountability System. These data are not posted publicly.
Methodology: The total endowment is calculated as the sum of true and quasi endowments.
Data type: Real

Number of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) Degrees Awarded

TAC Rule: 15.43(b)(3)(B)
Source: Institutional data reported to the Coordinating Board through the CBM reporting system. These data are not posted publicly.
Methodology: The Graduation Report CBM009, Item #8, Doctor's Degree-Research/Scholarship. The accountability system measure C01UH includes other doctoral degrees, such as EDD, DNP, or DMA, which are not counted here.
Data type: Integer

Percentage of Freshman Class in Top 25 Percent of Their High School Class

TAC Rule: 15.43(b)(3)(C)(i)
Source: THECB [Accountability System](#) measure C09UH for Public Universities
Methodology: Percentage of first-time undergraduates entering the summer/fall class who ranked in the top 10% and the top 11-25% of their Texas public high school classes. Source: CBM001, CBM00B.
Data type: Real

SAT and ACT Scores

TAC Rule: 15.43(b)(3)(C)(ii)
Source: The [Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System](#) (IPEDS)
Methodology: Institutions report data if scores are required for admission and at least 60% of enrolled students submitted scores for a given test. The College Board changed the SAT test and scoring in 2016, affecting fall 2017 data.
Data type: Integer

Institutional Commitment to Improving the Participation and Success of Underrepresented Students

TAC Rule: 15.43(b)(3)(C)(iii)
Source: Institution reports submitted to the Coordinating Board
Methodology: For objective criteria suggested to institution for demonstrating fulfillment of this measure, see [Appendix C](#).
Data type: Yes/No

Institutional Recognition of Research Capabilities and Scholarly Attainment

TAC Rule: 15.43(b)(3)(D)
Source: Membership data posted by associations
Methodology: Institution is designated as a member of the Association of Research Libraries, has a Phi Beta Kappa chapter, or is a member of Phi Kappa Phi.
Data type: Yes/No

National Academy Members or Nobel Prize Recipients

TAC Rule: 15.43(b)(3)(E)(i)
Source: Institutional data reported to the Coordinating Board through the THECB Accountability System. These data are not posted publicly.
Methodology: Faculty awards from National Academy of Science, National Academy of Engineering, Academy of Arts and Sciences, National Academy of Medicine, and Nobel Committees
Data type: Integer

**Texas Higher
Education**
COORDINATING BOARD

This document is available on the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board website:

<http://www.highered.texas.gov>.

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