

Accountability Peer Group Categories: Universities

Texas' *Closing the Gaps* plan calls for each public higher education institution to engage in an ongoing pursuit of excellence. A strategy for carrying out that goal relies on the selection of institutional peers and benchmarks of performance against which progress can be measured. Because comparisons between institutions are inevitable, institutions have been grouped according to general academic mission and certain key academic indicators such as size and number of graduate programs, research expenditures, and other factors. The groupings are intended to be neither permanent nor prescriptive. Rather, they are to be considered permeable, subject to revision as institutions evolve. The current peer groups for universities include:

- Research
- Emerging Research
- Doctoral
- Comprehensive
- Master's

University Peer Group Criteria for FY 2014 – FY 2018

In addition to regular review of peer group assignments, review of the criteria for determining placement into Accountability Peer Groups is also important. Criteria for assigning universities to Accountability Peer Groups were first developed in 2004 when the Accountability System was implemented. Those criteria remained unchanged until July 2013 when the Coordinating Board officially adopted revised criteria for universities.

The revision process began in March 2013 when University Peer Group members, at their regularly scheduled spring meeting, developed a list of proposed criteria changes based on group consensus. The Commissioner of Higher Education incorporated the peer groups' suggested changes into his recommendations to the Board. The Board-adopted criteria are listed in this document, by institution type. For comparison purposes, a chart on page 7 highlights key differences between the original criteria and the updated criteria.

The approved criteria allow an institution to be grandfathered into its existing peer group, if the institution chooses, while the current criteria are in effect. The Board requested a full review of the criteria in five years. The Coordinating Board also requested that institutional status based on the revised criteria be reported to the Board on a yearly basis beginning July 2014. Institutions eligible to change peer groups will be given the option of reassignment at that time.

RESEARCH UNIVERSITIES

Research universities provide a broad range of undergraduate, graduate and professional programs, place a greater emphasis on research than universities in other groups, and serve their regions, the state, and beyond. Excellent undergraduate

education is a central function, but a significantly higher proportion of these institutions' students are enrolled in graduate and professional programs than is the case in Master's, Comprehensive, Doctoral, or Emerging Research universities.

Research universities are expected to:

- Offer a comprehensive range of excellent undergraduate and graduate programs
- Award 200 or more PhD degrees annually, based on a rolling average of two consecutive years of degree production
- Generate at least \$150 million annually in restricted research expenditures, adjusted for inflation, based on a rolling two-year average (a baseline of \$150 million in September 2013 will be adjusted for inflation each subsequent September using the CPI-U index)

Texas universities that are presently in this category include:

Institution	Fiscal Year	PhD Award Count	Restricted Research Expenditures
Texas A&M University	2014	688	\$418,123,930
	2013	699	\$392,690,242
	2012	667	\$368,229,308
	2011	608	\$392,025,789
The University of Texas at Austin	2014	837	\$376,461,033
	2013	838	\$453,338,409
	2012	784	\$400,039,537
	2011	800	\$409,394,065

EMERGING RESEARCH UNIVERSITIES

Emerging Research universities are educational, scientific, engineering, business and cultural resource centers committed to the three-fold mission of teaching, research and service. As universities with extensive educational programs, academic efforts are directed to applied and basic research in selected fields, teaching and scholarship, and creative activities. The universities encourage faculty members to be active researchers/

creators in their respective disciplines and to involve both undergraduate and graduate students in research and creative pursuits.

Emerging Research universities are expected to:

- Offer a comprehensive range of excellent undergraduate and graduate programs
- Award at least 30 PhD degrees annually, based on a rolling average of two consecutive years of degree production
- Generate at least 20% of the research universities' criteria for restricted research expenditures (20% of \$150 million, adjusted for inflation), as determined by a rolling two-year average

Texas universities that are presently in this category include:

Institution	Fiscal Year	PhD Award Count	Restricted Research Expenditures
Texas State University	2014	42	\$20,957,182
	2013	53	\$20,944,752
	2012	34	\$21,761,575
	2011	25	\$19,078,112
Texas Tech University	2014	283	\$46,853,386
	2013	260	\$40,735,021
	2012	205	\$46,106,813
	2011	232	\$50,205,458
The University of Texas at Arlington	2014	219	\$30,168,446
	2013	149	\$32,082,256
	2012	164	\$32,284,249
	2011	125	\$29,869,344
The University of Texas at Dallas	2014	178	\$44,204,399
	2013	183	\$43,944,356
	2012	168	\$45,573,771
	2011	160	\$43,659,514

The University of Texas at El Paso	2014	108	\$40,221,559
	2013	89	\$44,057,028
	2012	59	\$43,156,720
	2011	61	\$40,179,653
The University of Texas at San Antonio	2014	92	\$23,640,919
	2013	90	\$29,163,969
	2012	67	\$32,356,827
	2011	59	\$30,429,992
University of Houston	2014	236	\$62,194,303
	2013	224	\$61,151,281
	2012	231	\$51,663,426
	2011	239	\$53,100,109
University of North Texas	2014	227	\$17,524,364
	2013	180	\$17,748,903
	2012	174	\$16,557,183
	2011	169	\$14,476,509

DOCTORAL UNIVERSITIES

Doctoral universities are educational and cultural resource institutions committed to the three-fold mission of teaching, research and service. With extensive educational programs, academic efforts are directed to both applied and basic research in selected fields, teaching and scholarship, and creative activities. The universities encourage faculty members to be active researchers in their respective disciplines and to involve both undergraduate and graduate students in research and creative pursuits.

Doctoral universities offer a wide range of excellent baccalaureate and master's programs and are committed to graduate education through the doctorate in targeted areas of excellence and/or regional need.

Doctoral Institutions are expected to reach **three of the following four criteria** to be included in this group:

- Award at least 10 PhD degrees annually
- Offer at least 5 doctoral-research/scholarship programs
- Enroll at least 150 doctoral-research/scholarship students
- Generate at least \$2 million annually in restricted research expenditures

Texas universities that are presently in this category include:

Institution	FY 2012 PhD Award Count	FY 2012 Doctoral-Research Scholarship Programs	FY 2012 Doctoral-Research Scholarship Students	FY 2012 Restricted Research Expenditures
Sam Houston State University	27	5	293	\$2,537,983
Texas A&M University-Commerce	12	6	616	\$1,602,416
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi	23	5	211	\$9,945,498
Texas A&M University-Kingsville	11	4	162	\$10,009,706
Texas Southern University	9	7	271	\$647,481
Texas Woman's University	77	21	759	\$1,406,182
The University of Texas –Pan American*	11	2	153	\$5,673,266

*UTPA data will show in the Accountability System in the Doctoral University category beginning in FY 2014

Institution	FY 2014 PhD Award Count	FY 2014 Doctoral- Research Scholarship Programs	FY 2014 Doctoral- Research Scholarship Students	FY 2014 Restricted Research Expenditures
Sam Houston State University	37	7	278	\$2,418,584
Texas A&M University- Commerce	16	6	597	\$1,492,860
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi	15	5	195	\$13,124,060
Texas A&M University-Kingsville	7	4	177	\$13,824,234
Texas Southern University	13	7	247	\$1,982,020
Texas Woman's University	99	20	755	\$1,381,269
The University of Texas –Pan American*	11	3	150	\$6,747,249

*UTPA data will show in the Accountability System in the Doctoral University category beginning in FY 2014

COMPREHENSIVE UNIVERSITIES

Comprehensive universities offer a wide range of excellent baccalaureate programs and are committed to graduate education through the master's degree. Comprehensive universities may also offer doctoral education in targeted program areas to address particular regional needs and/or in disciplines in which the university is nationally recognized for excellence. In most cases, this is in one or two areas, but may be as many as five.

Comprehensive universities are expected to:

- Provide access to a broad range of excellent baccalaureate and master's programs
- Possibly provide doctoral-research/scholarship-level education in targeted area(s) of excellence and/or regional need
- Provide excellent preparation not only for the workforce, but prepare students for professional schools and graduate education
- Focus on serving the student population within the region

Texas universities that are presently in this category include:

- Lamar University-Beaumont
- Prairie View A&M University
- Stephen F. Austin University
- Tarleton State University
- Texas A&M International University
- West Texas A&M University

MASTER'S UNIVERSITIES

Access to exemplary undergraduate institutions is critical to students and communities across Texas. Currently, almost 80 percent of public university students are at the undergraduate level. Master's institutions offer a wide range of baccalaureate programs and are committed to graduate education through the master's degree. Excellent undergraduate education is the primary mission of these universities, which generally offer smaller classes than would be expected in other universities.

Master's universities are expected to:

- Concentrate on providing excellent broad-based undergraduate education
- Establish seamless transfer and facilitate success for Associate of Arts and Associate of Science graduates
- Offer smaller undergraduate class sizes
- Provide excellent developmental education and retention programs
- Provide access to critical and other excellent master's programs

- Provide excellent preparation not only for the workforce, but for professional schools and graduate education
- Have a critical role in the preparation of certified teachers
- Provide specialized programs recognized for their excellence

Texas universities that are presently in this category include:

- Angelo State University
- Midwestern State University
- Sul Ross State University
- Sul Ross University - Rio Grande
- Texas A&M University-Central Texas
- Texas A&M University- Galveston
- Texas A&M University-San Antonio
- Texas A&M University-Texarkana
- The University of Texas at Brownsville
- The University of Texas at Tyler
- The University of Texas of the Permian Basin
- University of Houston- Clear Lake
- University of Houston-Downtown
- University of Houston-Victoria
- University of North Texas at Dallas

Peer Group Criteria Changes

The chart on the following page highlights differences between the criteria in place from 2004 to July 2013 and the criteria adopted by the Coordinating Board on July 25, 2013.

Peer Group Category Criteria Changes Adopted July 2013
Research, Emerging Research & Doctoral

Requirement	Research (all)	Emerging Research (all)	Doctoral (meet 3 of 4)
Award PhDs	100 200 or more annually (rolling 2-year avg.)	20 30 or more annually (rolling 2-year avg.)	10 or more
Generate restricted research expenditures	Baseline: \$150 million annually (to be adjusted for inflation each year, rolling 2 year avg.)	20% of baseline for research universities (rolling 2-year avg.) Baseline: \$14M	Baseline: \$2 million annually
# Doctoral Research/Scholarship Programs	Offer comprehensive range Span at least 15 disciplines	Offer comprehensive range At least 10 programs	At least 5 programs
# Doctoral Research/Scholarship Students	No requirement	At least 150 students	At least 150 students
Black: Existing criteria Red: Requirements removed in 2013 Green: New requirements			