

Chapter 15 National Research Universities
Subchapter C National Research University Fund

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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, §§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 §13.122 of this title (relating to Definitions).

(13) Restricted research expenditures--As defined in §13.122 of this title and further developed in §§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) 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 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 (consisting of the Critical Reading and Mathematics Sections) 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 achieving the goals of the Board's Closing the Gaps report by 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) The cumulative number of tenured/tenure-track faculty who have achieved national or international distinction through recognition as a member of one of the National Academies (including National Academy of Science, National Academy of Engineering, Academy of Arts and Sciences, and Institute of Medicine) or are Nobel Prize recipients is equal to or greater than 5; or

(ii) The annual number of tenured/tenure-track faculty who have been awarded national or international distinction during a specific state fiscal year in any of the following categories is equal to or greater than 7.

(I) American Academy of Nursing Member

(II) American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) Fellows

(III) American Law Institute

(IV) Beckman Young Investigators

(V) Burroughs Wellcome Fund Career Awards

(VI) Cottrell Scholars

(VII) Getty Scholars in Residence

(VIII) Guggenheim Fellows

(IX) Howard Hughes Medical Institute Investigators

(X) Lasker Medical Research Awards

(XI) MacArthur Foundation Fellows

(XII) Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Distinguished Achievement Awards

(XIII) National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Fellows

(XIV) National Humanities Center Fellows

(XV) National Institutes of Health (NIH) MERIT

(XVI) National Medal of Science and National Medal of Technology winners

- (XVII) NSF CAREER Award winners (excluding those who are also PECASE winners)
- (XVIII) Newberry Library Long-term Fellows
- (XIX) Pew Scholars in Biomedicine
- (XX) Pulitzer Prize Winners
- (XXI) Winners of the Presidential Early Career Awards for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE)
- (XXII) Robert Wood Johnson Policy Fellows
- (XXIII) Searle Scholars
- (XXIV) Sloan Research Fellows
- (XXV) Woodrow Wilson Fellows

(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 §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 Chapter 321, Government Code. The Coordinating Board reserves the right to request additional audits by the state auditor as deem necessary and appropriate at any time after an eligible institution begins receiving distributions.