


**Race and Class in
Selective College Admission**
Session Number: C313

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National Study of College Experience

- The Study
- The Data
 - Institutional Data (10 selective institutions)
 - Student Survey (N=9,200 completed questionnaires)
 - Supplemental Data

TABLE 3.1
Student Personal and Academic Characteristics, and Percentage of
Applicants Admitted, Fall 1997

Category	Percent of Applicants ^a	Percent Admitted
<i>Total Sample (N = 3,829)</i>	100.0	34.6
<i>Student Personal Characteristics</i>		
<i>Race</i>		
White	66.0	39.2
Black	6.6	41.1
Hispanic	5.3	28.6
Asian	22.1	20.2
<i>Social Class</i>		
Upper	5.2	31.1
Upper-Middle	47.2	38.0
Middle	37.3	33.1
Working	9.1	26.0
Lower	1.2	27.5
<i>Sex</i>		
Male	47.6	31.2
Female	52.4	37.6

TABLE 3.1 (continued)
Student Personal and Academic Characteristics, and Percentage of Applicants Admitted, Fall 1997

Category	Percent of Applicants ^a	Percent Admitted
<i>Citizenship</i>		
US	93.6	35.4
Non-US	6.4	22.9
<i>Athlete</i>		
Yes	19.7	39.8
No	77.6	33.7
Unknown	2.7	22.0
<i>Legacy</i>		
Yes	22.6	40.3
No	77.0	32.7
Unknown	0.4	74.2

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TABLE 3.1 (continued)

Category	Percent of Applicants ^a	Percent Admitted
<i>SAT Score</i>		
< 1000	4.4	28.8
1000 - 1099	6.3	28.4
1100 - 1199	13.4	39.9
1200 - 1299	19.6	32.3
1300 - 1399	23.2	28.4
1400 - 1499	17.2	39.9
1500 - 1600	10.7	41.9
Unknown	5.2	37.0
Sample mean = 1296		
National mean = 1016 ^b		
<i>ACT Score</i>		
0 - 15	0.1	18.5
16 - 19	0.8	21.1
20 - 24	7.9	40.1
25 - 29	13.5	47.4
30 - 36	11.6	44.9
Unknown	66.2	29.7
Sample mean = 27.4		
National mean = 21.0 ^c		

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TABLE 3.1 (continued)
Student Personal and Academic Characteristics, and Percentage of Applicants Admitted, Fall 1997

Category	Percent of Applicants ^a	Percent Admitted
<i>Number of AP Tests Taken</i>		
0	21.1	33.8
1	15.8	35.0
2	11.8	38.0
3	11.1	28.8
4	10.4	39.4
5	8.0	29.9
6	7.4	35.5
7	4.0	32.2
8+	4.6	41.9
Unknown	5.8	33.4
Sample mean = 3.7 ^d		
National mean = 2.5 ^e		

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TABLE 3.1 (continued)
Student Personal and Academic Characteristics, and Percentage of Applicants Admitted, Fall 1997

Category	Percent of Applicants ^a	Percent Admitted
<i>Total Sample (N = 3,829)</i>	100.0	34.6
<i>High School Type</i>		
Public, non-magnet	67.4	34.5
Public, magnet	8.0	33.4
Private	15.2	36.9
Parochial/Religious	8.8	31.0
Unknown	0.7	48.2
<i>Elite 72 High School^f</i>		
Yes	5.8	35.9
No	94.1	34.5
Unknown	0.1	67.4

Source: National Study of College Experience

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TABLE 3.2
Differences Between Applicants to Public and Private NSCE Institutions in Acceptance Rates and Standardized Test Scores, Fall 1997^a

Category	Applicants to	
	Public Institutions	Private Institutions
<i>Total Sample (N = 3,829)</i>		
Unweighted N	1,033	2,796
Weighted N	27,171	52,051
<i>Overall Acceptance Rate (percent)</i>	55.1	23.8
<i>SAT Score</i>		
Average for all applicants	1205	1341
<i>ACT Score</i>		
Average for all applicants	25.9	29.0
Percent in 30-36 range	17.7	52.1
<i>SAT II (Achievement) Tests</i>		
Percent taking none	50.2	7.4
Average number of tests taken ^b	2.8	3.8
Average test scores(s)	598	649
Percent scoring 650 or above ^c	32.2	56.0
Percent scoring 750 or above ^c	0.7	6.2
<i>Advanced Placement Examinations</i>		
Percent taking none	37.8	14.3
Average number of tests taken ^b	2.6	4.1

Source: National Study of College Experience; Educational Testing Service

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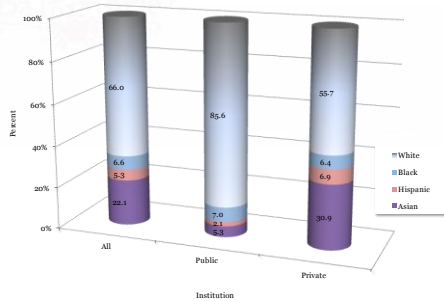


Figure 3.3 Racial Composition of Applicants to Public and Private NSCE Institutions, 1997

Source: National Study of College Experience

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TABLE 3.3
Acceptance Rates to Public and Private NSCE Institutions, by
Race and Social Class, Fall 1997

Item	Percent Admitted	
	Public Institutions	Private Institutions
<i>Total</i>	55.1	23.8
<i>Race</i>		
White	56.2	25.7
Black	58.5	31.0
Hispanic	40.8	26.7
Asian	39.9	18.4
<i>Social Class</i>		
Lower	57.8	23.2
Working	51.5	18.3
Middle	57.4	21.2
Upper-Middle	53.7	27.4
Upper	65.0	25.1

Source: National Study of College Experience

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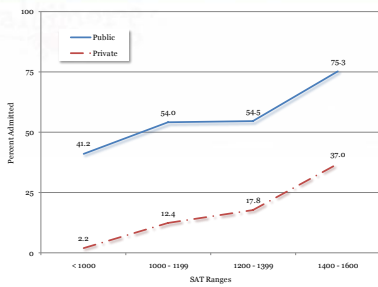


Figure 3.5 Percentage of Students Admitted Within SAT Ranges, Applicants to Public and Private NSCE Institutions

Source: National Study of College Experience

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TABLE 3.4
Odds Ratios from Logistic Regression Estimates of the Effect of Race and Social Class on Admission
Probabilities to Public and Private NSCE Institutions, Fall 1997

Predictor Variables	Public			Private		
	Model 1	Model 2	Model 3	Model 4	Model 5	Model 6
<i>Race</i>						
(White)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black	1.21	219.85***	804.26***	1.29†	5.26***	4.90***
Hispanic	0.57*	1.64	1.63	0.92	1.99***	2.23*
Asian	0.58*	0.19**	0.37	0.53***	0.33***	0.15***
<i>Social Class</i>						
Lower	3.45	0.93	0.43	0.66	2.02	0.09
Working	1.28	1.02	0.74	0.72	1.42	0.42
(Middle)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Upper-Middle	1.38	1.44	2.42	1.51*	1.32	0.97
Upper	1.87	1.80	0.54	1.06	0.84	0.64
<i>Race-Class Interactions</i>						
Black, Lower			1.42			256.19**
Black, Working			0.79			2.81
Black, Upper-Middle			0.05†			0.93
Black, Upper			-			0.12
Hispanic, Lower			1.42			65.43*
Hispanic, Working			14.97			3.38*
Hispanic, Upper-Middle			0.28			0.53
Hispanic, Upper			15246.43†			0.40
Asian, Lower			-			610.69***
Asian, Working			7.39			19.62***
Asian, Upper-Middle			0.16			2.54*
Asian, Upper			17.00			2.40

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TABLE 3.4 (continued)
Odds Ratios from Logistic Regression Estimates of the Effect of Race and Social Class on Admission
Probabilities to Public and Private NSCE Institutions, Fall 1997

Predictor Variables	Public			Private		
	Model 1	Model 2	Model 3	Model 4	Model 5	Model 6
<i>Student Personal Characteristics</i>						
<i>Sex</i>						
(Male)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Female	0.80	0.80	—	1.65**	1.65**	—
<i>Citizenship (US)</i>						
(US)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Non-US Citizen	0.84	0.80	—	1.83†	1.59	—
<i>Athlete</i>						
(No)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Yes	16.42**	21.83**	—	2.33***	2.22***	—
<i>Legacy</i>						
(No)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Yes	1.87	1.69	—	1.23	1.26	—

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TABLE 3.4 (continued)
Odds Ratios from Logistic Regression Estimates of the Effect of Race and Social Class on Admission
Probabilities to Public and Private NSCE Institutions, Fall 1997

Predictor Variables	Public			Private		
	Model 1	Model 2	Model 3	Model 4	Model 5	Model 6
<i>Student Academic Characteristics</i>						
<i>SAT Score</i>						
< 1000	—	—	—	0.02***	0.01***	—
1000 – 1099	0.59	0.42	—	0.17**	0.13**	—
1100 – 1199	3.53	2.71	—	0.53†	0.52†	—
(1200 – 1299)	—	—	—	—	—	—
1300 – 1399	0.71	0.48	—	0.74	0.78	—
1400 – 1499	20.12†	18.58	—	2.85**	3.00**	—
1500 – 1600	112.06*	109.11*	—	4.98***	5.50***	—
Unknown	0.12	0.11	—	0.33	0.27	—
<i>ACT Score</i>						
1 – 15	0.00***	0.00***	—	—	—	—
16 – 19	0.00***	0.00***	—	9.08†	14.74*	—
20 – 24	0.09**	0.15*	—	0.66	0.68	—
(25 – 29)	—	—	—	—	—	—
30 – 36	3363.96*	3960.07*	—	1.85†	1.82	—
Unknown	0.01***	0.01***	—	0.78	0.69	—

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TABLE 3.4 (continued)
Odds Ratios from Logistic Regression Estimates of the Effect of Race and Social Class on Admission
Probabilities to Public and Private NSCE Institutions, Fall 1997

Predictor Variables	Public			Private		
	Model 1	Model 2	Model 3	Model 4	Model 5	Model 6
<i>Student Academic Characteristics</i>						
<i>Number of AP Tests Taken</i>						
(0)	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	0.87	1.29	—	0.67	0.71	—
2	9.77**	16.79**	—	1.01	1.03	—
3	1.42	2.34	—	0.67	0.67	—
4	677.96***	1357.12***	—	1.07	1.07	—
5	842.23***	2001.96***	—	1.43	1.57	—
6	12089.13***	7380.44***	—	0.94	0.97	—
7	0.35	0.28	—	1.05	1.09	—
8+	—	—	—	1.25	1.75	—
Unknown	6.94	8.71†	—	0.42	0.45	—
<i>Number of SAT II (Subject or Achievement) Tests Taken</i>						
1 – 2	11.54*	12.90*	—	4.94**	5.56**	—
(3)	—	—	—	—	—	—
4 – 5	0.90	0.84	—	1.17	1.24	—
6 – 7	991481.7**	439204.6***	—	1.40	1.27	—
8+	—	—	—	2.51	2.49	—
<i>Average Score on SAT II Tests</i>						
(≤650)	—	—	—	—	—	—
650 – 749	0.47	0.56	—	1.69*	1.79*	—
750+	—	—	—	4.56**	4.54**	—

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TABLE 3.4 (continued)
Odds Ratios from Logistic Regression Estimates of the Effect of Race and Social Class on Admission Probabilities to Public and Private NSCE Institutions, Fall 1997

Predictor Variables	Public			Private		
	Model 1	Model 2	Model 3	Model 4	Model 5	Model 6
<i>SAT II Information Missing</i>						
(No)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Yes	0.06 [†]	0.06 [†]	—	2.32 [†]	2.52 [†]	—
<i>High School GPA</i>						
++	1959.71***	2492.82***	—	3.15 [†]	3.94**	—
A	18.06***	19.18***	—	1.84	2.38 [†]	—
A-	13.21***	15.74***	—	1.31	1.46	—
(B+ or lower)	—	—	—	—	—	—
No response	0.69	0.94	—	2.13	2.69	—
<i>High School Class Rank</i>						
Top 10 percent	13.41**	12.48**	—	7.05***	4.85**	—
Next 10 percent	11.46**	12.53**	—	3.64**	2.73 [†]	—
(Bottom 80 percent)	—	—	—	—	—	—
No response	6.28**	5.12 [†]	—	1.61	1.08	—
<i>SDQ Information Missing</i>						
(No)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Yes	24.98**	19.79 [†]	—	8.07***	7.02**	—

Source: National Study of College Experience

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TABLE 3.4 (continued)
Odds Ratios from Logistic Regression Estimates of the Effect of Race and Social Class on Admission Probabilities to Public and Private NSCE Institutions, Fall 1997

Predictor Variables	Public			Private		
	Model 1	Model 2	Model 3	Model 4	Model 5	Model 6
<i>National Merit or Achievement Scholar</i>						
(No)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Yes	0.93	1.06	—	1.50 [†]	1.55 [†]	—
<i>High School Type</i>						
(Public, non-magnet)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Public, magnet	0.41 [†]	0.15 [†]	—	1.10	1.04	—
Parochial/Religious	0.18 [†]	0.28	—	1.17	1.33	—
Private	2.29	2.69	—	2.03**	2.27**	—
Unknown	627.83**	1585.19**	—	4.08 [†]	3.94 [†]	—
<i>Elite 72 High School</i>						
(No)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Yes	30.72**	34.40**	—	3.09***	3.25***	—

Source: National Study of College Experience

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TABLE 3.5
Race and Social Class Admission Preferences at Public and Private Institutions Measured in ACT and SAT Points, Fall 1997

Item	Public Institutions	Private Institutions
	ACT-Point Equivalents (out of 36)	SAT-Point Equivalents (out of 1600)
<i>Race</i>		
(White)	—	—
Black	3.8	310
Hispanic	0.3	130
Asian	-3.4	-140
<i>Social Class</i>		
Lower	-0.1	130
Working	0.0	70
(Middle)	—	—
Upper-Middle	0.3	50
Upper	0.4	-30

Source: National Study of College Experience

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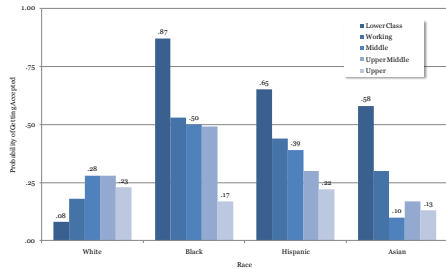


Figure 3.9 Effect of Race and Social Class on the Probability of Being Admitted to Private NSCE Institutions, All Other Things Held Constant, 1997

Note: Based on Model 6 in Table 3.4

Source: National Study of College Experience

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TABLE 3.6
Immigrant Generation of Applicants to Public and Private NSCE Institutions, by Race, Fall 1997
(Percentage Distribution)

Immigrant Generation	Public					Private				
	Total	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian	Total	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian
First	3.0	0.1	5.7	19.8	39.2	16.7	6.8	11.5	19.9	35.0
Second	8.2	4.2	8.4	53.1	54.1	28.1	10.1	28.3	46.6	56.5
Third	19.9	22.6	1.9	15.2	2.7	14.1	21.4	3.1	18.6	2.1
Fourth and Higher	66.6	71.0	79.4	9.7	1.5	38.3	59.4	51.0	13.6	3.3
Unknown	2.3	2.1	4.6	2.2	2.6	2.8	2.4	6.1	1.4	3.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
N (unweighted)	1,033	308	328	167	230	2,796	766	531	733	766

Source: National Study of College Experience

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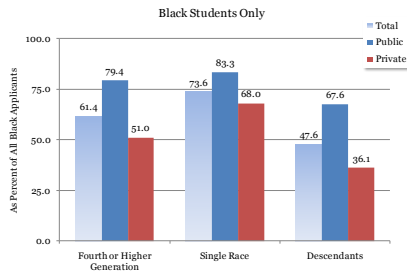


Figure 3.10 Black Applicants to Seven NSCE Institutions Who are Fourth Immigrant Generation or Higher, Single Race, or Descendants, by Type of Institution, 1997

Source: National Study of College Experience

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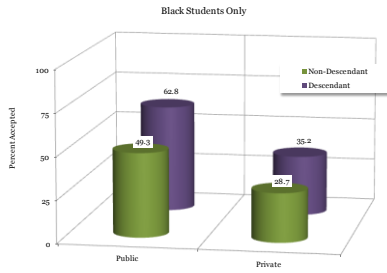


Figure 3.11 Acceptance Rates for Black Applicants to Seven NSCE Institutions, by Type of Institution and Whether Applicants are Descendants or Non-Descendants, 1997

Source: National Study of College Experience

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TABLE 3.7
Odds Ratios from Logistic Regression Estimates of the Effect of Race, Immigrant Generation, and Social Class on Admission Probabilities to Public and Private NSCE Institutions, Fall 1997

Predictor Variables	Public	Private
<i>Disaggregated Race (White)</i>		
Black descendants	333.88 ^{***}	9.81 ^{***}
Black non-descendants	106.78 ^{***}	3.89 ^{***}
Hispanic 1 st generation	2.35	1.11
Hispanic 2 nd generation	0.32	2.79 ^{***}
Hispanic 3 rd and higher generation	12.97	1.68 [†]
Asian 1 st generation	0.11	0.39 ^{**}
Asian 2 nd generation	0.24 [*]	0.27 ^{**}
Asian 3 rd and higher generation	0.15	0.61
<i>Social Class^a</i>		
Low	1.02	1.44
(Middle)	-	-
High	1.40	1.26

Source: National Study of College Experience

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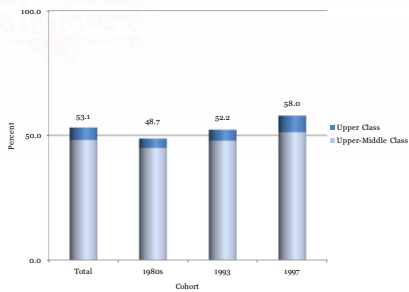


Figure 8.5 Percent of Enrolled Students from Upper-Middle or Upper Class Backgrounds, by Cohort

Note: Eight NSCE Institutions (N=6,350)

Source: National Study of College Experience

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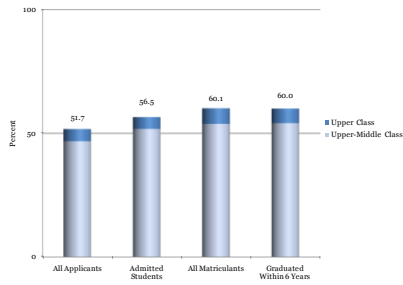


Figure 8.6 Social Class Profile of NSCE Students from Application to College Graduation, 1997 Cohort

Note: Seven NSCE Institutions (N=3,670)
Source: National Study of College Experience

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TABLE 8.1
Combined Percentage of Upper-Middle and Upper Class Students in Successive Stages of the Application-to-Graduation Process, 1997 Cohort

Category	All Applicants	All Accepted Students	All Matriculants	Graduated Within Six Years
All Students	51.7	56.5	60.1	60.0
Public	56.9	56.6	60.9	60.4
Private	49.1	56.3	59.4	59.6
White	57.8	61.1	65.4	64.9
Black	26.0	25.0	27.6	27.7
Hispanic	37.1	38.2	38.3	39.4
Asian	43.2	55.2	56.1	56.2

Source: National Study of College Experience

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TABLE 9.1
Effect of Eliminating Affirmative Action at Private Institutions: Simulation Results, Fall 1997

Item	Observed Baseline Applications	Observed Baseline Admitted	Difference From Observed Baseline Admitted If	
			No Affirmative Action ^a	Race-Neutral Admission ^b
Total	51,836	12,233	0	0
Race (%)				
White	55.7	59.9	4.6	-6.5
Black	6.3	8.3	-4.7	-5.5
Hispanic	7.0	7.9	-2.1	-3.2
Asian	31.0	23.9	2.2	15.1
Social Class (%)				
Lower	1.6	1.6	-0.8	-1.2
Working	10.7	8.3	-2.0	-4.3
Middle	38.0	33.4	-0.4	5.8
Upper-Middle	43.0	49.6	2.5	-0.5
Upper	6.8	7.2	0.7	0.1
Race and Social Class (%)				
Minority, bottom 2 classes	3.5	4.5	-3.3	-3.6
Non-minority, bottom 2 classes	8.8	5.4	0.4	-1.9
Minority, top 3 classes	9.8	11.7	-3.5	-5.1
Non-minority, top 3 classes	78.0	78.4	6.4	10.5
Mean SAT Score	1,340	1,405	5	10

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TABLE 9.2
Effect of Giving More Weight to Low-Income Students at Private Institutions: Simulation Results, Fall 1997

Item	Observed Baseline Admitted	Difference From Observed Baseline Admitted If		
		Substitute Black and Hispanic Weights for Lower and Working Classes	Substitute Legacy Weight for Lower Class ^a	Substitute Legacy Weight for Lower and Working Classes ^a
Total	12,233	0	0	0
Race (%)				
White	59.9	-2.4	-0.4	-2.7
Black	8.3	1.0	0.2	1.2
Hispanic	7.9	0.9	0.1	1.1
Asian	23.9	0.4	0.1	0.4
Social Class (%)				
Lower	1.6	3.6	3.2	2.9
Working	8.3	7.2	-0.3	8.7
Middle	33.4	-4.1	-1.1	-4.4
Upper-Middle	49.6	-5.8	-1.6	-6.3
Upper	7.2	-1.0	-0.3	-1.1
Race and Social Class (%)				
Minority, bottom 2 classes	4.5	3.3	0.6	3.7
Non-minority, bottom 2 classes	5.4	7.5	2.3	7.9
Minority, top 3 classes	11.7	-1.3	-0.3	-1.4
Non-minority, top 3 classes	78.4	-9.5	-2.5	-10.2
Mean SAT Score	1,405	-17	-7	-19

TABLE 9.3
Effect of Substituting Other Policies for Affirmative Action at Private Institutions: Simulation Results, Fall 1997

Item	Observed Baseline Admitted	Difference From Observed Baseline Admitted If		
		No Affirmative Action More Low-Income Weights	No Affirmative Action, More Low-Income Weight, Less Emphasis on Academic Performance ^a	No Affirmative Action, More Low-Income Weight, No Weight to Academic Performance ^a
Total	12,233	0	0	0
Race (%)				
White	59.9	3.0	2.4	2.2
Black	8.3	-4.3	-2.5	-0.7
Hispanic	7.9	-1.7	-1.0	-0.6
Asian	23.9	2.9	1.1	-0.9
Social Class (%)				
Lower	1.6	-2.5	3.0	3.4
Working	8.3	4.5	6.7	8.4
Middle	33.4	-4.0	-5.2	-5.1
Upper-Middle	49.6	-2.9	-4.7	-7.4
Upper	7.2	-0.2	0.2	0.7
Race and Social Class (%)				
Minority, bottom 2 classes	4.5	-1.5	-0.4	0.2
Non-minority, bottom 2 classes	5.4	8.5	10.1	11.5
Minority, top 3 classes	11.7	-4.4	-3.2	-1.6
Non-minority, top 3 classes	78.4	-2.6	-6.5	-10.2
Mean SAT Score	1,405	-5	-31	-76

TABLE 9.8
A Comparison of the Profiles of Admitted Students Under Two Conditions:
Current Policy (Affirmative Action with an Achievement Gap) Versus
No Affirmative Action and No Academic Achievement Gap,
Private and Public Institutions Combined, Fall 1997

Item	Current Policy	No Affirmative Action, No Achievement Gap
Total Admitted	26,418	26,418
Race (percentage)		
White	74.6	73.8
Black	8.0	8.4
Hispanic	4.5	4.9
Asian	12.9	12.9
Social Class (percentage) ^a		
Low	8.1	7.0
Middle	35.9	36.6
High	56.0	56.4
Mean SAT Score	1299	1321

