Report, Reflection, Action: Rethinking the Admissions’ Process

JoAnn Canales, PhD
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi

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Seattle, Washington
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University Location

Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi

Map showing the location of Corpus Christi, Texas, within the United States and Texas state. A detailed map of Corpus Christi and its vicinity, with a marker for Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.
University Context

- **37 programs**
  - 8 terminal
  - 29 master’s

- **Enrollment (table)**
  - Fall 2015: 1861
  - F-1241 (67%)/M-620 (33%)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>White</th>
<th>Hispanic</th>
<th>International</th>
<th>Black</th>
<th>Asian</th>
<th>Other</th>
<th>Native American</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>813 (44%)</td>
<td>575 (31%)</td>
<td>259 (14%)</td>
<td>88 (.05%)</td>
<td>79 (.04%)</td>
<td>41 (.02%)</td>
<td>6 (.003%)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

- **Completion**
  - Masters – 68%
  - Doctoral – 54%
  - Overall – 67%
Overall Enrollment
Enrollment by Program

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>College</th>
<th>Major</th>
<th>Count of Stu Id</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<tr>
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Gender Enrollment by College
Gender Enrollment by Program

College Enrollment Details:

- **ACCT**: 0 (Male), 24 (Female), 20 (Total)
- **BUSI**: 0 (Male), 7 (Female), 20 (Total)
- **CINS**: 2 (Male), 16 (Female), 28 (Total)
- **CNED**: 3 (Male), 7 (Female), 20 (Total)
- **COUN**: 0 (Male), 29 (Female), 29 (Total)
- **ECED**: 4 (Male), 5 (Female), 9 (Total)
- **EDAD**: 4 (Male), 5 (Female), 9 (Total)
- **EDLD**: 1 (Male), 2 (Female), 3 (Total)
- **ELEM**: 2 (Male), 5 (Female), 7 (Total)
- **IDET**: 2 (Male), 3 (Female), 5 (Total)
- **KINE**: 4 (Male), 0 (Female), 4 (Total)
- **PROF**: 1 (Male), 2 (Female), 3 (Total)
- **READ**: 1 (Male), 1 (Female), 2 (Total)
- **SCED**: 3 (Male), 2 (Female), 5 (Total)
- **SPED**: 1 (Male), 3 (Female), 4 (Total)
- **TCHR**: 1 (Male), 2 (Female), 3 (Total)
- **COMM**: 5 (Male), 0 (Female), 5 (Total)
- **ENGL**: 1 (Male), 0 (Female), 1 (Total)
- **HIST**: 4 (Male), 1 (Female), 5 (Total)
- **PADM**: 5 (Male), 5 (Female), 10 (Total)
- **PSYC**: 4 (Male), 4 (Female), 8 (Total)
- **STAR**: 3 (Male), 4 (Female), 7 (Total)
- **HCAD**: 5 (Male), 0 (Female), 5 (Total)
- **NSED**: 4 (Male), 1 (Female), 5 (Total)
- **NSLD**: 4 (Male), 15 (Female), 19 (Total)
- **NSNP**: 16 (Male), 2 (Female), 18 (Total)
- **BIOL**: 2 (Male), 4 (Female), 6 (Total)
- **CMSS**: 2 (Male), 1 (Female), 3 (Total)
- **COSC**: 10 (Male), 5 (Female), 15 (Total)
- **ECII**: 7 (Male), 4 (Female), 11 (Total)
- **FAMA**: 5 (Male), 3 (Female), 8 (Total)
- **GESE**: 9 (Male), 4 (Female), 13 (Total)
- **MARB**: 7 (Male), 17 (Female), 24 (Total)
- **MATH**: 2 (Male), 2 (Female), 4 (Total)
Diversity Enrollment by Program

The image displays a bar chart showing enrollment numbers by program and ethnicity. The chart includes categories such as College (BC, BUSI, ED), Major (KCGT, BUSI, CINS), and Ethnicity (ASIAN, HISP, INTL, OTHER, WHT), with counts for each category.
Additional Analytics

- Time to Degree Data by Program
- Student Debt Average by Program
- Student Award Level by Program
- Time to Degree Data by Gender/Race-Ethnicity
- Student Debt Average by Gender/Race-Ethnicity
- Student Award Level by Gender/Race-Ethnicity
Admissions’ Practices

• College of Graduate Studies Requirements
  – 2.5 GPA
  – Official transcripts from ALL institutions attended
  – English language proficiency exam (if needed)

• Additional admissions requirements
  – Essays
  – Letters of Recommendation
  – Resumes
  – Interviews
  – Writing Samples
  – Portfolios
Essay prompts

- **Current practice**
  - 37 programs require essays
  - 300-1000 words
  - Focus on goals /motivation/interests/research
  - No guidelines for review

- **Improved practice**
  - Recommend specific prompts requiring examples where attributes were evidenced
  - Recommend use of rubrics to assess the written expressive modality
Rethinking Criteria

- Letters of Recommendation
  - Current practice
    - 26 programs require letters/forms of recommendation
      [11 have no LOR requirement]
    - 2-4 letters/forms
    - Letters (18 programs)-potential for success/motivation
    - Forms (8 programs)-attributes
    - No guidelines for review
  - Improved practice
    - Recommend reframing of mission statements to include desirable attributes
    - Recommend forms focused on attributes
    - Recommend guidelines for assessing the extent to which attributes are addressed
Rethinking Criteria

Resumes

☑ Current practice
  ▪ 13 programs require resumes (terminal: COE/Nursing/S&E; master’s: Comm/MPA/MBA/ACCT/CMSS/MARB)
  ▪ No guidelines for review

☑ Improved practice
  ▪ Recommend specific components
  ▪ Recommend guidelines for evaluating resumes
Rethinking Criteria

➤ Interviews

☐ Current practice

▪ 7 programs require interviews (Terminal: COE/Nursing/S&E, Masters: CNED/ElemEd/SecEd)

▪ No guidelines for review

☐ Improved practice

▪ Recommend specific criteria

▪ Recommend guidelines for evaluating responses
Rethinking Criteria

➢ Writing Samples

☐ Current practice
  ▪ 4 programs require writing samples (EDLD/communication/English/history)
  ▪ No explicit criteria
  ▪ No rubric

☐ Improved practice
  ▪ Recommend specific criteria for prompts
  ▪ Recommend guidelines for evaluating writing sample
Rethinking Criteria

- Portfolios
  - Current practice
    - 2 programs require CD portfolios (Studio Art/MFA)
    - No guidelines provided
  - Improved practice
    - Recommend specific criteria for components
    - Recommend guidelines for evaluating portfolios
Admissions’ Ecosystem

- Admissions Practices
- Sponsorship
- Supportive Learning environments
- Appropriate funding mechanisms
- Faculty Preparation

Appropriate funding mechanisms
Concluding Remarks

Intentionality
Explicitness
Transparency
Holistic admissions criteria – not just for students entering programs