

Our goal for the Fall 2012 first-year class is 3,960 students, including 3,247 from North Carolina. More than 10,000 North Carolinians applied. Fifty percent of those who applied were offered admission; 65 percent of those admitted will enroll.

The applicants from North Carolina included 4,179 whose high schools reported official class rank and who ranked within the top 10 percent of their graduating class.

Through the practice of comprehensive review described in our reading document, 3,194 of these students, or 76 percent, were offered admission. Of these students, 2,117, or 66 percent of those admitted, have accepted our offer of admission and will enroll next fall. These enrolling students will comprise 65 percent of the 3,247 North Carolinians in the entering first-year class.

If we had offered admission to all 4,179 of the top-10-percent North Carolinians who applied, our yield model projects that we would have enrolled an additional 751 students, increasing the number of top-10-percent students in the entering class to 2,868, or 88 percent of all North Carolinians enrolling.

A total of 379 spaces would have remained for the more than 5,800 other North Carolinians applied. Assuming that 65 percent of the students admitted from this group would have enrolled, we would have needed to offer admission to 583 students. The resulting admission rate for North Carolinians who did not officially rank in the top 10 percent of their graduating class would have been 10 percent, as opposed to a rate of 31 percent under comprehensive review. The students denied would have included hundreds of non-underrepresented minority students attending independent high schools and public magnet and suburban high schools—students who were admitted under comprehensive review.

A top-10-percent policy would have yielded a first-year class with a higher percentage of underrepresented students: 16 percent vs. 15 percent under comprehensive and holistic review. In effect, more non-underrepresented students would have been denied admission under a top-10-percent policy than under comprehensive and holistic review.

Under a top-10-percent policy, every academic indicator other than the share of the class ranking in the top 10 percent of the high-school class would have declined. For example, the average SAT (Critical Reading and Math combined) would have been 1262, as opposed to 1317 under comprehensive and holistic review.

The predicted GPA of the class after the first year at UNC would also have declined to 3.16 from 3.26 under comprehensive review.