

Appendices

Appendix Table 1. Available weights by survey and survey-wave

Weight name	NLS72	HS & B	NELS	ELS
CROSSWGT12	12 th grade flag variable W1 Grade 12 survey (1972)	G12COHRT=11 FU1WT grade 12 survey (1982)	G12COHRT=1 F4QWT grade 12 survey (1992) F4 survey (2000)	G12COHRT=1 F1QWT grade 12 survey (2004)
	W8 “grade 14” survey (1974)	FU2WT “grade 14” survey(1984)	No such weight exists	F2QWT “grade 14” survey (2006)
LONGWGT	W9 Grade 12 survey (1972) “grade 14” survey (1974)	PANELWT3 grade 10 survey (1980), grade 12 survey (1982), “grade 14” survey (1984)	F4F2PNWT grade 12 survey (1992), “grade 14” survey (1994) F4 survey (2000)	F2F1WT grade 12 survey (2004), “grade 14” survey (2006)
	NA: no high school transcript study	TRWT HS transcript (1982)	F4TRSCWT HS transcript (1992) F4 survey (2000)	F1TRSCWT HS transcript (2004)
LONGHSTRANWT	NA: no high school transcript study	TRWT HS transcript (1982)	F4TRSCWT HS transcript (1992) F4 survey (2000)	F2QTSCWT HS transcript (2004), “frade 14” survey (2006)

1 HS&B does not include a flag variable for the 12th grade cohort. Following the work of Ingels and Dalton (2008) the 12th grade flag variable was created as follows: G12COHRT=1 IF FY1 IN(2,3) AND HSGRDAT2 NOT IN(80,81).

Appendix Table 2. Criteria for Barron's selectivity categories

	2004	1992	1982
Most Competitive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HS rank: top 10% to 20%; grade averages from B+ to A • Median test scores: 655 to 800 on SATI; and 29+ on ACT • Admit less than 33% of applicants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HS rank: top 10% to 20%; grade averages from B+ to A • Median test scores: 625 to 800 on SAT; and 29+ on ACT • Admit less than 33% of applicants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HS rank: top 10% to 20%; grade averages from B+ to A • Median test scores: 625 to 800 on SAT; and 27+ on ACT • Admit “only a small percentage” of applicants – usually less than one-third
Highly Competitive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HS rank: top 20% to 35%; grade averages from B to B+ • Median test scores: 620 to 654 on SATI; 27 or 28 on ACT • Admit 33% - 50% of applicants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HS rank: top 20% to 35%; grade averages from B to B+ • Median test scores: 575 to 625 on SAT; 27 or 28 on ACT • Admit 33% - 50% of applicants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HS rank: top 20% to 35%; grade averages from B to B+ • Median test scores: 575 to 625 on SAT; 26 or 27 on ACT • Admit 33% - 50% of applicants
Very Competitive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HS rank: top 35% to 50%; grade averages from B- or higher • Median test scores: 573 to 619 on SATI; 24 to 26 on ACT • Admit 50% - 75% of applicants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HS rank: top 35% to 50%; grade averages from B- or higher • Median test scores: 525 to 575 on SAT; 24 to 26 on ACT • Admit 50% - 75% of applicants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HS rank: top 35% to 50%; grade averages from B- or higher • Median test scores: 525 to 575 on SAT; 23 to 25 on ACT • Admit 50% - 75% of applicants
Competitive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HS rank: top 50% to 65%; grade averages from C or higher • Median test scores: 500 to 572 on SATI; 21 to 23 on ACT • Admit 75% - 85% of applicants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HS rank: top 50% to 65%; grade averages from C or higher • Median test scores: 450 to 525 on SAT; 21 to 23 on ACT • Admit 75% - 85% of applicants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HS rank: top 50% to 65%; grade averages from C or higher • Median test scores: 450 to 525 on SAT; 19 to 22 on ACT • Admit 75% - 85% of applicants

Appendix Table 3: Distribution of colleges and universities by Barron's selectivity category

	1972	1982	1992	2004
Most-competitive	23 (2%)	30 (2%)	43 (3%)	65 (5%)
Highly-competitive	73 (6%)	60 (4%)	73 (5%)	95 (7%)
Very-competitive	138 (11%)	138 (10%)	212 (15%)	245 (17%)
Competitive	637 (50%)	643 (46%)	593 (41%)	615 (43%)
Less Competitive	362 (29%)	417 (30%)	371 (25%)	316 (22%)
Non Competitive	30 (2%)	120 (9%)	164 (11%)	104 (7%)
Total	1263	1440	1456	1408

Appendix Table 4. Weighted and un-weighted sample sizes by cohort.

	1972	1982	1992	2004
(1) Weighted cohort ^a	2,357,502	2,920,265	2,479,864	2,846,464
(2) Weighted SES cohort ^b	1,840,976	2,727,037	2,192,357	2,126,733
(3) Weighted SES, SAT cohort ^c	910,487	1,624,590	1,510,759	1,584,521
(4) Weighted academic cohort ^d	NA	2,510,503	1,820,123	2,002,865
(5) Weighted academic, SAT ^e	NA	1,514,650	1,278,607	1,496,647
(6) Un-weighted cohort ^a	16,870	10,634	10,197	13,406
(7) Un-weighted SES cohort ^b	12,206	9,840	9,363	10,041
(8) Un-weighted SES, SAT cohort ^c	5,543	6,424	6,522	7,654
(9) Un-weighted academic cohort ^d	NA	9,011	8157	9,455
(10) Un-weighted academic, SAT ^e	NA	5,938	5,805	7,221

^a Sample size with no restrictions^b Sample size for observations that do not have any missing values for race, gender, parental education, family income, and SES^c SES cohort sample size with the added restriction that sample members have an SAT/ACT score (with imputed values)^d SES cohort sample size with the added restriction that observations do not have any missing values for HS match achievement, HS science achievement, and HS GPA.^e Academic cohort sample size with the added restriction that sample members must have an SAT/ACT score.

Appendix Table 5. Weighted institutional destination by cohort, sample

	(1) Weighted cohort						
	1972	1982	1992	2004			
No PSE	44.0%	35.6%	***	28.4%	***	21.8%	***
2yr/ LT 2y	23.4%	30.0%	***	27.9%	***	30.9%	***
Non Competitive	8.9%	8.7%		10.5%	***	12.8%	***
Competitive	12.2%	13.4%	**	16.6%	***	18.4%	***
Very Competitive	7.2%	7.3%		9.3%	***	9.8%	
High Competitive	2.6%	3.0%	*	3.9%	***	4.1%	
Most Competitive	1.7%	2.0%		3.6%	***	2.2%	***
(2) Weighted SES analysis cohort							
	1972	1982	1992	2004			
No PSE	43.0%	34.5%	***	27.2%	***	20.1%	***
2yr/ LT 2y	23.1%	30.2%	***	27.7%	***	30.9%	***
Non Competitive	9.0%	8.8%		10.6%	***	12.9%	***
Competitive	12.9%	13.8%	*	16.7%	***	19.3%	***
Very Competitive	7.5%	7.6%		10.0%	***	10.1%	
High Competitive	2.7%	3.2%	*	4.2%	***	4.4%	
Most Competitive	1.9%	2.0%		3.6%	***	2.4%	***
(4) Weighted academic preparation analysis cohort							
	1972	1982	1992	2004			
No PSE	NA	33.9%		26.2%	***	19.8%	***
2yr/ LT 2y	NA	30.2%		28.2%	***	31.0%	***
Non Competitive	NA	9.0%		10.8%	***	12.8%	***
Competitive	NA	13.8%		16.9%	***	19.5%	***
Very Competitive	NA	7.9%		10.3%	***	10.1%	
High Competitive	NA	3.2%		4.3%	***	4.4%	
Most Competitive	NA	2.0%		3.3%	***	2.4%	***

Note. Difference in proportions for current and previous year is significant at the 1% (**), 5%(*), or 10% (*) level, two tailed test.

Appendix Table 6. SES representation of each institutional destination (row percentages), by cohort

SES Quartile	1972				1982				SES Q4
	SES Q1	SES Q2	SES Q3	SES Q4	SES Q1	SES Q2	SES Q3	SES Q4	
No PSE	38.1%	28.1%	22.0%	11.9%	39.6%	30.6%	**	20.0% *	9.7% ***
2yr/ LT 2yr (pub)	20.7%	23.5%	26.8%	29.1%	19.0%	26.7%	**	29.2% *	25.0% ***
2yr/ LT 2yr (priv)	23.2%	22.7%	31.8%	22.3%	26.8%	30.5%	***	28.3%	14.4% ***
Non Competitive	19.9%	20.8%	23.9%	35.5%	18.4%	22.0%	28.8%	** 30.8%	**
Competitive	13.1%	17.7%	25.6%	43.6%	9.4%	***	20.8% **	29.0% *	40.8%
Very Competitive	10.8%	14.4%	18.9%	55.9%	9.8%	13.8%	21.6%	54.8%	
Highly Competitive	8.9%	10.8%	20.8%	59.6%	4.0%	**	9.7%	25.1%	61.2%
Most Competitive	5.2%	7.4%	9.9%	77.5%	3.8%	11.4%	17.8% **	67.0% **	
1992									
	SES Q1	SES Q2	SES Q3	SES Q4	SES Q1	SES Q2	SES Q3	SES Q4	
No PSE	41.8%	27.9% **	21.1%	9.1%	42.0%	31.2% **	19.1%	7.7%	
2yr/ LT 2yr (pub)	24.6% ***	30.4% ***	28.7%	16.3% ***	25.2%	28.7%	28.2%	17.9%	
2yr/ LT 2yr (priv)	29.8%	28.9%	22.5% *	18.8%	30.7%	32.8%	27.6%	9.0% ***	
Non Competitive	15.4% *	22.7%	34.3% **	27.5%	19.6% **	25.4%	29.1% ***	25.9%	
Competitive	12.7% ***	21.4%	28.6%	37.3% **	13.0%	19.1%	30.2%	37.8%	
Very Competitive	10.2%	13.4%	27.2% ***	49.2% **	7.3% **	15.0%	26.8%	50.9%	
Highly Competitive	6.4%	10.6%	20.5%	62.6%	5.0%	9.3%	19.5%	66.2%	
Most Competitive	5.0%	2.9% ***	23.9% *	68.3%	4.1%	8.1% ***	18.7% *	69.0%	

Note: Difference in proportion for SES quartile=i and cohort=t compared to proportion for SES quartile=i and cohort=t-1, significant at the 1% (***) , 5% (**), or 10% (*) level, two tailed test

Appendix Table 7. Mean of HS math, HS science, and HS GPA by institutional destination, cohort

	Highest HS Math Passed					Highest HS Science Passed					HS GPA			
	1982	1992	2004	1982	1992	2004	1982	1992	2004					
No PSE	1.86	2.34	***	2.60	***	2.61	3.15	***	3.34	***	2.30	2.23	***	2.36
2yr/ LT 2yr	2.53	2.80	***	3.26	***	3.14	3.51	***	3.82	***	2.58	2.49	***	2.67 ***
Non Competitive	3.05	3.66	***	3.88	***	3.67	4.00	***	4.21	***	2.80	2.76		2.92 ***
Competitive	3.29	4.01	***	4.38	***	3.85	4.31	***	4.49	***	2.90	2.93		3.13 ***
Very Competitive	3.81	4.54	***	4.97	***	4.29	4.64	***	4.88	***	3.08	3.17	***	3.36 ***
Highly Competitive	4.31	4.87	***	5.23	***	4.61	4.98	***	4.97		3.17	3.26	**	3.43 ***
Most Competitive	4.66	5.21	***	5.68	***	4.77	5.24	***	5.26		3.37	3.39		3.60 ***

Note. Difference in means for current and previous year is significant at the 1% (***) , 5%(**), or 10% (*) level, two tailed test.

Appendix Table 8. Proportion of students taking the SAT and/or ACT, SAT score (ACT converted to SAT) by institutional destination, cohort,

	Proportion taking SAT and/or ACT ^a						Mean SAT score							
	1972	1982	1992	2004	1972	1982	1992	2004						
No PSE	0.18	0.27	***	0.31	***	0.30	957	849	***	887	***	849	***	
2yr/ LT 2yr	0.51	0.58	***	0.55	*	0.58	*	990	914	***	911	896	**	
Non Competitive	0.82	0.86	**	0.82	**	0.85	*	1046	952	***	981	***	964	**
Competitive	0.87	0.92	***	0.90	***	0.97	***	1079	1004	***	1024	***	1035	*
Very Competitive	0.89	0.97	***	0.92	***	0.99	***	1121	1081	***	1109	***	1150	***
Highly Competitive	0.92	0.97	***	0.95	**	0.98	***	1185	1147	***	1159	1205	***	
Most Competitive	0.99	0.97	**	0.98		0.99		1258	1241		1253		1330	***

Note. For proportion taking the SAT and/or ACT, difference in proportions for current and previous year is significant at the 1% (***) , 5%(**), or 10% (*) level, two tailed test.

Note. For mean SAT score, difference in means for current and previous year is significant at the 1% (***) , 5%(**), or 10% (*) level, two tailed test.

^a Proportion taking the SAT and/or SAT is based on student self-reports.

Appendix Table 10. Regression adjusted probabilities of institutional destination and 95% confidence intervals for students with pre-collegiate academic preparation covariates equal to the mean values of students enrolled in competitive institutions

	Regression Results Based on Respondents from 1st and 2nd SES Quartiles								
	1982			1992			2004		
	Lower	Prob	Upper	Lower	Prob	Upper	Lower	Prob	Upper
No PSE	12.07%	20.25%	28.44%	9.44%	15.68%	21.91%	7.06%	11.32%	15.57%
2yr/ LT 2yr	17.81%	25.72%	33.63%	20.44%	28.86%	37.28%	22.92%	29.89%	36.86%
Non Competitive	5.24%	10.36%	15.47%	11.81%	18.16%	24.51%	12.91%	18.74%	24.57%
Competitive	23.67%	34.27%	44.87%	18.37%	25.39%	32.41%	24.20%	32.19%	40.19%
Very Competitive	2.33%	6.28%	10.22%	6.20%	11.07%	15.93%	3.30%	6.79%	10.27%
Highly/Most Competitive	0.43%	3.13%	5.82%	0.12%	0.85%	1.59%	0.16%	1.07%	1.99%

	Regression Results Based on Respondents from 3rd and 4th SES Quartiles								
	1982			1992			2004		
	Lower	Prob	Upper	Lower	Prob	Upper	Lower	Prob	Upper
No PSE	3.18%	6.09%	9.01%	2.57%	5.66%	8.75%	2.73%	5.27%	7.81%
2yr/ LT 2yr	22.62%	28.95%	35.28%	16.50%	22.41%	28.31%	18.62%	24.08%	29.53%
Non Competitive	11.09%	16.40%	21.70%	12.96%	17.51%	22.06%	11.85%	16.28%	20.71%
Competitive	23.99%	30.49%	37.00%	25.43%	30.89%	36.35%	35.76%	42.03%	48.30%
Very Competitive	9.10%	13.74%	18.38%	11.61%	17.30%	23.00%	6.02%	9.23%	12.43%
Highly/Most Competitive	2.15%	4.33%	6.51%	3.42%	6.24%	9.05%	1.67%	3.13%	4.58%

Appendix Table 11. Regression adjusted probabilities of institutional destination and 95% confidence intervals for students with pre-collegiate academic preparation covariates equal to the mean values of students enrolled in very competitive institutions

	Regression Results Based on Respondents from 1st and 2nd SES Quartiles									
	1982			1992			2004			
	Lower	Prob	Upper	Lower	Prob	Upper	Lower	Prob	Upper	
No PSE	5.65%	12.73%	19.80%	-0.31%	12.22%	24.75%	1.81%	4.26%	6.71%	
2yr/ LT 2yr	20.30%	29.35%	38.40%	7.12%	17.15%	27.18%	8.68%	13.74%	18.80%	
Non Competitive	6.03%	11.41%	16.80%	8.46%	17.25%	26.04%	9.24%	15.77%	22.30%	
Competitive	21.43%	30.60%	39.77%	16.89%	25.88%	34.88%	26.39%	35.35%	44.31%	
Very Competitive	4.12%	10.27%	16.43%	10.45%	22.32%	34.18%	15.25%	25.67%	36.09%	
Highly/Most Competitive	0.31%	5.64%	10.96%	0.03%	5.18%	10.34%	1.21%	5.22%	9.22%	

	Regression Results Based on Respondents from 3rd and 4th SES Quartiles									
	1982			1992			2004			
	Lower	Prob	Upper	Lower	Prob	Upper	Lower	Prob	Upper	
No PSE	1.73%	3.65%	5.57%	0.25%	4.02%	7.79%	0.63%	1.69%	2.75%	
2yr/ LT 2yr	19.47%	25.68%	31.88%	7.04%	11.28%	15.52%	6.57%	10.30%	14.02%	
Non Competitive	7.70%	11.80%	15.90%	2.44%	6.15%	9.86%	7.18%	10.34%	13.51%	
Competitive	25.56%	31.92%	38.29%	21.64%	28.37%	35.10%	28.97%	34.91%	40.85%	
Very Competitive	13.02%	18.46%	23.90%	28.68%	38.36%	48.04%	26.50%	32.79%	39.09%	
Highly/Most Competitive	5.04%	8.50%	11.96%	7.73%	11.82%	15.91%	6.74%	9.97%	13.19%	

Appendix Table 13. Regression adjusted probabilities of institutional destination and 95% confidence intervals for students with pre-collegiate academic preparation covariates equal to the mean values of students enrolled in most competitive institutions

	Regression Results Based on Respondents from 1st and 2nd SES Quartiles									
	1982			1992			2004			
	Lower	Prob	Upper	Lower	Prob	Upper	Lower	Prob	Upper	
No PSE	-0.87%	3.19%	7.24%	-1.08%	6.38%	13.83%	0.21%	1.32%	2.43%	
2yr/ LT 2yr	4.39%	13.42%	22.44%	3.63%	10.73%	17.83%	2.03%	4.38%	6.74%	
Non Competitive	4.04%	16.99%	29.95%	5.61%	12.84%	20.06%	3.84%	8.49%	13.14%	
Competitive	6.37%	18.95%	31.52%	17.17%	27.84%	38.52%	15.30%	24.80%	34.31%	
Very Competitive	15.21%	33.04%	50.88%	16.85%	28.42%	39.99%	29.66%	43.05%	56.45%	
Highly/Most Competitive	-0.28%	14.42%	29.11%	1.84%	13.80%	25.75%	6.75%	17.95%	29.15%	

	Regression Results Based on Respondents from 3rd and 4th SES Quartiles									
	1982			1992			2004			
	Lower	Prob	Upper	Lower	Prob	Upper	Lower	Prob	Upper	
No PSE	-0.36%	1.00%	2.36%	0.09%	2.03%	3.98%	0.31%	1.02%	1.73%	
2yr/ LT 2yr	7.19%	13.44%	19.69%	2.73%	4.99%	7.26%	1.65%	3.14%	4.64%	
Non Competitive	5.75%	12.71%	19.66%	1.38%	4.16%	6.94%	2.58%	4.00%	5.42%	
Competitive	12.37%	19.52%	26.68%	14.16%	19.87%	25.59%	14.77%	19.43%	24.08%	
Very Competitive	15.24%	23.97%	32.71%	34.44%	44.75%	55.05%	28.65%	35.19%	41.74%	
Highly/Most Competitive	16.06%	29.36%	42.65%	16.88%	24.19%	31.51%	29.56%	37.22%	44.89%	