

ATTACHMENT A

Sharphorn, Dan

From: Reyes, Pedro
Sent: Thursday, August 01, 2013 4:45 PM
To: William Powers
Cc: Mercer, Wanda; Sharphorn, Dan; Revisore, Suzanne
Subject: Admissions

Dear Bill:

We are asking Dan Sharphorn and Wanda Mercer conduct an inquiry into questions that have arisen about possible undue influence on UT Law School admissions.

As you know, questions are being asked about this in the media and, apparently, by some government officials. I note, too, that the House Select Committee on Transparency lists the admissions process as one of the Law School operations issues it will address.

We would not be doing our jobs if we do not try to learn if there is indeed a problem that needs fuller and more careful review.

To that end, we would like Dan and Wanda to speak to those involved in admissions at the Law School and to persons in your office who may get involved in dealing with external inquiries about particular student admissions. They will be asked to focus on the admissions process in place during the 2008-2009 academic year and on how the process works today. They will at all times protect from public disclosure the identities of individual students.

Their findings and conclusions will be shared with you, as well as U.T. System officials, as needed.

Please let me or Dan know if you have any questions and let Dan know who he should contact to get started.

Thank you.

Pedro Reyes, Ph.D.
Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs The University of Texas System

Sent from my iPad

ATTACHMENT B



SCHOOL OF LAW
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

727 East Dean Keeton Street • Austin, Texas 78705 • 512-232-1120 • wf@law.utexas.edu

Ward Farnsworth
Dean

MEMORANDUM
CONFIDENTIAL/SUBJECT TO PRIVILEGE

To: Dan Sharphorn

From: Ward Farnsworth, Dean, School of Law

Date: Jan. 14, 2014

Re: Admissions

You have asked me a number of questions about the admissions process at the law school. We agreed that it might help if I provided a written summary of how the process works with respect to the issues you are examining. Here is an account based on my knowledge and experience, followed by some reflections on how our process is working and how we might adjust it if changes are felt to be in order.

Our admissions process is holistic. That means we take many considerations into account and try to judge each case on an all-things-considered basis, not mechanically. The principal work of assessing files and making decisions about them is performed by our Assistant Dean for Admissions and Director of Admissions Programs. We also have an Admissions Committee. That group aids the admissions process in various ways, as by considering matters of policy: Should we have an early-decision program? Should we waive our application fee? Should we increase the deposit we require from admitted students? Committee members also review applicants' files at the behest of the Assistant Dean for Admissions when she finds that guidance would be helpful in a close case. The current members of the committee are John Dzienkowski (chair), Kamela Bridges, Barbara Hines, Stanley Johanson, H.W. Perry, James Spindler, and Patrick Woolley. There has also been a committee in many previous years. For the admission of the classes of 2009-13, there was not a full committee, but Professor Johanson helped the Admissions Office with the reading of files.

Your particular interest is in recommendations made by legislators or alumni, so I will discuss that issue in more detail. Recommendations in general are useful to our admissions process but typically have a small role in it. We find it helpful to hear from people who can comment directly and personally about an applicant's abilities and potential. Often, of course, there are uncertainties associated with such letters. We don't usually know the people who write them. That means we may not be sure what standards the author of a letter used in judging the applicant, or how much the author cares about the school, or whether the author will be dealing with the school in the future (and thus has a strong reputational stake in speaking accurately). While we certainly value recommendations, we have to keep those uncertainties in mind when we receive them, as any admissions office does; so letters of recommendation typically play a minor part in our decisions.

Sometimes, however, those uncertainties are reduced, as when we get recommendations from people we know—people we have good reason to believe care about the school, and who have reputational interests to protect because they deal with the school repeatedly. If such a recommender swears by an applicant's potential, that is meaningful to us, and may cause us to consider an applicant who otherwise would not have gotten in. The reason for this might be worth another moment of discussion, because I can imagine that a recommendation from someone we know could seem to be a distraction from the numbers in an applicant's file. The problem is that the numbers are crude. Many applicants who don't have high test scores or high GPAs nevertheless have the potential to be great law students and lawyers. The difficulty is in knowing who they are. Usually it is hard to say, so we give a lot of weight to the numbers (and we give weight to numbers as well because the medians produced by them affect our ranking). But if someone we trust says that an applicant is outstanding, that is a very valuable piece of information and might be more important than the numbers. This pattern will be familiar to anyone who has had to review graduates applying for a job. Their grades are of definite interest, and statements by their references are of interest; but if someone you know and trust tells you that an applicant is superb, that consideration will no doubt weigh heavily, and should.

Contact from someone who has a relationship with the school may cause me (or whoever is Dean) to take an interest in the case. I am likely to be the person in the school best positioned to judge the author's commitment to our enterprise, and recommenders who know us appreciate hearing back from the

Dean about the outcome of a case when they have taken the time to offer views about it. Recommenders of this kind might include other faculty and administrators at UT, alumni who are known to care about the school (whether or not they have ever contributed money), legislators, or others who might be considered friends of the school. We disappoint all of these types of recommenders often, but we listen with interest when they contact us.

Sometimes a legislator, alum, or someone else we know will contact the Dean directly to put in a good word for an applicant. Letters that come to me are forwarded to the Admissions Office and in appropriate cases to the Alumni Relations Office. Sometimes such a recommender will instead contact the President's office to put in a good word for an applicant to the law school. The President's office forwards those letters here, and they are handled in the same way as the other letters just described. I have never heard from President Powers personally about such a case, or discussed any admissions decision with him. On a few occasions since my arrival in 2012 we have been called by representatives from the President's office. They will typically tell us that their office has received a strong recommendation of a given applicant from someone they know. I might be told how impressive the recommendation is and/or how trustworthy the recommender is. I consider these communications appropriate and take them seriously, but I have never had any worry about bad consequences if the school turns down an applicant in these circumstances, as happens.

In any event, when I have a recommendation from a trusted source, I seek to handle such contacts attentively and respectfully. I will usually take an informal look at the applicant's credentials and determine whether the case for admission is plausible. If not, I will pursue it no further, except perhaps by letting the recommender know that the applicant's prospects are unpromising. If the case for admission does seem plausible, I will talk about it with the Assistant Dean for Admissions, ask her about the rest of the file, and tell her what I have heard from the recommender. Sometimes it becomes clear to both of us that the candidate deserves admission. Sometimes it becomes clear that the candidate does not deserve admission. If a favorable decision seems to me a sound idea, my question in the end for the Assistant Dean is: are you comfortable admitting this student? If she says no, I do not press the case any further.

You asked about reconsideration of a case at the urging of an outside recommender or the President's office. Let me

distinguish between different senses of "reconsideration." I regard a case as being under consideration until the applicant is notified of a decision. So if a recommender says great things to me about an applicant who has not yet received a decision, I would feel free to discuss it with the Assistant Dean. In such a case it could be that the Assistant Dean had planned to deny admission, and the discussion we have might then lead (or not) to a different result. This might qualify as a kind of reconsideration, but it is reconsideration of a decision that was not final.

Reconsideration in a more literal sense occurs if an applicant is formally denied admission and then asks to be reconsidered. Once a "deny" letter has gone out, an applicant can apply for such reconsideration based on new material in the file. The new evidence might be a better LSAT score, and we let people in on that basis a few times a year (but we do not keep track of that statistic, so I cannot tell you precisely how many times). The Assistant Dean for Admissions would ordinarily decide such cases. The role of recommendations in this part of the process is the same as at an earlier juncture. A recommender could get in touch with the school, or with me, and make the case in favor of the applicant. It might help at this stage, as it might have done at an earlier stage, or not. The process for handling these situations has not changed over the past five years. We are not aware of a case in which the President asked the law school to admit an applicant who had been formally denied admission.

The weight to give to recommendations from alumni, legislators, or others we know is currently a matter of judgment. Not everyone will agree about it, in general or in a given case. I regard it as acceptable so long as it doesn't amount to letting outsiders make our decisions for us, and doesn't lead to automatic admission at the request of particular recommenders. But there is no such thing as automatic admission of an applicant on the say-so of any recommender, whether it is a legislator or an alum or the President of the University. I have personally and comfortably said "no" to recommendations from all of those sources. I understand that the evidence you have gathered shows the same thing: in some cases applicants who are supported by legislators have been admitted, and often they haven't been.

That still leaves questions about how well our approach has been working. I believe our admissions process is generally sound. It is possible to find individual decisions that can be questioned, but I do not think that is more true here than at other law schools. If you or the Chancellor have concerns about my use (or any

Dean's use) of discretion, however, I can think of various ways in which it might be constrained; to date, our approach to a dean's involvement in admissions has had little in the way of procedure to surround it. I will describe some alternatives that may be worth consideration by the Chancellor's committee that I understand is examining best practices in admissions (I am reluctant to implement changes before hearing from them.)

1. Exercise of the Dean's discretion has been mostly solitary. I don't do anything over the objection of our Assistant Dean for Admissions, but otherwise the decision about what weight to give to a recommendation made by someone close to the school is up to me. A possible response to increase objectivity in the process might be that any recommendation made to the Dean by someone close to the school, and that the Dean believes should be entitled to particular consideration, would be brought to the Admissions Committee for review, or to whatever subgroup the Chair of the committee has appointed for review of cases.

2. Our past practice allows room for direct contact between recommenders and the Dean. This is not a bad thing in itself (putting aside the demands that such contacts make on my time, which I do not begrudge). But it could create an appearance of unfairness if applicants and recommenders who go through the usual channels hear that there might have been some other channel to pursue. I do not feel that it is appropriate to wall myself off from contact from alumni, legislators, or others who wish to help the school by helping an applicant. But it may make sense to designate a single channel through which all admissions communications are generally guided—perhaps the same channel for submission of letters (through the Law School Admissions Council) that anyone else uses.

3. It is my general policy not to meet with applicants to the School of Law. I don't have time to meet with everyone who might like that opportunity, and it is fairest not to do for any what cannot be done for all. But from time to time I have taken a meeting as a courtesy to someone I know well and who urges that the candidate must be met to be appreciated. We might choose to insist that such meetings, if they must occur, happen in the presence of the Assistant Dean for Admissions, or a member (or members) of the Law School's Admissions Committee.

I would be happy to discuss additional ideas with the Chancellor, the Chancellor's committee, or with you at any time.

ATTACHMENT C



OFFICE OF ADMISSIONS
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

Undergraduate Admissions
Austin, Texas 78712-1157 • (512) 475-7399 • FAX (512) 475-7478

To: Mr. Dan Sharphorn, UT System
From: Kedra Ishop, Vice Provost and Director of Admissions
Date: February 7, 2014
Re: Admissions Inquiry, UT System
CC: Bill Powers, President, UT Austin

President Powers referred your request to the Office of Admissions for response. This memo is to respond to your inquiry dated January 30, 2014 entitled "Admissions Inquiry."

The inquiry combines and presents data secured from our Undergraduate Admissions Office on two separate occasions.

1. In late October of 2013 UT System presented the Office of Legal Affairs with a list of 70 names. Legal Affairs presented the list of 70 names to the Office of Admissions and requested that an admission decision be attached to each name. Legal Affairs then requested that a random identification number be assigned to each individual so that each would no longer be identifiable. The list included 7 individuals who did not have freshman applications on file. The remaining 63 appear to be the subset used in your inquiry.
2. On January 16, 2014 the Admissions Office was presented with a request from Mr. Sharphorn of the UT System. It was a straightforward request for the following information from the years 2009-2013:
 - a. Freshman applications
 - b. Freshman applications from out of state
 - c. Total number of in-state applicants
 - d. The number of in-state applicants offered automatic admission under the Top 10% rule and the applicable percent of the Top 10% being offered admission
 - e. Of the remaining in-state applicants, the number offered admission
 - f. Of the remaining in-state applicants, the number offered admission to the Coordinated Admissions Program or any equivalent program
 - g. The yield from 'd'
 - h. The yield from 'e'

The requests were treated separately and at the time there was no indication that the data were to be combined for interpretation. For a number of reasons, producing undergraduate admissions data for UT Austin is complicated. For example, counting the number of applications to UT Austin immediately requires a decision as to whether to count all applications or only completed applications. When responding to request #2 above, the Admissions Office provided a figure (n=123419), which included all applications, and labeled it "(all received—complete and incomplete)". The UT Admissions process does not consider or review incomplete applications, and so, none of those individuals are considered for admission. From 2009 through 2013, the period of inquiry, 11,310 of the applications were incomplete. In the context of this inquiry, incomplete applications should be removed from the total application number since they were never reviewed for admission. The appropriate number of applications is 112,109.

Freshman Applications
 Texas Residents
 Summer/Fall 2009-2013

Freshman Applications	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	Grand Total
Complete	21613	21483	21865	23406	23742	112109
Not Complete	2104	1824	2083	2220	3079	11310
Grand Total	23717	23307	23948	25626	26821	123419

Sixty-three applicants were selected for this inquiry. Sixty-three (63) applicants from a population of 112,109 completed applications represent 0.056% of said population. Further, as the inquiry made clear, of the 63 in the sample, only 37 were actually admitted: this means that, at most, the concern of this inquiry may be illustrative of 0.033% of the applicants considered.

Additionally, from 2009 through 2013, of the 37 admits, 33 actually enrolled. For the five-year period in question, this is an average of about 6 entering freshmen per year in classes averaging 7,404 enrolled students.

Since the Regents approved the current freshman admissions process in 2004, which is a holistic approach to review, the Admissions Office has relentlessly communicated to high school students that everything they submit in support of their application is considered in the review of their file. Unlike a high school transcript or test scores, letters of recommendation are not required of the applicant, so those who do send such letters are going beyond what is required of them; but are exercising the thoroughness that is encouraged for a more competitive application. In a holistic review, letters from recommendation may be properly interpreted to indicate civic involvement, extracurricular activities, and attributes that make an applicant an attractive choice for our university. In all of our print and electronic communications, as well as onsite presentations by our admissions representatives, we have recruited these active and engaged students for decades. We are not surprised at evidence that we chose to admit them.

In the tens of thousands of applications we receive, letters of recommendation have come from elected officials, regents, appointed officials, CEOs and other employers, teachers, clergy, and even family members. Veteran admissions file reviewers have seen letters from US Senators and Representatives, Ambassadors and former First Ladies. A favorable letter of recommendation is a plus for any applicant, regardless of its source. Drawing any conclusion from a selection of 63 letters from legislators does not control for or consider the comparative impact other letters from other sources have on other applicants' admissions decisions. For example, some of the applicants in question had letters from several other sources. Between them there are at least 153 letters of recommendation with some having more than 5 letters submitted on their behalf from various sources. Because of the nature of the holistic review, it is not possible to determine whether or not the 37 admits on the list of 63 applicants would have been admitted *but for* the single letter from their legislative representative. That would require the rereading and rescoring of all of the applications. Such an investigation, besides being extraordinarily unproductive, could conceivably conclude that favorable letters from anyone increases the likelihood of being admitted—as it should.

Any assumption that the 37 admits from the 63 applications you have identified were not qualified to be admitted presumes that these admits were among the "bottom" of the admitted class. They were not. Since they were compared to non-automatic admits, which is based solely on class rank, test scores are an appropriate measure for estimating admissibility. The average SAT score for the 37 admits was 1241 (on the 1600 scale). From 2009 through 2013, UT admitted 2949 non-automatically admitted Texas residents with scores lower than 1241. These applicants were most likely admitted without presenting a letter of recommendation from their legislator.

One way to validate the admission of a group of students is the industry-wide practice of computing the percentage of that group returning for a second year (commonly called Persistence). Data currently available for freshman retention of those enrolled among the 63 in the sample indicate that only one of the 29 enrolled from 2009-2012 (enrolled for 2013 have not yet been on campus for a full year) did not return for their second year; this is a one-year retention rate of 97% compared to an overall rate of 91-93%. Another validation is the calculation of freshman year grade point average (commonly called Performance): The 29 in the sample who enrolled from 2009-2012 averaged a 3.13 compared to a 3.09 for all other enrolled Texas residents.

Finally, you asked for a clarification as to the difference in "deny" rates. As you have discovered in your own analysis, at UT Austin an outright admission decision of "deny" is somewhat rare for a Texas resident applicant. It is usually the result of a failure to meet a deadline or some other rare circumstance. UT Austin has a history of not permanently closing the door on resident freshman applicants. Currently, the Coordinate Admission Program (CAP) and Path to Admission through Co-Enrollment (PACE) are two examples of this worthy effort. While other selective universities would likely deny applicants who have been "Offered CAP" or "Accepted CAP" at UT Austin, the UT System extends alternative admissions opportunities through the Coordinated Admissions Program and the University through the PACE program. This is why there are so few "denies."

Sharphorn, Dan

From: Sharphorn, Dan
Sent: Thursday, January 30, 2014 11:32 AM
To: Powers, William - UT Austin
Subject: Admissions Inquiry
Attachments: UndergraduateStatistics-2009-13-3.DOCX; UG Data.1.PDF; UG Overall Data.Plus.1.XLSX

Dear President Powers:

As you know, we have been conducting an inquiry into concerns about undue influence on UT's admissions process, focusing in particular on the Law School. In the process, we also looked at some data related to undergraduate admissions. We compared a small sample of letters of recommendation for undergraduate admission from sixty-three state legislators that were received in your office between 2009 and 2013. We compared the admission rate of this group to that of the larger UT population of Texas residents who were not admitted under the "Top Ten Percent" rule. The data we used were received from UT and copies are attached, the third attachment is our working table. We did not have access to student-identified data, so we were unable to correlate in any way the admissions decisions with the strength of the recommendation letters or any student characteristics.

Of the sixty-three recommended students in the sample, thirty-seven, or 58.7% were admitted. Of the remaining twenty-six students, twenty-three were admitted to the Coordinated Admission Program. Thus, only three students, or 4.8%, of the sixty-three students were denied any admission. The letters of recommendation cover the years 2009-2013, so aggregate numbers were used to estimate the admission rates for the larger student body. Here we find only 15.8% of all Texas residents being admitted from the pool of Texas residents remaining after subtracting out all "Top Ten Percent" automatic admits, and 73.1% of the rest being admitted to CAP. Only 13.7% of the pool remaining after the automatic admits are subtracted were denied either regular or CAP admission.

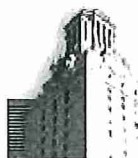
	<u>Sample Pool</u>	<u>TX Residents (2009-2013)</u>
Number of applicants	63	123419
"Top Ten Percent" admits	0?	49067
Number of remaining applicants	63	74352
Number admitted	37	11738
Percent admitted	58.7%	15.8%
Number admitted to CAP	23	45762
Percent of remaining admitted to CAP	88.5%	73.1%
Number denied any admission	3	16852
Percent denied any admission	4.8%	13.65%

The numbers that most stand out are the differences in admission rates between those recommended by a legislator and the rate for all Texas residents not admitted through the "Top Ten Percent" rule (or top 8% or 9% for UT depending on the year), i.e., 58.7% compared to 15.8%. However, we understand that there may be variables missing that might explain some or all of this very large difference. For example, we do not know if some or even many of the sixty-three legislator recommended students were automatic admits under the "Top Ten Percent" rule. Nor do we know the strength of the records of the sixty-three applicants. We are asking UT to review the data, identify any corrections that need to be made, and explain any significant difference in the admissions rates that remains. We can provide copies of the recommendation letters upon request. We would greatly appreciate a response no later than next Friday, February 7.

Please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you.

Best wishes, Dan

Dan Sharphorn
Vice Chancellor and General Counsel *ad interim*
The University of Texas System
201 West 7th Street
Austin, Texas 78701
512-499-4462
dsharphorn@utsystem.edu



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN
OFFICE OF ADMISSIONS

Memo

To: Carol A. Longoria, Open Records Coordinator
From: Kedra Ishop, Vice Provost and Director of Admissions

Re: Admissions Inquiry of January 16, 2014
Date: January 17, 2014

C: John B Beckworth
Kevin P. Hegarty
Margo Iwanski
Linda I. Shaunessy

Please accept this as a response to your request of January 16, 2014 for admissions statistics. As a matter of information for you and President Powers, the breakdowns involving automatic admission will not match published information in the annual SB 175 Reports submitted to the Legislature. The reason is that the SB 175 Reports breakdown automatic admissions using a cohort of "Graduates of Texas High Schools" and is consistent with the automatic admissions law itself. The System has asked for a breakdown of "instate" applicants which refers to Texas Residents. The two groups are very similar but they are not congruent. What I have reported below addresses the questions exactly as they were addressed to us by the UT System.

Another issue involves the definition of "instate" or Texas residency. By law, for purposes of admission and other considerations such as tuition, some students with "Foreign" as a residency description are to be nonetheless treated as Texas Residents. The inclusion of this small group is based on SB 1528 of the 2005 Regular Session of the Texas Legislature and codified as residency rules of the Texas Administrative Code at:
[http://info.sos.state.tx.us/pls/pub/readtac\\$ext.ViewTAC?tac_view=5&ti=19&pt=1&ch=21&sch=B&rl=Y](http://info.sos.state.tx.us/pls/pub/readtac$ext.ViewTAC?tac_view=5&ti=19&pt=1&ch=21&sch=B&rl=Y)

The question before us is whether to include this small group of "foreign" applicants in the Texas Resident population we report. To that end and for your consideration, I have included data on both groups: "Method 1" includes only those applicants specifically identified as "Texas Residents." "Method 2" includes those Texas Residents and all others treated as Texas Residents under the law. Internally, we refer to this group as the "Texas Resident Pool." The decision as to which group (or both?) to report is for you and President Powers to make.

From your email you asked for the following: "For each of the undergraduate classes admitted for the years 2009-2013, please provide:"

1. *The total number of applicants.*

Freshman applications (all received—complete and incomplete)

Freshman Apps	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Total	31362	31022	32589	35431	38161

2. *The total number of those applicants who were from out-of-state.*

Residence	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
NON-RESIDENT OF TEXAS	4763	5170	6086	6594	7618

Note: International students are not included.

3. The total number of instate applicants, presumably 1 minus 2.

There are two ways to answer that:

Method 1 is to do a straightforward breakout of residency:

Residence	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
TEXAS RESIDENT	23717	23307	23948	25626	26821

Method 2 is to include Texas Residents AND all who qualify as residents of Texas under Texas laws (e.g. SB 1528 and other applicants included as part of a “Texas Resident Pool.”)

TX Res Pool	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Texas Resident Pool	24156	23776	24429	26179	27365

4. The number of instate applicants offered automatic admission under the “Top 10% Rule.” For each year, please indicate the applicable percent for UT Austin, which I understand is currently set at the top 7%.

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Method 1	HB 588	HB 588	SB 175	SB 175	SB 175
Texas Resident	Top 10%	Top 10%	Top 8%	Top 9%	Top 8%
Automatically Admitted	9933	10041	9107	10303	9683

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Method 2	HB 588	HB 588	SB 175	SB 175	SB 175
TX Res Pool	Top 10%	Top 10%	Top 8%	Top 9%	Top 8%
Automatically Admitted	10148	10306	9325	10585	9908

Note: Top 7% is currently set for the 2014 and 2015 freshman admission cycles.

5. *Of the remaining instate applicants, the number offered admission.*

Method 1

Admits-Non Automatic	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
TEXAS RESIDENT	1620	1681	2835	3104	2498

Method 2

Admits-Non Automatic	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Texas Resident Pool	1641	1698	2885	3151	2529

Note: Numbers for 2013 do not include PACE offers.

6. *Of the remaining instate applicants, the number offered admission to the Coordinated Admission Program (CAP) or any equivalent program.*

Method 1

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Texas Residents					
Offered CAP	9208	8206	8989	9228	10131

Method 2

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Texas Resident Pool					
Offered CAP	9379	8348	9158	9423	10352

Note: Numbers for 2013 do not include PACE offers.

7. The number of enrollees, the yield, from group 4.

Group = Automatically admitted applicants illustrated in answer to question 4:

Method 1

Texas Residents	2009			2010			2011			2012			2013		
	Admitted	Enrolled	Yield	Admitted	Enrolled	Yield	Admitted	Enrolled	Yield	Admitted	Enrolled	Yield	Admitted	Enrolled	Yield
Total	9933	5491	55%	10041	5367	53%	9107	4580	50%	10303	5275	51%	9683	4858	50%

Method 2

Texas Res Pool	2009			2010			2011			2012			2013		
	Admitted	Enrolled	Yield	Admitted	Enrolled	Yield	Admitted	Enrolled	Yield	Admitted	Enrolled	Yield	Admitted	Enrolled	Yield
Total	10148	5629	55%	10306	5541	54%	9325	4705	50%	10585	5426	51%	9908	4955	50%

8. *The number of enrollees, the yield, from group 5.*

Group = Automatically admitted applicants illustrated in answer to question 5:

Method 1

	2009			2010			2011			2012			2013		
	Admitted	Enrolled	Yield	Admitted	Enrolled	Yield	Admitted	Enrolled	Yield	Admitted	Enrolled	Yield	Admitted	Enrolled	Yield
TEXAS RESIDENT	1620	996	61%	1681	1041	62%	2835	1675	59%	3104	1931	62%	2498	1541	62%

Method 2

	2009			2010			2011			2012			2013		
	Admitted	Enrolled	Yield	Admitted	Enrolled	Yield	Admitted	Enrolled	Yield	Admitted	Enrolled	Yield	Admitted	Enrolled	Yield
Texas Res Pool	1641	1012	62%	1698	1054	62%	2885	1712	59%	3151	1963	62%	2529	1562	62%
Texas Resident Pool															

Notes on the Data:

Field Name	Description
Random ID	Random ID generated and sorted by Microsoft Excel
Freshman Admit Decision	Admission decision of the freshman application
Notes	Additional information provided to indicated missing data or individuals with both a freshman and subsequent transfer application on file.

Source:

Admissions Workfiles	These are data captured and archived by the Admissions Office on the 12th class day of each fall semester.
----------------------	--

Random ID	Freshman Admit Decision	Notes
15240681782416	Admit	
18943640317154	Admit	
113693202796413	Admit	
178143485302554	Admit	
193472651761305	Offered CAP	
196059992995511	Admit	
1105129815052220	Offered CAP	Offered CAP as Freshman; Admitted one year later as Transfer
1111095525194400	Admit	
1115211560662090	Offered CAP	
1116769925632750	Admit	
1122284028838340	Admit	
1125037835487340	Offered CAP	
1130376638463430	Admit	
1136893425864110	Offered CAP	
1172842548607080	Offered CAP	
1181199780679670	Offered CAP	
1204830689767080		No freshman application; Denied as a transfer applicant
1205981739518740	Admit	
1240608332228530	Admit	
1283008739120770	Offered CAP	
1288111543560760	Admit	
1305389933765450		No application by that name on file
1314168824045540	Offered CAP	
1334884976493420	Admit	
1348518348242800	Offered CAP	
1354274823876290	Admit	
1357269911942690		No application by that name on file
139311150501630	Offered CAP	
1403297694516410	Admit	
1413349792335490	Admit	
1434096650541140	Admit	
1456812657687490	Offered CAP	

Random ID	Freshman Admit Decision	Notes
1458696977765000	Offered CAP	
1521232999784070	Deny	
1549190235912440	Admit	
1549904993220490	Offered CAP	
1565463750628020	Offered CAP	
1565526864827120	Admit	
1572266718724480	Admit	
1611471916268010	Admit	
1612898562176960	Admit	
1615838173041830	Deny	
1633956637432470	Admit	
1654275123016210	Admit	
1664129641739620	Offered CAP	Offered CAP as freshman; admitted the next year as a transfer
1676456606740620	Admit	
1704441990356410	Offered CAP	
1706230603458440	Admit	
1711495289260670	Admit	
1810558128325370		No application by that name on file
1818681625205290	Admit	
1839296105561270	Offered CAP	
1840173300739050	Admit	
1847988709577990		No application by that name on file
1850396609709250	Rescind	
1860931300526050	Admit	
1919006934538350	Offered CAP	
1919703198282910	Admit	
1943901719386330	Admit	
1972407960902420	Admit	
10125281506032800	Offered CAP	
10214713058209600	Admit	
10243403573836700	Admit	
10500625979210500		No freshman application; Admitted as transfer

Random ID	Freshman Admit Decision	Notes
1053057865057100	Offered CAP	
10632404973725100	Offered CAP	
10669284899652500	Offered CAP	
10859093467929200		No freshman application; Admitted as transfer
10916091515458000	Admit	
1005903778360890000	Admit	

	Freshman						
		2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2009-13
	Total Apps	31362	31022	32589	35431	38161	168565
	Non Res Apps	4763	5170	6086	6594	7618	30231
	TX Residents	23717	23307	23948	25626	26821	123419
	Auto Admits	9933	10041	9107	10303	9683	49067
	% Auto Admits	41.88%	43.08%	38.03%	40.21%	36.10%	39.76%
	TX Residents After Auto Admits	13784	13266	14841	15323	17138	74352
	Non-Auto TX Res Admits	1620	1681	2835	3104	2498	11738
	% Non-Auto TX Res Admits	11.75%	12.67%	19.10%	20.26%	14.58%	15.79%
	Remaining TX Res After Admits	12164	11585	12006	12219	14640	62614
	Remaining Offered CAP	9208	8206	8989	9228	10131	45762
	% of Remaining Offered CAP	75.70%	70.83%	74.87%	75.52%	69.20%	73.09%
	TX Res not admitted, not CAP	2956	3379	3017	2991	4509	16852
	% TX Res not admitted not CAP	12.46%	14.50%	12.60%	11.67%	16.81%	13.65%
	Admits + CAP	87.54%	85.50%	87.40%	88.33%	83.19%	86.35%
	Sample						
	Total	63					
	Admits	37	58.73%	of Total			
	Non Admits	26					
	CAP	23	88.46%	of Nons			
	Denied	3	4.76%	of Total			
	Admits + CAP	60	95.24%	of Total			

ATTACHMENT D

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

SCHOOL of LAW

UT LAW Admissions

General Requirements

Admission to the J.D. program at UT Law is competitive. For the class entering in fall 2013, approximately 4,200 applicants competed for the 320 seats in the entering class. In addition, the Texas Legislature has limited nonresident enrollment to 35 percent of the student body.

To be considered for admission, applicants must take the LSAT and have earned a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university with a minimum undergraduate grade point average of 2.2 as calculated by Law School Admission Council. In the event an applicant does not receive a baccalaureate degree prior to enrollment but is within six semester hours of completing all requirements for a baccalaureate degree by the time of enrollment in law school, the applicant may be eligible for admission upon the condition that the applicant earns the baccalaureate degree before beginning the last year of law school. Candidates must also complete the application forms and submit all mandatory attachments as described in the application.

The Admissions Process for JD Applicants (Juris Doctor)

The UT Law Admissions Committee provides a full-file review of all completed applications to identify students:

- who exhibit demonstrated commitment to public service, leadership, and other qualities valuable to the legal profession;
- whose background, experience, and other qualities are likely to be of value in the classroom and the Law School; and
- who provide a service to the state of Texas by educating its citizens from underrepresented regions of the state and disadvantaged socioeconomic backgrounds.

Strong LSAT scores and GPAs in challenging undergraduate programs certainly help a committee assess a student's ability to succeed at UT Law. These quantitative factors, while important, are not exhaustive. Arbitrary weight is not attributed to any one of the factors considered and the Admissions Committee does not use an index.

The Admissions Committee considers rigor of the undergraduate course of study as reflected by the applicant's college transcripts, graduate study, demonstrated commitment to public service, work experience, leadership experience, extracurricular or community activities, history of overcoming economic or other disadvantage, personal experiences with discrimination, overcoming disability, geographic diversity (particularly underrepresented regions of Texas), diversity of experience and background (including race and ethnicity), maturity, ability to communicate, foreign language proficiency, honors and awards, service in the Armed Forces, publications, exceptional personal talents and other pertinent information.

Specific attention is given to an applicant's socioeconomic background. Applicants are encouraged to include information concerning their socioeconomic background in their personal statements and/or in the optional statement on economic, social or personal disadvantage. Such disadvantage might take a number of different forms, e.g., an applicant who is a first-generation college graduate; an applicant's dealing with a serious physical or mental disability; an applicant's encounter with discrimination based on race, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity or national origin; or an applicant's limited educational opportunities due to geographical or other restrictions.

Deadlines 2013–2014

Early Decision Admission

- LSAT: No later than October's test administration
- CAS Registration: October
- Application postmarked November 1, if received electronically by midnight Central Daylight Time (CDT)

Regular Decision Admission

- LSAT: No later than February's test administration
- CAS Registration: February
- Application postmarked March 1, if received electronically by midnight Central Standard Time (CST)

Class Profile for Fall 2013 Incoming Class

- Applications: 4,188
- Enrolled: 319
- Median LSAT: 166
- Median GPA: 3.68
- Female: 42%
- Average age: 24

Some of the Factors

The students entering UT Law classes resulting from this admissions process have been motivated, engaged, energetic, and successful. We have achieved a graduation rate of 97%. This system is not always perfect, but it is careful, respectful and reflective.

Considered for Admission

- LSAT score
- Undergraduate Grade Point Average
- Personal Statement
- Resume
- Letters of Recommendation
- History of overcoming economic/social disadvantage
- Race and ethnicity
- Geographic Diversity
- Foreign language proficiency

Application Procedures for JD Applicants

Binding Early Decision Admission

To be considered for Early Decision (ED) admission, applicants must take the Law school Admission Test (LSAT) no later than October's test administration, register with the Law School Admission Council (LSAC) for the Credential Assembly Service (CAS) no later than early October, and submit their application no later than Nov. 1. Applications submitted after Nov. 1 will be considered for Regular Decision admission. All Early Decision applicants receive a final decision by the end of December. Applicants "held" for review with the pool of Regular Decision applicants are no longer bound by the Early Decision requirements. If denied admission under the ED program, an applicant will be ineligible for further review under the Regular Decision program.

Non-resident admitted students will receive a Non-Resident Tuition Exemption (NRTE) waiver. Students who receive a NRTE are only responsible for paying tuition at resident rates for all three years at the law school. Admitted Texas residents will receive a \$10,000 housing stipend annually. In both cases, students must remain in good academic standing.

Regular Decision Admission

To be considered for Regular Decision admission, applicants must take the LSAT no later than February's test administration, register with CAS no later than early February of the year of desired entry, and submit their application no later than March 1. Final decisions for completed applications filed in a timely manner under Regular Decision admission, and those ED applications held for review through the Regular Decision process, will be made by the end of April. Applications will be considered on a rolling basis.

General Provisions

The first-year class is admitted only in the fall semester, which begins during the last week of August.

Applicants are urged to register with CAS and take the LSAT as soon as possible. It normally takes four to six weeks for the LSAT score to be reported.

Please note that information and materials will not be retrieved from previous applications to be considered as part of the current year's application.

Communicating with the Admissions Office

Given the number of applications UT Law receives, we regret that we cannot verify receipt of materials or application status by telephone or e-mail. Once the Admissions Office enters your application into our system, an e-mail will be sent to verify receipt.

Admitted students will receive an official offer of admission by written letter from the Assistant Dean for Admission. The offer may be accepted by following the instructions and conditions outlined in the admit letter.

Application Fee

A \$70 nonrefundable application fee must be submitted along with the completed application by certified check, cashier's check, or money order made payable to The University of Texas at Austin. The check or money order must be in U.S. dollars and personal checks or cash will not be accepted. The application fee may also be paid electronically when applying online.

We offer two types of fee waivers that can be requested. Need-based requests for waiver of the application fee will only be considered if (a) financial need is demonstrated, (b) the applicant presents a competitive academic record, (c) the Law School has a clear interest in admitting the

student, and (d) the limit on fee waivers has not been reached. To apply for this type of fee waiver, an applicant must submit an [Application for Fee Waiver](#).

The completed Application for Fee Waiver form must be submitted along with a completed application for admission no later than **March 1**. If a fee waiver is denied, the applicant will be given an opportunity to submit the required fee.

The second type of fee waiver is available for current corps members and alumni of the Teach for America (TFA) program only. These applicants must e-mail the Admissions Office with their request and provide a scanned copy of their TFA verification letter and their LSAC account number so that we may waive the application fee electronically through LSAC.

Resumé

All applicants must submit a detailed resumé not to exceed three typed pages. The applicant should take advantage of this opportunity to provide specific information about education, work history, military service, honors and awards, extracurricular or community activities, publications, etc. The applicant should also include details on any foreign language proficiencies, including the level of ability with regard to speaking, comprehension, reading, and writing.

Personal Statement

Personal statements are required and limited to two, double-spaced, typed pages. A personal statement is an opportunity to describe important experiences and aspects of yourself not otherwise apparent in the application.

Applicants also can submit optional addenda to explain unusual circumstances, such as a period of poor academic performance, academic sanctions, history of problems with standardized tests, history of overcoming disadvantage, prior law school matriculation, criminal matters, etc.

Letters of Recommendation

Letters of recommendation are not required; however, candidates are strongly encouraged to submit at least one letter but no more than three. Letters should be submitted to the Law School Admissions Council (LSAC) through their letter of recommendation service.

Experience has shown that letters of recommendation are most useful when they provide insights and information about the candidate that are not reflected in the application. The most useful letters are from professors and/or employers with whom the candidate has had a close working relationship. Letters from judges, politicians, and family friends tend not to be useful except in those instances where the letters are based on a working or supervisory relationship.

Applicants are urged to send letters of recommendation to LSAC as early as possible in the admissions process. Applications will not be held for optional materials not received with the completed application.

ATTACHMENT E

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

DO STUFF ONLINE BE A LONGHORN

How to Submit Application Items

Some Submission Details

MyStatus: What you need to submit

Log in to [MyStatus](#) to learn what items you need to submit to complete your application.

Preferred submission options and processing times

Why should you use our preferred submission options?

It can take two or three days (sometimes even less) for items you submit online to appear in MyStatus. Items you submit in paper form (by mail, for example), may take two or three weeks to show up, especially near the deadline.

It is true that you save us time when you submit items in the ways that we "prefer." But our preferred methods are also good for you. Using them will help you avoid the anxiety of wondering where things are and why they aren't showing up in MyStatus. They won't necessarily all appear instantaneously, but items submitted through our preferred processes are definitely processed more quickly and show up more quickly in MyStatus than items we receive in paper form.

No SSNs on application items

Please do not upload/submit any application items that display your Social Security Number. If your SSN is on something you're submitting, mark it out in black before submission.

THROUGH [APPLYTEXAS](#)

Admissions Application **Preferred method:** Online at [ApplyTexas](#)

Paper option

In rare cases it's necessary for someone to submit a paper application. If you must do so, visit [College for All Texans](#) to download a paper application.

Freshman scholarship applicants must submit their admissions application online.

Application Fee **Preferred method:** Credit card (American Express, Discover, MasterCard, or Visa) through [ApplyTexas](#) (*See below for information about [fee waiver documentation](#).*)

Other options (after submitting ApplyTexas application)

When not paying through ApplyTexas:

- **Preferred method:** Pay by electronic check or credit card (American Express, Discover, or MasterCard) through [What I Owe](#).
- **Other options:** Pay by check or money order; mail to the [Office of Admissions](#).

Essays

Preferred method: Online at [ApplyTexas](#)

Submitting essays thru ApplyTexas after submitting your app

To submit essays through ApplyTexas after you've submitted your ApplyTexas app, log in to [ApplyTexas](#); click the "My Essays" tab at the top of the page; follow the instructions on the site.

Freshman applicants cannot submit Essay S through ApplyTexas. See "Other submission options" for information about submitting Essay S.

Other submission options

Uploading your essays: All essays can be submitted through [UT Austin's document upload system](#). This is the **preferred submission method for Essay S**, the freshman special circumstances essay.

Other submission option: [Mail](#) printed copies to the [Office of Admissions](#).

ADDITIONAL APPLICATION ITEMS

Transcripts

High school transcripts (during application process)

Preferred methods:

- **TREx:** Submission method for applicants from Texas, public high schools
- **Upload copies:** Upload copy of an official transcript using [UT Austin's document upload system](#)

Other options

- **Mail printed official transcripts:** To the [Office of Admissions](#)
- **Hand deliver official transcripts:** To a UT Austin [Office of Admissions location](#) or representative

College transcripts (during application process)

- **Upload copies:** Upload copy of an official transcript using [UT Austin's document upload system](#)
- **Mail printed official transcripts:** To the [Office of Admissions](#)
- **Hand deliver printed official transcripts:** To a UT Austin [Office of Admissions location](#) or representative
- **Electronic submission:** Through the UT SPEEDE server (if available to college/university submitting the transcript)

Admitted students may not use upload for submitting final, official transcripts. Faxed and emailed transcripts are not acceptable.

Resumes

Preferred method: Upload a copy of your resume using the [Document Upload System](#). (required for transfer applicants; recommended for freshman applicants)

Other options

[Mail](#) your printed resume to the Office of Admissions.

Supplemental Information Form

Only method: Access the form through [MyStatus](#)

Test Scores

Only method: Electronic submission from the testing agency

Recommendations

Preferred method: Upload your recommendation(s) or send an email to your recommender(s) to submit them on your behalf through the [Document Upload System](#).
(not required for most freshman or transfer applicants)

Other options

[Mail](#) your printed recommendations to the Office of Admissions.

Fee Waiver Documentation

Preferred submission method: Upload the [required application fee waiver documents](#) through the [Document Upload System](#). *(for those with financial need)*

Optional method

[Mail](#) the [required application fee waiver documents](#) to the Office of Admissions.

Permanent Resident Cards

Preferred method: Upload a copy of the front of your card using the [Document Upload System](#). (*required for freshman and transfer applicants who are U.S. permanent residents*)

Other options and details

- [Mail](#) a copy of the front of your permanent resident card to the Office of Admsisions

Major Specific Items

Some majors require applicants to submit additional items or take other steps for admission consideration. For example, transfer applicants to architecture must submit a portfolio of their work.

- [Learn about the major-specific requirements for freshman applicants.](#)
- [Learn about the major-specific requirements for transfer applicants.](#)

Updated **Mon, 2014-01-06 17:41** |

ATTACHMENT F

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

PROSPECTIVE FRESHMEN BE A LONGHORN

After you apply, then comes

Application Review

Freshman applicants to the University of Texas at Austin can be admitted to the university in two ways: automatic admission based on Texas law and admission based on holistic review of a complete application.

Automatic Admission

If you're a Texas applicant, we'll initially review your application to determine if you qualify for automatic admission under Texas law. If you do, you'll be automatically admitted to the university.

Rules about Automatic Admission

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board has established rules that govern which students qualify for automatic admission.

Texas law doesn't guarantee admission to a specific major. Your application will go through holistic review to determine the major to which you'll be admitted.

Holistic Review

The Office of Admissions uses holistic review:

- To determine which major automatically admitted applicants will be admitted to
- To make admission decisions for all applicants who are not automatically admitted to the university (i.e., Texas applicants who do not qualify for automatic admission, out-of-state applicants, and international applicants)

WHAT WE CONSIDER DURING HOLISTIC REVIEW

During holistic review, we consider academic achievement, personal achievement, and special circumstances.

Academic Achievement

Class Rank

Class rank demonstrates how you compare to your peers in a given academic environment. Rank is an important factor for all applicants, even those who are not eligible for automatic admission under Texas law.

If you graduate from a non-ranking high school or an atypical high school (if you were home schooled, for example), it is still possible for you to be considered for admission. Your school will need to send us information about its ranking policy and provide us with a school profile to help us consider your academic achievement without an explicit rank for you.

Test Scores

Although test scores aren't everything, considered with other academic information they can be a meaningful indicator of academic ability.

- No minimum test score is needed for an applicant to be considered for admission.
- No score by itself, no matter how high, guarantees admission to any applicant.
- If you submit more than one official score report, the Office of Admissions will use the score from a single test date that will benefit you the most when your application is reviewed.
- The Office of Admissions does not combine scores from different test dates (a critical reading score from one test date with a mathematics score from another test date, for example) to come up with a better score.

SAT Subject Test Scores

SAT Subject Test scores are not required when applying for admission. However, any information submitted as part of an applicant's record, including any submitted test scores, may be considered during the evaluation of an individual application.

The university does use certain [SAT Subject Tests for placement](#). Scores are used to determine which university courses are appropriate for entering students.

High School Coursework

When making admission decisions, we look positively upon students who show their commitment to academics by taking the most rigorous coursework available to them. Level of coursework taken is considered in context with the availability of coursework in your high school.

Visit the [Required High School Courses page](#) for details.

Personal Achievement

Written Essays

Your [two essays](#) offer an opportunity for you to provide insight about what matters to you. Use the essays you submit to show off your skill as a writer but also to display your creativity and your ability to think through issues and problems.

Take the time needed to write clearly and reflectively. Your essays will be read and reviewed holistically (rather than with a red pen in hand) to evaluate the quality of your writing and to uncover personal information about you.

For help in writing your essays, visit the [Hints & Tips page](#).

Activities Information (Your Resume)

One indicator of likely college success is the extent of a student's involvement in his or her community. As a result, it's important for your resume information to show your long-term commitment to and leadership in extracurricular activities, community service, and work and employment experiences. Include details about your talents, honors and awards.

We encourage you to submit an [expanded resume](#) if you need to do so to provide us with a complete picture of your activities.

Recommendations

Although not required for a complete application, sometimes a well-written recommendation from someone who knows you well can enhance your application. Such recommendations can provide additional information about your personal and academic achievements or about things you may not have been able to tell us about yourself. Applicants who don't submit recommendations are not penalized.

Special Circumstances

What are special circumstances?

Special circumstances in an applicant's life sometimes help an application reviewer to get a clearer picture of the applicant's qualifications. The special circumstances we consider include:

- Socioeconomic status of family
- Single parent home
- Language spoken at home
- Family responsibilities
- Overcoming adversity
- Cultural background
- Race and ethnicity
- Other information in the file

How to tell us about special circumstances

If you'd like us to consider a special circumstance in your life, you may submit or send us a letter detailing your situation.

If you'd prefer that someone else tell us about the circumstances, have that person write a letter on your behalf. Sometimes a letter from a doctor or a counselor is also appropriate when communicating details about an individual situation.

Updated **Thu, 2013-07-11 12:45** |

ATTACHMENT G

Sharphorn, Dan

From: Sharphorn, Dan
Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 6:39 AM
To: Powers, William - UT Austin
Subject: Admissions Inquiry
Attachments: Admissions Report Draft Rev.1 w_attach.PDF; UG Overall Data.Plus.REV.1.XLSX; SAT vs High School Percentile CSE.PPTX

CONFIDENTIAL

Dear President Powers:

Attached is a confidential draft of the inquiry report on admissions that Wanda Mercer and I have prepared. We invite you to review the draft and provide comments, suggestions, or other input. We also request the following additional information and data:

1. How exactly is information conveyed from your office to the Office of Admissions about the letters of recommendation for undergraduates that are received in your office from state legislators? Who sends it? What is sent? Who receives it?
2. How are those recommendations evaluated in the undergraduate admissions process? Who does the evaluation?
3. Please provide data that would enable a more precise comparison of the admission rate of the general student body to that of the sample with which we were working. That is, help us refine the comparison group of instate applicants who were not automatic admits under the "Top Ten Percent" rule to a population with GPAs and SAT scores that are comparable to those of the sample. The second attachment is a table of the data we had to work with for the report.
4. Please provide data that will enable us to create a scatterplot of GPA and SAT for the undergraduate admissions classes for each year from 2009-2013 that shows the admissions and denials of instate applicants who were not automatic admits under the "Top Ten Percent" rule. The third attachment is an example of such a chart for the U.T. College of Engineering.
5. Please provide data that will enable us to create a similar scatterplot of GPA and LSAT for the School of Law admissions classes for each year from 2009-2013 that shows instate applicant admissions and denials.

Let me know if you have any questions and please provide your response no later than March 28. If you cannot provide all of the information by that date, please provide what you can and let us know when the rest can be provided.

Thank you very much for your assistance.

Dan

Dan Sharphorn

ATTACHMENT H

1. How exactly is information conveyed from your office to the Office of Admissions about the letters of recommendation for undergraduates that are received in your office from state legislators? Who sends it? What is sent? Who receives it?

Letters of recommendation received in the Office of the President are processed by staff in the office with a standard procedure used for all correspondence. The staff logs the letter of recommendation, generates a standard response, and forwards the complete correspondence to the Office of Admissions through the internal mail service.

2. How are those recommendations evaluated in the undergraduate admission process? Who does the evaluation?

Letters of recommendation received in the Office of Admissions, from any source including routing from the Office of the President, are added to a student's application file for admission.

The following describes the admission process for freshman applicants (referred to as FTIC, first time in college) to UT Austin. Letters of recommendation are reviewed by professional Admissions Officers in the Office of Admissions in conjunction with a complete file review of all of the credentials presented by an individual applicant. Competitive applications are reviewed by multiple Admissions Officers. In some cases, reviews are conducted in liaison with subject matter specialists in the colleges. Some colleges, especially those involving the assessment of artistic and performance virtuosity, have specialists, including faculty, who make admission decisions.

The freshman admission process approved by the University of Texas System Board of Regents in 2004 provides for holistic review of an individual's application. Following this Board approved policy, Admissions Officers review credentials including class rank, academic background, college admission test scores, records of achievements, honors and awards, special accomplishments, work and service, required essays, special circumstances that put the applicant's academic achievements into the personal context (including his/her socioeconomic status, experience in a single parent home, family responsibilities, experience overcoming adversity, cultural background, race and ethnicity, languages spoken in the home, and other information in the applicant's file), and letters of recommendation. Letters of recommendation are considered in the same manner, whether received in the Office of Admissions directly from a recommender or routed from the Office of the President.

The credentials of an individual applicant are considered in the context of the competitiveness and capacity of the college or major to which the student applies. With 12 undergraduate colleges and 19 majors at UT Austin, each having distinct admission requirements, enrollment management decisions must be made based on the number and qualifications of applicants for a major and the capacity available for freshmen students in the major. Because an important goal of *A Framework for Advancing Excellence Through the University of Texas System* is for each

institution to become a top performer in four-year graduation rates (Focus 1.A.3), UT Austin has improved enrollment management procedures for freshmen admissions over the period of this inquiry. Most recently, procedures for considering second choice majors for fall 2014 admissions were changed with the goal of increasing the four-year graduation rate.

To address the interactions between holistic review of an applicant's file and enrollment management, a single application may receive several independent reviews which can lead to nearly one hundred scenarios under which a variety of applicants may be considered for admission. Each scenario has its own context and admission criteria and can lead to complex interactions between the qualifications of an applicant and the competitiveness of the applicant's desired major. For example, an applicant whose first choice is an honors program in college A may not be competitive by virtue of their credentials, the credentials of other applicants to the program, and the limited program size. In such a case, the applicant may not be admitted to the honors program in college A. If that applicant's second choice is college B, and college B is less selective than college A, the same applicant may be one of the most competitive applicants to their second choice major.

#3. Please provide data that would enable a more precise comparison of the admission rate of the general student body to that of the sample with which we were working. That is, help us refine the comparison group of in-state applicants who were not automatic admits under the "Top Ten Percent" rule to a population with GPA's and SAT scores that are comparable to those of the sample.

This request asks that UT Austin match a set of students in a "comparison group" to the sample of 55 applicants using two factors, the SAT and GPA, to define the comparison group. In the holistic review process described in response to inquiry #2, no single factor such as SAT score or class rank is determinative in an admission decision. Additionally, the admission process does not use GPA but rather class rank as one of many factors in the holistic review. For example, an applicant with a GPA of 3.80 may have a class rank in the top 12% of their high school class, but another applicant with a similar GPA at another high school could be in the top 4%. These class rankings, with similar GPAs, could lead to two very different admission decisions depending on the other factors in the applications and the majors to which the students have applied.

As demonstrated by University counsel during the defense of *Fisher v The University of Texas*, no automatic advantage or value is assigned to *any* factor in the admission process. For the non-auto admit students, the SAT is contextual, as is class rank and every other factor in an applicant's file. Consistent with a holistic process it is impossible to isolate a single factor as a determinant for an admission decision. Therefore, it is not possible to identify a comparative group for any sample in a way that demonstrates a specific factor is determinative in admissions.

UT Austin, however, can provide a broad picture of the admission decisions for the sample compared with non-auto admit freshmen admission decisions. In response to inquiry #4, the

sample is compared to all non-auto admit applicants for freshmen admission from 2009 to 2013 inclusive. The aggregation of the five classes provides the best statistical picture when comparing the sample over those years to all admission decisions. Attachment A presents a scatterplot of admission decisions plotted against SAT score and class rank. Each non-auto admit freshmen applicant from 2009 to 2013 is represented by a dot in the scatterplot. The dots are coded according to four categories:

1. Not in sample, admitted (n=11,730)
2. Not in sample, not admitted (n=51,286)
3. In sample, admitted (n=34)
4. In sample, not admitted (n=21)

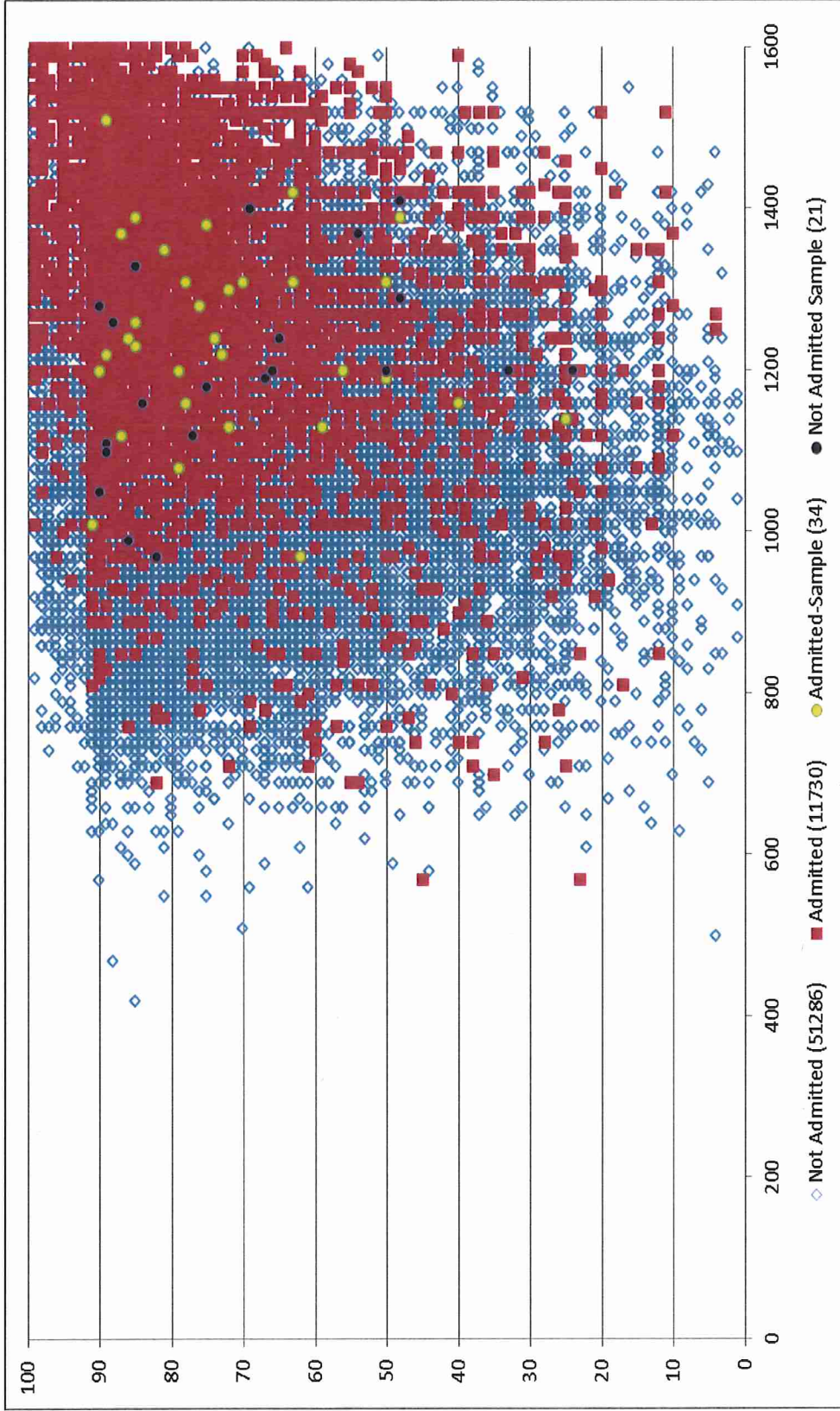
As seen in the scatterplot (Attachment A), the pattern of admits and non-admits is what would be expected for highly varied applicants into many different majors when displayed against two of the factors (SAT and class rank) considered in the holistic admission process. Importantly, the pattern for the 63,016 applicants not in the sample is similar to the pattern for the 55 applicants in the sample even though the number of applicants in each category differs by three orders of magnitude. This scatterplot demonstrates that the single factor used to define the sample has no effect on the pattern of admission decisions in the holistic process.

4. Please provide data that will enable us to create a scatterplot of GPA and SAT for the undergraduate admissions classes for each year from 2009-2013 that shows the admissions and denials of instate applicants who were not automatic admits under the "Top Ten Percent" rule. The third attachment is an example of such a chart for the U.T. College of Engineering.

See Attachment A and the explanation for inquiry #3.

ATTACHMENT A

The University of Texas at Austin
Scatterplot of Admitted, Admitted Sample, and Non Admitted In-state Freshman Applications
2009-2013



Applicants with missing data were excluded from the scatterplot

ATTACHMENT I

Sharphorn, Dan

From: Sharphorn, Dan
Sent: Saturday, April 05, 2014 9:50 AM
To: fenves@utexas.edu
Subject: FW: Scatterplots
Attachments: Scatterplots-2.docx; U.T. Input 4.1.14.PDF

Thanks Greg. The scatterplots you have provided, below and earlier (at the end of the second attachment), provide some helpful information. With the large numbers, however, the graphic display of not admitted and admitted is too dense to be as useful it could be. Can you please provide the following:

1. The year by year scatterplots by class rank and SAT scores for 2009-2013 that underlie the compiled original one you provided at the end of the second attachment.
2. With the same population you have been using, including the sample group, scatterplots by Personal Achievement Index and Academic Achievement Index for each year, 2009-2013, and a compiled one for the five years.
3. Any admissions or decisions grids that you have for each of the years 2009-2013.
4. Data that would enable us to calculate the compiled admission rate of the instate, completed file, non-automatic admits for the years 2009-2013 who had SAT scores between 1070 and 1500 and were ranked anywhere from the 45th percentile of their high school class to the top of their class. If there is a reason to further refine this by personal achievement index, please explain.

Finally, can you please let us know if a letter from a legislator is considered in calculating an applicant's Personal Achievement Index and, if so, how.

Thank you very much for your time and cooperation.

Best wishes, Dan

Dan Sharphorn
Vice Chancellor and General Counsel ad interim The University of Texas System
201 West 7th Street
Austin, Texas 78701
512-499-4462
dsharphorn@utsystem.edu

-----Original Message-----

From: Fenves, Gregory L [<mailto:fenves@utexas.edu>]
Sent: Thursday, April 03, 2014 5:06 PM
To: Sharphorn, Dan
Subject: Scatterplots

Dan,

This plots the same information with the same scales but the cases not in the sample are plotted separately for admits and not-admits.

Greg

ATTACHMENT J

1. Provide the year-by-year scatterplots by class rank and SAT scores for 2009-2013 that underlie the compiled original one you provided at the end of the second attachment.

Scatterplots labeled 1 through 18 show the Texas resident, FTIC non-automatic admission decisions each year from 2009 to 2013 as plotted by class rank and SAT score. The scatterplots are provided in three forms for each year: 1) all admission decisions plus sample, 2) admitted applicants plus sample, and 3) not admitted applicants plus sample.

2. With the same population you have been using, including the sample group, provide scatterplots by Personal Achievement Index and Academic Achievement Index for each year, 2009-2013, and a compiled one for the five years.

Scatterplots labeled 19 through 24 show the *admitted* applicants, including the admitted applicants in the sample, as plotted by the Personal Achievement Index (PAI) and Academic Index (AI) for each year 2009 to 2013 and combined for all years.

Please note that while the request was for all applicants, we are only able to provide the data for admitted applicants. As discussed in UT Austin's response to the first set of questions related to this inquiry, FTIC admission decisions are made across 12 colleges and schools involving 19 majors. An applicant may be considered for several majors before a final admission decision. The multiple reviews by major lead to nearly one hundred scenarios under which an applicant may be considered for admission. Each scenario has its own criteria such that an applicant would have the same PAI score but the AI scores may differ. As a result, it is not unusual for an applicant to have two or even three AI scores. For example, if an applicant has a first choice of Business and is denied, then a second choice of Natural Sciences and is denied, and then is considered for Undergraduate Studies and is denied or offered CAP, this applicant would have three AI scores.

The scatterplots 19 to 24 use the AI score for the final admit decision. As described above there is no unique AI score for non-admits, hence it is not possible to produce scatterplots for applicants who are not admitted.

3. Provide any admissions or decisions grids that you have for each of the years 2009-2013.

Admissions grids/matrices are transitory work products that are not retained after the admissions process.

4. Provide data that would enable us to calculate the compiled admission rate of the instate, completed file, non-automatic admits for the years 2009-2013 who had SAT scores between 1070 and 1500 and were ranked anywhere from the 45th percentile of their high school class to the top of their class. If there is a reason to further refine this by personal achievement index, please explain.

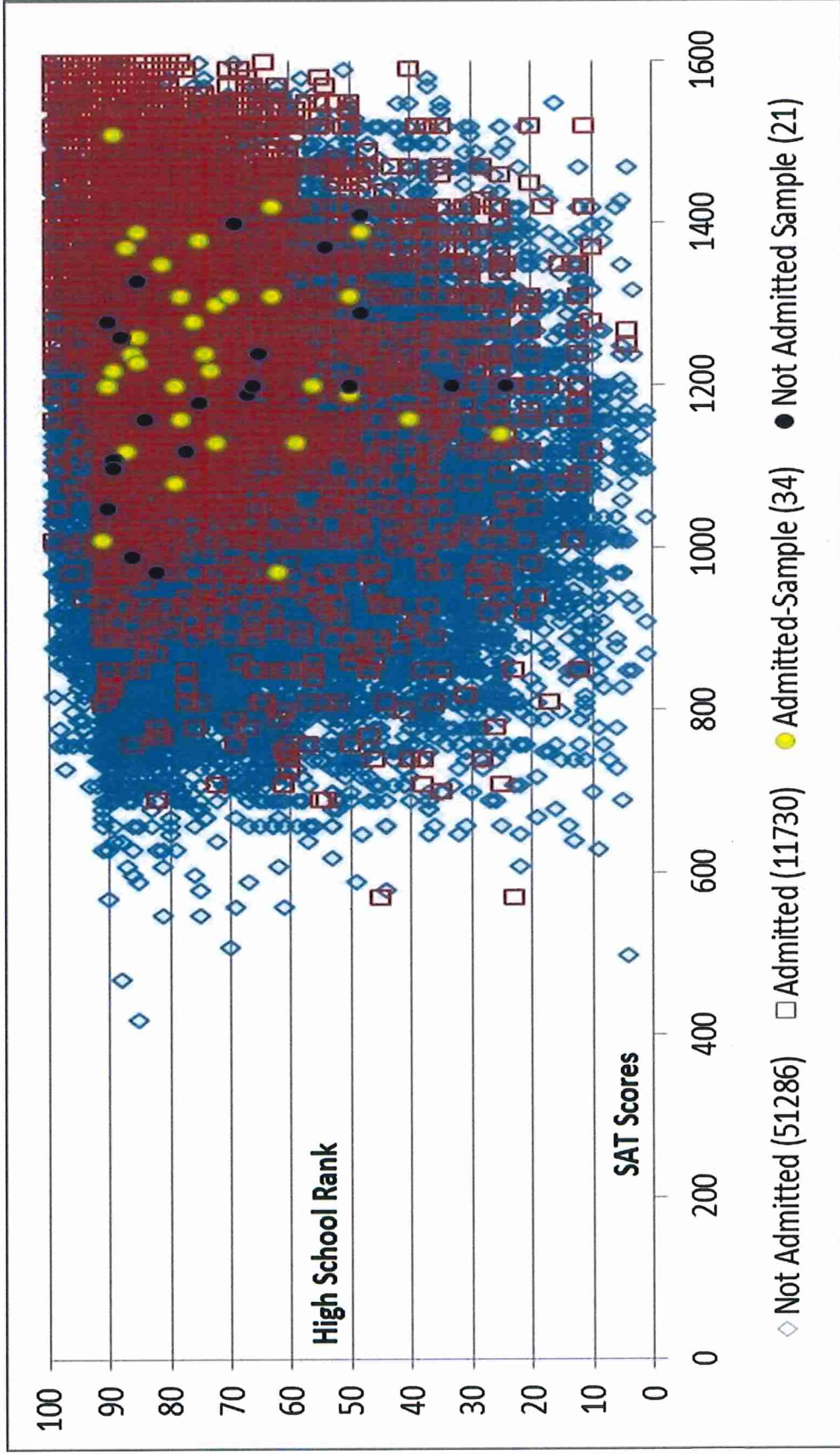
In response to this request regarding a sub-group admit rate, we calculated an overall admit rate for the years 2009 to 2013 for applicants who had an SAT score between 1070 and 1500 and who were ranked from the 45th percentile of their high school class to the top of their class, which for the purpose of satisfying this request we considered to be the 99th percentile.

Using the data population for the scatterplots in the response to question 1 above, we filtered applications from 2009 to 2013, Texas residents, complete files, non-automatic admits and per the UT System request further filtered to those applicants with an SAT equivalent from 1070-1500 and HSR from 45th percentile to 99th percentile. Of this population of 43,122 applicants, 23% were admitted.

[5.] Finally, can you please let us know if a letter from a legislator is considered in calculating an applicant's Personal Achievement Index and, if so, how.

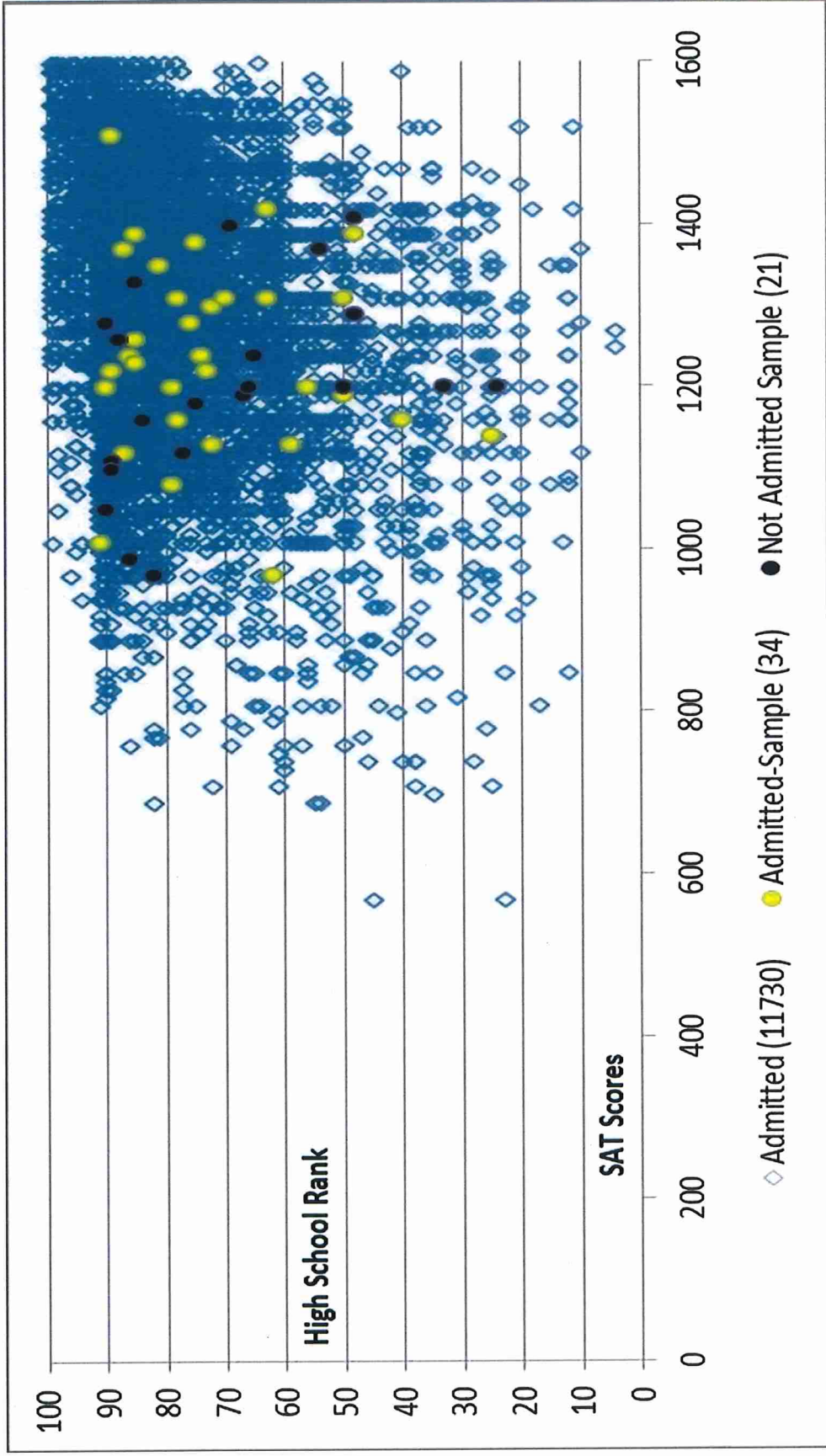
Letters of recommendation from any source are considered in the review of an applicant's file and are reflected in the assignment of a PAI score, including letters received from members of the Texas Legislature. These letters are read in context of an applicant's record of achievement, honors and awards, special accomplishments, work and service, essays, and special circumstances that put a student's achievement in a personal context (including his/her socioeconomic status, experience in a single parent home, family responsibilities, experience overcoming adversity, cultural background, race and ethnicity, languages spoken in the home, and other information in the applicant's file). There is no single credential that leads to a particular PAI score. Rather, it is the holistic consideration of all credentials that results in the scored assessment of an applicant's file. As would be expected for any single credential considered in the holistic review, and as evidenced by the variation of PAI scores on scatterplots 19-24, there is no consistent PAI score associated with the sample population.

Scatterplot 1: Apps from 2009-2013 (with all cohorts)



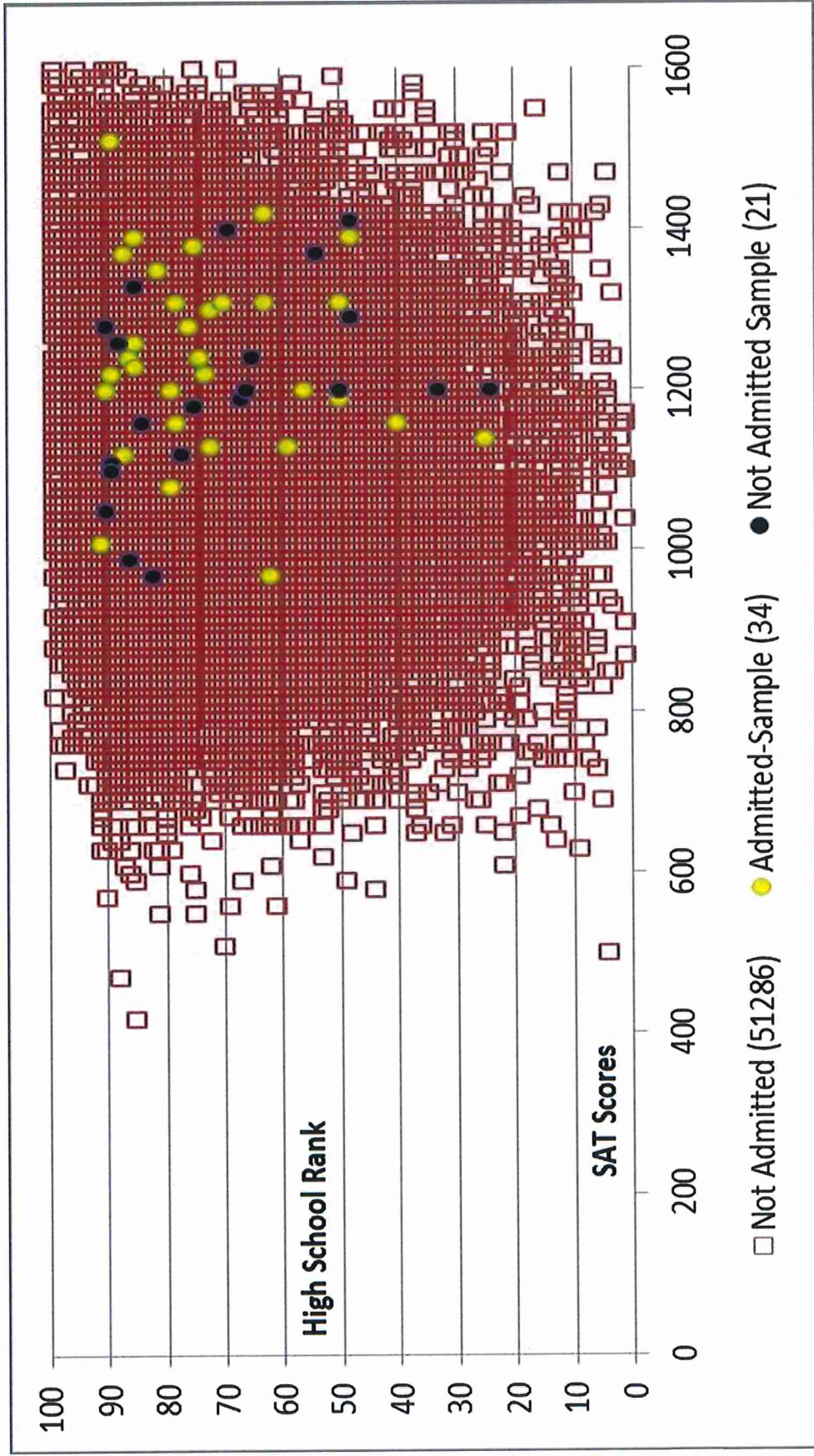
Observations with missing values are not included in the scatterplot.

Scatterplot 2: Apps from 2009-2013 with Admitted as background



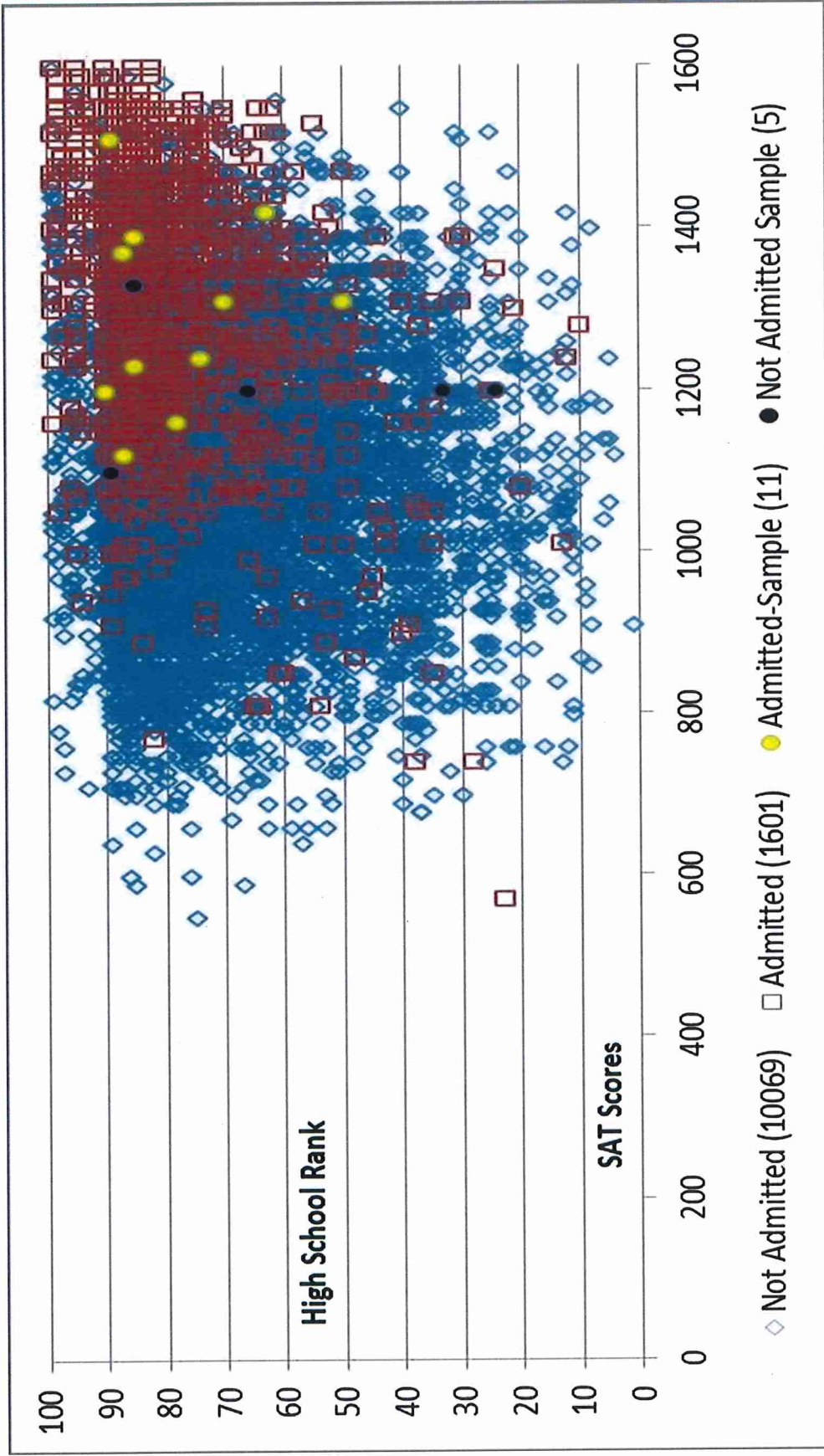
Observations with missing values are not included in the scatterplot.

Scatterplot 3: Apps from 2009-2013 with Not Admitted as background



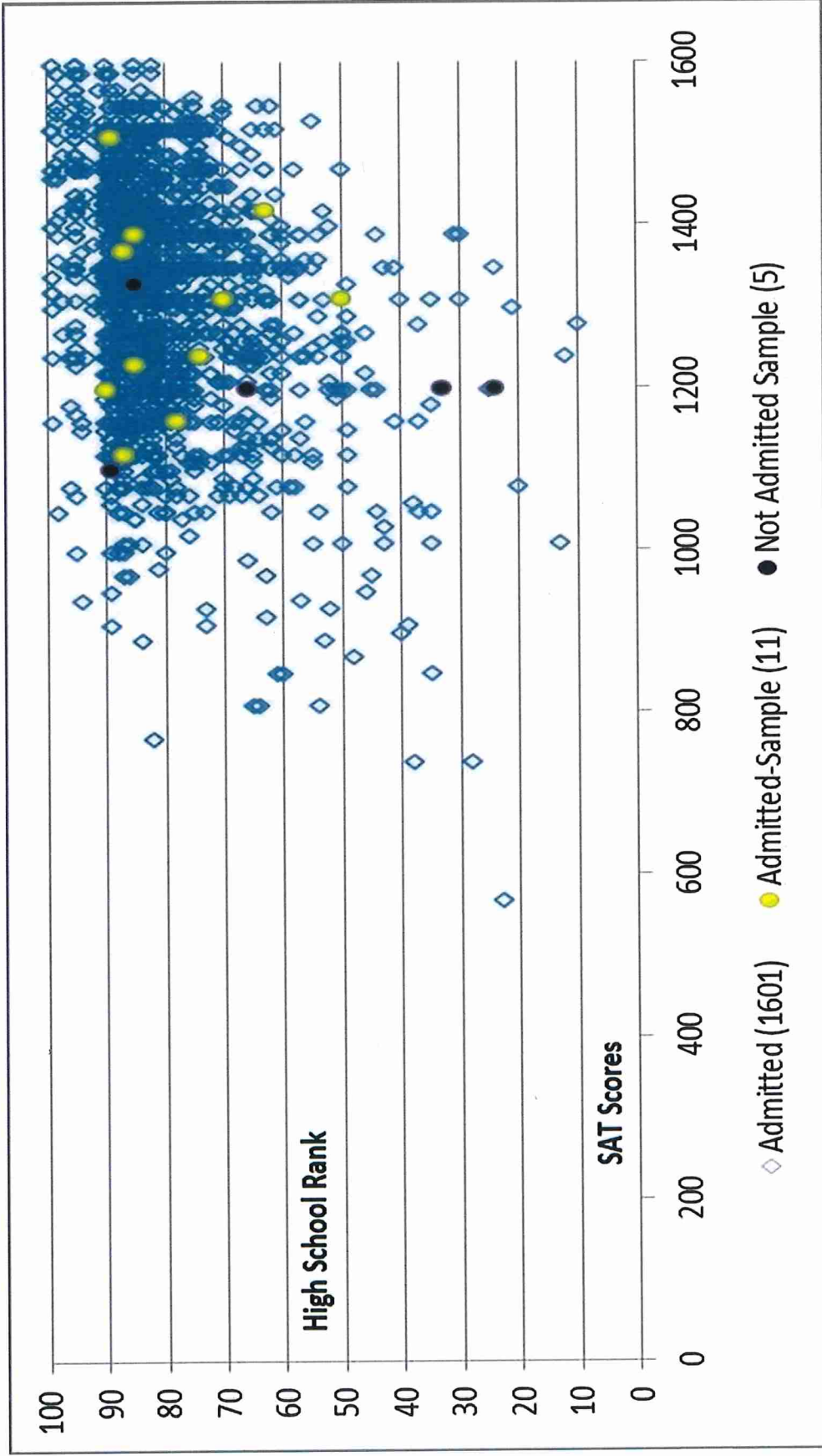
Observations with missing values are not included in the scatterplot.

Scatterplot 4: Apps from 2009 (with all cohorts)



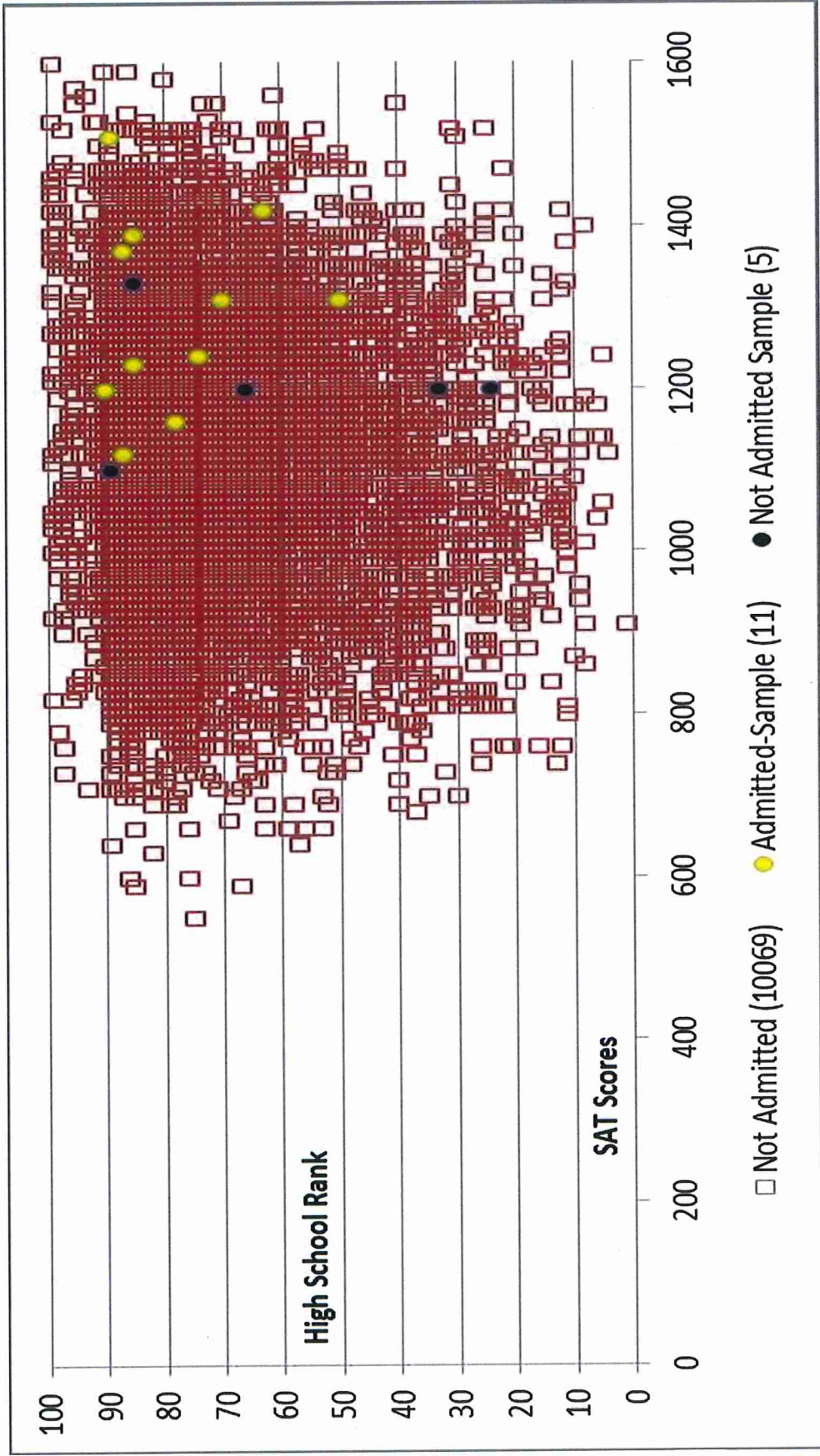
Observations with missing values are not included in the scatterplot.

Scatterplot 5: Apps from 2009 with Admitted as background



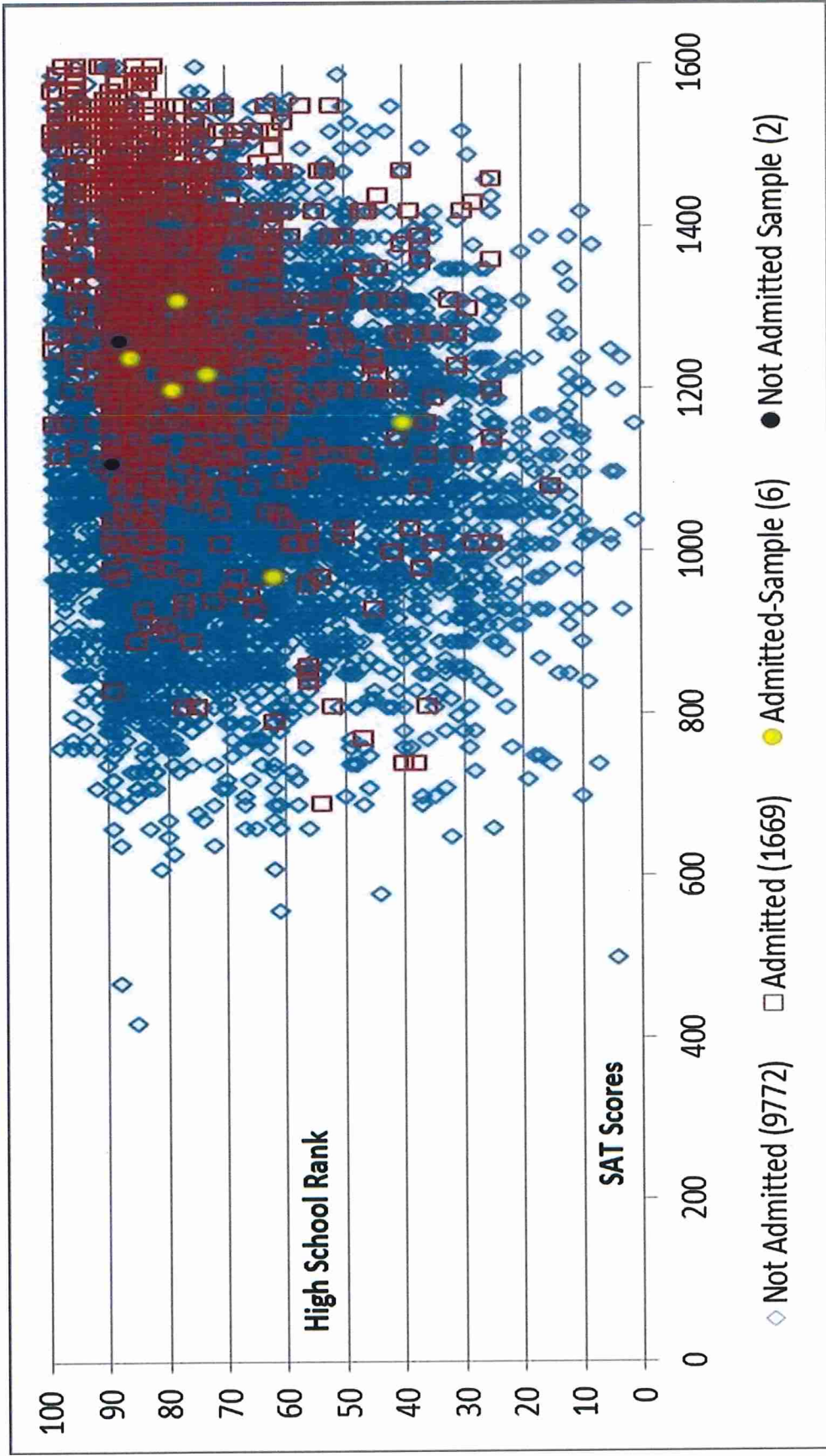
Observations with missing values are not included in the scatterplot.

Scatterplot 6: Apps from 2009 with Not Admitted as background



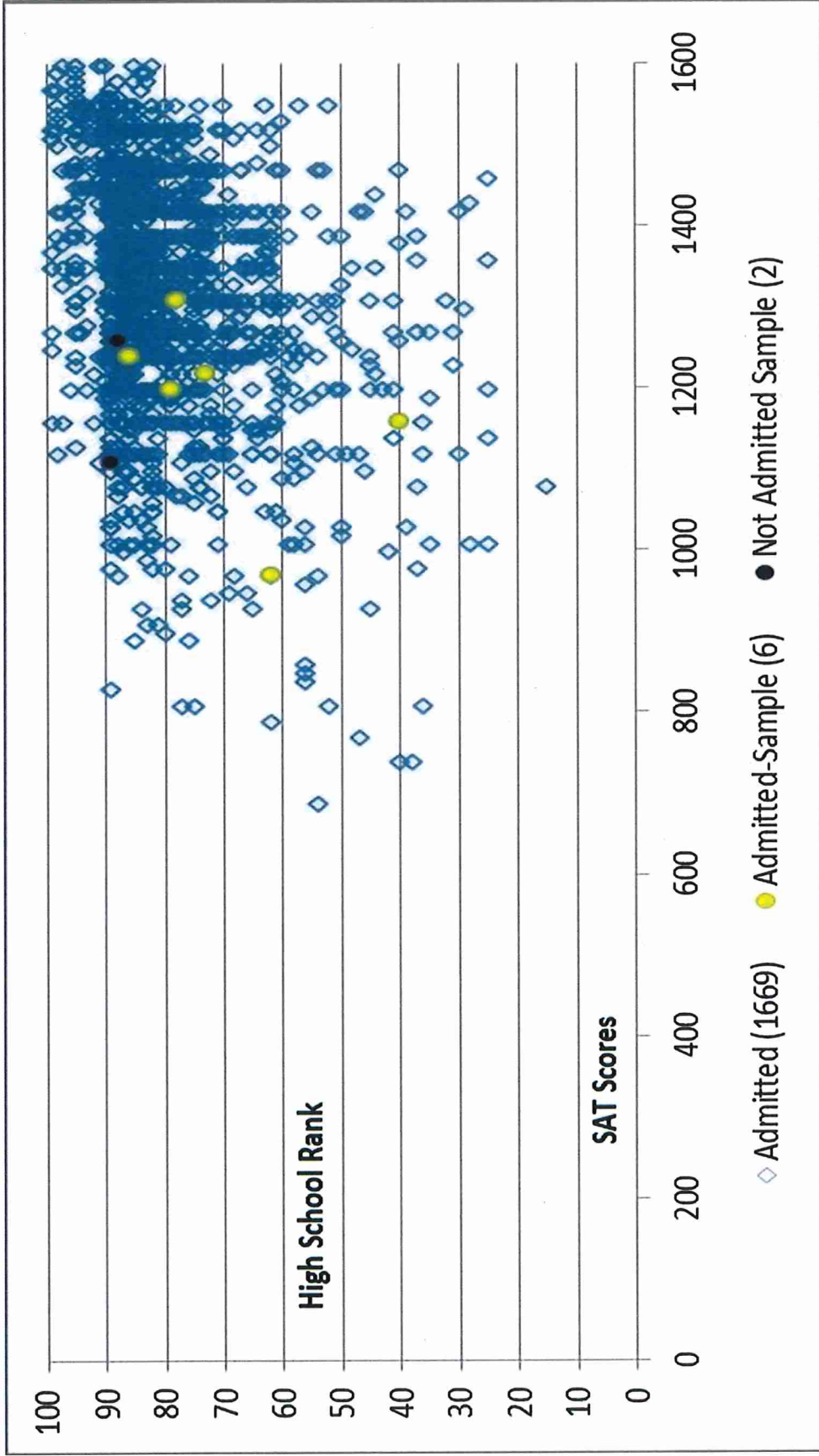
Observations with missing values are not included in the scatterplot.

Scatterplot 7: Apps from 2010 (with all cohorts)



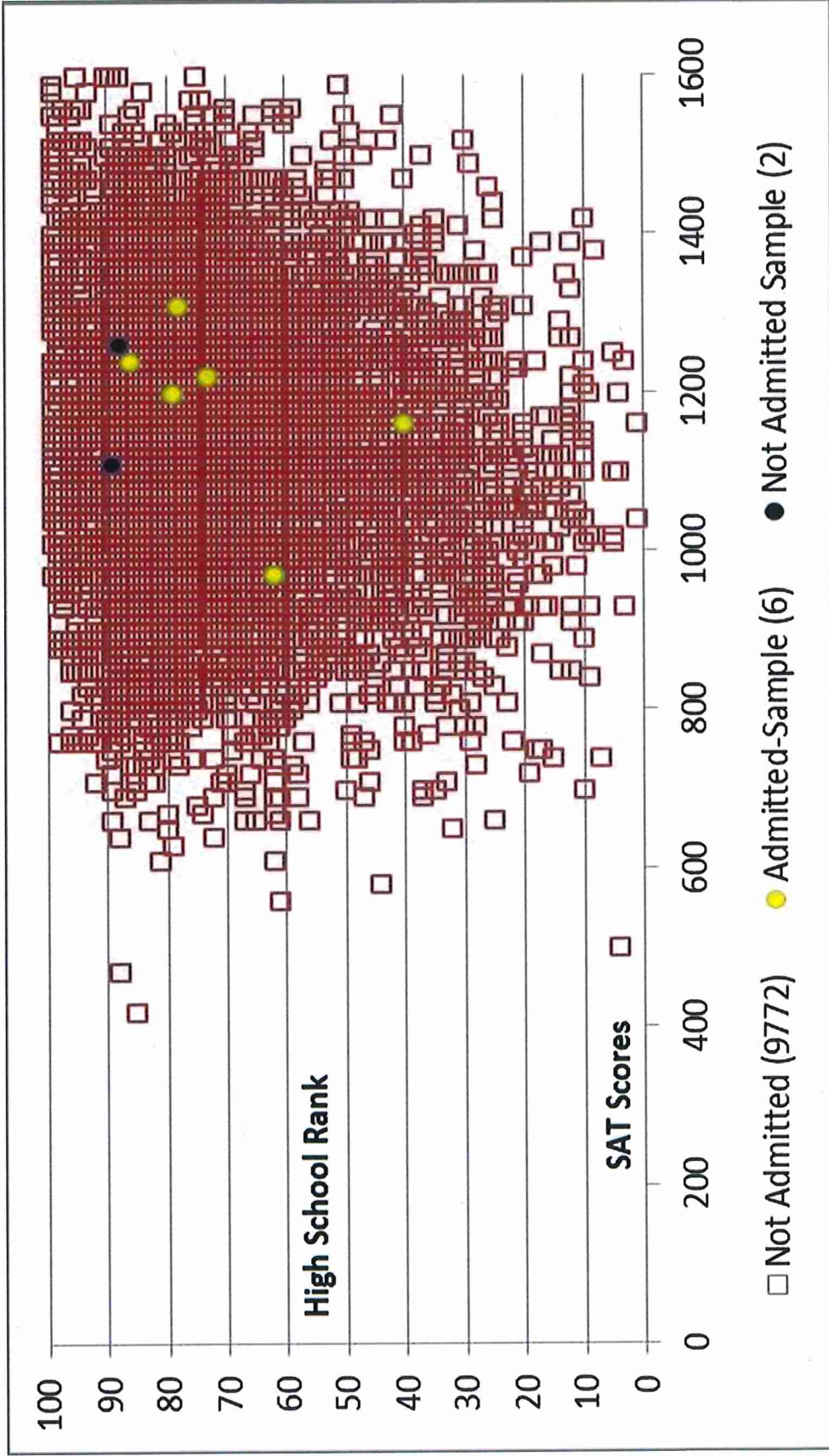
Observations with missing values are not included in the scatterplot.

Scatterplot 8: Apps from 2010 with Admitted as background



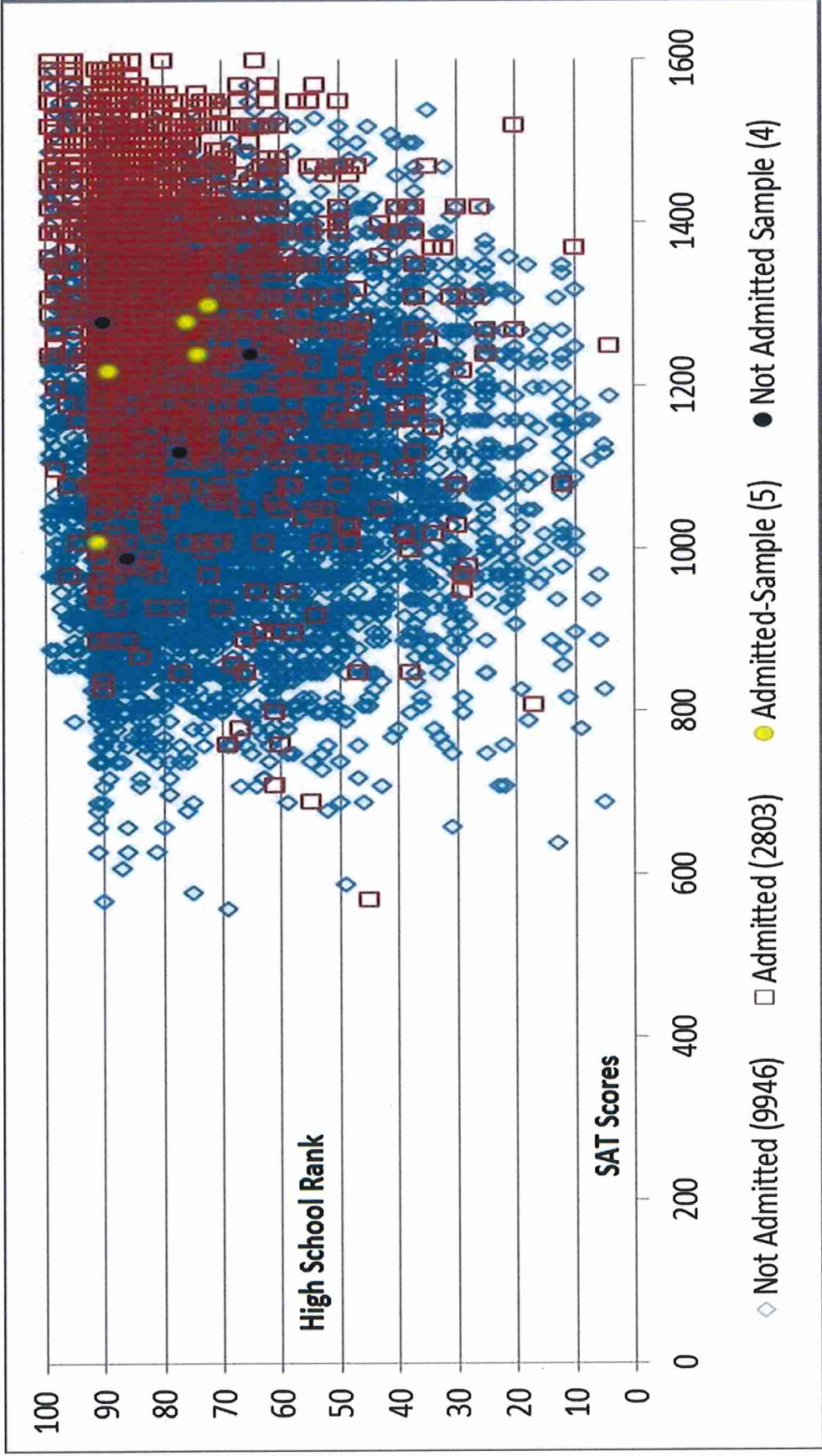
Observations with missing values are not included in the scatterplot.

Scatterplot 9: Apps from 2010 with Not Admitted as background



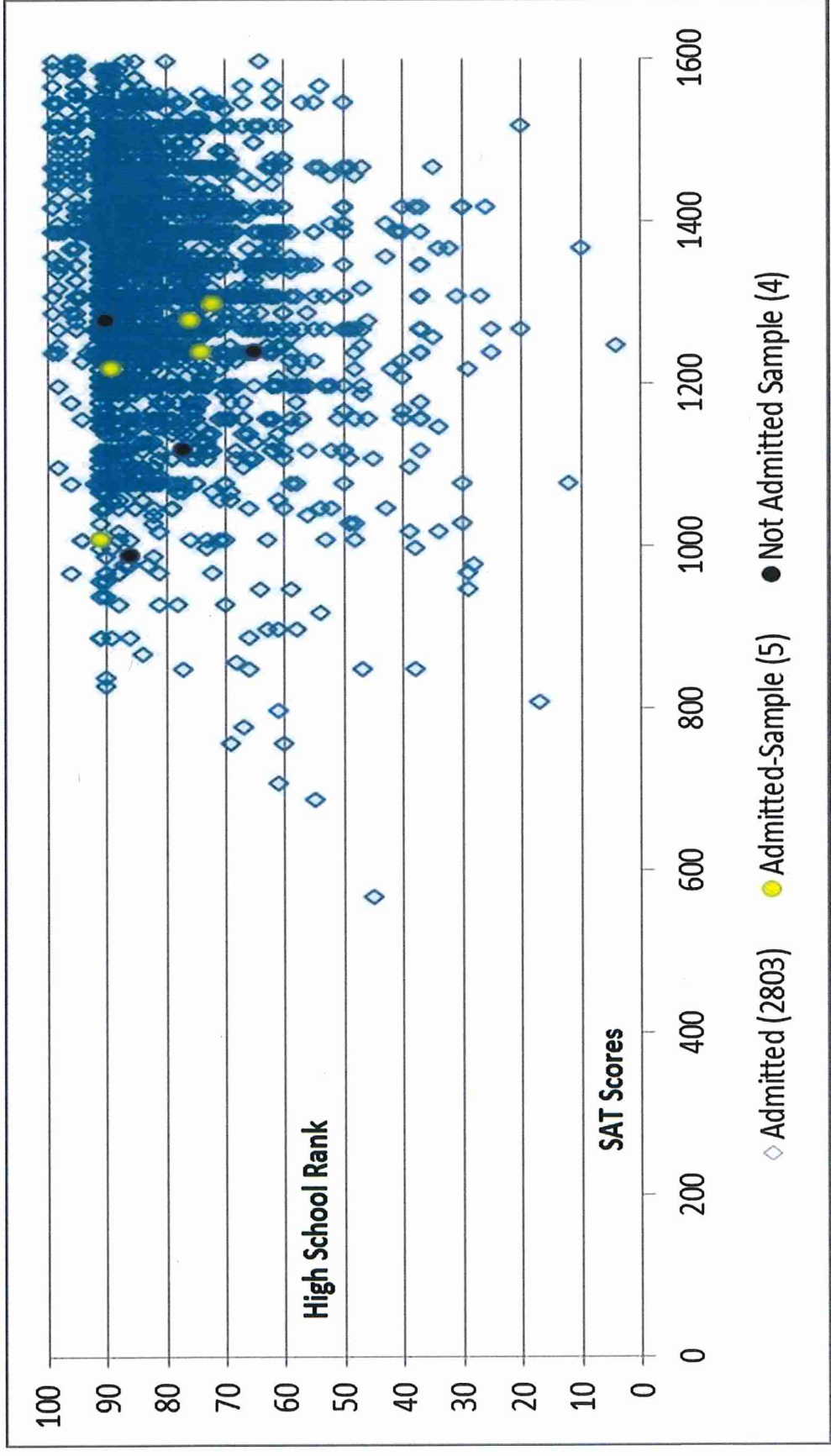
Observations with missing values are not included in the scatterplot.

Scatterplot 10: Apps from 2011 (with all cohorts)



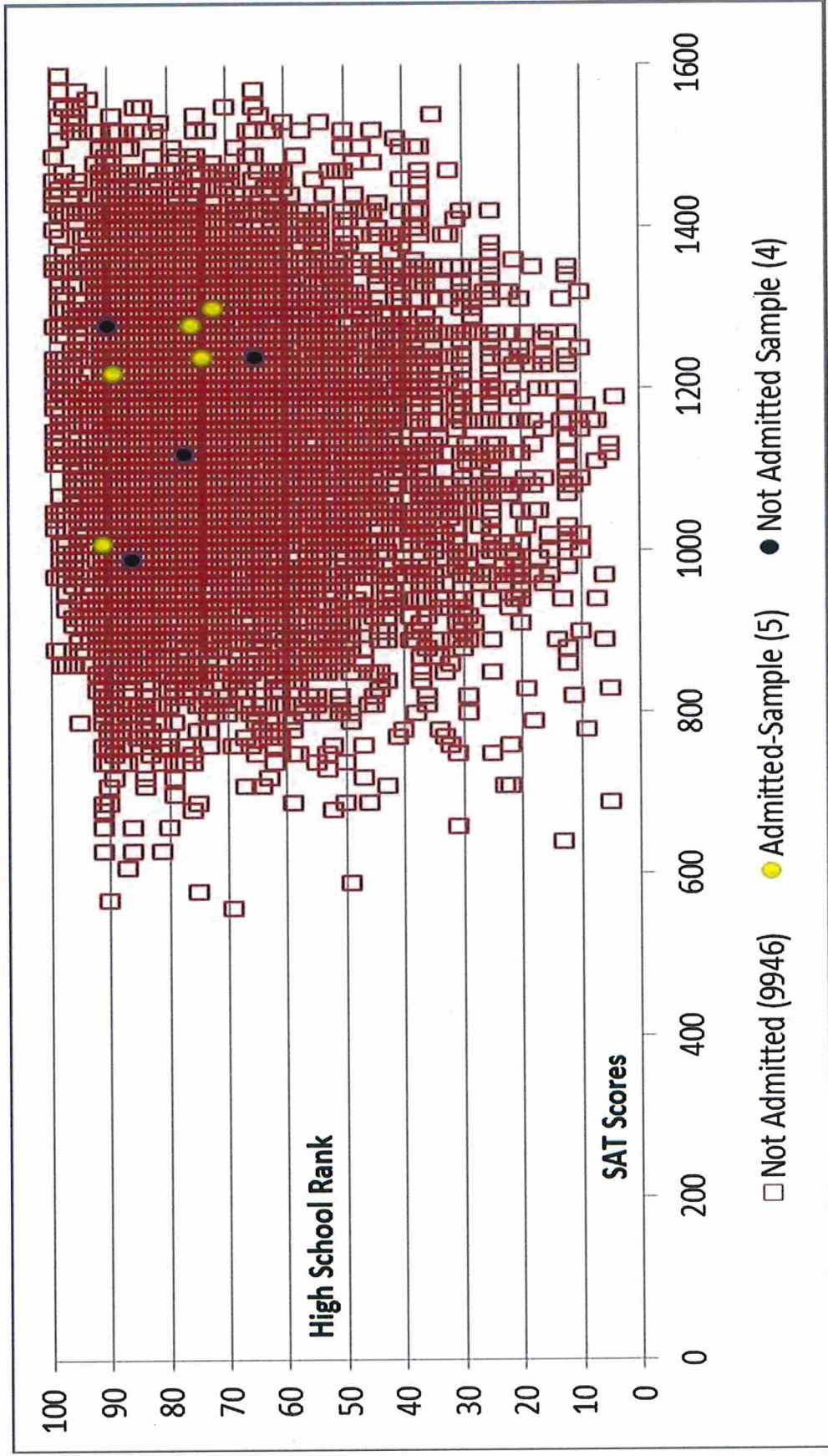
Observations with missing values are not included in the scatterplot.

Scatterplot 11: Apps from 2011 with Admitted as background



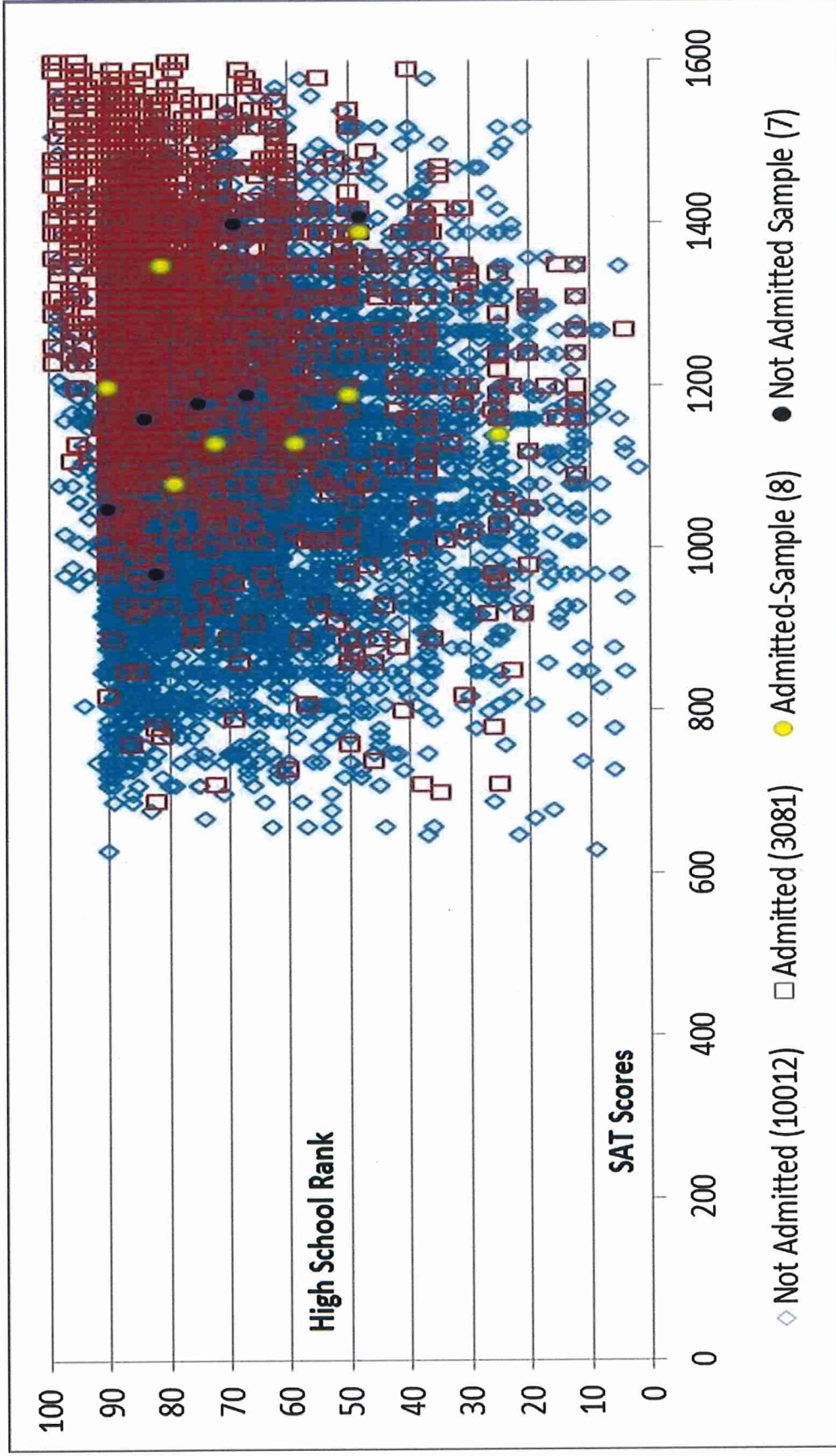
Observations with missing values are not included in the scatterplot.

Scatterplot 12: Apps from 2011 with Not Admitted as background



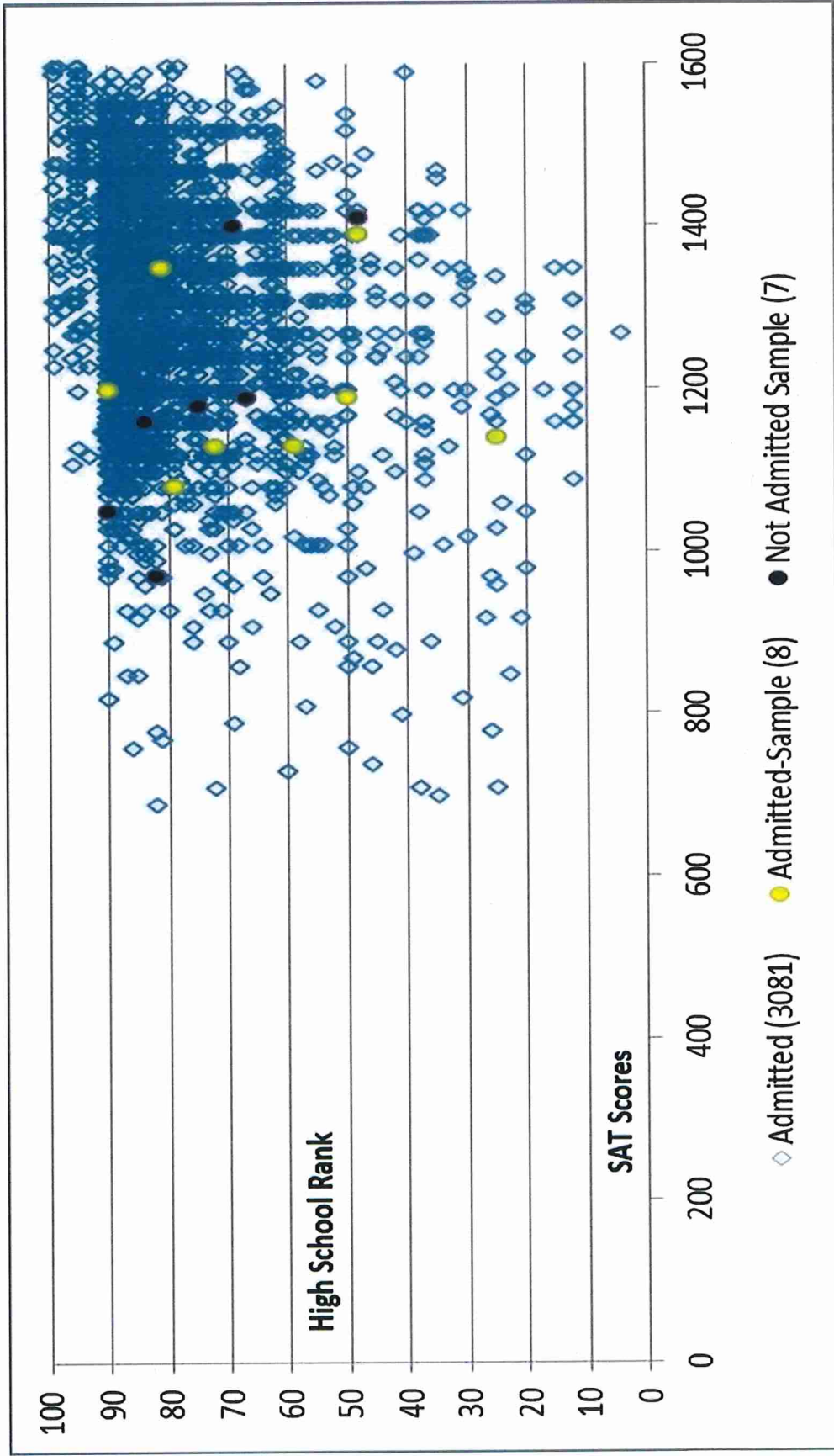
Observations with missing values are not included in the scatterplot.

Scatterplot 13: Apps from 2012 (with all cohorts)



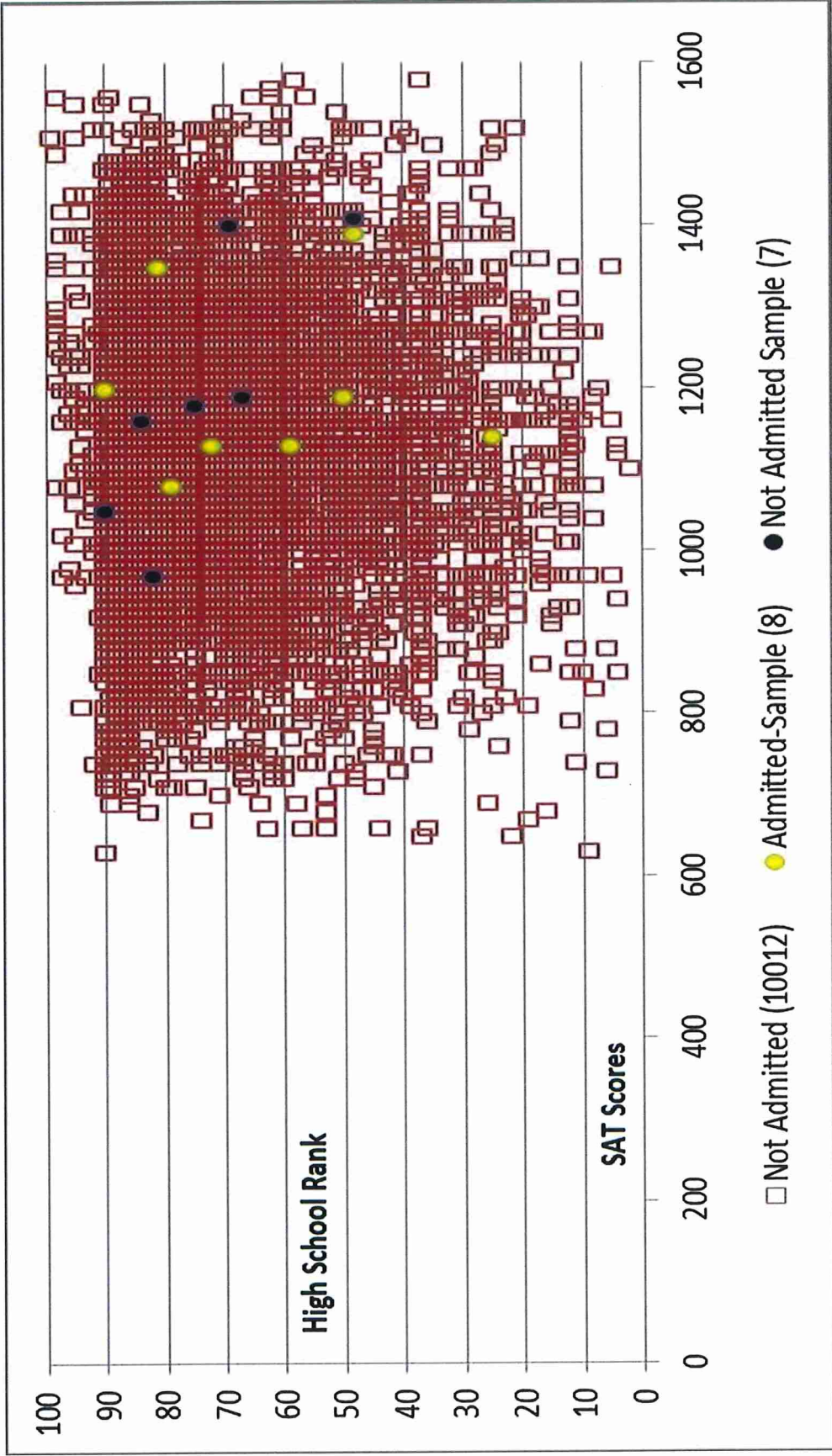
Observations with missing values are not included in the scatterplot.

Scatterplot 14: Apps from 2012 with Admitted as background



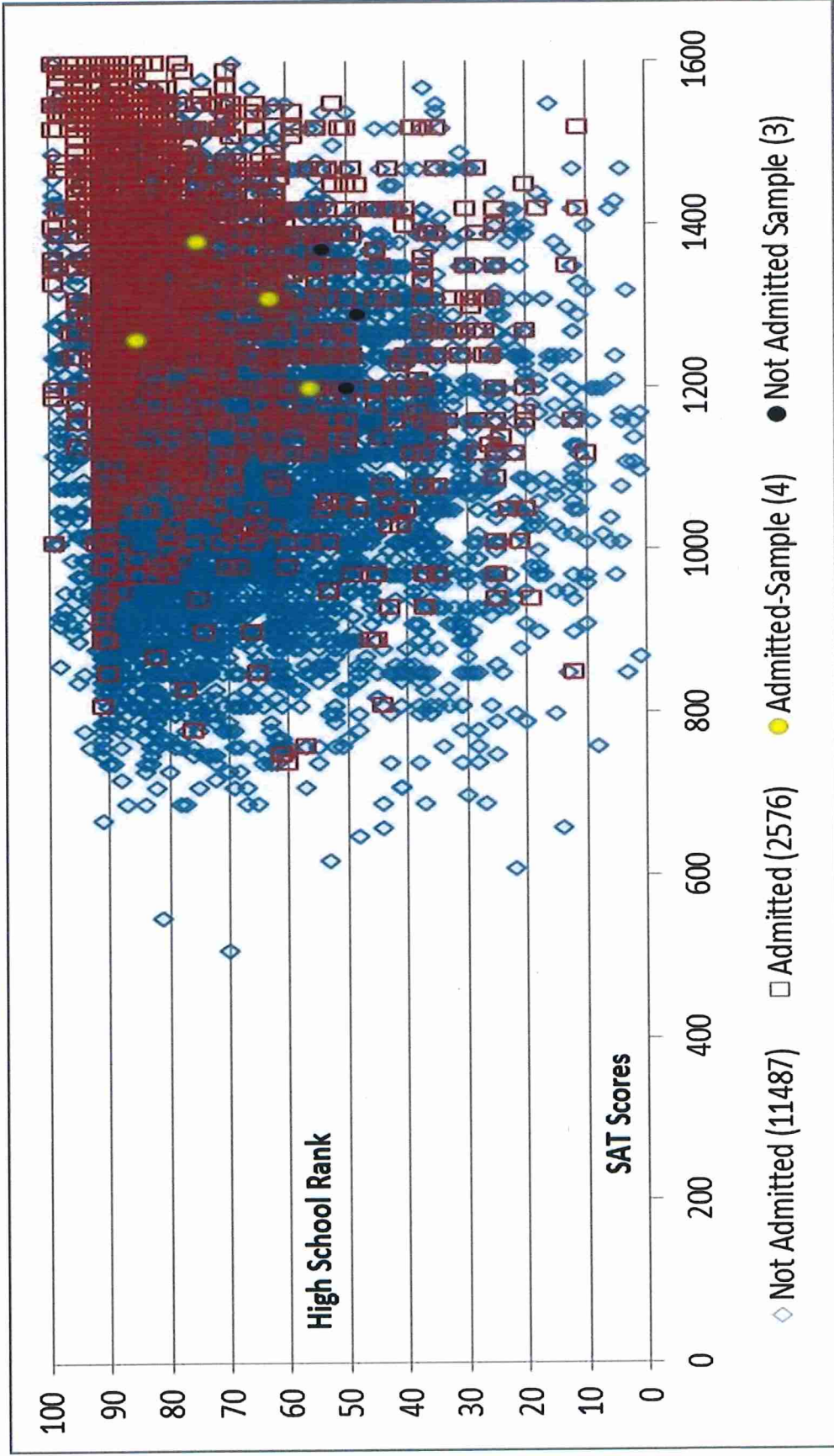
Observations with missing values are not included in the scatterplot.

Scatterplot 15: Apps from 2012 with Not Admitted as background



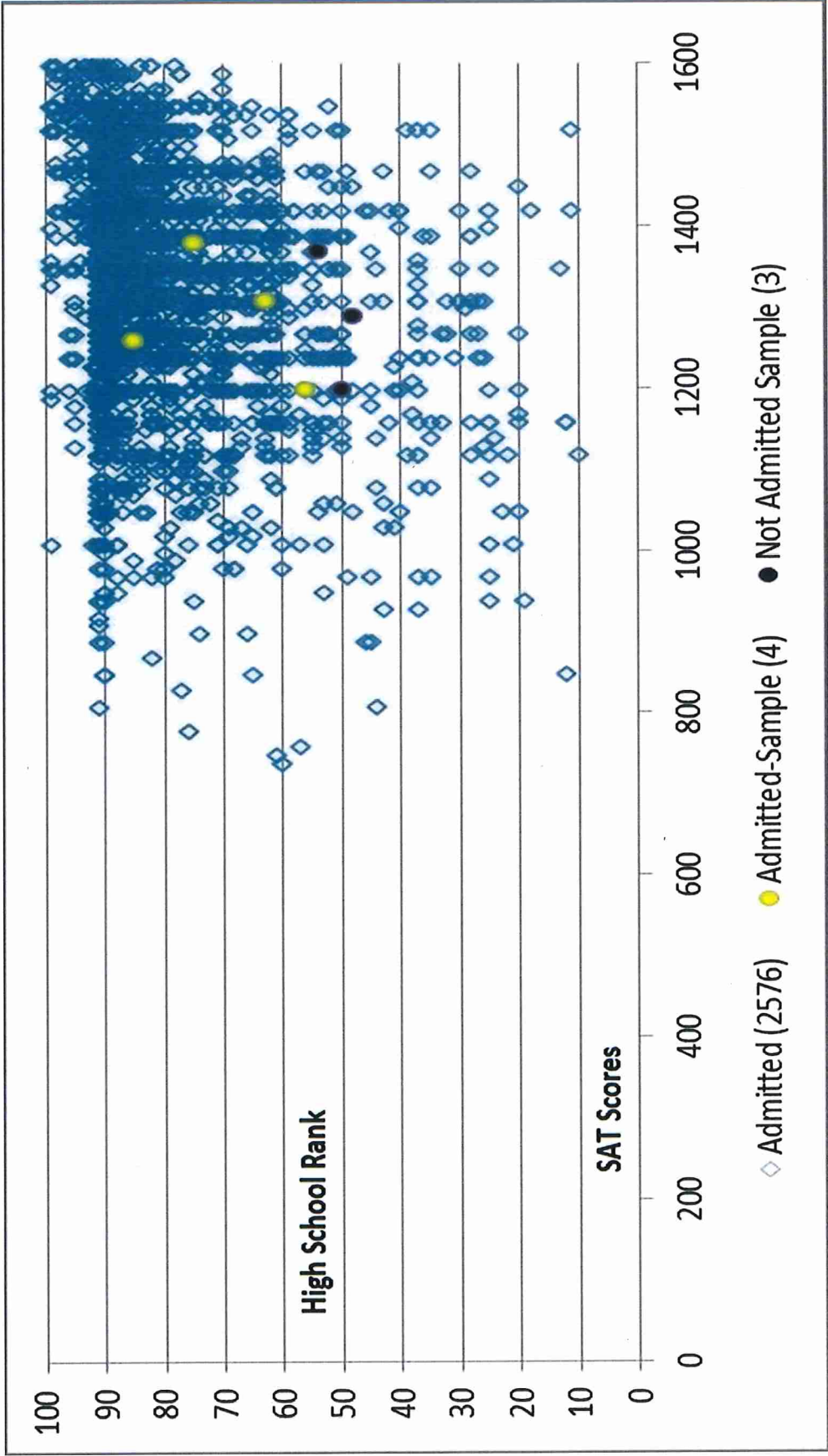
Observations with missing values are not included in the scatterplot.

Scatterplot 16: Apps from 2013 (with all cohorts)



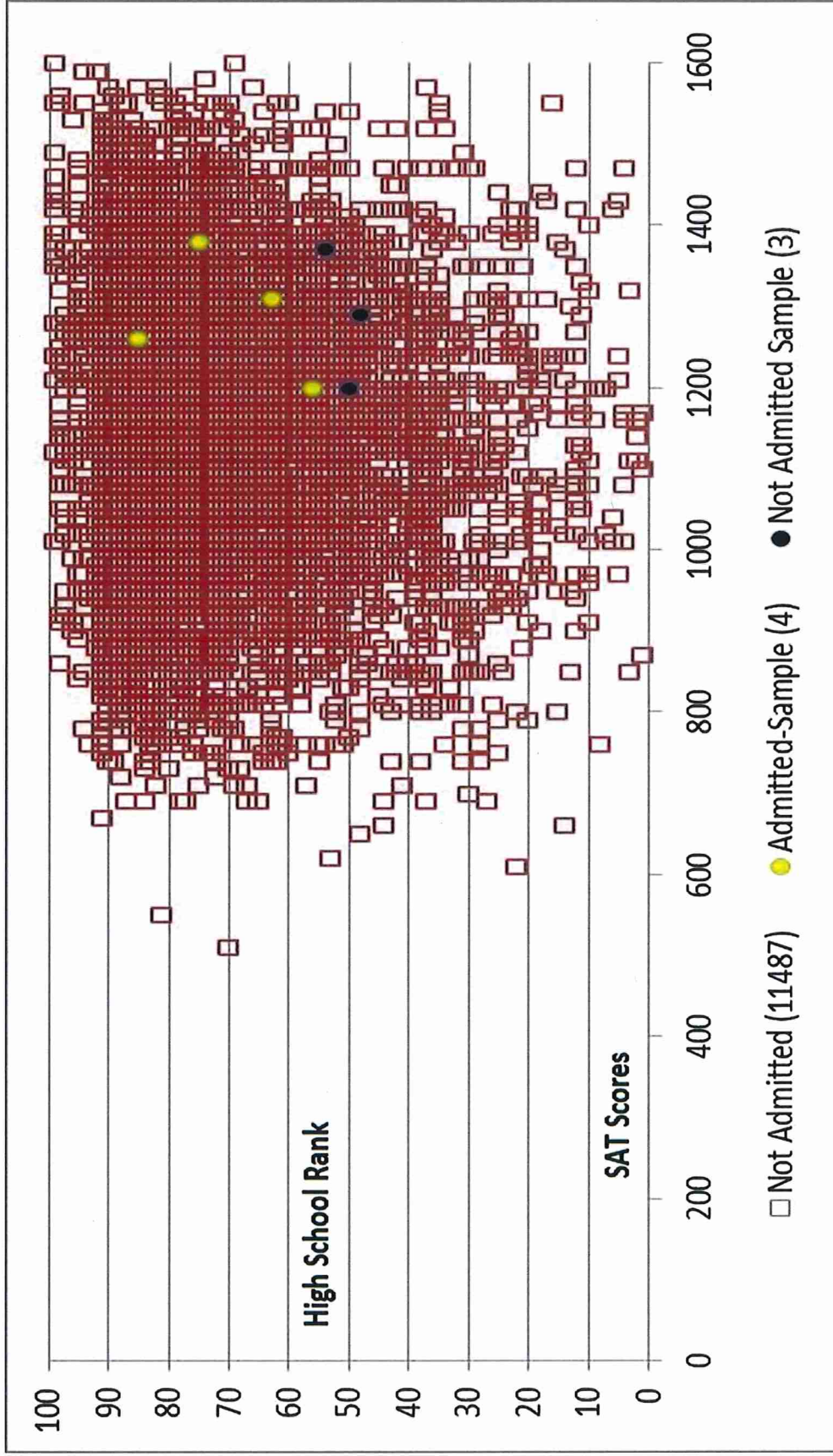
Observations with missing values are not included in the scatterplot.

Scatterplot 17: Apps from 2013 with Admitted as background



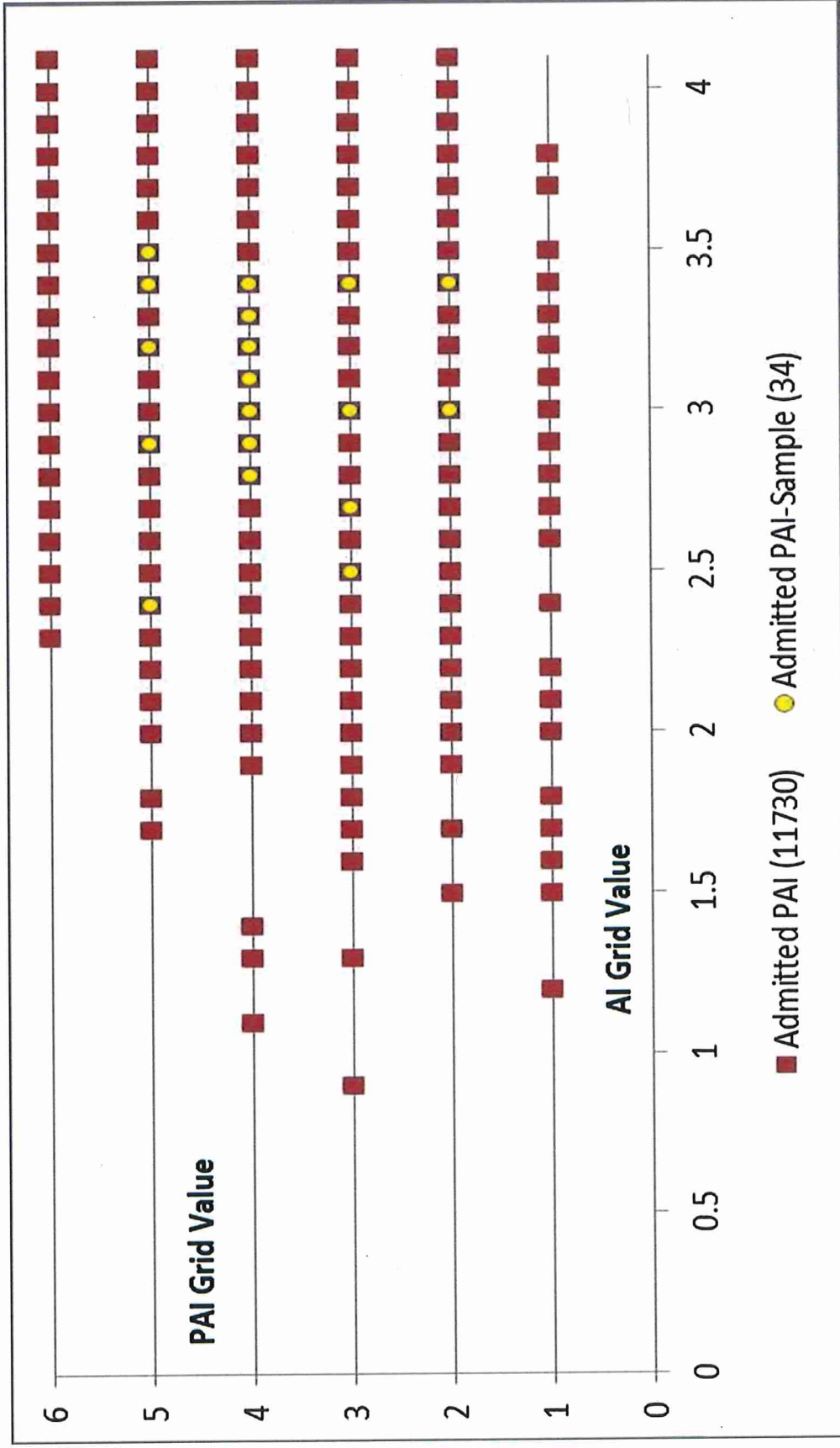
Observations with missing values are not included in the scatterplot.

Scatterplot 18: Apps from 2013 with Not Admitted as background



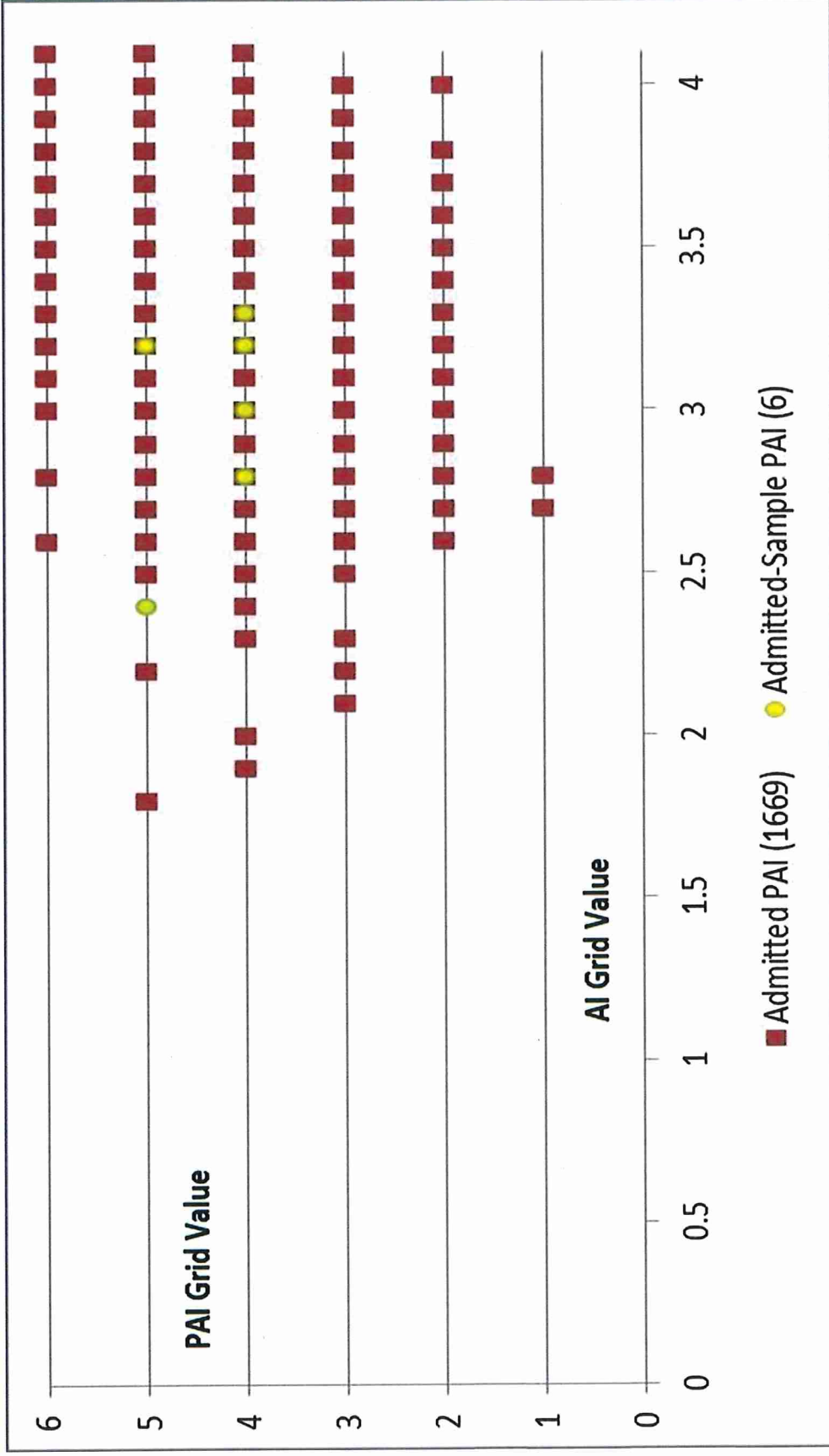
Observations with missing values are not included in the scatterplot.

Scatterplot 19: AI and PAI from Apps from 2009-2013 with Admitted as background



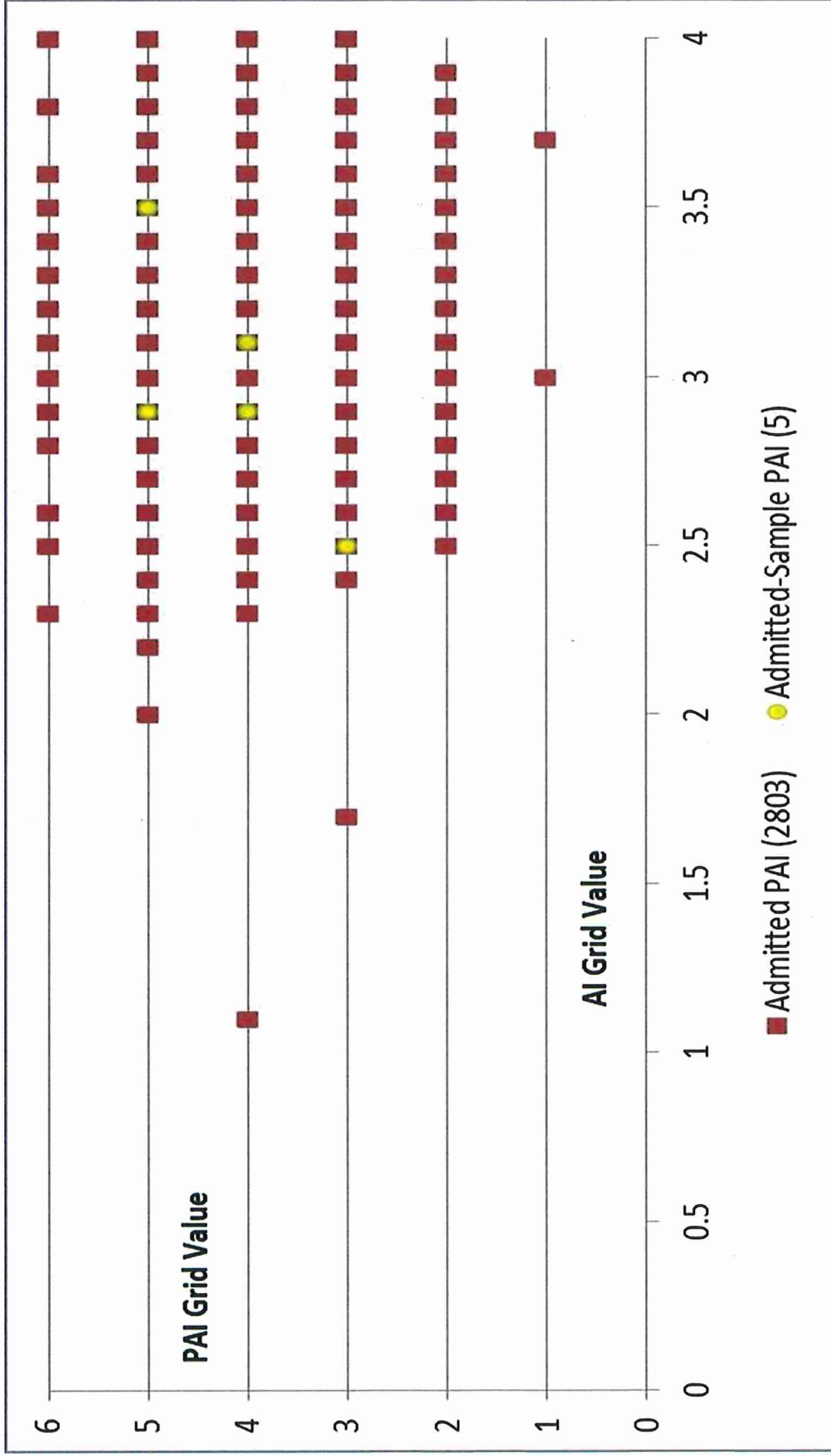
Observations with missing values are not included in the scatterplot.

Scatterplot 21: AI and PAI from 2010 with Admitted as background



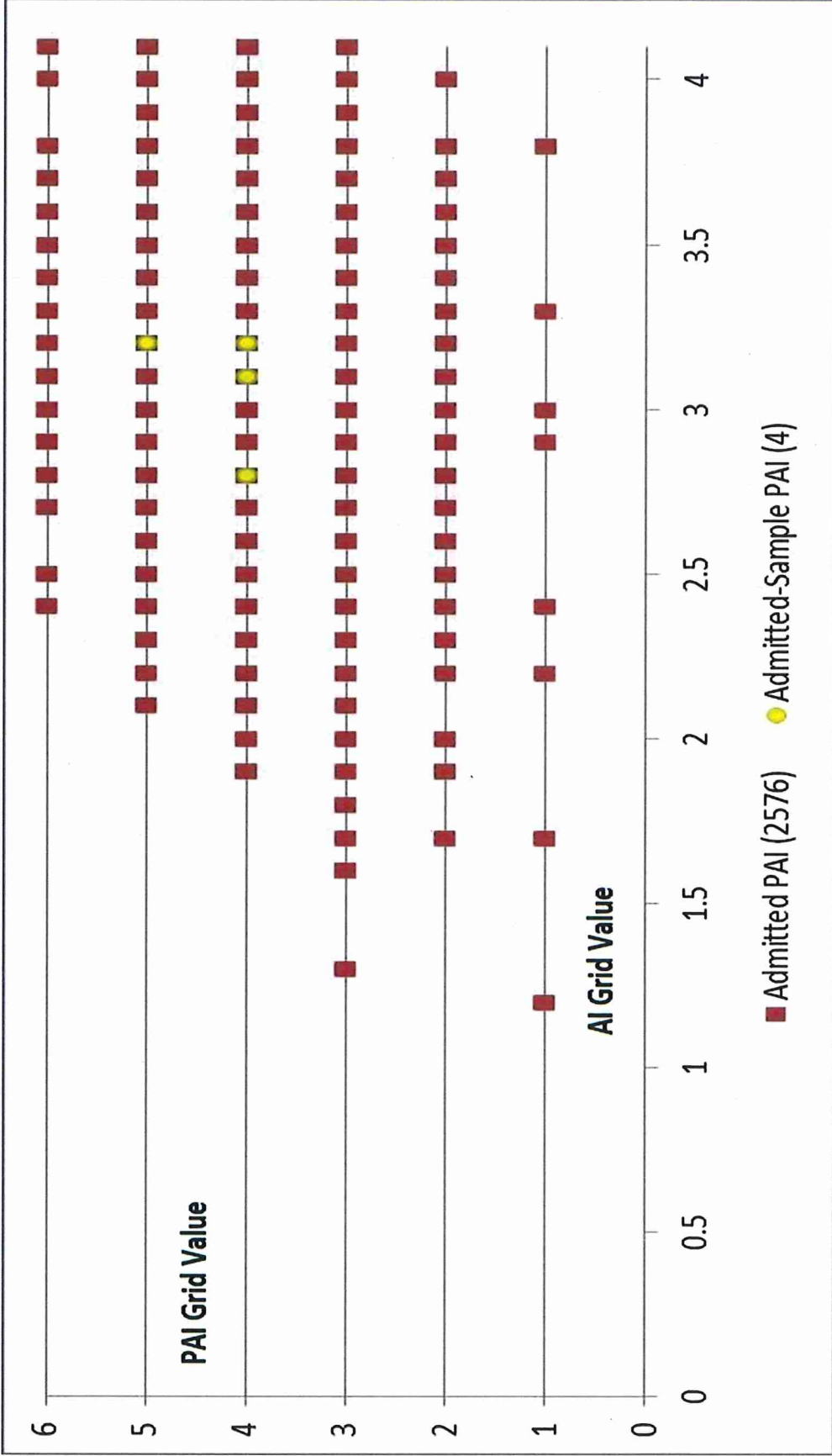
Observations with missing values are not included in the scatterplot.

Scatterplot 22: AI and PAI from 2011 with Admitted as background



Observations with missing values are not included in the scatterplot.

Scatterplot 24: AI and PAI from 2013 with Admitted as background



Observations with missing values are not included in the scatterplot.