



Mismatch Concept at Play in the Supreme Court Fisher Decision is Empirically Unsound

Table 1: A low-scoring but wealthy student graduates at the same rate (60%) as a poor student in the 3rd quartile of test performance (61%).

| Sat/ACT quartiles | Socioeconomic Status Quartiles (Family Background) | | | |
|-------------------|--|-----|-----|------|
| | Low | 2 | 3 | High |
| Low | 44% | 49% | 46% | 60% |
| 2 | 47% | 55% | 59% | 70% |
| 3 | 61% | 57% | 67% | 75% |
| High | 71% | 67% | 80% | 83% |

Source: Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce analysis of ELS 2002-12, NCES-Barron's Admissions Competitiveness Index Data Files: 1972, 1982, 1992, 2004, 2008

Table 2: Selectivity increases graduation rates more than test scores.

| SAT/ACT Quartiles | Most Competitive 468 Institutions | Moderately Competitive | Open Access |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------|-------------|
| All | 85% | 73% | 51% |
| Low | 68% | 54% | 47% |
| 2 | 77% | 73% | 51% |
| 3 | 82% | 75% | 55% |
| High | 89% | 83% | 59% |

Source: Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce analysis of ELS 2002-12, NCES-Barron's Admissions Competitiveness Index Data Files: 1972, 1982, 1992, 2004, 2008

Table 3: Minorities and whites alike do well in selective universities. Test score does not significantly mitigate the downward graduation rate effect in low resourced open access institutions.

| | Race | All | Most Competitive 468 Institutions | Moderately Competitive | Open Access |
|-------------------|---------------------------|-----|-----------------------------------|------------------------|-------------|
| | All | 62% | 85% | 73% | 51% |
| | White | 66% | 86% | 77% | 55% |
| | Black and Hispanic | 51% | 81% | 61% | 46% |
| SAT/ACT | | | | | |
| Below 1000 | White | 57% | 75% | 71% | 52% |
| Above 1000 | | 74% | 88% | 80% | 59% |
| SAT/ACT | | | | | |
| Below 1000 | Black and Hispanic | 48% | 73% | 58% | 45% |
| Above 1000 | | 61% | 85% | 67% | 49% |

Source: Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce analysis of ELS 2002-12, NCES-Barron's Admissions Competitiveness Index Data Files: 1972, 1982, 1992, 2004, 2008