



A2 ACHIEVE COLLEGE ADMISSION RISK ASSESSMENT BEAU BLACK

I am assessing the five schools currently named in your materials: Auburn, Clemson, Purdue, Georgia Tech and UT Austin. Admission is never guaranteed, and the categories below describe **risk**, not a mathematical probability of acceptance.

AUBURN UNIVERSITY

A2 ACHIEVE RISK CATEGORY: LOWER RISK

Current Classification: LIKELY/TARGET BORDERLINE, LEANING LIKELY

Beau, Auburn is the strongest admission position on your current list. You are an Alabama resident with approximately a 4.41 weighted/4.0 unweighted GPA, a top-of-class rank and a 33 ACT. Auburn's Fall 2025 resident middle 50% ACT range was **25–31**, while its overall reported GPA range was approximately **3.87–4.33**. Your ACT is above that resident middle-50 range and your weighted GPA and rigor are very strong. Auburn also reports that GPA and standardized testing are very important in its review, while rigor, extracurricular involvement, talent, character, volunteer work and work experience receive consideration as well. Those factors work in your favor.

Why I Am Not Calling Auburn “No Risk”

Because there is no such thing. Auburn's overall Fall 2025 acceptance rate was approximately 50%, and admission varies with the applicant pool. But your profile is strong enough that I am substantially more concerned about **maximizing Honors and scholarship opportunities** than I am about basic Auburn admission.

Testing

Submit the 33. Absolutely. If September produces a 34 or 35, send the update. Auburn requires test scores for Fall 2027 applicants and superscores.

Honors

You are a legitimate Auburn Honors candidate. The Fall 2025 Honors entering class had a middle 50% ACT of **33–34** and weighted GPA of **4.4–4.6**. That is almost directly where you sit. Honors is still competitive, but this is not a “why not?” application. You genuinely belong in that applicant pool.

Strategy

Apply very early.

Auburn has Fall 2027 Early Action rounds with complete-file deadlines of September 15, October 15, November 15 and December 1. I want you in an early round. Do not wait for December.

CLEMSON UNIVERSITY

A2 ACHIEVE RISK CATEGORY: LOWER-MODERATE RISK

Current Classification: TARGET

Clemson is a very reasonable school for you. Its latest first-year profile reports a **28–32 ACT middle 50%** and a 42% overall acceptance rate. Your 33 exceeds the published ACT middle 50%. Your 4.0 unweighted GPA and top-of-class position are also very competitive. However, Clemson has become considerably more competitive, particularly as its application volume has exceeded 60,000 applicants. So, I would not treat it as a safety.

Testing

Submit the 33. Clemson is test optional for this cycle, but your score helps your application.

Engineering

Clemson begins engineering students in a first-year General Engineering curriculum before progression into specific disciplines. That gives you room to explore before committing fully to one engineering field. That may actually suit you well.

Honors

Apply. Your profile is appropriate for Clemson Honors, and your research/leadership combination gives you material for the Honors essays. Clemson's Honors application specifically emphasizes intellectual engagement, community engagement and leadership, all areas where your application has evidence.

Strategy

Apply Early Action by **October 15**. Complete required materials by **November 1**. For Honors priority consideration, the application deadline is **October 22**, with materials due November 1.

PURDUE UNIVERSITY — ENGINEERING

A2 ACHIEVE RISK CATEGORY: MODERATE-HIGH RISK

Current Classification: REACH

This is where we need to stop thinking in terms of “Can Beau get into Purdue?” and start thinking in terms of: “**Can Beau win admission to Purdue's highly competitive engineering applicant pool?**” You absolutely have the academic preparation to be taken seriously. Purdue's latest Common Data Set reports a 27–34 middle 50% ACT composite among enrolled students submitting ACT scores. Your 33 is within that range. But Purdue explicitly lists Engineering at West Lafayette among its competitive majors and identifies November 1 as its priority deadline. (

Strengths

Your strongest Purdue factors are:

- 4.0 unweighted GPA
- High class rank
- AP Calculus
- AP Physics
- Four-year Engineering Academy
- CAD certification

- Computer science coursework
- Research
- Engineering design experience.

That is a coherent engineering application.

Risk

Engineering capacity. At Purdue, being Purdue-qualified and being competitive for First-Year Engineering are not the same thing. Your 33 helps, but I would love to see a 34+ and particularly want to know your Math subscore.

Strategy

November 1 is non-negotiable.

It is simultaneously:

- Early Action
- Engineering priority consideration
- Full university scholarship consideration
- Honors College consideration.

We should treat October 20 as our internal completion date.

GEORGIA TECH

A2 ACHIEVE RISK CATEGORY: HIGH RISK

Current Classification: HIGH REACH

Georgia Tech is a legitimate reach for you. That distinction matters. I don't look at Tech and say: "Beau shouldn't apply." I look at Tech and say: "Beau is the type of student who should apply knowing that many similarly qualified students will not be admitted." Georgia Tech uses a selective holistic process. You have nearly everything I would want to see academically:

- Rigor
- Perfect unweighted GPA
- High rank
- Calculus
- Physics
- Engineering
- Research
- Technical credentials

Your nonacademic profile also helps because you are not merely another STEM applicant. Music, martial arts instruction, service and social-policy research make you more interesting.

Major

Engineering is obviously a major component of Georgia Tech's applicant pool; the university's 2026 Georgia admitted profile shows engineering as the largest intended academic area. Even outstanding applicants face significant competition.

ACT

Submit 33. If September gives us 34+, even better.

Alabama Applicant Timing

Because you attend high school outside Georgia, you fall under **Early Action 2**. The Fall 2027 EA2 application deadline is **November 2, 2026**, with documents due November 16 and self-reported test scores due December 8. Georgia Tech uses the Common App exclusively for first-year applications.

Strategy

EA2. There is no strategic reason for you to wait for Regular Decision if the application can be strong by November. Early Action is also required for institutional merit scholarship consideration.

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN – COCKRELL SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING

A2 ACHIEVE RISK CATEGORY: VERY HIGH RISK

Current Classification: HIGH REACH

This is the school on your current list where I want you to have the clearest expectations. Your academics are excellent. That does **not** make UT Austin Engineering a target for an Alabama resident. Cockrell admission is competitive, and first-year applicants apply into engineering through UT Austin's freshman process. Cockrell also requires applicants to satisfy Calculus Readiness by the application deadline. You have strong preparation for this application, including AP Calculus and engineering coursework. But this remains a very high-risk admission outcome.

Why Apply?

Because your interest is legitimate. Cockrell offers both Aerospace Engineering and Mechanical Engineering, and the academic environment strongly fits your career interests. A reach is worth applying to when the fit justifies the effort. This one does.

What Could Help

Your strongest UT application cannot simply say: "I want to work in space." We need to show:

- How you solve problems
- Why you are curious
- What you have already built or investigated
- Why engineering is meaningful to you
- How your technical interests connect to something larger.

That is where your AP Research, teaching and engineering experiences become strategically important.

Timing

UT Austin's Fall 2027 Early Action application deadline is **October 15**, with supplemental materials due **October 22**. I want you applying Early Action.

CURRENT RISK LADDER

If I rank the schools strictly by Beau's current admission risk:

- **LOWER RISK**
Auburn
- **LOWER-MODERATE RISK**
Clemson
- **MODERATE-HIGH RISK**
Purdue Engineering
- **HIGH RISK**
Georgia Tech
- **VERY HIGH RISK**
UT Austin Cockrell Engineering

That distribution tells us exactly what is missing: **one or two additional schools between Auburn/Clemson and the three major reaches.** That is the next college-search job.

BEAU'S DISTINCTION FACTOR

For highly selective engineering schools, the question is not: "Is Beau smart enough?" Your academic record answers that. The question is: **"Why Beau instead of another 4.0 engineering applicant?"**

I think our answer is:

You are a technically minded problem solver whose curiosity consistently crosses the boundary between machines and people. You troubleshoot engineering designs, conduct research into childhood hunger and school systems, teach martial arts to young children, mentor students, perform music and look for opportunities to use what you know to help somebody else.

That is the application I want us to build.