

SREB

# Supreme Court Decisions and the Impact on Graduate Education

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# Historical partial list of cases related to higher education

- 1954 - *Brown v. Board of Education*
- 1964 – *Civil Rights Act*
- 1972 – *Adams v. Richardson*
- 1978 – *Regents of University of California v. Bakke*
- 1996 – *Hopwood v. Texas*
- 1996 – *California Prop 209*
- 2003 – *University of Michigan*
- 2003 – *Grutter v. Bollinger*
- 2003 – *Gratz v. Bollinger*
- 2014 – *University of Michigan*
- 2016 – *University of Texas v. Fisher*
- 2023 – *Students for Fair Admission v. Harvard College & University of North Carolina*

# SCOTUS Case

Case: 21-707

*STUDENTS FOR FAIR ADMISSIONS*

V.

*UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA*

Argued: 10/31/22

# CASE 21-707 QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Should this Court overrule *Grutter v. Bollinger*, 539 U.S. 3036 (2003), and hold that institutions of higher education cannot use race as a factor in admissions?
2. Can a university reject a race-neutral alternative because it would change the composition of the student body, without proving that the alternative would cause a dramatic sacrifice in academic quality or the educational benefits of overall student-body diversity?

# SCOTUS CASE 21-707

This case is no longer consolidated with NO. 20-119, *Students for Fair Admissions v. President and Fellows of Harvard*, and one hour is allotted for Oral Argument.

# SCOTUS Case

Case: 20-1199

*STUDENTS FOR FAIR ADMISSIONS*

*V.*

*PRESIDENT AND FELLOWS OF  
HARVARD COLLEGE*

Argued: 10/31/22

# CASE 20-1199 QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Should this Court overrule *Grutter v. Bollinger*, 539 U.S. 3036 (2003), and hold that institutions of higher education cannot use race as a factor in admissions?
2. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act bans race-based admissions that, if done by a public university, would violate the Equal Protection Clause, *Gratz v. Bollinger*, 539 U.S. 244 276n.23 (2003). Is Harvard violating Title VI by penalizing Asian-American applicants, engaging in racial balancing, overemphasizing, and rejecting workable race-neutral alternatives?

# SCOTUS CASE 20-1199

This case is no longer consolidated with NO. 221-707, *Students for Fair Admissions v. President and Fellows of Harvard*, for Fair Admissions v. University of NC, ET AL., and one Hour is allotted for Oral Argument. Justice Jackson took no part in the consideration of this order.



# *GRUTTER V. BOLLINGER*

The Court upheld the use of affirmative action in the University of Michigan Law school. The university said that AA was a compelling interest in the educational benefits that flow from a diverse student body.

# *Gratz v. Bollinger*

Court said the undergraduate admissions was flawed because it relied too heavily on race. It violated 14th Amendment. The procedure closely approximated racial quotas

# Portion of Oral Argument

[SupremeCourt.gov/oral\\_Arguments](https://supremecourt.gov/oral_arguments)

## The Court Decision (Summary)

The Supreme Court ruled that race-conscious admission policies of the University of North Carolina and Harvard College violate the Constitution, bringing an end to affirmative action in higher education in a decision that will impact across campuses nation wide. The court fell along ideological lines in the pair of cases, 6-3 and 6-2, with Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson recusing herself in the Harvard case. Chief Justice John Roberts wrote the majority opinion covering both disputes.

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# Supreme Court Decisions and the Impact on Graduate Education

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# RAC Discussion

What has been the impact of the  
Courts decision on Graduate  
Education at your institutions?