

**Gratz v. Bollinger**  
S.Ct. (June 23, 2003)

The Supreme Court ruled that the University of Michigan College of Literature, Science, and the Art's use of race in its freshman admissions policy violates the Equal Protection Clause because it is not narrowly tailored to achieve the university's asserted interest in diversity. The Court found that the policy, which automatically distributes 20 points (one-fifth of the points needed to guarantee admission), to every single "underrepresented minority" applicant solely because of race, is not narrowly tailored to achieve educational diversity.

The Court concluded that the 20-point distribution has the effect of making "the factor of race...decisive" for virtually every minimally qualified underrepresented minority applicant. Unlike the university's Law School (*Grutter v. Bollinger*), individualized review is only provided after admissions counselors automatically distribute the university's version of a "plus" that makes race a decisive factor.