

Dishonesty Breeds More Dishonesty

A news report making the rounds this week is about [Texas Christian University's audit](#) of its admissions information:

“Texas Christian’s dean of admissions says it is the nation’s only university to voluntarily have its admissions data — the number of applicants and their SAT scores, class rank, grade-point averages, and other measures — audited for accuracy. It has done so for the last dozen years -- and not just for show.

As consumers and the federal government push for greater transparency about such things as cost, average debt, and job-placement rates, major universities have been caught misrepresenting those and other numbers to improve the way they look to prospective students.”

If you don’t think that the University of Southern Mississippi is capable of materially misrepresenting the information its administrators report, then you’ve not read the documents we’ve gotten from USM through the Mississippi Open Record Law requests over the years. And I’m talking about material misrepresentations that in no way are accidental. For example, see the current series reporting the material misrepresentations USM and the IHL make with regard to the cost per flight hour of its hugely expensive airplane, N777AQ.

You’re paying for it, and as long as you don’t insist on honesty from USM and IHL, they have no reason to change their behavior. Expect more of the same. Expect tuition to continue to increase to cover their waste.