

IR ABSTRACT

Insights and Outcomes from Institutional Research
at DePaul University

Freshman Retention Increased to 87% in Fall 2023

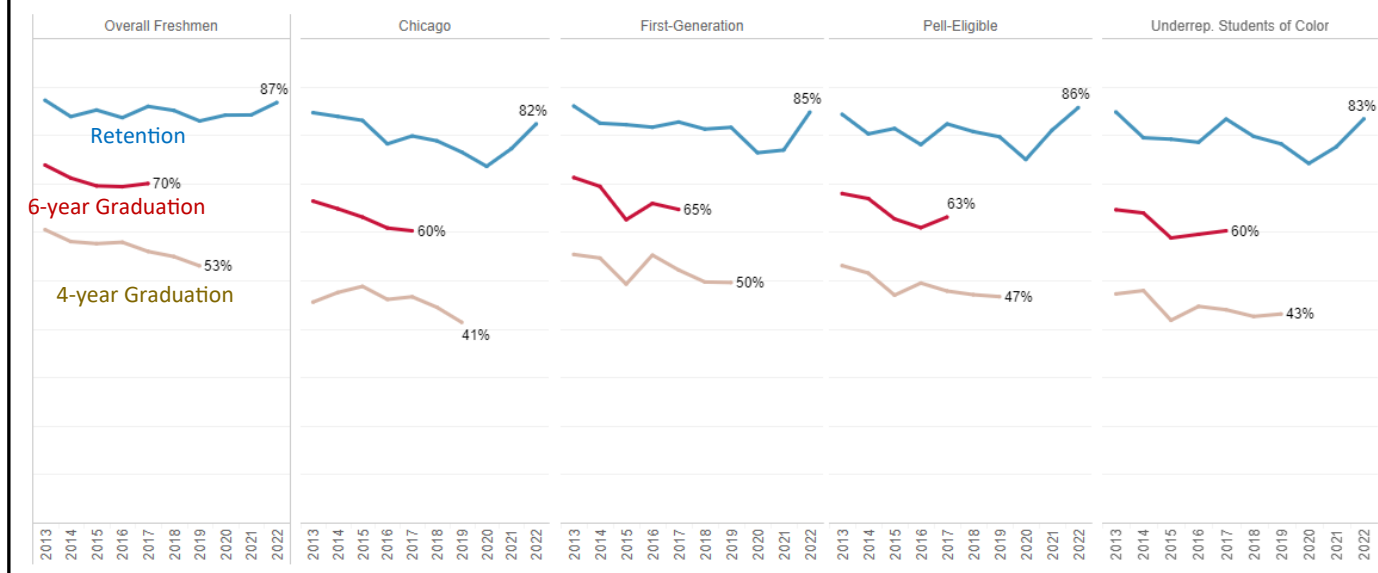
Eighty-seven percent of last year's new first-time, full-time, degree-seeking freshmen returned to DePaul this fall, a retention increase of 3 percentage points over last year's rate of 84%. The last time retention reached 87% was in 2013. Although four-year graduation rates declined this year from 55% to 53%, six-year rates increased from 69% to 70%.

First-year retention rates also increased for freshmen with mission characteristics; these four factors are used in identifying some of the underserved populations in service of the University's mission. On average, these retention rates increased by 6 percentage points.

Four-year graduation rates for students with mission characteristics were stable in fall 2023, compared with last year, with the exception of the rate for students from Chicago. The rate for these students declined from 44% to 41%, which mirrors the decline in retention rates for those same cohorts (2018 and 2019).

Six year graduation rates were also relatively stable, with a –1 percentage point decline for students from Chicago and first-generation students, and small increases for Pell-eligible students and underrepresented students of color (+2% and +1%, respectively).

Freshman Retention and Graduation Rates by Mission Characteristics—by Entering Cohort



Note: All freshman retention and graduation rates are based on first-time, full-time, degree-seeking students. Entry in the fall 22-23 academic year is displayed as the 2022 cohort. For cohort subgroup numbers, see report link below.

Source: IRMA report [Freshman Outcomes by Mission and Bio/Demographics](#) on the Retention Resource Room.

For more information, contact [Liz Holder](#).