

71 Percent of High-Performing Freshmen Graduate within 4 Years

In 2009, DePaul began emphasizing to new freshmen that a strong GPA and completing a full load of classes during their all-important freshman year was the surest way to complete a degree. This conclusion was a result of an undergraduate retention and degree completion study that examined entering freshmen cohorts for the fall quarter from the 2001 through 2007.

Annual retention and graduation rate tracking continues to provide evidence of the value of two academic performance benchmarks. Students who earned a freshman grade-point average of 2.5 or higher *and* 48 or more credit hours during their freshman year returned for their second year and

graduated in four and six years at higher rates when compared to their counterparts who met only one or neither of the benchmarks.

For the most recent graduation tracking cohort of freshmen entering in 2008, 71 percent of the high performance group (see chart below for definition based on credit hours and GPA) graduated in four years, compared to 42 percent of the moderate performance group and only 9 percent of the low performance group. The gap between high and moderate academic performance was not as wide at six years, but both groups graduated at rates 50 to 60 percentage points higher than the low performance group.

First-Year Retention, Four-Year Graduation, Six-Year Graduation - By First Year Academic Performance

