



Retention and Graduation of DePaul's Freshmen

Each year, DePaul tracks the enrollments for entering cohorts of first-time, full-time freshmen. This data is used to calculate retention and graduation rates for the university.

Over the past 10 years, the first-year retention rate (the percentage of freshmen who return for their second year) has been relatively constant—between 84.3% and 81.6%. The 2007 cohort of new freshmen posted the highest ever first-year retention rate of 84.9%.

The fourth-year graduation rate (the percentage of students who graduated after

four years) has shown the most marked increase—rising more than 10 percentage points since 1991; from 37.1% to 47.6% for the most recent 2004 cohort. The sixth-year graduation rate (the percentage of students who graduated after six years) has also increased over the last several years, and is currently at 63.5%.

In general, about 35-40% of a cohort leaves DePaul prior to graduating. Of that 35-40%, one-half leave DePaul by the beginning of their cohort's second year.

