

# Freshman Admission Summary 2021

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Division of Enrollment Management

Dear colleagues,

Although the world is tired of hearing about “unprecedented times”, it’s impossible to ignore just how unprecedented the journey to DePaul was for the fall 2021 freshman class. This fall, DePaul welcomed yet another record-breaking freshman cohort, enrolling 2,838 students. These students engaged with admissions staff and faculty over zoom, watched “live” virtual tours given by current students, and in many cases didn’t get to set foot on campus until after they had made a decision to attend. The persistence and the optimism of this cohort have been inspirational to all who supported them in the past year.

The number of freshman applications received for Fall 2021 set a new university record, which allowed for greater selectivity in the admissions process and resulted in a class with higher academic preparation. Average GPA of enrolled students increased, as did average SAT composite among test-submitters, even as test-optional students made up 55% of the cohort.

In line with DePaul’s mission to make a college education accessible to all qualified students, this freshman class represents students from a diverse set of backgrounds. This fall, 47% of freshman are students of color, 32% are first-generation, 32% are Pell-eligible and 23% are from the City of Chicago.

The students who started at DePaul as freshman in fall 2021 were high school juniors in the spring of 2020 – as they started narrowing down their list of colleges, the COVID-19 pandemic pushed them to online learning just as it blocked their ability to visit college campuses. This summary is a testament of the combined efforts of staff and faculty to create new ways to interact with students in a world that suddenly went virtual. Welcoming these students in-person to campus in fall 2021 was the culmination of innovation, collaboration and flexibility, and we are so thankful for University colleagues who supported the students on their journey to DePaul.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Erin Updegraff". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

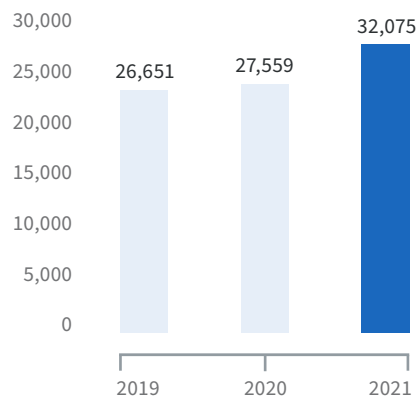
Erin Updegraff  
Dean of Undergraduate Admission

# Freshman Admission Trends

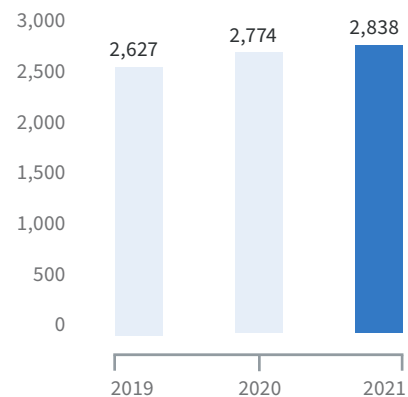
Both freshman enrollment and the freshman applicant totals were the largest in university history, breaking the record set in 2020.

## Freshman Applicants, Enrollment and Admission Rates

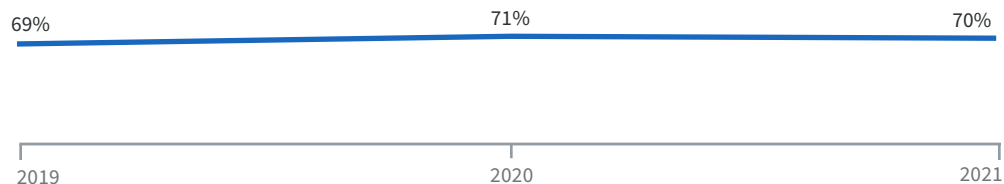
Applicants



Enrollment

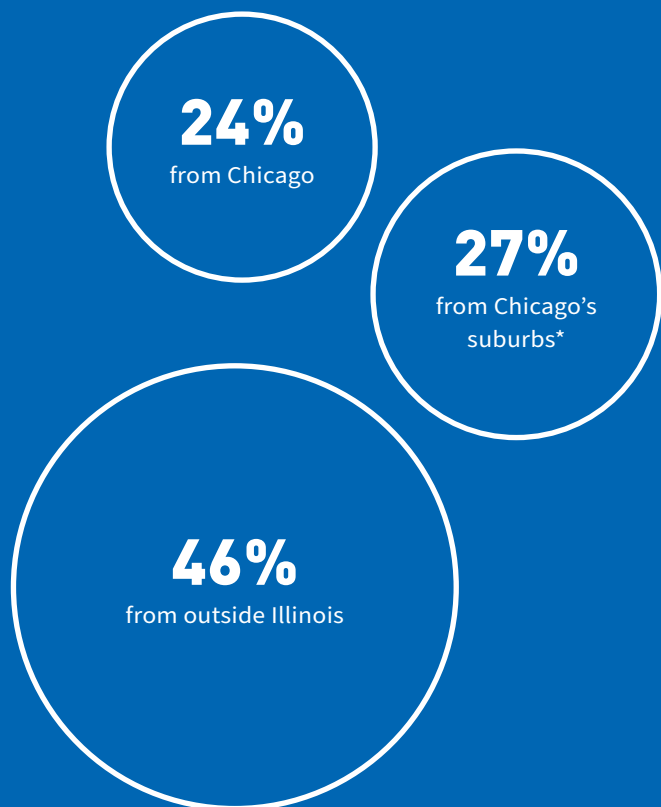


Admission Rates



In 2021, 32,075 students applied to DePaul for freshman admission.

## Applicants



\* 2% are from other parts of Illinois.



**1,900+**

international student  
applicants  
(F1 and J1 visas)



**62/38**

female to male  
applicants



**5,500+**

high schools across  
the nation from which  
applications were received



**60%**

of students  
applied under the  
test-optional program

# New Freshman Academic Profile

Measures of high school preparation are among the strongest in university history. Enrollment grew in almost all colleges, and the most popular 10 majors enrolled nearly half of new freshmen.

## High School Academic Profile



**3.83**

average high school GPA



**1189**

average SAT composite\*

**The average GPA for the freshman class is the highest in university history.**

## New Freshmen by College

### Computing and Digital Media

Students Enrolled

2019	674
2020	697
2021	770

### Business

2019	570
2021	606
2021	642

### Science and Health

2019	507
2020	568
2021	539

\*Average SAT composite includes scores for students who applied through the test-optional program and submitted scores post-admission for research purposes. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, standardized tests were widely unavailable for students, resulting in many institutions adopting a test-optional or test-blind policy. DePaul has been test-optional since 2012.

Liberal Arts and Social Sciences	Students Enrolled
2019	471
2020	480
2021	456
Communication	
2019	176
2018	159
2021	160
Theatre	
2019	104
2020	110
2021	109
Education	
2019	72
2020	96
2021	95
Music	
2019	53
2020	58
2021	67

## Most Popular Majors for New Freshmen

Major	Students Enrolled
Film and television	347
Health sciences	152
Psychology	151
Computer science	149
Finance	102
Political science	102
Accounting	101
Business administration	99
Marketing	92
Biological sciences	81

In addition, 343 students are undeclared.

**Sixty-five new freshmen began their first quarter at DePaul with enough AP, IB or dual-enrollment credits to earn sophomore or junior status.**

## New Freshman Diversity

DePaul continues a long-standing tradition of being among the most diverse selective institutions in the country. When measuring a combination of selectivity and diversity—including ethnic, geographic and socioeconomic diversity, as well as parental educational attainment—only a few institutions compare favorably to DePaul.

### New Freshmen by Race/Ethnicity

	Students Enrolled
Caucasian	
2019	1,370
2020	1,358
2021	1,381
Hispanic/Latinx	
2019	564
2020	703
2021	692
Asian/Pacific Islander	
2019	277
2020	311
2021	309
African American	
2019	188
2020	192
2021	207



Multiracial/Non-Hispanic	Students Enrolled
2019	128
2020	146
2021	119

#### Other/Unreported

2019	34
2020	26
2021	39

To comply with federal standards on reporting of race and ethnicity, students must identify their ethnicity and their race. For ethnicity, students must select either Hispanic or non-Hispanic. Race is then reported only for students who are non-Hispanic. A student may indicate a single race (e.g., Asian, African American, etc.) or “two or more races” (i.e., multiracial).

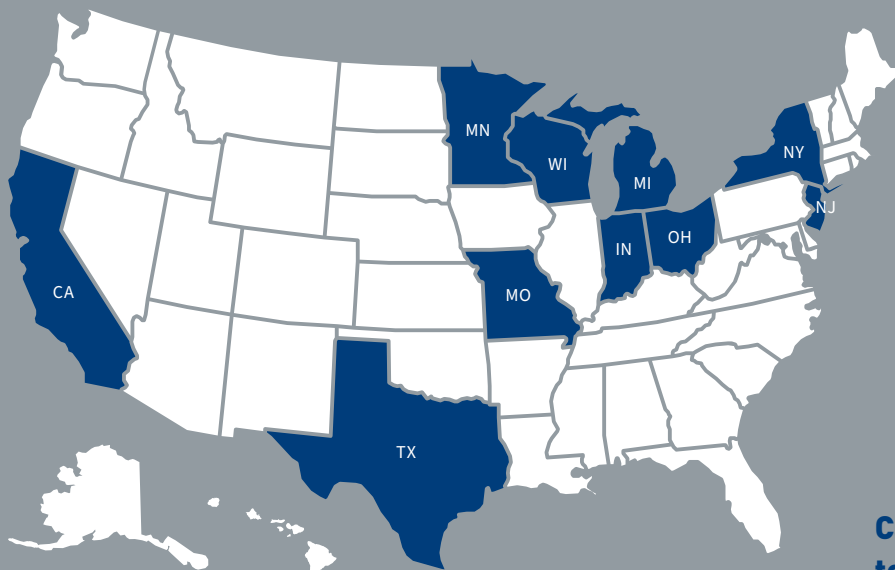
#### International\*

2019	66
2020	38
2021	91

\*Includes students with all visa types.

**47% of the freshman class are students of color.**

## Top Feeder States Outside Illinois



Top 10 Feeder States	2019	2020	2021
California	130	106	128
Michigan	106	71	92
Ohio	80	59	75
Wisconsin	72	60	74
Texas	71	53	68
Minnesota	65	70	65
Indiana	62	47	50
Missouri	49	42	49
New York	21	29	36
New Jersey	11	17	29

**California, Michigan and Ohio were the top home states for out-of-state freshmen. Combined, these three states made up 28% of freshmen from out of state.**

## New Freshmen by Geographic Diversity

**37%**

of freshmen came from out-of-state

**48+**

freshmen came from each of these states: California, Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin, Texas, Minnesota, Indiana and Missouri

**25+**

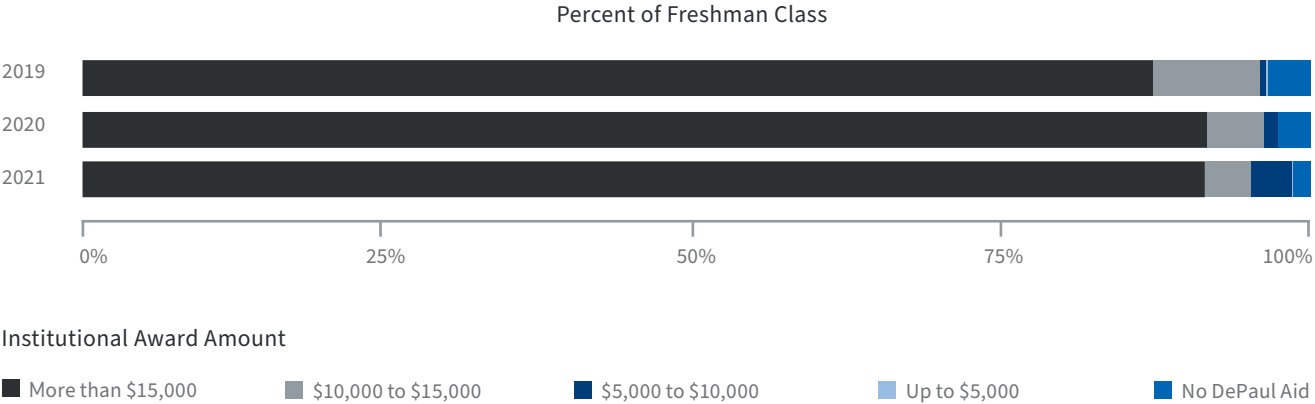
freshmen from each of these Illinois high schools: Lane Tech, Lincoln Park, Niles West, Niles North, Taft, and Whitney Young

# New Freshman Financial Aid Profile

DePaul awards its institutional aid in a manner consistent with mission-based principles of making a high-quality education available to promising students, including those who are otherwise unable to afford attending a selective, private institution.

## Institutional Aid Distribution by Amount

DePaul has intentionally responded to the increasing affordability challenges of parents and students.



81%

of enrolling students received more than \$20,000 in financial aid from DePaul University sources in 2021

36%

of freshmen from Illinois received a Pell grant and/or an Illinois MAP award

## Financial Aid Profile

DePaul prides itself on making a high-quality educational experience accessible to students of all socioeconomic backgrounds.



**\$66.5M+**

amount DePaul awarded in institutional grants and scholarships to enrolling freshmen

**4,700+**

applicants for the Chicago Promise and State Scholar Plus scholarships

**530+**

freshmen received the Chicago Promise and State Scholar Plus scholarships

## New Freshmen by Socioeconomic Diversity and Parental Attainment



**32%**

of class eligible for the federal Pell Grant for low-income students



**91%**

of freshmen filed for financial aid (completed the FAFSA)



**32%**

of freshmen are from families in which neither parent has a bachelor's degree (first-generation)

# University Honors Program

DePaul enrolled 453 freshmen in the University Honors Program this fall. The program brings students together in an interdisciplinary curriculum that integrates a well-designed liberal arts education with the cultural resources of the global city of Chicago. Working in small seminars under the direction of dedicated faculty, honors students join a scholarly community engaging in transformative experiences.

## Academic Highlights for Honors Program Freshmen



# 4.2

average high school  
GPA of entering  
freshmen in honors



# 1346 points

average SAT score for freshmen  
in the Honors Program—  
in the top 28% among all  
SAT test-takers\*\* nationally

## High School Academic Profile

453 matriculants total\*\*\*

### High School GPA

4.0 and higher	307
3.5–3.99	125
under 3.5	4

**16% of the freshman class enrolled in the Honors Program in fall 2021, an increase of 3 percentage points over last fall.\***

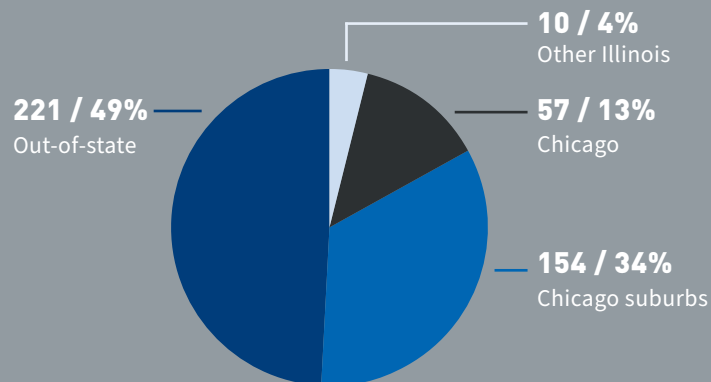
\* There are five other college- and discipline-specific honors programs at DePaul. The information presented here does not include those programs.

\*\* Average SAT composite includes scores for students who applied through the test-optional program and submitted scores post-admission for research purposes. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, standardized tests were widely unavailable for students, resulting in many institutions adopting a test-optional or test-blind policy. DePaul has been test-optional since 2012.

\*\*\* Figures will not sum to 453 because students can have missing data.

## Honors Program Freshmen by Geography

453 total matriculants



**319**

number of high schools  
from which freshmen in  
the Honors Program come



**38**

number of different states  
from which freshmen in the  
Honors Program come

## Proportion of Honors Program Freshmen by College



**26%**

College of Science  
and Health



**25%**

College of Computing  
and Digital Media



**23%**

College of Liberal Arts  
and Social Sciences



**13%**

Driehaus College  
of Business

# Select Admission Initiatives

## Test-Optional Admission

This fall, 55% of the freshman class, or 1,552 students, enrolled through the test-optional program. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, standardized test were widely unavailable for students, resulting in many institutions adopting a test-optional or test-blind policy this admission cycle. DePaul has been test-optional since 2012.

Our research shows that the single best predictor of college success—by an overwhelming margin—is high school performance in a rigorous, college-preparatory curriculum.

**The enrolling freshmen who did not submit test scores have a comparable high school GPA with freshmen who applied with test scores—3.80 compared with 3.84.**

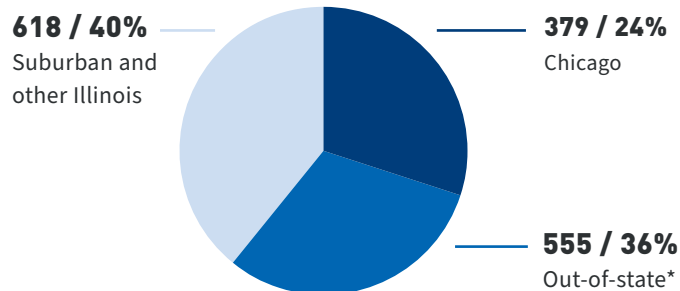
### New Test-Optional Freshmen by Ethnicity

1,552 test-optional matriculants

Caucasian	691
Hispanic/Latinx	450
Asian/Pacific Islander	161
Black	155
Multiracial/Non-Hispanic	66
Other/Unreported	29

### New Test-Optional Freshmen by Geography

1,552 test-optional matriculants



\*out-of-state includes 6 out-of-country students

## Pathways Program in Health Sciences

In October 2012, DePaul announced an agreement with Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science that included opportunities for DePaul students interested in pursuing a career in one of the rapidly growing professions in health sciences. The Pathways Program was developed specifically for entering freshmen to take advantage of this exciting partnership. These students bring drive, focus and extraordinary academic credentials.



**4.18**

average high  
school GPA



**21%**

first-generation  
college students



**58%**

students  
of color

**DePaul enrolled 160 new freshmen in the program,  
or about 6% of the entering class.**

**In addition, 31% come from outside Illinois, 18% are male  
and 10% from Chicago Public Schools.**



## DePaul at a Glance

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The DePaul story is so much more than numbers and rankings—it's the product of the unique way we see the world and how and where our students learn. As long as we keep that in mind, we can use relevant data to sharpen our message and strengthen our story. Here are a few, current statistical highlights.

### Students and Programs

**21,670**

number of students at DePaul, making it the largest Catholic university in the U.S. and the largest private, nonprofit university in the Midwest

**315+**

number of undergraduate and graduate programs of study offered on two campuses in Chicago

### Graduation Rate and Post-Graduation Outcomes

**69%**

six-year graduation rate, exceeding the national average for private universities

**90%**

percentage of undergraduates from the class of 2020 who are employed and/or pursuing graduate studies within six months of graduation

### Faculty

**862**

full-time faculty members in 10 colleges and schools at DePaul

**84%**

percentage of faculty members who hold a PhD or the highest degree in their fields

### Alumni

**201,000+**

number of DePaul alumni living in over 90 countries

**124,000**

number of DePaul alumni living and working in metropolitan Chicago

### Retention Rate and Degrees

**84%**

DePaul's first-year retention rate in 2021, exceeding the national average for private universities

**6,350+**

number of undergraduate and graduate degrees DePaul awards annually

**Learn more at [depaul.edu](https://depaul.edu)**

**Enrollment Management**

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