The Changing Mix of New Undergraduate Students

Undergraduates typically start at DePaul as new first-time freshmen or as students transferring from other four-year institutions or community colleges. The mix of these populations in DePaul’s new student pool has fluctuated over time depending on a variety of demographic, economic, and other factors.

From fiscal year 1997 to 2007, the number of new DePaul freshmen more than doubled. As a result, the proportion of new students entering as freshmen increased from 40 to 54 percent during this time. Transfers accounted for 31 percent of new students and SNL students accounted for 15 percent in 2007.

In 2007, transfer enrollment began a steady increase. By 2013, transfer students accounted for 42 percent of new student enrollment, freshmen accounted for 49 percent, and SNL accounted for 9 percent.

DePaul enrolled the largest freshman and transfer classes in history in 2013, then declined in 2014. Freshman enrollment has been fairly stable since, but new transfer enrollment continued to decline until 2017. Since then, it has rebounded by about 3 percent. SNL continued to decline until this past year. As of 2019, 56 percent of new students were freshmen, 39 percent were new transfers, and 5 percent were new SNL students.

Source: IRMA. The chart shows fiscal year summer-fall-winter-spring enrollment for freshmen, new transfer students and new SNL students over time. New non-degree undergraduates are not included in this report.

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