The number of high ability students, those who scored 28+ on the ACT, went up in Illinois from 2001 to 2003 by 14% (numbers rose from 12,084 in 2001 to 12,665 in 2002 and 13,825 in 2003).

However, high ability students represent a shrinking proportion of the total test takers in Illinois, down from 14% in 2001 to 10% in 2003, due to more overall test taking.

Men represent 52% of the high ability test-takers, and a growing proportion, up 10% from 2002 to 2003 compared to an 8% increase for women.

High ability students are interested in engineering, health sciences and social sciences as their top three choices. A large proportion of high ability students are also undecided about their discipline (10%).

UI Urbana Champaign (UIUC) receives the most test scores from Illinois ACT test takers with scores 28+, with almost 5,000 in 2003 compared to DePaul at #15 with 502 test scores.

Northwestern receives the second largest number of test scores. Rounding out the top 5 are UIC, ISU and U of C, each receiving about 1000 test scores.

DePaul’s primary overlap in terms of proportion of scores is with Loyola (#18) at 21%, meaning 21% of the test takers who sent scores to Loyola (or 95 people) also sent scores to DePaul.

In terms of volume of scores, however, DePaul has the greatest overlap with UIUC at 249 testers, only 5% of UIUC’s total test score senders.

* Nationally, 90% of test takers receive below a 28 ACT Composite score.