College Destination Profile of CPS High School Graduates

In 2005, the Chicago Public Schools (CPS) Office of Postsecondary Education and Student Development issued the first of a series of annual reports on the college enrollment of CPS graduates. Since 2005, DePaul University has been one of the top 10 four-year college destinations for CPS and has consistently enrolled more CPS graduates than any other selective* private university.

Of the 17,669 high school graduates in CPS, 50% (8,834) enrolled in college in fall 2007. About 6,000 of these students (68%) enrolled in a four-year college, but only 10% (1,690) at a “selective” or “very selective” institution. Of the top selective private institutions, DePaul was the top destination with 225 enrolled, followed by Loyola Chicago (112). DePaul accounts for 4% of CPS graduates attending a four-year college and 13% of CPS graduates attending a “selective” or “very selective” college.

Five Illinois public universities account for 40% (2,382) of four-year college enrollment for CPS graduates.

One out of every 10 DePaul freshmen is a graduate of CPS. According to the Consortium on Chicago School Research, DePaul has the highest baccalaureate graduation rate of CPS students (74%) of any Chicago-area institution enrolling significant numbers of CPS graduates.**

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Four-Year College Destination Trend for CPS Graduates 2005-2007

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Source: Top College Enrollment 2005, 2006, 2007 from Chicago Public Schools Department of Postsecondary Education and Student Development, as reported by National Student Clearinghouse; Consortium on Chicago School Research

* Grouping based on Barron’s competitiveness scale, where the classifications “most competitive” and “highly competitive” comprise the “very selective” category, and “very competitive” comprises the “selective” category.


*** Robert Morris College did not report CPS enrollment to the National Student Clearinghouse in 2005.