

First-Generation Students at DePaul | October 2014

Originally founded for students from the greater Chicago area, and still serving them predominantly, DePaul continues its commitment to the education of first generation college students, especially those from the diverse cultural and ethnic groups in the metropolitan area. Admission standards for all degree programs are selective or highly selective.

- DePaul University mission statement

Expressing mission-based commitment in enrollment

- Among private, selective universities, DePaul is distinctive in its mission-based commitment to enroll first-generation students, particularly those from low-income families.
- In fall 2014, 856 students or 34 percent of DePaul's freshmen class were first-generation (using the federal TRIO program definition of *neither* parent having a bachelor's degree). Nearly 60 percent of those students are eligible for the federal Pell grant (a need-based grant awarded to low-income students) and just over 50 percent are students of color.

Enrolling students with the academic background and dispositions for college attainment

- With over 300 freshmen from Chicago Public Schools (CPS) in fall 2014—nearly 70 percent of whom are first generation—DePaul enrolls far more CPS students than any other selective private university. A majority of DePaul freshmen from CPS come from schools *other* than the selective enrollment schools, with International Baccalaureate students from CPS neighborhood schools accounting for a quarter of them. IB students from CPS are predominantly first generation and low income but have high graduation rates at DePaul.
- In fall 2014, 43 percent of first-generation freshmen at DePaul had taken Advanced Placement coursework in high school—the same percentage as the overall freshmen population.
- Six percent of first-generation freshmen enrolled in DePaul's Honors program for fall 2014, only slightly less than the percentage for freshmen as a whole.

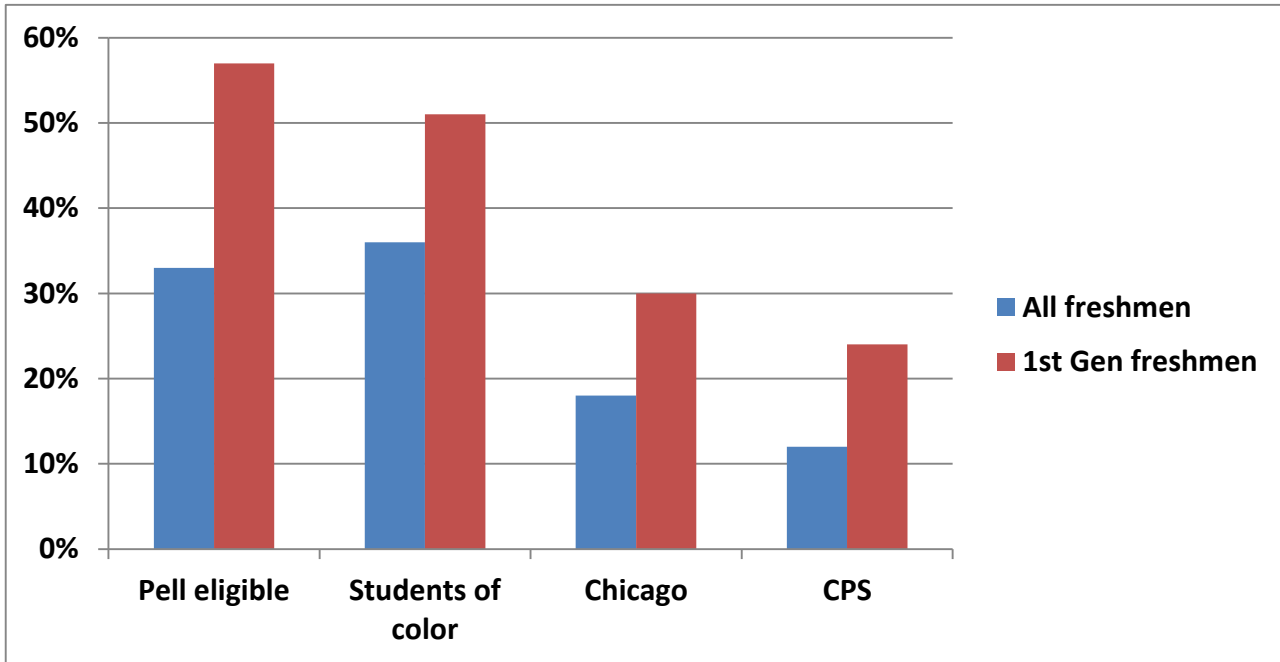
University-wide support for first-generation students

- Through the First-Year Academic Success program, STARS program, TRIO programs, Mitchem Fellows program and CIRRUS program, among others, DePaul has created a broad fabric of support for first-generation students.
- Within Enrollment Management and Marketing, the federal TRIO programs—Student Support Services (SSS) and McNair—are targeted specifically to low-income and first-generation students. The latest six-year graduation rate for SSS is over 80 percent while first-generation and low-income McNair participants are among the highest achieving students at the university. Over 70 percent of McNair participants study abroad and over 80 percent go on to graduate school.

Outcomes for first-generation students are similar to those of DePaul students overall

- While fewer DePaul first-generation freshmen graduate within four years than freshmen overall (52 percent compared to 58 percent), six-year graduation rates are identical at 71 percent.
- At 70 percent, the six-year graduation rate for Pell-eligible freshmen is only marginally less than the overall six-year graduation rate at DePaul.
- The Career Center's latest Career Outcomes survey indicates a closely comparable full-time employment rate for first-generation graduates and graduates overall.

DePaul First-Generation Student Profile, Fall 2014



DePaul First-Year Retention Rates and Four- and Six-Year Graduation Rates

