Accomplishments

DePaul reached historic milestones during the six years that “Vision 2018: Dedication to Excellence, Commitment to Community” guided the university. Under this strategic plan, academic programs garnered national and international recognition, including an overall standing of No. 120 among 310 national universities surveyed in the U.S. News & World Report rankings, DePaul’s highest place in the past decade. Retention and graduation rates reached records highs, and four-year graduation rates improved among all ethnic groups. The student body became more diverse and reached a milestone in fall 2016 when DePaul enrolled the highest number of students of color since the university was founded. Faculty and staff gained a deeper knowledge of DePaul’s distinctive mission through new cohorts of the Vincentian Mission Institute and Vincentian Heritage Tours, among other initiatives. A majority of faculty and staff indicated they understood the mission, could explain it and believed DePaul had an appropriate commitment to it. The university leveraged technology to serve changing student needs and ensured faculty and staff had access to the latest software to deliver a market-responsive education and provide excellent support services. Students began to move online—for a class or an entire program—registering online credit hours in record numbers. This final Vision 2018 report shares selected highlights of the quantitative and qualitative accomplishments faculty, staff, students, alumni and friends helped DePaul achieve. For that, we are forever grateful.

NEW FACILITIES

This plan delivered many new state-of-the-art and renovated spaces for students, staff and faculty to flourish. They include the Holtschneider Performance Center, Wintrust Arena, a new home for the College of Education and the dedication of a new facility for The Theatre School.
TOP THEATRE RANKINGS

The Hollywood Reporter praised The Theatre School as one of the top 25 drama schools in the world at which to earn a master’s of fine arts degree, and Onstage blog ranked it No. 1 in the nation for BFA Acting Programs.

HIGH GRADUATION RATES

U.S. News & World Report ranked DePaul No. 17 among all national universities for our success in graduating students of our academic and socioeconomic profile.

RETENTION AND GRADUATION

While retention rates have remained relatively flat over the last several years, we have seen improvements in four- and six-year graduation rates. A four-year graduation rate that was once below 40 percent is now over 60 percent. Similarly, a six-year graduation rate that was once under 60 percent is now over 70 percent.

First- and Second-Year Retention, Four- and Six-Year Graduation Rates

1995-2016 New Freshmen

First-Year Retention

Second-Year Retention

Four-Year Graduation

Six-Year Graduation

All first-time, full-time freshmen are identified each fall and subsequent enrollments tracked by cohort. First-year retention indicates the percentage of the cohort of new freshmen who return for their sophomore year. Second-year retention indicates the percentage of the cohort who return for their junior year. Four- and six-year graduation rates indicate the percentage of the original cohort who received their degree by the end of their fourth or sixth year, respectively.
MARKET-RESPONSIVE ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

Faculty Council approved 14 new undergraduate programs, 31 graduate programs and dozens of concentrations and joint degree programs.

BEST FILM SCHOOLS

Variety’s “Best Film Schools” included the School of Cinematic Arts on its international listing of the top 40 film programs in the world, while the Hollywood Reporter ranked it in the nation’s Top 25.

RESEARCH, SCHOLARSHIP AND CREATIVE ACTIVITY

The number of grant proposals submitted to external funding agencies has increased 21 percent in the last five years as faculty sought new funding for their research, scholarship and creative activities.
TOP 25 PROGRAMS NATIONALLY

U.S. News & World Report named DePaul a “Most Innovative School” based on a survey of presidents, provosts and admissions deans about universities that made innovative improvements in the areas of curriculum, faculty, students, campus life, technology or facilities.

Tax Talent’s national rankings of the best accountancy programs placed the MS in Taxation No. 3, MS in Audit and Advisory Services No. 11, and the undergraduate accountancy program No. 12 in the United States.

The Princeton Review ranked the graduate and undergraduate entrepreneurship programs as well as the game design program in the top 25 nationally.

U.S. corporate tax hiring authorities reported DePaul’s tax LL.M. program was one of the nation’s Top 20.

Animation Career Review ranked the animation program No. 14 nationally.

ONLINE ENROLLMENTS

Online enrollments have steadily increased year over year for the last 10 years. Online courses accounted for less than 5 percent of total credit hours in 2008-09 but now account for 15 percent of total credit hours, a three-fold increase in 10 years.
DePaul students delivered more than 2.3 million hours of community service during the course of Vision 2018. Furthermore, the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching renewed DePaul’s Community Engagement classification for 10 years.

INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY SERVICE

The Peace Corps ranked DePaul No. 11 among medium-sized schools on its Top Volunteer-Producing Colleges and Universities list.

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

The percentage of students who report they had an internship, while in decline over the last few years, remains higher than students from our Carnegie peers. We see similar patterns for other types of experiential learning.

Source: 2012-13, 2013-14, 2014-15, and 2017-18 National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE). NSSE is administered to all first-year and senior students during the winter/spring quarters of the academic year. Students were asked to indicate which experiential learning opportunities they had availed themselves of. The data presented here are for seniors only who indicated they had engaged in the activity.

Note: The solid lines are DePaul’s data; the dashed lines, Carnegie peers.
DePaul students outpace our Carnegie peers in their interactions with people who hold differing religious beliefs, people from many economic backgrounds, and people of different races.

Source: 2014-15 and 2017-18 National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE). NSSE is administered to all first-year and senior students during the winter/spring quarters of the academic year. The data presented here are for seniors only. Percentage represents students indicating Often/Very Often on a four-point scale to the item “During the current school year, about how often have you had discussions with people from the following groups?”

DePaul University and Depaul International launched the Institute of Global Homelessness, which pledged to help 150 cities worldwide end street homelessness by 2030. Adelaide, Australia; Edmonton, Canada; and Pretoria, South Africa were among the first cities to commit and are actively working toward the goal.

The university partnered with Gordon Tech High School to create the reimagined DePaul College Prep and provide a new, high-quality Catholic secondary education option on Chicago’s North Side. Today, many well-prepared, diverse students from the high school are enrolling at the university.
### Campus-Wide Diversity: Students

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Undergraduates</th>
<th>Graduate Students</th>
<th>Law Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>% Underrep. Students of Color</td>
<td>25.5%</td>
<td>18.9%</td>
<td>16.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Female</td>
<td>53.6%</td>
<td>52.6%</td>
<td>53.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Underrep. Students of Color</td>
<td>27.3%</td>
<td>21.3%</td>
<td>19.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Female</td>
<td>52.5%</td>
<td>53.3%</td>
<td>56.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: IRMA Fact File, Fall 2017. Underrepresented Students of Color include Native American, African American, and Latinx students.*

### DIVERSITY

The share of underrepresented students of color has increased across undergraduates, graduate students and law students.

### RECOGNIZED FOR DIVERSITY

Diversity MBA magazine named DePaul to its Ten Best in Class for Accountability and Board Diversity and its 50 Out Front Best Places for Women & Diverse Managers to Work.

DePaul’s student profile became more diverse than ever during the course of Vision 2018. Students of color enrolled at the highest numbers and proportions in our history up to that point.
FUNDING FOR LOW-INCOME STUDENTS

Low-income students may receive Illinois Monetary Award Program (MAP) grants, which were threatened by the state’s financial crisis, leading students to rally to ensure their ability to continue their educations. DePaul students who received MAP aid graduate at virtually the same rate as Illinois students with higher family incomes.

MISSION CHARACTERISTICS

The entering freshman classes from 2012-2017 included 58 percent of students who meet at least one of the four mission criteria.

EDUCATIONAL GOALS ACHIEVED

DePaul was ranked No. 3 in Illinois for student success and No. 6 in Illinois for return on investment by the Illinois Education Research Council.
Goal 5: Ensure a business model that builds the university’s continued strength and educational excellence.

**University Enrollment Trends**

DePaul has experienced enrollment declines for the last several years, with undergraduate enrollment in decline since 2012-13. More recently, there has been an uptick in graduate enrollments.

**DEGREES AT WORK**

The new Corporate Employer Outreach program forged dozens of partnerships with health care, banking and other Chicago businesses since it began in 2014, enrolling hundreds of new students who will advance their organizations’ success with their new insights and skills.

**TRANSFER SUCCESS**

Transfer students do well academically at DePaul. Cooperative agreements like the DePaul Admission Partnership Program help students make a smooth transition from community colleges.
THE MONARCH BUTTERFLY SCHOLARSHIP

The Monarch Butterfly Scholarship was created for full-time, undocumented immigrant students at DePaul with a 2.5 or higher GPA. It is funded largely by a $2 student activity fee and was an initiative spearheaded by the Student Government Association. Ten scholarships totaling $90,000 were first awarded in 2018.

AFFORDABILITY

Not surprisingly, less than half of undergraduates and graduate students indicate being satisfied with DePaul’s affordability. Over the last three years, however, undergraduate satisfaction with affordability has increased, while graduate student satisfaction has decreased.

Source: 2012-13, 2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16, and 2017-18 Undergraduate and Graduate Student Exit Surveys. IRMA’s exit surveys are administered to all degree applicants for a particular academic year. Note that due to poor response, data for 2016-17 are not included. Students were asked to rate their satisfaction with “DePaul’s affordability (costs minus any financial assistance received).” The percentage indicates those who responded Satisfied/Very Satisfied on a five-point scale.
DePaul faculty published more than 225 first-edition books during the Vision 2018 plan, covering a wide range of topics, including business strategy, gender, intellectual property, journalism, mental health, microbes, Plato, poetry, sound design, race and religion.

Thirty-one students earned awards through the U.S. Student Fulbright program during Vision 2018. They studied in such places as Colombia, Czech Republic, Germany, Guatemala, Jordan, Lithuania, Malaysia and Mexico.

The largest fundraising initiative in DePaul history—the Many Dreams, One Mission campaign—exceeded expectations and raised $333 million, over $100 million of which was designated for scholarships.
HEALTH PARTNERSHIPS
DePaul’s reputation for health care education is growing through partnerships with Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science and Rush University Medical Center.

COMPETITIVE ESPORTS
DePaul entered the evolving world of competitive gaming and opened the new Esports gaming center, where student teams engage in friendly matches of League of Legends and Rocket League. The popular center attracts students from across the university who play Overwatch, Fortnite, FIFA 2018 and NBA 2K18.

HANDS-ON FILM EXPERIENCE
A new alliance with Cinespace Chicago, the city’s premier movie studio, has created a learning environment that gives DePaul film students real-world film and television production experience in a working studio.

DEPAUL DELIVERS BACHELOR’S DEGREES AT HARPER COLLEGE
This partnership enables community college students in the Northwest Suburbs of Chicago to complete an associate’s degree at Harper College and finish their bachelor’s degree by moving directly into one of DePaul’s selected undergraduate degree programs – all on Harper’s campus.
EMBRACING ADJUNCTS

DePaul instituted new initiatives to engage adjunct faculty more deeply in the university community and recognize their contributions. Among the new strategies implemented were multicourse contracts, increased course cancellation fees, and access to support resources and grants to improve teaching and learning.

IDENTITY CENTERS

In response to student requests, DePaul established identity-specific student centers serving African-American, Asian, Latinx and LGBTQA populations. The university also prioritized intersectional programming and designated an official point of contact for undocumented students.

SUSTAINABILITY SUCCESS

DePaul’s success in reducing energy usage was recognized by the city of Chicago with the university’s induction into the Mayor’s Leadership Circle, an honor for buildings in the city’s Retrofit Chicago program that surpass energy reduction goals. In addition, the U.S. Green Building Council awarded the new Theatre School facility LEED Gold status.

IMPROVED STUDENT SUPPORT

DePaul enhanced the way it supports academic advising with a new online system called BlueStar so faculty and advisors can provide better support to students.