

# What Do We Know about the Undergraduate Class of 2018?

For the third year in a row, more of the graduates came to UPIKE as new freshmen than as transfer students: 61% started here as first-time students; 39% transferred to UPIKE from another institution of higher education.

- 28% of new freshmen had participated in the UPIKE dual credit program
- 40% of transfers came from a KCTCS institution
  - 80% of these coming from Big Sandy Community and Technical College

The three most popular majors are Nursing (Associates) 17.6%, Biology 13.3%, and Business Administration 12.9%

The average time to degree completion for graduates who started at UPIKE as first-time students and receiving bachelor's degrees continues to be less than 4½ years (4.48). The "Endurance Award" goes to Batrina Dale Potter Sykes (BS in Biology), who is graduating today after originally beginning her studies at Pikeville College in fall 2000.

The oldest graduate is 53 years old and the youngest graduates are 20 years old (4).

- About two-thirds (69%) of the graduates who started at UPIKE as first-time students and receiving bachelor's degrees took out student loans to pay for their education. The average per borrower cumulative principal borrowed for the Class of 2018 UPIKE graduates is \$22,527 (LESS than last year). [The average student loan debt for the Class of 2016 graduates was \$37,172. (Source: <https://studentloanhero.com/student-loan-debt-statistics/>)]
- 88% took at least one online and/or hybrid course at UPIKE (same as last year); on average these students took 18.1% of their UPIKE credit hours in some type of distance learning format (HIGHER than last year)
- 78% are Kentucky residents, which is a little higher than the general student population
  - 56% of these graduated from a high school in Pike County, Kentucky
    - 26% of these graduated from Shelby Valley High School
- 76% are from Appalachia, which is equivalent to the general student population
- 68% graduated with the same major as what they intended at the time of admission to UPIKE
- 58% qualified for Federal need-based aid, which is LESS than the general student population (64%)
  - 34% are from families in poverty, which is LESS than the general student population (42%)
- Only about half (52%) lived on campus at some point during their matriculation at UPIKE
- 48% were involved with intercollegiate athletics at some point during their matriculation at UPIKE
  - 17% football
  - 16% baseball
  - 11% soccer
  - 11% bowling
  - 11% basketball
  - 10% volleyball
  - 4% softball
  - 20% all other sports
- 41% are first generation college students, which is equivalent to the general student population
- 38% are male, which is LESS than the general student population (48%)
- One third (32%) of the graduates who started at UPIKE as first-time students had enrolled in at least one developmental course during their first term of college (on average, 47% of new freshmen to UPIKE enroll in at least one developmental course during their first term)
- About one in five (26%) graduates are non-traditional students [i.e., over the age of 25, married, and/or] have children], which is higher than last year