

## What Do We Know about the Undergraduate Class of 2021?

There was a change this year in that about twice as many UPIKE graduates came to UPIKE as new freshmen than as transfer students: 62% started here as first-time students; 38% transferred to UPIKE from another institution of higher education.

- 25% of graduates had participated in the UPIKE dual credit program
- 58% of transfers came from a KCTCS institution
  - 86% of these coming from Big Sandy Community and Technical College

The three most popular majors are Nursing (Associates) 18.8%, Business Administration 18.4%, and Biology 13.5%.

The oldest graduate is 54 years old and the youngest graduate is 19 years old.

The average time to degree completion for graduates who started at UPIKE as first-time students and receiving bachelor's degrees is about 4-1/4 years (4.21). The "Endurance Award" goes to Kirstyn Heath (BS in Elementary Education), who is graduating today after originally beginning her studies at Pikeville College in fall 2014.

More than 4 out of 5 (82%) 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 2020 UPIKE graduates is \$23,382 (about \$1,000 LESS than last year's class). [The average student loan debt nationally for the Class of 2019 was \$32,300. (Source: <https://studentloanhero.com/student-loan-debt-statistics/>)]

- 100% took at least one online and/or hybrid course at UPIKE (HIGHER than last year's class); on average these students took almost a quarter (27.2%) of their UPIKE credit hours in some type of distance learning format (HIGHER than last year's class)
- 82% are Kentucky residents, which is similar to the general student population (77%)
  - 39% of these graduated from a high school in Pike County, Kentucky
    - Almost half of these graduated from either East Ridge HS (21%) or Pike Central HS (23%)
- 79% are from Appalachia, which is similar to the general student population (74%)
- 69% qualified for Federal need-based aid, which is higher than the general student population (62%)
  - 39% are from families in poverty, which is similar to the general student population (37%)
- 67% graduated with the same major as what they intended at the time of admission to UPIKE
- More than half (56%) of the graduates had lived in campus housing at some point during their matriculation at UPIKE
- 49% were involved with intercollegiate athletics at some point during their matriculation at UPIKE which is the same as the general student population (49%)
  - 24% football
  - 13% soccer
  - 11% cheerleading and dance
  - 9% basketball
  - 8% archery
  - 6% bowling
  - 6% volleyball
  - 6% softball
  - 17% all other sports
- 43% are male, which is similar to the general student population (48%)
- 34% of the graduates are first generation college students, which is similar to the general student population (38%)
- About one in six (17%) graduates are non-traditional students [i.e., over the age of 25, married, and/or have children], which is lower than last year's class