

What Do We Know about the Undergraduate Class of 2023?

For the third graduating class in a row, twice as many UPIKE graduates came to UPIKE as new freshmen than as transfer students: 67% started here as first-time students; 33% transferred to UPIKE from another institution of higher education.

- 28% of graduates had participated in the UPIKE dual credit program
- 36% of transfers came from a KCTCS institution, which is the lowest it has ever been
 - 96% of these coming from Big Sandy Community and Technical College

The three most popular majors are Business Administration 17.5%, Nursing (Associates) 16.3%, and Biology 10.0%.

The oldest graduate is 42 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 a little more than 4 years (4.11). The "Endurance Award" goes to Cody Davis (BS in Film & Media Arts), who is graduating today after originally beginning his studies at UPIKE in fall 2013.

Three fourths (74%) 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 2023 UPIKE graduates is \$26,750 (about \$2,500 MORE than last year's class). [The average student loan debt of new bachelor's degree-completers from public or private nonprofit schools in Kentucky for the Class of 2022 was \$28,356. (Source: <https://www.bestcolleges.com/research/average-student-loan-debt/#average-student-loan-debt>)]

- 72% are Kentucky residents, which is similar to the general student population (71%)
 - 46% of these graduated from a high school in Pike County, Kentucky
 - More than half of these graduated from either Pike Central HS (36%) or Shelby Valley HS (18%)
- 75% are from Appalachia, which is similar to the general student population (72%)
- 68% qualified for Federal need-based aid, which is higher than the general student population (57%)
 - 35% are from families in poverty, which is similar to the general student population (31%)
- 65% graduated with the same major as what they intended at the time of admission to UPIKE
- More than half (58%) of the graduates had lived in campus housing at some point during their matriculation at UPIKE
- Half (50.6%) of all of graduates' UPIKE credit hours were in some type of distance learning format
- 48% were involved with intercollegiate athletics at some point during their matriculation at UPIKE which is similar than the general student population (51%)
 - 18% soccer
 - 17% football
 - 10% baseball
 - 10% bowling
 - 8% Cross country/Track & Field
 - 7% softball
 - 6% basketball
 - 5% archery
 - 5% volleyball
 - 14% all other sports
- 44% are male, which is similar to the general student population (45%)
- 34% of the graduates are first generation college students, which is the same as the general student population (34%)
- 19% are students of color and/or international students, which is the same as the general student population (19%)
- About one in six (17%) graduates are non-traditional students [i.e., over the age of 25, married, and/or have children], which is higher than last year's class