

What Do We Know about the Undergraduate Class of 2024?

UPIKE continues to have twice as many of its graduates come to UPIKE as new freshmen than as transfer students: 65% started here as first-time students; 35% transferred to UPIKE from another institution of higher education.

- 23% of graduates had participated in the UPIKE dual credit program
- 42% of transfers came from a KCTCS institution
 - 93% of these coming from Big Sandy Community and Technical College

The three most popular majors are Nursing (Assoc) 18.8%, Business Administration 13.3%, and Psychology 11.5%.

The oldest graduate is 45 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 now less than 4 years (3.98) due in part to 61% of these students bringing in college credit from high school. The "Endurance Award" goes to Tamra Sue Tackett (AS in Nursing), who is graduating today after originally beginning her studies at UPIKE in fall 2014.

Almost three fourths (72%) 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 2024 UPIKE graduates is \$28,500 (about \$2,000 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 2023 was \$32,610. (Source: <https://www.bestcolleges.com/research/average-student-loan-debt/#average-student-loan-debt>)]

- 72% are Kentucky residents, which is the same as the general student population
 - 47% of these graduated from a high school in Pike County, Kentucky
 - Most of these graduated from Pike Central HS (30%)
- 72% are from Appalachia, which is similar to the general student population (74%)
- 60% qualified for Federal need-based aid, which is higher than the general student population (54%)
 - 26% are from families in poverty, which is similar to the general student population (29%)
- 70% 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
- 51% were involved with intercollegiate athletics at some point during their matriculation at UPIKE which is similar than the general student population (49%)
 - 22% football
 - 14% soccer
 - 10% basketball
 - 8% bowling
 - 7% volleyball
 - 6% baseball
 - 6% softball
 - 5% cheerleading
 - 5% Cross country/Track & Field
 - 5% archery
 - 10% all other sports
- 39% are male, which is similar to the general student population (44%)
- 35% of the graduates are first generation college students, which is similar to the general student population (31%)
- 16% are students of color and/or international students, which is similar to the general student population (18%)
- 15% graduates are non-traditional students [i.e., over the age of 25, married, and/or have children], which is about the same as last year's class
- 6% of students participated at some point in at least one music group during their matriculation at UPIKE