

What Do We Know about the Undergraduate Class of 2025?

UPIKE continues to have twice as many of its graduates come 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.

- 18% of graduates had participated in the UPIKE dual credit program
- 35% of transfers came from a KCTCS institution
 - 88% of these coming from Big Sandy Community and Technical College

The three most popular majors are Nursing (Associates) 24.9%, Business Administration 19.3%, and Criminal Justice 9.5%.

The oldest graduate is 44 years old, and the youngest graduates are 19 years old (5).

The average time to degree completion for graduates who started at UPIKE as first-time students and receiving bachelor's degrees continues to decline (3.77) due in part to 61% of these students bringing in college credit from high school. The "Endurance Award" goes to Johnathan Blake Collins (BS in Elementary Education), who is graduating today after originally beginning his studies at UPIKE in fall 2018.

- 38% of all of UPIKE credit hours were in some type of distance learning format (10% lower than last year)

A little over half (55%) 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 \$23,500 (about \$5,000 LESS 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 2024 was \$33,840. (Source: <https://www.bestcolleges.com/research/average-student-loan-debt/#average-student-loan-debt>)]

- 74% are from Appalachia, which is the same as the general student population
- 72% are Kentucky residents, which is similar to the general student population (70%)
 - 32% of these graduated from a high school in Pike County, Kentucky
 - Most of these graduated from East Ridge HS (27%)
- 69% graduated with the same major as what they intended at the time of admission to UPIKE
- More than half (57%) of the graduates had lived in campus housing at some point during their matriculation at UPIKE
- 53% were involved with intercollegiate athletics at some point during their matriculation at UPIKE which is similar to the general student population (55%)
 - 16% football
 - 11% basketball
 - 11% Cross country/Track & Field
 - 10% archery
 - 9% softball
 - 7% bowling
 - 7% soccer
 - 7% cheerleading
 - 6% baseball
 - 6% tennis
 - 10% all other sports
- 52% received Pell grant funds, which is lower than the general student population (58%)
- 44% are male, which is lower than the general student population (49%)
- 24% of the graduates are first generation college students, which is similar to the general student population (21%)
- 16% are students of color and/or international students, which is similar to the general student population (19%)
- 15% of graduates are non-traditional [i.e., over the age of 25, married/been married, and/or have children], which is the same as last year's class
- 13% are graduating with a degree in more than one major; this is higher than prior to the launch of the revised general education program (9%)
- 7% of graduates participated at some point in at least one music group during their matriculation at UPIKE