

Fall 2016 UIC market share of CPS high school graduates by race/ethnicity

	Black	2015 % Difference	Latino	2015 % Difference	White	2015 % Difference	Asian	2015 % Difference	All ¹	2015 % Difference
Number of 2016 Graduates ²	7,803	3%	8,780	3%	1,698	-3%	816	-6%	19,487	2%
2012 Cohort Applicants	11,706	-6%	11,446	-2%	1,966	-13%	886	-11%	26,505	-5%
CPS Grad-Applicant % UIC Applicant Median GPA	14%	23%	39%	17%	31%	3%	70%	0%	30%	15%
UIC Applicant Median ACT	3.00	0%	3.16	1%	3.36	2%	3.45	-1%	3.18	0%
UIC Number Admitted	20	-5%	21	0%	24	0%	24	4%	21	-5%
UIC-CPS Admit rate	599	23%	2,219	18%	417	-6%	466	-6%	3,808	4%
Number Enrolled	53%	-3%	65%	-3%	79%	-6%	82%	1%	66%	-16%
CPS Yield % UIC First Year, Fall 2016	130	-2%	808	17%	116	-22%	176	-11%	1,254	6%
	22%	-29%	36%	-2%	28%	-15%	38%	-6%	33%	3%
	9%	0%	38%	13%	25%	-8%	22%	-9%		

¹Totals represent students of all races including those not mentioned in the table.

² The number of CPS graduates and cohort members were gathered from the CPS website.

Introduction

The question of how to increase Black student enrollment at UIC is highly complex. In the past five years, the UIC recruitment office has targeted Black students from Chicago Public Schools (CPS), south suburban Chicago counties, and Indiana. However, Black CPS student enrollment has decreased 6 percent from 2015 to 2016. This trend is consistent with the overall Chicago Black population decline from the past two decades. Despite major recruitment efforts, Black student admission and yield rates to UIC have declined from 2015 to 2016. In an effort to identify issues in availability and desirability of CPS graduates for UIC, the table above presents the applicant pool, admits, and enrollment of CPS students to UIC by race/ethnicity from 2015 to 2016.

Applications

In 2016, approximately 14 percent of Black CPS graduates applied to UIC, a three percentage point increase from 2015 (11% in 2015). This proportion is less than half the total proportion of CPS graduates who applied to UIC. Despite a low application rate, this proportion is

similar to that of Highly Qualified CPS graduates in 2015¹. The currently application ratio indicates that UIC is likely receiving applications from most qualified Black CPS graduates.

Admit Rate

The 2016 CPS Black student admission rate (53%) is 13 percentage points below the total student admission rate, the lowest among all racial/ethnic groups. One explanation for the admission rate discrepancy is the low rate of completed applications among Black students. In 2016, 15 percent of Black applications were incomplete, more than any other group. Incomplete applications deflate admission rates, and therefore may account for much of the admissions rate discrepancy. Another explanation for the admissions gap is the Black disproportionate concentration in the lower ACT and high school GPA quartiles. In tables not shown, 2016 Black ACT and high school GPAs were slightly more concentrated than other races in the lower quartiles than all applicants. Therefore, a slightly higher proportion of Black students are more likely to be denied than other races. The lower proportion of qualified Black CPS graduates compared to other race/ethnicities is a major contributing factor to the disproportionate undergraduate student enrollment at UIC, as it decreases the capacity of applications received and admitted.

Yield Rate

Another primary factor in Black undergraduate enrollment is the yield rate. In 2016, Black CPS students yielded to UIC at a rate of 22 percent, 11 percentage points below the overall student yield rate. From 2015 to 2016, the Black student yield rate declined six percentage points (28% to 22%) and remains the lowest among all racial/ethnic groups. The lower yield rate indicates that Black students are less likely than other race/ethnicities to choose UIC. One way to remedy the yielding issue is through concerted efforts to improve the Black community on campus. Prospects will be drawn to a strong UIC community and be more likely to apply. This includes connecting students, faculty, and staff to one another as well as increasing their presence in the Chicago community. There is an opportunity to improve relationships between UIC and Black Chicagoland high schools and community organizations in order to make UIC a more desired destination for Black students. Currently, only 14 percent of Black CPS apply to UIC. One limitation of this table is that we do not know what percentage of CPS graduates would be qualified for admission.

¹ The 2015 CPS Market Report contained data indicating that 18% of Black CPS graduates were “Highly Qualified”. “Highly Qualified” graduates denote seniors whose GPA and ACT scores gave them access to selective or very selective four-year colleges based on Barron’s selectivity categories. “Highly Qualified” data were obtained from the University of Chicago To and Through College Project are not yet available for 2016.