



# UCHICAGO PROMISE



2013 YEAR IN REVIEW

**THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO** takes a comprehensive approach to addressing college access and affordability that is undergirded by insights from rigorous faculty research on education. Our approach includes financial aid, mentorship, and preparation through dedicated workshops, as well as longer-term opportunities to support college readiness.

In October 2012, the University of Chicago announced an ambitious initiative aimed at helping high school students from the city of Chicago prepare for and aspire to the best college education possible—whether at the University of Chicago or elsewhere in the nation. That initiative, UChicago Promise, is the cornerstone of our broader efforts to increase college access and affordability for students across the country.

Research by the University of Chicago Consortium on School Research shows that many Chicago students do not take the steps needed to enroll in colleges that match their qualifications. A 2008 study of Chicago Public Schools graduates found that only 27 percent of students who qualified to attend a selective college enrolled in a selective college, and only 38 percent of students qualified to attend a very selective college enrolled in a very selective college. Many high school students are daunted by the college admissions and financial aid processes and may not get the support they need. **We must do better—and we will.**

### **UChicago Promise includes the following:**

#### **OUR PLEDGE: GRADUATE DEBT-FREE**

Chicago residents who attend high school in Chicago and are admitted to the University of Chicago can attend the University without receiving any loans in their financial aid packages. The student loans are replaced by grants, which do not have to be repaid.

#### **APPLICATION FEE WAIVER**

Chicago residents who attend high school in Chicago have the \$75 application fee automatically waived when applying to the University of Chicago.

#### **ADMISSIONS ACADEMY**

The Admissions Academy supports and trains educators by providing professional development and other assistance. It also provides resources and information to guide students and families through the college admissions and financial aid processes—whether they are applying to UChicago or any other selective four-year college.

#### **MENTORING AND PREPARATION**

The University of Chicago has extended its Metcalf Internship Program to fund internships to support the new Admissions Academy. In coordination with professional staff from the Admissions Office, the UChicago Promise Metcalf Interns are responsible for launching the academy and, in a later stage of the program, will select high school guidance counselors to help coach students.

### **The University of Chicago Consortium on Chicago School Research**

The University of Chicago Consortium on Chicago School Research (UChicago CCSR) produces groundbreaking research on Chicago Public Schools that informs school improvement efforts in Chicago and nationwide.

With a focus on college readiness and access, among other areas, UChicago CCSR helps to build capacity for school reform by identifying what matters for student success and school improvement, creating critical indicators to chart progress, and conducting theory-driven evaluation to identify how programs and policies are working.

**During UChicago Promise's first year, hundreds of Chicago students, parents, and high school guidance counselors benefited from the University of Chicago commitment.**





## UCHICAGO PROMISE FIRST YEAR OVERVIEW

### PREPARING FOR COLLEGE

UChicago Promise encompasses an array of programs that prepare high school students for college course work and encourage younger students to begin thinking about college.

IN 2012:

**250+**

students participated in Collegiate Scholars, Upward Bound, and College Bridge—enrichment programs serving largely low-income, minority, high school students.

**90%**

of graduating seniors in Upward Bound were accepted to four-year colleges.

**500+**

middle school and high school students visited the UChicago campus through the GEAR UP program.

**400+**

UChicago students served more than 35,000 volunteer hours through the Neighborhood Schools Program as teaching assistants and other support staff at 50 partner schools on the South Side of Chicago.

**100%**

of graduating seniors in the Collegiate Scholars Program were accepted to four-year colleges.

More than  
**50%**

of College Bridge students applying for admission to UChicago were accepted.

**150+**

middle school girls from Chicago Public Schools participated in STEM workshops with women scientists and professionals through Chicago's first Expanding Your Horizons conference.

### APPLYING FOR COLLEGE

UChicago Promise eases the college admissions and financial aid processes by automatically waiving the \$75 application fee for students from Chicago and providing workshops for high school students, their families, and guidance counselors.

BECAUSE OF THIS:

Chicago families saved a collective total of

**\$89,475** in application fees

As a highly selective institution, the University of Chicago is well situated to help students, families, and counselors understand the college admissions process, demystifying a process that can seem intimidating to many young people.

FOR THE 2013-14 ACADEMIC YEAR, THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO:

Saw a

**48.8%**

increase in Chicago-area applicants

2011-12

802

2012-13

1,193



"I felt connected to the University because of the College Bridge classes I took there, and I was ecstatic when I was accepted."

—Warren Mui, College Class of 2017 and graduate of Kenwood Academy



"The University of Chicago was the best deal and my top choice."

—Sara Kuse, College Class of 2017 and Northside College Prep graduate, applied early action to the University the day UChicago Promise was announced



Admitted

**116**

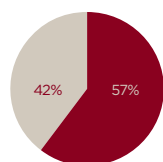
Chicago students to  
the College

Enrolled

**73**

Chicago students  
in the Class of 2017

Applicant diversity



● Underrepresented  
students of color

Students of color: 57%

23% Black/African American

34% Hispanic/Latino

Applicants by high school type

Public Schools: 82%  
Parochial Schools: 9%  
Private Schools: 5%  
Charter Schools: 4%

UChicago Promise supports students, families, and educators through programs like the Admissions Academy, which offers workshops on topics like financial aid and essay writing.

IN ITS FIRST YEAR, THE ADMISSIONS ACADEMY WELCOMED:

**1,100**

students and families

**100+**

guidance counselors

**73**

local high schools

Additionally, **8 UChicago Metcalf Interns** supported students and guidance counselors in the application process at **5 South Side high schools**.

## PAYING FOR COLLEGE

UChicago Promise is easing the burden of student debt by eliminating loans from the financial aid packages of admitted residents who attend Chicago schools, public or private. These loans are being replaced by grants, which do not need to be paid back.

IN THE FIRST YEAR OF UCHICAGO PROMISE:

**\$2.2 MILLION**

financial aid commitment to replace loans with grants

## 45 FULL-TUITION SCHOLARSHIPS

- » **31** Scholarships to CPS students
- » **14** Scholarships to sons and daughters of Chicago Police and Fire personnel



"After I applied to the University of Chicago, I saw a UChicago Promise poster in the counselor's office and it reassured me—I am happy to be able to afford UChicago."

—**Kayla Moore**, College Class of 2017 and graduate of Morgan Park High School, on Chicago's South Side



"Our Collegiate Scholars go on to attend some of the top colleges and universities around the country, and what they learn here through our faculty, staff, and students aids in their success in college and ultimately in their careers."

—**Kim Ransom**, Executive Director, Collegiate Scholars Program

## University Engagement in K-12 Education

UChicago Promise builds on a strong foundation of programs and initiatives sponsored by the University of Chicago that help Chicago students get the best chance at an excellent education. These include:

### FULL-TUITION, MERIT-BASED SCHOLARSHIPS

**Chicago Public Schools Scholarships:** The University of Chicago awards full-tuition, four-year scholarships to a select number of graduates of Chicago Public Schools who are admitted to the College. Awards are made to outstanding students who show the greatest potential for making contributions to the academic, extracurricular, and community life of the College.

**Chicago Police and Fire Scholarships:** In honor of the Chicago Fire and Police Departments' service to the University community and the city, the University of Chicago has offered full-tuition scholarships for more than 30 years to select admitted children of active, sworn Chicago firefighters and police officers. Students whose parent lost his or her life in the line of duty are also eligible to apply.

**Individual Chicago High School Scholarships:** The University of Chicago offers full-tuition scholarships to qualified students from the following high schools: Kenwood Academy, Providence St. Mel, Nicholas Senn, and the University of Chicago Charter School-Woodlawn Campus.

### CIVIC AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

**University Community Service Center:** The University Community Service Center provides UChicago students with volunteer opportunities through more than 70 community service-based organizations, including 22 that focus on K-12 education or partner with the Chicago Public Schools. The UCSC advises the student-led organizations, which contribute more than 20,000 volunteer hours annually.

**Neighborhood Schools Program:** The Neighborhood Schools Program connects University of Chicago students with schools, public service offices, and local community organizations. Founded more than 30 years ago, the program matches 350 undergraduate and graduate students to 50 sites within South Side communities. Together, these students provide more than 35,000 hours of support each year as teaching assistants, technology assistants, administrative interns, and general support staff.

### COLLEGE PREP INITIATIVES

**College Bridge:** The College Bridge program enables advanced Chicago Public Schools students who have completed all their school's requirements in a given area to enroll in rigorous course work at the University of Chicago with tuition, fees, and textbooks fully funded by the University. The program is open to rising juniors and seniors, and serves 15 students during the academic year and 30 students during the summer.

**Collegiate Scholars Program:** The Collegiate Scholars Program was founded in 2003 as a three-year program that aims to prepare talented Chicago Public Schools students in grades 10-12 for admission and success at the nation's top colleges and universities. To date, the program has 335 alumni attending 130 colleges in 30 states.

**GEAR UP:** Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) is a program funded by the US Department of Education to raise student achievement and increase access to and participation in postsecondary education within public school systems. The University of Chicago is one of several university partners in the Chicago GEAR UP Alliance and works with high schools near its campus to provide parents and students opportunities to learn more about postsecondary education and career options.

**Upward Bound/Office of Special Programs:** The University of Chicago is home to the nation's first Upward Bound college readiness program. The program is federally funded, and many prominent Chicagoans completed the program before going on to successful college and professional careers. It includes Saturday School, after-school tutoring during the week, a robust summer program, college tours, and a host of other programs aimed to prepare Chicago high school students for collegiate study.

## Urban Education Institute

The University of Chicago Urban Education Institute is dedicated to creating knowledge to produce reliably excellent schooling for children growing up in urban America. UEI operates the four campuses of the University of Chicago Charter School, serving approximately 1,700 students on the South Side of Chicago; prepares outstanding urban teachers and leaders through the Urban Teacher Education Program; undertakes rigorous research to improve policy and practice, anchored by the Consortium on Chicago School Research; and provides tools, analytics, and training to improve schools nationwide.



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
CHICAGO



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