

A Letter from the President

Dear Friends,

There's a great energy on the University of Louisville campus every August – the start of a new school year, fresh faces, improvements to campus and the beginning of the fall sports season. As students arrived on campus this month, they found a beautiful new entry to campus off Interstate 65, more student housing options and a new road through the developing Belknap Engineering and Applied Sciences Research Park linking Brook and Third streets. But more important than the visual improvements to campus is what's not easily seen – the ongoing improvement in the quality and diversity of our freshmen students. More students than ever before are entering UofL with enough college credits to be recognized as sophomores or even juniors. The average ACT score of incoming freshmen continues to rise – it is 25.5 this fall, the highest in UofL history. We also have our largest number of new Latino students. Scholarship, diversity and a vibrant campus life appeal to students who have talent and ambition. That is what we have and what we cherish at UofL.

James R. Ramsey, President, University of Louisville



President Ramsey joins the Threlkeld Hall housing staff on move-in day.

2015 freshman class ahead of the game

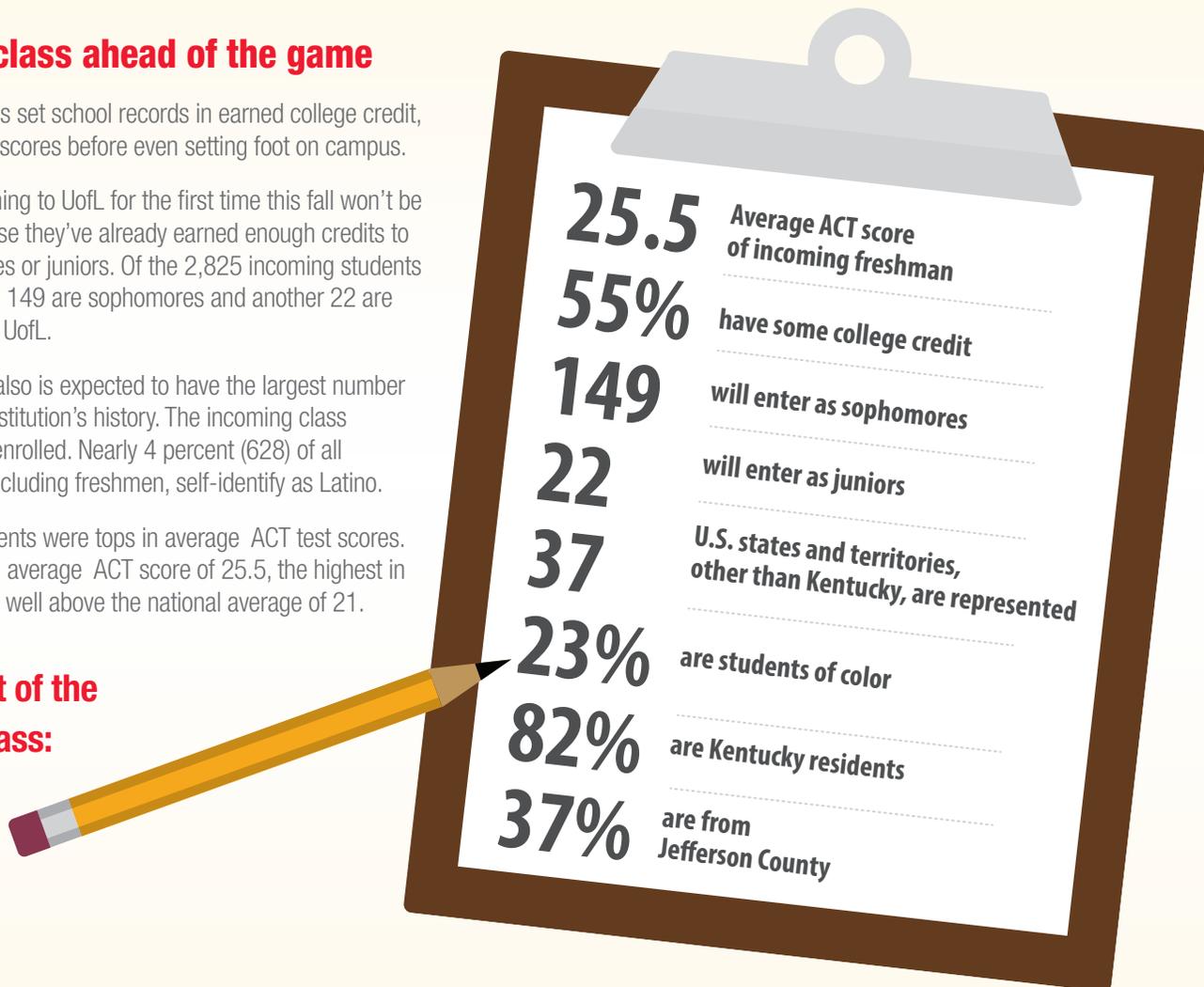
UofL's 2015 freshman class set school records in earned college credit, Latino enrollment and test scores before even setting foot on campus.

In fact, many students coming to UofL for the first time this fall won't be known as freshmen because they've already earned enough credits to be classified as sophomores or juniors. Of the 2,825 incoming students who have enrolled thus far, 149 are sophomores and another 22 are juniors – a new record for UofL.

The 2015 freshman class also is expected to have the largest number of Latino students in the institution's history. The incoming class has 113 Latino freshmen enrolled. Nearly 4 percent (628) of all undergraduate students, including freshmen, self-identify as Latino.

Additionally, incoming students were tops in average ACT test scores. The freshman class had an average ACT score of 25.5, the highest in the institution's history and well above the national average of 21.

Here's a snapshot of the 2015 incoming class:



Student Support effort gets million-dollar grant

The U.S. Department of Education recently funded UofL's TRIO Student Support Services for another five years with a \$1.1 million grant.

The program provides assistance to low-income, first-generation college students and/or students with disabilities to help them earn a bachelor's degree. Participation is free for eligible students. During the year, students receive individual and group advising to foster positive study habits and academic success. Students can take advantage of a comfortable learning environment, financial counseling, leadership opportunities, cultural excursions and academic workshops.

The program's efforts will expand to include assisting veteran students through a collaboration with the Office of Military and Veteran Services. New grant services also will focus on "difference education," workshops and seminars facilitated by successful students whose social and demographic backgrounds are similar to those of TRIO Student Support Services students.



Nadine Petty, director of Student Support Services.



Students walk the new L Trail during welcome week.

New safety program debuts on campus

UofL is among the leading public universities in the state when it comes to campus safety, according to American School Search rankings. The launch of a new safety program – CardSafe – this fall is further boosting safety efforts as students return to campus.

CardSafe combines previous safety measures with several new features, including the L Trail, a well-lit, patrolled pathway on Belknap Campus that runs from the Cardinal Town area housing units through campus to Grawemeyer Hall. Enhanced lighting also fills popular side routes, including near the Swain Student Activities Center.

A new smartphone app, CardGuard, puts safety in students' hands. The app includes options such as one-touch 911 dialing and the ability to report crimes to the UofL Police Department (ULPD). The CardSafe program also includes existing efforts such as the UofL Alert text messaging system, the Card Safety phone app and the Green Dot sexual violence awareness program. Finally, CardSafe includes updates on ULPD's latest initiatives, including hiring new officers and increasing foot patrols in high-volume housing areas.

For more information on CardSafe, go to: louisville.edu/cardsafe.

FirstBuild celebrates first anniversary

The FirstBuild micro-factory recently celebrated its first year of business. Located on UofL's campus, the 35,000-square-foot facility is a collaborative project among GE Appliances, UofL and Local Motors, a Phoenix-based open-source hardware innovator.

FirstBuild is a space where home appliances are designed, built and sold using an online co-creation community and micro-manufacturing model. UofL students and researchers collaborate with GE engineers and entrepreneurs and inventors from the community to make innovative new appliances.

In the year since its opening, designers have created products including a refrigerator with a smart-fill water pitcher; an easy-slide oven door that makes it simple to retrieve dishes without reaching into the oven's cavity; the Chillhub, the first smart refrigerator with apps; and the Opal, a portable ice machine that makes nugget ice out of any liquid.



The GE FirstBuild micro-factory at UofL.