



Chicago District Seminar

DePaul University
Friday, March 28, 2025
Schmitt Academic Center: 2320 N. Kenmore Ave.

Agenda

- 8:15 – 8:30 a.m. **Registration**
- 8:35 – 9:00 a.m. **Light Breakfast & Welcome Address** **SAC 154**
Erin Updegraff, Executive Director of First-Year Recruitment
& Admission, DePaul University
- 9:00 – 9:45 a.m. **Session #1**
- A. Financial Aid 101: Understanding the FAFSA and Rise Act** **SAC 270**
Affordability of a college education is often the biggest and most challenging question for families. This presentation will provide an overview of need-based financial aid and the processes by which students can secure aid. Eligibility requirements, as well as tools for estimating and understanding aid, will be discussed.
Presenter: Joseline Valdez, Assistant Director of Admission & Financial Aid Liaison, DePaul University
- 10:00 – 10:45 a.m. **Session #2** (*Select from one of the following presentations*)
- A. Navigating Community College and Four-Year Transfer Options** **SAC 270**
Many students do not stay at one college for all four years. Maybe they decide that their initial choice isn't a good fit and want to switch schools. Maybe they decide to attend a community college at first and save some money. Whatever the reason, navigating the transfer process can be a necessary skill for a student's long-term success. Transfer counselors will discuss the intricacies and benefits of transfer options, unveiling this process and empowering students to utilize this choice when necessary.
Presenters: David Villoreal, Associate Director of Transfer Recruitment & Admission, DePaul University
Nick DeFalco, Executive Director, Transfer Recruitment & Admission, DePaul University
- B. Being a First-Generation College Student** **SAC 280**
Transitioning to college can be a challenge for many students, but for students who will be the first in their family to obtain a college credential, it holds some additional challenges. Common questions and concerns of first-generation college students are discussed along with highlighting the various campus resources available to help support students. Strategies and suggestions from others that have successfully navigated the college experience as a first-generation college student are also shared.
Presenter: Carla Luna, ISACorps Chicago Region Coordinator, Illinois Student Assistance Commission

11:00 – 11:45 a.m. **Session #3**

Ethics in Admissions: Present & Future

SAC 270

There are several ethical challenges faced in the college admissions process, such as the influence of wealth, legacy preferences, standardized testing biases, and the role of affirmative action. This presentation will examine the growing concerns over fairness and transparency, especially in light of recent court cases and public debates.

Presenter: Keegan White, Associate Director of Admissions – Chicago Regional, Lawrence University

12:00 p.m. **Lunch & Closing**

SAC 154

12:30 p.m. **Optional Tour of DePaul Lincoln Park Campus**