This week, the Class of 2026 arrives at Tulane. The newest class of Tulanians once again sets a precedent for being the highest-achieving and most selective class in university history, as well as the most diverse class ever. (Graphic by Chelsea Christopher)

This week, the Class of 2026 arrives at Tulane, with plenty of hopes and dreams as they begin their first-year college experience. The incoming class once again sets a precedent for being the highest-achieving and most selective class in university history, as well as the most diverse class ever, with 30% identifying as students of color.

More than 30 students in this class will attend Tulane thanks to Louisiana Promise, which meets the full financial need, with no loans, for students whose families make less than $100,000.

And a little lagniappe to start the academic year: The class boasts 28 valedictorians, and the most common name is “Ella.” (For more information on the Class of 2026, click here and here.)

Convocation for first-year students is Thursday, Aug. 18, and the academic year officially begins on Monday, Aug. 22.

Congratulations to the Class of 2026 and welcome to Tulane University!