

## **Tulane University's New Class is Strongest Ever**

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After Hurricane Katrina many thought Tulane University, which draws the majority of its students from out of state, might be so desperate to maintain its enrollment that it would lower its admission standards.

But since Katrina more students have applied to Tulane and the university has become more selective, accepting only about 25 percent of students who apply, compared to more than 55 percent before Katrina.

In addition, the class of 2016 that will arrive at Tulane in August boasts the highest test scores in Tulane's history. The university's yield rate, the percentage of accepted students who actually enroll at Tulane, has also risen 10 points since Katrina.

"Our incoming class will be the most academically qualified and one of the largest and most diverse in our 178 years," Tulane President Scott Cowen said. "More than 16 percent of the estimated 1,650 students in the new class are members of underrepresented minority groups."

Students are also willing to travel a long way for a Tulane education. The typical student will travel an average of 890 miles to attend Tulane. A third of Tulane's first-year students will come from the Northeast and 13 percent from the Pacific West.

"This importation of brain power has many positive economic and cultural ramifications," Cowen said.

Tulane students make an economic impact even before they officially join the Tulane community. Spending by prospective students and their parents who visit Tulane is the equivalent of a major convention returning every year to New Orleans.

"The class of 2016 is great news for Tulane and for the city in which these students will live, eat, study and volunteer for the next four years and beyond," said Earl Retif, vice president for Enrollment Management and University Registrar.

Tulane has ample on-campus housing, course sections and programming for the influx of new students.