

2024–2025 LOYOLA STUDENT SUCCESS REPORT

GOOD COMPANY ON
STUDENTS' JOURNEYS TO,
THROUGH, AND BEYOND
LOYOLA UNIVERSITY
CHICAGO



LOYOLA
UNIVERSITY CHICAGO



2024–2025 LOYOLA STUDENT SUCCESS REPORT

VISION

Students will be equipped with the necessary skills and resources to possess the highest levels of personal, intellectual, and career fulfillment during their college years and beyond.

MISSION

Through holistic advising, transformational support services, real-world connections, and data-informed, heart-driven decisions, Student Success staff empower students to forge pathways to, through, and beyond college.

INSIDE

4

Unit Descriptions

7

To Loyola

PathwayU as a tool for exploration and integration into LUCO/UNIV

Academic Advising for Honors Students

8

Through Loyola University Chicago

Success Coaching

National First-Generation College Student Day

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Student Employment Enhancements

Pre-Med and Pre-Law Peer Programs

12

Beyond Loyola University Chicago

Career Communities launch and visibility

Signature Employer Programming



Executive summary

HEIGHTENING THE PROBABILITY of students leading fulfilled lives remains the goal of Student Success at Loyola. Our efforts utilize a holistic approach to academic and career support to better ensure students' personal, intellectual, and career fulfillment by serving as "good company on students' journeys to, through, and beyond Loyola University Chicago." This annual report uses the "To-Through-Beyond" framework to highlight signature accomplishments in Student Success.

Ensuring our efforts in the past year to onboard students as they come TO college including:

- Launching PathwayU as a tool for exploration and integration into both orientation programs and the UNIV 101 seminar
- Focusing our efforts on honors students through holistic advising efforts

Most of our focus remains supporting students as they journey THROUGH their college experience. We have an array of signature accomplishments including:

- Offering specific support to ensure students have executive functioning and learning strategies through our Success Coaching program
- Celebrating First Generation College Students with a campus-wide gathering of students, faculty, and staff
- Strengthening our efforts to provide access to students with disabilities
- Enhancing support for Student Employment as a high-impact practice by offering more programming for employers and engagement for students

- Piloting a peer advising model for early-stage students on the pre-med and pre-law track that harnesses the expertise acquired by students who have successfully completed those earlier stages

• and more

As students pass BEYOND graduation, we endeavor to deepen their connections to the Loyola community by supporting their transition. We have significantly strengthened these efforts including:

- Launching and bolstering the visibility of industry-themed career communities where students can explore, validate, and prepare for their careers with other students, alumni, faculty, and employers who share their career interests
- Offering signature employer programming that improve our connections with employers who see Loyola as a pocket of potential for talent

• and more

Defining student success as students possessing personal, intellectual, and career fulfillment requires a great deal of partnership with colleagues across the institution. While our organizational unit uses this outcome as our name, we are thankful for the collaborations that help us improve the support we provide for students. Finally, my colleagues in Student Success catalyze these accomplishments—and many more—that benefit both our students and our profession. I hope this report sheds light on some of their exemplary work.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andy Wilson".

ANDY WILSON, PHD
Senior Associate Vice President,
Student Success



Our efforts utilize a holistic approach to academic and career support to better ensure students' personal, intellectual, and career fulfillment by serving as good company on students' journeys to, through, and beyond Loyola University Chicago."

Unit descriptions

Our collaborations continue to grow and yield more seamless and effective experiences for students.

Career Services

Career Communities

The Career Communities team helps students connect their academic interests, skills, and passions to a meaningful career. Through individual and group meetings, faculty partnerships, and educational programming, Career Communities empower students to explore, validate, and prepare for their next steps.

Employer Operations and Communications

Employer Operations and Communications leads career fairs and university-wide career-related events, creates a cohesive and creative brand presence, and ensures operational excellence.

Employer Relations

Employer Relations engages hiring organizations across industry sectors to cultivate job and internship opportunities for Loyola students.

Student Academic Services

First and Second Year Advising

First and Second Year Advising serves the academic advising and academic support needs of undergraduate students through the first two years of their university experience, helps students transition from high school to college, and contributes to students' holistic development.

Scholars Programs

Scholars Programs serves a diverse community of first-year and continuing students through cohort-based programs including: Achieving College Excellence (ACE) TRIO Student Support Services, Arrupe Continuing Scholars, Cristo Rey Scholars, Greer Scholars, Senn Scholars, Hope Chicago Scholars, and the Leadership Scholars Program. Scholars Programs provides wrap-around services that facilitate personal growth through academic success initiatives, tailored co-curricular engagement, and career readiness programming.

Student Accessibility Center

The Student Accessibility Center facilitates the implementation of accommodations for undergraduate, graduate, and professional students with

disabilities, including academic, dining, and housing-related accommodations. Working collaboratively with faculty and campus partners, the SAC supports, serves, and empowers students with documented disabilities, ensuring they have equal access to the university's educational programs and activities.

Student-Athlete Academic Services

Student-Athlete Academic Services provides wrap-around academic support for student-athletes throughout all four years at Loyola. Helping them to balance their scholastic and athletics responsibilities, SAAS provides a suite of services to ensure student-athletes are successful both on and off the field, the court, the course, and the track.

Student Transitions and Academic Partnerships

Student Transitions and Academic Partnerships coordinates new undergraduate student experiences, academic support and learning assistance, and a variety of partnerships focused on academic success. This area includes the Office of New Student Programs, the Tutoring Center & STEM Learning Center, and Learning & Academic Success initiatives that assist students in achieving academic and personal goals.



Loyola students' character, work ethic, and commitment to others continually inspire me. They also make for truly good company when partnering towards any given aspiration."

JIM JOHNSON, PHD, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR FOR HEALTH EXPLORATION





PathwayU helped me get a clearer understanding of the jobs I'm interested in and the different career options available to me."

FRANCESCA ALFEREZ, '26, MARKETING, CHICAGO, IL

To Loyola University Chicago

PathwayU

PathwayU is an interactive tool that helps students explore how their values, skills, and interests align with academic majors and career pathways. Upon completion of simple, self-reflective questionnaires, students are presented with more information about Loyola's degree programs and their intersection with job fields. Beginning in the summer of 2024, all incoming Loyola students were introduced to the tool during their Orientation as a way to find their Career Community and start identifying prospective majors.

OUTCOMES

- To date, over 2,500 students have explored their career and academic interests through PathwayU.
- In Fall 2025, all first-year students will leverage PathwayU through the UNIV 101 course.

Academic Advising for Honors Students

Academic advising for first- and second-year students in honors programs is supported by three full-time academic advisors and one assistant director who work with all Business Honors and Interdisciplinary Honors Program Students for their first two years

at Loyola. The staff provides one-on-one advising, on-site drop-in advising, and non-traditional advising hours and opportunities for connection. The relationship with students begins in early May, welcoming approximately 400 new honors students through their early registration process, hosting evening academic advising hours and individual appointments. The academic advisors work with the honors students to:

- Ensure they are knowledgeable of the resources available to them
- Have a supportive space to reflect on their personal and educational goals
- Feel empowered to make informed decisions on educational goals

OUTCOMES

- 99% of first-year honors students completed an Academic Plan in the first semester
- 10% are more likely to attend advising meetings compared to the general student population
- Average GPA of an Interdisciplinary Honors student = 3.661
- Average GPA of a Business Honors student = 3.664

"My advisor was helpful because they supported me as I worked through how to fulfill Honors-specific, major-specific, and Core class requirements. They were so supportive of me while I was trying to figure out what I wanted to study and how it could impact on my class plan. Best of all they helped me develop vital skills like time management in my first year,"

CLARE COCKMAN, '25, POLITICAL SCIENCE, ELMHURST, IL

ACADEMIC ADVISING FOR HONORS STUDENTS

100%

OF FIRST-YEAR HONORS STUDENTS COMPLETED AN ACADEMIC PLAN IN THE FIRST SEMESTER

10%

ARE MORE LIKELY TO ATTEND ADVISING MEETINGS COMPARED TO THE GENERAL STUDENT POPULATION

Through Loyola University Chicago



The success coaching program is phenomenal because I love the support that they provide. The coaches that I have met with have guided me by improving my time management and sharing better study strategies.”

KIM MORALES, '26, PSYCHOLOGY, WAUKEGAN, IL



Success Coaching

Success Coaching is a free program for Loyola students that assists them with setting and meeting their academic goals. Graduate student staff members serve as Success Coaches and meet with students one-on-one to create goals for the semester, develop tactics for improving their organization, time management, study skills, as well as connect students with campus resources. Success Coaches utilize evidence-based approaches tailored to students' experiences and needs while adapting their approaches as students engage with them.

OUTCOMES

- 74% percent of students who attended at least 2 success coach sessions saw their GPA rise between midterm grades and final reports for Fall 2024
- 76% percent of students who attended at least 2 success coach sessions saw their GPA rise between midterm grades and final reports for Spring 2025
- Students who attended at least 2 success coaching appointments in Spring 2025 were less than half as likely, on average, to withdraw from a class compared to Fall 2024
- From post-session surveys of over 200 students:
 - 100% felt seen and heard in their sessions
 - 100% felt success coaching would help them be more successful at school
 - 94% felt they had successfully addressed academic concerns
 - 96% felt that success coaching would help them think more critically about their skills in the future



National First-Generation Student Celebration Day

National First-Generation Student Celebration Day is a call to celebrate students, faculty, and staff who are or were the first in their family to pursue a four-year undergraduate degree. Celebrated each year on November 8, the date commemorates the signing of the Higher Education Act of 1965. This year, Scholars Programs celebrated Loyola's first-generation student community by hosting an event that included a keynote address, various activities to build community and connections among students, faculty, and staff, and "First-Gen Proud" giveaways that faculty and staff could place in their offices to demonstrate collective support for our first-generation student community.

Loyola's Instagram account highlighted "a day in the life" of one of Loyola's first-generation undergraduate students, reaching over 14,000 accounts, with 29,000 views. The program led to the creation of the First-Generation Student Success Committee, made up of campus partners from various divisions who are committed to prioritizing first-generation students at Loyola.

OUTCOMES

- 239 members of Loyola's community attended
- Over 45,000 views on Instagram

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Supporting students with disabilities and ensuring access to academic programs and services at the university, the Student Accessibility Center (SAC) coordinates the review of accommodations requests for undergraduate and graduate students while working closely with faculty and staff colleagues to implement academic, housing, and dining-related accommodations. The SAC also coordinates testing-related accommodations. This year, the SAC supported a growing number of students registering with the SAC and expanded oversight of testing accommodations at the Health Sciences Campus for students in the Niehoff School of Nursing and the Parkinson School of Health Sciences and Public Health. The SAC also collaborated with offices such as the Tutoring Center and the Office for Equity and Compliance to deliver informational sessions to campus partners.



OUTCOMES

- 2,779 students with disabilities were registered with the SAC during the 2024-2025 academic year, an increase of roughly 16.3% from the previous academic year.
- Primary disabilities reported included:
 - 37% Mental Health
 - 27% ADHD
 - 19% Medical
 - 10% Learning
 - 2% Physical
 - 1% Autism Spectrum Disorder
 - 1% Hearing
 - 1% Vision
 - 1% Neurological
- 1,782 students had testing-related accommodations, an increase of 17% from the previous academic year



The GROW project has allowed me to see my job in a different light. It helped me define how [my on-campus job] has impacted my academic journey for the better. It is an effective approach of taking time to reflect how the experience I gain working here benefits me in more ways than one.”

BLEN GIRMA, '28, CYBER SECURITY, ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA



Student Employment Enhancements

Each year, Career Services posts hundreds of on-campus employment opportunities and supports over 2,500 students working on-campus. For students, these employment opportunities provide financial support, a social outlet, and an opportunity to foster relationships with faculty and staff beyond the classroom. In turn, student employees are often the operational heart and soul of LUC units. In the 2024-25 academic year, Career Services sought to enhance the experiences of student employees and their supervisors in two key ways:

Launching Guided Reflection on Work (GROW) at Loyola

GROW uses brief, structured conversations between student employees and their supervisors to help students reflect on the skills and competencies they are developing in their job and identify connections between this position and their academic and career goals.

Celebrating Student Workers and their Supervisors

National Student Employment Week provides an opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate Loyola's student employees and their supervisors. This year's celebrations included: the "Student Employment Essentials" workshop for staff; cupcake deliveries to student employment sites; a "Career Tour" to one of our community partners; the Student Excellence Awards honoring students and supervisors; and a dedicated social media campaign: "LUC ❤️'s Student Employees."

OUTCOMES

- GROW pilot participants agreed with statements like, "I can see connections between my position and academic major/coursework" and "my position has helped prepare me for the world of full-time employment" at a 50% higher rate than those of their non-GROW peers.
- 5 supervisors and 39 students participated in the initial GROW pilot

AS OF SPRING '25

- On-campus student employees: 2,690
- Federal Work Study Students Working at Community-based organizations: 101

Pre-Med and Pre-Law Peer Programs

A significant number of undergraduate students enter Loyola with aspirations to attend law school, medical school, and other allied health professions after graduation. Career Services wanted to make sure that these students not only were set up for success but also had the opportunity to connect with each other and with upperclassmen who could serve as mentors. As a result, a number of exciting new initiatives were launched in Fall of 2024 to support these pre-professional students. Among them:

- Hiring and on-boarding 6 dedicated Pre-Health Peers as part of the Pre-Medicine Career Community
- Hiring and on-boarding 2 dedicated Pre-Law Peers as part of the Law, Policy, and Government Career Community
- Migrating first- and second-year students into weekly Pre-Law and Pre-Medicine small group orientation sessions rather than 1:1 appointments, ensuring students received developmentally appropriate guidance and connected with others who shared similar career aspirations
- Drop-in Advising and topical workshops hosted by the Peers
- The addition of two new courses: 'UNIV 224: Applying to Law School' and 'UNIV 102: Exploring Health Professions'

OUTCOMES

350+ students have collectively participated in Pre-Law and Pre-Medicine orientations led by Peer Advisors.

- 6 Pre-Medicine and 2 Pre-Law Peers

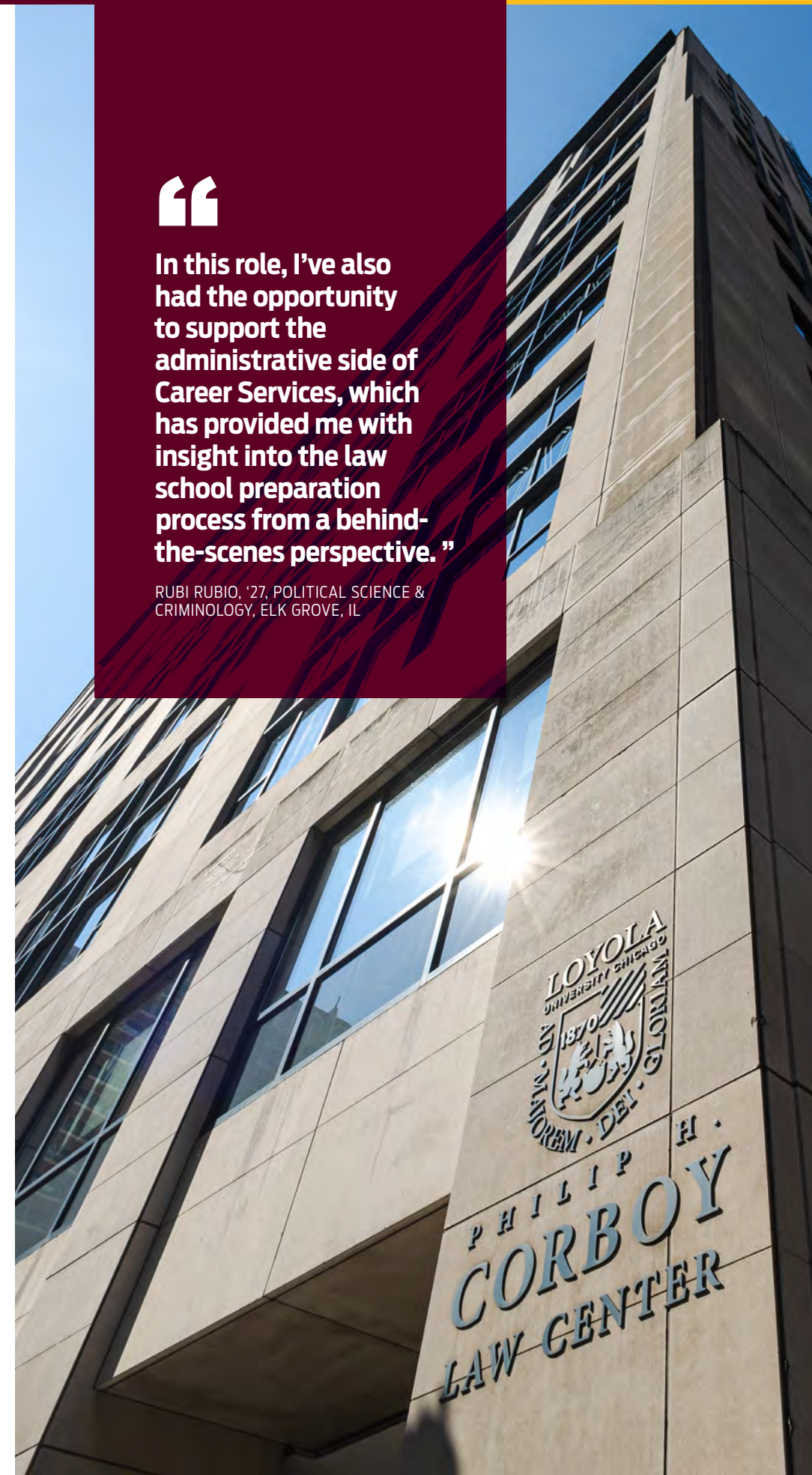
350+

STUDENTS HAVE COLLECTIVELY PARTICIPATED IN PRE-LAW AND PRE-MEDICINE ORIENTATIONS LED BY PEER ADVISORS



In this role, I've also had the opportunity to support the administrative side of Career Services, which has provided me with insight into the law school preparation process from a behind-the-scenes perspective.”

RUBI RUBIO, '27, POLITICAL SCIENCE & CRIMINOLOGY, ELK GROVE, IL



Beyond Loyola University Chicago

Career Communities Launch and Visibility

With the start of the 2024-25 academic year, Career Services launched Career Communities at Loyola. This initiative was designed to connect students with peers, faculty, and industry professionals who share their career aspirations, each led and facilitated by a professional career advisor. Career Communities provides a collaborative space for students to explore career pathways, gain industry insights, and access networking opportunities, workshops, and mentorship programs. 11 undergraduate Career Communities and 3 communities dedicated to master's and doctoral students ensure that students receive tailored guidance and support that is reflective of their professional aspirations. Career Services introduced the campus community to this new structure at large-scale welcome events like the Water Tower Block Party, Commuter-Con, and Welcome Week, and encouraged students to proudly display their Career Community affiliation through custom stickers and other Career Services swag.

OUTCOMES

- To date, over 8,000 Loyola students have joined a Career Community

Signature Employer Engagement Programs

Career Services' Employer Relations team works with hiring organizations across industry sectors and talent needs to connect with our students. Recognizing the importance of touchpoints for both students who are in the early stages of exploration and for students actively seeking jobs, Career Services offers a range of signature programming for employers:

- Career Tours: Small groups of students visit Chicago-area companies on-site to experience "a day in the life" in a specific career field
- Recruiter-in-Residence: Real-time insights for students from the employer perspective
- Industry-Based in a specific career field Career Fairs: Focused career fairs maximize the experience for both students and employers
- Career Chats: Recent alumni share their career journey through meaningful connections with students

OUTCOMES

- 19 organizations hosted 150+ students on Career Tours this academic year
- 321 organizations hosted 2,295 students at 10 Career Fairs this academic year
- Employers on Handshake: 24,364
- Jobs and Internships posted on Handshake for Loyola students: 122,453

"Working with Loyola Career Services has connected me to a supportive team of mentors who have been instrumental in my personal and professional development. My Career Community has introduced me to office tours, speaker events, and the tools needed to succeed in the professional world. Being a part of Career Services has developed my leadership skills, boosted my confidence, and expanded my network, truly preparing me to thrive after graduation."

KATE SULLENBERGER, '25,
ECONOMICS & FINANCE, COLUMBUS, OH

8,000

LOYOLA STUDENTS HAVE JOINED
A CAREER COMMUNITY TO DATE

“

As a junior, going on my first Career Tour at Epsilon was such an eye-opening experience. It was incredible to see how they use data-driven marketing to help businesses connect with the right customers.”

SARAH GAFFOR, '26, INFORMATION
SYSTEMS AND ANALYTICS



STUDENT SUCCESS

1032 W. Sheridan Rd, Chicago, IL 6060

773.508.7391 • LUC.edu/studentsuccess

