UChicago Promise is the University of Chicago’s pledge to help increase college access and readiness for Chicago high school students. It marks a strong investment in the University’s long-standing commitment to providing opportunities for Chicago’s students, offering additional resources and support for those interested in attending the University of Chicago or other selective colleges.

Research by the University of Chicago Consortium on Chicago School Research shows that many Chicago students do not take the steps needed to enroll in colleges that match their qualifications. A study of Chicago Public Schools graduates found that only 27 percent of students who qualified to attend a selective college enrolled in a selective college, and only 38 percent of students qualified to attend a very selective college enrolled in a very selective college. Many high school students are daunted by the college admissions and financial aid processes and may not get the support they need. **We must do better—and we will.**

**UChicago Promise includes the following:**

**OUR PLEDGE: GRADUATE DEBT-FREE**
Chicago residents who attend high school in Chicago and are admitted to the University of Chicago can attend the University without receiving any loans in their financial aid packages. These student loans will be replaced by grants, which do not have to be repaid.

**APPLICATION FEE WAIVER**
Chicago residents who attend high school in Chicago will have the $75 application fee automatically waived when applying to the University of Chicago.

**ADMISSIONS ACADEMY**
The Admissions Academy will support and train educators by providing professional development and other assistance. It will also provide resources and information to guide students and families through the college admissions and financial aid processes—whether they are applying to UChicago or any other selective four-year college.

**MENTORING AND PREPARATION**
The University of Chicago will extend its Metcalf Internship Program to fund 12 internships to support the Admissions Academy. In coordination with professional staff from the Admissions Office, the UChicago Promise Metcalf Interns will be responsible for supporting the academy and be assigned to select high school guidance counselors to help coach students.
University Engagement in K-12 Education

UChicago Promise builds on a strong foundation of programs and initiatives sponsored by the University that help Chicago students get the best chance at an excellent education. These include:

Full-Tuition, Merit-Based Scholarships

- **Chicago Public Schools Scholarships**: The University of Chicago awards full-tuition, four-year scholarships to a select number of graduates of Chicago Public Schools (CPS) who are admitted to the College. Awards are made to outstanding students who show the greatest potential for making contributions to the academic, extracurricular, and community life of the College.

- **Chicago Police and Fire Scholarships**: In honor of the Chicago Fire and Police Departments’ service to the University community and the city, the University of Chicago has offered full-tuition scholarships for more than 30 years to select admitted children of active, sworn Chicago firefighters and police officers. Students whose parent lost his or her life in the line of duty are also eligible to apply.

- **Individual Chicago High School Scholarships**: The University of Chicago offers full-tuition scholarships to qualified students from the following high schools: Kenwood Academy, Providence St. Mel, Nicholas Senn, and the University of Chicago Charter School–Woodlawn Campus.

Civic and Community Engagement

**University Community Service Center**: The University Community Service Center provides UChicago students with volunteer opportunities through more than 70 community service–based organizations, including 22 that focus on K-12 education or partner with Chicago Public Schools. The UCSC advises the student-led organizations—which contribute more than 20,000 volunteer hours annually—and helps them cultivate productive, respectful, and sustainable working relationships with community organizations and leaders.

**Neighborhood Schools Program**: The Neighborhood Schools Program (NSP) connects University of Chicago students with schools, public service offices, and local community organizations. NSP, founded more than 30 years ago, matches 400 undergraduate and graduate students to 50 sites within South Side communities. Together, these students provide more than 35,000 hours of support each year. Students work as teaching assistants, technology assistants, administrative interns, and general support staff.

College Prep Initiatives

**College Bridge Program**: The College Bridge Program enables advanced CPS students who have completed all their school’s requirements in a given area to enroll in rigorous coursework at the University of Chicago with tuition, fees, and textbooks fully funded by the University. The program is open to rising juniors and seniors in high school, and serves students during the academic year and during the summer.

**Collegiate Scholars Program**: The Collegiate Scholars Program, which has 337 alumni attending 130 colleges in 30 states, was founded in 2003 as a three-year program that aims to prepare talented CPS students in grades 10–12 for admission and success at the nation’s top colleges and universities. The University of Chicago Collegiate Scholars Program is shaped around a core curriculum of faculty led courses in humanities, social science, math, and science courses during the summer months and enrichment activities geared toward college readiness, cultural awareness, and civic engagement during the academic year. The Collegiate Scholars come from 50 public schools in Chicago.

**Upward Bound/Office of Special Programs**: The University of Chicago is home to the nation’s first Upward Bound college readiness program, established in 1968. The program is federally funded, and many prominent Chicagoleans have completed the program before going on to successful college and professional careers. It includes Saturday School, after-school tutoring during the week, a robust summer program, college tours, and a host of other programs aimed to prepare Chicago high school students from grades 9 to 12 for collegiate study.

Urban Education Institute

The University of Chicago Urban Education Institute is dedicated to creating knowledge to produce reliably excellent schooling for children growing up in urban America. UEI operates the four campuses of the University of Chicago Charter School, serving approximately 1,700 students on the South Side of Chicago; prepares outstanding urban teachers and leaders through the Urban Teacher Education Program; undertakes rigorous research to improve policy and practice, anchored by the Consortium on Chicago School Research; and, through UChicago Impact, provides tools, analytics, and training to improve schools nationwide.