

NEW TRIER TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 203

To commit minds to inquiry, hearts to compassion, and lives to the service of humanity.®



TO: Dr. Paul J. Sally, Superintendent
Board of Education, New Trier Township High School

To: Dr. Paul Sally, Superintendent
Board of Education, New Trier Township High School

FROM: Peter W. Tragos, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction

RE: Profile of the Class of 2021: An Academic Perspective

DATE: January 8, 2022

This report is the twelfth annual report providing an in-depth profile of a graduating class from New Trier. The data presented in these reports continue to provide an excellent starting point for conversations with parent and community groups, teachers, advisers, and students.

The data provided in this report gives parents, staff, Post High School Counselors, and students a perspective on the degree to which students chart an individualized academic pathway through New Trier and into post high school endeavors. The first section details the course-taking patterns of students in the class of 2021 who spent four years at New Trier. The second section provides college matriculation data based on the course-taking patterns of those same students.

Analyzing the course-taking patterns of the students in the class of 2021 helps to dispel some of the myths that pervade the school community about courses, levels, and college. The colleges that students attend have been analyzed by looking at a student's level profile of classes, the number of core academic courses, the number of AP courses, and the number of elective courses. These data show the variety of options available to New Trier students no matter their course-taking patterns, which challenge many assumptions about admission to particular colleges. This report also helps to illustrate New Trier's commitment to the Post High School Counseling Department's motto that "College is a match to be made, not a prize to be won."

Impact of COVID-19 on the Class of 2021

COVID-19 disrupted school in March 2020, sending students across the country into remote learning. This disruption is reflected in the course taking patterns of students in the class of 2021. After spending the fourth quarter of their junior year in remote learning, students in the class of 2021 began their senior year in remote learning as well. By second quarter New Trier stepped up to hybrid learning, where students attended in-person classes twice per week while at-home students attended class virtually, with teachers teaching both sets of students simultaneously. In-person attendance increased to four days per week over time, but many students chose remote learning for the entire year.

The pandemic disrupted learning and dislocated students from important connections and routines provided by school, and many students struggled academically and socially emotionally as a result. In an effort to support students and mitigate the long term negative effects of the pandemic on students academic record, we permitted students to drop courses without penalty to reduce their academic load so they could focus on successful completion of their graduation requirements.

That impact is evident in the decreased number of core academic courses taken over four years. The second table below in Section 1A illustrates an increased number of students taking between 16 -18.5 core academic classes

and a decrease in the number of students taking between 19-20 course academic classes. We may see a similar pattern in subsequent classes as well.

Section 1: Course-Taking Patterns for the Class of 2021

This section of the profile analyzes the course-taking patterns of students in the Core Academic departments and Elective departments. The data was gathered from the final transcripts of the Class of 2021

This section uses data from the 881 students in the Class of 2021 who were at New Trier for all four years of high school and completed eight semesters of New Trier coursework. Comparisons to the class of 2020 are noted in parentheses, which had 924 students who were at New Trier all four years. The level profile is constructed by determining which levels a student took courses over the course of four years. The level profile also indicates at which level the student took the most courses.

A. Major Credit Courses taken in Core Academic Departments

Department	# of Students	# of Courses	Years/Student
English	881	3534	4.01 (3.99)
Math	881	3484	3.95 (3.94)
Modern & Classical Language	873	2920	3.34 (3.47)
Science	880	3194	3.63 (3.63)
Social Studies	881	3374	3.83 (3.85)

# of Core Academic Courses Taken		# of students	% of students
Fewer than 16	Fewer than 4 core academic classes per year	41	4.7% (4.7%)
16 to 17.5	Between 4 and 5 core academic courses per year	141	16.0% (13.1%)
18 – 18.5		178	20.2% (17.2%)
19-19.5		282	32.0% (34.6%)
20	Exactly 5 core academic course per year	137	15.6% (17.5%)
More than 20	More than 5 core academic courses per year	102	11.6% (12.8%)

- In a typical year, the highest concentration of students take 19-20 core academic courses. That is still true of the class of 2021, though we see fewer students within that range and more students in the 16-18.5 range.
- Approximately 59% of students in the class of 2021 took 19 or more core courses compared to 65% in 2020 and 70% in 2019. Again, the impact of the pandemic is noticeable in this course taking pattern.
- Academic programs vary to meet each student's needs, but it is generally recommended that students take between 4 and 5 core academic courses per year. The vast majority of students met this general recommendation, even though their original four-year plan may have changed because of the impact on the pandemic.
- The number of core academic courses taken over four years is one metric used by colleges to determine the rigor of a high school student's academic program.

B. Courses taken in Elective Departments

Department	# of Students	Total # of Courses	Years/Student	Students who took elective courses only in this department	
				#	%
Applied Arts – FCS	257	303	1.18	27	10.5%
Applied Arts – Tech Ed	254	409	1.61	27	10.6%
Art	372	565	1.52	39	10.5%
Business	447	564	1.26	49	11.0%
Dance	177	290	1.64	4	2.3%
English – Media & Journalism	66	128	1.95	7	8.0%
Music & Theatre	240	930	3.88	46	19.2%
Social Studies – Speech & Debate	87	142	1.63	9	10.3%

- Driver Education (101) and Consumer Ed (407) are not included in these totals.
- 220 students took classes in 3 of these departments and 58 took courses in 4 of these departments, which is a slight increase over 2020, indicating more students are exploring elective opportunities across multiple departments.

Elective Departments Sharing Students	# of Students
Art + Business Ed	185
Business Ed + Applied Arts – FCS	126
Business Ed + Applied Arts - Tech Ed	133
Art + Applied Arts – FCS	103
Dance + Music & Theatre	80
English – Media & Journalism + Music & Theatre	17
Music & Theatre + Social Studies – Speech & Debate	17
Dance + Social Studies – Speech & Debate	17
Dance + English – Media & Journalism	14
English – Media & Journalism + Social Studies – Speech & Debate	6

The next tables show course-taking patterns in elective departments. The first table shows total elective courses taken over four years. The second table shows the course-taking pattern for each year of students' four year matriculation. One-semester elective courses have a value of 0.5. For example, a student who took two full years of Art and a one-semester Business class would be listed at taking 2.5 electives. The Class of 2020 is shown in parentheses.

# of Elective Courses taken over four years	# of Students	% of Students
1 – 1.5	97 (87)	11.0% (9.4%)
2	120 (135)	13.6% (14.6%)
2.5 – 4	405 (434)	46.0% (47.0%)
4.5 – 8 (more than 1 course/year)	216(225)	24.5% (24.4%)
More than 8 (more than 2 courses/year)	43 (43)	4.9% (4.7%)

# of Elective Department Courses taken in that year	Freshman year		Sophomore year		Junior year		Senior year	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
0	67	7.6%	157	17.8%	282	32.0%	281	31.9%
0.5	8	0.9%	106	12.0%	54	6.1%	60	6.8%
1 – 1.5	707	80.2%	516	58.6%	409	46.4%	394	44.7%
2 or more	99	11.2%	102	11.6%	136	15.4%	146	16.6%

- Even in the pandemic elective enrollments were solid, with a small decrease in the percentage of students taking 2 to 4 elective courses, dipping from 61.6% in 2020 to 59.6% in 2021.
- For the third consecutive year, however, there was a slight increase of 0.3% in the percentage of students taking 4.5-8 or more over four years. The pandemic was especially challenging for electives that rely on hands-on or performance based experiences in studios, labs, and workshops, but enrollment remained steady despite those challenges.

C. Student Level Profiles of Transcript Courses

A level profile was determined for each student in the class of 2021 from the courses on their transcripts. If a student took one course at a particular level, it was added to their level profile. In order to get a broad picture of a student's experience, only students who attended New Trier for all four years are included. The Class of 2020 is shown in parentheses.

Level Profile Description	# of Students	% of Students	Average # of AP classes	% of students taking at least one AP class
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Only level 4 courses		32 (45)	3.6% (4.9%)	6.9 (6.7)	100% (100%)
Both level 3 and 4	More 4 than 3	174 (167)	19.8% (18.1%)	5.0 (4.9)	100% (99.4%)
	More 3 than 4	264(289)	30.0% (31.3%)	2.1 (2.4)	94.7% (96.9%)
Levels 2, 3, and 4		126 (126)	14.6% (13.6%)	1.3 (1.4)	85.7% (85.7%)
Only level 3		36 (38)	4.1% (3.1%)	n/a	n/a
Both levels 2 and 3	More 3 than 2	106 (115)	12.0% (12.4%)	n/a	n/a
	More 2 than 3	121(119)	13.7% (12.9%)	n/a	n/a
Only level 2		22 (25)	2.5% (2.7%)	n/a	n/a
Grand Total		881(924)	100%		67.5% (68.1%)

- The vast majority of students take a combination of levels over their four years at New Trier, demonstrating the flexibility of the level system to meet the individual needs of each and every student within each discipline.
- The percentage of students taking courses at only one level over four years decreased at levels 2 and 4, indicating a trend toward students taking a combination of levels over four years. This trend is marked by the third consecutive increase in the percentage of students taking courses at levels 2, 3, and 4 with 14.6% of students doing so in the class of 2021 compared to 13.6% in 2020 and 11.0% in 2019. This upward trend is a benchmark for how flexible and accessible the level system is for all students.
- The most common academic program is one with a combination of levels - 89.8% of students take courses at different levels over the course of four years. Such a combination of levels is a testament to the flexibility of our level system in meeting the needs of each student within each discipline.
- The percentage of students taking at least one AP class has been on a steady upward trend over the last five years from 58.5% in 2015 to 68.1% in 2020, but saw a dip to 67.5% with the class of 2021.
- Classes taken at level 9 are counted as level 3 (Honors level) for the purposes of this study since that is the grade weight used for level 9 courses.
- Very few students take only level 2 courses because of the variety of level 9 interdisciplinary courses like Freshman World Studies, American Studies, and ample course offerings at level 9 available to seniors in English, Social Studies, and Science, as well as several level 9 offerings in Modern & Classical Languages. Level 9 courses provide students a great opportunity to learn in mixed-ability groups of students who take courses at all levels.

Section 2: College Matriculation for the Class of 2021

College Matriculation

The numbers reported in this section are for the colleges which students chose to attend. They do not represent the number of students accepted by the college or university. It is important to note that these numbers only include graduates who attended New Trier for four years for the purposes of reporting level profiles and course taking patterns as it relates to college matriculation. So in some cases, we had more graduates in the class of 2021 attend a particular college or university than is listed in the tables. For example, the tables indicate 16 students, all of whom attended New Trier for four years, chose to attend Oakton Community College, but we had a total of 26 students who were Oakton bound post-graduation.

Similar to previous years, the report shows college matriculation by level profile, number of core academics taken in four years, number of AP classes taken in four years, and number of elective classes taken in four years. The following tables include 537 students and 42 colleges and universities. Overall, the college bound students in this report are attending 227 different colleges or universities, including 13 students who are attending universities outside the United States and 7 students who are taking a Gap Year before matriculating to college. These data show that a wide variety of students attend any particular college and help set expectations for other students

hoping to attend that school. For example, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign accepted students with a wide variety of level profiles, but the vast majority of these students took 18 core academic courses or more. A current student or family can use these charts to see where students from the Class of 2021 went to college who had the same level profile, number of core academic classes, number of AP classes, or number of elective classes.

Of course, there are individual stories around each student in the tables and they do not reflect the individuality of each student nor the multi-dimensional nature of the college application or acceptance process. As with any data concerning colleges, a variety of factors determine where students are accepted and where they enroll. The matriculation tables are by no means a formula for admission to a particular college or university but rather provide a perspective on a variety of pathways to any one school. The level of courses a student takes is only one factor, among many other factors that colleges consider. The most popular colleges and the patterns that emerge from these charts are very similar to previous years.

Trends in College Applications and Admissions

The college attendance and admissions landscape has shifted dramatically as a result of COVID-19. The trend that may have had the greatest impact is the spike in the number of applications to highly selective schools and a precipitous decline in acceptance rates. During the last two years of the pandemic many students did not have access to the ACT or SAT and students were left without a test score. In response to this reality, accelerating a decade-long trend, many schools adopted a test-optional (or even test-blind) admission policy. According to a report by Common Application, nearly 90% of Common App's 900 member schools did not require ACT or SAT test scores for fall 2021 applicants. That shift brought the total number of test-optional schools to over two-thirds or 1570 four-year colleges and universities across the country. High school students saw an opportunity to apply not only to more schools but reach for highly selective schools. Only 43% of students nationwide submitted an ACT or SAT score in 2020-2021, down from 77% the previous year. Another factor caused by the pandemic that impacted admissions rates for the Class of 2021 was the number of students admitted to one of a few highly selective schools in the fall of 2020 admission, who then deferred their matriculation. Those students instead reserved a seat in the fall 2021 freshman class, further reducing offers of admissions to high school seniors, though it was not widespread beyond a few schools.

These two factors combined to drive up the number of applications by double digit increases on the order of 40-50% at many highly selective schools -- with Colgate seeing a 102% increase -- and drove down acceptance rates into single digits. Even the most selective schools like the Ivy League became even more selective, where four of the eight Ivies had sub-5% acceptance rates for fall 2021 admits. This trend rippled throughout the college application and admissions process, nationwide and locally, and our PHSC department is trying to understand whether these trends are the new normal or an anomaly.

New Trier students experienced the opportunities and disappointments that came with these shifts in the college admissions process. Though college matriculation rates remained consistently high for New Trier students, acceptance rates dipped at highly selective schools, in line with national trends. A number of factors impacted admission rates for our students. Nearly 40% of New Trier students in the class of 2021 did not submit an ACT or SAT test score compared to 57% nationally. It is not surprising that more of our students would submit a test score because students applying to highly selective schools have top ACT or SAT scores, but that may not have carried the same weight in a test-optional evaluation. Additionally, many of these students would have submitted an Early Decision application but some schools prohibited college tours and students felt less comfortable committing to a binding decision without having visited the campus. In fact, we had a 24% decrease in early decision applications to Ivy League schools. And our student-athletes experienced a similar type of deferral -- because the Ivy League cancelled competition during the 2020-2021 school year, student-athletes were granted another year of NCAA eligibility. As a result, schools had fewer scholarship opportunities for incoming freshmen and our student-athletes made different decisions to study and compete at other highly selective colleges.

Our Post High School Counselors are continuing to work closely with colleges and universities admissions administrators and representatives to learn more about these pandemic shifts to advocate for our students so they can best advise New Trier students and families. While some of these shifts in colleges' admission processes will continue, early indications of acceptance at highly selective colleges and universities are looking more similar to pre-pandemic rates.

Table 2.1 The table below shows all colleges where at least 5 graduates are attending and **the level profile** for those students.

College	Level Profile								# of Students
	2	2/3	3/2	3	2/3/4	3/4	4/3	4	
Indiana University - Bloomington		8	7	3	14	25	9	1	67
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign		4	6		7	18	17	3	55
University of Colorado Boulder		6	7		7	5	2	1	28
University of Wisconsin-Madison					2	18	5		25
Purdue University		2			4	9	7	1	23
Miami University-Oxford		5	5	1	3	6			20
University of Michigan		1		1		6	9	3	20
Northwestern University				2		3	10	4	19
University of Denver		6	3	1	3	4	1		18
Oakton Community College	1	8	1		3	1	2		16
University of Dayton	1	6	2	1		4			14
DePaul University		2	3	2	3	3			13
University of Iowa		5			2	3	3		13
Tulane University			3		4	4	1		12
New York University					2	6	2	1	11
DePauw University	1	2	1		1	3	2		10
The University of Arizona		4	1	1	2	2			10
Marquette University		2	1		3	2	1		9
Washington University in St Louis						1	6	2	9
American University			2		3	1	2		8
Denison University		2	1		2	2	1		8
Michigan State University		1	5	1		1			8
Southern Methodist University		1			1	5	1		8
University of California-Los Angeles			1	1		2	3	1	8
University of Illinois at Chicago		1	3		2	1	1		8
University of Miami					2	5	1		8
Colorado State University		2	2	1	2				7
Ohio State University						6	1		7
Texas Christian University		2	1		1	2	1		7
Santa Clara University					2	2	2		6
The University of Alabama		2				4			6
Wake Forest University				1	2	2	1		6
Georgetown University						1	4		5
Kenyon College					1	1	3		5
Lehigh University					1	2	2		5
Loyola University Chicago		1	1		2	1			5
Middlebury College						2	3		5
Syracuse University		1			2	2			5
University of Chicago							2	3	5
University of Missouri		2	2	1					5
University of Vermont					2	3			5
Vanderbilt University							5		5

Table 2.2. The table below shows all the colleges where at least 5 graduates are attending and **the number of core academic courses** on those students' transcripts. New Trier recommends students take between 4 and 5 Core Academics per year, which is 16 to 20 Core Academics over four years.

College	<16	16-17.5	18-18.5	19-19.5	20	>20	# of Students
Indiana University	1	11	12	24	8	11	67
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign		7	11	17	11	9	55
University of Colorado Boulder	1	7	5	8	6	1	28
University of Wisconsin-Madison			2	8	9	6	25
Purdue University		3	8	6	3	3	23
Miami University-Oxford			3	6	7	4	20
University of Michigan		1	5	6	7	1	20
Northwestern University			5	8	4	2	19
University of Denver		5	7	2	2	2	18
Oakton Community College	3	8	1	4			16
University of Dayton		2	6	4	2		14
DePaul University		6	2	3	1	1	13
University of Iowa		3	5	4	1		13
Tulane University			1	4	5	2	12
New York University		1		5	1	4	11
DePauw University			3	4		3	10
The University of Arizona		2	4	4			10
Marquette University		1	3	3	1	1	9
Washington University in St Louis		1	1	3	3	1	9
American University		2	1	2	1	2	8
Denison University		1	1	2	4		8
Michigan State University		1	3	3	1		8
Southern Methodist University		1	1	5		1	8
University of California-Los Angeles		2		3	2	1	8
University of Illinois at Chicago		1	1	6			8
University of Miami		1	3	2	1	1	8
Colorado State University	1	1	4	1			7
Ohio State University			1	4	1	1	7
Texas Christian University				6	1		7
Santa Clara University		1	1	1	1	2	6
The University of Alabama			3	2	1		6
Wake Forest University			1	2	1	2	6
Georgetown University				1	3	1	5
Kenyon College		1	1	3			5
Lehigh University			1	3	1		5
Loyola University Chicago	2	2		1			5
Middlebury College				2	2	1	5
Syracuse University			1	3		1	5
University of Chicago			1	1	1	2	5
University of Missouri	1	1	1	2			5
University of Vermont			1	3		1	5
Vanderbilt University				1	2	2	5

Table 2.3. The table below shows all colleges where at least 5 graduates are attending and **the number of AP classes** on those students' transcripts.

	Number of AP Courses	

College	0	1	2	3	>=4	# of Students
Indiana University-Bloomington	20	17	16	5	9	67
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	11	8	8	6	22	55
University of Colorado Boulder	15	6	3	1	3	28
University of Wisconsin-Madison		5	7	4	9	25
Purdue University	4	3	3	4	9	23
Miami University-Oxford	13	5	1		1	20
University of Michigan	2	1	1	3	13	20
Northwestern University	2		1		16	19
University of Denver	11	5	1		1	18
Oakton Community College	11	2	1	1	1	16
University of Dayton	10	1	2	1		14
DePaul University	8	3	1			13
University of Iowa	6	2	2	1	2	13
Tulane University	4	4	2		2	12
New York University	1	5	2		3	11
DePauw University	4	2	1	1	1	10
The University of Arizona	7	2	1			10
Marquette University	3	4		1	1	9
Washington University in St Louis				2	7	9
American University	3	1		1	3	8
Denison University	5	2	1			8
Michigan State University	8					8
Southern Methodist University	2	2	1	1	1	8
University of California-Los Angeles	2		1		5	8
University of Illinois at Chicago	4	3			1	8
University of Miami	2	3	1	1	1	8
Colorado State University	5	1	1			7
Ohio State University		1	2	1	3	7
Texas Christian University	3	1	2	1		7
Santa Clara University		1	3		2	6
The University of Alabama	2	1	1	2		6
Wake Forest University	1	2		2	1	6
Georgetown University					5	5
Kenyon College		1	1		3	5
Lehigh University		1	2	1	1	5
Loyola University Chicago	2	3				5

Middlebury College		1		2	2	5
Syracuse University	1	1	3			5
University of Chicago					5	5
University of Missouri	5					5
University of Vermont	1	2	1	1		5
Vanderbilt University				1	4	5

Table 2.4 The table below shows all colleges where at least 5 graduates are attending and the number of Elective Department classes on those students' transcripts.

College	Number of Elective Courses					# of Students
	1-1.5	2	2.5-4	4.5-8	>8	
Indiana University-Bloomington	8	9	35	12	3	67
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	6	9	24	13	3	55
University of Colorado Boulder	2	4	11	10	1	28
University of Wisconsin-Madison	4	4	9	7	1	25
Purdue University	2	3	10	8		23
Miami University-Oxford	3	6	7	4		20
University of Michigan-Ann Arbor	4	5	6	3	2	20
Northwestern University	2	3	6	6	2	19
University of Denver	2	2	9	5		18
Oakton Community College	2	3	7	3	1	16
University of Dayton	1	5	7	1		14
DePaul University	1	1	5	4	2	13
University of Iowa	1	3	9			13
Tulane University	1		6	4	1	12
New York University	1		6	3	1	11
DePauw University		2	7	1		10
The University of Arizona		1	6	3		10
Marquette University		3	5		1	9
Washington University in St Louis		1	4	3	1	9
American University		1	3	4		8
Denison University	1	1	3	3		8
Michigan State University		1	4	2	1	8
Southern Methodist University	1		6	1		8
University of California-Los Angeles	2		4	1	1	8
University of Illinois at Chicago	1	1	4	2		8
University of Miami	1	1	6			8
Colorado State University			4	3		7
Ohio State University	2		3	2		7
Texas Christian University	2	1	4			7
Santa Clara University		1	3	2		6
The University of Alabama	1	2	2	1		6
Wake Forest University		3	3			6
Georgetown University	2	1	1	1		5
Kenyon College	1			3	1	5
Lehigh University	2		1	2		5
Loyola University Chicago			4	1		5
Middlebury College	2	2	1			5

Syracuse University			4	1		5
University of Chicago		1	2	1	1	5
University of Missouri		1	2	2		5
University of Vermont	2		1	2		5
Vanderbilt University	1		3	1		5

Colleges attended by Conference

Below is a list of the colleges attended by at least one student in the class of 2021 by NCAA Division I Conference. Unlike the college matriculation tables above that includes only students who graduated and attended New Trier for four years, the table below includes all 2021 graduates, including those students who did not attend New Trier for four years. The colleges that New Trier students attended in each conference are listed in alphabetical order.

Conference	# of Students	Colleges
Big 10	261	Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Maryland, Michigan, Michigan State, Minnesota, Northwestern, Ohio State, Penn State, Purdue, Wisconsin
Big East	38	Butler, DePaul, Georgetown, Marquette, Providence, Villanova, Xavier
ACC	39	Boston College, Clemson, Duke, Florida State, Georgia Tech, Miami, North Carolina, Notre Dame, Pittsburgh, Syracuse, Virginia, Virginia Tech, Wake Forest
PAC 12	66	Arizona, Arizona State, Cal Berkeley, Colorado, Oregon, Stanford, UCLA, USC, Utah,
Patriot League	27	American, Boston University, Bucknell, Colgate, Lehigh, U.S. Military Academy, U.S. Naval Academy
Ivy	8	Brown, Columbia, Cornell, Harvard, Pennsylvania, Yale
MAC	26	Kent State, Miami - Ohio, Northern Illinois, Ohio University
Missouri Valley	14	Bradley, Illinois State, Loyola Chicago, Southern Illinois,
American	22	SMU, Tulane, South Florida
SEC	32	Alabama, Florida, Kentucky, LSU, Mississippi, Missouri, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas A&M, Vanderbilt
Total	533	

