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r/AskChicago • 4 mo. ago

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What's the best Chicago area college option?

Hi everyone! I'm a suburban community college student moving to Chicago in May (I signed a lease for a place in Little Italy lol). I've gotten accepted all the schools in the Chicago area I applied to except UIC!! This is something both me and my advisor were actually quite shocked by. I'm an accounting major and I'm torn between Loyola, Depaul, & Roosevelt. I'm also waiting on Northeastern Illinois to receive my transcript & give me a decision. My net cost per year for these schools are as followed: (after grants, scholarships, & work study, but before any federal or private loans).

- Loyola: \$13,900
- Depaul: \$15,060
- Roosevelt: \$8,100
- Northeastern (If accepted): \$4,500

This is a first impression and about as I know more information on this subject. I will be sure to update my post as more information comes in.

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hatrickkane88 • 4mo ago

[DePaul](#) or [Loyola](#) would be best for your major. Large, well known, and good networks (particularly in the Chicago area).

Unfortunately they cost more but over the long run you will definitely get that money back relative to your other options.

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Yep-- even if this all goes on loans, two years at those rates is still less than the cost of a car. Even if the difference in job prospects was only \$5k/year, it wouldn't take long at all for the difference in cost to pay for itself.

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neeeerah • 4mo ago

Seconding this. I went to depaul, studied accounting, and also a first gen, so i feel ya! Depaul has an amazing network, if you do well and maintain at least a 3.5 gpa, you'll be at a big 4 firm no problem.

Good luck and congrats!!

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O-parker • 4mo ago • Edited 4mo ago

DePaul and Loyola will open more doors after graduation than Roosevelt or Northeastern .

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marshmnstr • 4mo ago

I went to [UIC](#) for undergrad, you're not missing anything. DePaul has a great networking alumni base. Both my wife and I got our Masters from there. The instructors were great, help was always readily available, and I never felt like a number or an unknown like I felt at UIC.

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iceprincess10102 • 4mo ago

Definitely depaul for accounting

↑ 16 ↓ ○ Reply ...



jamey1138 • 4mo ago

I'm a high school teacher, and I have a former student who finished her accounting degree at Loyola and *immediately* started at a [Big 5 firm](#). A few years later and she's absolutely *crushing it*. Obviously, no one can promise that you'll have the same experience, but clearly the school has a solid reputation, and likely has the connections to allow a recent grad that kind of opportunity.

It'll be the longest commute of the three (NEIU is even longer, because it isn't very close to an El stop), but the pink line to the red line will give you an hour each way work on homework...

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I'm an accountant who did City Colleges, then NEIU. If you've already taken two years at community colleges, I wouldn't recommend starting at Roosevelt or Northeastern and transferring since most programs require you complete 60 hours with them. You'd most likely need to retake courses at UIC and would be wasting the tuition.

NEIU is not prestigious, but the accounting program is solid and the professors are good (or were 8 years ago). I managed a 3.9 which got me into Northern's graduate accounting program. It's one of the best in the country and not that expensive. If cost is a big deciding factor, NEIU and NIU are solid choices. I work as a staff accountant now, but lots of people I graduated with were recruited by Big 4 firms. Admittedly NEIU doesn't have a big social scene so if you're looking for a college experience, that might not be it. Good luck!

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DePaul has a lot of support for first generation students and a loyal alumni network.

[↑](#) 8 [↓](#) [Reply](#) ...**blipsman** • 4mo ago[Top 1% Commenter](#)

I think DePaul is the best/most prestigious of the schools listed, followed by Loyola. And then there are the others...

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