

DePaul University

Enhanced resources at no cost to the university

CASE STUDY

About

DePaul University is the largest Catholic university in the U.S. and private institution in Chicago, serving over 14,000 undergraduate and 7,850 graduate students. It has about 2,700 on-campus beds, leaving the majority of full-time students searching for housing off-campus. DePaul University students split time between two primary campuses in the Lincoln Park neighborhood and the downtown Loop area. DePaul's Adult, Veteran and Commuter Student Affairs assists these populations in their transition to college and supports them in achieving their educational goals. The office collaborates with key university and external partners to provide services, resources and programs that address the specific needs of this student population. The office also works to create an environment that encourages and nurtures student engagement in campus life.

Challenge

DePaul University students lacked a dedicated resource to help them find housing options across Chicago and to securely connect with other DePaul students looking for housing. DePaul's Adult, Veteran and Commuter Student Affairs office wanted to find a solution that addressed these issues and enabled them to promote existing resources.

Solution

The Off Campus Partners Team at Apartments.com provided DePaul University with a fully hosted, University-branded off-campus housing solution, delivered at a DePaul.edu URL. The high-quality best-in-class software solution simplified the off-campus housing search process for students by informing them of housing options across Chicago, enabling connections via a secure Roommate Finder, and educating them with an online resource repository. Students use the intelligent-mapping functionality to browse the full spectrum of housing options, off-campus points of interest, such as groceries, coffee, and restaurants, and transit routes and stops.

Results

Within the first 4 years, 53,727 DePaul University students, faculty/staff and parent users across 108,814 sessions had logged in to connect with communities across Chicago, and DePaul University students had created over 1,900 roommate profiles in an effort to connect with one another. The Off Campus Partners Team provided this at no cost to DePaul University, while providing a steady source of revenue.

The website streamlines what can be a complicated process for students, and their customer service is fast and reliable.

James Stewart, Director, Office of Adult Student Affairs.