Every student deserves their own success story!
www.jjay.cuny.edu/vision-undergraduate-student-success

@John Jay College

524 WEST 59TH STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10019
46% Latinx
20% Black
13% Asian

47% first-generation students

400+ Veteran Students with an active support center and student-led association

14% increase in 4-year graduation rate over 6 years

RANKED 3rd for black student success

WE EXCEED THE NATIONAL AVERAGE graduation rates for Black and Latinx students.

75% of our students come from NYC public schools

46% Latinx
14% increase in 4-year graduation rate over 6 years

IN STUDENT SOCIAL MOBILITY by the Equality of Opportunity Project: reflecting likelihood that a John Jay graduate moves up 2 or more income quintiles

WE EXCEED THE NATIONAL AVERAGE graduation rates for Black and Latinx students.

John Jay is recognized as a HSI HISPANIC SERVING INSTITUTION

John Jay is recognized as a MSI MINORITY-SERVING INSTITUTION

Top 10 among colleges where graduates have the least debt — U.S. News & World Report
JOHN JAY COLLEGE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE has an internationally recognized reputation for educating its students to be fierce advocates for justice in their communities, around the country, and around the world.
JOHN JAY COLLEGE has become the preeminent leader in educating for justice, a broadly envisioned educational experience embracing social, economic, political, and criminal justice. And our mission goes beyond instilling the principles of justice—we are also deeply committed to helping shape a society at large that is reflective of those principles and delivers upon the promise of equity.

With a richly diverse student body that is 46 percent Hispanic, 20 percent Black, and 13 percent Asian, John Jay College is recognized as both a Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI) and a Minority-Serving Institution (MSI) and it is our intention to be the premier such institution in the United States. Some 47 percent of our students are the first in their families to attend college and a third are born outside of the United States. The vast majority—three quarters—come to John Jay from New York City public schools and more than 400 are military veterans.

The College is proud of its longstanding record as a transformational force for historically underrepresented students. Thanks to an inspired, comprehensive approach to supporting learning, our four-year graduation rates for both Hispanic and Black students exceed the national averages. Indeed, John Jay has been ranked third in the nation for Black student success.

To frame the impact of a John Jay College education in a broader perspective, we rank in the Top 10 among American universities in student social mobility according to a Harvard-based think tank. Of the 54 percent of John Jay students who come from lower-income families, nearly two-thirds (61 percent) rise to the top 40 percent of income earners nationally. And, at a time when the burden of mounting college costs has come under scrutiny, we are ranked as one of the Top 10 colleges where graduates have the least debt by *U.S. News & World Report*.

Moreover, as John Jay graduates take with them the fundamentals which are at the core of this institution—a clear understanding of what makes a just society and of the challenges to building it—they are uniquely equipped to serve as agents of change themselves, diverse justice leaders in an increasingly diverse America.
Our Mission
to Change the Face of Opportunity

PRESIDENT KAROL V. MASON

aims to bring the four-year graduation rate from 30 percent to 40 percent, the six-year graduation rate from 47 percent to 65 percent, and the four-year rate for transfer students from 61 percent to 70 percent. Importantly, meeting these targets will ensure that John Jay exceeds national averages.

The effort is the latest in John Jay’s continuing commitment to addressing a marked equity gap in college completion rates, a critical driver of future financial success and wellness. Though the United States ranks 10th in the world in this metric, its White citizens complete college at a rate that would rank this country fourth internationally, while its Black and Hispanic—or Latinx—citizens’ attainment would rank our nation in 28th and 35th place, respectively. Meanwhile, students from families in the highest-income quartile in the U.S. are five times more likely to graduate with a bachelor’s degree by the age of 24 than students in the lowest-income quartile.

But we are not multiple different Americas and these statistics demonstrate a national injustice that we at John Jay work daily to rectify. Indeed, given that demographic shifts project that 29 percent of the U.S. population will be Latinx by 2050, 13 percent will be Black, and 9 percent will be Asian, we consider our imperative to level the playing field in higher education as crucial to America’s continued prosperity.

By publicly outlining our vision in measurable goals and openly sharing the methods—innovative, cost-effective, data-driven, and scalable strategies that could be adopted at other institutions—John Jay College seeks to lead the way in how to address the nation’s completion crisis for historically underrepresented and low-income students. We intend to set a new model for student success, one which will not only produce college graduates but civic-minded leaders of every background.
In 2018, under the leadership of President Karol V. Mason, John Jay College embarked on a bold initiative to dramatically raise student completion rates by year 2025.
The Blueprint for Student Success

As historically underrepresented Latinx, Black, and low-income students enter college in record numbers, the key is to provide the support they need to graduate and thrive thereafter.

Innovative Approaches that Drive College Completion

**Accelerate, Complete, and Engage (ACE)**

Now entering its fifth year at John Jay—with generous public and private support—ACE has produced a remarkable 16 percentage point increase in graduation rates among participating students: The four-year graduation rate for ACE students is 58 percent, versus 42 percent for students in a comparison group. These gains reflect the power of implementing ACE’s personalized interventions such as academic advisement and career counseling plus timely tuition assistance, and subsidies for textbooks and transportation. The City University of New York (CUNY), recognizing the success of the ACE model, began implementing it at another one of its colleges this year. John Jay is also conducting a randomized controlled trial to further validate ACE’s impact on four-year completion rates.

**Completion for Upper-Division Student Program (CUSP)**

The CUSP program is designed specifically to help seniors at John Jay reach graduation. In its pilot year, the initiative has already seen 73 percent of its participating students graduate after one year—in comparison to a two year expected graduate rate of 54 percent for similar seniors without any intervention. Launched in 2018 with private funding, CUSP shows the power of marrying data-driven science (aggregated stats from John Jay academic records revealed which behaviors put students most at risk of dropping out) with responsive personal advising: Students are guided on how to meet remaining academic requirements, given strategies for overcoming financial barriers, and offered post-graduation planning and referral resources.
CUNY Justice Academy (CJA)

A key component of the College’s pioneering work to boost transfer student success, the CJA program seamlessly links transfer students from selected associate degree programs at six City University of New York (CUNY) community colleges to baccalaureate degree programs—in criminal justice, forensics, computer science, and more—at John Jay. Transfer students are paired with an advisor who guides them to resources, services, and networking opportunities that help them successfully integrate into the college and achieve their academic and career goals. Thanks to this comprehensive approach, John Jay has the highest transfer graduation rate among CUNY senior colleges. For CJA students, 63 percent graduate with a bachelor’s degree within three years, which is more than double the national rate of 30 percent for associate degree students who transfer and earn a bachelor’s degree within four years.
Forging New Pathways to Professional Advancement

As part of its commitment to effect opportunities for all, John Jay opens doors to careers even as students pursue their undergraduate degree.

Law School Preparation—Pre-Law Institute (PLI) & Ronald H. Brown Law School Prep Program (Ron Brown)

Delivering on John Jay's core mandate of Educating for Justice, the PLI and Ron Brown programs provide academic support and professional development initiatives to help students perform optimally as law school applicants and as law students. Thanks to these intentional supports for students pursuing legal careers, John Jay College is the fourth largest source of Black applicants and 12th largest source of Latinx applicants to law schools in the country.

Program for Research Initiatives in Science and Math (PRISM)

PRISM’s Undergraduate Research Program helps propel John Jay graduates in their pursuit of science careers. Since the federally- and state-funded program’s founding in 2006, hundreds of undergraduate researchers have participated in mentored research experiences—receiving long-term support from faculty and dedicated staff who provide training and advisement—and over a hundred of them have gained admissions to post-graduate programs in STEM and health. Over half of our PRISM students are from populations underrepresented in the sciences. The National Science Foundation, the National Academy of Sciences, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science have recognized PRISM as a model of excellence for improving the number of underrepresented students in the STEM pipeline. Building upon this successful approach, John Jay has introduced our newest initiative, The Junior Scholars Program, to support an additional 60-plus science and math students per year.
**Academic Preparation Program for Law Enforcement (APPLE Corps)**

Through the publicly-funded APPLE Corps, John Jay students who are interested in social justice issues, public service or law enforcement careers are given academic, professional, and financial assistance during their first two years of undergraduate study to support their academic progress and degree completion. Thanks to this program, 59 percent of the 2015 John Jay APPLE Corps cohort graduated in four years, including 43.3 percent who are Latinx, 20 percent who are Asian, and 17 percent who are Black.

**Prisoner Reentry Institute (PRI)**

Since its launch in 2005, PRI has helped over 1,400 justice-involved men and women enroll in college. PRI’s programming includes direct services to provide postsecondary education and certification programs to students who are incarcerated or who are in the community and have had justice-involvement or been impacted by the justice system. Through PRI’s College Initiative, returning citizens receive academic counseling to navigate the bureaucratic and financial barriers to entry into college and the continuing educational support they need to succeed, including our nationally-recognized peer mentoring program. The institute’s advocacy reaches well beyond John Jay’s campus: PRI, in collaboration with the State University of New York, serves as the Education and Reentry Coordinator for New York state’s publicly funded College-in-Prison Reentry Program.
The Power...
Every year, hundreds of John Jay College students are uplifted by our groundbreaking support initiatives on their way to graduation and leadership. Meet just a few of the faces of success...
Ronald Day, ’19

As Vice President of Programs for the Fortune Society, a nonprofit providing services and advocacy for the justice involved, Day’s dedication to its mission is both professional and personal. “To make a really long story short, I left prison with 51 college credits,” says Day of how he dedicated himself to education during a 15-year incarceration. John Jay’s Prisoner Reentry Institute (PRI) helped him, through its College Initiative program, to apply those credits toward a CUNY bachelor’s degree. “I finished a bachelor’s degree, then a master’s degree with honors, and I was accepted into two Ph.D. programs,” recalls Day. “I accepted admission to the CUNY Graduate Center/John Jay program in Criminal Justice in 2012, five years after my release.” He received his doctorate in May 2019.

Eugenia Salcedo, ’14

Back in 2012, Salcedo was in her second year at John Jay College taking intro courses in biology toward her forensic science degree when her biology professor, Ronald Pilette, Ph.D., helped arrange for her to apply to the Program for Research Initiatives in Science and Math (PRISM) program. To make it doable as she juggled work, Pilette offered her a part-time job as a program assistant at the PRISM office. “The lab research I did through PRISM was instrumental in me moving forward to apply to grad school,” says Salcedo, now in her fifth year researching chemical biology at the University of California in San Francisco. A native of the Dominican Republic who moved to Brooklyn with her family when she was 13, Salcedo looks forward to earning her doctorate and being a role model to women in the sciences.
Rosemarie Siri, ’19

Entering her senior year at John Jay, Siri was debating which electives to take to fulfill her remaining credits and trying to figure out how to pay for them now that her New York State Tuition Assistance Program grant money had run out. Through the Completion for Upper-Division Student Program (CUSP), she received counseling from a CUSP academic advisor before signing up for the next semester’s classes. “It made all the difference,” Siri says. Not only was she guided to a law course which turned out to influence her career choice—she currently works at a law firm—but also to a small but key $1,200 grant that kept her on track to her May 2019 graduation.

Kenya Edwards, ’19

It wasn’t easy, says Edwards: Living in a shelter as a single mother to a young daughter and trying to find an apartment while upholding an A average. But from the moment in 2016 when Edwards walked into the admissions office as a transfer student from the Borough of Manhattan Community College, John Jay College has been a game-changing support system. “I got accepted into the Honors Program,” says Edwards, who meanwhile was automatically linked with an advisor through the CUNY Justice Academy (CJA). As a counselor with the on-campus Single Stop program guided her to crucial resources (public assistance for housing, food, child care, transportation, and more), her CJA advisor helped her roadmap the courses she needed to complete her degree. “I’ve just been blessed enough to always have a support system from the faculty members at John Jay,” says Edwards, who is studying for the LSAT this fall.
Angelica Puente-Soto, ’16

“I have no doubt in my mind that you can do this.” Puente-Soto credits that vote of confidence from Charles Davidson, J.D., Ph.D., the director of the Pre-Law Institute, for getting her across the finish line of college graduation and into PLI’s study program for the LSAT. She was a single working mother who was the first in her family to attend college, much less dream of a law degree. “I had a 3.9 GPA but I knew I needed to reinforce my legal resume,” she says. Through PLI, she secured an internship at the Bronx family court. “That internship was absolutely instrumental in my application to law school and it reinforced my passion for the law,” she says. Puente-Soto received her juris doctorate at the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law and now works as a public defender with the Legal Aid Society.

Joseph An, ’18

“Ever since I was a child, I knew I wanted to become a law enforcement officer so I could help protect and serve the very city I grew up in and love,” says An. As part of the first group of students in the Academic Preparation Program for Law Enforcement (APPLE Corps) program, An and his fellow classmates had their courses planned out alongside academic advisors to prepare for careers in law enforcement and the like. “Every semester, the APPLE Corps staff met with us a couple of times in order to keep us in the right direction,” he says. “In January 2017, I became a Police Cadet with the New York Police Department, six months earlier than what was originally projected.” An is now a police officer with the NYPD and he still recalls with gratitude how his three APPLE Corps mentors were there at his college graduation to heartily congratulate him.
Among the admission materials she received in the mail from John Jay, it was the postcard about the College’s Accelerate-Complete-Engage (ACE) program that was to change Damblu’s life. “It was because of ACE that I was able to earn my degree,” says the now college graduate—the first in her family. The one-on-one advisement, which ACE provides, helped Damblu navigate not just course credits but also financial aid applications and a career pathway. “My advisor helped me figure out which direction to go, because for a while I had a tough time deciding what career path I wanted to pursue,” she says. Being part of ACE also meant a free MetroCard which was equally crucial, enabling Damblu to take a full load of classes, but still save money from her part-time job to buy food and contribute to household expenses. Today, Damblu is pursuing her master’s degree in social work.

Nearly 50% of John Jay graduates pursue careers in Public Service.
Help Us Shape the Future of Opportunity

By setting ambitious new benchmarks for college completion rates among its richly diverse student body, John Jay College has planted a stake to further the goal of bringing opportunity for all in today’s society. Just one year into our work to outperform national averages for graduation rates by 2025, we are already meaningfully moving the needle.

We now invite you to take part in John Jay’s bold plan. With your help, we can leverage these proven approaches and pioneer new ones to reach more students and allow them to realize their educational—and life—goals. The impact of your contribution goes beyond 2025: You will be partnering with John Jay to lead the way to equity for the underrepresented and low-income students we serve.

To learn more about supporting student success at John Jay College, visit giving.jjay.cuny.edu or call 212-237-8624.
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