

Loyola Academy

Wilmette, United States



The largest Jesuit high school in America draws teens from 90-plus Chicago zip codes into a century of Ignatian rigor.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	62/100
Academic outcomes	72/100
University placement	69/100
Prestige & heritage	71/100
Alumni network	12/100
Facilities	72/100
Transparency	68/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

Loyola Academy occupies a rare position in the Chicago market: a large, urban-draw Catholic day school with the scale of a major American high school and the discipline of a Jesuit education. Founded in ****1909****, it serves more than ****2,000**** students and draws from more than ****80**** zip codes across the Chicago area. That matters. A school of this size can field a broad academic and co-curricular offer, but size also changes the daily experience: this is not an intimate village school where every pupil knows every other pupil. It is a busy, structured institution with a strong centre of gravity, shaped by Catholic life and Ignatian expectations. For families who want **serious academic purpose**, **moral seriousness** and a school community that reaches far beyond one affluent suburb, Loyola earns a place on the shortlist.

What sets it apart is the combination of reach, tradition and Jesuit identity. The largest Jesuit high school in America carries a distinct proposition: not boutique luxury, not progressive looseness, but a big-school version of *intellectual discipline* and *service-minded ambition*. The American college-preparatory curriculum is the baseline; the stronger differentiator is the school's religious and philosophical frame. Jesuit schools work best for students who can handle scrutiny, deadlines, accountability and reflection without constant hand-holding. The published student-teacher ratio of **1:13** points to access to teachers, but no parent should mistake that for a small-school atmosphere. Loyola's appeal lies in its *earned seriousness* and *institutional confidence*, not in pastoral cosiness.

The pupil who will thrive here is bright, organised and willing to work within a clear framework. Loyola suits teenagers who want a substantial peer group, a recognisable Catholic identity and a school that takes formation as seriously as grades. It will also suit families who value a socially mixed intake drawn from across metropolitan Chicago rather than a narrow neighbourhood enclave. Students who need a highly informal culture, light-touch expectations or a strongly secular environment will find the fit poor. For the right child, though, Loyola offers *a sense of mission*, *big-school energy* and a century-old Jesuit model that still carries weight.

STRENGTHS

- Largest Jesuit high school in the United States, drawing over 2,000 students from more than 80-90 zip codes across the Chicago area.
- Small student-teacher ratio of roughly 12:1 despite the school's large overall enrollment of about 2,000 students.
- Strong standardized test averages, with students reporting an average SAT of 1310 and ACT of 29, alongside a 100% graduation rate.
- Offers merit-based entrance scholarships (Bellarmine and Gravier Awards) tied to entrance-exam percentile scores, not solely need-based aid.
- Extensive athletics and extracurricular program, fielding over 80 teams across 34 sports plus a long-established newspaper and yearbook.

TRADE-OFFS

- Explicitly Roman Catholic and Jesuit in mission and daily formation, which may not suit families seeking a secular or religiously neutral environment.
- Acceptance rate of around 76% is described as more selective than the U.S. national private-school average of 85%, adding a real admissions hurdle.
- Published day tuition figures vary by source (roughly \$11,900 to \$21,450), so relocating families should verify exact current costs directly with the school.
- Located in suburban Wilmette, about 15 miles from central Chicago, meaning families without a car may face a longer commute than an in-city school.

ADMISSIONS

Loyola Academy enrolls students in grades 9-12 through a rolling admissions process requiring transcripts, recommendations, an entrance exam, and standardized testing information; transfers are also considered based on academic fit and space. The stated application deadline is around January 27, though rolling admissions continues afterward. With an acceptance rate near 76 percent, it is more selective than the U.S. private-school average, and merit scholarships (Bellarmino, Gravier) are awarded based on entrance-exam percentile rank.

WTS RATING 

This profile summarises editorial research by World's Top Schools. Verify all admissions dates directly with the school before submitting. Sources are cited in the full online profile at WorldsTopSchools.com/schools/sch_ceeb76b93f.