



1837 CHEYNEY  
UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

# FALL 2025 ENROLLMENT SNAPSHOT

*Celebrating Growth, Momentum, and  
Student Success*

**38%**  
SINGLE YEAR  
GROWTH

Largest increase in over a  
decade

# Cheyney University Fall 2025 Enrollment Snapshot

**A Decade-Defining Moment of Growth and Impact**

**A Historic Enrollment High**

This fall, 851 students call Cheyney University home, the largest enrollment in more than a decade. This represents a 38% increase since Fall 2020, making Cheyney one of the fastest-growing public HBCUs in the nation.

Unlike many regional institutions experiencing stagnation or decline, Cheyney is trending upward. This surge reflects the strength of our brand, the dedication of our faculty and staff, and the enduring appeal of the nation's first HBCU.

# Introduction: A Moment of Momentum

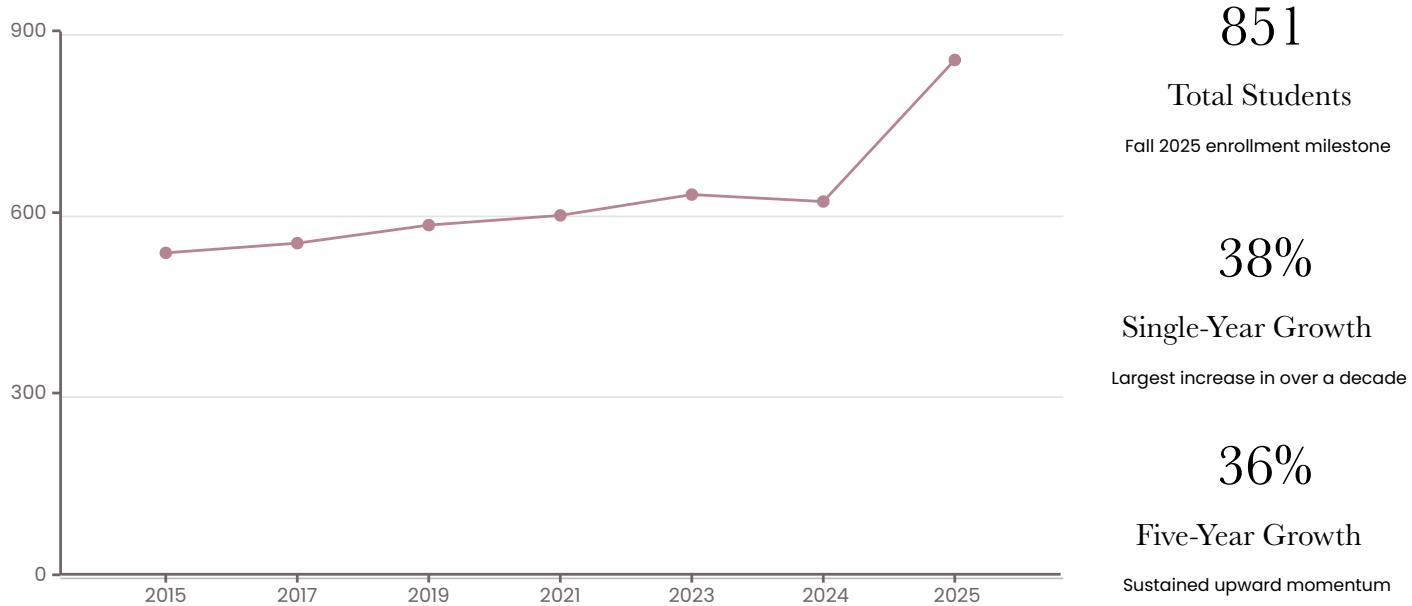
Fall 2025 represents a turning point in Cheyney University's journey, a moment where historic legacy meets unprecedented momentum. As we analyze the enrollment data from this transformative semester, we see more than statistical growth; we witness the revival of an institution that has educated leaders, innovators, and change-makers for nearly two centuries.

This enrollment snapshot tells a story of resilience and renewal. It chronicles how a university founded on the principles of access and excellence continues to fulfill its mission in the 21st century. Each data point represents individual dreams realized, families lifted, and communities strengthened through the power of higher education.

The numbers you'll discover in this report aren't just metrics, they're testimonies to the enduring strength of the HBCU experience. They reflect the dedication of our faculty who inspire excellence daily, the commitment of our staff who support every student's journey, and the unwavering faith of families who choose Cheyney as the foundation for their children's futures.

As we celebrate these remarkable achievements, we also recognize that enrollment is fundamentally about impact. Behind every percentage increase is a student who will graduate prepared to lead, serve, and transform their communities. This is the true measure of our success, not just in numbers enrolled, but in lives transformed and futures made bright.

# Historic Enrollment Growth: A Decade-Defining Achievement



The Fall 2025 enrollment of **851 students** represents the largest single-year enrollment jump in over a decade, with a remarkable **38% increase** from Fall 2024. This unprecedented growth reflects years of strategic planning, enhanced student services, and renewed confidence in Cheyney's academic excellence.

Over the past five years, enrollment has grown by an impressive 36%, demonstrating sustained momentum rather than a temporary surge. This consistent growth pattern indicates that Cheyney has successfully addressed fundamental challenges while building a foundation for continued expansion. The university's commitment to student success, combined with enhanced academic offerings and improved campus facilities, has created an environment where students thrive and renewed dedication and commitment have driven organic growth.

This historic achievement positions Cheyney among the fastest-growing HBCUs in the nation, reinforcing our role as a vital institution in American higher education. The enrollment surge reflects not just institutional recovery, but genuine transformation, a university reimagined for the demands and opportunities of the modern era while staying true to its founding mission of educational access and excellence.

# Record-Breaking Freshman Class: Doubling Our Future

## 361 First-Time Freshmen

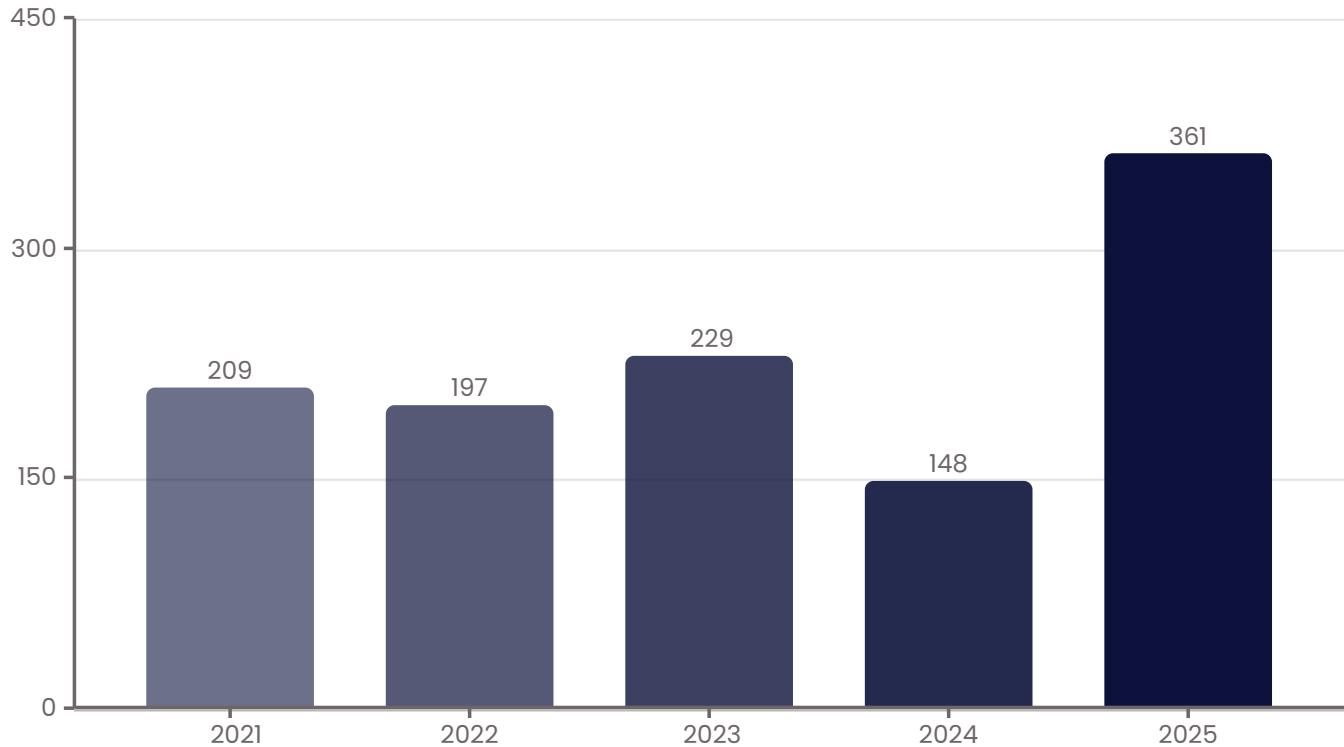
**The largest freshman class in recent memory, representing hopes, dreams, and aspirations of students and families across the region**

## 144% Increase

**Nearly doubling from last year's class of 148 students, a testament to Cheyney's growing reputation and appeal**

## Unprecedented Interest

**Reflects enhanced recruitment efforts, improved campus facilities, and strong word-of-mouth recommendations from current students**



The arrival of 361 first-time freshmen represents more than statistical success—it embodies renewed faith in Cheyney University's mission and capabilities. This remarkable 144% increase from the previous year's 148 students demonstrates that families across Pennsylvania and beyond are choosing Cheyney as the foundation for their children's futures.

This record-breaking freshman class brings energy, diversity, and fresh perspectives to campus. These students represent the next generation of leaders, innovators, and change-makers who will benefit from Cheyney's unique combination of academic rigor, cultural heritage, and personal attention. Their presence energizes the entire campus community and creates a vibrant learning environment that benefits all students.

# Strong Retention and Student Success: Excellence in Action



New Student  
Retention

77%

Highest retention rate in at least five years

Student success at Cheyney extends far beyond enrollment numbers. Our **77% new student retention rate** represents the highest level in at least five years, demonstrating that students who choose Cheyney find the support, engagement, and academic challenge they need to persist and succeed. This retention milestone reflects comprehensive student support services, enhanced academic advising, and a campus culture that prioritizes student success.

The steady continuing student **GPA of 2.83** indicates consistent academic performance across all programs and class levels. This stability suggests that our students are well-prepared for their coursework and receive the academic support necessary to maintain satisfactory progress toward graduation. Combined with improved retention rates, these metrics paint a picture of an institution where students don't just enroll, they thrive, grow, and achieve their academic goals.

These success indicators reflect the dedication of our faculty who provide rigorous, supportive instruction, and our student services staff who ensure that every student has access to tutoring, counseling, career guidance, and other essential support services. When students succeed, the entire Cheyney community celebrates their achievements and takes pride in their contributions to our shared legacy of excellence.

**"OUR RETENTION SUCCESS REFLECTS A CAMPUS COMMUNITY COMMITTED TO ENSURING EVERY STUDENT HAS THE TOOLS, SUPPORT, AND ENCOURAGEMENT NEEDED TO ACHIEVE THEIR DREAMS."**

# Living the Cheyney Experience: A Residential Community



## 91% Live On Campus

**Cheyney is a true residential hub where students build lifelong friendships, engage in meaningful dialogue, and create memories that last forever**



## 86% Pennsylvania Residents

**Reinforcing Cheyney's deep impact across the Commonwealth while welcoming students from neighboring states and beyond**

The residential experience at Cheyney University creates an immersive environment where learning extends far beyond the classroom. With **91% of students living on campus**, our community thrives on the daily interactions, collaborative study sessions, cultural celebrations, and leadership opportunities that emerge when students share a common space dedicated to growth and discovery.

This high residential percentage reflects both the appeal of campus life and the intentional community we've built at Cheyney. Students don't just attend classes here—they live, learn, and grow together. Residence halls become incubators for leadership development, cultural exchange, and academic collaboration. Students form study groups, engage in late-night philosophical discussions, organize community service projects, and build the networks that will support them throughout their careers.

The fact that **86% of our students are Pennsylvania residents** demonstrates Cheyney's vital role in educating the Commonwealth's future leaders while maintaining our commitment to accessibility for local families. These students will graduate and contribute to Pennsylvania's workforce, communities, and civic life, multiplying the impact of their Cheyney education across the state.

**91% OF STUDENTS LIVING ON CAMPUS,  
86% OF OUR STUDENTS ARE PENNSYLVANIA RESIDENTS**

The residential experience also fosters the kind of mentorship relationships that define the HBCU experience. Upper-class students naturally become role models and guides for newcomers, creating a supportive environment where every student can find their place and discover their potential within our vibrant academic community.

# Student Profile and Diversity: Reflecting Our Mission



- ♂ **Male Enrollment Growth**
  - 275 male students (up from 209 in 2024)
- ♀ **Female Leadership**
  - 68% female enrollment showcasing opportunities for women
- 🎓 **HBCU Excellence**
  - 723 Black students affirming our historic mission
- ฿ **Access & Affordability**
  - 79% Pell-eligible students

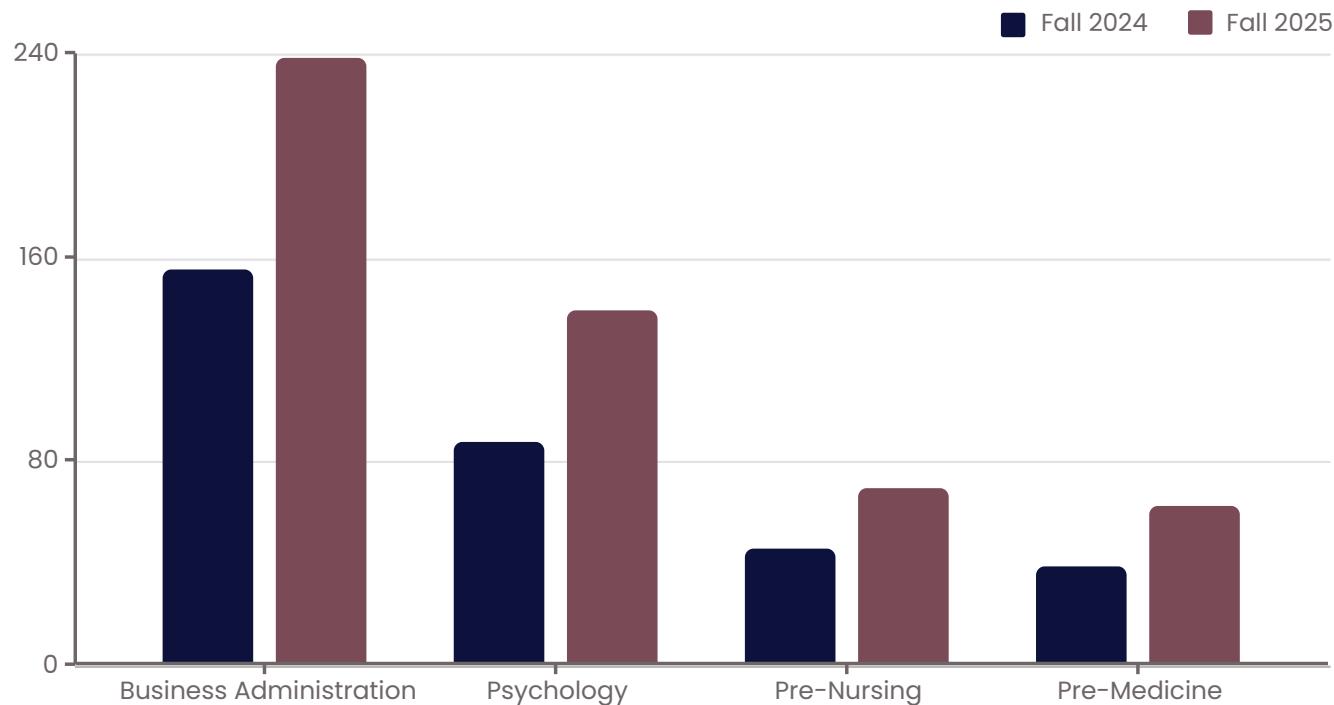
Cheyney's student body reflects both our historic mission and contemporary relevance in American higher education. The growth in **male enrollment to 275 students** represents the highest male headcount in recent years, demonstrating successful efforts to attract and retain male students who benefit from Cheyney's supportive environment and strong alumni network.

With **68% female enrollment**, Cheyney continues its proud tradition of empowering women to achieve academic and professional excellence. Our female graduates become teachers, entrepreneurs, healthcare professionals, attorneys, and community leaders who transform their families and communities through education and service.

The enrollment of **723 Black students** affirms Cheyney's continuing strength as the nation's first HBCU and a center of academic excellence for Black students. This community creates an environment where students see themselves reflected in faculty, staff, and peers, fostering confidence, cultural pride, and academic achievement that prepares graduates for leadership in every field.

Perhaps most significantly, **79% of our students are Pell-eligible**, underscoring Cheyney's fundamental mission of providing access and affordability. In addition, 399 students, nearly half of our total enrollment (**47%**), **are supported by the Keystone Scholarship**, a transformational program for Pennsylvania residents that removes financial barriers and empowers students to succeed, strengthening both individual lives and entire communities.

# Strength Across Programs: Academic Excellence in Action



The dramatic growth across Cheyney's academic programs demonstrates that students and families recognize the quality and value of our educational offerings. **Business Administration** enrollment surged from 155 to **238 majors**, reflecting strong demand for business education that combines theoretical knowledge with practical application, preparing graduates for leadership roles in corporate America and entrepreneurial ventures.

**Psychology** program growth from 87 to **139 students** indicates increasing interest in understanding human behavior, mental health, and social dynamics. Our psychology graduates pursue careers in counseling, social work, human resources, and graduate study, addressing critical needs in healthcare and social services.

The expansion of our **Pre-Nursing program to 69 students** and **Pre-Medicine program to 62 students** reflects Cheyney's commitment to diversifying healthcare professions. These programs provide rigorous preparation for professional school while offering mentorship and support that increases success rates in competitive healthcare fields. Our pre-health students benefit from close faculty relationships, research opportunities, and clinical experiences that distinguish them as applicants to professional programs.

This program growth across diverse fields from business to healthcare to social sciences—demonstrates Cheyney's comprehensive approach to education and our ability to meet evolving workforce needs while maintaining our commitment to academic excellence and student success.

# Looking Forward: A University on the Rise



## Strategic Growth

Sustainable enrollment increases supported by enhanced infrastructure and expanded program offerings

## Academic Excellence

Continued investment in faculty, facilities, and innovative curricula that prepare graduates for emerging career fields

## Alumni Impact

Growing network of successful graduates strengthening Cheyney's reputation and creating opportunities for current students



Fall 2025 represents not just a moment of achievement, but a launching pad for even greater success in the years ahead. The remarkable enrollment growth, improved retention rates, and expanding academic programs position Cheyney University as a rising force in American higher education, an institution that honors its historic legacy while boldly embracing future opportunities.

This momentum creates a positive cycle of improvement: increased enrollment provides resources for enhanced programs and facilities, which attract more high-quality students, faculty, and community partners. The result is an upward trajectory that benefits everyone in the Cheyney family, current students receive a richer educational experience, alumni take pride in their alma mater's success, and future students gain access to an increasingly excellent institution.

The students enrolling today will graduate into a world that increasingly values diversity, cultural competency, and social responsibility areas where Cheyney has always excelled. Our graduates carry forward not just their individual achievements, but the collective strength of an HBCU education that emphasizes leadership, service, and community transformation.

As we celebrate this historic enrollment milestone, we also commit to ensuring that every one of these 851 students receives the support, challenge, and inspiration needed to achieve their dreams. Their success will be measured not just in degrees earned, but in lives transformed, communities strengthened, and barriers broken for future generations.

**"FALL 2025 IS PROOF THAT CHEYNEY'S  
BEST DAYS ARE AHEAD, A TESTAMENT TO THE ENDURING POWER OF OUR  
MISSION AND THE UNLIMITED POTENTIAL OF OUR STUDENTS."**

# Celebrating Our Shared Success

## Students: The Heart of Our Success

Every achievement begins with students who choose Cheyney, work hard, and believe in their dreams. Their dedication, resilience, and academic excellence drive all our accomplishments.

## Faculty and Staff: Champions of Excellence

Our dedicated educators and support staff create the environment where students thrive. Their commitment to student success makes every milestone possible.

## Alumni: Living Our Legacy

Generations of Cheyney graduates serve as ambassadors, mentors, and proof of our educational excellence. Their success stories inspire current students and strengthen our reputation.

## Community: Partners in Progress

Families, local communities, and supporters who believe in Cheyney's mission provide the foundation for our continued growth and impact.

The remarkable achievements captured in this enrollment snapshot belong to our entire Cheyney University community. These numbers represent thousands of individual stories, students who overcame challenges to pursue higher education, families who invested in their children's futures, faculty who went above and beyond to ensure student success, and alumni who continue to open doors for the next generation.

As America's first HBCU, Cheyney University has always been more than an institution, we are a movement, a testament to the power of education to transform lives and communities. The Fall 2025 enrollment milestone proves that this movement continues to grow stronger, reaching new students who will carry our legacy forward into careers of leadership and service.

851 students call this campus home, future teachers, doctors, business leaders, social workers, artists, and entrepreneurs. Nearly half of them, 47% of our student body, are supported by the Keystone Scholarship, giving these students the rare opportunity to graduate debt free. This transformational investment not only removes financial barriers but also strengthens outcomes, ensuring our graduates leave with knowledge, confidence, and purpose rather than debt. As Cheyney continues to grow, the Keystone Scholarship remains central to our mission, positioning the nation's first HBCU as a national leader in access, affordability, and opportunity.

**47% OF CHEYNEY STUDENTS HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO GRADUATE DEBT FREE THROUGH THE KEYSTONE SCHOLARSHIP**

This enrollment snapshot concludes with gratitude, for the progress we've achieved, the community that makes it possible, and the bright future that lies ahead. Cheyney University stands stronger than ever, ready to serve the next generation of students who will benefit from our legacy of excellence, innovation, and unwavering commitment to student success.

