

1056-D1-2061 **Paul R. Coe*** (coepaul@dom.edu), 7900 W. Division Street, River Forest, IL 60305. *Transitions: Helping Under-Prepared Students Find Success at Dominican University.*

For more than a dozen years, Dominican University has had a program in place to recruit, enroll, and support motivated students who don't meet the university's traditional admissions requirements. The program has evolved over time and is currently called Transitions. In my paper I will describe the students that we recruit, how we recruit them, and how we support them once they are on our campus.

Dominican University is located in River Forest, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago about 14 miles from the city center. Most of our applicants come from metropolitan Chicago, many from good suburban school districts, but some from city and suburban schools that generally under-prepare their students for college. Our Transitions program seeks to identify students with the desire and ability to succeed in college whose test scores might otherwise keep them from admission. We help prepare them for college with a five-week summer program in math and English, and we support them during the school year with advising, mentoring, tutoring, and participating in the Dominican community. In my presentation I will outline our summer program, describe the support that we provide these students during the school year, and present data on their retention and graduation rates. (Received September 23, 2009)