Statement on Diversity & Admissions

Diversity within our student body is crucial to our pursuit of excellence and to our objective of promoting a rich mix of ideas, deeply-held commitments, and debates within our program. Students are greatly enriched by civil engagement with those whose life experience, core values, and worldview differ, sometimes drastically, from their own. Differences are crucial for challenging their presumptions about the world. Consequently, diversity is essential to our goal of preparing effective and ethical leaders capable of innovative problem solving through the integration of approaches, perspectives, and skill-sets.

Therefore, we are committed to recruiting, admitting, and enrolling graduate students from widely varying backgrounds and professional career trajectories. Moreover, we expect those students to be candid and transparent about their prior professional experiences so that others may recognize the value they bring to the program. It is only through such transparency that the Keough School can create an environment where students can take full advantage of the rich landscape of perspectives that their classmates bring to the program.

A diverse student body would include, for example, applicants from countries across the globe, representing a range of ethnic backgrounds, professional experiences, and religious beliefs. We seek applicants who have already had successful, enriching experiences working in peacebuilding, development, and global affairs generally, who come from positions in government, international organizations and social movements, the private sector, the armed services, and non-governmental organizations. We expect our students to be able to engage respectfully and work productively with one another regardless of differences in their backgrounds and worldviews.