Kelly  Marketing major, Bloomington, Illinois

In addition to earning money, my job in the Financial Aid Office was a great resource for finding them. My high school guidance counselor was a great resource for guiding them, too. My high school guidance counselor was a great resource for guided them, too.

Making it happen

Fill your FAFSA.

The first step toward qualifying for financial aid at Illinois State is filing a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The FAFSA uses such factors as your family’s income, the number of people in your household, and family assets to determine your Expected Family Contribution (EFC). Your EFC is a measure of your family’s eligibility for federal student aid. It is not the amount of aid you will receive or the amount your family will have to pay to be sure to file your FAFSA each year by March 1. Illinois State’s preferred filing date for the following academic year. The form is available starting in January online at fafsa.ed.gov. Our school code is 00169200. Once you submit your FAFSA, you will be notified of your EFC.

To fill your FAFSA, you will need information from:

• your tax return;
• your parents’ tax return; and
• any savings, investments, and other assets belonging to you or your parents.

An award notice from Illinois State will tell you about the scholarships, grants, loans, and other aid for which you qualify. If you file your FAFSA by March 1, you will get your award notice in April.

Here’s how Illinois State University can help you manage college costs.

• We freeze your tuition rate for four years, so you will be charged the same rate when you are a senior as your freshman year, which allows for long-term planning.

• Illinois State offers a convenient payment plan that spreads your tuition payments throughout the semester for a small fee.

• We have a variety of programs, including scholarships and grants, that can help reduce your financial burden.

• We also offer a variety of programs, including scholarships and grants, that can help reduce your financial burden.

Here are some ideas for you and your family to reduce your financial burden.

• Start reviewing your financial aid options today! Applying early can help you get your award notice.

• Talk with your high school guidance counselor about scholarships and grants available at your school.

• Get in touch with our financial aid advisors at Illinois State University. We can help you get your award notice.

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Expenses for 2012–2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Room and board</td>
<td>$9,364</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuition and fees</td>
<td>$12,726</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$22,090</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Rosie  Agriculture major, Champaign, Illinois

Financial aid resources

Illinois State University Financial Aid Office

Admissions.IllinoisState.edu/FinancialAid

faoinfo@IllinoisState.edu

215 Fell Hall
8 a.m. – 5 p.m., Monday–Friday

FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)

www.fafsa.ed.gov

Financial Aid Estimator—FAFSA4caster

www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov

Cost of attendance estimator—Illinois State University Financial Aid Office

FinancialAid.IllinoisState.edu/Prospective/Estimator

Grants

FinancialAid.IllinoisState.edu/Grants

Illinois State University scholarships for freshmen

Admissions.IllinoisState.edu/Transfer/Scholarships

Illinois State University scholarships for transfer students

Admissions.IllinoisState.edu/Freshman/Scholarships

Scholarship Resource Office

IllinoisState.edu/Scholarships

214 Fell Hall
(309) 438-7260

Scholarship searches

• ScholarshipFinder.IllinoisState.edu
• www.collegenet.com/mach25/app
• www.fastweb.com
• www.studentloans.gov
• www.scholarshippoints.com/text260.jsp

Student employment

IllinoisState.edu/jobs/University-Job-Board

faoJobs@IllinoisState.edu
Making it happen

Fill up your FAFSA

The first step toward qualifying for financial aid at Illinois State is filling out a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The FAFSA uses facts about your family’s income, the number of people in your household, and family assets to determine your Expected Family Contribution (EFC). Your EFC is a measure of your family’s ability to pay for college. As it is not the amount of aid you will receive or the amount your family will have to pay, it is useful to figure it out before you file your FAFSA each year. The form is available online at fafsa.ed.gov. Our school code is 008750. Once you submit your FAFSA, you will be notified of your EFC.

To fill up your FAFSA, you will need information from:

• your tax return;
• your parents’ tax return, if any;
• any savings, investments, and other assets belonging to you or your parents;
• an award notice from Illinois State University about the scholarships, grants, loans, and other aid for which you qualify. If you file your FAFSA by March 1, you will get your award notice in April.

Here’s how Illinois State University can help you manage college costs.

We will freeze your tuition rate for four years, so you will be charged the same rate when you are a senior as your freshman year, which allows for long-term planning.

Illinois State offers a convenient payment plan that spreads your tuition payments throughout the semester for a small fee.

Here are some ideas to help you and your family to reduce your financial burden.

• Talk with your high school guidance counselor about scholarships and grants available in your area.
• Get an idea about which financial aid programs you may qualify for by using an online estimator, such as the U.S. Department of Education’s at www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov.

Financial aid resources

Illinois State University Financial Aid Office
AdmissionsBuilding 2
216 Fall Hall
8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday–Friday
FinancialAid.IllinoisState.edu

FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)
www.fafsa.ed.gov

Financial Aid Estimator—FAFSA4caster
www.FAFSA4caster.com

Cost of attendance estimator—Illinois State University
FinancialAid.IllinoisState.edu/Prospective/Estimator

Grants
FinancialAid.IllinoisState.edu/Grants

Illinois State University scholarships for freshmen
Admissions.IllinoisState.edu/Transfer/Scholarships

Illinois State University scholarships for transfer students
Admissions.IllinoisState.edu/Transfer/Scholarships

Loans
FinancialAid.IllinoisState.edu/loans
Student.loans.gov

Scholarship Resource Office
IllinoisState.edu/Scholarships
216 Fall Hall
(309) 438-2740

Scholarship searches
ScholarshipFinder.IllinoisState.edu
www.collegenet.com/mach25/app
www.FAFSA4caster.com
www.collegenet.com/scholarshipsearch

Student employment
IllinoisState.edu/jobs
Student.jobs@IllinoisState.edu

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FinancialAid.IllinoisState.edu/loans
FinancialAid.IllinoisState.edu/Transfer/Scholarships
FinancialAid.IllinoisState.edu/Transfer/Scholarships
Your undergraduate degree will be the foundation for future study and your career, depending on the path you choose. At Illinois State, you’ll develop skills and make connections that will help you prepare for the challenges ahead. That’s important to remember as you and your family consider the substantial price tag of a college education. During the recent economic downturn, college graduates are twice as likely to stay employed compared to workers with only a high school diploma.

The results of your FAFSA determine if you’re eligible for most grants. You will automatically be considered for federal, state, and University grants when you submit your FAFSA. Funds are limited, so most grants are available only to students with the highest need.

Illinois State enhances state and federal grants with our own programs, such as the Illinois State University Access Grant, which provides more than $16 million a year in additional grants to more than 4,000 students. Any grants for which you qualify, including federal, state, and University programs, will be listed on your award notice.
Financial aid checklist

- Talk with your family about your future plans and paying for college.
- Search for scholarships. Deadlines vary, so start applying as soon as possible. Apply early and often!
- File your FAFSA by March 1—our preferential filing date.
- Review your award notice with your family and discuss costs and budget. You will receive your notice in early April if you file your FAFSA by March 1.
- Find a job. A job fair is held during the first week of classes each semester.

The University invests more than $26 million in grants and scholarship programs each year.

Four ways you can invest in your future

Your undergraduate degree will be the foundation for future study and your career, depending on the path you choose. At Illinois State, you’ll develop skills and make connections that will help you prepare for the challenges ahead. That’s important to remember as you and your family consider the substantial price tag of a college education. During the recent economic downturn, college graduates are twice as likely to stay employed compared to high school graduates.

1. Search for scholarships

Earning a scholarship starts long before completing applications and asking for letters of recommendation. Your grades, achievements, and activities throughout high school typically determine the scholarships for which you are eligible. Illinois State University Merit Scholarship Programs Illinois State awards highly competitive, merit-based scholarships to new students with exceptional academic talent. For best consideration for these scholarships, apply for admission and submit all required documents during the preferred filing period—September 1–November 15 for freshmen and September 1–January 1 for transfer students.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Total Value</th>
<th>Annual Award</th>
<th>Type of student</th>
<th>Average recipient profile</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Presidential Scholarship</td>
<td>$44,000</td>
<td>$11,000</td>
<td>Freshmen</td>
<td>ACT score of 32; GPA of 4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Redbird Academic Scholarship</td>
<td>up to $16,000</td>
<td>$4,000</td>
<td>First-time community college transfer students who have overcome hardship in achieving academic goals</td>
<td>ACT score of 26; GPA of 2.96 or above/4.0 scale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University Scholarship</td>
<td>$24,000</td>
<td>$6,000</td>
<td>Freshman from traditionally underrepresented groups or first-generation college students who have demonstrated leadership in serving academic goals</td>
<td>ACT score of 26; GPA of 3.85/4.0 scale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University State Auxiliary Scholarship</td>
<td>up to $16,000</td>
<td>$4,000</td>
<td>Freshmen</td>
<td>ACT score of 27; GPA of 3.8/4.0 scale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community College Transfer Scholarship</td>
<td>up to $4,000</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>First-time community college transfer students who have earned an A.A. or A.S. degree and completed the first year of a bachelor’s degree</td>
<td>GPA of 3.0/4.0 scale</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Scholarship Programs

The Scholarship Resource Office guides students to the appropriate departmental, state, and regional scholarships available to students at Illinois State. Our helpful, knowledgeable staff can answer any questions you have about the scholarship process. Visit the Scholarship Resource Office at IllinoisState.edu/Scholarships to learn more and start searching.

2. Find a job

If you work on a campus job, it is possible to earn enough money to cover personal expenses, buy books, or contribute toward your tuition. Some students work during their summer break to earn money to pay back their federal student loans. Before you agree to borrow money from any source, you and your parents must understand the expected repayment plan.

Visit IllinoisState.edu/Jobs.

3. Apply for grants

Illinois State enhances state and federal grants with our own programs, such as the Illinois State University Access Grant, which provides more than $16 million a year in additional grants to more than 4,000 students. Any grants for which you qualify, including federal, state, and University programs, will be listed on your award notice.

Check out on- and off-campus student job opportunities at IllinoisState.edu/Jobs.

4. Explore loan options

Borrowing money is a fact of life for most college students. Federal student loan programs are a good place to start because they offer reasonable interest rates and flexible repayment terms. The federal loans for which you qualify at Illinois State will be listed on your award notice.

Your parents may borrow additional money under programs such as the Federal Direct Parent Loan for Undergraduate Students or PLUS loans. PLUS loans are not need-based, but are subject to parent credit approval. Private banks and loan companies also offer student and parent loans. The terms are often quite different than federal loans. Before you agree to borrow money from any sources, you and your parents must understand the expected repayment plan.

Visit ScholarshipFinder.IllinoisState.edu.

5. Search starting today at ScholarshipFinder.IllinoisState.edu

Visit the Scholarship Resource Office online at IllinoisState.edu/Scholarships or call (309) 438-2740.

- More than 78 percent of Illinois State University students receive some type of financial aid each year.
- 97 percent of Illinois State graduates pay back their federal student loans on schedule, with an average monthly payment of $250.
- Illinois State 40 percent of Illinois State graduates are employed on campus.
- Illinois State graduates are twice as likely to stay employed compared to high school graduates.

The University invests more than $26 million in grants and scholarship programs each year.

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