

Financial aid resources

Illinois State University Financial Aid Office

IllinoisState.edu/FinancialAid
FinancialAid@IllinoisState.edu
231 Fell Hall
8 a.m.–4:30 p.m., Monday–Friday
(309) 438-2231

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

FinancialAid.IllinoisState.edu/Prospective/Estimator

Grants

FinancialAid.IllinoisState.edu/Grants

Illinois State University scholarships for freshmen

Admissions.IllinoisState.edu/Freshman/Scholarships

Illinois State University scholarships for transfer students

Admissions.IllinoisState.edu/Transfer/Scholarships

Loans

- FinancialAid.IllinoisState.edu/Loans
- StudentLoans.gov

Scholarship Resource Office

IllinoisState.edu/Scholarships
214 Fell Hall
(309) 438-2740

Scholarship searches

- ScholarshipFinder.IllinoisState.edu
- www.collegeanswer.com
- www.fastweb.com
- www.collegenet.com/mach25/app

Student employment

IllinoisState.edu/jobs (University job board)
faoJobs@IllinoisState.edu



FINANCIAL AID OFFICE
Illinois State University

This document is available in alternative formats upon request by contacting the Financial Aid Office at (309) 438-2231.

An equal opportunity/affirmative action university encouraging diversity

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Paying for college



STATE

YOUR PASSION.



**ILLINOIS STATE
UNIVERSITY**
Illinois' first public university

IllinoisState.edu



Zac

Broadcast journalism major, Alton, Illinois

- Part-time employment
- State and federal grants
- Student loans

"I am the first from a family of 11 children to pursue a four-year college education, which means I'm also the first to find a way to pay for it. I didn't know anything about paying for college or the financial aid process before I got started and neither did my mom.

It was frustrating because I felt like I had to figure it out on my own. During my freshman year, my advisor took me to the Financial Aid Office to help me make sense of my situation and alleviate my fears that I would not be able to return the following year because of finances."



Kelly

Marketing major, Bloomingdale, Illinois

- University Scholarship
- Small, private scholarships
- Part-time employment
- Parents' savings

"My sister is three years older than me, so my parents were very knowledgeable about the process by the time I was looking at colleges. They encouraged us both to apply for all of the scholarships we could."

In addition to earning money, my job in the Office of Admissions helped me to get really involved and connected on campus. I've also learned a lot about how to manage my time."



Rosie

Agriculture major, Clare, Illinois

- Part-time employment
- Small, private, and departmental scholarships
- Student loans

"I was pleasantly surprised to learn how many jobs there are on campus. Also, there are many more scholarships out there than you might think. My high school guidance counselor was a great resource for finding them.

Try not to let the total price tag of your college education overwhelm you. With the help of the Financial Aid Office, you can come up with a plan, but you've got to be your own advocate and make sure you're meeting application deadlines."

Making it happen

File 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. Be sure to file your FAFSA each year by **March 1**—Illinois State's preferential filing date for the following academic year. The form is available starting in January online at www.fafsa.ed.gov. Our school code is **00169200**. Once you submit your FAFSA, you will be notified of your EFC.

To file 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 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.

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

- Start researching grant and scholarship opportunities today! Applying early can help your chances of getting many awards.
- Talk with your high school guidance counselor about scholarships and grants available to students at your school.
- 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.

Expenses for 2012–2013

\$12,726 Tuition and fees*

\$9,364 Room and board

\$22,090 Total

Estimates are calculated based on a student who takes 15 credit hours each semester, lives on campus with a roommate, and selects the seven-day unlimited meal plan.

*For most students, tuition rates remain the same for four years. Tuition and fees for out-of-state students are \$20,887. **However**, students from neighboring states (Iowa, Indiana, Wisconsin, Michigan, Missouri, Kentucky) and some academically talented students as determined by the University are eligible for a rate of tuition comparable to students who live in Illinois, a savings of \$8,000 per year.

Four ways you can invest in your future

Financial aid checklist

- Talk with your family about your future plans and paying for college.
- Search for scholarships. Deadlines vary, so start searching as soon as possible. Apply early and often!
- File your FAFSA before March 1—our preferential filling 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.

- 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.

The University invests more than

\$26 million

in grants and scholarship programs each year.

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 workers with only a high school diploma.

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.

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.

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 freshman and September 1–January 1 for transfer students.

Program	Total value	Annual award	Type of student	Average recipient profile
Presidential Scholarship	\$44,000	\$11,000	Freshmen	ACT score of 32; GPA of 4.0 or above/4.0 scale
University Scholarship	\$24,000	\$6,000	Freshmen from traditionally underrepresented groups or first-generation college students who have overcome hardship in achieving academic goals	ACT score of 27; GPA of 3.85/4.0 scale
Redbird Academic Scholarship	up to \$16,000	Awards range from \$1,000 to \$4,000 per year	Freshmen	ACT score of 26; GPA of 3.8/4.0 scale
Community College Transfer Scholarship	up to \$4,000	\$2,000 (some awards are renewable for another year, some are for one year only)	First time community college transfer students who have earned an A.A. or A.S. prior to enrolling	GPA of 3.9/4.0 scale

Start searching today at ScholarshipFinder.IllinoisState.edu!

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



2 Find a job

If you work an on-campus job, it is possible to earn enough money to cover personal expenses, buy books, or contribute toward your tuition. Some student workers qualify for Federal Work-Study, a need-based financial aid award program, but most on-campus jobs do not require work-study eligibility. Each year 5,800 students work on campus earning a total of more than \$18 million. Many more students are employed off campus. These student workers learn valuable time management skills.

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

6 cool campus jobs

- Campus Recreation Challenge Course Assistant
- Braden Auditorium Event Staff
- Office of Admissions Student Ambassador
- University College Academic Peer Advisor
- University Housing Resident Assistant
- Campus Dining Catering Staff

3 Apply for grants

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 \$8 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.

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 source, you and your parents must understand the expected repayment plan.