

A photograph of a large, ornate brick building with a prominent blue-tiled dome. The building is surrounded by trees with yellow and green foliage, suggesting an autumn setting. A street lamp is visible in the foreground. The sky is overcast.

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

LEADERSHIP PROFILE

Vice Chancellor for Advancement,
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
&
Senior Vice President,
University of Illinois Foundation

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The Search

The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, in partnership with the University of Illinois Foundation, seeks a strategic, innovative and accomplished advancement leader to serve as Vice Chancellor for Advancement and Senior Vice President (VC/SVP) of the University of Illinois Foundation. This dual-role position is central to shaping and executing a bold, integrated advancement strategy that supports the mission and long-term aspirations of one of the nation's most prestigious universities.

The VC/SVP will join recently appointed [University Chancellor Charles Lee Isbell, Jr.](#) at the outset of his tenure, and dually report to the Chancellor and [Foundation President James H. Moore, Jr.](#) — a seasoned, nationally-regarded thought leader in higher education advancement. The VC/SVP will lead the development and implementation of a comprehensive advancement program in a highly matrixed and decentralized environment. This includes a strategic operating plan with clear priorities, measurable goals and innovative fundraising strategies aligned with the university's academic and research excellence. The individual will serve as the primary liaison between the Urbana-Champaign campus and the University of Illinois Foundation, overseeing the organization, execution and management of campuswide fundraising campaigns and advancement initiatives. This individual will also serve as a key

member of both the Chancellor's and Foundation President's leadership teams, contributing to institution-wide strategy and decision-making. The university has an operating budget of \$3.17 billion, and the VC/SVP manages an advancement division that raised roughly \$560.3 million in Fiscal Year 2025. Within the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Institutional Advancement (OVICIA), there are 61 FTEs plus an additional 97 with dual appointments and dual funding. In total, 277 advancement staff are employed across the university with different reporting lines, including through schools and units.

This leader will shape and drive a long-term vision for advancement that is both donor-centric and directly aligns with institutional priorities and national trends in higher education advancement and philanthropy.

The VC/SVP will address a wide range of opportunities and challenges, including but not limited to the following:

- Develop and implement an innovative and data-informed advancement program that will support the vision and strategic plan of our new Chancellor, including the planning and implementation of a future comprehensive campaign.
- Grow and strengthen future fundraising efforts across both individual and institutional (corporate and foundation) support that capture and engage new and untapped audiences.
- Build upon the existing individual giving enterprise, expanding principal and transformational gifts while growing individual support across all levels of the giving pyramid.
- Lead through influence and diplomacy across a complex, highly matrixed environment, breaking down silos while capitalizing on the strengths of a distributed model.
- Strengthen coordination and communication across the university, the Foundation and the University of Illinois Alumni Association while clarifying each entity's unique roles and responsibilities within the broader Illinois community.
- Collaborate closely with the Chancellor, Provost, deans, directors and Foundation leadership to ensure a balanced and effective approach to centralized and decentralized advancement efforts.
- Unify school and unit priorities with university goals, generating campuswide “big ideas” that result in transformational support while honoring donor intent.
- Provide strategic oversight for interdisciplinary initiatives that transcend individual colleges and departments, ensuring that both campuswide and unit-specific goals are achieved.
- Reinforce the importance of alumni giving across the university's 550,000 living global alumni, while initiating a culture of philanthropy among students, parents and recent graduates earlier in their Illinois experience.
- Motivate and empower advancement team members of all levels and roles, ensuring staff meet their full potential and are enabled to professionally develop through well-defined and data-informed performance metrics.

Candidates should possess a minimum of ten years of progressively responsible advancement leadership experience, with a proven record of success in major and principal gift fundraising, campaign leadership and building high-performing and mission-driven teams. Experience leading through collaboration, empowering teams and aligning with academic leadership is essential. Strong operational and financial management skills, including experience overseeing budgets and optimizing advancement infrastructure, are also required. The ideal candidate should have a deep appreciation for the mission of a major research university and a visible, engaged presence in both the university and broader community. A bachelor's degree is required, and an advanced degree is strongly preferred.

The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and the University of Illinois Foundation have retained Jack Gorman of Isaacson, Miller, the national executive search firm, to assist in conducting this important search and to help identify outstanding candidates. All inquiries, applications, and nominations should be directed to the search firm as indicated at the end of this document.

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Founded in 1867, the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign is a research, comprehensive land-grant institution with a mission to provide strong undergraduate and graduate education programs. The campus research portfolio includes funding from all major federal research agencies, and the university regularly leads the nation in National Science Foundation funding. The Illinois campus community includes approximately 37,000 undergraduate students, 20,500 graduate and professional students, 2,010 tenured/tenure track faculty members and 16,500 academic professionals and staff members.

As a major national research university and member of the Association of American Universities with a strong foundation in both STEM and the liberal arts, the university is known nationally and internationally for excellence in education, passion for discovery and a tradition of public service. The university offers a collegial intellectual community that draws students and scholars from around the world. Research is a key economic driver in the state, and the university has numerous close collaborations with major industries across Illinois. The university uses a modified activity-based model for allocating resources, and the FY26 operating budget is \$3.17 billion.



The campus is home to 16 colleges and schools that address a variety of disciplines and fields including: College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences; College of Applied Health Sciences; Gies College of Business; College of Education; The Grainger College of Engineering; College of Fine and Applied Arts; Graduate College; School of Information Sciences; School of Labor and Employment Relations; College of Law; College of Liberal Arts and Sciences; College of Media; Carle Illinois College of Medicine; School of Social Work; University Library; and College of Veterinary Medicine. With over 550,000 alumni from around the world, Illinois fully embraces its global presence while remaining committed to its land-grant heritage.

With Illinois Campaign

Through the generosity of more than 171,000 alumni and friends passionate about Illinois, the With Illinois campaign surpassed its goal of \$2.25 billion by raising approximately \$2.7 billion over eight years in support of students, faculty, research, programs and facilities. Achieving this milestone during a worldwide pandemic provides testimony to the appreciation Illinois alumni have for their alma mater while illustrating the confidence friends of the University have in its mission. To learn more the impact of the most ambitious and successful fundraising effort in Illinois history, visit the [campaign website](#).

The University of Illinois Foundation

Established in 1935, the University of Illinois Foundation is the official fundraising and private gift-receiving entity for the University of Illinois System and its three universities: University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, University of Illinois Chicago, and University of Illinois Springfield. The Foundation, a 501(c)3 charitable organization, is an independent and separate nonprofit entity from the university

of Illinois. The Foundation's mission is to encourage and administer private gifts and serve the UI System by working closely with alumni, faculty, corporations, foundations and development staff to create fundraising programs and opportunities that benefit the University of Illinois.

The Foundation offers leadership and coordination across the development program at the University of Illinois to identify strategic opportunities for continued growth and enhancement. Additionally, it provides leadership and guidance in areas that require specialized expertise, including campaign planning and deployment, donor engagement, marketing and events management. The Foundation's gift planning experts also share their extensive knowledge in matters of taxation, investments, estate planning and financial management, specifically as it relates to benefits donors can take advantage of through their giving to the University of Illinois. The Foundation's Investment Office oversees and manages a \$2.99 billion endowment and leads efforts that focus on performance and the long-term, strategic management of the endowment, as well as the Foundation's investment policies. The funds generated from the endowment are distributed annually to each university to support world-class faculty, staff and students today, tomorrow and into the future.

University of Illinois Alumni Association

Founded in 1873, the University of Illinois Alumni Association is an independent, not-for-profit 501(c)3 organization, governed by a volunteer [board of directors](#). Its purpose is to oversee services that benefit alumni engagement at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.



Leadership

Charles Lee Isbell, Jr., Ph.D.

11th Chancellor of the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Dr. Charles Lee Isbell, Jr. became the 11th Chancellor of the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign in July 2025. As chancellor, he leads the state's flagship land-grant university in its missions of academic excellence, innovation and public engagement.

Chancellor Isbell is a computer scientist, researcher, educator and advocate for the idea that higher education creates opportunity, drives progress and broadens our understanding of the world. His research has focused on artificial intelligence and machine learning, with an emphasis on how those systems interact with humans in responsible and inclusive ways. Isbell's home as an Illinois faculty member is the Siebel School of Computing and Data Science in The Grainger College of Engineering.

Through multiple initiatives aimed at increasing participation in higher education, Chancellor Isbell has become a respected leader in higher education reform. Although he is a computer scientist by training, he values the critical thinking demanded of every discipline and considers it central to the purpose of education. He is an award-winning teacher who has been recognized internationally for his work in providing high-quality, accessible education at scale.

Chancellor Isbell is a fellow of the Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence and the Association for Computing Machinery as well as an elected member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He has served on a number of advisory boards for the National Science Foundation (NSF), Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) and the National Academies. He was the founding Executive Director for the Constellations Center for Education in Computing at Georgia Tech.

Chancellor Isbell received his Bachelor of Science degree from Georgia Tech and continued his education at the Artificial Intelligence Laboratory at MIT. After earning his Ph.D. there in

1998, he joined AT&T Labs/Research. He returned to Georgia Tech in 2002 to join the faculty of the College of Computing, becoming dean in 2019. In 2023, he became Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Though born in Chattanooga, Tennessee, Chancellor Isbell's earliest memory is arriving in Atlanta on a moving truck, so he thinks of himself as being from Atlanta. He and wife, Sheila D. Isbell, are parents to daughter, Joni, and son, Cody.

James H. Moore, Jr.

President and CEO University of Illinois Foundation

James Moore, President and CEO of the University of Illinois Foundation, provides strategic oversight and leadership of the systemwide development program for the University of Illinois and its three campuses in Urbana-Champaign, Chicago and Springfield. He previously served as President and CEO of the University of Arizona Foundation and the University of Northern Colorado Foundation. He also held senior level positions at Northwest Missouri State University, Clarkson University, University of Arizona, and Iowa State University.

A veteran advancement professional with more than three decades of experience, President Moore has also served the profession as a volunteer, speaker and author. His service to the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) included membership on CASE's National Committee on Institutionally Related Foundations, the CASE Commission on Philanthropy and the CASE Board of Trustees. His 12-year service on the CASE Board culminated with serving as chair of the CASE Board from July 2019 to July 2021. Moore is the 2015 recipient of the CASE Commonfund Institutionally Related Foundation Award.

In addition to his volunteer service to CASE, President Moore has served on numerous thought leadership councils, authored book chapters on institutionally related foundations and has been an invited speaker and facilitator at several Association of Governing Board (AGB) Leadership Forums. In 2023, he was appointed as a faculty member of the Big Ten Fund Raisers Institute.

Role of the Vice Chancellor + Senior Vice President

The VC/SVP will lead and mentor a large, high-performing team focused on building relationships and securing philanthropic support from alumni, friends, corporations and foundations. They will personally manage a portfolio of major and principal gift prospects, actively engaging in cultivation, solicitation and stewardship. They should bring demonstrated experience leading multiyear, multimillion dollar comprehensive or capital campaigns, with proven ability to inspire and mobilize internal and external stakeholders. In addition, they will work closely with boards of trustees, campaign committees and other volunteer leadership groups to advance fundraising goals and foster a culture of philanthropy.

This role requires close collaboration with internal and external constituents, including the Alumni Association, Strategic Communications and Marketing, Office of Corporate Relations and other partners to ensure cohesive messaging and outreach. The VC/SVP will be expected to utilize data and analytics to evaluate performance, inform strategy and drive continuous improvement. They will also develop and implement strategies for national and international alumni and donor engagement, reflecting the global reach of the university.

A forward-thinking approach to innovation is essential, including the ability to leverage emerging technologies, digital platforms and data analytics to enhance donor engagement and operational efficiency. The successful candidate will demonstrate cultural competence and a strong commitment to inclusive philanthropy, engaging diverse communities and advancing equity across all advancement functions. They must also bring exceptional interpersonal, written and verbal communication skills, with the political acumen to navigate complex institutional environments and build trust across a broad range of constituencies.

Opportunities and Challenges

Strategic Vision and Planning

- Assess the fundraising potential of the university. Serve as the architect and builder of a multiyear advancement plan that aligns with the university's strategic objectives while remaining donor-centric, ensure sustainable long-term growth in philanthropic contributions and alumni commitments, and provide a unifying and compelling narrative to internal and external audiences across the university and Foundation.
- Understand and capitalize on the gains made during the most recent comprehensive campaign. In preparation for future campaign efforts, evaluate philanthropic capacity of all constituencies, identify areas for growth, strategically augment staff and resources, and craft fundraising strategies to raise sights and involvement of volunteers and donors at all levels.

Executive Engagement

- Guide and support the Chancellor, Provost, deans, directors, and other university and Foundation leaders in their roles as key fundraisers and spokespeople, serving as a coach, mentor and co-strategist on cultivating and soliciting principal and transformational gifts and in building strong advancement teams.
- Serve as an active member of the Foundation and university executive teams, participating in the creation and implementation of a new university-wide strategic plan set forth by the Chancellor; provide counsel regarding the fundability of identified priorities and initiatives as well as new ideas; effectively operationalize those with the most potential.
- Cultivate strong working relationships with administrative and academic leadership and staff across a highly complex, matrixed university environment. Ensure that the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Institutional Advancement (OVCIA) is seen as a collaborative, proactive, trustworthy and responsive partner able to professionally address both opportunities and concerns.



Leadership and Management

- Lead and inspire advancement staff; encourage and support collaboration and transparency between and among fundraising leaders in schools and units across the university community.
- Motivate and inspire the OVCIA senior leadership group — a seasoned, committed cadre of direct reports — to work as a team to address division-wide opportunities and challenges and set policy.
- Develop, mentor, train and motivate a high-quality fundraising staff that is prepared to meet the ongoing challenges of expanding the university's philanthropic revenue. Assess current staff capacity, retain high performing staff and recruit new staff as necessary. Maintain a leadership style that is open and fluid and empowers staff through active communication and delegation.
- Lead the frontline fundraising staff by example, demonstrating successful cultivation, solicitation and stewardship of key donors at principal and transformational gift levels.
- Foster an environment that rewards performance, builds confidence and encourages collaboration and teamwork through well-defined roles and data-informed performance management; recognize and celebrate current achievements and set clear expectations for future success.

Program Development and Fundraising

- Establish priorities, goals and best practices for a comprehensive advancement program that embraces national trends and promotes a culture of excellence and collaboration, with a clearly articulated organizational structure that capitalizes on the institutions' decentralized model.
- Systematically identify, cultivate, solicit and steward new individual and institutional donors capable of making significant principal and transformational contributions, domestically and internationally.
- Maintain existing donor relationships and deepen those connections through regular, relevant communications, engagement and stewardship. Ensure that stewardship is comprehensive, timely and innovative.
- Oversee and invest in alumni and donor engagement programming across the globe to ensure that events are aligned with the university's strategic priorities and capture new and lapsed audiences.

- Utilize data analytics and insights to inform decision-making, track progress and refine fundraising strategies. Ensure the accuracy and completeness of alumni and donor records within the institution's database.
- Ensure compliance with the Foundation, University of Illinois System and all relevant regulations, ethical standards and reporting requirements related to fundraising. Uphold the highest ethical standards in donor interactions and gift management.



Qualifications and Characteristics

This position requires strong leadership, exceptional judgment, superb communication skills and the ability to work collaboratively with many internal and external constituencies. The VC/ SVP will bring many of the following professional qualities and experiences:

- A deep appreciation for the mission, culture, achievements and aspirations of the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and the University of Illinois Foundation, and the ability to articulate their uniqueness, relevance and complexity. A passion for education, the pursuit of knowledge and the discipline of academic research.
- At least 10 years of sophisticated leadership experience across all advancement functions, within organizations of similar scale and complexity.
- Proven management skills in establishing a team- and goal-oriented environment that empowers staff through active communication, transparency and delegation and that clarifies roles, builds confidence, sets clear goals and expectations, and celebrates achievements.
- The political savvy to navigate a complex academic community that includes a foundation and university system; the ability to build bridges and strong collaborative relationships with all members of an operation across the university and a global base of alumni and constituents.
- Demonstrated success in personally cultivating, soliciting and stewarding principal and transformational gifts from individuals, foundations and corporations.
- Exemplary interpersonal and listening skills as well as the intellectual depth, maturity and confidence to garner the trust of the Chancellor, Foundation leaders, senior academic and administrative leaders, key volunteers, staff, alumni and other constituents.
- A decisive and diplomatic consensus-builder who enjoys cross-departmental collaboration and leading by influence. The ability to create excitement around an institutional mission and encourage others to support the university.
- A sharp eye for operational efficiency and the best use of resources, including a demonstrated understanding of budgets, the ability to manage them and past success garnering institutional resources on behalf of a program or division.
- Superior written and oral communication skills; the ability to understand and translate information for all audiences clearly and compellingly.
- An understanding of and appreciation for the use of technology and data analytics to drive decision making.
- The flexibility to travel domestically and internationally and work evenings or weekends as required.
- Bachelor's degree required; advanced degree preferred.





Applications, inquiries and nominations

Screening of complete applications will begin immediately and continue until the completion of the search process. Inquiries, nominations, referrals, and resumes should be sent via the Isaacson, Miller [website](#).

Jack Gorman,
Partner

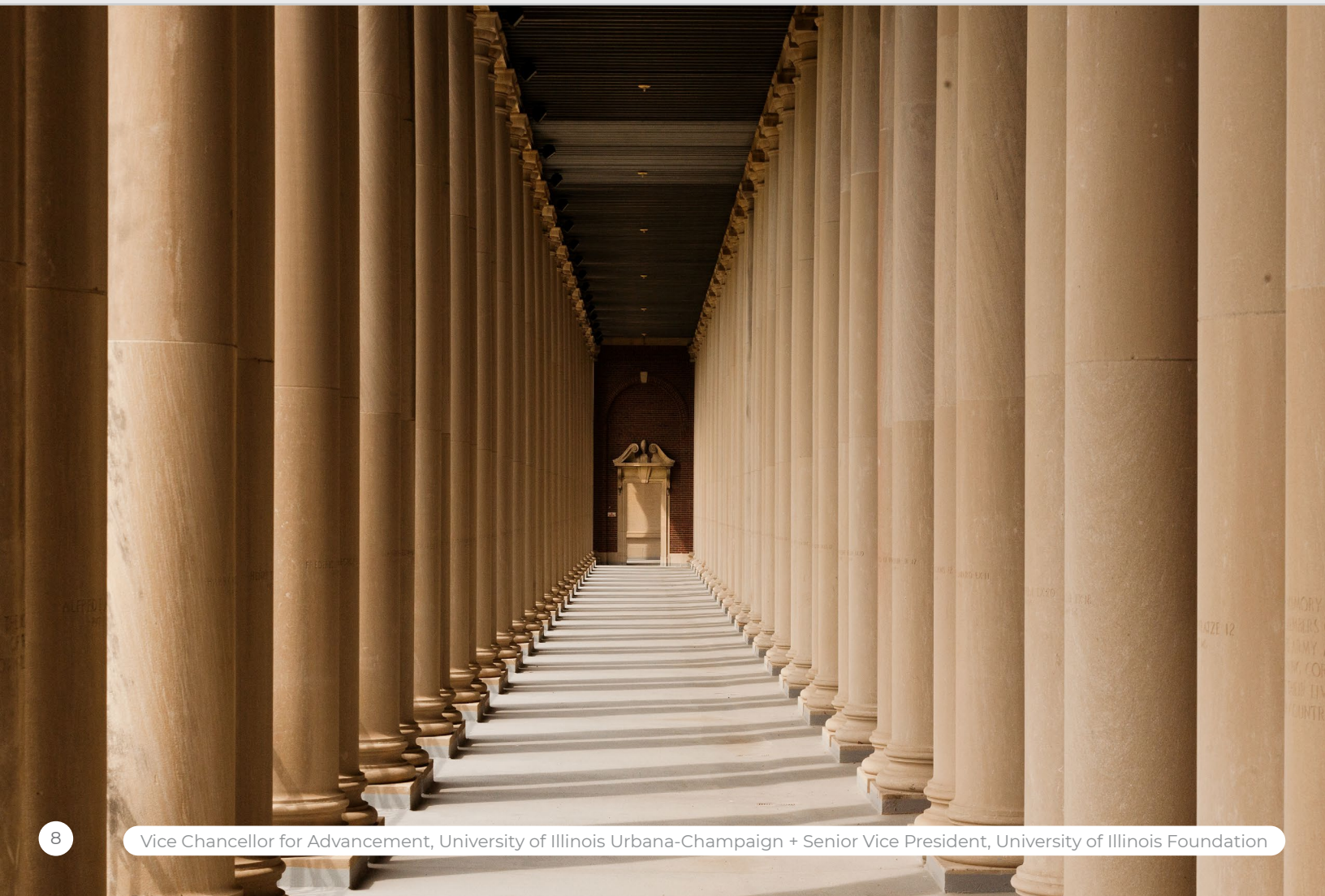
Grace Zakim,
Managing Associate

Sandeep Kaur,
Senior Search Coordinator

Isaacson, Miller
<https://www.imsearch.com/>

The University of Illinois System is an equal opportunity employer, including but not limited to disability and/or veteran status, and complies with all applicable state and federal employment mandates. Please visit [Required Employment Notices and Posters](#) to view our non-discrimination statement and find additional information about required background checks, sexual harassment/misconduct disclosures, and employment eligibility review through [E-Verify](#).

Applicants with disabilities are encouraged to apply and may request a reasonable accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act (2008) to complete the application and/or interview process. Requests may be submitted through the reasonable accommodations [portal](#), or by contacting the Accessibility & Accommodations Division of the Office for Access and Equity at 217-333-0885, or by emailing accessibility@illinois.edu.



University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

An overview

Founded in 1867, the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign has a stellar reputation as a world-class leader in research, teaching and public engagement. From the development of the modern web browser to the visible LED to the fundamental discovery of Archaea (the third kingdom of life), Illinois has a long-standing history of creating life-changing innovations that impact the world. Researchers at Illinois continually make foundational discoveries that transform the way we tackle global problems, develop technology and expand the human experience.

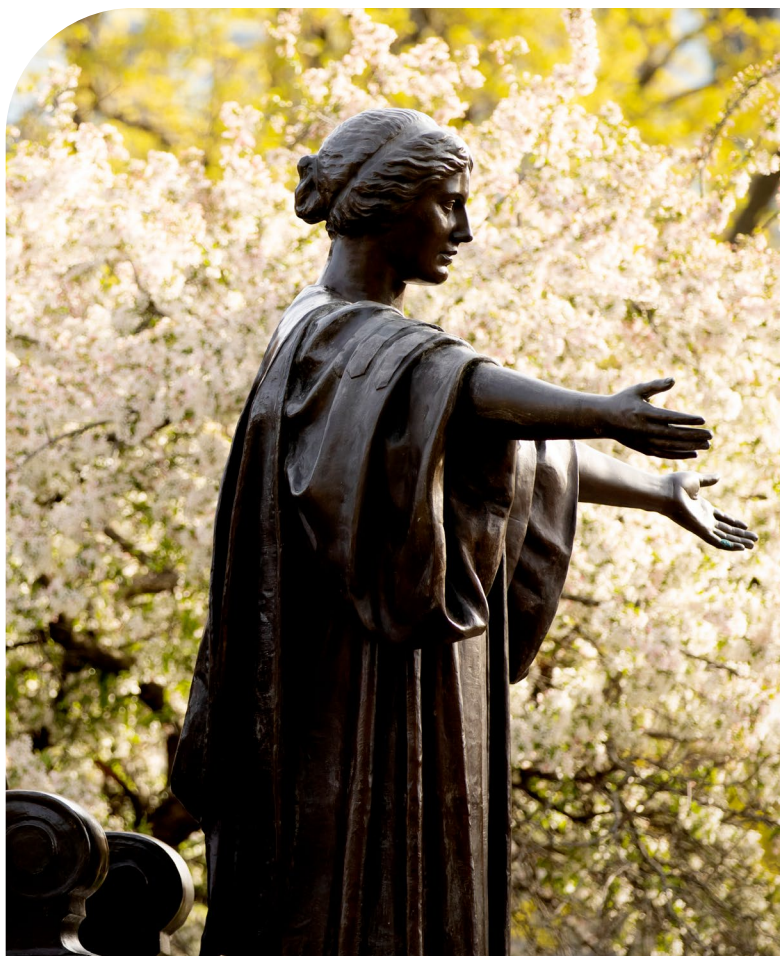
The University of Illinois System has campuses in Urbana-Champaign, Chicago and Springfield. The flagship campus in Urbana-Champaign is the largest of the three, situated on 1,783 acres. The metro population is more than 230,000, according to the 2020 U.S. Census.

Mission

The campus is led by Chancellor Charles L. Isbell, Jr., who is the chief executive officer for the Urbana-Champaign campus and is responsible for all financial programs, campus policies and priorities, with the mission of ensuring a transformative educational experience for the world's next generation of leaders.

Illinois remains true to the land-grant mission — to enhance the lives of all citizens in Illinois, across the nation and around the world through leadership in learning, discovery, engagement and economic development. This includes launching the Illinois Commitment, which provides free tuition and fees to qualified in-state undergraduates. The university provides strong undergraduate and graduate education programs; undertakes basic, translational and applied research; and supports outreach, extension, continuing education, initiatives and programs, as well as other public engagement activities to multiple communities.

Collaboration and innovation are hallmarks of the Illinois research enterprise —researchers are accustomed to working across disciplines, institutions and international boundaries. The university's powerful reputation attracts extensive international partnerships that create opportunities for Illinois students and faculty to work with colleagues around the world.



The campus community includes:

~37,000

undergraduate students

~21,000

**graduate and professional
students**

~3,360

**tenure system and specialized
faculty members**

~3,700

academic professionals

~6,100

civil service staff members



Noteworthy projects include:

- The Illinois Quantum & Microelectronics Park, a first-of-its-kind campus in Chicago built for quantum technology and microelectronics innovation and scale-up.
- The iBiofoundry, a next-generation manufacturing facility poised to transform agriculture, pharma, energy and industrial manufacturing. The newly launched iBioFoundry at Illinois will serve the nation's scientific community by expanding the use of automated systems, machine learning and artificial intelligence to promote and optimize advances in synthetic biology, biotechnology and genomics.
- CABBI, a \$260M+ Department of Energy project focused on developing efficient ways to grow bioenergy crops, transform biomass into valuable chemicals and market the resulting biofuels and other bioproducts
- The iFAB Tech Hub, a \$51M project uniting 30+ higher ed, industry, local governments, venture capital and labor organizations. The consortium is led by the university and builds on central Illinois leadership in biomanufacturing.
- Three of the nation's artificial intelligence institutes, the Molecule Maker Lab, AIFARMS and the INVITE Institute, are pushing the boundaries of AI innovation in molecule discovery, agriculture and education.
- The Realizing Increased Photosynthesis Efficiency program, funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, is working to develop "ultra photosynthesis" to radically enhance production of food crops and transform agricultural-based economies around the globe.
- The first Illinois-led NASA scientific mission, the \$75 million Carruthers Geocorona Observatory. The instrumentation will survey the geocorona, the outermost layer of Earth's atmosphere, and provide key information about how this layer interacts with complex space system at large.
- The Center for Wounded Veterans, a national leader in research, services and supports for veterans with disabilities.
- DeltaAI, funded by the National Science Foundation to provide leading-edge artificial intelligence resources to U.S. researchers. Scientists from across the country, who work at both large universities and smaller colleges, can access DeltaAI to advance the nation's AI capabilities and train students for tech-focused jobs.
- The Speech Accessibility Project. Today's speech recognition systems, such as voice assistants and translation tools, don't always recognize people with a diversity of speech patterns often associated with disabilities. The project has unprecedented, cross-industry support from Amazon, Apple, Google, Meta and Microsoft, as well as nonprofit organizations whose communities will benefit from this accessibility initiative to make speech recognition more inclusive of diverse speech patterns.
- The Bill and Julie Kellner Center for Neurogenomics, Behavior and Society, which brings together genomic biology, neuroscience, the social sciences and social work to create the first named center of its kind in the U.S.
- Two cancer-focused ARPA-H grants: Margin Diagnostics combines multi-modal label-free optical screening technologies with AI screening tools to ensure that tumor tissue and cells are completely removed during surgery. The Manufacturing Agile and Scalable Organoid Tumor models is focused on developing a radically new platform to manufacture tumor models and dramatically expand their availability for both medical research and personalized medicine.



Financial Overview

Current campus expenditures are around \$3 billion per year. Of this total, sponsored research project awards account for nearly \$850 million. Illinois has a remarkably balanced sponsored research portfolio, with significant funding from the NSF, NIH and DOD.

National and Global Impact

The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign is a member of the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities and the Association of American Universities, as well as the Big Ten Academic Alliance, which is governed by the provosts of the member universities.

Illinois is a recognized leader in national and international education. With an international student enrollment of over 12,000 in 2024-25, Illinois ranks second in the nation among public colleges and universities and includes students from over 120 countries. More than 1,600 students studied abroad in 2024-25, and around 300 programs are offered each year in 50 countries around the globe.

World-Class Faculty, Distinguished Students and Alumni

Among the campus's most significant resources are its talented faculty and students. Many faculty members are recognized for their exceptional scholarship, with memberships in the American Philosophical Society, the National Academy of Sciences, the National Academy of Engineering, the National Academy of Medicine, the National Academy of Inventors, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Academy of Arts and Letters, the National Academy of Education and the American Academy of Arts & Sciences.

Faculty members at the university have won and received Nobel Prizes, Wolf Awards, Pulitzer Prizes, MacArthur Fellowships, Guggenheim Fellowships, Fulbright Awards, the Crafoord Prize in Biosciences, Blavatnik Awards, the Japan Prize, the National Book Award, the National Medal of Science, the National Medal of Technology and Presidential Early Career Awards for Scientists and Engineers, as well as awards from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the National Academy of Education and the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation.

Each year, Illinois students receive some of the world's most prestigious scholarships, including Rhodes, Truman, Marshall, Gates, Goldwater, Churchill, and Luce and Fulbright Scholarships. Illinois has been named a top producer of Fulbright Students and Scholars, often ranking in the top 10 among public universities and top 25 among all universities. Another prime indicator of the university's excellence is the success of its alumni — boasting one of the world's largest, most diverse alumni communities in the U.S. and around the world. The Illinois alumni base includes 11 Nobel laureates, 26 winners of the Pulitzer Prize and 212 Guggenheim Fellows.





World-Class Library

Holding the largest collection among North America’s academic research libraries, the University Library counts over 15 million volumes and more than 24 million items. More than 1 million patrons from around the world access the online catalog each week. Its world-renowned holdings include not only one of the greatest rare book and special collections (Gutenberg Bible, Shakespeare folios, Spanish Golden Age, emblem books, Audubon elephant folio and Sousa manuscripts are only a few examples) but also leading collections of Slavic and Latin American materials; music recordings and scores; legal history; agricultural, physical and engineering sciences; and unique archival materials. The library is home to the Mortenson Center for International Library Programs, the mission of which is to strengthen international ties among libraries and librarians worldwide. More than 1,300 librarians from more than 90 countries have participated in its professional development program, the only one of its kind in the world. The University Library is the only major research library of this scope and magnitude to stress public service and global access.

Arts and Culture

A major center for the arts, Illinois attracts dozens of nationally and internationally renowned artists each year to its widely acclaimed Krannert Center for the Performing Arts. Designed by alumnus Max Abramovitz, an architect of New York City’s Lincoln Center, the facility has four indoor theaters and an outdoor amphitheater. In the more than 50 years since its opening, the center has welcomed hundreds of thousands of patrons for more than 350 performances each year.

The university also supports two major museums: Krannert Art Museum and Spurlock Museum. Second in size only to the Art Institute of Chicago among Illinois general fine-art museums, Krannert Art Museum has over 10,000 works of art in its permanent collection. Spurlock Museum, a museum of world history and culture, holds approximately 50,000 artifacts from diverse cultures and varied historical time periods.

In addition to visual and performing arts, Illinois promotes cultural education through resources offered to the entire campus community. The Asian American Cultural Center, International Education, Japan House, La Casa Cultural Latina, Native American House, Bruce D. Nesbitt African American Cultural Center, Salaam Middle East and North African Cultural Center, Women’s Resources Center, Diversity and Social Justice Education and Gender and Sexuality Resource Center provide opportunities to learn and experience the rich historic traditions and modern living cultures that shape our world

Sustainable Values and Culture

The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign is a leader in higher education and research, with a proven commitment to sustainable practices and innovation. Since 2013, the university has earned gold-level honors in the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System, the nation’s most comprehensive sustainability rating program. In 2015, the U. of I. was recognized by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as a Green Power Partner and ranks among the nation’s top 20 institutions for on-site renewable energy generation. The campus also holds designations as a “Bicycle Friendly University,” a “Tree Campus Higher Education,” and a “Bee Campus USA.” Illinois also received the 2024 International District Energy Association’s System of the Year award, distinguishing its wholly owned and utilities enterprise and the dedicated team members who support it. The system combines cogeneration, digital controls and distribution of multiple energy streams to proactively manage and decrease demand, thereby reducing emissions and maximizing cost-efficiency.

Research Park

The University of Illinois Research Park provides an on-campus community for corporate innovation centers, startups and university research centers to locate together. The highly skilled tech workforce, student employees and research pre-eminence create innovation and new technologies. The Research Park includes 120+ companies, 18 buildings and 2,100 employees. Examples of innovation centers, which employ some of the 800+ students working in the Research Park, include BP, Caterpillar, Capital One, Mondelez, GDM, Rivian, ADM and other Fortune 500 companies. EnterpriseWorks, the Research Park’s 43,000-square-foot business incubator for early-stage tech firms, is operated by the university to help launch successful startup companies. The EnterpriseWorks tech incubator has incubated more than 330 science/tech companies that raised \$1.4 billion in venture capital and more than \$200 million in Small Business Innovation Research/Small Business Technology Transfer funding since 2004. EnterpriseWorks operates the statewide FAST Center, which helps innovative startups across Illinois access federal grant funding for small businesses (SBIR/STTR). In three years, it has helped clients access \$67.2 million in awards; 60% of the clients are from underserved populations.





Comprehensive Academics

More than 37,000 undergraduate students are enrolled in 11 undergraduate colleges and divisions, which together offer courses in more than 150 fields of study. The campus enrolls approximately 21,000 graduate and professional students in more than 200 programs and is among the top universities in the number of earned doctorates awarded annually in the U.S.

Colleges and divisions enrolling undergraduates and graduate students include:

- College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences
- College of Applied Health Sciences
- Gies College of Business
- College of Education
- The Grainger College of Engineering
- College of Fine and Applied Arts
- College of Liberal Arts & Sciences
- College of Media
- School of Information Sciences
- School of Social Work
- Division of Exploratory Studies

The following units offer programs leading to graduate or professional degrees:

- Carle Illinois College of Medicine
- College of Law
- College of Veterinary Medicine
- School of Labor and Employment Relations

The campus is highly regarded in accountancy, biochemistry, chemistry, engineering, information science, education, microbiology and computer science. Additionally, it is nationally recognized for its strengths in the arts and humanities, collaborative and interdisciplinary research culture, highly ranked professional schools and one of the world’s great libraries.

U.S. News & World Report’s America’s Best Colleges (2024-25) rated the Urbana-Champaign campus as 9th among public universities and 33rd among all national universities. In all of Illinois’ current graduate and undergraduate rankings, there are 37 programs in the top five, 67 among the top 10 and 97 in the top 20. Illinois is delivering excellence on a massive scale.

Selected highlights include:

- 17 Top-10 ranked undergraduate degrees and specialties and 17 Top-10 ranked graduate degrees and specialties in the Grainger College of Engineering (per U.S. News & World Report).
 - Civil Engineering is ranked second in graduate and third in undergraduate programs nationally.
 - The Grainger College of Engineering is ranked 5th in undergraduate and 11th in graduate programs nationally.
 - Materials Science and Engineering ranks second in both undergraduate and graduate programs.
 - Electrical and Computer Engineering ranks fourth and fifth respectively in graduate programs.
- The Graduate School of Information Sciences is ranked first in the nation.
- Illinois has been designated a First Scholars Institution by the Center for First-generation Student Success for its commitment to first-gen students.
- The Department of Accounting is ranked second in undergraduate programs and third in graduate programs in the nation.
- Chemistry ranks ninth in graduate programs.
- Psychology ranks sixth in graduate programs.
- The Gies College of Business is ranked 17th in undergraduate programs nationally.
- Gies College of Business is home to the biggest business school innovation of the decade according to Poets&Quants.
- Illinois has been regularly named a top producer of Peace Corps volunteers.
- Open Doors ranks Illinois second among public universities in the number of international students.





Champaign-Urbana

A Micro-Urban Community

While Champaign-Urbana is home to one of the world’s great public research universities, a vibrant arts and culture scene, internationally diverse population, strong technology base and commitment to societal issues make the area a destination for professionals of all kinds. The twin cities feature highly desirable attributes — top-notch restaurants, concert arenas and parks and recreation facilities — commonly found in larger cities.

Champaign-Urbana is consistently ranked as a great place to live and work, with an average commute time of just eight minutes. Combining natural Midwestern beauty with cultural resources typically found in larger metropolitan areas, the twin cities retain the charm, friendliness, safety and affordability of smaller communities. Housing, entertainment and living expenses are comparatively low. Easy commutes, a designated bike-friendly community and an award-winning mass transit system (free with campus ID) make it quick and simple to get from here to there.

Outdoor enthusiasts can enjoy 12,000 acres of community parks throughout the area and a wide variety of outdoor sports and activities such as swimming, boating, fishing, hiking, camping, biking and cross-country skiing at one of the major forest preserves in Champaign County. Golfers enjoy a number of public golf courses within 15 miles of Champaign and three private clubs. The annual Illinois Marathon is a national event that brings together thousands of athletes, spectators and volunteers for a weekend of races and activities.

Within a three-hour car ride to Chicago, St. Louis or Indianapolis, individuals in the community can enjoy sporting events, world-class museums or dinner at renowned restaurants. Amtrak and American Airlines offer daily transportation from Champaign, allowing ready access to almost anywhere in world. As a community that makes it easy to balance work with family and leisure, it doesn’t take long for newcomers to realize that this community is a wonderful place to call home.

