



UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

LEADERSHIP PROFILE

Dean

School of Social Work

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The Search

The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign is accepting nominations and applications for an accomplished and forward-thinking leader to serve as the next Dean of the School of Social Work. This position provides a remarkable opportunity to lead a nationally recognized School committed to advancing social justice, strengthening communities, and improving the lives of individuals and families. The university seeks a visionary leader dedicated to further elevating the School's performance and advancing the values of the social work profession.

The School of Social Work prepares students to make meaningful contributions in a rapidly evolving profession. With a diverse student body of more than 900 learners and over 50 faculty committed to social justice, policy-informed science, evidence-based practice, and community engagement, the School offers a comprehensive portfolio of programs. These include the Bachelor of Social Work, Master of Social Work, and Doctor of Philosophy, as well as two thriving online programs — BSW and MSW — which were recently ranked the nation's No.1 and No.2 online social work programs by Forbes.

The School is also developing an online Doctor of Social Work program focused on nonprofit leadership and macro practice. The School is home to two active research centers, the Children and Family Research Center and the Center for Prevention Research and Development, among other key initiatives.

The School is deeply engaged with local, national, and global community and agency partners to advance social work practice, research, education, and workforce training. Its programs connect students with local, state, and international agencies through the Community Learning Lab, International Programs, Behavioral Health Workforce Education, Learning and Leadership, and other Integrated Behavioral Health initiatives; and it engages in workforce training statewide through the Provider Assistance and Training Hub. The School collaborates with state child welfare agencies on research and quality improvement through the Center for Excellence in Child Welfare, engages alumni and practitioners through its Engagement Office, and advances historical and social justice work through initiatives like Learning Our History. Additionally, Illinois Social Innovation and the Gilmore Business and Social Innovation Fund empower students and communities to co-create innovative solutions to pressing social challenges.

With nearly 8,000 alumni actively engaged as volunteers, ambassadors, and philanthropic supporters, the School benefits from a strong, engaged community. Since the conclusion of the With Illinois Campaign in 2022, where \$8.5 million was raised, the School of Social Work has expanded their philanthropic and alumni engagement efforts, resulting in \$10.2 million in new commitments from alumni, faculty, staff, and community members locally and across the country.

As chief academic and executive officer, the Dean will:

- Provide strategic leadership for the School’s programs, faculty, staff, and students, ensuring continued growth and excellence in academic offerings and research initiatives.
- Guide curriculum and program innovation consistent with the School’s mission of equity, social justice, and responsiveness to societal needs.
- Strengthen the breadth and impact of research, outreach, and service.
- Build and maintain strong partnerships internally across campus and externally with agencies, communities, and national stakeholders.
- Lead fundraising, alumni engagement, and resource development efforts.

- Oversee budgetary planning and operational effectiveness.
- Ensure compliance with accreditation standards.
- Represent the School within university leadership forums, including the Provost’s Council of Deans.

The ideal candidate will possess a track record of outstanding leadership, including support for research, teaching, outreach, and equal opportunity; the ability to attract and retain a diverse faculty, student body, and staff; the demonstrated aptitude to generate public and private resources for the School; and a commitment to both undergraduate and graduate education. Expertise in social work or a closely related discipline is required. Successful candidates will possess qualifications warranting an appointment at the rank of tenured full professor at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

The position of Dean of the School of Social Work reports to the Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost. This appointment is full-time and 12-month, with a negotiable start date.



Dean, School of Social Work, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign



The School of Social Work

The School of Social Work at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign is entering a time of great opportunity, building on its national reputation for promoting social justice, strengthening communities, and improving the lives of individuals and families. The next years of leadership will be crucial in shaping the School's academic excellence, expanding research innovation, and deepening its statewide service mission, all while maintaining the core values of the social work profession.

Recognized for producing knowledge that shapes innovative social welfare policy and practice, the School emphasizes rigorous theoretical and empirical analysis, community-engaged scholarship, and research-informed practice focused on the needs of vulnerable and marginalized populations. The School serves a diverse student body including about 320 BSW majors, 85 minors, approximately 475 MSW students across online and campus programs, and about 30–35 doctoral students. The School's faculty includes nearly 50 full-time faculty, divided roughly equally between tenure-track and specialized faculty, along with about 6 FTE adjunct instructors.

With Bachelor of Social Work, Master of Social Work, and PhD programs, along with expanding online options that support working professionals and statewide workforce needs, the School's offerings are extensive. The online MSW program enrolls around 65 percent of MSW students and provides flexible learning pathways with optional in-person components in Champaign-Urbana and Chicago. The School's online BSW degree, launched in 2022, enrolls students preparing for community-based placements across Illinois. These programs contribute to steady statewide access to high-quality social work education. The School's programs were ranked as the No.1 Online MSW and No.2 Online BSW programs by Forbes in 2025.

Home to two major research centers, the Children and Family Research Center and the Center for Prevention Research and Development, the School conducts more than six million dollars in annual applied research and evaluation. The School also leads two major statewide training and workforce development initiatives in child welfare and behavioral health. These include the Center for Excellence in Child Welfare, which coordinates the School's large-scale training partnership with the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, and the Provider Assistance and Training Hub, the state's primary training and technical assistance center for Medicaid behavioral health reform across Illinois. Together, the School's academic programs, research centers, and statewide workforce initiatives employ around 340 people,

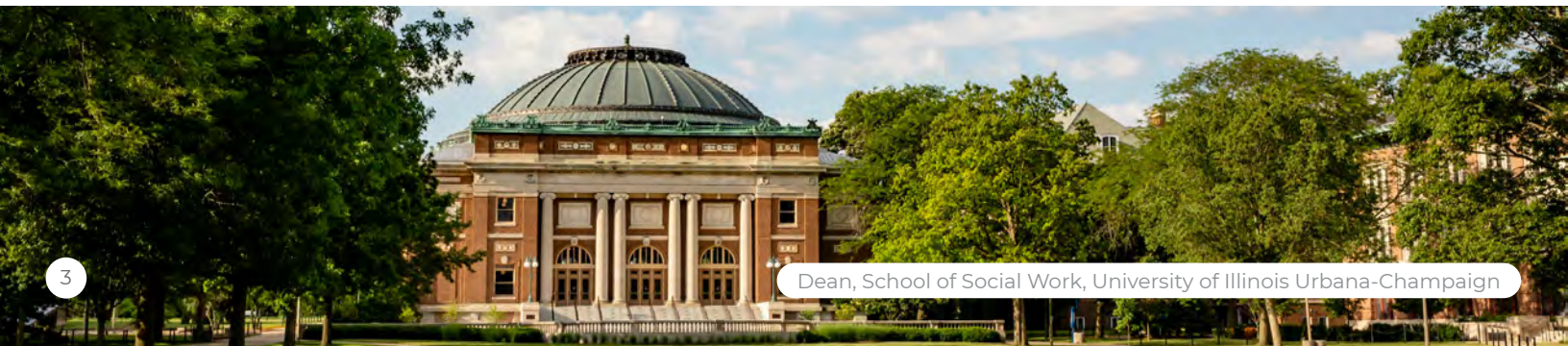
including nearly 290 academic professional and civil service staff based in Champaign-Urbana and throughout Illinois.

With a proud alumni community of nearly 8,000 living members, the School continues to benefit from alumni who serve as volunteers, ambassadors, and donors. Philanthropic support has grown significantly in recent years, including seven-figure endowments supporting community engagement through the Community Learning Lab, financial aid for students in unpaid internships via our Fund for Field, and the recent creation of two named faculty scholars. Alumni and friends also contribute to student scholarships, faculty research, statewide workforce initiatives, and program innovation across online and campus offerings.

Looking ahead, the School has identified several strategic priorities, including continued development of online education, community engagement outreach, expansion of statewide workforce development initiatives, sustained investment in faculty hiring and research infrastructure, and strengthened integration of faculty and students with the School's applied research and professional education centers through coordinated opportunities for collaborative research and applied learning across Illinois. The School is also engaged in active planning to address growth in staff and statewide programming. This planning includes assessing current facilities, supporting hybrid and online learning and work arrangements, and exploring opportunities for additional space to meet instructional, research, and workforce development needs. The School is developing a Doctor of Social Work program, scheduled to launch in 2027 once all approvals have been received.

Leadership in this role will guide the School's direction across academic programs, research centers, and community engagement and service initiatives, supporting faculty and staff and stewarding resources to advance the School's mission. This position offers the opportunity to build partnerships across the university, the state of Illinois, and national and global communities, and to shape initiatives that contribute to social work practice and policy at scale.

Future leadership will play a key role in fostering an environment that attracts and supports a diverse faculty, staff, and student body while strengthening statewide partnerships in child welfare, behavioral health, and social policy. Key priorities for the next phase of leadership include advancing the School's commitments to online education, applied research, community engagement, social justice, and workforce development.



Research Centers and Workforce Development Highlights

As part of an R1 research university, the School of Social Work maintains a strong and growing portfolio of externally funded research and statewide service initiatives. In the most recent fiscal year, Schoolwide expenditures on federal and state grants and contracts totaled more than \$58 million, including major awards that support child welfare, behavioral health, public health, and community well-being. The School's two research centers, the Children and Family Research Center and the Center for Prevention Research and Development, together manage more than six million dollars in annual applied research and evaluation. The School also holds significant contracts with the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services through the Center for Excellence in Child Welfare and with the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services and the Office of Medicaid Innovation through the Provider Assistance and Training Hub. These units collectively support statewide training, evaluation, and implementation projects that strengthen child welfare, behavioral health, and human service systems across Illinois.

The Children and Family Research Center

The CFRC conducts independent research and evaluation that supports child welfare improvement in Illinois. Established through a Consent Decree, the Center serves as the state's independent monitor and produces annual reports on the safety, permanency, placement stability, and well-being outcomes for children served by the DCFS. The Center conducts experimental research and applied studies, analyzes statewide administrative data, and develops reports and dashboards that guide state policy and practice. Current CFRC projects include an RCT examining the impact of the unconditional cash transfers on reducing maltreatment recurrence, an evaluation of a pilot program aimed to reduce racial bias in child removal decisions, the statewide child death review evaluation, and an annual legislative report on racial disproportionality. The CFRC maintains a funding portfolio of over \$7 million from several state and private foundation funding sources.



The Center for Prevention Research and Development

The Center for Prevention Research and Development is a statewide applied research and technical assistance center that advances prevention science and supports education, health, and human service systems in Illinois. CPRD's multidisciplinary team includes 30 full-time staff, and its external funding portfolio involves \$3.5 million to \$4.0 million annually. Focal areas include juvenile justice, teen pregnancy prevention, substance use prevention, early childhood home visiting, and medical care for the underserved. Findings from CPRD research have been used to change practices and policies in Illinois, most recently a bill that prevents youth under age 13 from being detained. Since 2020, Center data was used in 17 peer-reviewed publications involving six faculty members, 17 doctoral students, and eight scientists in different institutions.

Center for Excellence in Child Welfare

The School of Social Work has a long-standing partnership with DCFS that supports statewide workforce development in child welfare. This work is now organized within the Center for Excellence in Child Welfare, which coordinates professional learning, coaching, implementation support, and specialized training for child welfare staff and supervisors across Illinois. CECW includes the Office of Workforce Development composed of programs such as the Field Implementation Support Program, Academic Partnerships, and training

academies, each of which supports statewide professional learning and practice improvement. The CECW supports more than one hundred full-time staff and manages projects that advance evidence-informed practice, improve professional competencies, and strengthen service quality for children and families served by the state.

Provider Assistance and Training Hub

PATH supports statewide behavioral health transformation through a partnership with the Illinois Healthcare and Family Services and the University System's Office of Medicaid Innovation. PATH develops and delivers training, coaching, fidelity monitoring and technical assistance for behavioral health providers implementing standardized assessment tools, crisis response models, and system-of-care services. The initiative is staffed by about 45 full-time employees, including clinical specialists, coaches, evaluators, and curriculum designers who serve providers across Illinois. In the most recent year, PATH facilitated more than thirteen thousand training completions across instructor-led and self-paced courses, and provided coaching, technical assistance, and fidelity monitoring to care coordination agencies statewide. PATH continues to expand with new curricula, learning collaboratives, and implementation support activities that strengthen the workforce supporting Medicaid behavioral health services for children, youth, and families.



Applications, inquiries and nominations

Isaacson, Miller is assisting the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign in the search. Initial screening of applications will begin immediately, and interviews may be conducted prior to the closing date. No hiring decision will be made until the search closes. For full consideration, materials should be provided by February 2, 2026; however, materials will be considered until the position is filled. The budgeted salary range for this position is \$275,000-\$375,000 annually. Salary is competitive and commensurate with qualifications and experience, while also considering internal equity.

Nominations should include the name, position, address, and telephone number. Application materials should include a letter outlining qualifications, current vitae, and the names and contact information for five references. References will not be contacted without prior knowledge and approval of candidates. Inquiries, nominations, referrals, and vitae should be sent via the Isaacson, Miller [website](#).

Kate Berry,
Managing Partner

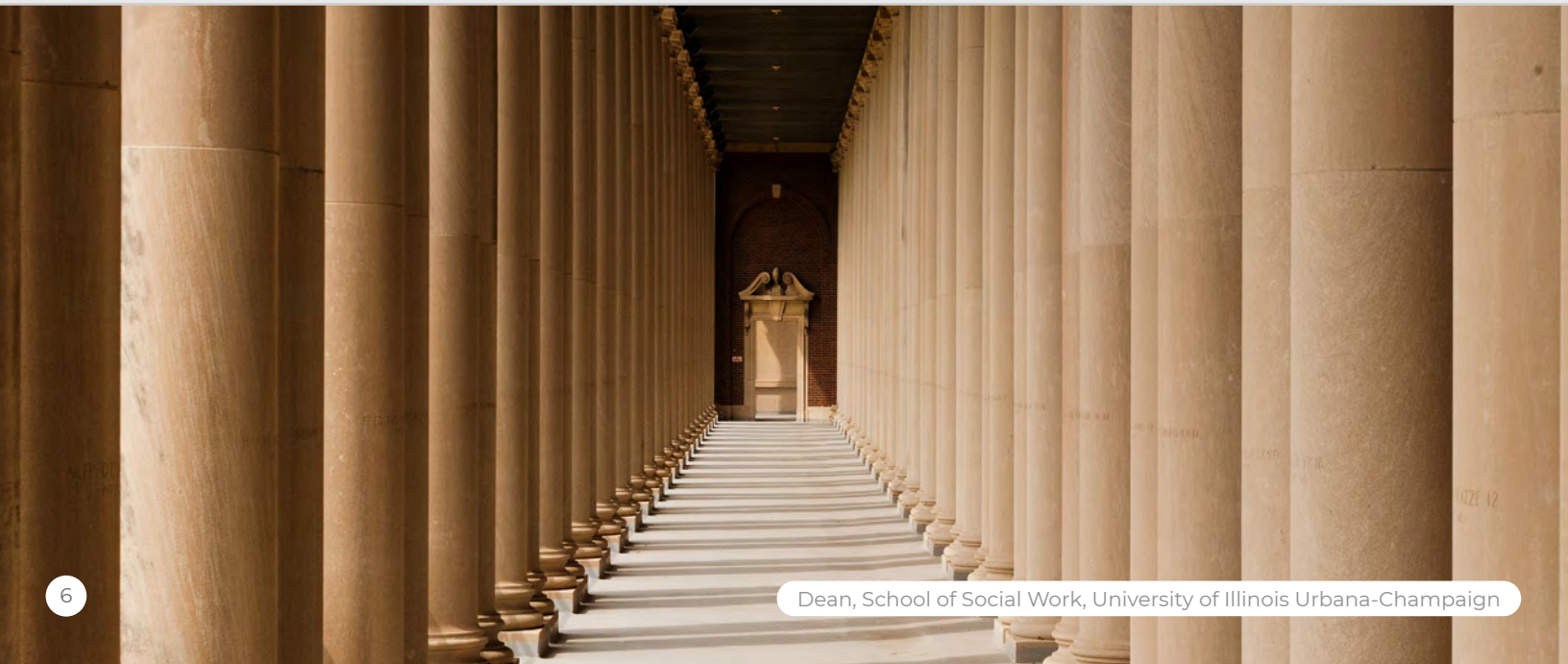
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The University of Illinois System is an equal opportunity employer, including but not limited to disability and/or veteran status, and complies with all applicable state and federal employment mandates. Please visit [Required Employment Notices and 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.

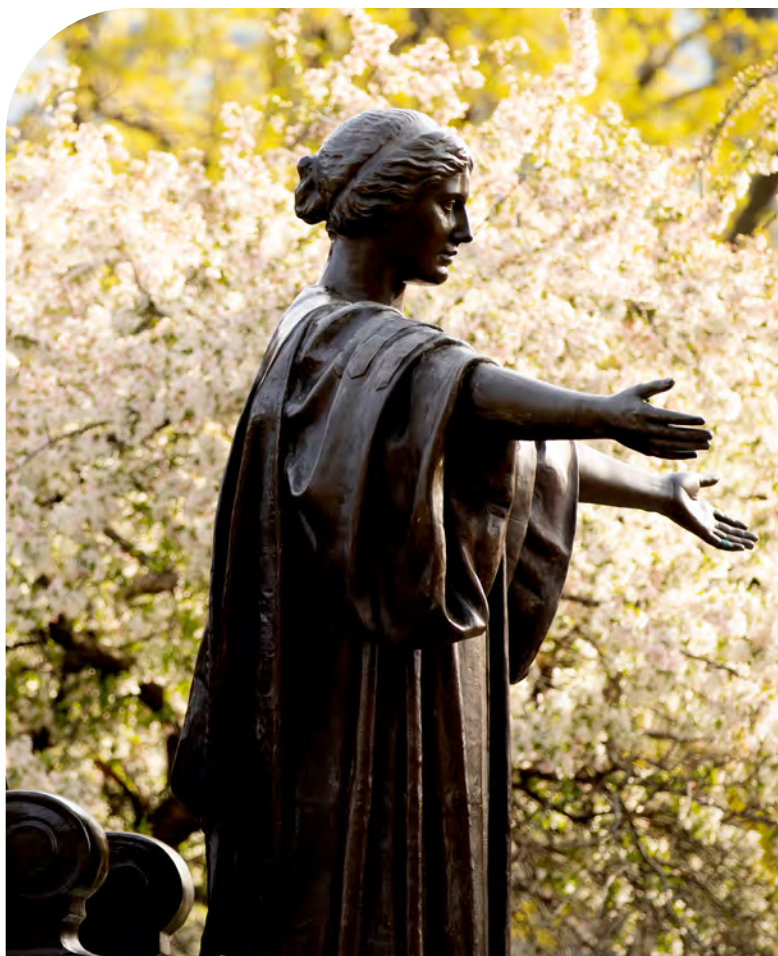
The University of Illinois System has campuses in Urbana-Champaign, Chicago and Springfield. The flagship campus in Urbana-Champaign is the largest of the three, situated on 1,783 acres. The metro population is more than 230,000, according to the 2020 U.S. Census.

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:

~39,000

undergraduate students

~22,000

**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.

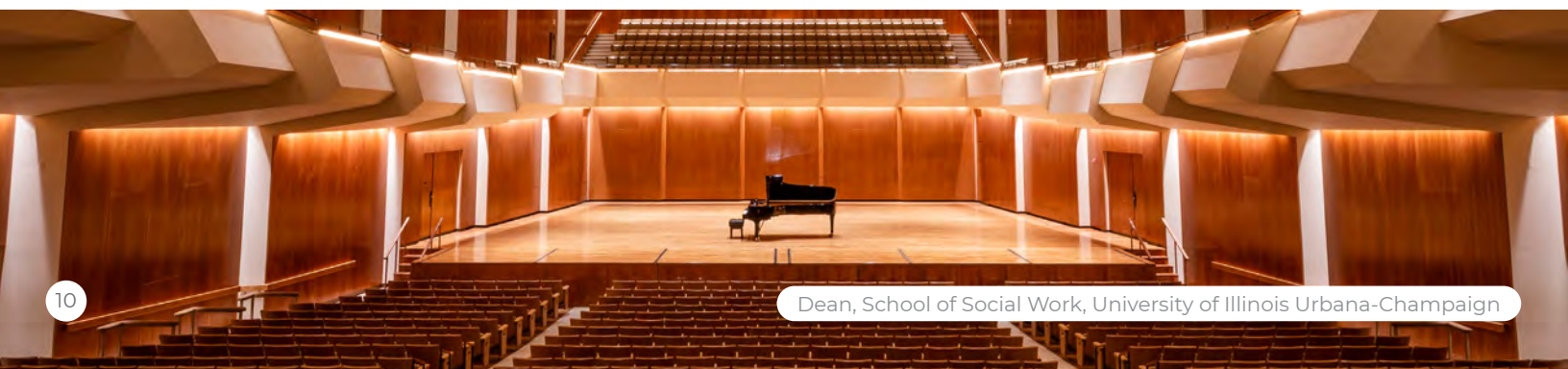
In addition to visual and performing arts, Illinois promotes cultural education through resources offered to the entire campus community. The Asian American Cultural Center, International Education, Japan House, La Casa Cultural Latina, Native American House, Bruce D. Nesbitt African American Cultural 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.



Dean, School of Social Work, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign



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.

