

# Dean

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## THE COLLEGE OF FINE AND APPLIED ARTS





A low-angle, upward-looking photograph of a modern university building with a glass and metal facade. The building's windows reflect a bright, orange-hued sky with scattered clouds. The text "UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS" is visible on the lower part of the building's facade.

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

# Leadership Profile







## Executive Summary

The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, one of the premier public research universities in the country, invites nominations and applications for the position of Dean of the College of Fine and Applied Arts. The University of Illinois is a world-class land-grant university committed to excellence in research, teaching, public engagement and international programs. The university has a long tradition of shared governance and is committed to advancing diversity, equity, inclusion and access. We seek a visionary dean dedicated to partnering with the college's faculty, staff and students to advance creative practice and scholarship.

The College of Fine and Applied Arts at Illinois is singular in the nation for its diversity, innovation and breadth. The college mission is dedicated to the advancement, practice and understanding of the arts. The central focus of the college is the synergy between research and the preparation of students for professional careers in the creation and interpretation of the environmental, visual and performing arts. Deeply related to that focus is the commitment to elevate and sustain the study of the arts as both a necessary mode of understanding and a vibrant expression of human experience within the local, national and international communities.

The college comprises the Schools of Architecture, Art and Design, and Music; the Departments of Dance, Landscape Architecture, Theatre, and Urban and Regional Planning; Krannert Center for the Performing Arts; Krannert Art Museum; and Japan House. There are over 660 faculty members and staff, including more than 150 tenure system faculty members, and over 1,850 undergraduate and 635 graduate students enrolled in over 30 majors and 10 minors.

As the chief academic and executive officer of the college, the dean has the primary responsibility for providing a unified vision in alignment with the university strategy, strategic direction, faculty and staff development, the promotion and tenure process, budgetary oversight and planning, academic and curricular issues, fundraising and facilities development. The position of Dean of FAA reports to the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost and is a senior administrative position with a seat on the Council of Deans. The Dean will support and empower faculty members, students and staff;

promote diversity, equity, inclusion, and access across the college; enhance and build interdisciplinary partnerships and collaborations across the campus, the state and the world; and be a strong advocate and spokesperson for the college both on campus and with external partners and stakeholders.

The ideal candidate will possess superb leadership skills; outstanding administrative, budgetary and fundraising experience; a demonstrated commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion and access; excellent communication skills; and an ability to manage the challenges of undergraduate, graduate and professional education in a complex university environment. They will have experience developing and nurturing relationships and partnerships across a variety of disciplines and with outside partners. Candidates whose backgrounds are in a university setting should hold a terminal degree and have a distinguished record of teaching and of accomplishments in research and creative activity. Candidates whose backgrounds are in a non-academic setting should have a distinguished record of professional accomplishments and demonstrate an understanding of, and investment in, scholarly achievement and a familiarity with the academic enterprise. Additionally, a proven record of achievement commensurate with an appointment at the rank of full professor is required.

This full-time, 12-month appointment has a negotiable start date with salary commensurate with experience.

## The College of Fine and Applied Arts

The College of Fine and Applied Arts at Illinois is an unparalleled national leader in scope, innovation and diversity. Home to creative thinkers in the performing, visual, design and environmental arts, our college encourages daring collaborations and deeper cultural understanding. Our bold artists, researchers and educators include Guggenheim Fellows, Doris Duke Award winners, Fulbright Scholars, members of learned societies, decorated educators and renowned performers. Our dynamic atmosphere motivates us to generate work that pushes boundaries and addresses society's most pressing challenges.

It inspires us, and it helps us inspire the world. We see the arts as a way to understand and express the human experience. We are leaders and explorers. We are problem solvers and builders of a bright future.

**We dream big. Then we make it happen.**

The College of Fine and Applied Arts is dedicated to the advancement, practice and understanding of the arts. FAA's central focus is the nexus between research and the preparation of students for professional careers in environmental, visual and performing arts. Deeply related to that focus is the commitment to elevate and sustain the study of the arts as both a necessary mode of understanding and a vibrant expression of human experience within the local, national and international communities.

**Research Highlights:**

As one of the nation's leading research institutions, the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign has been shaping the future since 1867. Research at FAA is a highly engaged area that often includes community involvement and interdisciplinary partnerships. Faculty members and staff throughout the college are world-renowned thought leaders and scholars. The college reimagines what research in the arts looks like and how it can shape our university, community and the world.

[The Arts Impact Initiative](#) is a pilot program supported by the Investment for Growth Program out of the Office of the Provost and the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Innovation. The initiative builds on the historic record of research, creation and service across the College of Fine and Applied Arts' Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, Krannert Art Museum, Japan House and academic units dedicated to the study of the visual and performing arts, design, architecture, landscape architecture and urban planning. It serves the university's land-grant mission through its focus on translation of data and research about art and artists into actionable strategies for enhancing how we work and live locally, regionally and nationally.

Arts Impact is an institutional partner to the [Strategic National Arts Alumni Project](#) and co-collaborators/partners with [Arts Alliance Illinois](#) and University of Illinois Chicago. For over a decade, SNAAP data and reports have explored alumni perspectives on their livelihoods and educational experiences. This research has helped higher education and other arts training institutions improve student experiences and transform curricula for better alumni outcomes. The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign is a sponsoring institution for SNAAP, with a research team housed within the College of Fine and Applied Arts under the Arts Impact Initiative. Jennifer Novak-Leonard, professor of Urban and Regional Planning, serves as SNAAP's Research Director as well as the Vice President of the SNAAP Board of Directors.

[Crip\\*- Cripistemology and the Arts](#) is a transdisciplinary initiative housed at the College of Fine and Applied Arts at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Co-founded by Christopher Robert Jones and Liza Sylvestre, Crip\* is fundamentally a practice-based, experimental collaboration that draws upon points of connection between artistic practice and critical thought —understanding the need to address both how cripistemologies are shaped pedagogically and how they are disseminated publicly.

The [Minor Aesthetics Lab: Experiments in Performance and Politics](#), led by Sandra Ruiz, serves as a space to explore social constructions like race, ethnicity, gender, sex and class through collaborative experimentation using arts such as theatre, photography, music, curation, dance, poetry and sculpture.

**Unit Highlights:**

[Krannert Center for the Performing Arts](#) is the country's premier university-based performing arts complex, unique in both scale and mission. Through educational programs, visiting artists from across the world and local activities, Krannert Center provides an uncommon gathering place for artistic excellence and creativity. As classroom, laboratory and public square, the center supports the creation of new work, engages the community and champions the exceptional academic programs and performances of the Department of Dance, the Department of Theatre and the School of Music.

Among serene gardens and cherry trees, [Japan House](#) nurtures the traditional arts, culture and aesthetics of Japan. Classes and outreach activities with a focus on Chado, the Way of Tea, bring diverse art forms to students and the public. Japan House and its gardens provide an immersive and welcoming environment where people can embrace tranquility and discover new perspectives. Japan House expanded its educational mission and now offers a minor in Japanese Aesthetics.

[Krannert Arts Museum](#) is the second largest general fine art museum in the state of Illinois, a cultural destination and a virtual presence that strives to enrich the human experience by inviting visitors to make connections through the visual arts between the past and present, between what is understood and what is unknown. The museum boasts a rich permanent collection containing more than 11,000 works and hosts numerous exhibitions and events each year.





[The School of Architecture](#) at the University of Illinois was the first public school of architecture in the United States. Nathan Ricker became the first graduate of an architecture program in the United States in March 1873, and Mary Louisa Page became the first woman to graduate with a degree in architecture in North America in 1879. Drawing on this history, the school approaches design with a sense of shared responsibility and ethics. Notable contemporary alumni have continued the strong Illinois tradition of influential and holistic design around the globe. These distinguished alumni include Ralph Johnson, Carol Ross Barney, the late Cesar Pelli, John Zils, Dina Griffin, Jeanne Gang and Steve Weindel.

The [School of Art and Design](#) distinguishes itself, as part of a preeminent public research university, through its leadership in visual literacy, design thinking, critical inquiry and material problem solving. As artists, designers, historians and educators, the school's faculty members and staff prepare students to make significant contributions in broad areas of culture, scholarship and professional practice. We value the unique qualities of traditionally defined disciplines, the exploration of critical frameworks, collaborative processes and new technologies and media. Central to the school's culture is a commitment to open dialogue among students, faculty members, staff and a global community in an atmosphere of diversity and active inclusion.

The [Department of Dance](#) is one of the oldest — and most progressive — dance programs in the country. Creative research drives the program's faculty members, who embrace diverse viewpoints, investigate new approaches, find connections and immerse in the process of discovery to explore and stretch the field. Students explore a multitude of dance styles and forms, including modern, ballet, African, jazz, hip hop, improvisation, tap and more. Dance's exceptional and internationally renowned faculty members are recipients of Guggenheim Fellowships, USA Artist Fellowships, New York Dance & Performance ("Bessie") Awards and numerous campus and college awards for excellence in research and teaching.

The [Department of Landscape Architecture](#) is addressing the key design challenges of our time: climate change adaptation, energy production and efficiency, green infrastructure, environmental justice, cultural heritage, biodiversity, public space design and the creation of just communities. In 1868, the University of Illinois became one of the first institutions in the United States to offer a course in landscape design, with a degree program in place by 1907. Today, the department sponsors leading accredited undergraduate and graduate level programs as well as one of the only landscape architecture Ph.D programs in the nation. The faculty members are a diverse community of dedicated and productive designers, theorists and historians deeply committed to teaching excellence, creative work and scholarly research.

The [School of Music](#) is a center for creativity and collaboration — embracing both tradition and innovation through performance, research and education. The School of Music opened in 1895 and has been accredited by the National Association of Schools of Music since 1933. Since 1868, the Marching Illini has entertained millions of fans with traditional and innovative performances that have made them "The Nation's Premier College Marching Band." The school offers five unique degree options and a variety of majors to suit the diverse

interests of young musicians who are interested in building a career in the 21st century. The School of Music offers a large selection of ensembles that are open, by audition, to all students regardless of their major. Faculty members in the school engage in innovative research and practice, and many maintain active performing, publishing and composing careers with distinguished organizations and award-winning musicians.

Small and highly selective, the [Department of Theatre](#) seeks theatre makers serious about honing their craft and innovating in the performing and production arts. Students may pursue a variety of degrees in acting, design and production, and theatre studies. Theatre's alumni grace the stages of Broadway, the small screen and the silver screen. Notable alumni include Academy Award-winning director Ang Lee; actors Shanola Hampton, Nick Offerman, Jon Michael Hill and Besty Brandt; and Robert Greenblatt, a television executive and former chairman of NBC Entertainment and WarnerMedia Entertainment. Faculty members in theatre value innovation and collaboration in the creation of new artistic work and in approaches to the classics along with the development of new technologies and methods of performance research.

The [Department of Urban and Regional Planning](#) is one of the leading planning programs in the U.S., and one of the few to offer four degrees spanning all levels of study — undergraduate, master's and doctoral. The department is an intellectually exciting, creative and forward-thinking community of students, scholars and planning practitioners. The Department of Urban and Regional Planning teaches planning as both an art and a science. The curriculum builds skills in creative problem-solving, professional communication, participatory modes of planning, design and technical analysis. Students can explore transportation, land use, social justice, sustainability, and community and economic development. Planning's internationally recognized faculty members offer courses that cover the historical core of the discipline while expanding the field's identity to meet emerging challenges, opportunities and needs. Their innovative research extends from local communities to across the globe as faculty members and alumni help communities chart their unique paths toward environmental, economic and social sustainability.





## Opportunities and Challenges

### Lead the College of Fine and Applied Arts with a clear and unified vision

The central focus of the college is the synergy between scholarship, creative practice and the preparation of students for professional careers in the creation and interpretation of the environmental, visual, design and performing arts. The college is acclaimed for its diversity, innovation and scale, generating work that pushes boundaries and addresses society's most pressing challenges. The dean will collaborate with the College of Fine and Applied Arts faculty members, staff, students and alumni to articulate and execute a compelling vision for the future of the college in alignment with university strategy. The dean will provide visionary leadership cognizant of the rapidly shifting higher education landscape and the need for innovation in schools and colleges of fine and applied arts. With a strategic focus in mind, the dean will capitalize on the multiplicity of the programs and perspectives within the college and foster a culture that encourages and empowers faculty, staff and students to explore new ways of thinking and creating.

### Foster collaboration within the college and across campus

The College of Fine and Applied Arts spans a wide range of disciplines and is home to the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, the Krannert Art Museum and the Japan House. With the diversity of disciplines that exist within the college, the dean will be expected to understand and promote areas for cross-disciplinary collaborations and with other units across the university. The dean will support departments and units, enabling their continued excellence within their fields while also engendering within the College a unified organizational identity and collaborative spirit among faculty members, staff and students that seizes interdisciplinary opportunities. The dean will communicate proactively and effectively with academic leaders across each unit as well as staff within the college, encouraging activities that strengthen connections across departments and disciplines. The successful candidate will also forge and expand connections with other colleges and schools across the university and partner with campus leadership to communicate the value of the college and promote opportunities for interdisciplinary research, creative practice and scholarship throughout the university.

### Champion the College of Fine and Applied Arts' work across the university and beyond

The dean is expected to be an advocate for the college's involvement in the community as a key facet of its public mission, serving as a visible leader across campus, throughout Urbana-Champaign and beyond. The college is committed to elevating and sustaining the study of the performing, visual, design and environmental arts as necessary modes of understanding and vibrant expressions of the human experience within the local, national and international communities. The dean will be expected to serve both as a steadfast spokesperson and advocate for the college as well as a collaborative and engaged university citizen and community member. They will connect with internal and external audiences to persuasively tell the story of the college's successes and ambitions and to shine a light on the ways the college's expertise, knowledge and resources can contribute to the greater good of the community and beyond. Within the university, the dean will be an advocate for the college who can engage effectively with senior administrators to make the case for the vital role of the performing, visual, design and environmental arts in higher education.

### Maintain and enhance the college's financial strength and generate new revenue streams

Strengthening the financial base of the college is a critical part of the dean's responsibility. As the university has moved to a modified activity-based budget model, the dean must ensure that the college has the resources to thrive and deploys them optimally. The dean oversees a large budget and must make creative and prudent resource allocation decisions that are value driven, transparent and within a culture of shared governance.

The college has had success in fundraising efforts and the dean will sustain and build upon those efforts, stewarded by the college's advancement team and working with dedicated advancement officers to engage with key stakeholders and alumni. The successful candidate will be able to articulate the unique strengths of the college's units and spaces, the value of its programs and the impact of giving to the college. In addition to attracting philanthropy and investment, the dean will support the growth of research grants and support faculty in expanding research funding. Overall, the dean will encourage entrepreneurial initiatives and be nimble in pursuing opportunities that emerge.



## **Foster an environment that embraces, diversity, equity, inclusion and access**

The university and college are committed to providing all students, regardless of background and/or financial means, exceptional experiences, tools and opportunities to succeed throughout their entire academic journey. This commitment will be explicitly evident in the hiring, retention, professional development and support of faculty members, students and staff. It will be further reflected in the expansion of diverse and inclusive curricular offerings. The college has made important and significant strides in DEIA initiatives for the community, and the next dean is expected to embrace and ensure this work continues. The dean will partner with and empower the college's Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Access Committee to engage with all units and areas of the College to create and promote a welcoming, safe and accessible environment for all.

## **Lead talented, committed faculty members and staff by balancing, recognizing and rewarding their full range of scholarship and creative activity**

The College of Fine and Applied Arts benefits from talented faculty members and staff that are eager to be engaged in the shared governance of the college. The dean will have the opportunity to work with exceptional faculty members and staff and will invest in their capacity and leadership to support the college's success in achieving its mission and goals. The successful candidate will recognize each unit's unique strengths and abilities, demonstrating support and recognition for all disciplines within the college; be well-versed in the standards and process of tenure review at a top-tier research university; appreciate and foster research, practice and teaching; and promote innovation.

## **Application Procedures:**

Inquiries, nominations and applications are invited. The university strongly encourages nominations of, as well as applications from, women and individuals traditionally underrepresented in academia and leadership. Review of applications will continue until the position is filled. For full consideration, applications should be received by **Jan. 17, 2024**. Candidates should provide a CV/resume and a letter of application that addresses the responsibilities and requirements described above along with a minimum of three professional references. All inquiries, nominations/referrals and applications should be sent electronically to:

**Benjamin Tobin, Partner (he/him)**

**Becky Piper, Managing Associate (she/her/hers)**

**Lauren Wilkes, Senior Associate (she/her)**

**Alaine Small, Senior Search Coordinator (she/her)**

**Isaacson, Miller**

<https://www.imsearch.com/open-searches/university-illinois-urbana-champaign-college-fine-applied-arts/dean>

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](mailto: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) and the creation of the SHIELD comprehensive platform to mitigate the COVID-19 pandemic, 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 twin cities' combined population is more than 180,000, with nearby villages of Mahomet and Savoy noted as some of the fastest-growing populations in the state. The diversity of the Champaign-Urbana community is represented by African Americans at 15% of the population, followed by Asians at 10% and Hispanics at 6%.

### Vision

**The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign will be the pre-eminent public research university with a land-grant mission and global impact**

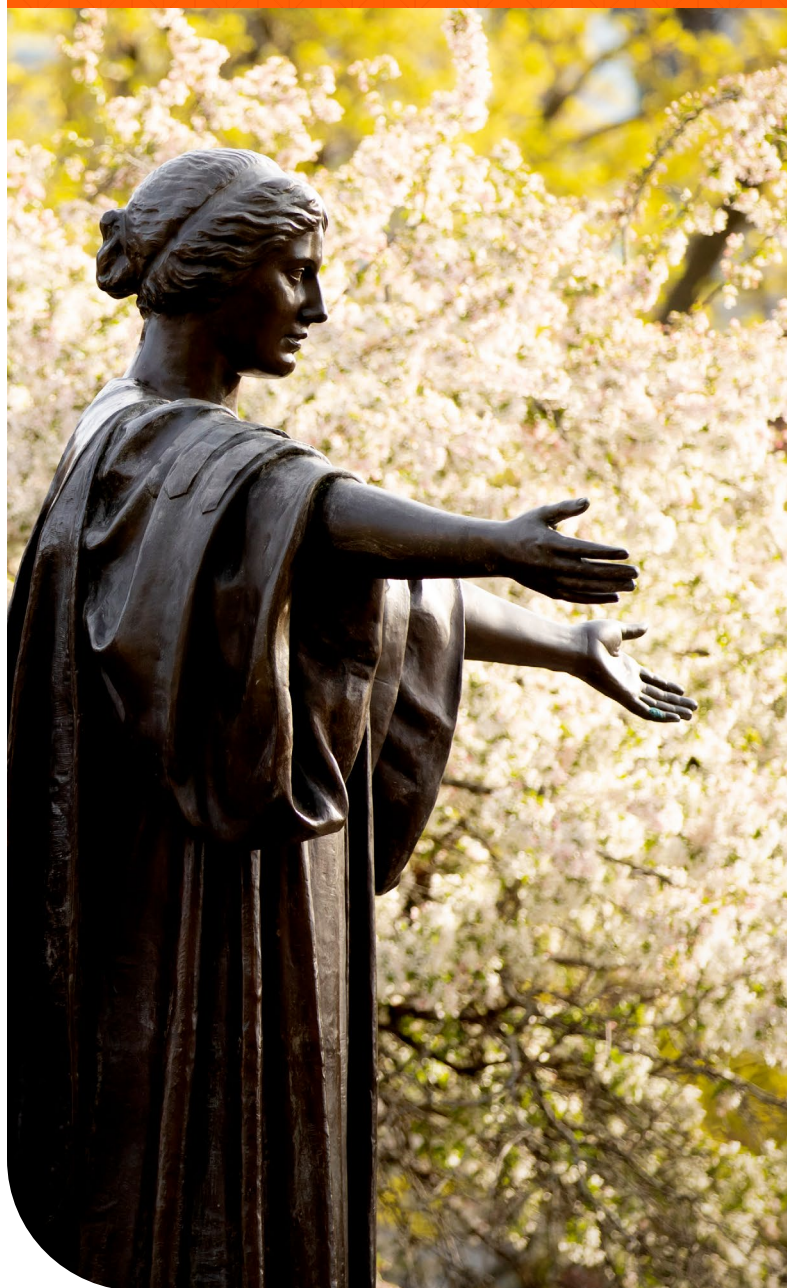
The campus is led by Chancellor Robert J. Jones, who is the chief executive officer for the Urbana-Champaign campus and is responsible for all financial programs, campus policies and priorities, with the mission of ensuring a transformative educational experience for the world's next generation of leaders.

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 undergraduates as one of the cornerstones of its diversity, equity and inclusion efforts. The university provides strong undergraduate and graduate education programs; undertakes basic, translational and applied research; and supports outreach, extension, continuing education, initiatives and programs to enrich diversity and inclusion, 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:

- **~35,000**  
undergraduate students
- **~21,000**  
graduate and professional students
- **~3,250**  
tenure system and specialized faculty members
- **~3,900**  
academic professionals
- **~4,300**  
civil service staff members







### Noteworthy projects include:

- Two of the nation's seven artificial intelligence institutes, the Molecule Maker Lab and AIFARMS, an institute that advances foundational AI to address important challenges facing world agriculture.
- Co-leadership of the National Science Foundation supported Institute for Mathematical and Statistical Innovation, in partnership with University of Illinois-Chicago, Northwestern and the University of Chicago.
- The Genomics and Eco-evolution of Multi-scale Symbioses Institute, a NSF-supported Biology Integration Institute.
- The Quantum Leap Challenge Institute, one of only three such institutes in the country.
- Humanities Without Walls, a 15-member consortium funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation that creates new avenues for collaborative research, teaching and the production of scholarship in the humanities, through cross-institutional cooperation (more than \$7 million in awards since 2014).
- The Realizing Increased Photosynthesis Efficiency program funded by The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to re-engineer photosynthesis-related metabolic pathways and transform global underprivileged economies that are agricultural-based.
- The National Institutes of Health Center for Macromolecular Modeling and Bioinformatics, founded over 30 years ago to drive outreach and software development for computational biology, molecular simulation and visualization. It serves more than 120,000 biomedical researchers across the nation and around the world.
- A \$115 million Department of Energy award, the Center for Advanced Bioenergy and Bioproducts Innovation, focused on biofuels and bioproducts.
- The Center for Wounded Veterans, a national leader in research, services and support for veterans with disabilities.
- Innovative partnerships including the newly announced IBM-Illinois Discovery Accelerator Institute, c3.ai Digital Transformation Institute, the Illinois-Sandia Research Partnership, the HATHI Trust Research Center, and the Advanced Digital Sciences Center.
- The establishment of the COVID-19 Shield Target, Test, Tell program, was implemented on campus, across the state and the nation to mitigate the pandemic.
- The design and development of the Illinois Rapid Vent working prototype for emergency use with COVID-19 patients.



## Financial Overview

Current campus expenditures are approximately \$2.29 billion per year. Of this total, sponsored research project awards account for nearly \$750 million. Illinois consistently ranks among the top universities in NSF- and DOE-funded research and development expenditures.

## 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 12,500, Illinois ranks second in the nation among public colleges and universities and includes students from over 100 countries. More than 1,500 students studied abroad in 2022-23, and the campus is in the top 30 among all universities in overall study abroad numbers.

## 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, 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, 19 winners of the Pulitzer Prize, and 160 Guggenheim Fellows.







## World-Class Library

Holding the largest collection among North America's academic research libraries, the University Library counts over 14 million volumes and 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 900 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.

## The 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, Japan House, Bruce D. Nesbitt African American Cultural Center, La Casa Cultural Latina, Native American House, Women's Resources Center, and LGBT 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 higher education and research leader across the nation in its commitment to sustainable practices and innovation. In 2019, the university earned Gold Level honors in the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS), the nation's most comprehensive sustainability rating system and was named the ninth winner of the Climate Leadership Award from the U.S. Green Building Council and the nonprofit Second Nature. The Sierra Club lists Illinois among the top 50 "Cool Schools," and the campus has been designated a "Bicycle Friendly University," a "Tree Campus, USA" and a "Bee Campus, USA." In 2023, the campus was named one of the top universities at implementing cold-storage best management practices and reducing energy usage by the International Laboratory Freezer Challenge for the third straight year.

## 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 2,200 employees. Examples of innovation centers, which employ some of the 800+ students working in the Research Park, include AbbVie, Abbott, Bayer, AARP 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. Startup companies that have incubated at EnterpriseWorks have raised \$1.2 billion in private equity or venture capital investments. The small business clients at EnterpriseWorks are awarded 25% of all the SBIR/STTR federal small business research grants in the state of Illinois annually. EnterpriseWorks manages entrepreneurship support programs, business assistance and training to aid startups and technology commercialization. Faculty and students are supported in launching new ventures to commercialize research and inventions emerging from the campus research enterprise and academic departments, including medical devices, robotics, digital innovations and other technologies.

## Comprehensive Academics

More than 35,000 undergraduate students are enrolled in 10 undergraduate divisions, which together offer over 5,000 courses in more than 150 fields of study. The campus enrolls approximately 19,000 graduate and professional students in more than 100 programs and is among the top universities in the number of earned doctorates awarded annually in the United States.

### 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 General 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 (2023-24) rated the Urbana-Champaign campus as 12th among public universities and 35th among all national universities. In all of Illinois' current graduate and undergraduate rankings, there are 34 programs in the top five, 57 among the top 10 and 87 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. A leading example of a "micro-urban" community, 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 80 parks spanning nearly 1,000 acres in Champaign-Urbana alone. 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 are just minutes away from virtually any address in the community. Golfers enjoy nine 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.

