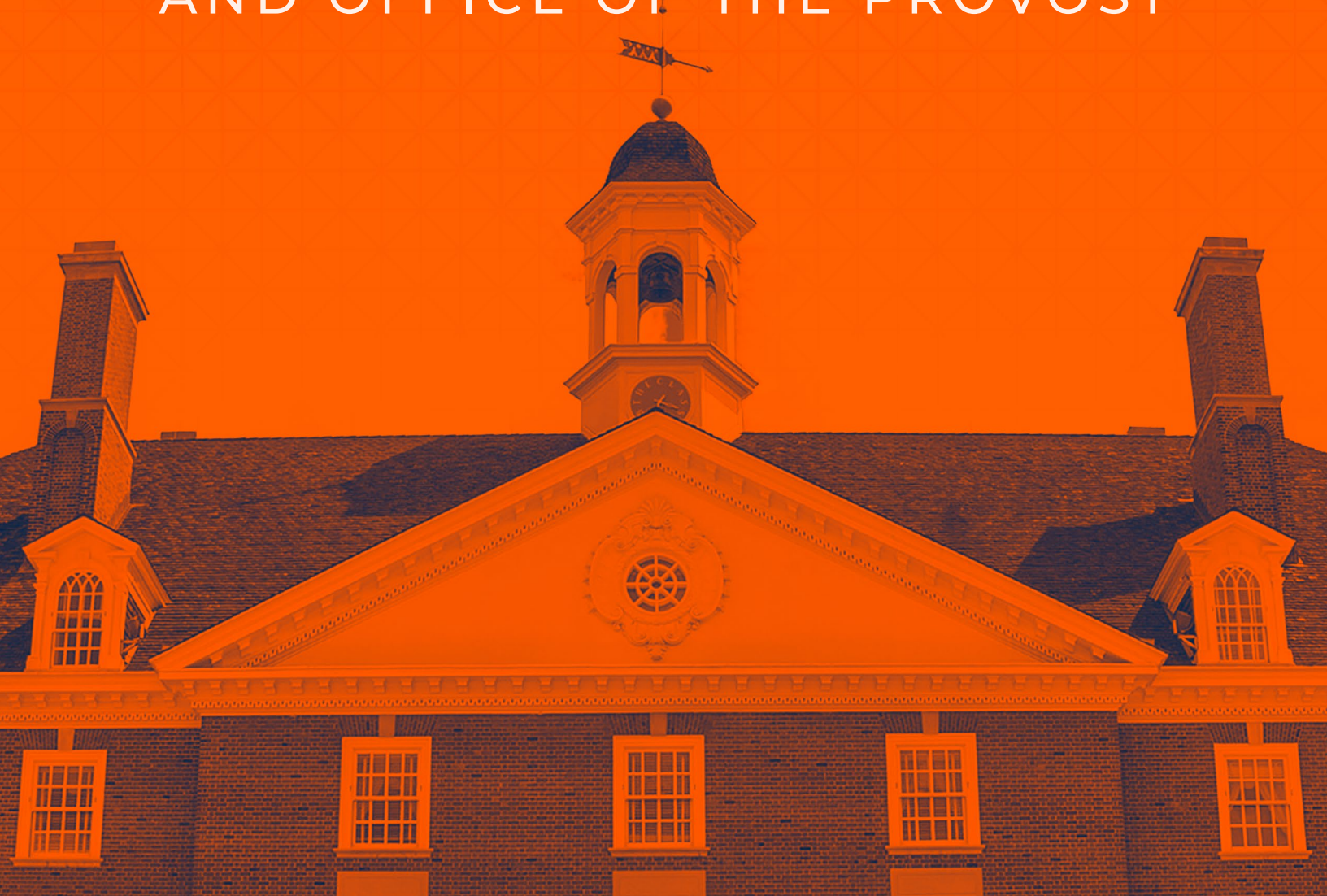


Associate Chancellor/ Vice Provost for Finance, Budget and Capital Resources

OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR
AND OFFICE OF THE PROVOST



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 clouds. The text "UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS" is visible on the lower part of the building's facade. The entire image is overlaid with a strong orange color filter.

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

Leadership Profile



Associate Chancellor/Vice Provost for Finance, Budget and Capital Resources

The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, a preeminent public research university and the flagship campus of the University of Illinois System, seeks an Associate Chancellor/Vice Provost for Finance, Budget and Capital Resources who will embrace the opportunities and challenges associated with expanding excellence at a premier land-grant institution.

Founded in 1867 as one of the nation's original public land-grant institutions of higher education, the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign offers transformative undergraduate and graduate education, conducts ground-breaking research, engages in significant extension and public outreach activities, provides unique continuing education and online learning opportunities, and promotes a diverse learning environment that welcomes, cultivates and respects the contributions of all. 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 FY24 operating budget is nearly \$3.36 billion. In FY23, the cumulative grant spending from the university's researchers totaled \$725 million.

The campus community includes approximately 35,000 undergraduate students; 21,000 graduate and professional students; 3,250 tenure-system and specialized faculty members; 3,900 academic professionals; and 4,300 civil service staff members. 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; the University Library; and the College of Veterinary Medicine. With over 500,000 alumni from around the world, Illinois fully embraces its global presence while remaining committed to its land-grant heritage.

The Associate Chancellor/Vice Provost for Finance, Budget and Capital Resources provides strategic budget planning and allocation advice to the chancellor and provost; guidance and leadership to campus in areas related to budget, finance, planning and resource allocation; leadership and management of the campus budget office; and serves as the campus's chief financial officer and a member of the chancellor's and provost's leadership teams. The campus budget and finance office is a unit of the Office of the Provost.

The duties and responsibilities for this position include:

Strategy

- Lead the development, implementation and assessment of the campus's short- and long-term financial strategies; analyze, interpret and communicate information pertaining to the financial performance of the university; make recommendations concerning the strategic allocation of resources, business processes and policies; develop strategies to improve financial performance and efficiency; identify trends and changes in resources and expenditures that may require action.
- Identify and develop solutions for complex and systemic problems.
- Provide strategic direction and oversight for the Operational Excellence @ Illinois Initiative.

Financial Administration

- Work with the chancellor and provost to develop and implement operating and capital budgets.
- Provide oversight of campus financial, budgetary and resource planning, including capital plans, debt management and cash flow optimization.
- Direct the management of financial operations of the campus. Support decision making by providing the data and analyses needed to ensure the effective use of university resources.
- Monitor campus reserves and arrange availability of funds to units, as directed by the chancellor and provost.
- Oversee the staffing and support of the campus budget committees (Budget Reform Steering Committee, Campus Budget Oversight Committee, Administrative Budget Committee) and serve in an ex officio capacity on the Senate Budget Committee.
- Assist collegiate units as needed in their financial planning and management. Develop unit-level relationships.
- Provide data-informed leadership developed through partnership, communication, trust, consistency and efficiency, allowing strong data practices and policies that will support effective data-informed decision making at all levels.
- Serve as treasurer for the University of Illinois Research Park, LLC.
- Serve on the Illinois Board of Higher Education and other external working groups.
- Oversee the Division of Management Information.

Insight and Innovation

- Lead continuous improvement efforts related to the campus budget model and system.
- Model campus values and engage in transparent, collaborative stewardship and communication across the campus.
- Foster an inclusive, collaborative workplace environment where leadership and employees are motivated to advance the goals of the university, respond creatively to change and maintain sound business practices.
- Serve as a role model, respecting and valuing diverse leadership and working styles while fostering a culture that rewards service and creativity, leading with empathy and the ability to navigate issues with sensitivity.
- Ability to cultivate and maintain relationships across the university.
- Lead campus budget office operations and staff, including the annual campus budget process, development of annual and multi-year funding models and analysis, and general financial oversight of the Urbana campus.
- Partner with departments/colleges to collate comprehensive, accurate data. Develop metrics and measures for success and consistent reporting techniques to ensure transparency and help raise financial literacy across the university to support clear strategic decision making at all levels.
- Work with vice chancellors, deans and academic fiscal officers to understand unit needs, collect budget information and provide advice to the chancellor and provost regarding budget and funding requests.



Opportunities and Challenges

Partner with chancellor, provost and campus leaders on financial and budget modeling

The Associate Chancellor and Vice Provost for Finance, Budget and Capital Resources will serve as an innovative and creative thought partner to the chancellor and provost, deans and academic fiscal officers in matters related to budgeting and funding requests, financial planning and analysis, and business operations. The Associate Chancellor/Vice Provost will bring a high level of creativity to discussions about new revenue opportunities and cost savings. They will be looked upon to develop and provide broad financial analyses and modeling for campus leadership and will monitor campus reserves, arranging availability of funds to units as directed by the chancellor and provost. They will help colleges and units successfully prioritize activities in a financially sustainable way. As a strategic and intentional partner to unit leaders, the Associate Chancellor/Vice Provost will offer a sophisticated financial skill set and will oversee short- and long-range financial planning and budgeting aligned with the university's strategic priorities, mission and vision.

Lead campus level budgeting and planning initiatives

As the campus's financial and budget officer, the Associate Chancellor/Vice Provost will provide oversight of campus financial, budgetary and resource planning, including capital plans, debt management and cash flow optimization, and will provide strategic budget planning and allocation advice to the chancellor and provost. They will provide guidance to campus in areas related to budget, finance, planning and resource allocation and will serve as the campus's chief financial officer and a member of the chancellor's and provost's leadership teams.

The Associate Chancellor/Vice Provost will lead continuous improvement efforts related to the campus budget model and system, known as the Integrated and Value-Centered Budgeting model, as well as oversee the campus budget office operations and staff. This includes responsibility for the annual campus budget process, development of annual and multi-year funding models and analysis and general financial oversight of the Urbana campus.

Provide data-informed leadership

Partnership, communication, trust, consistency and efficiency are essential to developing good data practices and policies. The Associate Chancellor/Vice Provost will be responsible for the collection, collation and utilization of financial data from across the institution to enable effective data-informed decision making at all levels. A successful candidate will be solutions-oriented and comfortable with leveraging currently available tools and exploring opportunities for additional resources and support to gain efficiencies across the university. The Associate Chancellor/Vice Provost will act as a partner with campus-level units and colleges to collect comprehensive, accurate data and will develop metrics and measures for success and consistent reporting to ensure transparency and help raise financial literacy across the university.

Lead a high-performing team of campus budget and resource planning professionals

The Associate Chancellor/Vice Provost will bring a transparent, communicative and collaborative leadership style to this role. They will effectively leverage team and individual expertise and provide opportunities for professional development and growth. The Associate Chancellor/Vice Provost will oversee the staffing and support of the campus budget committees (Budget Reform Steering Committee, Campus Budget Oversight Committee, Administrative Budget Committee) and serve in an ex officio capacity on the Senate Budget Committee in addition to overseeing the Division of Management Information. They will provide strategic direction and oversight for the Operational Excellence @ Illinois Initiative, serve as Treasurer for the University of Illinois Research Park, LLC and serve on the Illinois Board of Higher Education and other external working groups.

Foster an inclusive, collaborative environment across the university and system

The University of Illinois seeks leaders who embrace, celebrate and cultivate a diverse, equitable, inclusive and accessible campus environment through open communication and receptiveness to change. The Associate Chancellor/Vice Provost will serve as a role model, respecting and valuing diverse leadership and working styles and fostering a culture that rewards service and creativity. The successful candidate will possess excellent interpersonal and communication skills and critical problem-solving abilities. They will cultivate and maintain relationships with units across the university to promote a strong sense of financial collaboration and provide sound fiscal analysis and advice, demonstrating a substantial understanding of and appreciation for the consultative and collaborative approach to planning and management that characterizes the university's approach. The Associate Chancellor/Vice Provost will bring a track record of demonstrated success and commitment to advancing diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives, navigate issues with sensitivity and lead with empathy.



Position Qualifications:

The Associate Chancellor/Vice Provost for Finance, Budget and Capital Resources will have a bachelor's degree and 10 or more years of progressively responsible fiscal management experience, including leading an organization in the development and implementation of its financial strategies and overseeing an organization's fiscal administration and budget; the demonstrated ability to formulate and implement financial strategies to meet institutional priorities; experience working within electronic financial systems; exceptional interpersonal skills; a record of successful supervision; excellent verbal, written, organization and critical thinking skills; demonstrated commitment to advancing diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives; experience in a large and complex organization; and commitment to the mission and vision of the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. The successful candidate will be a solutions-oriented leader, comfortable with leveraging the tools available and interested in exploring opportunities for additional resources and support to gain efficiencies across the university.

Other desirable qualifications for the next Associate Chancellor/Vice Provost include a master's degree; familiarity with the organization, culture and environment of higher education institutions; and experience navigating the financial landscape in higher education.

Candidates with an earned doctorate (or terminal degree) and distinguished record of research, teaching and scholarly accomplishments may be considered for an accompanying tenure-eligible faculty appointment.

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 **Nov. 27, 2023**. 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:

Rebecca Kennedy, Partner (she/her/hers)

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

Ilana Gonzalez, Senior Associate (she/her/hers)

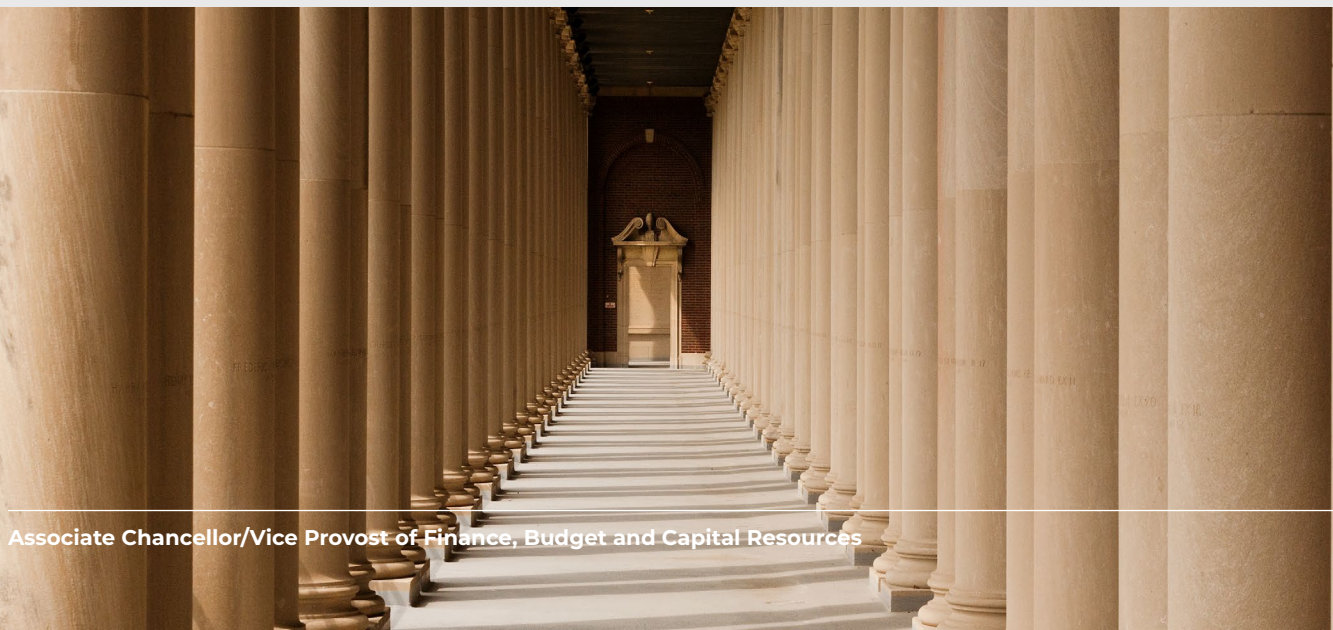
Elizabeth Arvanitis, Search Coordinator (she/her/hers)

Isaacson, Miller

<https://www.imsearch.com/open-searches/university-illinois-urbana-champaign/associate-chancellor-vice-provost-finance-budget>

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) 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

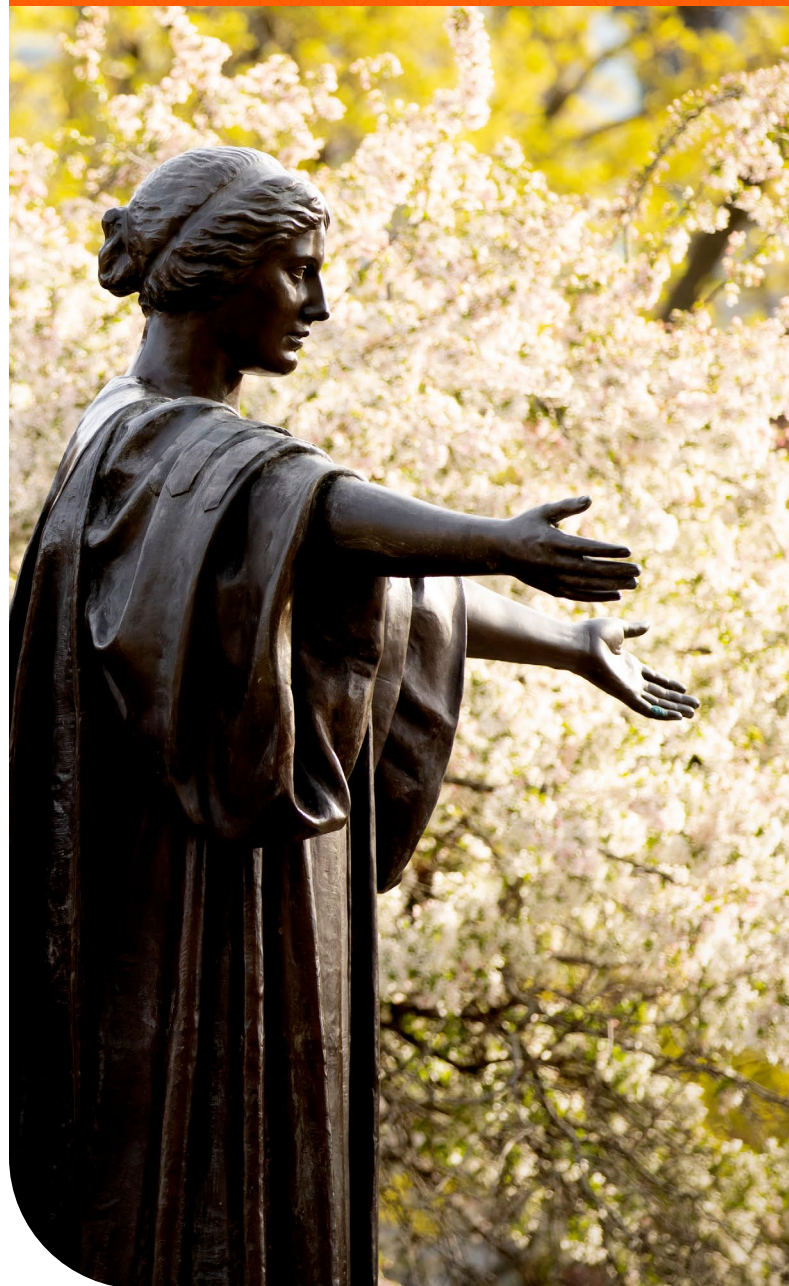
The campus is led by Chancellor Robert J. Jones, who is the chief executive officer for the Urbana-Champaign campus and is responsible for all financial programs, campus policies and priorities, with the mission of ensuring a transformative educational experience for the world's next generation of leaders.

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.

