

# Dean

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## GIES COLLEGE OF BUSINESS





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.

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

# Leadership Profile





## Executive Summary

The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign invites nominations and applications for the position of dean of Gies College of Business. The University of Illinois is a world-class land-grant university committed to excellence in research, teaching, public engagement and international programs with a long tradition of shared governance, and a commitment to advancing diversity, equity, inclusion and access. The university seeks a visionary leader dedicated to enhancing and strengthening the performance, reach and reputation of Gies Business and to furthering its commitment to democratizing world-class education while continuing to innovate in research, teaching, outreach and international programs.

The successful candidate will lead a college that puts purpose at the center of business education, intentionally designing innovative programs that empower learners to become purpose-driven leaders. For more than 100 years, the college has developed leading-edge curriculum delivered by world-renowned faculty who put learners first, encouraging them to explore their passions and teaching them how to make an impact.

Gies Business is committed to extending life-changing access to as many learners as possible. Today, the college serves 9,000 degree-seeking learners from around the world, including 4,500 in online master's programs. Priced at less than \$24K, Gies' innovative online MBA program has reached learners in more than 100 countries and was named 2022 MBA Program of the Year by Poets&Quants. Named a Top 10 undergraduate business program by U.S. News & World Report, Gies Business serves undergraduates, master's students, and doctoral candidates – offering highly regarded programs in accountancy, business administration and finance. The college's current dean was named the 2021 Dean of the Year by Poets&Quants for leading the way in spreading access to education.

The next dean will continue the strong tradition of democratizing education, guided by the five Gies Business commitments – access, excellence, innovation, inclusion and engagement – and will share in the Gies Business beliefs in common humanity, inclusive belonging, purposeful innovation, perpetual learning and meaningful work.

As the chief academic and executive officer, the dean will be responsible for the global reputation of Gies Business and its programs. They will assess and expand Gies Business' portfolio of programs to strengthen its position as an innovative leader among the nation's best business schools. They will lead the college in developing a compelling, strategic vision while continuing to build upon its distinctive brand and identity. They will continue philanthropic success by proactively engaging in external fundraising. The next dean will foster interdisciplinary and collaborative partnerships with other schools and colleges across the university. They will be a collegial, transparent, and innovative partner with other deans, the provost, and the chancellor. They will oversee the recruitment, retention and support of a world-class faculty and staff. The dean must prioritize, embrace and promote diversity, equity and inclusion through communication and pioneering policies, programs and structures that will achieve results and further a campus culture that values inclusive excellence. They will have primary responsibility for faculty and staff development, budgetary oversight and planning, academic and curricular issues, and facilities.

The ideal candidate will be an outstanding, purpose-driven leader capable of bridging the academic and business communities that a top business school spans. They will have a track record of high achievement as a leader, including a demonstrated commitment to research, teaching, outreach and equal opportunity; the ability to attract and retain a diverse and excellent faculty, student body and staff; and the appetite and aptitude to generate resources for the college. The dean will be committed to ensuring a healthy workplace environment where faculty and staff thrive and will bring experience in mentoring and empowering employees. The strongest candidates will likely hold a Ph.D. or a terminal degree, and have a strong record of scholarship, research and teaching commensurate with an appointment at the rank of tenured full professor at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. The search committee welcomes nominations of outstanding leaders with other backgrounds as well.

## Gies College of Business

### College Pride Points

- Founded in 1915 - one of the country's first business schools (after Wharton, Booth, Tuck, Harvard, Sloan)
- 3,000+ undergraduates, 5,000+ graduate students (Fall 2023)
- 81,315 alumni living in 50 US states, DC, 4 Territories, Armed Forces and 149 countries around the world (August 2023)
- 75,012 Gies graduates (August 2023)
- Top accounting program (#2 undergrad and #3 grad). by U.S. News & World Report (2023)
- Disruption Lab, iVenture Accelerator, Magelli Office of Experiential Learning, and Illinois MakerLab foster creative problem-solving and innovative thinking (2023)
- 210+ faculty (2023)
- 325+ administrators and staff members (2023)
- 150+ published research articles, papers, and conference presentations by Gies Business faculty each year since 2015 (2023)
- 103 Gies Business faculty members rated "excellent" or "outstanding" by their students (Fall 2022)
- #1 Biggest Business School Innovation of the Decade by Poets&Quants (2020)

### Undergraduate Pride Points

- 98% of undergrad students secure a job or go to graduate school within six months of graduation (2023)
- 73,530 average undergraduate salary (2023)
- 91% of undergraduates complete an internship (2023)
- #12 best undergraduate business school by Poets&Quants (2023)
  - #5 Public undergraduate business school
  - #5 Undergraduate business school in academic experience
- #17 best undergraduate business program by U.S. News & World Report (Sep 2023)
  - Top 10 Public undergraduate business school
- 100% of undergrad students complete an experiential learning course before they graduate (2023)

### iMBA Pride Points

- 61% of iMBA students received a promotion, job offer, or new position during the iMBA program
- 22% average pay increase during the iMBA program
- 2022 MBA Program of the Year by Poets&Quants



## Opportunities and Challenges

### Assess and expand Gies' portfolio of programs to strengthen its position as an innovative leader among the nation's best business schools

As a pioneer of the online MBA (iMBA), Gies is well-known for its ability to launch and implement innovative programs that respond to the current needs of the business landscape. The college has achieved major successes with its pioneering graduate programs in recent years, which have provided strong and reliable revenue streams. Gies needs to seize on this advantage of being nimble and continue developing timely and relevant programming as the marketplace continues to evolve and mature. With a creative and strategic mindset, the new dean will assess the possibility of adding new offerings in the areas of life-long learning, corporate education, international education, and non-credit programs to strengthen Gies' position as a leader in forward-looking curriculum and innovation. The dean will work closely with faculty and other stakeholders to ensure that both new and existing programs and curricula reflect and are responsive to the dynamic and fast-paced global business community and tend to local, regional, national, and global business needs. At the same time, the dean must also find ways to promote and market the core strengths of Gies' existing programs at both the undergraduate and graduate levels and elevate the position of the college nationally and internationally.

### Recruit, support, and retain a world-class faculty and staff

Gies faculty and staff are indispensable to its mission. As the college continues to expand its reach and impact, the dean will oversee the recruitment and retention of talent, displaying exceptional management and interpersonal skills and serving as an accessible and visible leader for the Gies community. The college has been successful in recruiting some of the nation's top faculty in recent years, but Gies' ever-growing reputation has made it a prime target for competing programs to poach valued faculty members. Staff size has also increased at the college to serve the array of programs. The new dean will benefit from a talent-rich environment and will need to invest in employee retention efforts and foster professional development opportunities for both faculty and staff to ensure their long-term success at Gies. The dean will be committed to ensuring a healthy workplace environment where faculty and staff thrive and will bring experience in mentoring and empowering employees. Through this work, they will inspire loyalty and dedication to the college's mission and further boost the morale of faculty and staff at all levels.



## Lead the college in developing a compelling and strategic vision while continuing to build on its distinctive brand and identity

Gies has experienced transformational change in all areas over the last eight years, including with enrollment, faculty and staff hiring, research productivity, and programming. To lead the college to even greater heights, the new dean must set a clear and strategic vision for the future and reinforce its brand and identity as a global leader in innovation. The dean should be committed to Gies' promise of "Business on Purpose," and lean into the strengths that set it apart from other business schools. The dean's vision will build on the college's remarkable record of success and expand upon the idea of democratizing education through a comprehensive suite of programs offered at an affordable price while building on Gies' dedication to teaching, research, and the student experience.

## Foster interdisciplinary partnerships with other schools and colleges across the University

The University of Illinois strives for the highest standards of academic, research, and teaching excellence. Its unique research infrastructure features ten campus-wide institutes that transcend college, school, and departmental boundaries, and Gies has had the opportunity to design and develop interdisciplinary programs with many other units on campus. Notably, the college has developed a myriad of minors for non-business majors across campus and three separate undergraduate programs (Accountancy, Finance, and Business) in the Data Science space as part of a University-wide effort to prepare students to lead society's digital transformation. With the support of the Provost and in collaboration with a forward-thinking group of deans, the college is primed for additional partnerships across the University campus. The next dean will lean into potential collaborations with other schools and colleges and create interdisciplinary programs that will not only allow Gies students to remain competitive in the business community but also offer students across campus access to a Gies education. The dean will be a collegial, transparent, and innovative partner with other deans, the Provost, and the Chancellor, and work to promote research and programmatic initiatives that cut across traditional boundaries.

## Proactively engage in external fundraising

The college has had tremendous philanthropic success in recent years, highlighted by the transformational \$150 million naming gift from Larry and Beth Gies in 2017 and the \$25 million gift from Steven Wymer in 2022 for a new state-of-the-art business building (set to open in 2025). This success is the result of the ability to develop trust and community among Gies alumni and other friends of the college through intentional, transparent communication and strategic leadership. To continue on this impressive trajectory, the new dean must invest significant time in philanthropic efforts and work effectively with the college's high-achieving advancement team to foster relationships with current donors and connect with new ones. The dean will be an engaged leader in Chicago and the broader Illinois business community to grow connections with industry partners across the state. They will be the public face of the college—Gies' chief ambassador—enthusiastically telling its story to alumni, corporate leaders, and other potential supporters and articulating the uniqueness and value of a Gies education.

## Prioritize, embrace, and promote diversity, equity, and inclusion

Gies is united in its recognition of the importance of diversity, equity, and inclusion, and in recent years has been working to analyze its existing programs and practices to build trust and enact real change, where necessary. It is imperative that the new dean bring a personal commitment and record of supporting diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives to the Gies community. In close partnership with the Associate dean for Equity, the dean will work to engage as many partners as possible to recruit, support, and retain a diverse body of students, faculty, and staff, while also striving to make Gies an even more welcoming home for its community members. In alignment with the University's land-grant mission, the dean will develop strong pipelines with middle and high schools across the state to diversify the applicant base and, ultimately, the student body. They will raise and direct substantial funds toward financial aid to recruit and yield more low-income and underrepresented minority students. The dean must not only communicate the value and importance of DEI but also pioneer policies, programs, and structures that will achieve results and further a campus culture that values inclusive excellence and one in which faculty, staff, and students from all backgrounds reach their full potential.





## Appointment

The position of dean of Gies College of Business reports to the vice chancellor for academic affairs and provost and is a senior administrative position with a seat on the Council of Deans. This full-time, 12-month appointment has a negotiable start date with a salary commensurate with experience.

## 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 **March 15, 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:**

Micah Pierce, Partner (he/him)

John Muckle, Partner (he/him)

Becky Piper (she/her)

Kristen Andersen (she/her)

Marlyn Desire (she/her)

**Isaacson, Miller**

<https://www.imsearch.com/open-searches/university-illinois-urbana-champaign-gies-college-business/dean>

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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**

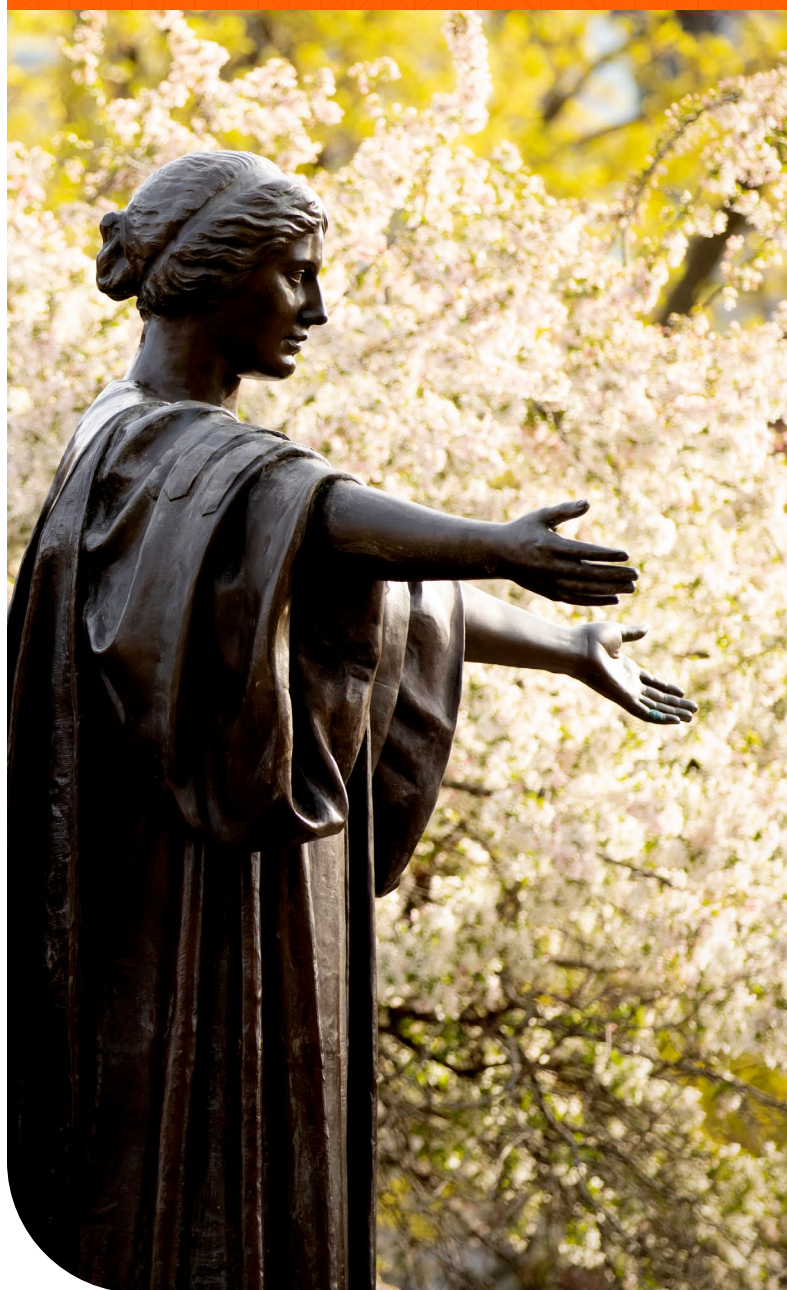
The campus is led by Chancellor Robert J. Jones, who is the chief executive officer for the Urbana-Champaign campus and is responsible for all financial programs, campus policies and priorities, with the mission of ensuring a transformative educational experience for the world's next generation of leaders.

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.

