



UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

LEADERSHIP PROFILE

Dean

School of Labor and Employment Relations



The Search

The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign invites nominations and applications for the position of Dean of the School of Labor and Employment Relations (LER).

The university seeks a dean with broad intellectual insights, top-tier scholarly credentials, and the leadership and managerial capacity to sustain and build upon the School's current and longstanding success. The selected candidate will bring successful experience in a university environment with a distinguished record of leadership and intellectual achievement. The position requires a leader with a strategic mindset; superb management and leadership skills; outstanding administrative, budgetary, and fundraising experience; a demonstrated commitment to building welcoming and inclusive academic communities; and an ability to manage the challenges of undergraduate, graduate, and extension education in an interdisciplinary unit. The ideal candidate will have a commitment to labor and employment relations, dedication to interdisciplinary teaching and scholarship, superior communication skills, and the entrepreneurial vision to inspire students, staff, faculty, and alumni. The position requires a commitment to internal and external relationship building and an appreciation for the School's unique sense of community. The Dean must be able to guide LER's unique impact in embracing visions of the future of work and contributing materially to stronger, healthier, more prosperous, and democratic workplaces.

The LER Dean is a senior administrator with a tenured faculty appointment, who serves as a member of the Council of Deans and reports to the Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost. The Dean will hold the Milton and Zelda Derber Professorship. Accordingly, candidates must hold a terminal degree and have a distinguished record of teaching and scholarly accomplishment commensurate with an appointment at the rank of full professor. This is a full-time, 12-month appointment with a negotiable start date.

The LER Dean is expected to contribute to a strong culture of cross-campus interdisciplinary research and entrepreneurial activity that are hallmarks of the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

The School of Labor and Employment Relations

The School of Labor and Employment Relations (LER) at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign is one of the world's premier programs for human resources and industrial relations. Founded in 1946, LER is dedicated to excellence in scholarly research, teaching extension, and service – advancing theory, policy, and practice in all aspects of employment relations.

The Master of Human Resources and Industrial Relations degree program provides students with the breadth of knowledge to become effective practitioners in corporate settings or in labor leadership as well as the flexibility to build a depth of knowledge in critical aspects of employment. The doctoral program equips students with the knowledge and skills to become top scholars in human resources, industrial relations, and organizational behavior. The Labor Education Program provides programs and professional training for more than 2,000 workers and union leaders each year.

Degree Programs

The 1946 inaugural graduating class of the School of Labor and Employment Relations included eight students. That number grew to 21 in 1970, 38 in 1980, and 53 in 2000. The steady growth during those decades has continued – there are now regularly over 140 graduates each year and almost 300 students in the program at various stages of their degrees.

LER offers two graduate degrees in human resources and industrial relations: an MHRIR for HR/IR practitioners and a Ph.D. for professional researchers and teachers. Investing in a graduate degree from LER not only allows students to pursue a professional career in HR/IR but also gives students the chance to experience the diverse educational atmosphere promoted by excellent faculty and staff.

Completed in three semesters, the traditional MHRIR degree provides excellent training for future employment relations practitioners. Graduates gain a competitive edge for their career and go on to work for Fortune 100 companies, government agencies, and start-ups. Domestic graduates of the program enjoy nearly 100% placement in internships each summer, and over 90% placement in full-time employment following graduation. Interns earn an average of over \$37 per hour, and full-time candidates earn a median salary of over \$90,000 per year. Students applying to the master's program may also consider a joint MHRIR/J.D. degree.

LER also offers the MHRIR degree in an online format, meeting the needs of working professionals and those unable to attend an on-campus program. Students have an average of seven years of professional experience and are largely taught by faculty from LER's residential degree programs. The delivery is a hybrid synchronous/asynchronous format, with additional opportunities to meet with instructors and peers beyond the classroom. The program focuses on the core competencies employers require when hiring human resources professionals, allowing candidates to build on their existing career experience and undergraduate education to become skilled human resource professionals. Students have access to assistance from the Online Career Consultant, and graduates report, on average, a salary that is more than 26% higher than their prior salary. Eighty-four percent of graduates received a promotion or changed jobs within six months of graduation. There is also an online certificate program that offers interested candidates the chance to build or refresh skills across multiple subject areas.

The School's Ph.D. program provides the depth of knowledge to begin an academic career in employment relations, encompassing the background and interests of human resources and industrial relations scholars, labor economists, organizational psychologists, organizational behaviorists, organizational sociologists, legal scholars, and labor educators. Students pursuing this program develop relationships with faculty, other doctoral and master's degree students, and alumni colleagues at other universities. They produce cutting-edge research in the field by learning from a tight-knit community of dedicated faculty, students, and alumni who support and challenge their ideas from a multidisciplinary perspective.



Faculty

The school currently has more than 25 faculty members with expertise that spans virtually every aspect of the employment relationship. With specializations in areas such as business, human resource management, industrial relations, labor economics, psychology, sociology, labor history, and employment law, faculty bring multiple perspectives to the study of employment relations. The multidisciplinary backgrounds of LER faculty enable students to study unique perspectives on the aligning and conflicting dimensions of the relationship among an organization, its workers, and related third parties, such as the government and labor unions.

The recent academic leadership of the School of Labor and Employment Relations has represented a broad yet complementary range of scholarly fields, spanning industrial and organizational psychology, human resource management, labor relations, and organizational behavior. Their combined disciplinary grounding includes expertise in workforce measurement and assessment, employment systems, negotiation, and labor-management dynamics, and the study of employee behavior and organizational processes. Together, these fields reflect the school's interdisciplinary strength at the intersection of people, work, and organizations.

Extension Training, Research, and Undergraduate Teaching

Labor Education Program

Based in Urbana-Champaign and Chicago, the Labor Education Program (LEP) is the only statewide provider of professional training and development for union leaders and workers in Illinois. LEP offers a diverse array of education and training courses for working adults, immigrants, and union members. LEP courses designed for both union

and nonunion workers provide the knowledge and skills necessary to promote equitable workplaces, enforce employment rights, build effective democratic unions, develop future leaders, ensure safe work environments, and advance economic justice. LEP extension annually provides six-week on-campus programs in partnership with private and public sector unions as well as an off-site grant-funded women's labor leadership conference that has run continuously for nearly four decades. Beyond statewide extension teaching, LEP offers credit courses on a range of workplace topics in LER's undergraduate program in Global Labor Studies. Illinois undergraduates can take GLS courses as electives or complete an 18-credit minor.

In addition, LEP directs the Project for Middle Class Renewal, whose mission is to investigate the working conditions of today's economy and elevate public discourse on issues affecting workers. PMCR conducts research, analysis, and education to develop and propose public policies that will reduce poverty, provide representation for all workers, prevent workplace discrimination, create more stable employment, and sustain middle-class jobs. PMCR is dedicated to several critical research initiatives and education forums on contemporary public policies and practices impacting labor and workplace issues.

Hazardous Materials Training Program

The Hazardous Materials Training Program provides some of the most comprehensive hazardous materials training in the Midwest. Over the past four decades, the program has trained thousands of individuals from all types of public, private, and government employers in topics such as hazard recognition and control, emergency procedures, work practices, and respiratory protection. Its expert instructors and comprehensive curriculum have earned a reputation for high-quality training.



Dean, School of Labor and Employment Relations, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Undergraduate HR Certificate

The school has committed to building a stronger undergraduate presence to create new pipelines that support our on-campus master's program. To achieve this, we have developed an undergraduate HR certificate consisting of four courses: Introduction to HR, HR Career Management, HR Leadership and Organizational Development, and HR, People, and Society. All four courses have been fully approved, and we are finalizing the internal proposal for the certificate. Once the proposal receives approval from the LER Academic Affairs Committee, we will promote the certificate across campus to attract undergraduate students into the HR function, building our pipeline to the master's degree.

Climate Jobs Institute

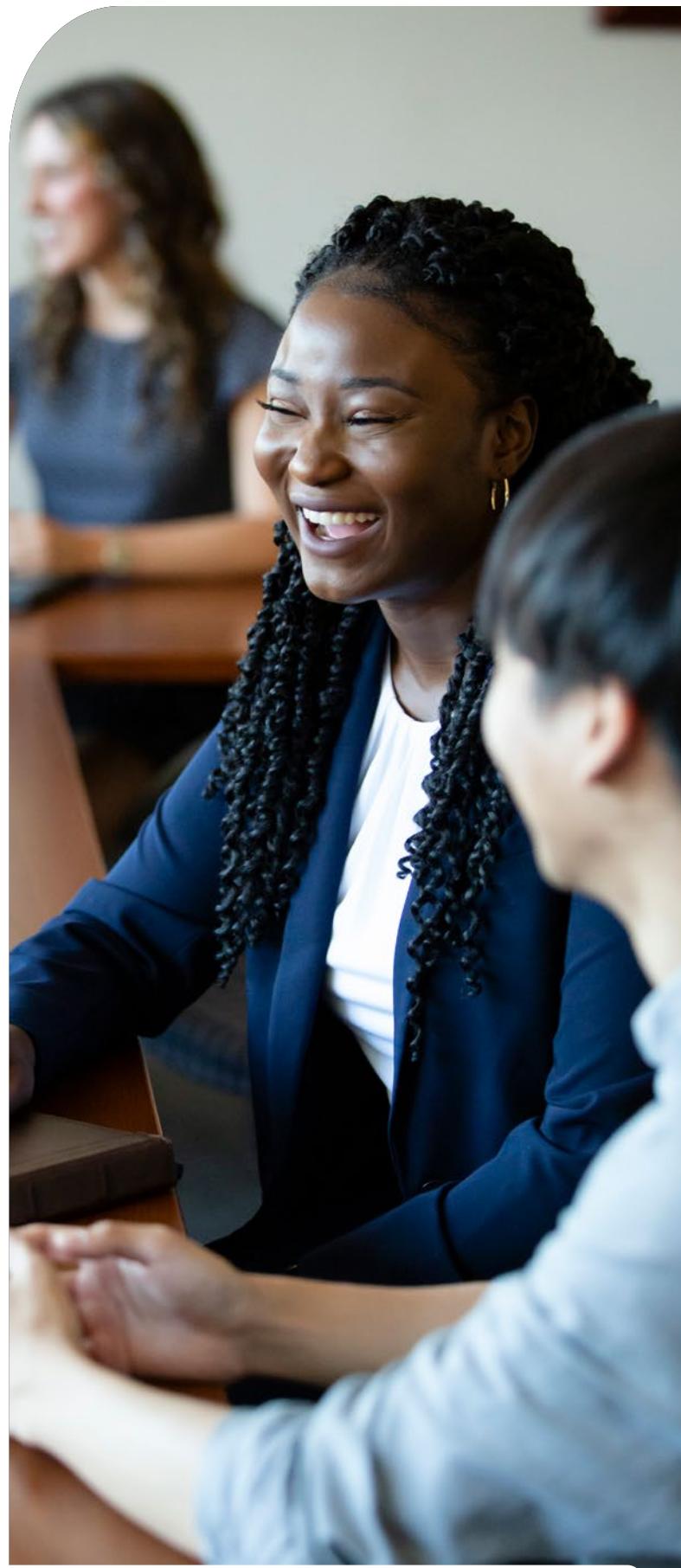
The Illinois General Assembly established the Climate Jobs Institute in April 2022, as part of the University of Illinois Act (110 ILCS 305/165), to support the state's transition to a strong, equitable, decarbonized economy.

The Climate Jobs Institute is one of the first academic institutes dedicated to the study of economic and labor market impacts of decarbonization. The Institute conducts pioneering interdisciplinary research related to the environment, clean energy, economics, workforce development, and public policy.

The Climate Jobs Institute informs Illinois' clean energy transition through research that foregrounds workers and their communities. Efforts by the Institute guide state climate policy to reduce emissions and promote high-quality job creation by (1) generating reports, tools, and resources; (2) engaging labor, industry, policy makers, and communities; mentoring student researchers; and (3) fostering applied research collaborations.

Building Addition and Renovation

The School underwent a major renovation of classroom and meeting spaces in the 1990s and steadily improved existing spaces by spending approximately \$1 million to renovate common areas, corridors, and offices between 2006 and 2012. A \$6 million addition and renovation was completed in 2019. This project enhances facilities for training future employment relations talent and ensures a setting that is appropriate for educating the next generation of labor and HR professionals. In addition to creating new teaching spaces, this project provided a new air handler and windows throughout the building along with the renovation of common spaces, a beautiful new accessible front entrance, and an attractive outdoor terrace for gathering and event space.



LER at a Glance

- 273 students
 - 165 Master of Human Resources and Industrial Relations students, 89 online Master of Human Resources and Industrial Relations students, 16 Ph.D. students, three online certificate students
 - 36% of on-campus students are international
- 28 faculty
- In FY25, about \$320,000 was donated for scholarships, fellowships, and awards
- 90% domestic full-time placement; 97% domestic intern placement
- For full-time, entry-level private-sector hires, domestic graduates reported a median salary of \$90,000, with a range of \$66,000–\$100,000. Interns averaged over \$37 per hour, with a range of \$22–\$46 per hour.
- Hiring companies include: AbbVie, Boeing, Eaton Corporation, General Mills, L3 Harris, PepsiCo, RTX, UPS, Zillow Group, among many others
- 16 Global Labor Studies classes offered; 79 students have earned a minor in GLS
- Over 3,300 students enrolled in labor education and employment rights extension courses
- Almost 150 labor and workplace policy reports produced by The Project for Middle Class Renewal
- Training partnerships with numerous labor organizations, workforce development councils, and community colleges



Applications, inquiries and nominations

Parker Executive Search is assisting the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign in the search. Initial screening of applications will begin immediately, and interviews may be conducted prior to the closing date. No hiring decision will be made until after the close of the search. For full consideration, materials should be provided by Monday, February 9, 2026; however, materials will be considered until the position is filled. The budgeted salary range for this position is \$275,000-\$375,000 annually. Salary is competitive and commensurate with qualifications and experience while also considering internal equity.

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

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

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



University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

An overview

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

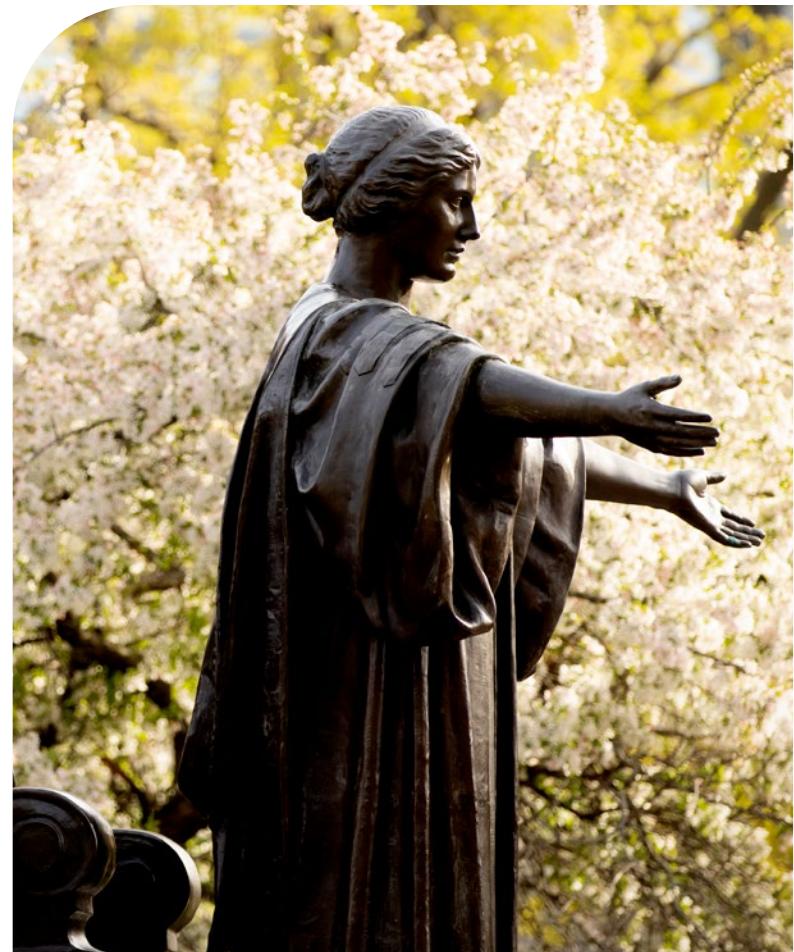
The University of Illinois System has campuses in Urbana-Champaign, Chicago and Springfield. The flagship campus in Urbana-Champaign is the largest of the three, situated on 1,783 acres. The metro population is more than 230,000, according to the 2020 U.S. Census.

Mission

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

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

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



The campus community includes:

~38,500
undergraduate students

~22,000
graduate and professional
students

~3,360
tenure system and specialized
faculty members

~3,700
academic professionals

~6,100
civil service staff members



Noteworthy projects include:

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

Financial Overview

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

National and Global Impact

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

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

World-Class Faculty, Distinguished Students and Alumni

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

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

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



World-Class Library

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

Arts and Culture

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

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

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

Sustainable Values and Culture

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

Research Park

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



Comprehensive Academics

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

Colleges and divisions enrolling undergraduates and graduate students include:

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

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

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

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

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

Selected highlights include:

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





Champaign-Urbana

A Micro-Urban Community

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

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

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

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

