



QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE

CHANCELLOR AND VICE PRESIDENT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

PROSPECTUS

The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign is searching for its 11th Chancellor. We seek an extraordinary leader to serve this extraordinary campus — an institution that has earned a well-deserved reputation for world-class scholarship, teaching, and public engagement, since its founding in 1867. We seek a leader who is an accomplished scholar with a proven record of excellence in their chosen field(s) and who has demonstrated a steadfast commitment to interdisciplinary modes of thinking and working in a research-intensive (R1) setting. The next Chancellor must be a passionate advocate for our comprehensive public research university: a place where the arts and humanities are guaranteed as equal partners with the STEM fields. Our next leader must be a champion of the 21st century liberal arts education as a vital pathway for social mobility, civic participation, and workforce success in a global world. They must actively work to encourage and protect holistic student life experiences, including out-of-classroom learning-centered environments that promote a greater sense of connection between students and the university.

As the world changes rapidly around us, we seek an exceptional scholar-administrator who understands the inestimable value of the Illinois academic experience and is committed to the foundational principles of Illinois past, present and future — excellence, inclusion, innovation, and public engagement prime among them. We seek, in short, an exceptional leader, ready, willing, and eager to move the storied history of Illinois forward as “a preeminent public research university with a land-grant mission and a global impact” into a bold and sustainable future.

Students and their success beat at the heart and sustain the soul of Illinois’ reputation. Students infuse the transformations of virtually every arena of work, civic life, and societal impact in today’s world. We seek a leader who will build on these accomplishments through a commitment to nurturing the cultivation of knowledge and expertise, the acquisition of global perspectives, the ethic of community service, and an appreciation for the power of creative and critical thinking — skills and competencies which, together, equip Illinois graduates for the challenges of the world of today and tomorrow.

While the student body at Illinois is notably large, the next Chancellor will be willing and able to relate to students from all walks of life. They will be keen to spend time with students in formal and informal settings, from campus activities and cultural center programs to athletic community-based events. They will demonstrate, in other words, an enthusiasm which lets students know that the university’s top leader is happy to be working with and for them to make their Illinois experience a memorable one.

A strong voice for freedom of speech and academic freedom, the next Chancellor will have demonstrated an unequivocal commitment to implementing these values effectively and fairly, within existing structures of shared governance with faculty, staff, and students, and in keeping with an ethos of open communication and procedural transparency. With a strong commitment to fostering an environment that prioritizes and addresses the safety, well-being and sense of belonging of all of our students,

we seek an ethical problem-solver who can imagine innovative solutions to the wide variety of current and future challenges facing higher education and who will work collaboratively with campus and community stakeholders to bring them to fruition.

A strong preference will be given to candidates with a demonstrated ability to plan, manage, and steward the finances of a complex academic institution, and to exercise prudent fiscal judgment to ensure the financial health of the university. This includes a record of collaborating effectively with external stakeholders, state and federal officials, tribal leaders, community businesses, and civic partners to advance the role of public higher education that shape both short- and long-term strategies for addressing the campus’s future challenges. In keeping with Illinois’ historic commitment to educational equity and access, the Chancellor will be an energetic advocate for these tenets.

The next Chancellor will be a member of the Council of Presidents and Chancellors, the Big Ten’s board of directors, with a prominent voice in the future direction of the Big Ten, the Autonomy 4 conferences, and the NCAA during a period of intense change and reform in collegiate athletics. The Chancellor will embrace the role that a successful, championship-caliber intercollegiate athletics program can play in advancing many of the institution’s goals, including raising the profile, visibility, and reputation of the institution; enhancing the undergraduate student experience; assisting in efforts to attract highly qualified students, staff, and faculty; better integrating the university into the local, regional, and statewide communities that it serves; and providing a point of pride and connection for alumni, donors, and partners to advance the university’s financial, commercial, and philanthropic objectives.

The next Chancellor of the University of Illinois will have a track record of success and creative problem-solving in the arena of university operations, including financing and budgets, strategy, research administration, facilities, purchasing, marketing and communications, human resources, athletics, technology, and security. We seek an individual with a compelling vision for cultivating sustainable models for new scholarship and teaching across a wide range of disciplines including the arts, business, engineering, the humanities, social sciences, medicine, law, agriculture, and the sciences. This vision must entail today’s dynamic fiscal and political environment, nimbly leveraging over 150 years of Illinois’ rich tradition of responsibly adapting to opportunities on the horizon.

Key to this vision will be an aptitude for connecting with our world-wide community of alumni and for continuing the Illinois tradition of success in fundraising, advancement activities, and alumni relations guided by our core values and principles. The next Chancellor must be an enthusiastic supporter of the Illinois community wherever it is found and will support and enhance efforts to promote the university’s brand and impact in the state, the nation, and across the globe.



PRIORITIES FOR LEADERSHIP

Strong preference will be given to candidates who have some combination of the following qualifications and attributes:

- An earned doctorate and a distinguished record of scholarship, coupled with a reputation for excellence in their chosen field(s).
- A visionary leader and advocate of public higher education, capable of articulating a compelling vision that promotes understanding and exemplifies a willingness to listen, learn, and adapt.
- A proven record of fiscal responsibility and sound budget management in a complex higher education organization, including Responsibility Centered Management (RCM) and modified RCM systems.
- A demonstrated ability to attract and retain a world-class and diverse faculty, student body, and staff, while aligning this commitment with strategic planning, both fiscal and visionary.
- A dedicated educator, invested in advancing the teaching mission of the public land-grant university through high-quality innovative pedagogical practices, immersive learning environments, providing lifelong learning opportunities, and being a national leader in accessibility.
- A keen appreciation for the benefits and strengths of Illinois' unique culture of shared governance, which shapes our campus processes and decision-making.
- A dedication to fostering transparency, integrity, respect, and collaboration within a decentralized academic institution, including all units and functions, to deliver on the university's mission.
- An unwavering commitment to interdisciplinary modes of thinking and their power to drive the healthy evolution and adaptation of the university.
- The ability to inspire and persuade through careful listening and compelling communication to a broad range of constituencies.
- A commitment to elevate scholarly and creative excellence, including the distinctive contributions of all the campus' schools and colleges in a comprehensive R1 university.
- The ability to empower our university community to engage collaboratively toward the vision and shared values of the Boldly Illinois 2030 strategic plan in order to amplify our collective impact and continue to be an economic engine for the state.
- A passionate commitment to effectively support students across a wide range of degree and non-degree programs, demonstrating empathy and cultural humility to build a sense of belonging in the student body.
- An extensive record of collaborating and engaging effectively with both internal and external stakeholders, including faculty, staff, students, alumni, donors, state and federal officials, tribal leaders, community businesses, and civic partners to collaboratively solve problems.
- A commitment to supporting a high-major intercollegiate athletics program with the goal of sustained success, with a focus on student-athlete excellence in both academic and athletic pursuits; programmatic integrity, compliance, and fiscal responsibility; and utilizing the athletics program to advance the broader objectives of the university.
- A demonstrated ability to be a coalition builder who advocates for the university and its constituencies while navigating complex relationships with internal and external stakeholders, demonstrating respect, appreciation, and open-minded collaboration with diverse constituencies.
- An ability to effectively manage the dual role in the University of Illinois System and its relationship to the state.

PRINCIPAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE URBANA-CHAMPAIGN CHANCELLOR

- Manage the university's annual budget of over \$3 billion dollars.
- Supervise development, delivery, and assessment of academic programs and policies.
- Oversee public safety and campus compliance with federal and state regulations.
- Serve as the Chair and ex officio member of the Senate of the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.
- Oversee intercollegiate athletics, including serving on the Big Ten's Council of Presidents and Chancellors and providing leadership and perspective at the university, system, conference, and national levels.
- Effectively communicate and collaborate with local community leaders.
- Set and lead the philanthropic agenda for the Illinois campus.
- Represent university interests consistent with its core values to the Board of Trustees.

PRINCIPAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS SYSTEM

- Participate in the University System's overall strategic planning, allocation, and evaluation operations.
- Advise the president on business, employment, and other operational matters.
- Work collaboratively with other system chancellors on strategic initiatives and partnerships.
- Execute the policies of the Board of Trustees and system-wide policies.
- Serve a critical role in government relations, advocating for both the campus and the broader University of Illinois System while balancing campus-specific needs with system-wide priorities, as well as engaging with local, state, and federal policymakers to advance the university's mission and strategic goals.





OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES AT THE URBANA-CHAMPAIGN CAMPUS

The Chancellor has the opportunity to:

- Model principled, creative, and consultative leadership at a critical moment in the history of higher education.
- Steward the resources and build on the accomplishments and legacy of our institution so that Illinois becomes synonymous with the kind of inclusive excellence a 21st-century public research university guarantees.
- Advocate for the world-class scholarship and teaching at Illinois as a national and global resource especially in times of uncertainty and change.
- Embrace our historic public land-grant mission to ensure that our colleges and units are in partnership and dialogue with our local communities, in central Illinois, in Chicago, and across the state.
- Drive the continued growth and impact of the Discovery Partners Institute and the University of Illinois System's presence in Chicago, advancing an expanded vision that strengthens the city, state, and region.
- Provide leadership in the development of the newly announced Illinois Quantum and Microelectronics Park, positioning Illinois as a global hub for innovation and technological advancement.
- Foster an institutional culture where multi-disciplinary collaboration are valued and integrated into all aspects of research, teaching, and public engagement.
- Advance our intercollegiate athletics program to meet Illinois' strategic objectives.
- Cultivate partners inside and outside the university committed to institutional evolution consonant with our values.

Challenges facing the Chancellor include:

- Building on Illinois' historic strengths while evolving purposefully in response to the dynamic conditions of the state, the nation and the world.
- Developing, through shared governance and consensus-building, a vision and operational plan for securing the short- and long-term economic future of the institution.
- Making a consistent and persuasive case for the urgency of the public research university in the context of increasing costs, distrust in higher education, eroding public confidence, and economic uncertainty.
- Ensuring that an Illinois education remains accessible to all.
- Committing sustainable resources to support the most effective and innovative multi-disciplinary collaboration across the institution.
- Proactively identifying and addressing challenges posed by varied points of view on issues related to the university's values, overarching objectives, and core mission.
- Navigating the complex relationship between the priorities of the Urbana-Champaign campus, the framework of the University of Illinois System, and the state's political and fiscal realities.



APPLICATION PROCEDURES

Greenwood Asher is assisting the University of Illinois System in the search for the dual position of Chancellor of the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and Vice President of the University of Illinois System. Applications must include a current CV to be reviewed for consideration. Additional application materials will be required during the review process. Greenwood Asher consultants supporting this search: Julie Holley, Marion Frenche, and Jim Johnson.

Review of candidate materials will begin immediately, and the position will remain open until filled. Inquiries, nominations, and applications should be sent to Greenwood Asher's confidential email: IllinoisChancellor@greenwoodsearch.com.

This position is subject to a background check upon acceptance of a contingent offer. Background checks will be performed in compliance with the Fair Credit Reporting Act.

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 System Human Resource Services at 217-333-2600 or by emailing ADAaccessibility@uillinois.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 fundamental discovery of Archaea (the third kingdom of life) and the creation of the SHIELD comprehensive testing platform to mitigate the COVID-19 pandemic, Illinois has a longstanding 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.

MISSION

The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign is charged by our state to enhance the lives of people in Illinois, across the nation, and around the world through our leadership in learning, discovery, engagement, and economic development.

The campus is led by the Chancellor, who is the chief executive officer for the Urbana-Champaign campus and is responsible for all financial programs, campus policies, and strategic directions, with the mission of ensuring a transformative educational experience for the world's next generation of leaders, supporting cutting-edge research, and serving and engaging with society.

Illinois remains true to its 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 efforts to welcome students from all backgrounds. 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:

~38,000

UNDERGRADUATE
STUDENTS

~21,000

GRADUATE AND
PROFESSIONAL
STUDENTS

~3,000

TENURE SYSTEM AND
SPECIALIZED FACULTY
MEMBERS

~3,700

ACADEMIC
PROFESSIONALS

~6,100

CIVIL SERVICE STAFF
MEMBERS



POINTS OF PRIDE

Comprehensive Academics

More than 38,000 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 21,000 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.

Degree programs:

- 137 bachelors, 148 masters, 87 doctoral, 25 certificates (20 post-bachelor and five post-masters)

Colleges, schools, and divisions enrolling undergraduate, graduate, and professional degree 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
- Division of General Studies
- School of Labor and Employment Relations
- College of Law
- College of Liberal Arts & Sciences
- College of Media
- Carle Illinois College of Medicine
- School of Information Sciences
- School of Social Work
- College of Veterinary Medicine

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 ninth among public universities and 33rd among all national universities. In all of Illinois' current graduate and undergraduate rankings, there are 36 programs in the top five, 65 among the top 10 and 94 in the top 20. Illinois is delivering excellence on a massive scale.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Boldly Illinois 2030 (boldly.illinois.edu) is a collective opportunity. Boldness means being fearless, standing out, and doing

uncommon things, like reimagining the role of a land-grant university in the 21st century. Boldly Illinois connotes doing this work in a way that reflects the unique values and vision that is the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Boldly Illinois challenges us to think differently, take risks, be courageous enough to fail, and transcend business as usual.

We become stronger as we align our activities with the values, mission, vision, and goals of the university, allowing us to pursue excellence in a uniquely Illinois way. Building on the success of the previous strategic plan, Boldly Illinois grew out of a process to identify what makes our university a special place. Campus conversations involved thousands of people and included two summits, multiple brainstorming sessions, and virtual feedback. Three defining qualities of what we value came into focus through these conversations:

- Collaboration to solve problems and promote understanding
- Authentic inclusion to build community
- Empowerment to enable individuals to be successful

We are and aspire to grow as a collaborative, inclusive and empowering community of scholars, educators, students, and learners comprised of scientists, artists, leaders, creators, staff and contributors. When we focus our activities on these core values, we amplify the power of our collective impact.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

The University of Illinois has a budget of over \$3 billion, which includes undergraduate and graduate tuition, annual sponsored research awards, direct state appropriations for operations, auxiliary services and fees, and gift/endowment income. The university manages its budget according to the Integrated Value-Centered Budgeting (IVCB) model, a modified Responsibility Centered Management (RCM) approach. Adopted in 2019, the IVCB model provides flexibility to act strategically while fostering sound fiscal management, cost efficiency, and optimal use of available resources.

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 15,000, Illinois ranks second in the nation among public universities for the most international students. With 305 study-abroad programs in 59 countries, more than 1,500 students earn credit for studying abroad each year.

Noteworthy projects and recognitions include:

- Illinois has been designated a First Scholars Institution by the Center for First-generation Student Success for its commitment to first-generation students.
 - Illinois has been regularly named a top producer of Peace Corps volunteers.
 - Illinois is home to three of the nation's artificial intelligence institutes: the AI Institute for Inclusive Intelligent Technologies for Education (INVITE); the Molecule Maker Lab Institute (MMLI): An AI Institute for Molecular Discovery, Synthetic Strategy, and Manufacturing; and Artificial Intelligence for Future Agricultural Resilience, Management, and Sustainability (AIFARMS)
 - Illinois faculty lead or co-lead several National Science Foundation-supported institutes, including the 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, housed at the Carl R. Woese Institute for Genomic Biology, and the Quantum Leap Challenge Institute, housed in The Grainger College of Engineering
 - Housed in the Illinois Humanities Research Institute, Humanities Without Walls is 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.
- The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation funds the Realizing Increased Photosynthetic Efficiency (RIPE) program to re-engineer photosynthesis-related metabolic pathways and transform global underprivileged economies that are agricultural-based.
 - Illinois hosts 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.
 - The Center for Advanced Bioenergy and Bioproducts Innovation, housed in the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences, focuses on advances in biofuels and bioproducts with funding from the US Department of Energy.
 - The Chez Veterans Center, housed in the College of Applied Health Sciences, is a national leader in research, services, and support for veterans.
 - Illinois is home to innovative public-private partnerships including the HATHI Trust Research Center, the IBM-Illinois Discovery Accelerator Institute, the c3.ai Digital Transformation Institute, the Illinois-Sandia Research Partnership, and the Advanced Digital Sciences Center.
 - An Illinois cross-campus, interdisciplinary team established the COVID-19 SHIELD program, which was implemented on campus, across the state and the nation to mitigate the pandemic.





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 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, Salaam Middle East & North Africa Cultural Center, Women's Resources Center and Gender & Sexuality Resource Center provide opportunities to learn and experience the rich historic traditions and modern living cultures that shape our world.



INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS

As a charter member of the [Big Ten Conference](#) and [NCAA](#), the University of Illinois enjoys an illustrious history in intercollegiate athletics and, in recent years, has established itself among the nation's most successful athletics programs. Within the Division of Intercollegiate Athletics, more than 300 full-time staff support approximately 500 student-athletes competing in 21 varsity sports.

Known as the [Fighting Illini](#), Illinois boasts the second-most conference championships of any Big Ten school with 261 and has crowned 23 national championship teams. Dozens of decorated alumni have achieved at the highest level of sport, including Super Bowl champions, Olympic gold medalists, and world record-holders. Today, Illinois is enjoying a period of unprecedented success, highlighted by the many accomplishments of 2024. The Fighting Illini football program tied a school record with 10 victories, culminating with the 2024 Cheez-It Citrus Bowl Championship and a ranking of No. 16 in the final AP Poll. The men's basketball program, which has been the Big Ten's most successful over the previous five seasons, captured the Big Ten Tournament title and advanced to the Elite Eight of the NCAA Tournament, finishing ranked No. 6 in the final AP Poll. And women's basketball culminated its season with the first postseason title in program history, winning the inaugural championship in the Women's Basketball Invitation Tournament. In all, 2024 saw the Illini win a total of four Big Ten team championships, with notable success experienced in men's golf, men's gymnastics, and women's track and field.

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.



UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS SYSTEM

Since it was established in 1867, the [University of Illinois System](#) has been an essential resource for the state of Illinois and the nation focused always on the public good. Its three universities — at Urbana-Champaign, Chicago and Springfield — have provided opportunities for education to a broad cross-section of students and helped create a thriving economy for the state, developing generations of innovators, entrepreneurs, leaders, and thinkers while advancing the frontiers of knowledge to benefit society.

Today the University of Illinois System's universities enroll more than 97,700 students and have a sponsored research portfolio of more than \$1 billion. The system is, in total, a \$8.29 billion enterprise with an annual economic impact of more than \$19 billion.

The University of Illinois System is led by Dr. Timothy L. Killeen, its 20th president. He took office in May 2015 and has worked with the leaders of the three universities to broaden educational access by freezing in-state tuition for seven of the past 10 years and increasing available financial aid. Concurrently, the system has led programs to recruit distinguished faculty and increase the size of the faculty to meet growing enrollment.

Under Killeen's leadership, the system has led efforts to spur innovation and inclusive economic development throughout the state, notably through the creation of the [Illinois Innovation Network \(IIN\)](#). Supported by a \$500 million state investment, the IIN is a collaborative network of 15 university-community-industry-based hubs throughout the state that work together to drive innovation, economic growth, and workforce development. Operated in partnership with Illinois' public universities, these hubs are strategically located across the state, including at the University of Illinois System's three campuses in Chicago, Springfield, and Urbana-Champaign.

IIN's anchor hub, the [Discovery Partners Institute \(DPI\)](#), is committed to driving economic growth in Chicago, Illinois, and the broader region. Partnering with corporations, the city of Chicago, and the state of Illinois, DPI trains and cultivates a diverse talent pipeline to meet the demands of an evolving, technology-driven

economy. DPI also convenes research teams to tackle societal challenges and supports business growth through tech innovation.

DPI recently upped its commitment in announcing an expansion focused on the future of computing with a goal to make Illinois a global leader in the rapidly evolving computing landscape. This initiative is backed by \$500 million in state funding, along with substantial federal and industry investment. The expanded vision will maximize the impact of the state's investment and unlock new economic opportunities driven by rapid technological shifts and federal initiatives like the CHIPS and Science Act. As part of this expansion, DPI will maintain its downtown headquarters while establishing a second location at the Illinois Quantum and Microelectronics Park (IQMP) — a quantum-focused facility developed in partnership with globally recognized companies. The IQMP will be managed by a University of Illinois-led organization on behalf of the State of Illinois and Governor JB Pritzker.

In addition to its three main campuses, the U of I System has regional campuses, the [UI Health hospital](#) and clinics, research facilities, and [Extension](#) offices throughout the state.

The system has built partnerships across the globe and has recently opened offices in India and Mexico to build stronger relationships with institutions in those countries.

The system's public policy think tank, the [Institute for Government and Public Affairs](#), mobilizes the vast faculty talent and expertise found across the three universities to generate research, analysis, and information essential to thoughtful and effective public policy.

In addition, the system advocates on behalf of its three universities on legislative matters and serves as a liaison to key policymakers, including members of U.S. Congress, the executive branch, the Illinois General Assembly, the Office of the Governor, state agencies, and local and community leaders. The system leads efforts to build and mobilize a strong advocacy network of alumni and supporters who champion public higher education and the University of Illinois System.



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.

ACCREDITATION

The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission.