

# College Admissions and Financial Aid Seminar

Hosted by State Representative Mike Murphy  
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UIS Student Union North Ballroom

Natalie Herring  
Associate Provost for Enrollment Management  
University of Illinois at Springfield

Dan Mann  
Associate Provost for Enrollment Management  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

# Outline

- **Admissions**
  - Process
  - Advice
- **Financial aid**
  - Costs to consider
  - Types of aid
    - Need-based: Pell, MAP, Institutional
    - Merit-based: Institutional
- **How it works at University of Illinois at Springfield**
- **How it works at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign**

# Big Picture

- **Estimated U.S. Population – 330,149,796 (December 16, 2019)**
- **Total College Enrollment – 17,260,333 (Spring 2019)**
  - **Down 1.4% since Spring 2018**
  - **Eight straight years of decline**
- **5,300 colleges and universities in U.S.**
- **190 colleges and universities in Illinois.**

# College Admissions

# Admissions

- **Applications are available online.**
- **Pay attention to deadlines!!!**
  - Earlier is better.
- **Review if you are eligible for an application fee waiver.**
- **Enter accurate information.**
- **Essays matter.**
  - Talk about yourself and your experiences.
  - Get others to read your and provide suggestions.
- **Understand admission & notification processes.**
- **Don't hesitate to ask questions!**

# Application Review

- **Colleges look at the WHOLE student.**
- **They look at what you did compared to opportunity.**
- **The UI System universities DO NOT:**
  - **Allow any interference in admissions**
  - **Give special preference to donors**
  - **Give special preference to “legacies”**
  - **Use only your test (SAT/ACT) scores**

# Cost, Financial Aid

# Main Messages

- **College can be affordable!**
- **College can deliver a value that transforms students, their families and communities.**
- **There is money out there to help!**
- **There are also lots of people who help.**

**University of Illinois at Springfield  
Office of Financial Assistance  
Phone: 217-206-6600  
Email: [finaid@uis.edu](mailto:finaid@uis.edu)**

**University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
Office of Student Financial Aid  
Phone: 217-333-0100  
Email: [finaid@illinois.edu](mailto:finaid@illinois.edu)**

# 2019-20 Illinois Cost of Attendance

	Base cost	Business/Engineering
<b>Tuition</b>	<b>\$12,036</b>	<b>\$17,040</b>
<b>Fees</b>	<b>\$4,174</b>	<b>\$4,174</b>
<b>Room &amp; Board</b>	<b>\$11,480</b>	<b>\$11,480</b>
<b>Books &amp; Supplies</b>	<b>\$1,200</b>	<b>\$1,200</b>
<b>Other expenses</b>	<b>\$2,500</b>	<b>\$2,500</b>
<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>\$31,390</b>	<b>\$36,394</b>

Every school will provide you with this information.  
[cost.illinois.edu](http://cost.illinois.edu)

# 2019-20 UIS Cost of Attendance

	Freshman	Honors
<b>Tuition</b>	<b>\$9,405</b>	<b>\$9,405</b>
<b>Fees</b>	<b>\$2,418</b>	<b>\$3,118</b>
<b>Room &amp; Board</b>	<b>\$9,760</b>	<b>\$9,760</b>
<b>Books &amp; Supplies</b>	<b>\$1,200</b>	<b>\$1,200</b>
<b>Indirect Costs (transportation &amp; personal expenses)</b>	<b>\$2,700</b>	<b>\$2,700</b>
<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>\$25,483</b>	<b>\$26,183</b>

# Northwestern University

<b>2019-20 Costs</b>	<b>Amounts</b>
<b>Tuition for full-time students in degree programs</b>	<b>\$56,232</b>
<b>Fees</b>	<b>\$459</b>
<b>Room &amp; Board (Double room and 19 meal contract)</b>	<b>\$17,019</b>
<b>Books &amp; Supplies</b>	<b>\$1,638</b>
<b>Personal Expenses &amp; Transportation</b>	<b>\$3,251</b>
<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>\$78,599</b>

# Types of Aid

- **Grants**
  - Do not need to be repaid
  - Are based only on financial need
  - Examples:
    - Federal government: Pell Grants
    - State of Illinois: MAP Grants
    - University of Illinois grant funding
- **Scholarships**
  - Do not need to be repaid
  - Can be based on need or merit (or mixture)
  - Examples:
    - University of Illinois: President's Award Program
    - External: NACME engineering scholarships

# Private Scholarship Search Sites

- **fastweb.com**
- **scholarships.com**
- **Many others**

**At Illinois: Over \$12 million in outside scholarships received by nearly 3,000 undergraduates.**

# Types of Aid

- **Student employment**
  - Paid by the hour to work on campus
  - Examples:
    - Federal work-study
    - Off campus jobs
- **Loans**
  - Must be repaid after graduation (over time)
  - Types of loans depend upon need

# Financial Aid at UIS

- Need-based aid
- Merit-based aid
  
- Lincoln Merit
- Capital Scholars Honors
- President's Award Program
- AIM High Scholarship

# Financial Aid at UIS

- Merit-based aid for Transfer Students
- Merit-based aid for International Students
- Graduate Public Internship Program

# Financial Aid at Illinois

- Need-based aid
- Merit-based aid
  
- Illinois Promise
- Illinois Commitment
- President's Award Program
- Chancellor's Access Grants
- AIM High Scholarships

# Illinois Commitment Program

The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign is committed to cover tuition and fees for new Illinois residents with family incomes below \$67,100 per year.

- **Eligible students:**
  - Students and parents are Illinois residents
  - \$67,100 or below in family income
  - Less than \$50k in assets (primary residence doesn't count)
- **Pell + MAP + Illinois Commitment promises to cover tuition and mandatory fees for 4 years.**

**We are committed to Access!**

**We are committed to Affordability!**

**We are committed to Student Success!**

# What Illinois Commitment Students Are Saying

Illinois Commitment allows me to strive for a higher education without the weight of financial burden. A year ago, I was unsure whether or not I would even be able to attend a 4-year university, let alone UIUC. Illinois has been my dream school for as long as I can remember, and with Illinois Commitment, I am able to chase my dreams as a first generation student. An affordable and quality education allows me to shape my own future, despite my socioeconomic background.

The support from the Illinois Commitment means everything to me, seeing as without it, there was a great possibility that I would not have been able to attend one of the top universities in the country. I am from a small town that was not the wealthiest — to say the least — and given the opportunity, I will put my small town on the map.

# More Illinois Commitment Student Stories

When I got a notice that I had received Illinois Commitment I almost cried. Before then I had been so excited to attend college and further my education but I was terrified of the debt I would incur. I had received three scholarships at the end of my senior year, but that would barely cover the cost of my room and board for a year. With Illinois Commitment, I don't have to worry about spending the rest of my life in debt and I can pursue a career that I truly enjoy rather than one that will pay enough to cover the cost of student loans.

I got to come home after going to an out of state school. If it weren't for Illinois Commitment there would have been a good chance I would not have been able to come home. Transferring has helped motivate me to do better and being in the University of Illinois environment itself has inspired me. From the professors, to the way classes are set up, to the amazing advisors-I could not be more thankful I was able to come home.

# How the Process Works

## **1. Apply to be admitted**

- This is about your academic record, interests, activities.

## **2. Submit your FAFSA form**

- Free Application for Federal Student Aid

**Students are automatically considered for all grants, university scholarships and federal loans.**

# Our Advice

1. Start thinking about going to college early in life and take advanced classes in high school.
  - English: 4 years required
  - Math: 3 or 3.5 years required, 4 years recommended
  - Social sciences: 2 years required, 4 years recommended
  - Lab sciences: 2 years required, 4 years recommended
  - Language other than English: 2 years required, 4 years recommended
  - Flexible academic units: 2 years required, 4+ years recommended

# Our Advice

## 2. You may be able to earn college credit for academic work done during high school.

- **Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB)**: These programs offer accelerated high school classes that may count for college credit. Note: college credit is normally awarded based on exam test scores for these classes.
- **Dual Credit Courses**: Some high schools offer the option of taking community college courses which count for credit at both the high school and college level. Transferable college courses that appear on an official post-secondary transcript will be reviewed and college credit awarded as appropriate.
  - At Illinois, the grades you've earned in accepted courses will be part of your cumulative GPA.
- Check with colleges you are considering for other programs and exams that might count towards college credit or course exemptions.

# Our Advice

## 3. Do college planning!

- Do the majority of your college research before you apply.
  - College finders
  - Guidebooks/websites
  - Rankings
- Don't apply to colleges you wouldn't want to attend.
- Don't stress too much if you haven't decided on a major – about 40% of students are either undecided or change their majors.
- Visit college campuses!
- College “fit” is important for student success.
- Think Illinois!!! - There are lots of good colleges and universities in the state of Illinois!

# Our Advice

## 4. Apply to college(s)

- Pay attention to deadlines and application processes.
- Allow time to complete your application.
- Work on your essay.
- University of Illinois does not accept recommendation letters, but some schools do.
- Applications cost money and time – see if you qualify for a fee waiver.
- Apply to more than one college – experts suggest that you apply anywhere from 1 to 8 colleges: 2-3 reach colleges, 2-3 target colleges, and 2 safety schools.

# Our Advice

## 5. Submit your FAFSA form

- Available on October 1 for the next school year.
- You must re-apply for financial aid each year.
- Mostly uses your and your parent's tax returns. (The 2020-21 FAFSA uses 2018 tax return information.)
- Suggest submitting it by Dec 31 each year, although not required. (The sooner, the better.)
- See if the institution has an additional financial aid and/or scholarship application. (University of Illinois does not!)
- Call if you have questions!!!

# Comment about student loans

- **About ½ of Illinois students graduate with student loan debt.**
- **Average loan debt at Illinois is \$23,000, and below the federal and state averages.**
- **Federal Direct Loans generally have better options than private/alternative loans.**
- **Student loan borrowing is common and is generally included in financial aid offers for most students with financial need.**
- **Over the course of your career, a college diploma is worth about \$1,000,000 in total earnings!**

# Remember....

- **College can be affordable!**
- **There is money out there to help!**
- **There are people at colleges and universities available to help you with these processes!**

# Questions and Discussion

**Natalie Herring**

**Associate Provost for Enrollment Management**

**University of Illinois at Springfield**

**[nherr4@uis.edu](mailto:nherr4@uis.edu)**

**Dan Mann**

**Associate Provost for Enrollment Management**

**University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign**

**[danmann@Illinois.edu](mailto:danmann@Illinois.edu)**

**Thank You!**