

# Education in Illinois

Illinois residents are serious about the importance of education. Education is a major component of the state's budget, with state and local operating expenditures for elementary and secondary pupils ranking among the top five in the nation. About half of Illinois workers have pursued education beyond the high school level. Illinois has some of the finest colleges and universities in the nation.

## Elementary and Secondary Education

Illinois has approximately 900 public school districts, with more than 4,000 public schools and approximately 1,400 nonpublic schools. In the 2004-05 school year, there were nearly 2.3 million pupils attending Illinois schools. Approximately 139,000 students graduate from Illinois high schools each year (according to the most recent data available).

## Community Colleges

Career and technical education is important in Illinois. There are 48 community colleges and one community college center located in 39 college districts in Illinois. During fiscal year 2005, community colleges enrolled over 698,000 students in credit courses. The colleges provide instruction and work force preparation in more than 240 occupational specialties. The Community College Board estimates more than 90 percent of its graduates remain in Illinois to work. Many community college students are working adults.

Illinois community colleges provide comprehensive, market-driven services based on local employer needs. Colleges can analyze an organization's needs and offer in-depth assessments of the entire organization. Training is delivered at the workplace, on campus, or on-line. Services range from professional continuing education and customized job training to entrepreneurship training, consulting services, government contract procurement assistance, and industrial attraction and retention. The colleges also help businesses acquire training funds through various state and federal programs. In fiscal year 2005, community colleges provided customized training to 3,032 companies, serving over 88,000 employees.

A primary economic development activity of the community colleges is the valuable resources they provide to business and industry. Across the state, community colleges, through their business and industry centers, work with businesses, industries, and economic development entities to recruit and train workers, retain existing businesses, and bring new businesses and jobs to Illinois. Additionally, colleges engage local business partners through their participation on program advisory committees for the career and

technical education programs. This provides industry partners with a forum to render input directly to the college – and ensures that community college programs are always reflective of the latest industry trends.

## Colleges and Universities

Illinois boasts 175 degree-granting institutions that enrolled 801,548 students in the fall of 2004. There are nine public universities on 12 campuses that offer a full range of educational programs, including nearly 700 baccalaureate degree programs; more than 550 master's degree programs; nearly 200 doctoral programs; and professional degrees in medicine, veterinary medicine, dentistry and law. In the private sector, 99 institutions are not-for-profit colleges and universities, while an additional 28 are proprietary. In fall 2004, nearly three in ten college students – 237,877 – enrolled in private institutions.

Many Illinois institutions have world-class reputations. U.S. News and World Report's 2004 ranking of National Universities - Doctoral (schools with a wide range of undergraduate and graduate programs that often emphasize research) included three Illinois universities among the top 40: Northwestern (11th), the University of Chicago (13th), and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (40th). US News' 2006 assessment of M.B.A. programs ranked Northwestern's Kellogg school fourth in the country, followed by the nearby University of Chicago. Northwestern is credited for its close-knit culture and honing of marketing skills, while the University of Chicago graduates are lauded for their financial and analytical skills. In addition, the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana is ranked fifth nationally by *U.S. News & World Report* for its school of engineering.

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<b><u>University</u></b>	<b><u>Location</u></b>	<b><u>Total Enrollment (Fall 2005)</u></b>	<b><u>Curriculum</u></b>
University of Illinois	Urbana - Champaign	41,938	Fifteen colleges offer comprehensive bachelors, masters and doctoral programs in agriculture, engineering, the sciences and veterinary medicine.
University of Illinois	Chicago	24,812	Thirteen colleges offer comprehensive undergraduate, masters and doctoral programs in engineering, the sciences, pharmacy and medicine.
University of Illinois	Springfield	4,517	Undergraduate, upper division and master's programs, with a special emphasis on public affairs
University of Chicago	Chicago	14,150	Comprehensive undergraduate and strong graduate and professional programs in the sciences and medicine.
Northwestern University	Evanston	18,065	Comprehensive undergraduate and strong graduate and professional programs in engineering, the sciences and medicine.
Illinois Institute of Technology	Chicago	6,472	Comprehensive undergraduate and strong graduate and professional programs including engineering and sciences.
Southern Illinois University	Carbondale	21,441	Comprehensive undergraduate, master's doctoral and professional programs including agriculture, engineering, the sciences and medicine.
Southern Illinois University	Edwardsville	13,460	Comprehensive undergraduate and master's programs including engineering, the sciences and dental medicine.
Eastern Illinois University	Charleston	12,129	Comprehensive undergraduate programs including liberal and fine arts, teacher education and other professional programs.
Illinois State University	Normal	20,653	Comprehensive undergraduate programs, masters and doctoral programs in engineering, the sciences, and applied sciences and technology.
Northern Illinois University	De Kalb	25,208	Comprehensive undergraduate, graduate and professional programs in engineering and the sciences.
Western Illinois University	Macomb	13,404	Comprehensive undergraduate programs in engineering, the sciences and applied sciences.
Governor's State University	University Park	5,405	Upper division and master's programs.

Source: 2006 Data Book on Illinois Higher Education. Illinois State Board of Higher Education and individual college websites.

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