Academic Information for Undergraduate Students

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Welcome

• Congratulations on your acceptance to the University of Illinois!

• There are things you need to take care of before you arrive in Illinois and things you need to do shortly after arriving on campus.

• Following the advice and instructions we share with you today will ease your transition to the University of Illinois.
Topics for Today

• Preparing to Enroll
  – Admitted Checklist
  – Registration
  – Placement Exams
  – Transcripts

• Transition to College in the U.S.
  – After You Arrive on Campus
  – American Academic Expectations
  – How to Get Good Grades
  – Academic Colleges and Advising
  – Academic Integrity and FERPA

• Academic Requirements
  – Undergraduate Academics and Advising
Prepare to Enroll

• Use the “MyIllini” portal to complete your “Admitted Checklist.”
  – Tuition Billing
  – Housing
  – Registration
  – Transcripts
  – Health/Immunizations
  – I-20 Application
Prepare to Enroll: Technology

- Net ID & Active Directory (AD): Necessary for everything!
- Enterprise Password: Necessary to access UIUC Student Self-Service (to change classes and look up other academic information)
- All these can be accessed and re-set through Technology Services password manager [https://identity.uillinois.edu/iamFrontEnd/iam/start/?campus=uiuc](https://identity.uillinois.edu/iamFrontEnd/iam/start/?campus=uiuc)
Summer Registration

• Sign up for an online advising appointment through your myIllini account, otherwise you will need to register on campus between August 21-24.

• Complete your Pre-Registration Homework (2 weeks in advance)

• Complete all required Placement Tests (2 weeks in advance)
Registration

How do I register for my classes?

– Consult with your academic advisor about what courses you should take.
– Full-time registration is a minimum of 12 credit hours.
– Individual courses range from 1-5 credit hours.

Registration: [http://registrar.illinois.edu/registration-process](http://registrar.illinois.edu/registration-process)
Course Explorer: [https://courses.illinois.edu/](https://courses.illinois.edu/)
Placement Exams

• Check your admissions letter for a list of required placement exams.

• Placement Exams are designed to help you start your studies at the appropriate level.

• Exam requirements depend on your major and degree level.
  – All undergraduates should complete the ALEKS Math Placement Exam.
  – Other placement exams that you may take:
    • Chemistry
    • Physics
    • Languages Other Than English
    • English as a Second Language (the EPT)
Check your admissions letter to see if you are required to take the English as a Second Language Placement Test (known as the EPT).

Results will indicate which English as a Second Language (ESL) course you should enroll in, if any.

Undergraduate students should take this test online over the Summer.

http://www.linguistics.illinois.edu/students/placement

Enrolling in an ESL course does not mean you are underprepared and will not reflect negatively on your abilities as a student.
Transfer Students

• If you have already attended another College or University:
  – Bring a copy of your Original Transcript, Original Certificate of Degree (if awarded), and Official Translations with you.
  – Bring copies of any syllabi or course descriptions that you have.
  – Bring any materials that can show what you covered in each of the courses (homework, exam copies, textbooks).

The sooner you can submit these items to your College, the better your initial placements will be at Illinois!
1. Check-in with International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS).

2. Submit immunization forms to McKinley Health Center.

3. Get your I-Card (Student Identification Card) at the Illini Union Bookstore.
   - Your I-Card will include your University Identification Number (UIN) which you will use frequently.
Transition to College in the United States

• College students take responsibility for their academic success!
  – Attend class, actively participate in class, and study independently.
  – Utilize campus support services & ask for help as needed.
    • Academic advising
    • Tutoring
    • Instructor office hours
  – Monitor your progress towards your degree.
    • Use DARSweb/u.Achieve to track your degree requirements
American Academic Expectations

• Students, rather than instructors, move from one classroom to another.
  – Each student has an individual schedule.

• Students are responsible for communicating with instructors. You can ask questions or discuss a course related issue after class or during office hours.
  – Establishing an interpersonal connection with your instructor is advisable. Instructors encourage this connection.

• Students are responsible for reading their email.
  – Emails will contain important information & be your primary method of communication at Illinois.
    • For example: Change in exam location, test score update, homework, extra credit opportunities, etc.
American Academic Expectations

• There are fixed deadlines for assignments and exams. You can learn about these in each course syllabus.

• Class readings and other materials are often available online and for loan through the library.
  – Not all courses have a required textbook.
  – Some instructors will use Compass or Moodle (online resources) to post class materials.

• Final course grades are based on attendance, homework assignment, in-class projects and exams.
  – Attendance is usually required and always strongly recommended.
How to Get Good Grades

• Read your **syllabus** for each course!
  – It will tell you exactly what you need to do to succeed.

• **Go to class** and actively participate.

• **Study** regularly and complete your **homework** on time.
  – Stay organized & do not procrastinate.

• **Ask questions** of Instructors, Teaching Assistants, & Advisors.
Academic Colleges

• Agricultural, Consumer & Environmental Sciences (ACES)
• Applied Health Sciences (AHS)
• Business
• Education
• Engineering
• Fine & Applied Arts (FAA)
• Liberal Arts & Sciences (LAS)
• Media
• Nursing
• Division of General Studies
• School of Social Work
Academic Advising

• **Advisors** are there to help you. Make appointments to ask questions about:
  – Your course schedule
  – Academic progress
  – Career goals and planning

• Advisors will communicate with you via email, so check your university email daily.

• **Ask for help** BEFORE an issue becomes a problem.

• Advisors cannot make exceptions to University rules and regulations, so get informed.
Academic Integrity

• Academic Integrity is very important. It is often understood differently in different cultures – so it is important to spend time understanding what it means in the United States.

• An academic integrity VIOLATION can include such things as, 'cheating', 'falsification', 'plagiarism', and 'assisting others'.

• Violations of academic integrity are treated seriously. – Cheating on an exam or falsifying information can lead to severe consequences, including a permanent record on your transcript, a failing grade and in some cases, dismissal from the university.

• You will hear a great deal about these ideas when you get to campus, please pay close attention.

• Student Code of Conduct: http://studentcode.illinois.edu/
Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

• FERPA: Federal law stating that students are adults. It limits the personal and academic information the university can share with parents (such as grades, class schedule, academic standing, etc.).

• For students who want to allow the university to share information with their parents, FERPA waiver process can be initiated by the student through the Registrar’s Office.

• Parents: Communicating with your child is the fastest and most reliable way to get information.
Academic Requirements

• Three levels of requirements:
  – Campus: General education course requirements
  – College: Course requirements related to your field of study
  – Department: Specific course requirements related to your major
General Education Courses

• General Education (GenEds) courses are the basis of a liberal arts education. These classes distinguish a college education from technical training.

• GenEds allow students to deepen their understanding of human culture and society, build skills in inquiry and critical thinking, and lay a foundation for civic engagement and lifelong learning.

➢ Ask your advisor to learn more about the general education requirements for your major.
Elective Courses

• Electives are fun and allow you to explore different interests.
  – Over 2,000 courses to choose from.
  – Pursue an academic minor or double major.
  – Become a well-rounded student and professional.
Most undergraduate students take a “University 101” course, which will help you to:
- Ease your college transition, learn good study habits.
- Introduce you to campus tools and resources.
- Meet other students and make friends.
- Explore major/career interests.
Changing Your Major

• Undergraduate students must stay in their college of entry for the first academic year.

• Review Inter-Intra College Transfer (ICT) guidelines (these can be found online) and talk to your advisor.

• You may need to complete certain courses and obtain certain grades before you can apply for a major change.
We are glad you are coming, and look forward to seeing you in August!