Graduate Student Academic Information

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Graduate College
www.grad.illinois.edu
Welcome

Congratulations on your acceptance to the Graduate College!
The Graduate College

The Graduate College is the academic college for all graduate students. Graduate students belong to both an academic college and the Graduate College.
What We Do

ACADEMIC SERVICES
- Graduate Admissions, Records & Registration, Petitions, Thesis Deposit

POLICIES & PROGRAMS
- Academic Policies, Degree Requirements, New Programs

FINANCIAL SUPPORT
- Fellowship Processing, Grad College & External Fellowships

STUDENT SUCCESS
- Professional & Career Development, Problem Solving, Diversity & Inclusion

COMMUNICATIONS
- GradLinks, Website, Social Media, Blogs, Feature Stories
Expectations for Graduate Students

- Acquire specialized knowledge
- Take more active role
- Carve out your own niche
- Work at the forefront of your field
- Become a member of the profession
ADVICE FOR SUCCESS
Develop a strong network

- Build relationships
- Connect with peers in your field
- Join student organizations
- Get to know faculty and staff
- Seek out mentoring and advising
Mentoring is an important part of the graduate school experience.

Your mentor may be your academic advisor, but not necessarily.

A mentor helps you understand how to match your ambitions with the educational and career choices you will encounter.

You may have more than one mentor depending on your career goals and needs.

www.grad.illinois.edu/mentoring
Create a plan for studies and career

- What do you want to learn or do?
- How can you get that experience?
- What careers are you considering? How can you prepare?
- What are the unwritten expectations for your profession?
- From the moment you arrive, start working toward your first job and your career.
- GradMAP  [www.grad.Illinois.edu/GradMAP](http://www.grad.Illinois.edu/GradMAP)
Take ownership of your degree

- Know requirements, policies, and deadlines.
- Be assertive about asking questions and gathering information.
- Monitor your academic record.
- Know the Graduate Contact in your program (very helpful person!).
Self-care and wellness

- Health and Wellness
- Managing Stress
- Financial Wellness
- Work/Life Balance
- Knowing when to ask for help
Grad School 101: Academic Integrity

• “Academic Integrity” means honest and responsible scholarship. Students are expected to submit original work and give credit to other peoples' ideas.

• Academic Integrity is extremely important. It is often understood differently in different cultures, so it is important to learn what it means in the United States.

• An academic integrity VIOLATION can include such things as cheating, falsification, plagiarism, and assisting others when such assistance is prohibited. Violations can result in a failing grade or dismissal from the university.

• Student Code of Conduct: http://studentcode.illinois.edu/
Grad School 101: 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, or academic standing). Communicating with their child is the fastest and most reliable way for parents to get information.

• 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.
Grad School 101: Graduate Advising

• Advisors can assist with making academic decisions.
  – Academic requirements are very specific to each program and degree.
  – Courses, research, teaching, extracurriculars, etc.

• Each program has a graduate advisor.
  – Your graduate advisor may not be the same person as your research advisor or your mentor.
  – Some programs assign an advisor, while others allow students to choose one.

• Always ask questions, especially about things you do not understand. It’s your job as a student!
Grad School 101: Assistantships & Campus Employment

• Most assistantship offers are made through your home department. Check with your department first.

• Other resources for assistantships and hourly employment:
  – Assistantship Clearinghouse
  – I-Link
  – Virtual Job Board
  – Research Park Job Board

• As an international student, be sure to check with ISSS before accepting any offer of employment.

• Details and links posted at www.grad.illinois.edu/job-boards
Grad School 101: Career Development

SUCCEED
Get tools you need to succeed in graduate school and beyond

EXPLORE
Discover broad and exciting career options that use your advanced skills

SEARCH
Land the job for you with effective application materials and interview preparation

CONNECT
Make connections with alumni and employers in your chosen fields

www.grad.illinois.edu/careers
Grad School 101: Fellowships & Grants

SEARCH
Browse our *Fellowship Finder* database to find a fellowship that’s right for you

LEARN
Take our grant-writing workshops and learn the art of proposal writing

REFINE
Utilize our one-on-one proposal review service to create your most competitive proposal

www.grad.illinois.edu/fellowships
TRANSITION & ARRIVAL
Transitioning to Campus: Practice and Expand English Skills

• Communicating effectively with your professors, classmates and colleagues in English is critical to your academic success.

• Make a plan now for how you will improve and expand your language abilities once you arrive in Illinois. Listening to American radio stations, podcasts, movies, TV, as well as real life interactions with English speakers are all great ways to improve your fluency.
Register early for classes.

– Consult with your graduate advisor about what courses you should take.
– Full-time registration is a minimum of 12 credit hours (8 for those holding assistantships).
– Graduate courses range from 3-4 credit hours.
– Registration Process:  http://registrar.illinois.edu/registration-process
– Course explorer:  https://courses.illinois.edu/
Upon Arrival To Campus: Steps You Must Take

1. Check-in with International Student and Scholar Services. Also attend an ISSS orientation session:
   – August 17-18, 9:00-5:00 OR August 21-23, 3:00-6:00

2. Check-in with your academic program office.

3. Submit final academic credentials to the Graduate College.
   – For a list of missing academic credentials, login to your graduate online application and view your notice of admission.
Upon Arrival To Campus: Possible Steps To Take

4. Sign-up for the English Placement Test (EPT), ONLY if required.

5. If you will be a Teaching Assistant (TA), attend the Graduate Academy for College Teaching.
   – Orientation about teaching that occurs the week before classes begin.
   – Your department will determine what sessions you need to attend and will enroll you.

6. If you will hold an assistantship, traineeship, or fellowship, complete payroll information.
   – First payment is usually at the end of September. Arrive with sufficient funds.
   – Fellowships/traineeship questions, contact the Fellowship Office: gradfellowships@illinois.edu
   – Assistantship questions, contact your program: www.grad.illinois.edu/admissions/depts/
New Grad Student Welcome Reception
Monday, August 28, 4-6 p.m.
Illini Union: Illini Rooms A-C and South Lounge
https://guidebook.com/g/gradlifeil/

- Contains *Quick Guide*

- Shows how to set up campus accounts & services

- Gives links to social media
Stay Informed & Get Involved!

• Upcoming Graduate College events
  http://go.grad.Illinois.edu/events

• Subscribe to *GradLinks*, our weekly e-bulletin
  http://www.grad.illinois.edu/gradlinks

• Follow us on
  – Twitter  https://twitter.com/GradLifeIL
  – Facebook  https://www.facebook.com/GradCollegeIllinois
  – LinkedIn  https://www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=4302627
  – YouTube  https://www.youtube.com/user/GradCollegeIllinois
  – Instagram  https://www.instagram.com/gradlifeil/

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We look forward to seeing you in August!