WELCOME
TO YOUR REDBIRD LIFE!
YOUR JOURNEY TO BECOMING A REDBIRD STARTS NOW!
IllinoisState.edu/FreshmanNextSteps
FRESHMAN STUDENT CHECKLIST

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VISIT CAMPUS

Come to campus to experience life as a Redbird and get answers to any questions you may have. Sign up for a Daily Campus Visit or one of our Open House programs at Admissions.IllinoisState.edu.
CONFIRM YOUR ENROLLMENT

To reserve your space in our freshman class, pay a $150 non-refundable deposit by May 1, 2016. One hundred dollars will cover the registration fee for Preview, the summer orientation and registration program. The remaining $50 is applied to your first semester’s tuition. You can pay your deposit online with a credit or debit card at IllinoisState.edu/Deposit. You may also visit this site to confirm that your enrollment deposit was received.

If you are unable to submit the deposit online, mail it postmarked by May 1 to:

Office of Admissions
Campus Box 2200
Normal, IL 61790

Be sure to include your nine-digit UID on your check or money order.

Visit Admissions.IllinoisState.edu/EDF for more information about the enrollment deposit.

PAYING FOR COLLEGE

Apply for financial aid

The first step in the financial aid process is completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at fafsa.gov. The FAFSA is available beginning January 1 and we encourage you to complete it by March 1 for full consideration for financial aid. However, for best consideration for all types of aid, we recommend filing as soon as possible after January 1. Financial aid award notices will be sent during the month of April if the FAFSA and all requested documents have been submitted.

Our Financial Aid Office is available to assist you and your family as you prepare to pay for college. Visit FinancialAid.IllinoisState.edu for additional information on the application process, scholarship searches, student employment, and estimated college costs.

Find your job

Attend our annual part-time job fair in the fall to connect with on- and off-campus employers. Learn more about employment at FinancialAid.IllinoisState.edu/Jobs. Search for on- and off-campus job opportunities at IllinoisState.edu/Jobs.

Pay your bill

At the beginning of each semester, you must either pay your tuition and fees in full or make the first of four monthly payments. You can find out everything you need to know about tuition, fees, rates, billing due dates, and payment options on the Student Accounts website at StudentAccounts.IllinoisState.edu.

Search for scholarships

Continue your scholarship search at IllinoisState.edu/Scholarships, and apply, apply, apply! Be sure to check with your high school guidance counselor about local scholarships and pay attention to deadlines. Information about merit-based scholarships through the Office of Admissions is mailed to qualifying admitted students beginning in October.
SUBMIT YOUR HOUSING APPLICATION CONTRACT AND INITIAL PAYMENT

In mid-January, University Housing Services will mail information to all students required to live on campus under the University On-Campus Housing Policy. This information will explain how to complete your online housing application contract and submit your initial payment.

In mid-February (exact date will be provided in your housing information), the housing application contract will be available at IllinoisState.edu/HousingDiningContracts. This is where you will submit your housing application contract and submit your initial payment with a credit or debit card.

The completed housing contract makes you eligible for a space in a residence hall. All signed contracts with initial payments made by April 1 will be guaranteed an online room selection date.

Room/roommate selection

In mid-May, information will be mailed to you about the room selection process. Consider choosing one of the many Themed Living-Learning Communities offered in the residence halls. Learn more at Housing.IllinoisState.edu.

A majority of, but not all, incoming students will select their own room online from late May until early July. Based on when your contract and initial payment are received, some students will be assigned a room by housing staff.

The Housing and Dining Portal contains a roommate profile where you can connect with others who are also searching for roommates. These pages are available directly after the initial payment step and throughout the process.
**CHOOSE YOUR MEAL PLAN**

Campus Dining Services features two full-service residential dining centers, as well as a variety of retail restaurants throughout campus. Students with meal plans enjoy full access to both of the dining facilities, which feature all-you-care-to-eat style dining. We offer a great selection of meal plans: unlimited access or traditional access (a certain number of meals each week). Our two conveniently located dining centers and various retail restaurants on campus offer many choices ranging from fresh salads and stir-fry to pizza and sandwiches. You will receive information about selecting your meal plan in mid-January.

**Campus Dining Services**

(309) 438-8351
Dining.IllinoisState.edu

**RESERVE YOUR PREVIEW DATE**

Preview is the summer orientation and registration program for freshmen students and their families. It is a two-day program that takes place throughout June and July. Students who submit an enrollment deposit are mailed a Preview reservation postcard beginning in mid-March.

During Preview, students meet with an academic advisor, register for classes, get to know current students and future classmates, meet faculty and staff from various academic departments, and receive a Redbird student ID card.

**Preview**

(309) 438-8486
IllinoisState.edu/Preview

**TAKE YOUR MATH PLACEMENT EXAM**

The COMPASS math placement exam is a tool used to place you in the appropriate math class. University College Testing Services at Illinois State University coordinates the COMPASS math placement exam. Students with an ACT math subscore less than 27 or SAT math subscore less than 620 are required to take the placement exam at least two weeks before attending Preview. All other students do not need to complete the exam.

The COMPASS exam is offered on campus and at several remote testing sites. To see the current list of remote sites, pre-register for a registration number, and to learn more about the COMPASS exam, please visit IllinoisState.edu/Compass. Before you take the COMPASS exam at a remote site, you must obtain a registration number from University College Testing Services.

The COMPASS exam begins with questions in algebra. Depending on your algebra score, you will also receive questions in pre-algebra or college algebra and trigonometry. Be prepared for the exam! Review sample questions at act.org/compass/sample. Download the PDF files under the “More Sample Questions” heading.

**UID vs. ULID**

They look the same, but these terms are very different. Your UID, or University Identification Number, is a nine-digit number that identifies you at the University. We use it in place of your Social Security Number. Your ULID, or University Logon ID, is like your University username. It is the beginning of your Illinois State email address and you will use it to access many electronic resources.
YOUR FINAL STEPS

Submit your immunization records
All students must have proof of health immunizations on file with Student Health Services by August 1, 2016, to avoid a late fee and being blocked from future class registration.

Your doctor or a public health clinic staff member must certify that you have had a tetanus/diphtheria (T/d) vaccine within the last 10 years and two measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccines since your first birthday.

There are two ways for you to submit your immunizations:
1. Providing a copy of your Illinois School Certificate of Child Health, which is available from your high school; or
2. Providing a copy of your immunizations from your physician’s office.

Immunizations
(309) 438-7559
HealthServices.IllinoisState.edu/Immunization

Finalize your admission file
You may need to complete one or more of the steps below to finalize your admission:
• Submit your official ACT/SAT scores to the Office of Admissions by July 1. Test scores posted on your high school transcript are not considered official. Visit the ACT or SAT websites to find out how to send your official scores.
  - ACT—actstudent.org/scores
    The Illinois State ACT school code is 1042.
  - SAT—sat.collegeboard.org/scores
    The Illinois State SAT school code is 1319.
• After you graduate from high school, submit your final high school transcript to the Office of Admissions by July 1. The graduation date must be posted on the transcript.
• You may visit IllinoisState.edu/Apply and select “Check Status” to confirm your documents have been received.
• If you have completed any courses for college credit, submit the official college transcript to the Office of Admissions.
• If you will have Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate test scores, please submit them to the University Registrar to receive appropriate college credit. Visit Registrar.IllinoisState.edu/Registration/Exams for additional information.

Secure student health insurance
All full-time students must have health insurance coverage. The University offers a health coverage plan that is included in your tuition/fee costs that either supplements existing family coverage or serves as primary coverage for students with no other insurance. For more information about the benefits of student health insurance and keeping versus cancelling the coverage if you already have insurance, visit IllinoisState.edu/Insurance or call (309) 438-2515.

Get your computer
TechZone can help you find the best computer based on your major and interest. They also offer special pricing on equipment and software. TechZone staff are available throughout the year to help with any computer needs. Watch for TechZone events in April. For more information, visit TechZone.IllinoisState.edu.
START YOUR REDBIRD LIFE

Move in and attend Welcome Week

Move-in and Welcome Week are the true beginning of your Redbird life! Move-in dates are August 17–18, 2016. You will receive your specific move-in date and time in the last week of July.

Welcome Week activities will keep you busy August 17–21, before classes begin. You will settle into your residence hall room, get to know classmates, and take part in fun activities such as a picnic on the Quad, live entertainment, and the Up Late @ STATE Glow It Up festival. Welcome Week information will be shared during Preview. Visit WelcomeWeek.IllinoisState.edu to learn more about what happens during your first few days on campus.

Begin classes

Your first day of classes as a Redbird is Monday, August 22, 2016.

Get to know University College

Illinois State University believes that the first year of college is a critical time in students’ lives. University College offers a supportive environment by providing courses, programs, services, and relationships that help students succeed in their first year and beyond. Your academic advisor for your first year will be in University College and will help you plan your course of study and navigate your educational experience. Visit UniversityCollege.IllinoisState.edu for more information.

University College resources

Success 101 and First Year Linc (Learning in Communities) help you make a successful academic and personal transition to college. You'll find out about campus resources, academic majors, and ways to get involved on campus. University College Advisement works with all new freshmen with making the academic transition to college through course planning and major exploration. The Julia N. Visor Academic Center can assist you with your studies throughout your college career with math and writing assistance, tutoring, and workshops geared toward your academic success.

REGGIE TIP!

Want to get involved on campus? Keep your eyes open for Festival ISU. This is an annual student involvement fair that showcases everything you can do on campus. From free food and games to student organizations, you’re sure to find your place as a Redbird.
ADDITIONAL CAMPUS RESOURCES

Campus Recreation
(309) 438-7529
CampusRecreation.IllinoisState.edu
Student Fitness Center with cardio equipment, weights, and aerobic classes; club and intramural sports; outdoor trips and equipment rentals; 18-hole golf course; tennis courts; and Bowling and Billiards Center

Career Center
(309) 438-2200
CareerCenter.IllinoisState.edu
Major and career exploration, career fairs, job search workshops, and résumé writing assistance

Child Care Center
(309) 438-5026
ChildCareCenter.IllinoisState.edu
Child care for children of Illinois State students (children ages 3–10)

Disability Concerns Office
(309) 438-5853
DisabilityConcerns.IllinoisState.edu
Exam accommodations, sign language interpreters, and note takers

International Studies and Programs
(309) 438-5276
InternationalStudies.IllinoisState.edu
Study abroad, International House, and cultural activities

Parking and Transportation
(309) 438-8391
Parking.IllinoisState.edu
Parking permits and transportation options

Student Counseling Services
(309) 438-3655
Counseling.IllinoisState.edu
Personal and career counseling, group counseling, and crisis intervention—all services provided to students are on a voluntary, confidential, and no-fee basis

Technology Support Center
(309) 438-HELP
SupportCenter.IllinoisState.edu
ULID services, email, and technology questions

TechZone
(309) 438-8334
TechZone.IllinoisState.edu
Computer repair and maintenance; new computer and equipment sales; and discounts on software and Apple, Dell, and Lenovo/IBM hardware

University College
(309) 438-3217
UniversityCollege.IllinoisState.edu
Academic advising, study skills workshops, Transfer Day Program, and Transfer Student Seminar

Veterans and Military Services
(309) 438-2207
Veterans.IllinoisState.edu
Assistance with military educational benefits, forms for military grants, and scholarships