

Admissions Information

Admission

Degree Seeking Students

First-year undergraduate students with a strong record of academic achievement who have completed less than 12 hours of college credit after graduation from high school may apply for admission as a freshman. Students must submit high school transcripts, ACT/SAT scores (see note below)*, and may be asked for a personal statement. Applications are accepted starting September 1 of the year prior to entry into the program, and new students may begin classes in any semester. In addition to general freshman applicants, UIS has an Honors Program that is a selective program and enrolls about 120 students each year. Eligible students will be contacted by the Honors Program.

*Note: ACT/SAT scores are not required for admission for this academic year.

Undergraduate transfer students with 12 or more semester hours may apply for admission. Students who have earned less than 30 semester hours must submit the same credentials as students seeking admission as freshmen (including official college transcripts). Students who have completed 30 or more transferable hours must submit official transcripts from all colleges and universities attended. Remedial and developmental courses are not applicable to admission requirements. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis, and new on campus transfer students may begin classes in any semester.

Graduate students must apply to UIS and have official transcripts and any required test scores submitted to the Office of Admissions. In addition, some graduate programs may request supplemental admissions documents. Admission to graduate studies may be granted to students who have earned a baccalaureate degree and who have met all specific program requirements and prerequisite courses.

Non-Degree Seeking Students

Students must complete an application and submit it to the Office of Admissions. The undergraduate non-degree student will be asked for clarification of his/her status before exceeding 16 hours; the graduate non-degree student before exceeding 12 hours.

Contact the Office of Admissions for additional information regarding any of the admission items mentioned above including possible exceptions.

University of Illinois Residency Status for Admission and Assessment of Tuition

General Information

The University of Illinois' definition of the term "resident" may be different from the definitions developed by other, non-university agencies. Thus, a person who is an Illinois resident for tax or voting purposes, for example, is not necessarily a resident for University of Illinois tuition and admission purposes. The university's definition of resident status applies both to payment of tuition and admission to the University of Illinois.

Principal elements that determine residency are domicile in Illinois and actions that evidence the intent to make Illinois the person's permanent residence for a period of 12 months prior to the first day of class. A person has but one domicile at any time. Mere physical presence in Illinois, regardless of how prolonged, is insufficient to establish residency without the existence of action and intent to make the place a permanent residence and principal home. In order to establish bona fide residency under this policy, a person must be independent and demonstrate presence and intent to reside permanently in Illinois for reasons other than educational objectives.

The burden of establishing that a student is domiciled in Illinois for other than educational purposes is on the student. The regulations, factors, and procedures enumerated in this policy will be considered by the university in determining the residency status of students.

Procedures

The Director of Admissions, or a designee, shall determine the initial residence classification of each student at the time the student enters or reenters the university.

A student who is not satisfied with the determination concerning his/her residence classification may request that the responsible official reconsider the determination. For the purposes of admission, the written request must be received by the Office of Admissions within 20 calendar days from the date of notification of residency status. For the purposes of assessment of tuition, the written request must be received by the Office of Admissions within 20 days of the date of assessment of tuition or the first scheduled day of classes for the term for which the tuition is payable, whichever is later.

The request should include the Petition for Determination of Residency Status and all other materials applicable to the claim. The request and accompanying documentation will not be returned, and the student is advised to maintain a copy for his/her records.

If the student is still not satisfied with the determination after it has been reconsidered, he or she may appeal the decision to the director, University-wide Student Programs. The appeal shall be in writing and shall include reasons for the appeal. The appeal must be received by the Director of Admissions within 20 days of the notice of the ruling. It will then be referred to the director, University-wide Student Programs. A student who fails to file an appeal within 20 days of the notice of the ruling waives all claims to reconsideration for that academic session. Filing deadlines cannot be extended or waived and applications and appeals not filed in a timely manner will not be reviewed. The decision of the director, University-wide Student Programs, shall be final in all cases.

For detailed information on regulations and statutes used to determine residency, contact the Office of Admissions.

English Language Proficiency

Students whose native language is not English and who have not earned at least an associate's degree from an accredited U.S. college or university must submit an official score report documenting their performance on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or another equivalent exam approved by the University.

In certain situations, students whose native language is not English may submit a petition to waive the English test requirement. These situations include:

- Applicants who have successfully completed with a “B” or higher Composition 1 and 2 and a speaking course at an accredited college or university in the U.S., U.K., Australia, Canada (English-medium school), Ireland, New Zealand, or South Africa.
- Applicants who transfer with 60 credits and a GPA of 2.0 or better on a 4.0 scale from an accredited college or university in the U.S., U.K., Australia, Canada (English-medium schools), Ireland, New Zealand, or South Africa.
- Applicants who have a minimum of two years of professional employment experience in the U.S. This demonstration is subject to employer verification.

Students who believe they qualify for a waiver of the English Language test should submit the petition to the UIS Office of Admissions. The form can be found on the Office of Admissions website.

Undergraduate Students

Applicants whose native language is not English must submit official TOEFL scores (or the approved equivalent exam). A TOEFL score of not less than 500 (paper-based) or 61 (Internet-based) fulfills the English proficiency requirement for undergraduate admission. Those who earned an associate degree in the United States with a GPA of 2.0 or better on a 4.0 scale, or those who graduated from and attended a U.S. high school for three or more years, are not required to submit TOEFL scores.

Master’s Students

Applicants whose native language is not English must submit official TOEFL scores (or the approved equivalent exam). A TOEFL score of not less than 550 (paper based) or 79 (Internet based) fulfills the English proficiency requirement for admission to master’s-level study at UIS. Applicants who hold a U.S. bachelor’s degree with a GPA of 2.50 or higher (on a 4.0 scale) are not required to submit TOEFL scores. (**NOTE:** Some programs require a GPA of 3.0 to waive TOEFL. See individual program statements for any additional proficiency requirements.)

Doctoral Students

Applicants whose native language is not English must submit official TOEFL scores (or the approved equivalent exam). A score of at least 575 (paper based) or 88 (Internet based) fulfills the English proficiency requirement for admission to doctoral study at UIS.