

Parent & Family Newsletter



Homecoming 2025: Raise the Banner

Homecoming 2025 takes place on October 13-29. With a [full schedule of activities](#), there are many ways to get involved throughout the week, including the Homecoming Parade, Town and Gown 5K, tailgating, and Redbird Football vs. Youngstown State on Saturday, October 18. Raise the Banner at Homecoming 2025!

Residence Hall Guest Policies for Homecoming and Siblings Weekend

As your Redbird prepares for Homecoming and Siblings Weekend (spring semester), University Housing Services (UHS) wants to remind families of our guest guidelines, especially for minors visiting campus. All guests must be registered at the front desk upon arrival, present a valid government-issued [Photo ID](#), and be escorted by their student host at all times. Residents must also have roommate consent before hosting.

During normal operations, guests under the age of 13 are not permitted in residence halls unless accompanied by a parent, legal guardian, and guest ages 13-17 are permitted with parent/guardian permission. However, during special weekends like Homecoming and Siblings Weekend, younger guests are welcome to join in the fun. The [Minor Guest Registration Form](#) is always required for anyone under 18 and is required in advance through our Housing and Dining Portal once a resident initiates the request.

Now is the time to prepare for these weekends if you choose to allow your minor to be a registered guest, ensuring they have the proper registration materials outlined above and you communicate with the host to complete the Minor Guest Registration Form.

These policies help ensure that our residence halls remain safe, respectful, and welcoming for all students and their guests. For questions, please contact University Housing Services at (309) 438-8611 or Housing@IllinoisState.edu.

Fall 2025 Study Abroad Fair

The Office of International Engagement invites students to explore global opportunities at the Fall 2025 Study Abroad Fair on Wednesday, October 22, from 1–3 p.m. in Brown Ballroom III, Bone Student Center.

This drop-in event connects students with representatives from partner universities, faculty leading upcoming programs, and Illinois State students who have already studied abroad.

Whether your student is just beginning to consider studying abroad or is ready to make plans, the fair is an excellent way to learn more and get questions answered. Studying abroad provides students with life-changing experiences, new cultural perspectives, and valuable skills that enhance their personal and professional growth.

If your student is interested, encourage them to stop by the fair and start imagining where their Redbird journey could take them next.

For more details, visit the [Study Abroad website](#) or contact the office at (309) 438-5276 or StudyAbroad@IllinoisState.edu

Fall Break Dates

Fall break for students begins Saturday, November 22 and continues through Sunday, November 30. University offices will be closed on Thursday, November 27 and Friday, November 28.

Residence Hall Closures for Fall Break

Watterson Towers, Haynie Hall, and Wright Hall will close at 2 p.m. on Saturday, November 22. All students in these halls must vacate rooms by this time. Students may leave their personal belongings in the room; however, they must take whatever they need for the week while on break, as no student will be allowed back into these halls for any reason. These residence halls will reopen at 2 p.m. on Sunday, November 30. Hewett, Manchester, and Wilkins halls remain open during fall break, along with Cardinal Court, Fell Avenue, and School Street apartments. For more information, visit the [University Housing website](#).

Spring 2026 Registration

Registration for spring 2026 classes will begin in mid-October. Students can check their assigned registration date and time by visiting the Student Center in their [My.IllinoisState.edu](#) portal. Registration dates and times are based on the number of credit hours earned (not including in-progress units). Encourage your student to schedule an appointment with their academic advisor before their registration

date to discuss course selection for the spring semester. For more information, visit the [Office of the University Registrar](#).

Winter 2025 Commencement Ceremonies

Students who have applied to graduate in December 2025 and wish to participate in their winter commencement ceremony must register through the commencement registration portal (no fee required) and purchase a cap and gown by Friday, October 31.

Winter 2025 commencement will take place on Saturday, December 13, at CEFCU Arena with no limit to guest attendance and no tickets required. Seating is available on a first-come, first-served basis. Each ceremony will last approximately two hours.

Saturday, December 13, at CEFCU Arena

9 a.m.: College of Arts and Sciences, College of Education, Mennonite College of Nursing, and Interdisciplinary Studies

1 p.m.: College of Applied Science and Technology, College of Business, and Wonsook Kim College of Fine Arts

For more information, visit the [Commencement website](#).

Family Weekend 2026

Mark your calendar to attend Family Weekend 2026 on September 18-20. Additional information about next year's festivities will be posted on the Family Weekend website in June.

Thanks to everyone for visiting the Parent and Family Services Tent at Family Weekend 2025. The group photos taken at the tent are available to download for free in the [Family Weekend photo gallery](#).

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