

Parent & Family *Newsletter*



We are excited to welcome students to campus for the start of the spring semester. Classes begin on Monday, January 12.

Residence Halls Reopen on January 9

Residence halls will re-open at 8 a.m. on Friday, January 9. As a reminder, Hewett and Manchester Halls, Wilkins Hall, Cardinal Court, Fell Street Apartments, and School Street Apartments remained open throughout the winter break. For more information, visit [University Housing Services](#).

University Housing Services: Building Access & Safety

Your student's safety, and the well-being of everyone in our residential communities, remains a top priority. A few simple habits can make a meaningful difference in maintaining a secure environment. Please encourage your student to keep these reminders in mind:

- Always carry their Redbird ID and room key whenever they leave their space.
- Between midnight and 6 a.m., returning without their Redbird ID and room key will result in a Limited Access Violation.
- Violations progress over time: the first results in a warning email, the second brings another warning, and the third and beyond lead to a conduct case.
- After a student's third tag key checkout, charges apply as lost keys necessitate a complete core replacement for safety reasons.

It is also important for students to lock their doors, even for quick trips, to help protect themselves and the broader hall community. If your student has questions or needs help, they should reach out to their RA or front desk staff.

Off-Campus Meal Plans

Meal plans are available for students living off-campus. These block-style plans provide the flexibility for students to enjoy meals at campus dining centers throughout the semester. Off-campus meal plans also include flex dollars for [retail dining](#)! Whether your student prefers to dine frequently or just a few times a week, there are options for everyone. Learn more about off-campus meal plans on the [Illinois State Dining website](#).

[Meal plan registration in the Housing & Dining Portal](#) is open until January 23.

Immunizations

Based on Illinois State Law and University policy, all students taking coursework coded as 'On Campus' by the Academic Department are required to provide proof of immunity for tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis, measles, mumps, rubella, and meningitis. Documentation of immunity must be complete and on file with Student Health Services by Tuesday, January 27, 2026. For more information, visit [Student Health Services](#).

Spring Registration

If your student wants to change their spring semester schedule or select a different class or session, registration will remain open until Monday, January 26, at 10 p.m. For more information, visit the [Office of the University Registrar](#).

Winter Fest

Encourage your student to attend Winter Fest, the student involvement fair, on Tuesday, January 20 and Wednesday, January 21, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Brown Ballroom, Bone Student Center. At Winter Fest, students can learn about the various Illinois State University registered student organizations (RSOs) and discover ways to get involved on campus. Additional information can be found on the [Winter Fest web page](#).

Student Employment at Illinois State University

Is your student interested in a job on campus? [Event Management, Dining, and Hospitality](#) offers a wide range of positions that allow students to connect with peers, build professional relationships, and gain valuable transferable skills.

Your student can also search the [Illinois State University Jobs website](#) for additional campus employment opportunities.

Study Abroad Opportunities

Illinois State University offers more than 90 Study Abroad programs annually. When students study abroad, not only will they receive credit towards their degree, but their financial aid may be applicable to help cover the cost of their program. Scholarships and other resources are also available. Interested students should attend a [First Steps session](#) to learn more. For more information on how your student can make studying abroad a part of their Illinois State experience, visit the [Study Abroad website](#).

University Events Calendar

Are you looking for important campus dates like academic breaks, deadlines, or course registration? Make sure to visit the [Academic Calendar](#), which features dates for current and upcoming academic years. For details about campus events, the [University Events Calendar](#) and [Redbird Life](#) provide information on programs and activities happening throughout the semester.

Winter Weather Closures

If the University closes for severe weather, students will receive an email to their Illinois State account. The information will also be included on the [Illinois State University website](#).

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