

Parent & Family Newsletter



Spring Break Reminders

Spring break begins on Saturday, March 7, and continues through Sunday, March 15. Classes are not held during this time; however, Illinois State University offices maintain regular business hours.

Watterson Towers, Wright Hall, and Haynie Hall will close at 2 p.m. on Saturday, March 7, and reopen at 2 p.m. on Sunday, March 15. Wilkins Hall, Hewett-Manchester Halls, Cardinal Court, Fell Avenue Apartments, and School Street Apartments remain open. For more information, visit [University Housing Services](#).

Fall Course Registration

Advanced course registration for Fall 2026 begins at 8:30 a.m. on Monday, March 23. Registration dates and times are available in your student's [My.IllinoisState.edu](#) portal as of March 1. Students should pay **careful attention to their registration start time as there are multiple start times**. Registration dates and times are determined based on the number of credit hours earned (not including in-progress credits). If students have not yet made an appointment with their advisor to discuss their fall courses, they can schedule an appointment through [My.IllinoisState.edu](#).

Fall course information is available through your student's [My.IllinoisState.edu](#) portal and the [Course Finder](#) site. Additional registration information can be found through the [Office of the University Registrar](#) and [University College](#).

Summer Housing Available for Illinois State Students

If your student is enrolled in summer courses, Illinois State University offers convenient and affordable [Summer Housing](#) to support their success. Students live in furnished rooms with Wi-Fi and laundry access, all in a location close to classes, dining, and campus resources helping them stay focused, comfortable, and connected throughout the summer term.

The Summer Housing contract process opens March 3, 2026, at 9 a.m. Students can apply through the [Housing and Dining Portal](#). If you or your student have questions, please call (309) 438-8611.

On-Campus Housing for Fall 2026

It's time for your student to start thinking about their [on-campus residence](#) for the 2026–2027 academic year. There are some important differences between incoming and returning students.

- **Returning students:** [Contract renewal](#) for returning students required to live on campus ends on Sunday, March 22, at 11:59 p.m. Please remind your student to sign their contract and select a room by the deadline. Students who miss the contract renewal deadline will be charged a \$50 late application fee and assigned housing in late July after new students have been placed.
- **Incoming first-time college students:** If your student is within their first two years out of high school, they are required to live on campus in the fall. Visit the [Housing and Dining Portal](#) to sign a housing contract and select a meal plan. Required first-time college students who submit their housing contract and initial payment by May 1 can participate in roommate matching and be eligible to participate in room selection in the summer months. If it is done after May 1, they will be randomly assigned a room in July by a Housing team member.
- **Transfer students:** If your student is transferring to Illinois State within two years of high school graduation, they must live on campus. Transfer students who meet the May 1 priority filing date will be entered into a lottery where some will be chosen to participate in online room selection. Those who are not awarded a selection date will be assigned by a Housing team member.

Students who have been out of high school for two or more years and want to live in University Housing may submit a [request to live in on-campus housing](#). Admission to the University does not guarantee a space in on-campus housing. More information is available in the [Housing and Dining Portal](#).

- **Exemptions:** Students who are required to live on campus but wish to live off campus must [request an exemption](#). Students should wait to receive approval for their exemption request before securing off-campus housing.
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March Part-Time Job Fair

If your student is looking for a part-time job on or near campus, encourage them to attend the Part-Time Job Fair hosted by Career Services on Thursday, March 19 from 2 to 4 p.m. in the Prairie Room, Bone Student Center. Students are encouraged to review the [list of participating employers](#) in advance so they can come prepared and make the most of this opportunity.

Spring 2026 Commencement

Students who have applied to graduate in spring or summer 2026 and wish to participate in their commencement ceremony must register to participate through the [commencement registration portal](#) (there is no registration fee) and [purchase a cap and gown](#) no later than **Tuesday, March 31**. Both spring and summer graduates participate in the May commencement.

Spring 2026 Commencement Ceremonies, CEFCU Arena

Friday, May 8, 2026

- 4 p.m.: Mennonite College of Nursing and College of Arts and Sciences Social Sciences, including students in the majors of Communication Sciences and Disorders, Economics, Politics and Government, Psychology, Social Work, and Sociology and Anthropology
- 8 p.m.: College of Arts and Sciences Natural Sciences/Mathematics and Humanities including students in the majors of Biological Sciences; Communication; Chemistry; English; Geography, Geology, and the Environment; History; Languages, Literatures, and Cultures; Mathematics; Philosophy; Physics, and Interdisciplinary Studies

Saturday, May 9, 2026

- 9 a.m.: College of Education, Wonsook Kim College of Fine Arts
- 1:30 p.m.: College of Applied Science and Technology
- 6 p.m.: College of Business

No tickets are needed, and there is no limit to the number of guests that may attend. Each commencement ceremony will last approximately 2 ½ hours.

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

Spring Break Safety Tips for Off-Campus Students

As Spring Break approaches, many students look forward to heading home or traveling with friends. It's also a time when off-campus apartments can become easy targets for burglary. A few simple precautions can help your student protect their belongings.

Encourage your student to avoid packing their car the night before departure. Before heading out, they should double-check that all doors and windows are locked and that valuables, such as laptops, gaming systems, and jewelry, are stored out of view.

It's also a good idea for students to keep a record of larger, high-value items, including make, model, and serial numbers. Taking photos of these items can be helpful if anything is lost or stolen. Asking a trusted friend or neighbor to keep an eye on the apartment while they're away adds another layer of protection.

Remind your student to leave curtains and blinds as they normally would; noticeable changes can indicate that no one is home. Finally, unplugging televisions, computers, and small appliances can help protect electronics from

unexpected power surges.

With a little planning, students can enjoy their break knowing they've taken smart steps to safeguard their space and belongings.

Adding Emergency Contacts

It is important that every student has an emergency contact listed in their profile. Encourage your student to add emergency contacts by logging onto My.IllinoisState.edu, going to the My Profile section, and scrolling down to the Emergency Contacts button under "Manage Your Profile Information." Students can list multiple emergency contacts but must designate one as their preferred contact.

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