

Parent & Family NEWSLETTER



Finals Preparation

As the semester comes to a close, here is some additional information regarding final exams and spring semester grades:

- Students can view their final exam schedules at My.IllinoisState.edu.
- University Housing Services has quiet hours and courtesy hours to aid students in studying.
- [Milner Library](#) will offer extended hours through May 7.
- There are [Finals Blitz drop-in review sessions](#) for a number of classes, as well as drop-in writing assistance at the Visor Center.
- Grades will be available to students via their My.IllinoisState.edu beginning at 2 p.m. on Thursday, May 14.

PAWSitively Stress Free Program Available to Help Students Take a Study Break

On Monday, May 4, and Tuesday, May 5, from 1 to 3 p.m. on the third floor of Milner Library, students can join [Health Promotion and Wellness](#) to take a study break, pet certified therapy dogs, and enjoy other stress-relieving activities.

Residence Halls Closing Date and Move-Out Information

All residence halls will close for the summer on Saturday, May 9, at 2 p.m. For additional information, including a move-out to-do list, visit [University Housing Services](#).

Students with gently used items or non-perishable food they no longer need can help fellow Redbirds by placing them in labeled “[Pass it On](#)” bins located in their residence hall lobbies. All items will be redistributed to Illinois State students through the [ISU Share Shop](#) and Front Yard Free Cycle during Welcome Week.

Is Your Redbird Graduating this Semester?

We'd love to hear what's next as they prepare to leave the nest! Encourage your graduate to complete the short [Graduating Student Survey](#) to share their post-graduation plans. Even if they're still figuring things out, Illinois State University wants to hear from them.

Spring Commencement Ceremonies

Congratulations to graduates, their families, and supporters!

All students who registered to participate in a spring commencement ceremony received a confirmation email with participation instructions to their Illinois State email address on April 24, along with several subsequent reminder emails.

While additional information can be found for graduates and guests on the [commencement website](#), here are some helpful tips to make the day go smoothly.

Student Check-In

One hour before the start of their ceremony, bachelor's and master's graduates will check in at [Horton Field House](#), located north of CEFCU Arena. Enter Horton Field House from the south side, facing the Turner Hall/Arena parking lot. Graduates should be dressed in a cap and gown. At check-in, they will receive their ceremony reader card and be placed in the line-up for the processional to CEFCU Arena. Graduates should leave all personal belongings with guests before checking in at Horton (including purses, umbrellas, coats, etc.). The University is not responsible for the safekeeping of these items if left unattended in line-up areas.

Ceremony

Graduates are expected to stay until the end of the ceremony. The ceremony is scheduled to last approximately two and a half hours. During the ceremony, each graduate will cross the commencement stage, have their name read, and receive a diploma cover from a college representative.

Professional Photography

Each graduate will have photos taken by professional photographers before crossing the stage and receiving their diploma cover. The photography company, [Grad Images](#), will email proofs and pricing information to their Illinois State University email address within a week after the ceremony. There is no obligation to purchase photos.

Guest Information

Commencement ceremonies are held in [CEFCU Arena](#), 702 W. College Avenue. There is no limit to the

number of guests who can attend, and tickets are not required. Guests enter CEFCU Arena through the concourse level doors on the west, north, or east. Doors will open one hour before the start of the ceremony, and seating is first come, first served. No bags, backpacks, or boxes, except small purses, camera bags, diaper bags, and medical equipment, will be permitted in the Arena. Items that create a visual obstruction for other guests (balloons, balloon bouquets, signs, banners, etc.) are discouraged.

Graduates and guests are encouraged to plan a meeting location outside of CEFCU Arena in advance. Following the ceremony, graduates will exit via the northeast ramp near the Turner Hall parking lot and Horton Field House. Graduates may not re-enter CEFCU Arena or return to Horton Field House after the ceremony.

Ceremony Parking

Parking is available in lots near CEFCU Arena, and traffic is directed to those lots by University Police and Parking staff. Limited accessible parking (with a disability placard or license plates only) is available near the west and north entrances. Accessible drop-off is available in the circle drive near the north entrance to CEFCU Arena.

Livestream

A livestream of the commencement ceremony and a digital copy of the commencement program book will be available on the [commencement website](#).

Accessibility

Accessible seating is available for individuals with disabilities and mobility limitations. Each guest requiring accessible seating may have only one additional guest seated with them. All seating is on a first-come, first-served basis. No reservations are required. Arriving 60 minutes before the ceremony is recommended. Students needing additional accommodations to fully participate in any commencement events should [review additional accessibility information](#) or contact Student Access and Accommodation Services at AbleISU@IllinoisState.edu or (309) 438-5853. Please allow sufficient time to arrange the accommodation.

Registration for Summer and Fall Classes

Students can register for summer and fall classes now at My.IllinoisState.edu. To view course offerings, students should go to the [Course Finder](#). The [Office of the University Registrar](#) can provide additional information about class registration dates and times.

Have a great summer!

This is the final monthly newsletter for the 2025-2026 academic year. The next newsletter will be published in August 2026. If you have any questions or concerns over the summer, please contact Parent and Family Services at (309) 438-2008 or email ParentServices@IllinoisState.edu.

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