LEADERSHIP PROFILE
THE OPPORTUNITY

The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (Illinois) College of Engineering seeks a highly accomplished scholar and strategic leader to serve as the Head of the Department of Computer Science (CS @ ILLINOIS). The new Head will lead a department that has continuously advanced the forefront of computing research and innovation, and whose faculty and alumni have pioneered the modern computing era. From ILLIAC to Blue Waters, PLATO to Lotus Notes, OpenMP to MPI, Mosaic to YouTube, and the first vectorizing compilers to LLVM, the department’s faculty, students, and alumni have driven game-changing breakthroughs for both science and society at-large. The new Head will be uniquely positioned to build on the considerable strengths and illustrious history of the department to lead the next chapter of the digital revolution.

Home to a U.S. News & World Report top-5 graduate program, CS @ ILLINOIS employs approximately 64 tenure-track faculty members, 16 teaching and research faculty, and 44 academic and research staff and professionals and enrolls some 1700 undergraduate students and 680 graduate students. The department offers a range of undergraduate and graduate educational programs, including several interdisciplinary undergraduate majors under the innovative CS+X program, as well as a growing list of MOOC-based courses and certificates, plus a MOOC-based professional master’s degree. CS is housed within the Thomas M. Siebel Center for Computer Science, a state-of-the-art building inaugurated in 2004.

The Department conducts outstanding programs in computer science education and research, embracing all major technical specializations of the profession, and is at the heart of Illinois’ rich network of interdisciplinary centers and institutes. These include the National Center for Supercomputing Applications (NCSA), Beckman Institute for Advanced Science and Technology, Carl R. Woese Institute of Genomic Biology (IGB), Coordinated Science Laboratory (CSL), Information Trust Institute (ITI), Parallel Computing Institute (PCI), and Computational Science & Engineering (CSE) program.

The new Head will assume leadership for a department that has benefited from strong and stable leadership over the years. Seven department heads have served an average of about eight years each since the Department became a degree-granting academic unit in 1964. The department’s finances are solid, a strong administrative operation has been established, and an energetic and innovative advancement office is in place. 2016 saw $18.7 million in non-research expenditures, $33 million in research expenditures from CS faculty across campus, and the department’s gift endowments have risen steadily to $16.9M in 2016. More details about the department can be found later in this document and at http://cs.illinois.edu.

The Head is responsible for visioning, strategic planning, operations, finances, academic affairs, external relations, and advancement. The successful candidate will be committed to enhancing the University’s education, research, and service missions and will possess the scholarly record, leadership skills, and strategic capacity to advance the department. Additional essential qualifications include successful administrative experience in a university, industry, or government environment, the ability to effectively engage a broad range of internal and external constituencies, and a commitment to diversity.

The Head position is a full-time, twelve-month administrative appointment accompanied by a full-time, tenured Professor appointment with full University benefits. Direct reports to the Head include three Associate Heads, the Assistant Head for Administration, the Director of Advancement (Operations), the Associate Director of Advancement (Major Gifts), the Directors of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs, and various support staff. The Head reports to the Dean of Engineering, Andreas Cangellaris, who has appointed and charged the search committee to identify candidates who are "visionary, dynamic, and innovative leaders who understand and embrace the responsibilities of a top-ranked CS program in today’s technology-inspired world."

Information about how to nominate a candidate or to apply for this opportunity may be found later in this document in the Procedure for Candidacy section.
OPPORTUNITIES AND EXPECTATIONS FOR LEADERSHIP

The Head of the Department of Computer Science plays a highly visible and impactful role at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Computing research and education extend across nearly all areas of the University, forming a pervasive intellectual network that connects a wide range of disciplines and academic units.

Within this context, the new Head will have an exceptional opportunity to help shape and influence computing research and education at one of the world's leading universities in the field. The Head’s overarching challenge will be to provide strategic, intellectual, and administrative leadership to a world-class academic department. Among the immediate opportunities and goals for the new Head:

**Chart a course during explosive growth**

Computer science underpins more and more of the modern world. The arts, sciences, business, medicine, and engineering all benefit from the computational power, modeling, and thinking found in computer science. CS is seeing incredible demand, climbing enrollments, and wide influence. Such growth brings incredible opportunities and rising expectations. The new Head is uniquely positioned to seize the moment; envision, create, and capitalize on novel opportunities; mitigate the growing pains; and lead CS @ ILLINOIS through the next chapter of the digital revolution.

**Encourage multidisciplinary research initiatives to tackle grand challenges**

The department’s historical and well-recognized areas of excellence have been in scientific computing, computer architecture, software systems, cyber-physical systems, formal methods, computer vision, and human-machine interfaces—strengths which have developed more from individual, faculty-driven efforts rather than a focused departmental strategy.

Today, with the increasing competitiveness and complexity of the worldwide computer science landscape, and with the Department’s clear goal of advancing its position as a global leader in the field, CS needs a cohesive, coordinated research strategy that builds on its core competencies and identifies new, promising areas of scholarly focus. The Head must work effectively with key constituencies—faculty, administration, staff, and students—in this effort. Linking the department’s goals to the strategic priorities of the College and Campus—informatics, sustainable energy, transportation, water, health, and biosciences—must also figure into this effort and be coordinated with efforts such as the new engineering-driven College of Medicine, Interdisciplinary Health Sciences Institute (IHSI), and Data Science Initiative. Developing a transformative research vision with new scholarly themes that guide faculty and administration and drive the allocation of financial and human resources will be a primary charge of the new Head.

The new Head will nurture a climate that encourages and supports world-class scholarship. An experienced researcher of the first order, the new Head will set the tenor for achievement within the department. She or he will work to create an intellectual environment that identifies and pursues new and emerging areas of scholarship that excite both faculty and students, that promotes interdisciplinary pursuits, and that supports and enhances standards of scholarly excellence. CS seeks a Head who can inspire a collective vision for outstanding research and scholarship.
Ensure CS literacy for every student
Computing is becoming the ubiquitous “electricity” of our societal fabric where every citizen accesses diverse computing environments in one form or another. We already see a diverse and increasing CS student population where some students want to be CS majors, and many more, across majors, want a CS minor and/or CS literacy in order to be successful in their professional lives. CS education must change rapidly to meet the challenge of a customized CS education for all. CS @ ILLINOIS has successfully launched several innovative educational initiatives, including the CS+X programs and MOOC-based courses, certificates, and an online professional degree program, to satisfy these needs. In order to advance and realize a transformative vision for CS education, the Head must work effectively with not only CS faculty, but with faculty from other College of Engineering departments, the iSchool, and other colleges on campus to prepare every Illinois student for the computing challenges of the 21st century.

Enhance the student experience
As CS enrollments continue to grow, and we launch innovative new degree programs for both undergraduate (CS+X) and graduate (MOOC-based professional master’s) students, our students should discover a department culture that fully engages them and supports them throughout their CS experience. CS attracts the “best and the brightest” and prepares them for impactful roles in the field of computer science. CS graduates are in high demand by technology industry leaders and the top graduate programs across the country and around the world. CS seeks a Head who will inspire new, innovative student programs, guide faculty, and seek to leverage existing relationships with the seven CS-affiliated student groups to ensure continued student satisfaction and strong, long-term alumni relations.

Guide shared governance
The role of Department Head in the College of Engineering has been evolving, moving from a CEO model to a more collaborative leadership approach. New CS bylaws, approved in 2017, seek to promote greater interaction and teamwork among faculty and to empower them to be more fully engaged in department, college, and university issues and initiatives. The Head should have the interpersonal skills, collaborative style, and leadership abilities to continue to guide this ongoing cultural change towards a transformed departmental environment. The Head must possess strong organizational abilities and the personal qualities to develop faculty, to encourage them to launch new initiatives, and to engage them in helping to move the department forward.

Recruit, retain, develop, and mentor new faculty
Since 2013, CS has hired 16 junior tenure-track faculty and 12 teaching faculty, due to increased student numbers as well as faculty retirements. Given the department’s faculty mix, a key focus of the new Head will be on faculty development and mentoring so that these newcomers can realize their full potential. Guiding CS’s talented young faculty is critical to
the future of the Department, as is the continued aggressive recruitment of a new generation of faculty leaders. CS needs a Head who can effectively recruit, develop, and mentor the faculty who will build its future.

Promote interdisciplinary ties
CS’s contributions reach well beyond the department and extend into a range of interdisciplinary educational and research programs, centers, and institutes across the entire University (see Research, page 14). With the launch of the CS+X undergraduate degree programs, opportunities to forge tighter links and strategic partnerships across campus abound like never before. The new Head should capitalize to create stronger ties and explore joint academic appointments with synergistic departments.

Build relationships and engage key constituents to improve fundraising
The new Head should be an excellent communicator who will forge strong and strategic relationships with internal and external stakeholders, including college and campus administrators, CS faculty, staff, students, an international alumni base, government and industry partners, peers, and community leaders. The Head must utilize the department’s robust advancement team and broad suite of communications and engagement tools to leverage these relationships in cultivating advocates, enhancing CS’s image and brand, and significantly expanding revenue streams through sponsored research, industry partnerships, and alumni donations.

Secure and manage financial resources
Like other public research universities in recent years, Illinois faces shrinking budgets as a result of decreased state funding. CS needs a Head who can effectively advocate for its needs in this climate; engage with external entities and industry; identify, develop, and capture new revenue streams; and manage them wisely. The Head must be an entrepreneurial leader who can keep an eye on the future while addressing immediate financial and related operational elements of the department.

Enhance the department’s diversity
The new Head must continue to strengthen and develop the racial and gender diversity of the department’s students and faculty. CS was recently recognized with the National Center for Women & Information Technology’s NEXT Award $100,000 Grand Prize for increasing the participation of women in computing. The fall 2016 CS @ ILLINOIS freshman class in Engineering was 46% female, and the number of tenure-track female faculty has doubled since 2010. We would like to continue to improve this trajectory and make computing’s remarkable opportunities available to everyone. Today, computer science touches nearly every field, and it gains critical value from the range of perspectives that a diverse population affords. Additionally, as a public university in a state with changing demographics, it is important that Illinois improve its diversity metrics. The new Head must exercise innovative and committed leadership to continue to build the outreach and in-reach programs, incentives, and cultural climate to attract top quality and diverse students and faculty to the department.
PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS AND PERSONAL QUALITIES

The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign seeks a Head for its Department of Computer Science who possesses broad intellectual insights, top-tier scholarly credentials, and the leadership and managerial capacity to actualize a bold vision for its future. Ideally, the successful candidate will bring the following background, skills, and qualities:

Professional Qualifications and Credentials

- An earned doctorate degree in computer science or related discipline;
- World-class academic stature; an exceptional record of scholarly achievement in computer science;
- Experience in developing and pursuing a strategic vision in an academic setting or a similar context; success as a change agent;
- Administrative experience gained within an academic, professional, organizational, industrial, or governmental context;
- An extensive track record of sponsored research; deep knowledge of the internal and external mechanisms required to sustain and expand a top-tier research program;
- A record that demonstrates a commitment to and passion for undergraduate and graduate education.

Personal Qualities and Skills

- Strategic capacity; the ability to envision, create, and capitalize on novel opportunities for the department and to inspire key constituencies to achieve the Department’s vision;
- A commitment to interdisciplinary work; the wide-ranging intellectual interests to appreciate and support the varied work in the department and the many computing-intensive activities across Illinois;
- Intellectual heft to build strong relationships with faculty and personal qualities needed to connect with, engage, and mentor them;
- Outstanding communication skills; able to articulate a vision, inspire others, attract partners, and generate enthusiasm with varied constituencies;
- Strong interpersonal skills; the ability to connect with the members of the CS community and to work effectively across the campus and with external groups;
- An entrepreneurial spirit; the mindset and personality to stimulate growth and change;
- An enthusiasm for fundraising; ability to forge new opportunities for industry partnerships, sponsored research, and alumni donations;
- A personal commitment to and record of success in advancing diversity;
- Integrity and the highest standards of ethical behavior.
PROCEDURE FOR CANDIDACY

The University of Illinois has retained Witt/Kieffer, a national executive search firm, to assist with this important search. All inquiries, nominations, and applications (to include a cover letter, curriculum vita, and the names/contact information for three references) may be submitted in confidence to Witt/Kieffer. Nominations and applications should be submitted electronically to Witt/Kieffer consultants John K. Thornburgh and Brian Bloomfield at the email address IllinoisCS@wittkieffer.com. The consultants can be reached by telephone, care of Donna Janulis at (630) 575-6131.

Applicants may be subsequently contacted by members of the CS @ ILLINOIS search committee:

- Klara Nahrstedt, CSL Director & Ralph M. and Catherine V. Fisher Professor of CS (Search Chair)
- Gul Agha, Professor of CS
- Jeff Erickson, Professor of CS
- William Gropp, NCSA Director, Professor, and Thomas M. Siebel Chair in CS
- Jiawei Han, Abel Bliss Professor in Engineering
- Derek Hoiem, Associate Professor of CS
- Laxmikant Kale, Paul and Cynthia Saylor Professor in CS
- Karrie Karahalios, Associate Professor of CS
- Ranjitha Kumar, Assistant Professor of CS
- Eric Shaffer, Teaching Assistant Professor of CS

To ensure full consideration, applications should be received by November 10, 2017, but applications will be accepted until the position is filled. Salary is negotiable and commensurate with skills and experience. Applicants may be interviewed before the closing date; however, no hiring decision will be made until after that date.

The University of Illinois conducts criminal background checks on all job candidates upon acceptance of a contingent offer.

The University of Illinois is an Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action employer. Minorities, women, veterans and individuals with disabilities are encouraged to apply. For more information, visit http://go.illinois.edu/EEO. To learn more about the University’s commitment to diversity, please visit http://www.inclusivelllinois.illinois.edu.

The material presented in this position specification should be relied on for informational purposes only. This material has been copied, compiled, or quoted in part from University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign documents and personal interviews and is believed to be reliable. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this information, the original source documents and factual situations govern.
CS @ ILLINOIS is recognized throughout the world as a leader in computing research and education. It represents one of the oldest university computer activities in the nation, growing out of early computing research groups at Illinois, particularly the Digital Computer Laboratory which was launched in 1949. In 1964, it officially became the Department of Computer Science within the College of Engineering.

Illinois has been at the forefront of computing innovation throughout the modern computing era. From ILLIAC and CEDAR to Blue Waters, PLATO to Lotus Notes and Eudora, OpenMP to MPI, Mosaic to YouTube, and the first vectorizing compilers to LLVM, CS @ ILLINOIS faculty, students, and alumni have driven game-changing breakthroughs for both science and society at-large. They have launched entirely new industries, generated billions of dollars in commerce, created tens of thousands of jobs, and revolutionized the way people communicate, shop, conduct business, and are entertained. Companies that have been founded or led by CS @ ILLINOIS graduates are among the biggest names in the high-tech arena, including C3 IoT, eBay, GroupOn, MalwareBytes, Match.com, Microsoft, Netscape, Optimizely, PayPal, Siebel Systems, YouTube, and Yelp. CS faculty are currently pioneering virtual reality, creating software to analyze the HIV capsid, using genetic data to determine the avian species tree, investigating the algorithms behind social media, monitoring construction zones with drones, and formally verifying computer networks. Faculty start-up companies include Cazoodle, Charmworks, Embedor Technologies, Reconstruct, Runtime Verification, and Veriflow.

Consistently ranked by U.S. News & World Report as one of the top five computer science graduate programs in the country, CS @ ILLINOIS attracts world-class faculty and outstanding students. The strengths of the department combined with a rich network of interdisciplinary, computing intensive activities across the University, collegial culture, and shared governance create a fertile environment for computational and information research and education.

Academics

CS offers a total of eight bachelor’s degree programs through three different colleges (Engineering, Liberal Arts & Sciences, and Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences). The largest majors are CS Engineering, Mathematics & CS, and Statistics & CS. Several interdisciplinary majors are offered under our innovative CS+X program (Anthropology, Astronomy, Chemistry, Crop Sciences, and Linguistics). In the near future, our CS+X degree offerings are expected to add Advertising, GeoScience, Music, and Philosophy, including partnerships with two additional colleges (Media and Fine & Applied Arts). The combined enrollment of undergraduate students in cross-disciplinary programs, including CS+X, was nearly 600 students in 2016, and we expect significant growth in the near future due to very strong demand for CS+X from other colleges and departments. Other undergraduate programs include a minor in Computer Science, available to all majors except Computer Engineering, as well as several online certificate offerings, including a Software Engineering Certificate.
CS is home to one of the oldest and best graduate programs in the country. Its tradition of success lies in its research strengths, talented faculty and students, and educational excellence. Research-oriented degrees offered include the PhD and the MS in Computer Science. The department also offers two non-thesis master’s level programs, a Master of Computer Science (MCS), in both traditional and online versions, and an MS in Bioinformatics. Five-year combined BS/MS and BS/MCS programs are also offered in the College of Engineering.

In 2012, the University of Illinois became the first land-grant university to partner with Coursera, the open, online course delivery company, to offer free web-based courses. This has allowed CS @ ILLINOIS to be on the leading edge of the massive open online course (MOOC) movement and reach a vast audience of nontraditional and lifelong learners. In 2016, CS @ ILLINOIS launched a new professional MCS degree track in Data Science, one of the most sought-after and highest paid fields in the country, delivered on Coursera’s platform.

Additionally, CS has helped establish several innovative joint masters and doctoral level degree programs: MS with Computational Science and Engineering (CSE) Option, MCS/Bachelor of Science in Accountancy, MCS/Master of Architecture, MCS/MBA, MCS/ID, PhD with Computational Science and Engineering Option, and PhD/MD.

Enrollment
CS has nearly 1700 undergraduate majors, including 1100 in the College of Engineering and 600 in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. This overall total is up from 900 in 2010, as demand for a CS education has skyrocketed and the department has seen a huge increase in undergraduate applications—from 844 in 2010 to 4,599 for the 2017 freshman class, for about 400 seats. Despite rising enrollments, CS has maintained very high standards for its undergraduate admissions throughout this period, with the fall 2016 incoming freshman class averaging an ACT composite score of 33.5.

There are currently 680 graduate students, including 320 in the PhD program and 360 in the MS and MCS programs. PhD enrollment has remained at the same level over the last several years, while on-campus MS enrollment has declined slightly with a greater percentage of students pursuing the MCS online program.

The department boasts seven CS-affiliated student groups, reflecting the diverse interests, backgrounds, and passions of our student body. These include a strong Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) Student Chapter with hundreds of student members, organized in more than twenty Special Interest Groups (SIGs), as well as a very active Women in Computer Science (WCS) organization. Our students run multiple events throughout the year, including the ACM Reflections | Projections conference, HackIllinois hackathon, and multiple tech talks by well-known speakers and industry leaders.

Faculty
At the heart of the department is a group of distinguished, world-class faculty. CS faculty have been recognized by the university, professional organizations, and agencies for their outstanding contributions to teaching, research, and the field of computer science. There are currently 1 NAE member, 15 ACM Fellows, 14 IEEE Fellows, and 29 NSF Career Award winners, as well as 8 Sloan Research fellows, among other award winners and fellows. Fifteen CS faculty members hold named Chairs or Professorships.

The department comprises 80 faculty members, which include 64 tenured and tenure-track faculty (13 assistant professors, 14 associate professors, and 37 professors) and 16 specialized faculty members in teaching, research and clinical realms. CS @ ILLINOIS has invested significantly in teaching faculty, given the spike in undergraduate enrollments in recent years.
Facilities

The department’s home is the Thomas M. Siebel Center for Computer Science, a state-of-the-art building that opened its doors in 2004. CS also continues to use classrooms and instructional laboratories housed in its original location, the Digital Computer Laboratory.

The Siebel Center offers one of the most technologically advanced, collaborative computer science facilities at any university in the world. The building was designed as a vibrant space to encourage scholarly collaboration, and it features open areas, informal meeting places, and a coffee shop, as well as private offices, research and instructional labs, classrooms, seminar and conference rooms, and a 200-seat auditorium. The Siebel Center offers a unique environmental living laboratory. Advanced wireless and wired communication networks, sensors, actuators, video capture and display equipment, video wall, storage and computing, and teleconferencing capabilities within the building allow researchers to examine communication and computation issues related to pervasive computing, multimedia infrastructure, building intelligence, security and privacy, and art.

Recent renovations to the Siebel Center have increased our graduate student research space by 33%, added additional large-capacity teaching labs, increased space for administrative staff and program support, and we have recently opened a cutting edge Virtual Reality research lab. However, the continued demand for CS will necessitate additional innovative approaches regarding space in order to accommodate the anticipated student, staff, and faculty increases.

The Siebel Center co-anchors the information technology quadrangle on the College of Engineering campus on the University’s north side, and it is located near the National Center for Supercomputing Applications, the Beckman Institute, the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department, the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department, the Coordinated Science Laboratory, the Information Trust Institute, the Intelligent Robotics Laboratory, the Health-Care Engineering Systems Center, the Micro and Nanotechnology Laboratory, and the Materials Research Laboratory. The Grainger Engineering Library Information Center, one of the world’s most technologically advanced information management and retrieval centers, is only a block away.

Budget and Finance

Funding for research has increased rapidly over recent years, growing from $4.4 million in 1997 to $10.8 million in 2003, and over $17 million in 2017. The department’s research expenditures in FY17 will exceed $30 million which is comprised of approximately $30 million in federal grants, industry support and foundation funding. The total value that CS tenure-track faculty have brought to the University of Illinois, as measured by currently active research grants, exceeds $433 million. The National Science Foundation (NSF), Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), National Institutes of Health (NIH), Department of Energy (DoE), National Security Agency (NSA), and National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) are key funding agencies. Increasing the department’s industry-supported research activities is a strategic objective in alignment with the overall goals of Illinois and College of Engineering.

With unprecedented student demand, strong tuition and research income, recurring State income, and a growing advancement and outreach operation, the Department of Computer Science
is positioned to remain fiscally strong in the coming years. Employing more than 100 exceptional people, CS has the resources to keep a dedicated mix of faculty and staff focused in the areas of grant management, human resource operations, academics and admissions, research development, facilities oversight, and research and clerical support, all housed within the 225,000 square foot Siebel Center. Additionally, our student body supports over 500 teaching and research assistantships. We devote approximately 64% of our State budget to faculty support, 7% to professional and support staff, 3% to teaching assistantships, and the remainder to other operational costs. 100% of our sponsored research funding supports our research endeavors, with about 18% used specifically for facility and institutional support of that research. We have 15 named Chairs and Professorships supported by CS and campus resources.

**Advancement**

CS has a robust and fully integrated advancement team. This dedicated group coordinates all the communications, alumni relations, and fundraising efforts for the department. They also manage the corporate relations programs, special events, awards programs, and in-reach and outreach activities in collaboration with the Academic Office and CS-affiliated student groups. Signature program elements include the department’s website, social media engagement, bi-annual Click! Magazine, monthly E-Newsletter, CS Alumni Advisory Board and regional alumni networking events, annual CS @ ILLINOIS Alumni Awards, bi-annual Celebration of Excellence for student and faculty awards, the Computer Science Student Leadership Council, and Gems Computer Science Camp for Girls, just to name a few. (See cs.illinois.edu/engage)

A centerpiece for the department, the corporate relations program provides strategic and customized industry access to highly sought-after CS @ ILLINOIS students—the next generation of entrepreneurs, researchers, scholars, and business and industry leaders. Key program components include the CS-ECE Corporate Connection affiliates program (that includes industry giants like Facebook, Google, IBM, Microsoft, and Boeing), a special track for startups, and many ad hoc opportunities that together facilitate relationships for recruiting, event sponsorships, and research collaborations. (See cs.illinois.edu/corporate)

**Ecosystem for Innovators and Entrepreneurs**

Entrepreneurship is not just about startups, it is also a way of thinking and an approach to solving problems—a catalyst to inspiring the next generation of innovators. This mindset is an important part of the CS @ ILLINOIS culture and is fully integrated across the curriculum, and is supported in and out of the classroom. Examples include:

Created in 2000 by the College of Engineering, the Technology Entrepreneurship Center (TEC) provides students and faculty with the skills, resources, and experiences necessary to become successful innovators, entrepreneurs, and leaders who tackle grand challenges and change the world. TEC offers courses, venture and product competitions (such as the Cozad New Venture Competition and Illinois Innovation Prize), plus workshops and other events that expose students to the concepts of technology and market adoption. (See tec.illinois.edu)

Research Park fosters opportunities for students and faculty to develop and commercialize new technology in conjunction with their academic work, enables established companies to collaborate with University of Illinois researchers, and gives students access to exciting internship opportunities. Located on campus, the Research Park is a thriving technology community of more than 100 companies, including multinational and publicly traded firms such as AB InBev, Abbott Laboratories, ADM, Capital One, Caterpillar, Deere & Company, Riverbed, State Farm, Yahoo!, and others. The Research Park is also home to more than 50 startup companies that are commercializing technology. EnterpriseWorks, the Research Park’s 43,000-square-foot business incubator for early-stage tech firms, is operated by the University of Illinois to help launch successful startup companies, enabling strong tech-transfer opportunities for CS faculty, students and staff. (See researchpark.illinois.edu)
Research

Research is the cornerstone of the department, encompassing a spectrum of areas from algorithms to compilers. CS @ ILLINOIS faculty have designed and built the world’s fastest computers, made distributed collaboration possible, co-founded the field of computer arithmetic, and explored the operating system and processor architecture models that underlie modern computer systems. They are currently pioneering virtual reality, creating software to analyze the HIV capsid, using genetic data to determine the avian species tree, investigating the algorithms behind social media, monitoring construction zones with drones, and formally verifying computer networks. CS has been designated by the US National Security Agency as a Center of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance.

Research in the department is broadly organized around the following themes:

- Architecture, Compilers, and Parallel Computing
- Artificial Intelligence
- Bioinformatics and Computational Biology
- CS Education
- Database and Information Systems
- Graphics, Visualization and HCI
- Programming Languages, Formal Methods, and Software Engineering
- Scientific Computing
- Systems and Networking
- Theory and Algorithms

The reach and impact of CS extends across the University. CS faculty collaborate with other departments within the College of Engineering, as well as across campus, especially the School of Information Sciences (iSchool), the College of Business, the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the engineering-driven College of Medicine, the College of Education, and the College of Agriculture, Consumer and Environmental Sciences. Computer Science faculty have helped to establish and continue to play key roles in the University’s many interdisciplinary and computing-centric institutes and centers.

NATIONAL CENTER FOR SUPERCOMPUTING APPLICATIONS (NCSA)

William D. Gropp, Director and Thomas M. Siebel Chair in Computer Science

NCSA was established over 30 years ago as one of the original sites of the National Science Foundation’s Supercomputer Centers Program. Since then, NCSA has contributed significantly to the birth and growth of the worldwide cyberinfrastructure for science and engineering, operating some of the world’s most powerful supercomputers and developing the software needed to efficiently use those systems. Today, NCSA is an international leader in deploying robust high-performance computing resources and in working with research communities to develop new computing and software technologies. With over $100M in funding each, its major projects include the Blue Waters sustained peta-scale computer, operated for the NSF and the most powerful computing systems on a University campus, the Extreme Science and Engineering Discovery Environment (XSEDE), and the data facility for the Large Synoptic Survey Telescope. NCSA actively engages faculty from across campus to support projects in diverse fields including culture and society, computing and data, materials and manufacturing, bioinformatics and health sciences (including the first HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act) environment on campus), astronomy, and earth and environment. Through an active industry affiliates program, with more than 30 members, it helps industry apply the power of advanced computing to their challenges and provides faculty and students with opportunities to work on real world problems.
Jeffery Moore, Director and Murchison-Mallory Professor of Chemistry

The Beckman Institute's primary mission is to foster multidisciplinary work of the highest quality, transcending many of the limitations inherent in traditional university organizations and structures. It is devoted to basic research in the physical sciences, computation, engineering, biology, behavior, and cognition. Research is focused around three core themes: Integrative Imaging; Intelligent Systems; and Molecular and Electronic Nanostructures. The Institute partners with campus units to help attract new talent to Illinois (faculty, postdocs, and students), and provide resources to retain the best. More than 1,500 researchers from more than 50 University of Illinois units as far ranging as psychology, computer science, electrical and computer engineering, and biochemistry, comprising 15 Beckman Institute groups, work within and across these overlapping research areas.

CARL R. WOESE INSTITUTE FOR GENOMIC BIOLOGY (IGB)

Gene Robinson, Director and Swanlund Chair of Entomology

IGB is an interdisciplinary institute dedicated to transformative research and technology in life sciences using team-based strategies to tackle grand societal challenges. IGB includes seven research themes and one externally funded research institute, the Energy Biosciences Institute. IGB members address pressing research problems such as how genomic mechanisms support phenotypic plasticity to answer how the genome responds to developmental signals, environmental factors and social stimuli; what mechanisms control and modulated those responses, and how those mechanisms are integrated into gene regulatory networks; changing global climate's economic impact on agro-ecosystems; and exploration of energy solution to the problems associated with climate change, global warming, and the rising price and diminishing supplied of carbon-based fossil fuels. IGB members are drawn from many schools and departments, including biology, chemistry, physics, engineering, sociology, and business.

COORDINATED SCIENCE LABORATORY (CSL)

Klara Nahrstedt, Director and Ralph M. and Catherine V. Fisher Professor of Computer Science

Founded in 1951, CSL is today a world leader in Information Technology research and infrastructure development. A multidisciplinary center with over 450 faculty, staff, and graduate students from 14 departments, and $57.5M total expenditures in FY16, CSL works at the confluence of computing, control, circuits, and communications to make IT all-pervasive, high-performance, reliable, secure, mobile, and able to support a wide range of applications. CSL teams explore new and innovative computing such as computational genomics; fundamental approaches and algorithms in communications, signal processing, information theory, machine learning, imaging, circuits, decision and control; and sensors, embedded systems, cloud computing, data cyberinfrastructures, security and privacy technologies that enable seamless wireless/wire-line computing innovations. Key application areas of focus include Internet of Things, Cybersecurity, Health IT, and Robotics; key experimental centers and labs are the Health-Care Engineering Systems Center (HCESC), CompGen Center, Intelligent Robotics Laboratory (IRL), and Flight Simulation Laboratory. At CSL, design, implementation, interaction, and evaluation occur at many levels from circuits to systems and networks, and from algorithms to complex, new-generation architectures, design tools, and software.
INFORMATION TRUST INSTITUTE (ITI)

David Nicol, Director and Franklin W. Woeltge Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering

ITI is a national leader in combining research and education with industrial outreach in trustworthy and secure information systems. ITI brings together faculty, senior researchers, graduate students, and industry partners to conduct foundational and applied research to enable the creation of critical applications and cyber infrastructures. Faculty come from a range of Engineering departments, including Computer Science, Electrical and Computer Engineering, Aerospace Engineering, and Industrial and Enterprise Systems Engineering, as well as the College of Law, College of Business, National Center for Supercomputing Applications, and Coordinated Science Laboratory.

PARALLEL COMPUTING INSTITUTE (PCI)

Luke Olson, Director and Willett Faculty Scholar in Computer Science

PCI provides a leadership in providing solutions to new scientific applications that require massive parallel computation, new programming technologies, and new approaches to power consumption and performance. PCI enables Illinois researchers across campus to come together in new, application-focused research centers and achieve their scientific goals using the latest and most efficient parallel computing technologies. PCI facilitates researchers’ work by providing an incubation and growth mechanism for new interdisciplinary centers and initiatives that benefit from parallel computing; by expanding access to computing resources and cyber-infrastructure; by teaching critical skills; by identifying more opportunities for funding; and by helping to establish key external partnerships. An example of such PCI interdisciplinary centers is the Center for Exascale Simulation of Plasma-Coupled Combustion (XPACC), developing a new mode of managing combustion, with the aim of making breakthroughs at the basic science level. XPACC is funded by a large Department of Energy grant, bringing together researchers from aerospace engineering, chemical engineering, computer science, electrical and computer engineering, and mechanical science and engineering.

COMPUTATION SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING (CSE)

Luke Olson, Director and Willett Faculty Scholar in Computer Science

CSE is an interdisciplinary graduate and undergraduate program that trains students from across the entire College of Engineering, as well as Financial Engineering, Mathematics, and Statistics, in the computing skills and tools needed for breakthrough scientific discovery and innovation. It is also strongly associated with NCSA, which provides computing resources for CSE students.

CSE offers a Masters of Engineering (M.Eng.) in Computational Engineering, preparing graduates to become leaders in the field of computation. Furthermore, CSE offers a Graduate Concentration for both PhD and MS students, and an Undergraduate Minor. The CSE certificate program is designed to provide undergraduate students an opportunity to develop a solid base in problem solving, using computation as a major tool for modeling complicated problems in science and engineering.
COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

One of the original units within the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, the College of Engineering has a long tradition of excellence and has played a significant role in the ongoing growth and continuing prestige of the institution. Today, the College of Engineering at Illinois is one of the largest and most respected in the country. The College is home to sixteen degree programs ranked in the Top 5 by U.S. News & World Report.

The College of Engineering comprises the Departments of Aerospace Engineering; Agricultural and Biological Engineering; Bioengineering; Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering; Civil and Environmental Engineering; Computer Science; Electrical and Computer Engineering; Industrial and Enterprise Systems Engineering; Materials Science and Engineering; Mechanical Science and Engineering; Nuclear, Plasma, and Radiological Engineering; and Physics.

The College includes approximately 9,000 undergraduates and more than 3,000 graduate students. Entering freshmen have an average ACT score of 32.

The College of Engineering’s core is its distinguished faculty, including Nobel laureates and recipients of the National Medal of Science or National Medal of Technology and members and leaders within the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the National Academy of Sciences, and the National Academy of Engineering. Approximately 420 tenured and tenure-track professors, many of whom hold joint appointments with two or more academic departments and appointments in research institutes and laboratories, make up the Engineering faculty.

The College of Engineering operated with a total budget of approximately $265 million in FY2017. State appropriations, general revenues and tuition represented 42%; sponsored projects 38%; institutional support and departmental operations 10%; and gift and endowment 10%.

The College’s total research expenditures in 2016 exceeded $227 million. The breadth, scope, and variety of research activities are enormous, with more than 1,900 projects underway.

The College’s impressive, recent growth includes:

- A new, $95 million, 250,000 square foot Electrical and Computer Engineering building.
- A $50 million building renovation to create a new home for the Department of Bioengineering.
- A $100 million scholarship campaign that has surpassed more than 50 percent of its goal.
- The $100 million Grainger Engineering Breakthroughs Initiative, supporting faculty growth, research support, facilities improvements, and scholarships.
- Significant growth in the number of women in the College with a freshman class that is now routinely 25 percent women.

Some 40 research centers and laboratories reside within the College of Engineering. The major college-wide interdisciplinary research units are:

- The Coordinated Science Laboratory (CSL)
- The Frederick Seitz Materials Research Laboratory (MRL)
- The Information Trust Institute (ITI)
- The Micro and Nanotechnology Laboratory (MNTL)
- The Health-Care Engineering Systems Center (HCESC)
- Parallel Computing Institute (PCI)

The College also participates in many unique campus-wide research centers and laboratories to address special interdisciplinary needs in nationally important technological areas. Major campus-wide interdisciplinary research units where College of Engineering participates are:

- The Beckman Institute for Advanced Science and Technology
- The National Center for Supercomputing Applications (NCSA)
- The Carl R. Woese Institute for Genomic Biology
- The Institute for Sustainability, Energy, and Environment
- The Interdisciplinary Health Sciences Institute
- The Prairie Research Institute

Leadership

The College of Engineering has been led by Dean Andreas Cangellaris, the M. E. Van Valkenburg Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE), since June 2013. He joined the ECE in 1997 and served as head of the Department from 2009-2013. His service at the University of Illinois also includes a two-year appointment as Associate Provost Fellow, (2006-2008), leading an effort to revise campus promotion and tenure processes. He was a co-founder and co-leader of iFoundry, promoting excellence in engineering education.

Professor Cangellaris’ expertise and research interests are in applied and computational electromagnetics. He is a Fellow of IEEE. In 2005, he received the Alexander von Humboldt Research Award for outstanding contributions to electromagnetic theory. He is the recipient of the U.S. Army Research Laboratory Director’s Coin in 2011, and the IEEE Microwave Theory & Techniques Society 2012 Distinguished Educator Award “for outstanding contributions as a teacher, mentor, and role model for students in the microwave profession.”

For more information about the College of Engineering, please visit engineering.illinois.edu.
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS SUMMARY

The University of Illinois is one of the original 37 public land-grant institutions created within 10 years of the signing of the Morrill Act by Abraham Lincoln in 1862. It was chartered in 1867 and welcomed its first class (77 students) in 1868. The University of Illinois has been the catalyst for many advances in science, technology, and the arts. True to its core missions of excellence in teaching, research, public service and economic development, the university is a leader in discoveries that improve the health, living conditions, learning environments, safety and security for all citizens of Illinois and beyond.

The University of Illinois System has campuses in Urbana-Champaign, Chicago, and Springfield. The flagship campus in Urbana-Champaign is the largest of the three, situated on 1,783 acres. The twin cities’ combined population is more than 180,000 and more than 200,000 in Champaign County. It is a diverse community with African-Americans representing 15 percent of the population, followed by Asians at 10 percent, and Hispanics at six percent. It is within a three-hour drive of Chicago, St. Louis, and Indianapolis and is served by commercial airline schedules through the University of Illinois Willard Airport.

The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign is known for its distinguished faculty, outstanding resources and variety of academic programs.

Comprising the campus are world-class engineering and computer science departments, faculties dedicated to the arts and humanities, highly ranked professional schools and one of the world’s great libraries. As its reputation grows, its extensive international partnerships are expanding, creating more and more opportunities for Illinois students and faculty to work with renowned colleagues around the world.

The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign is a charter member of the Big Ten Conference. The Fighting Illini compete in Division I of the NCAA. The Division of Intercollegiate Athletics supports nine intercollegiate sports for men and ten for women.
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN OVERVIEW

Vision

The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign will be the pre-eminent public research university with a land grant mission and global impact.

Overview

Founded in 1867, the Urbana-Champaign campus is among the nation’s top comprehensive public research universities. Illinois remains true to the land-grant mission – to enhance the lives of citizens in Illinois, across the nation and around the world through leadership in learning, discovery, engagement and economic development.

Illinois provides strong undergraduate and graduate education programs, undertakes basic, translational and applied research, and supports outreach, extension, continuing education and other public engagement activities to multiple communities. The campus community includes:

- 32,000+ undergraduate students;
- 10,000+ graduate and professional students;
- ~1,900 tenured/tenure-track faculty members;
- ~4,000 academic professionals and
- ~4,300 staff members.

The campus is led by Robert J. Jones. As chancellor, Dr. Jones is the chief executive officer for the Urbana-Champaign campus and is responsible for all financial programs, campus policies, and priorities, with the mission of ensuring a transformative educational experience for America’s next generation of leaders.

Financial Overview

Current campus expenditures are approximately $2B per year. Of this total, sponsored research project awards account for about $622M; tuition and direct state appropriations are about $680M and $240M, respectively. Each year, Illinois ranks among the top universities in National Science Foundation funded research and development expenditures.

National Stature

The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign is a member of the Big Ten Academic Alliance (BTAA – formerly the Committee on Institutional Cooperation), which is governed by the Provosts of the member universities. BTAA member universities contribute expertise, resources and intellectual capital to leverage their collective strengths for innovation and impact. Collaboration is an important feature of the campus. Through the BTAA, peers at all levels of the enterprise work together to solve problems collaboratively. The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign is also a member of the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities and the Association of American Universities.
A Leader in Cross-disciplinary Research

The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign has a unique breadth of research expertise, world-renowned science and engineering programs and highly regarded strengths in agriculture, business and the humanities. Many of the technologies that enabled the modern electronic era were developed at the U of I. Today, the University is building on that tradition, working to address society’s most pressing problems by doing what it does best—interdisciplinary research that drives positive change in our communities, the state, the nation and the world.

The U of I is focused on exciting topics such as:

- Health and Wellness: Creating new devices that diagnose disease, unlocking the secrets to healthy aging, synthesizing drugs to treat illness, improving methods to rehabilitate wounded veterans and developing systems that analyze and store patient data
- Social Equality and Cultural Understanding: Exploring the ethnohistory of indigenous people, understanding the roots of bullying, studying the impact of pension reform and addressing the causes of food insecurity
- Energy and the Environment: Sustainable agriculture, access to clean water, energy solutions and the implications of "smart cities"

The University is home to a unique infrastructure that supports this work, including:

- The National Center for Supercomputing Applications, whose Blue Waters Supercomputer is among the most powerful in the world
- Innovative partnerships, including the Abbott-funded Center for Nutrition, Learning, and Memory; the Illinois-Sandia Research Partnership; the HATHI Trust Research Center; and the Advanced Digital Sciences Center
- The Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities, which is leading “Humanities Without Walls” – a consortium of 15 humanities institutes supported by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation
- Six Title VI Centers in International Studies, which provide support for interdisciplinary research in a number of disciplines critical to understanding languages and cultures
- The Illinois Applied Research Institute, which partners with companies and federal agencies to solve large-scale problems
- The Illinois Plant Breeding Center, genomics in action for food, feed, fuel and flora
- The Center for Wounded Veterans, a national leader in research, services and support for veterans with disabilities
- Agricultural Research and Education Centers, state-wide field laboratories to test and demonstrate practical applications of agricultural research
- The Prairie Research Institute, with more than 1,000 research scientists and staff pursuing an applied environmental research portfolio of more than $80 million
- "Project Unica," an initiative of the Rare Book & Manuscript Library, which produces digital files of printed books that exist only in one copy
- The Beckman Institute and the Carl R. Woese Institute for Genomic Biology, world-renowned interdisciplinary research institutes
- XSEDE, a nationwide, virtual system to share computing resources, data, and
- One of the country’s top university Research Parks (the 2011 AURP Outstanding Research Park of the Year)

The U of I is a pre-eminent public research university with a land grant mission and global impact. More information is available at research.illinois.edu.

Research Park

The Research Park at the University of Illinois provides an environment where technology-based businesses can work with faculty and students to take advantage of opportunities for collaborative research and easy access to university labs, equipment and services. Located on campus, the Research Park is a thriving technology community of more than 90 companies that employ 1,400 people in high-technology careers. Publicly traded and/or Fortune 500 firms in the Research Park include:

- ADM
- Caterpillar
- Riverbed
- Abbott Laboratories
- Deere & Company
- Littelfuse
- State Farm
- Abbvie
- Yahoo

The Research Park is also home to more than 50 startup companies that are commercializing technology. The Research Park at the University of Illinois was honored as the 2011 Outstanding Research Park by the Association of University Research Parks, which represents more than 700 research and science parks worldwide. In 2013, it was named by Forbes.com as a “Top 12 incubator changing the world.”
BEYOND BORDERS

International Presence
The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign is a recognized leader in international education, research and engagement. The international student enrollment of 10,393 ranks first in the nation among public colleges and universities (third among all institutions). More than 2,000 students study abroad each year, and the campus is fifteenth in the country in overall numbers. This year marked the fifth consecutive year that Illinois has been named a top producer of Fulbright Students and Scholars, ranking in the top 10 among public universities and top 20 among all universities. In 2014, the U.S. Department of Education committed more than $12.5 million to continue funding six Title VI area study centers on the campus. They include: the Center for African Studies (CAS); and the Center for East Asian and Pacific Studies (CEAPS); the Center for Global Studies (CGS); the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies (CLACS); the European Union Center (EUC); and the Russian, East European, and Eurasian Center (REEEC).

International Preeminence in Computing
A world leader in supercomputing, the campus is home to the National Center for Supercomputing Applications (NCSA), developer of the internet browser Mosaic™, which revolutionized the use of the World Wide Web. The Blue Waters project – a collaborative effort of Illinois, NCSA and Cray – is one of the world’s most powerful supercomputers. NCSA is a hub of interdisciplinary research.

A World-Class Faculty, Distinguished Students, and Alumni
Among the campus’ most significant resources is its talented and highly respected faculty. Many faculty members are recognized for their exceptional scholarship, with memberships in the National Academy of Sciences, the National Academy of Engineering, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, American Academy of Arts and Letters and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Faculty members at the University have won and received Nobel Prizes, Pulitzer Prizes, MacArthur Fellowships, Guggenheim Fellowships, Fulbright Awards, the Crafoord Prize in Biosciences, the Japan Prize, the National Book Award, the National Medal of Science, the National Medal of Technology and Presidential Early Career Awards for Scientists and Engineers, as well as awards from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the National Academy of Education, and the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation. Another prime indicator of the University’s excellence is the success of its alumni, among whom are 11 Nobel laureates, 19 winners of the Pulitzer Prize and 160 Guggenheim Fellows. Each year, students from the Urbana-Champaign campus receive some of the world’s most prestigious scholarships, including Rhodes, Truman, Marshall, Gates, Goldwater, Churchill, Luce and Fulbright Scholarships.

World-Class Library
Holding the largest collection among North America’s academic research libraries, the University Library counts nearly 14 million volumes and more than 24 million items. More than one million patrons from around the world access the online catalog each week.

Its world-renowned holdings include not only one of the greatest rare book and special collections (Gutenberg Bible, Shakespeare folios, Spanish Golden Age, emblem books, Audubon elephant folio and Sousa manuscripts are only a few examples), but also leading collections of Slavic and Latin American materials; music recordings and scores; legal history; agricultural, physical and engineering sciences; and unique archival material, including functioning circuitry associated with the Urbana-Champaign campus’ role as the birthplace of electronic music. The Library is home to the Mortenson Center for International Library Programs, whose mission is to strengthen international ties among libraries and librarians worldwide. More than 900 librarians from more than 90 countries have participated in its professional development programs, the only one of its kind in the world. The University Library is the only major research library of this scope and magnitude to stress public service and global access.
ACADEMICS AND BEYOND

Comprehensive Programs

More than 32,000 undergraduate students are enrolled in nine undergraduate divisions, which together offer over 5,000 courses in more than 150 fields of study.

Divisions enrolling undergraduates include:

- College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences
- College of Applied Health Sciences
- College of Business
- College of Education
- College of Engineering
- College of Fine and Applied Arts
- College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
- College of Media
- School of Social Work
- Division of General Studies

The campus enrolls approximately 11,000 graduate and professional students in more than 100 programs, and is among the top universities in the number of earned doctorates awarded annually in the United States.

In addition to the units granting undergraduate degrees, the following offer programs leading to graduate or professional degrees:

- Carle Illinois College of Medicine
- College of Law
- College of Veterinary Medicine
- School of Information Sciences
- School of Labor and Employment Relations

The Arts and Major Facilities

A major center for the arts, the campus attracts dozens of nationally and internationally renowned artists each year to its widely acclaimed Krannert Center for the Performing Arts. Designed by alumnus Max Abramovitz, an architect of New York City’s Lincoln Center, the facility has four indoor theaters and an outdoor amphitheater. The Krannert Center hosts more than 350 performances each year.

The University also supports two major museums: the Krannert Art Museum and Kinkead Pavilion, second in size only to the Art Institute of Chicago among Illinois general fine-art museums, with over 9,000 works of art in its permanent collection and the Spurlock Museum, a museum of world history and culture, which holds approximately 46,000 artifacts from diverse cultures and varied historical time periods.

Japan House is a unique facility that provides an academic, cultural and natural setting for promoting an appreciation of Japanese culture and related Asian cultural concepts.

Other major facilities include the multipurpose State Farm Center, which hosts concerts, convocations, theater productions and sporting events; Memorial Stadium, site of Big Ten Conference football games and the Activities and Recreation Center that is among the largest recreational facilities of its kind on a university campus.

The Urbana-Champaign campus is also home to Illinois Public Media (WILL-AM-FM-TV-Online), which is a not-for-profit, award-winning public media service of the College of Media. Its mission is to educate, entertain, inspire and empower audiences by providing the best of public radio and television programs, producing local content for broadcast and the Web while working with community partners to address needs and concerns.
NOTABLE RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS
AND ACTIVITIES OF THE CAMPUS

• U.S. News & World Report’s America’s Best Colleges (2016) rated the Urbana-Champaign campus as the number 11 among public university and 41 among all national universities. There are also several undergraduate and graduate programs ranked among the top 10 by U.S. News and World Report. Some program highlights include:
  • The School of Information Sciences’ program is ranked 1st in the nation.
  • The Department of Accounting is ranked 2nd in undergraduate programs and 4th in graduate programs in the nation.
  • The Department of Civil Engineering is ranked 2nd in graduate programs nationally.
  • The campus is 2nd in undergraduate engineering science and engineering physics.
  • The campus is 1st in the study of condensed matter physics.
  • The campus ranks 3rd in undergraduate biological/agricultural engineering.
  • The Department of Materials Engineering ranks 2nd in undergraduate programs.
  • The College of Engineering is ranked 6th in both undergraduate and graduate programs nationally.
  • The College of Business is ranked 15th in undergraduate programs nationally.
  • The U.S. Department of Education named Illinois one of the top 15 public four-year colleges with high graduation rates leading to high incomes.
  • Business Insider ranked Illinois 15th among the top 20 universities that are most likely to land graduates a job in Silicon Valley.
  • Illinois named a top producer of Peace Corps’ volunteers.
  • In 2015, the Annual Ranking of World Universities (Shanghai Rankings) listed Illinois as 29th in the world and 8th among U.S. publics.
  • Open Doors ranks the Urbana-Champaign campus third (first among public universities) in the number of international students.
CHAMPAIGN-URBANA, ILLINOIS

Champaign-Urbana is more than just the home to the University of Illinois – the twin cities are two of the most cosmopolitan in the state. With a combined population of about 180,000, Champaign and Urbana feature top-notch restaurants, concert arenas, and parks and recreation facilities. People come to the University of Illinois for outstanding career opportunities. But they stay here because they find a community that makes it easy to balance work with family, and achievement with satisfaction. It doesn’t take long for newcomers to realize that Urbana-Champaign is a wonderful place to call home.

Champaign-Urbana is consistently ranked as a great place to live and work. Combining natural Midwestern beauty with cultural resources typically found in larger metropolitan areas, the twin cities retain the charm, friendliness, safety and affordability of smaller communities. Housing, entertainment and living expenses are comparatively low. That translates into fewer dollars spent on staples and more in your pocket to explore your passions. Easy commutes, a designated “bike-friendly” community and an award-winning mass transit system (free with campus ID) make it quick and simple to get from here to there.

Outdoor enthusiasts can enjoy 80 parks spanning nearly 1,000 acres in Champaign-Urbana alone. A wide variety of outdoor sports and activities such as swimming, boating, fishing, hiking, camping, biking and cross-country skiing at one of three major forest preserves in Champaign County are just minutes away from virtually any address in the community. And moving outward into one of the neighboring counties opens thousands more acres of natural areas up for exploration. Golfers enjoy nine public golf courses within 15 miles of Champaign, and three private clubs. The annual Illinois Marathon is becoming a highlight on the Midwest’s running circuit, and brings thousands of athletes, spectators and volunteers together for a weekend of races and activities.

Champaign-Urbana is on an accelerated development track, emerging as a leading example of a “micro-urban” community—a population center of less than 250,000 with a set of highly desirable attributes commonly found in larger cities. The vibrant arts/culture/nightlife scene, internationally diverse population, strong technology base and commitment to societal issues coupled with a world-class university make this community a destination for professionals of all kinds.

For those with a travelling spirit, three hour car or train ride leads to Chicago, St. Louis or Indianapolis, and major sporting events, world-class museums or dinner at renowned restaurants. Amtrak, Greyhound and American Airlines offer daily transportation allowing easy and quick access to almost anywhere in world.