



## STRATEGIC ADMISSIONS ADVICE

*Manage... Execute... WIN!*

**If you like the University of Wisconsin, we suggest you research the U of Illinois - Urbana-Champaign.**

The Big Ten is where 18-22 year olds want to be. With Michigan, Northwestern, Indiana, Maryland and Wisconsin currently winning the popularity war, it's curious that the University of Illinois is not often mentioned in the same breath.

**Half a step behind Michigan and neck and neck with Wisconsin among top Midwestern public universities. U of I's strengths include business, communications, engineering, architecture, and the natural sciences.**

Like many of its Midwestern neighbors, the University of Illinois has its roots in agriculture. The Morrow Plots, the oldest experimental fields in the nation, still rest in the middle of campus-and when the wind blows the wrong way, students are not-so-subtly reminded of their heritage as a farm school. Like most big, public universities, U of I has a barn full of choices, and with a strong Greek system and 1,200 clubs, social activities are more than plentiful.

**A 250,000-square-foot computer science center and physical education center are notable, as is the Technology Commercialization Laboratory, which provides faculty and students the opportunity to benefit from the commercialization of their research.** Additionally, Illinois has eight undergraduate colleges and more than 150 undergraduate programs; if nothing strikes your fancy, you may design your own. Requirements include composition, quantitative reasoning, proficiency in a foreign language, and six hours each of cultural studies, natural sciences and technology, humanities and arts, and social and behavioral sciences. Engineering, business, education, and the sciences-especially agriculture and veterinary medicine-get high marks from

students and lots of resources from administrators.

**The impressive Illinois library system, the largest public university collection of its kind worldwide, makes it easier to keep up with classwork. Aside from engineering and business, another notable program at Illinois includes the Beckman Institute for Advanced Science and Technology, an interdisciplinary center designed to bring biological and physical sciences together to pursue new insights in human and artificial intelligence. Illinois was a pioneer in developing academic computing, and the National Center for Supercomputing Applications at Illinois developed Mosaic, the predecessor to Netscape's Navigator World Wide Web browser.** The undergraduate honors program includes faculty mentoring, intensive seminars, advanced sections of regular courses, and access to special resources. More than a quarter of undergraduates travel and study abroad each year, roaming 50 countries around the globe, while the **Ronald E. McNair Scholars Program helps fund independent, original research by minority, low-income, and first-generation college students who are completing bachelor's degrees.**

**Illinois has its share of stellar faculty, including Nobel laureates, National Medal of Science winners, and dozens of members of the National Academy of Sciences.** Freshman Discovery Courses, seminars limited to 19 students, enable first-year students to interact closely with full professors. First-semester freshmen can ease into the rigors of college-level work in one of the Learning Communities.

Fifty percent of students live in the U of I's co-ed and single-sex residence halls, which range in size from 51 to 660 beds and are arranged in quadrangle-like groups. On most weekends, the Illini Union showcases bands, comedians, and hypnotists in its central café. The impressive Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, with four theaters and more than 350 annual performances, serves as the area's cultural center, while Assembly Hall hosts national touring acts, including popular musicians and musicals. Students get a discount at both facilities.

The Illini compete in the Big Ten, and men's basketball and baseball have winning traditions. Other solid programs include women's cross-country and track and field; men's soccer; men's wrestling; and men's gymnastics. The intramural program is extensive with available facilities that include 16 full-length basketball courts, five pools, 19 handball/racquetball courts, a skating rink, a baseball stadium, and the \$5.1 million Atkins Tennis Center, with six indoor and eight outdoor courts. **Ninety percent of the student body participates in intramurals. Illinois has a strong athletic program for students with disabilities, including wheelchair basketball, which Illinois invented.**

Academic and social opportunities are incredibly diverse, and classroom sizes, while growing, are supplemented by smaller group discussions. **The breadth of the programs offered, combined with an active campus life makes for a well-rounded college experience, students say. "We have a great reputation and it only grows stronger and stronger."**