Who We Are

The Career Center provides all Illinois students collaborative and innovative programs, services, and resources focused on career and professional development that educates and empowers them to become thriving professionals in the global community.

The Career Center team is dedicated to upholding the values of the University of Illinois and committed to a student-first approach in career exploration, discovery, and development for Illinois students.
The Career Center serves all Illinois students. All academic classes. All colleges. In all corners of campus. We work hard to meet students where they are, with tailored initiatives that engage diverse student communities throughout their career journeys – from their first Quad Day through Graduation Day.

Who We Serve

The Career Center serves all Illinois students. All academic classes. All colleges. In all corners of campus. We work hard to meet students where they are, with tailored initiatives that engage diverse student communities throughout their career journeys – from their first Quad Day through Graduation Day.
Together We Accomplish

| 36,373 | 2,504 | Individual career coaching and health advising appointments |
| 11,529 | 710 | Drop-in career advising consultations |
| 11,529 | 4,882 | Resume, cover letter, and LinkedIn profile reviews |
| 46% | 726 | Mock interviews |
| of Users are Repeat | 453 | Workshops and outreach events |
| 100,512 | 529 | Visits to the Career Closet |
| Unique Users | 432 | Employers and graduate/professional schools and programs attended TCC-sponsored fairs |
| | 747 | Student interviews facilitated by The Career Center |
| | 1,974 | New accounts in EPICS (Exploring Pathways in Career Success) |
| | 100,512 | Unique visitors to The Career Center website |
The Career Center guides **Illinois students to** actively plan for their futures and learn **skills to manage career transitions** throughout their lives.

- Explore personal values, interests, skills, and strengths
- Express professional narratives in resumes, cover letters, personal statements, interviews, and more
- Explore educational and career options
- Pursue graduate school
- Gain hands-on experience
- Explore health careers and apply to health professions programs
- Conduct an internship or job search
- Navigate work authorization and global employment opportunities
SNAPSHOTS OF OUR YEAR

INTERNATIONAL ILLINI NETWORKING IN CHICAGO EVENT

CAREER READINESS CAMPAIGN KICK OFF WITH CHANCELLOR JONES

FIGHTING ILLINI CAREER FAIR

ILLINI CAREER AND INTERNSHIP FAIR
Discover Your Options

At our core, The Career Center educates students about the many educational and career pathways that are available. We help students start their career journey by guiding them through exploring their own unique interests, skills, values, and strengths. We help them connect what they know of themselves to possible major and career options.

Individual Assistance and Self-Assessments

Career coaches provide one-on-one assistance to students as they explore interests, skills, values, and strengths, and then make connections to education and career choices.

We offer personalized assessments such as the Strong Interest Inventory, Myers-Briggs Type Inventory, Motivated Skills Card Sort, and Values Card Sort to enhance self-understanding and knowledge to apply to their career choices.

EPICS (Exploring Pathways in Career Success) is available to those looking for self-help exploration tools. This online resource provides self-guided activities to explore interests, skills, values, major and career decision-making, and more.
Class Visits
The Career Center provides students with an early introduction to career services through freshman orientation classes (e.g., GS 101), career exploration courses (e.g., EPSY 220), and major orientation courses (e.g., IB 292 Careers in Biology). More than 60 courses were visited this year, reaching more than 6,100 students.

Work-It-Wednesday
This program provides a casual forum for students to explore their career interests through direct connections with industry experts. This year, 124 students and advisors interacted with employers in casual coffee chats, information sessions, and personalized resume coaching.

Snack Bites
This popular health professions series connected 157 students with professionals, academic advisors, and others in information sessions to learn about career opportunities and admission to professional programs.

“I think it was nice to see my skills and interests all written out and discussed because I felt like that strengthened my ideas of what I could possibly do in the future.”
- Sophomore, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
The Career Center connects students to a wide variety of practical experiences which allows them to explore interests, apply knowledge, and develop competencies required for post-graduation success.

Part-Time Job Fair
In September 2018, The Career Center hosted our first annual Part-time Job Fair, bringing together 769 students with 25 local employers to create community connections and expand experiential learning opportunities.
Healthcare Volunteering Power Hours
The Career Center established new partnerships with 14 local community health agencies to offer experiential learning opportunities to students. Through the Healthcare Volunteering Power Hours, 97 students were able to connect with these partners.

Internship Opportunities in Handshake
This year 4,502 unique organizations posted 17,196 internships via Handshake, the Illinois’ career services platform.

Experiential Learning Makes a Difference
The most recent Illini Success report showed that 89% of bachelor’s degree graduates participated in experiential learning such as internships, undergraduate research, service learning, and volunteering. Upon graduation, 1 in 3 of those graduates received full-time job offers from their experiential learning activities.

89% of bachelor’s degree graduates report participating in experiential learning
Tell Your Story

The Career Center helps students craft professional narratives that connect their personal interests, skills, values and strengths with their experiences and education. The narratives illustrate meaningful connections to desired jobs, graduate or professional schools, service opportunities, or other career choices.

Career Readiness and #TheWayYouSayIt

The Career Center, together with the Career Services Community at Illinois, works to build awareness of career readiness competencies, which are key skills necessary for successful transition into the workplace. The student-designed advertising campaign communicates not only what the skills are, but how students develop them every day through common experiences. With a little focus and reflection, skills can be can communicated in #TheWayYouSayIt!
Health Application Prep Series

The Career Center conducted a series of workshops and organized working groups for students applying to health professions programs. We offered assistance with everything from school selection, personal statements, and navigating the application system. During application season, 64 unique students participated in workshops and application working sessions.
When students are ready to pursue their next career steps – whether that is a job, graduate or professional school, service opportunity, or other career choice – The Career Center is here to help make it happen.

**Dress for Success**

Confidence is an important part of making a great first impression. Our “Dress for Success” educational campaign helps students understand professional dress, from an open and inclusive perspective.

Additionally, The Career Center hosts programming to help students obtain attire for interviews and professional engagements, including:

**SUIT-UP:**

A collaboration which brought more than 260 students to the local JCPenney store for an opportunity to purchase professional clothing at a large discount.

**CAREER CLOSET:**

A service that provides Illinois students with free, gently-used professional clothing. 529 students used this service in 2018-2019.
Learn Professional Etiquette
The Career Center helps students make strong first impressions, learn how to build positive relationships, and bring their own authenticity to new or unfamiliar settings. We help students navigate unwritten professional expectations with programs like our Professional Branding & Etiquette Workshop (offered 8 times this year) and our Etiquette Dinner hosted in cooperation with the Ikenberry Living and Learning Community.

Build Networks
Students build career connections and confidence in our award-winning networking programs for specific student populations. Some of these include:

- Diversity & Inclusion Networking Exchange (53 participants)
- International Illini Networking in Chicago (97 participants)
- Women’s Career Institute (42 participants)

Handshake
Handshake continues to be the platform of choice for Illinois students to find opportunities. This year, 23,295 students logged into Handshake, where 64,599 opportunities were posted by 11,296 employers.

Career Fairs
Five career fairs coordinated by The Career Center provided 2,328 students with an opportunity to connect with 432 employers and graduate/professional schools. The events included:

- Part-Time Job Fair
- Fighting Illini Career Night
- Graduate and Professional School Fair
- Educator’s Job Fair
- Illini Career and Internship Fair

On-Campus Recruiting at The Career Center
The Career Center facilitated on-campus recruiting for 50 organizations, where 443 interviews were conducted for internships and full-time positions. In addition, representatives from 131 graduate and health professions schools connected with potential applicants.

Peace Corps
Illinois is consistently recognized as a top Peace Corps institution. For more than ten years, The Career Center has supported a grant-funded, Peace Corps recruiter. This year, the recruiter conducted over 110 office hours, offered 11 workshops, and held 53 individual drop-ins with students. More than 42 Illinois students completed applications for Peace Corps.
The Career Center continuously seeks innovative ways to leverage campus systems and technologies to deliver knowledge in ways that connect with students’ expectations and preferences.

COMPASS2G for Pre-Health Students
The Career Center reached pre-health students through COMPASS2G to share information on healthcare careers and pathways. Resources were accessed by 719 students and advisors. We are partnering with the Office of the Registrar to rapidly expand access to this resource.
Big Interview

We are proud to announce the successful pilot of Big Interview, an online-based platform that allows students to engage in a personalized mock interview. The pilot included four career offices across campus, engaging 248 users who practiced interviewing skills on their schedule and received real-time feedback. Watch for an expansion of this to come in Fall 2019!
Expanding the Reach of Career Services

The Career Center recognizes that we can expand our reach by sharing expertise with talented and passionate partners across campus. Students are best served when we can strategically share our knowledge and resources, and foster the career coaching skills of campus partners.

Career Coaching Certificate for Academic Advisors

In partnership with the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, The Career Center developed a pilot program to help nine academic advisors integrate career theory and practice into their interactions with students.

Career theories included design thinking, career construction, and planned happenstance. We also shared micro-counseling skills and a variety of tools, including wayfinding maps, card sorts, online assessments and coaching questions. Advisors immediately applied learning in practice with students, reflecting, and receiving feedback in training sessions.

In the coming year, we plan to expand this program.
Train-the-Trainer with International Student Organizations

The Career Center collaborated with officers of international student associations to develop career management skills. In turn, the officers shared what they learned with their members in their home languages. Each partnership was unique, highlighting needs and interests of the members. They included:

**Chinese Student and Scholar Association**

Eight officers participated in The Career Center’s Career Certificate-International program, and then shared the knowledge they gained in two workshops for their members.

**Korean Student Association**

Under the guidance of a career coach from The Career Center, officers coordinated the Career School at Illinois, a six-week program for 12 Korean students who were seeking jobs in South Korea.

**Taiwanese Student Association**

Officers posted weekly updates to their organizational Facebook page about events and resources at The Career Center.
Graduate Success

The Career Center leads the Illini Success Initiative, which gathers information about the variety of paths that new Illinois graduates pursue. More information can be found on the Illini Success website.

Destinations Secured

Within six months of graduation, Illinois bachelor’s degree recipients reported securing a first destination at higher rates (5% greater) than the national average. While the majority of graduates chose employment (62%), continuing education was also a popular choice (27%). Note that Illinois also had a lower percentage of graduates still seeking their next steps (5% less), as compared to national averages.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Primary Post-Graduate Activity, 2016-2017 Graduates*</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>16-17 Illinois</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secured First Destination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continuing Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Still Seeking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Average Salary

Average salaries reported by full-time employed Illinois bachelor’s degree graduates have consistently been higher than those reported in national averages. This holds true for the overall institutional average, as well as for many individual fields of study.

* Please note that 2017-2018 national average data from NACE were not available at the time this report was created. They are expected to become available in Fall 2019.

Average Salary Of Full-time Employed Graduates

- **Illinois**
- **National Average**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Illinois</th>
<th>National Average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015-2016</td>
<td>$57,031</td>
<td>$48,044</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016-2017</td>
<td>$59,494</td>
<td>$50,253</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017-2018*</td>
<td>$60,855</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Recognized for Excellence

The Career Center is regionally, nationally, and internationally **recognized for exceptional impact.** Congratulations to all who were acknowledged this year for the difference they make in the lives of students and for furthering the field of career development.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Recognized for Excellence</strong></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Peer-reviewed &amp; Professional Association Publications</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National &amp; Regional Conference Presentations</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Career Center Award</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual Staff Awards</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Committees Served on across 8 National and Regional Associations</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campus Committees Served on at Illinois</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Committee Chairs Leading Campus, Regional, and National Teams</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Driven by a talented team **committed to Illinois students**
University of Illinois Career Services Community

Global University Career Development Conference, China Career Development Award
This award recognizes best practices in collective and collaborative service delivery for international students.

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Julia Panke Makela

National Career Development Association, Merit Award
The Merit Award recognizes significant contributions in the field of career development, with documented evidence of work in the areas of career education, programming, research, and advocacy.

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Jennifer Neef, Sparkle Sanders, & Eden Haycraft

Midwest Association of Colleges and Employers, Gratitude Awards
The Gratitude Awards recognize exemplary work beyond expected job requirements and demonstrating the six core attributes of teamwork, leadership, resourcefulness, innovation, attitude, and focus.
The Career Center’s Project Teams

**Career Education**
Helping students develop career decision-making and management skills that they will apply throughout their lifetime.

**Health Professions & Graduate School Preparation**
Helping students navigate academic and career choices to be ready to pursue post-graduate education.

**Employer Connections**
Facilitating connections between students and employers, creating opportunities throughout the Illinois experience.

**International Student Career Development**
Helping international students make the most of their global education experiences as they prepare for professional success.

**Information Management & Resource Center**
Providing state-of-the-art career development resources, information, and services to students.

**Marketing & Communications**
Building relationships with students, while providing educational messaging and informing students about available resources, services, and events.

**Assessment & Research**
Enhancing career experiences and outcomes of students through studies that inform practice, enhance understanding of program value, and encourage continuous improvement.

**Executive Leadership**
Connecting The Career Center to campus initiatives, advocating for the value and importance of career education, and ensuring our work is well-aligned with broader institutional strategic goals.

**Illinois’ Career Services Community**
Enhancing the breadth and depth of career development programs and services for the benefit of all students by leveraging the expertise, resources, and commitment of career services, student affairs professionals, and academic partners across campus.