



COLLEGE PLANNING

GUIDE

9 THINGS YOU CAN DO THIS YEAR TO PREPARE

I ILLINOIS



Junior year is *the* year when it comes to college planning.

This is the time for you to start thinking seriously about your future, whether or not that future includes Illinois. Our guide provides 9 suggestions to help you do just that.

For more advice on all aspects of the college search process, visit go.illinois.edu/collegeprep.

ILLINOIS COURSEWORK REQUIREMENTS

1. Talk to your high school counselor about your college goals.

Every school has a counselor or academic advisor who helps students plan for the future. This person can be an amazing advocate as you work toward college. If you haven't already, set up a meeting to discuss your college plans, career goals, and more.

2. Take challenging classes that meet college admissions requirements.

Many colleges require you to take certain classes in high school. When you have the chance to take advanced coursework, go for it! This proves you're willing to work hard, plus it can help you earn higher test scores and receive scholarships.

Following are the kinds of courses you need to take while in high school and the number of years you need to take them. You should work to consistently make strong grades in these classes.

SUBJECT	MINIMUM # OF YEARS	RECOMMENDED # OF YEARS
English	4	4
Math	3 or 3.5*	4
Social Sciences	2	4
Lab Sciences	2	4
Language Other Than English	2	4
Flexible Academic Units	2	4+

**Certain programs also require specific high school coursework to be completed for admission. You can review the complete list at go.illinois.edu/hscourses.*

ILLINOIS MAJORS

Our online tool allows you to explore your options. For each major we offer, you'll find a program description, what students look like academically, related careers, post-graduation stats, and more. Not sure where to start? Take a quiz to view the majors that fit your personality type or filter based on your interests.

[GO.ILLINOIS.EDU/MAJORS](https://go.illinois.edu/majors)

3. Explore your academic interests.

If you have a major in mind, seek out experiences related to it. Doing so will help you get a feel for your potential field and show you're serious about it. If you don't know what you want to do yet, no worries! This is your chance to narrow down your options.

4. Get involved in extracurricular activities.

Take part in the activities you're passionate about and enjoy. Colleges take notice when you demonstrate leadership skills and show long-term commitment to the things you love.





5. Research and narrow down your college list.

There are many great colleges out there, so how do you compare them? It starts with what you're hoping to gain from your experience. Here are 5 ways to narrow things down:

SIZE

Do you want to go to a large school or a small school?

LOCATION

How close to home do you want to be, and do you want to live in a big city or a college town?

MAJOR

What career path are you considering, and which schools offer majors related to it?

COST

What's the best value for your education, and what can you comfortably afford?

FIT

Does it feel right to you?

HOW ILLINOIS STACKS UP

We're a large public university with 33,700 undergraduates and an 18:1 student-to-faculty ratio.

We're located in the microurban college town of Champaign-Urbana, Illinois.

Explore our options and see if we have what you're looking for at go.illinois.edu/majors.

Estimate your cost of attendance at cost.illinois.edu and financial aid at go.illinois.edu/aidestimater.

Schedule a visit at visit.illinois.edu to find out!

ILLINOIS VISIT OPTIONS

We offer 2 types of programs for high school students interested in exploring our campus. We'd love for you to stop by to see us soon!

[VISIT.ILLINOIS.EDU](https://visit.illinois.edu)

Daily Visits

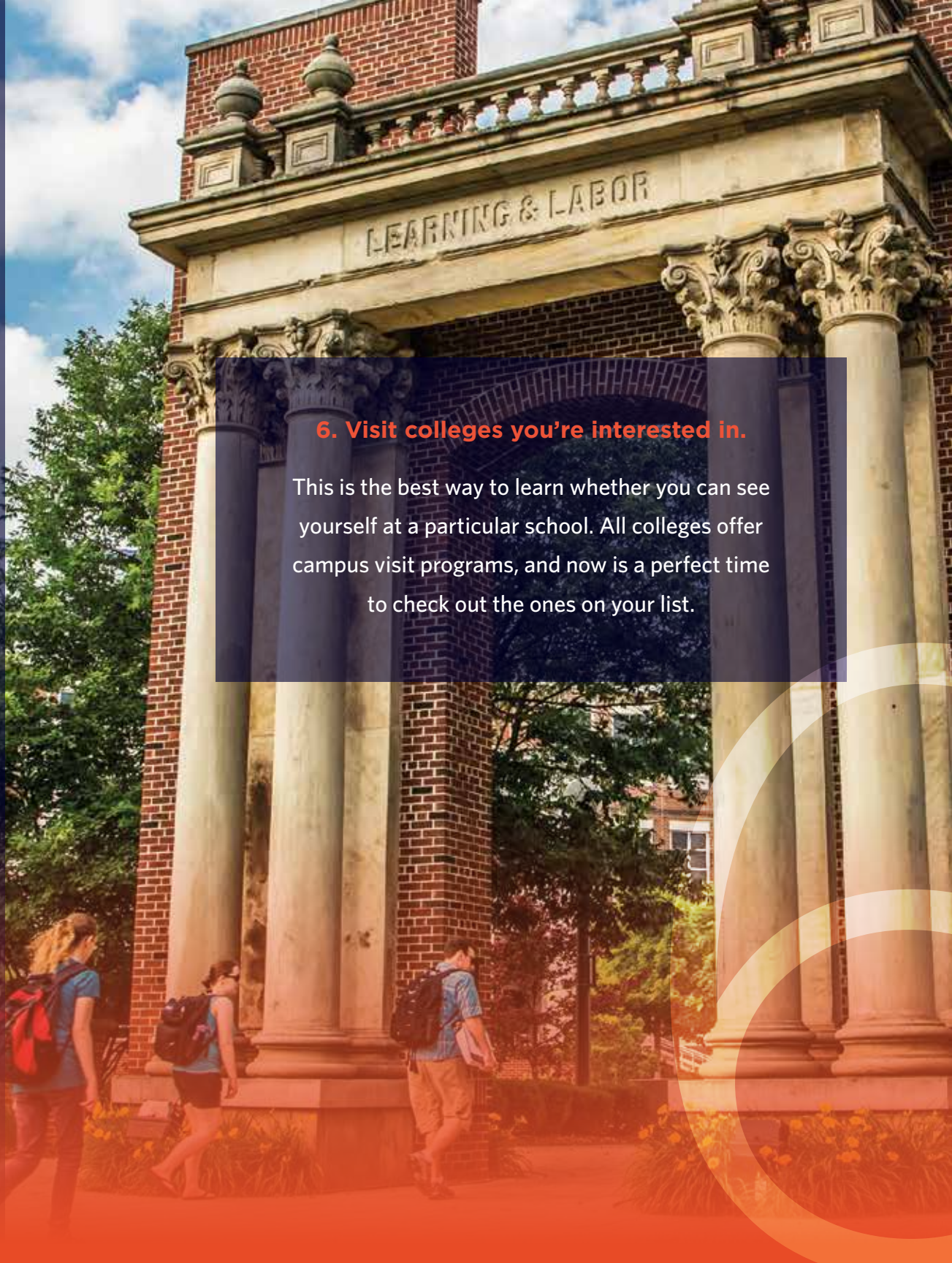
Around 2.5 hours in length, these smaller visits are held most weekdays and select Saturdays. They include an overview of Illinois, a student panel, and a campus tour. College meetings are often available upon request if you're visiting on a weekday.

Orange & Blue Days

These larger, day-long open houses are held on just a handful of dates. In addition to an overview of Illinois and a student panel, they include presentations by Housing and Financial Aid, campus tours, college sessions, and a variety of optional activities.

6. Visit colleges you're interested in.

This is the best way to learn whether you can see yourself at a particular school. All colleges offer campus visit programs, and now is a perfect time to check out the ones on your list.





ILLINOIS TEST OPTIONS

7. Register, practice for, and take the ACT or SAT.

How you prepare depends on who you are as a student.

Both test websites provide free study guides and even old exams you can work through at home. Some students also enroll in test-prep classes or hire tutors, though these options usually cost money.

We accept either the SAT or ACT, and we don't prefer one over the other. You don't have to take the essay portion of the SAT, and we only recommend you take the writing portion of the ACT if you're planning to enroll in a teaching licensure program.

SAT school code: 1836

ACT school code: 1154

Illinois Class Profile

These numbers show the middle 50% of freshmen admitted to Illinois in Fall 2019, meaning 25% of students were above this range and 25% were below.

SAT (no writing)

1280-1490

ACT

27-33

GPA*

3.45-3.92

*GPA is based on academic courses only using an unweighted 4.0 scale.

APPLYING TO ILLINOIS

8. Talk to your family and finalize your college list.

If you haven't spoken to your parents about the schools you're interested in yet—including any financial, geographic, or logistical restrictions—now is the time. Fine-tuning your list can be stressful, but you'll be much better off once you know exactly where you're going to apply.

9. Prepare to apply.

You can cut down on your work next fall by getting organized now. Application deadlines vary depending on the school, so it's helpful to write them all down in one place. The same goes for required application materials.

To learn about the Illinois application process, visit our website. Here you'll find a step-by-step guide for applying, important dates and deadlines, essay prompts, and more.

[APPLY.ILLINOIS.EDU](https://apply.illinois.edu)

Q U E S T I O N S ?

Contact us. We're here to help!
217-333-0302 | admissions@illinois.edu

Want to learn more?

Read our blog: blog.admissions.illinois.edu

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