

Illinois State University



Larry H. Dietz
President

Founded in 1857, Illinois State University (ISU) in Normal was the first public institution of higher learning in Illinois. As attorney for the Illinois Board of Education, Abraham Lincoln drafted documents establishing the university, and Jesse Fell, great-grandfather of the late Adlai E. Stevenson II, helped found Illinois State. The institution became one of the nation's first "normal" schools (a title given to institutions for teachers), establishing a precedent and a model for the normal school movement throughout the United States.

From its historic origins as a teacher preparation institution, ISU has become a major multipurpose university offering diversified curricula. Today, ISU is fulfilling the dream of its founders by serving the needs of the citizens and businesses in Illinois with quality programs of education, research and public service. ISU is committed to continuing its threefold mission, continually evaluating and changing its educational and service offerings to accommodate societal change.

ISU offers a wide range of programs at the bachelor's, master's and doctoral levels to its 21,000 students from all 50 states and 59 countries. The Chicago area boasts the largest segment of the ISU student body at 55 percent. Central Illinois claims the next largest group at 23 percent. About 88 percent are undergraduate students and 12 percent are graduate students. The enrollment includes full-time (89%) and part-time (11%) students, including 15 percent minority students, students with disabilities and adult learners. Among the entering students, the mean ACT score range is 22-26.

Thirty-five academic departments offer more than 189 undergraduate programs through the Colleges of Business, Arts and Sciences; Fine Arts; Education: Applied Science and Technology; and Mennonite College of Nursing. The Graduate School coordinates 42 master's degrees, one specialist degree and nine doctoral programs. Academic programs are supported by the services and collections of ISU's Milner Library, which contains more than 3 million holdings and special collections.

ISU offers a small college experience with large university opportunities. The university takes pride in its core values of individualized attention, public opportunity, pursuit of learning and scholarship, diversity and civic engagement. Through the interaction of teaching, research and public service, the university provides abundant intellectual opportunities for a large and diverse student population in an environment that responds to student needs and interests, stresses personalized student-faculty interaction and contributes to the development of individuals who will participate responsibly in society.

The hundreds of cultural and athletic events presented annually at the university enhance the quality of life in the Bloomington-Normal community. Public service programs sponsored by the university serve people of all ages, offering opportunities for economic development and lifelong learning.

Board of Trustees: Rocky Donahue, *chair*; Mary Ann Louderback, *interim secretary*; Bob Churney; Bob Dobski; Julie Jones; John Rauschenberger; Sharon Rossmark; and Ryan Powers, *student representative*.

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Fell Hall at Illinois State University was named after Jesse Fell, a founder of the university and great-grandfather of the late Adlai E. Stevenson II.