The Opportunity

The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign invites nominations and applications for the position of Dean of the College of Applied Health Sciences (AHS). The University seeks a visionary leader dedicated to enhancing and strengthening the College’s performance and to furthering its commitment to innovation in research, teaching, service, and outreach. The position of reports to the Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and is a senior administrative position with a seat on the Council of Deans. The Dean has primary responsibility for strategic planning, faculty and staff development, budgetary oversight and planning, academic and curricular issues, fundraising, and facilities.

As chief academic and executive officer of the College, the Dean is responsible for the global reputation of the College and its programs. She or he assists the individual departments in the College to strengthen their relationships with communities, organizations, agencies, and associations in order to enhance research access, application of research findings, and relevance of curricula.

The Dean will provide leadership for building key partnerships and collaborations with internal and external constituencies. A significant purpose in such relationships is the development of new opportunities for the evolution of College programs and research agendas. Prospective campus opportunities include the new College of Medicine with its emphasis on health technology, the Interdisciplinary Health Sciences Initiative, and activities surrounding the Visioning Future Excellence theme on Health and Wellness.

The Dean will enhance the diversity of faculty, staff, and students. Applied Health Sciences is a college with a highly diverse student population. In 2015, over 25% of the College’s undergraduates are underrepresented minorities. The Dean will work with the campus’ Enrollment Management leadership team to continue to attract, retain, and graduate a diverse student body.
The following agenda items outline several inter-related areas of emphasis that carry special significance:

1. Recognizes the College’s Role in Health Technology for the 21st Century
   Given the rapid advances and funding opportunities in health technology, the creation of a new engineering-based College of Medicine at the Urbana campus, and the emerging interactions between faculty in the College of Applied Health Sciences and College of Engineering, a research priority for the College surrounds the application of technology to address questions important to applied health research.

   AHS is at the translational forefront to assist engineers and computer scientists in solving these problems by developing and implementing effective, user-friendly, and culturally-sensitive technology-based solutions for promoting independence and health in society. In combination with our engineering partners, sensitive and accurate technologies need to be developed and tested that can empower greater levels of self-care; enable individuals to live in their own homes and participate more fully in society; allow for remote monitoring by loved ones, caretakers and medical professionals; reduce their need for personal assistance care; and enable them to have a greater role in accessing medical care when needed. Customized technologies need to be developed that will serve diverse populations (including those living in isolated rural areas and those without close family support); provide alternative care; support optimal health and wellness; empower individuals, caregivers and providers with timely, personalized, actionable information; ensure interoperability; and provide reliable decision analysis all at an affordable price. Areas of particular research emphasis that are strengths and priorities for AHS address such issues as lack of mobility, poor communication and social isolation, loss of cognition, “aging in place,” and military veterans’ health and transition to society. AHS and our campus strength in engineering position us well to lead the way in health technology research and applications.

2. Advances College Vision
   Through teaching, research, and service, the Dean will preserve and enhance the stature and reputation of the College. The selected individual should have a vision for how the College can continue to expand both its research and education missions to national and international prominence. The selected individual should also have a commitment to both undergraduate and graduate education, to shared governance, and to creating a diverse and an inclusive environment in the College.

3. Represents the College in Effective Ways
   The Dean is expected to engage with the many distinct professional and academic communities relevant to College programs. The new Dean will seek out constituents, both internal and external to the University, including representing College scholarship to various campus research initiatives, to expand the impact of College programs, and build partnerships to further implement its mission.

4. Secures and Stewards Resources
   The College of Applied Health Sciences has greatly benefited from a successful advancement program. Over the last five years, the College has secured and average of $6.4M in total gift commitments from donors and private foundations, with $5M of that in the form of annual cash gifts. Recent successes include the establishment of the Chez Family Foundation Center for Wounded Veterans in Higher Education (with opportunities for additional programmatic support), the completion of the Khan Annex construction projects, and the funding of multiple endowed professorships and chairs.

   The Dean will have the opportunity to influence and approve the philanthropic priorities of the College on an ongoing basis, including in the campaign. As the “face and voice” of the College, the Dean will be the point person in presenting a compelling case statement of support to key prospective donors and asking for their financial commitments.

   The campus Office of the Vice Chancellor for Institutional Advancement supports the Dean in all strategic advancement functions and the University of Illinois Foundation also provides key gift processing, receipting and endowment investment services. The College also has its own advancement office, currently staffed by an assistant dean for advancement, two major gift officers, and one alumni relations and leadership annual giving officer. FronHine gift officer positions are jointly funded by the College and the OVCIA, and the Dean and Vice Chancellor work together closely to provide a high level of performance accountability for those individuals.
**Professional Qualifications and Personal Qualities**

The ideal candidate will possess a track record of outstanding leadership including a demonstrated recognition and support of research, teaching, outreach, and equal opportunity; the ability to attract and retain a diverse faculty, student body, and staff; and the aptitude to generate resources for the College. Expertise in one or more of the academic disciplines housed in the college, or in a related discipline, is a requirement. Strong preference will be given to candidates with a doctoral degree and a strong record of scholarship, research, and teaching commensurate with an appointment at the rank of tenured full-professor at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

**Procedure for Candidacy**

The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign invites letters of nomination or application to be submitted to provostsearches@illinois.edu. Full consideration will be given to complete applications (letter of interest, resume/CV, and five references who will be contacted with your permission) received by February 15, 2016.

For further information regarding application procedures, contact Jennifer Steiling at steiling@illinois.edu.

This is a full-time, 12-month appointment with the target start date of August 16, 2016. Salary is commensurate with experience.

The University of Illinois is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer and welcomes individuals with diverse backgrounds, experiences, and ideas who embrace and value diversity and inclusivity (www.inclusivillinois.edu).

The University of Illinois conducts criminal background checks on all job candidates upon acceptance of a contingent offer.
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The College of Applied Health Sciences
The College of Applied Health Sciences at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign is dedicated to research, education, and outreach activities that promote the development of healthy communities, full participation and independence to the greatest extent possible for individuals with potentially life-constraining conditions, and health and wellness across the lifespan in a diverse society.

Faculty in AHS continue to define and redefine the concepts of health, aging, and disability in all its forms. With a legacy of empowerment and historic breakthroughs related to physical fitness and exercise, youth sports, recreation and park development, public health, speech and hearing assessment, and design standards for accessibility, the College is poised to leverage these strengths to address emerging societal health challenges.

The College has a distinguished history of innovation and provision of educational services, and continues its tradition of being the unquestioned leader in disability support programs, most recently exemplified through its newest offering of an online certificate program in Information Accessibility Design and Policy (IADP). Through research and practice, the AHS faculty facilitate the development of healthy lifestyles while reducing health disparities among underrepresented groups. AHS is uniquely positioned to apply what is learned through research at the crossroads of health, wellness, medicine, and technology, helping to bridge the gap that exists between medical care and individual self-care.

The College is home to three academic units: Kinesiology and Community Health; Recreation, Sport and Tourism; and Speech and Hearing Science. Additionally, the College offers an undergraduate degree in Interdisciplinary Health Sciences, which studies health through the integration of knowledge from a variety of social and behavioral sciences. The College also includes the Center on Health, Aging, and Disability that fosters interdisciplinary collaborations among College faculty and researchers across the campus.

The College enrolls approximately 2,000 undergraduate and 300 graduate students. External grant and contract support includes a wide range of federal and state agencies, industry sponsors, and foundations. In addition, the College is the home of two service units: the Division of Disability Resources and Educational Services (DRES), and the Chez Family Foundation Center for Wounded Veterans in Higher Education.

The College’s interdisciplinary faculty maintains active collaborations with a variety of faculty across campus, including engineering, neuroscience, education, psychology, and nutritional sciences as well as the Beckman Institute for Advanced Science and Technology, Center for Nutrition, Learning and Memory, College of Medicine, local hospitals, and community organizations. The faculty is housed within state-of-the-art research facilities, including the recently completed $10 million Khan Annex and the $14 million Chez Family Foundation Center for Wounded Veterans in Higher Education, with at least two additional infrastructure projects planned.
Academic Units

Department of Kinesiology and Community Health (KCH)
The Department of Kinesiology and Community Health is dedicated to the study of health and disease, rehabilitation, and human movement. The KCH faculty conducts research on themes such as lifespan physical activity, public health, epidemiology, rehabilitation counseling, disability, well-being and inclusion, physical culture and education, pedagogy, human factors, and human performance. Recognized for its interdisciplinary approach and leadership in scholarship and education, the Department offers BS, MS, and PhD degrees in Kinesiology and Community Health, and a Master’s of Public Health (MPH) degree accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health. The department is strongly committed to the professions related to kinesiology and public health, and to scholarship and research that advances practice. Currently 40 full-time faculty members serve approximately 1,200 undergraduates, 50 students enrolled in the MPH program, and 90 doctoral students. In 2015, the National Academy of Kinesiology ranked the Kinesiology doctoral program number one among 52 peer institutions, based on both faculty and student indices of success. Currently, seven faculty in KCH are Fellows in the National Academy of Kinesiology.

Faculty research and scholarship are organized around five themes: bio-behavioral kinesiology; cultural, pedagogical, and interpretive studies; exercise physiology; health disparity and disability; and public health. The department has a long history of research examining factors such as: aging through the lifespan; fitness; children’s physical activity; lifestyle behaviors such as diet, smoking, and physical activity that impact the structure and function of the central nervous, immune, metabolic, musculoskeletal, urological, cardiovascular, and reproductive systems; and cognitive and physical functioning in the presence of such conditions as asthma, breast cancer, chronic kidney disease, multiple sclerosis, obesity, and Parkinson’s disease. Research goals include reducing functional and structural impairments, minimizing or reversing restrictions on activity and participation, and expanding the state of knowledge about health, rehabilitation, and human movement.

Department of Recreation, Sport and Tourism (RST)
Consistently recognized among the top five departments of its kind, the Department of Recreation, Sport and Tourism studies the means to foster healthy lifestyles and develop healthy communities. Research and teaching focus on choices that people make for their discretionary time throughout the lifespan, including outcomes of those choices at personal, family, community, and institutional levels. RST faculty and staff apply their expertise to enhance the delivery of leisure services, recognizing that recreation, sport and tourism are synergistic elements of a unique and multifaceted industry. RST appreciates the significance of play, the contribution of arts, the value of diversity, and the necessity of sustainable development. Research and public service are built from an array of collaborations with community partners, organizations, agencies, and associations in the recreation, sport and tourism industry. Concentration areas in RST include park and recreation management, sport management and development, and tourism management and development. The department also maintains the Office of Recreation and Park Resources, which provides ongoing outreach to bring the research and
experts of RST faculty and students to communities, agencies, organizations, and associations. Four RST faculty are Fellows of the Academy of Leisure Sciences, four are Research Fellows of the North American Society for Sport Management, and two have won the Earle F. Zeigler Award.

Department of Speech and Hearing Science (SHS)
With roots in the 1930s, the Department of Speech and Hearing Science is widely recognized as one of the initial and leading departments in the nation producing cutting-edge scholarship across the entire spectrum of human communication. The department is currently home to over 40 faculty and academic staff, including 17 fulltime tenure-track faculty, and a student body of about 300 undergraduate majors and 90 graduate students. Housed across two buildings, the department offers four degrees (BS, MA, AuD, and PhD), including two nationally ranked ASHA-CAA accredited clinical training programs (for audiologists and speech-language pathologists), and a series of American Sign Language (ASL) courses that meet the University’s foreign language requirement.

Departmental research and outreach are dedicated to all aspects of interpersonal communication, with organized themes in communication diversity across the lifespan, neural bases of communication treatment research, and treatment research in communication disorders. Recent externally funded research within the department has focused on cognitive-communication disorders, voice disorders, tinnitus, assistive technologies such as cochlear implants, and child language development. Our faculty have been consistently recognized for outstanding research, teaching, and outreach. Current faculty include one recipient of Honors of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA), the highest award bestowed, three Fellows of ASHA, and a recipient of the Sataloff Award for Young Investigators awarded by the Voice Foundation.

Interdisciplinary Health Sciences (i-Health)
Based on the premise that human health is too complex to be addressed within a single discipline, the Interdisciplinary Health Sciences (i-Health) degree program integrates knowledge from a variety of social and behavioral sciences fields such as psychology and sociology, as well as the applied health sciences.

The i-Health degree provides a foundation to understand health from perspectives related to individual lifestyle, family, community, and culture. The curriculum is grounded in a health-related understanding of the way people live their life and engage with their family and community. The degree is structured to serve as an ideal pre-professional undergraduate program for a range of biomedical careers including medicine, dentistry, physical therapy, occupational therapy, and public health. Students select one of three concentrations from healthy and aging, health diversity, or health behavior change. They customize their program to their specific interests in health by completing 24–28 free elective credits. The significant number of free electives will enable students to work with their academic advisor to design a program ideally suited to meet the entry requirements for postgraduate study in a range of biomedical and health-related graduate programs.

The i-Health program was established in 2009 and already has more than 200 majors. Its focus on social and behavioral sciences approaches to health and wellness converges with societal trends to promote healthy behaviors, understand prevention of chronic disease, and delay onset of disabling conditions. The growing number of i-Health alumni have been placed in a variety of medical and health professional schools for further training, as well as a significant portion who are employed directly after graduation.
Service Units and Research Centers
Division of Disability Resources and Educational Services (DRES)
The College’s campus-wide service unit, the Division of Disability Resources and Educational Services (DRES), offers a wide range of academic and non-academic support services to students with visible and non-visible disabilities. DRES’ mission is to ensure that qualified individuals with disabilities are afforded an equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from the programs, services, and activities of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. This is accomplished through the identification and implementation of reasonable modifications to institutional policies and procedures, the provision of effective auxiliary aids and services, the establishment of innovative educational services, and the pursuit of interdisciplinary disability research with a focus on enhanced independence, health and well-being.

Services offered by DRES include: accommodation consultation and planning; assistive technology assessment, training, and access; compensatory learning strategies consultation; executive skills coaching; individual therapeutic counseling; support groups; career planning services; conversion of inaccessible textual and/or graphical content to alternative, accessible formats; real-time and video captioning; sign language interpreters; and disability-based scholarships. The Division’s Accessible Information Technology Group promotes and supports the inclusion of students with disabilities in the information technology environment of the University of Illinois through consultation and collaboration with faculty and staff across campus. Additionally, DRES staff have developed two open-source tools, the Functional Accessibility Evaluator (FAE) and the AInspector Sidebar, which support and assist those designing digital information so that it is accessible for those with print disabilities.

DRES also offers nonacademic support services, including adapted recreation and athletics, accessible campus bus transportation, socio-cultural leisure consultation and support, physical therapy, and transitional residential support services and programming for students with severe physical disabilities who need personal assistant services.

The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign was the first campus to offer a residential program for students who require assistance with the performance of activities of daily living. Beckwith Residential Support Services at Nugent Hall, which is administered by DRES, offers in-house personal assistant services and 24-hour emergency assistance. The University was designated as a U.S. Paralympic Training Site for wheelchair track in 2014. No other university has a sole sport training site designation for wheelchair athletics. At the London 2012 Paralympic Games, athletes from the University’s wheelchair track and field program accounted for 10 out of the total 28 U.S. track and field medals won.

Due to its reputation and range of innovative services, the number of students that DRES is serving continues to grow. Over the last five years, the number of students utilizing DRES’ services has increased by 57%.
Chez Family Foundation Center for Wounded Veterans in Higher Education
The Center for Wounded Veterans in Higher Education is a national resource that provides individualized, comprehensive support services to student veterans with disabilities. The Center's vision is to empower student veterans with disabilities and their families to realize their potential through a world-class educational experience that prepares them to lead fulfilling, meaningful, and maximally independent lives. Of the approximate 450 student veterans and dependents on campus, it is estimated that 20% have a disabling condition.

Non-residential services include focused Transition & Academic support, Benefits & Outreach Counseling, Career & Employment Development, Health & Life Skills, and Counseling & Family Services. For veterans transitioning out of military rehabilitation facilities, private suites and bathrooms with state-of-the-art accessibility features, meal plans, and personal assistants are available.

Interdisciplinary research focused on veterans with disabilities is critical to improving the services provided and enhancing the quality of their lives and the lives of their families. The Center facilitates this research by providing a place to explore innovative methods, develop new assistive technologies, test important questions, and discover treatments in a wide variety of disciplines.

The Center's programs are based on a long history of leadership in disability services and a passionate commitment to serve our nation's veterans and their families. Students at the Center benefit from comprehensive and individualized attention, all within a transformative learning environment at one of the world's leading universities.

Center on Health, Aging, and Disability (CHAD)
The College’s Center on Health, Aging, and Disability is an interdisciplinary research center that supports research, education, and outreach addressing the many facets of health, wellness, and quality of life. The Center serves as a catalyst by identifying innovative research themes, developing research teams, and fostering interdisciplinary research. A current priority of CHAD is to establish working relationships between researchers in AHS and those in the College of Engineering related to health technology. CHAD and the Health Care Engineering Systems Center have hosted informational sessions to facilitate interdisciplinary research around relevant RFP's. In addition, they have jointly supported the Chittenden Symposium which addresses the role technology can play in issues related to health, aging, and disability. By organizing research teams and assisting those teams by helping to identify funding, and by providing support services such as grant assistance, grantsmanship mentoring, biostatistical support, and community outreach, CHAD serves to mentor and support AHS faculty. CHAD also supplies seed money for promising pilot research projects through an incentive grant program.
Academic Support Services

Mannie L. Jackson Illinois Academic Enrichment and Leadership Program (I-LEAP)

Fighting Illini legend Mannie Jackson and his family donated $2 million to create the Mannie L. Jackson Illinois Academic Enrichment and Leadership Program (I-LEAP) in the College of AHS. The program provides a support and information base that validates the student experience and fosters a sense of belonging, engagement, and empowerment. Each student within I-LEAP is counseled by an Academic Skills Specialist. This individual assists students with identifying academic, personal and career goals; connecting students with college and campus resources; and promoting academic, personal, and professional skill development. I-LEAP is available to undergraduates enrolled in the College of Applied Health Sciences at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign who are first-generation students, students from underrepresented groups, student athletes, and those recognized by the President Awards Program (PAP) and Educational Opportunities Program (EOP). Additionally, the program collaborates with the Office of the Provost to provide support and resources to students who receive the Illinois Promise scholarship. At a time when many universities are struggling to recruit and yield underrepresented minority groups, the College of Applied Health Sciences (AHS) has not. The undergraduate population in AHS is among the most diverse on campus. Over 25 percent of our undergraduates identify as underrepresented minorities. I-LEAP plays an important role in projecting a sense of community that students find welcoming, familiar, and supportive.
University of Illinois

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 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. 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 10 for
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

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 more than 32,000 undergraduate students, more than 10,000 graduate and professional students, about 1,900 tenured/tenure-track faculty members, nearly 4,000 academic professionals and about 4,300 staff members. The campus is led by Barbara J. Wilson. As Interim Chancellor, Dr. Wilson 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 Committee on Institutional Cooperation (CIC), which is governed by the Provosts of the member universities. CIC 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 CIC, 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.
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).

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 is 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.
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, Abbott Laboratories, Abbvie, Caterpillar, Deere & Company, Littelfuse, Riverbed, State Farm and 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.”

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.

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.

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.
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 the 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 and 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: the Graduate School of Library and Information Science; the School of Labor and Employment Relations; the College of Law and the College of Veterinary Medicine.

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:
  o The Graduate School of Library and Information Science’s program is ranked 1st in the nation.
  o The Department of Accounting is ranked 2nd in undergraduate programs and 3rd in graduate programs in the nation.
  o The Department of Civil Engineering is ranked 1st in graduate programs nationally.
  o The campus is 2nd in undergraduate engineering science and engineering physics.
  o The campus is 1st in the study of condensed matter physics.
  o The campus ranks 2nd in undergraduate biological/agricultural engineering.
  o The Department of Materials Engineering ranks 2nd in undergraduate programs.
  o The College of Engineering is ranked 5th in undergraduate and 6th in graduate programs nationally.
  o 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.