

THE FEDERAL PELL GRANT IS THE CORNERSTONE OF A STUDENT’S FINANCIAL AID PACKAGE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS.

Pell eligibility often triggers eligibility for additional state and institutional aid, including the Monetary Award Program (MAP) grant, the University of Illinois tuition grant, and student financial aid offered by our three universities.

PELL DISBURSEMENTS, RECIPIENTS (2019 – 2020)				
University	Pell Amount Disbursed	Number of Pell Recipients	Pell Recipient as Percentage of Students	Pell Recipient Graduation Rate*
University of Illinois System (Total)	\$102.0M	21,064	33.5%	69.4%
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign	\$42.6M	8,494	23.4%	80.4%
University of Illinois Chicago	\$54.9M	11,504	49.1%	61.9%
University of Illinois Springfield	\$4.50M	1,066	34.1%	41.5%

* Six-year graduation rate for the fall 2014 first-time, full-time cohort. Information drawn from U of I System records

QUESTIONS?

Contact the U of I System’s federal relations team.

CONTACT	EMAIL	PHONE
Paul Weinberger, Director	paulw3@uillinois.edu	(217) 300-4739
Melissa Haas, Associate Director	mshaas@uillinois.edu	(217) 244-4815

THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS SYSTEM URGES CONGRESS TO #DOUBLEPELL



THE PELL GRANT PROGRAM IS THE NATION'S FOUNDATIONAL INVESTMENT IN HIGHER EDUCATION.

The Pell Grant program has a profound impact on University of Illinois System students.

“Being a recipient of the Pell Grant has allowed me to focus more on my education and less on whether I will have enough for rent or groceries. When I don't have to contend with as much financial stress, I can apply so much more of myself not only to my classwork, but to my future. Doubling this grant can only benefit students' quality of life, and allow us to become the highly educated professionals we strive to be.”

—Kelly Kinnerk, UIC student



“I have received the Pell Grant. I am attending college to further my education to become a research scientist in astronomy one day. College is an important step in my life to help me achieve my dream of working in a research lab making groundbreaking discoveries in astronomy. **The Pell Grant is really important to me to help me be able to afford my education.** This Pell Grant makes a big impact on me and my family to help us and help me achieve my dreams. My mother is a teacher and my father works in the county jail, so money has always been tight with their government wages. I am reaching out to request that the Pell Grant is increased. It would be important to me and all students achieving this Grant to help us reach out goals, despite the price of college. I am asking for the amount of the Pell Grant to be increased for the stability of me and every other student eligible.”

—Ava Abbott, UIUC student

“I'm a white, female, veteran, first generation college student. While I do have some benefits provided to me through the military, they are not nearly enough to cover the costs of college, housing, and providing the basic needs like food. I come from a lower class family from southern Illinois and have been financially independent since I was 16. **I rely on the Pell Grant to provide me with enough money to help cover the costs of bills, food, and other unexpected costs throughout the school year.** With no parental help, making enough money to cover exorbitant rent costs that only continue to increase, let alone to cover my bills like utilities, car payments, car insurance, etc. is near impossible while I am a full-time student. I know minorities aren't the only ones who struggle. Many veterans struggle to stay financially afloat and further themselves during or after their service, even after sacrificing so much of their time for service to their country. **Please consider doubling the maximum Pell Grant award, to give back to those who sacrificed so much, and to help the minorities struggling to break the tradition of struggling financially while attempting to obtain a degree.**”

—Rebecca Horst, UIUC student



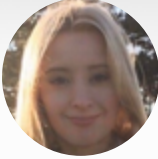
“I received a Pell Grant this year and it made a huge impact on my life. Taking out less student loans and being able to focus more on my education means that I'll be able to learn as much as I can. I want to get involved with the electric vehicle industry or work in renewable energy. **Having the Pell grant gives me ease of mind that I don't need to be working extra jobs during school year since I am paying for my education.** Please increase funding for the Pell Grant, it will make students more motivated and help them work harder for their education.”

—Ryan Chen, UIUC student



“Going to Chicago for school was a very difficult decision for me and my parents as it would be a costly decision rather than living at home and going to a community college. I saw the opportunities the city held and knew that my education would be worth investing in a good school. **Luckily I was a recipient of the Pell grant which lightened the load, but not completely.** I still am working 2 jobs, managing my own small business, and at the same time taking 16 credit hours of math and science courses. With that being said, **increasing the pell grant would be a huge relief to me and thousands of other students.** We should not have to be working intense hours and constantly worrying about money just to get by, but instead using those hours to focus on the reason we are here, for school, and for our future.”

—Sarah Mitchell, UIC student



“I immigrated from Poland at the age of 18 and came to USA in order to pursue dreams and a career. I've always had a caring, loving attitude towards people, therefore getting accepted into the UIC nursing program was a dream come true. The education I receive from the nursing program that UIC offers is both challenging and rewarding, but I would not wish to trade it for anything else. **The pell grant I receive is an enormous contributor of this journey. It helps pay for tuition, books, and other important supplies. Without it, I would not be able to afford attending the university and pursue my goals.** In order to help hardworking students of University of Illinois, I ask you to please consider increasing the pell grant funding for those that are in need of financial assistance. Doing so will help many students like me, in achieving their goals. Doubling the grant funds will ease the burden of student loans, as well as help pay for necessities like food, rent, and utility bills which many of us are struggling to afford now more than ever.”

—Julia Swiderska, UIC student

“**The pell grant was always integral to receiving my education at UIC and Moraine Valley Community College.** I would not be where I am today in my educational career without the pell grant. I come from a low income, single-parent household and we could not afford the tuition at most institutions, even with grants. But the pell grant made a HUGE difference and helped lower tuition costs for me. It is important to me and SO many other students!”

—Eileen Al-ashqar, UIC student



“After graduation, my plan is to become a Financial Advisor. In order to achieve this goal, I believe that receiving the Pell Grant played a crucial role in setting a foundation for my academic future. **As a Pell Grant recipient, this allows me to obtain supplies I need that are integral for learning on-campus.** With that in mind, I still believe that the Pell Grant should be doubled in funding. While on-campus for school, especially as an upperclassman, I believe that academics and career opportunities surrounding academics should be the priority. This means that I should not have to work as a full-time student in order to obtain a typical college lifestyle. My hope is that you consider doubling the Pell Grant Funding for individuals like myself to prioritize my academic future and worry less about my financial situation.”

—Alexander Decowski, UIUC student

“I'm a UIS online student getting my BA in philosophy, I live in St. Augustine FL. The Pell grand enables me to attend school. I am a Type One Diabetic, insulin keeps me alive I take around 10 corrections of insulin a day. A single vial of insulin is 300\$. Getting an education means that I can get a job that will pay for this enormous, terrifying expense. **Receiving a Pell grant allows me to mediate the the amount of loan money I have to take out for classes.** This is vital, as being a disabled person I will undoubtable have massive medical debt when I am kicked off my parents insurance next year. Minimizing my student loan debt is critical for me and other students like me. I have applied to 100's of scholarships but been unable to get any despite having a 3.8 GPA. I rely 100% on the Pell and self-pay. For most of my time as a student I have worked in order to pay for classes and living expenses. As a disabled person this is a huge burden. **Receiving a Pell grant means everything to me and having the amount increased would be life changing for me and other students like me.** I urge you to increase the funding for the Pell Grant. Thank you.”

—Emily Strange, UIS student



“As a new immigrant from Nigeria with the zeal to complete my education that I had started, but with little income and more people to cater for, **the federal pell grant saved me. It gave me the hope and opportunity to pursue my dream.** Even though I still have some pending fees that I am paying, I am still grateful for the kind and thoughtful gesture, the help that was present in the time of need! There's an adage that says "appreciate the doer and he will do more". God bless America!”

—Juliet Adeyemo, UIC student



“I'd like to take a moment to express to you how important the pell grant has been throughout my education. **Not only has it helped fund my education, but allowed me to progress in my studies as I didn't need to compromise my time as a student to work more hours than I could to afford college.** I plan on pursuing a Master's in human resources, which is possible by the funding of the Pell grant that decreased my loan amounts through my time as an undergrad. I hope you do everything in your power to double this grant. It saves lives. It saved me from being homeless and allowed me to go to college.”

—Ann Woerz, UIUC student



Pell Grants help nearly 7 million low-and moderate-income students attend and complete college annually. That is 40 percent of undergraduates at U.S. colleges and universities.



There are over 21,000 Pell Grant recipients - 33.5 percent of all undergraduate students - within the U of I System.