

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

PELL DISBURSEMENTS, RECIPIENTS (2021 – 2022)				
University	Pell Amount Disbursed	Number of Pell Recipients	Pell Recipient as Percentage of Students	Pell Recipient Graduation Rate*
University of Illinois System (Total)	\$105.8M	21,491	37.9%	66.5%
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign	\$45.7M	8,838	28.0%	76.6%
University of Illinois Chicago	\$55.8M	11,637	52.2%	58.2%
University of Illinois Springfield	\$4.30M	1,016	35.8%	44.4%

* Six-year graduation rate for the fall 2016 first-time, full-time cohort. Information drawn from U of I System records

THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS SYSTEM URGES CONGRESS TO #DOUBLEPELL

QUESTIONS?

Contact the U of I System’s federal relations team.		
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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. We support doubling the maximum Pell award to \$13,000.



"Without the Pell Grant, I would have never heard the term 'Exercise is Medicine' and would not be furthering my education to help others with chronic diseases. Throughout all of these family challenges, I became a first generation college graduate and graduate student in my family, and this would have been impossible without the Pell Grant. I am beyond grateful to have had the opportunity to receive the Pell Grant and hope all the federal legislators would make the move to increase funding the Pell Grant so others like me can have the opportunity to advance health care for those in need."

—Sydney DeJonge, UIC student

"Both of my parents were not able to co-sign on any loans for me, but luckily with the combination of federal loans, a little bit of family help, the UIUC Commitment Program, and most importantly the Pell Grant, I am just barely able to pursue my dreams to become an aerospace engineer. If it weren't for these options, I would not be in college right now."

—Emily Goodman, UIUC student

"My dream is to get into law school and become an appellate lawyer. I would be the first in my family to obtain such a high-level of education. That dream could not be obtained if I had not received financial assistance from the Pell Grant because I do not have family assistance in obtaining a private student loan."

—Caitlin Deerwester, UIS student



"The Pell Grant helps people like us, first generation immigrants, to have the opportunity for upward mobility. It enables people like us to reach our dreams, and without it, a lot of us would just dream them without being able to actualize them. For instance, my dream to become a member of the scientific community at large to find ways to combat the increasingly pressuring matter of climate change. Without the grant, it would be very difficult to finance an education at this university with access to great teaching resources. Also, the Pell Grant helps shift away the worry of finances; thanks to it, I can focus on my grades instead of how much debt this is going to put me in."

—John Armenta, UIUC student

"I am a student who comes from a very different background, and a country that is very far away. I came here from Türkiye with the hopes of getting an excellent education to achieve my dreams to be a psychologist, to help people with their mental health and daily problems. If it wasn't for the Pell Grant, I wouldn't be able to afford my tuition, and I wouldn't be able to take steps to become a psychologist to change people's lives for the better. Thanks to Pell Grant, I am about to graduate, and I had so many experiences in research labs that trained me for my future."

—Sevval Nisa Erkan, UIC student



"After my dad spent 6 weeks in the hospital, money became very tight for my family due to crippling medical bills and lost work. A Pell Grant allowed me to finish out my senior year without private loans. As a current medical student, only having federal loans has eased the burden of student loan debt and makes my goal of becoming a primary care physician for low income families a much more accessible dream to accomplish."

—Eleanor Esbrook, UIC student

"Increasing the Pell grant for students like ourselves would allow students to not just be able to attend college, but to have confidence where their next meal comes from or if they can afford a winter coat in harsh winters, all while juggling an intensive academic life..."

—Chris Vosburgh, UIUC student

"The Pell Grant has been so beneficial to me and my family. Although it does not cover my full college expenses it does play a tremendous role in my educational finances. To me, the Pell Grant provides me with the Opportunity to get a high valued education that I would not be able to afford otherwise. I come from a very less fortunate family from the city of East St. Louis. My home town was extremely dangerous growing up and I rarely felt safe outside my own home so I found myself sticking to the books...Without scholarships and grants like the Pell grant I would not be able to otherwise pay for college. I greatly appreciate the Pell grant for allowing me to live out my dream of being successful."

—Deja Spraggins, UIUC student



"I'm both a master's student at UIC and a CPS teacher. In working towards obtaining my teacher's license, I had the privilege of receiving a pell grant to help cover the costs of my tuition. When I received this grant, I was in the last year of my undergrad and completing my student teaching. My student teaching experience was unpaid and provided me with the experience of what it means to be a teacher full-time. However, this experience means not having enough time to work and cover tuition costs and bills, which no college student can risk."

—Samantha Hernandez, UIC student

"Just like many other students, I am majoring in biology, but unlike other students, I have financial difficulties. I want to be a student that does not have to stress about what I can or cannot do because of my financial situation. Doubling the Pell Grant would allow me to study fearlessly and become someone that impacts this nation and its people. My dream is to become a doctor. I know that I can achieve this with the additional help you can provide by making college more affordable."

—Samuel Park, UIUC student



"I am a single mother working on my B.B.A and I have my A.A.S currently. Having a Pell Grant has been a tremendous help to me in my academic career. It helped me not only get into a community college but also now to be into an accredited university working towards furthering my education."

—Stephanie McCullough, UIS student

"I've always dreamed of going into animal sciences and it was during my current time at UIUC that I found a love for immunology and pathology. It is due largely to Pell Grants that I am able to continue my education and be able to focus more of my attention on schooling. I still have to work a part time job that doesn't pay enough or have enough hours and some weeks I'm eating whatever I can find. It's difficult, but I can make it because of the financial aid that has been granted to me. I will forever be grateful. While I am thankful, there are so many students out there who miss the cutoff for Pell Grants that really need them."

—McKenzie Evans, UIUC student

"The Pell Grant has helped me with paying for groceries and getting other basic needs, but now I am forced to save that to ensure I still have a place to stay. Doubling the Pell Grant would really help me out financially and help me afford food and housing without having to worry about going into debt, or not having a house at all and not being able to afford food for both me and the cats that I know to take care of. Increasing the Pell Grant could help so many others who are struggling to pay for school and with your help, you could help so many of us succeed in school without worrying about how we are to pay for basic needs."

—Kristina Bell, UIUC student



"The Pell Grant offers students like me the chance to open new doors which lead to limitless opportunities that without the financial support of government aid we would otherwise be shut out of...I am asking you, as my representative and as the representative of all your constituents, to increase funding for the Pell Grant. The Pell Grant changes lives, makes a difference, and gives hope. An increase in Pell Grant funding is an investment in the future leaders of the world and allows us to move past barriers once created to divide different groups of people."

—Chelsi Jones, UIS student



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



There are nearly 21,500 Pell Grant recipients – 37.9 percent of all undergraduate students – within the U of I System.