The Graduate Experience
UIS offers the flexibility of full-time, part-time, evenings and online programs for students seeking a graduate degree. Whether you are continuing your education from undergraduate to graduate school, working full-time or raising a family, there is a program that fits your lifestyle.

UIS at a Glance
Location: Springfield, IL, state capital. Centrally located on Interstates 55 and 72.
Enrollment: Approximately 5,400 students; 40 percent are graduate students.
Campus Housing: Townhouses and apartments with a wide range of options.
Financial Aid: Graduate opportunities include paid internships and assistantships.
Health & Fitness: All full- and part-time graduate students have access to The Recreation and Athletic Center (TRAC). Student spouse/partner memberships are also available.
Student Union: Open seven days a week, the Student Union is home to the UIS Food Studio, Starbucks, comfortable lounges and study areas.

Student Support Services
Career Development Center — uis.edu/career
The Learning Hub — uis.edu/thellearninghub
Child Care — uis.edu/childcarecenter
Counseling Center — uis.edu/counselingcenter
Disability Services — uis.edu/disabilityservices
Diversity Center — uis.edu/diversitycenter
Financial Assistance — uis.edu/financialaid
Health Services — uis.edu/healthservices
International Student Services — uis.edu/internationalstudentservices
Women’s Center — uis.edu/womenscenter
Doctor of Public Administration

The Doctor of Public Administration (DPA) program is devoted to bridging the worlds of scholarship and practice. The DPA Program was specifically designed as a practitioner-oriented program to meet the educational needs of professionals in administrative and governmental positions at the state and local levels. Students have the opportunity to utilize their electives to develop expertise in one of five fields of specialization: Leadership of Public and Nonprofit Organizations, Policy Analysis and Program Evaluation, Environmental Policy and Administration, Education Policy and Leadership, and Data Modeling and Analytics. Admissions are on a rolling basis. Prospective students should contact the program director at dpa@uis.edu.

Doctoral Fellowship Program

The University's Graduate Public Service Internship (GPSI) Doctoral Fellowship Program utilizes joint relationships among Illinois State Government Agencies, Nonprofit Organizations and UIS to provide selected Doctoral students with structured opportunities for professional and academic growth that match their research interests. For details visit uis.edu/graduateinternprograms/gpsi/prospectiveinterns

Graduate Certificates

UIS offers a variety of programs for students who want to expand their expertise after receiving a bachelor's degree. The goals of these programs are to offer a convenient and flexible way of expanding specific skills to assist in the advancement of your career. Some of the required classes may be used for electives for master's programs. Many of the certificate programs can be completed online. uis.edu/graduateeducation
Research Opportunities

You have extraordinary opportunities to work directly with your professors in field research, lab research and data analysis. Students may apply to the Graduate Student Research Program for funding. UIS graduate students have the opportunity to publish their research in academic journals and present their findings at regional forums.

In addition, UIS’ central research facilities offer advanced learning and research opportunities through graduate assistantships. These centers are involved in a broad range of work that informs and impacts state government and public policy.

Center for State Policy and Leadership  
uis.edu/cspl

Survey Research Office  
uis.edu/SurveyResearchOffice

Institute for Legal, Legislative & Policy Studies  
uis.edu/illaps

Geographic Information Systems Laboratory  
uis.edu/gis

Norris L Brookens Library
Brookens Library supports student researchers with a collection of more than 540,000 volumes (including nearly 10,000 e-books); 2,600 periodical subscriptions; 4000 films, DVDs, and video tapes; 200,000 government publications; approximately 100 databases providing tens of thousands of full-text journal articles; and 1.8 million microforms.  
http://library.uis.edu

Conventional Research
Conventional research opportunities are available to graduate students in most academic programs. In addition, a limited number of appointments as doctoral research associates are available to students earning the doctor of public administration.  
uis.edu/dpa

Preparing the Next Generation of Change Leaders

UIS is known for its outstanding government, non-profit, and policy-related majors. Thousands of UIS graduates first interned and now work in local, state, and federal government. They can also be found on the front lines of non-profit organizations, working as advocates, organizing neighborhoods, and in countless other leadership roles in their communities.

- Communication M.A.
- Educational Leadership M.A.
- Education M.A.
- Environmental Sciences M.S.
- History M.A. – Public History
- Human Development Counseling M.A.
- Legal Studies M.A.
- Political Science M.A.
- Public Administration M.P.A. and D.P.A.
- Public Affairs Reporting M.A.
- Public Health M.P.H.
Therkildsen Field Station at Emiquon

Graduate students in the natural sciences can be part of an historic floodplain restoration project at the Emiquon Preserve along the Illinois River. UIS’ Therkildsen Field Station is the premier research facility associated with the effort to restore nearly 7,000 acres of farmland to the ecosystem it was a century ago. uis.edu/emiquon

UIS Field Station at Lake Springfield

The 4,200-acre reservoir located on the southeast edge of Springfield provides opportunities for hands-on, field-based learning for students of any discipline. Located within walking distance of campus, the field station and its newly renovated building offer a prime location for research, recreation and public engagement.

Online Learning

Our online learning opportunities offer flexibility and convenience with the same high quality and rigor as our on-campus coursework. In 2020, our online programs were recognized by U.S. News & World Report in two categories – BEST Online Bachelor’s Degree Programs and BEST Online Master’s in Business Programs (non-MBA). uis.edu/online

The Center for Online Learning Research and Service (COLRS) provides the technology, structure, and resources for faculty. With COLRS support, the faculty make online learning exciting and engaging.

International Diversity

Representing 45 nations and just under 14% of our student body, international students are an integral part of UIS. We are thankful for the enriching cultural diversity.

Offering CPT, OPT, and the STEM extension through select programs for students on an F-1 visa, UIS enables international students to gain skills needed to succeed in a competitive market, as well as provide numerous opportunities to refine those skills through real-world and collaborative experiences on and off campus. Last year, nearly 40% of the Graduate Public Service Internship (GPSI) positions were held by international students. For information on international specific admissions requirements, please visit this site: http://go.uis.edu/internationalgraduate
Internships and Assistantships

Graduate Public Service Internship Program (GPSI)  Ranked as one of Illinois’ premier governmental internship programs, the GPSI program provides graduate students with an opportunity for experiential learning through a public sector internship while completing a master’s degree. Interns earn a tuition waiver, partial fee waiver, and a stipend while interning at state or local government agencies, as well as some non-profit agencies. Upon graduation interns may begin professional careers in the public sector at the federal, state or local levels; as well as in the private sector. Applicant files must be completed by May 1 for interview consideration. Please consult the GPSI website for late interview dates. Internships begin August 16. UIS is proud to be training a new generation of public service officials. go.uis.edu/GPSI

Graduate Public Service Internship Program Chicago (GPSI Chicago)  The Graduate Public Service Internship Program (GPSI) now offers paid graduate student internships with government agencies in the greater Chicago-area. GPSI-Chicago internships are open to graduate students who enroll full-time in one of UIS’ twelve online programs. Interns earn a tuition waiver, partial fee waiver, and a stipend during their internship. The deadline to apply for a GPSI-Chicago internship is May 1 for interview consideration.

Illinois Legislative Staff Intern Program  Celebrating a more than 50-year history and recognized as one of the top legislative internship programs in the United States, the program provides graduate level applicants with a pre-professional experience working full-time with the Illinois legislature. The program offers a paid internship along with graduate credit. Tuition and fees, including student health insurance, are covered by the program. go.uis.edu/ILSIP

Public Affairs Reporting Program  This highly competitive, nationally renowned program includes an intensive, six-month internship that offers real reporting experience in the Illinois Statehouse press corps. Students receive credit, a monthly stipend and a tuition waiver and are eligible for several scholarships. Applications must be received by April 1. go.uis.edu/PAR

Graduate Assistantships (GA)  This program provides high-quality learning experiences for graduate students in most of the university’s master’s degree programs as well as in more than 30 campus research and support units. Students receive a monthly stipend, tuition waiver and service fee waiver. The annual application deadline for consideration for first-round interviews is March 15. For more information on eligible programs and qualifying criteria, please contact the GA Office as gaprog@uis.edu. go.uis.edu/GA