Welcome Parents & Families!

As a parent or family member of a new student who will be attending UIS this fall, you must have some questions about your student’s transition. You are an integral partner with UIS in assisting your student in their journey to becoming a graduate of the University of Illinois. This brochure has been tailored to help as you and your student make plans for this next stage of your lives.

Programs to Assist You and Your Student with the Transition to UIS
At UIS we understand both the student and their family make a transition to college—but in different ways. There are two programs required of first-years as part of their mandatory Orientation.

KickStart is a two-day program. During KickStart your student will learn more about UIS academic expectations, meet with an academic advisor, register for classes, and meet faculty, staff and current students. Parents and family members will attend some programming with their student and have a separate track of programming to learn more about campus services and resources that will support your student’s success.

Semester Launch will begin several days before the start of fall semester classes in August. Your student will learn more about tools for success that they will need during their first year at UIS and beyond.
Orientation KickStart

Who Attends Summer KickStart?
All first-time, first-year students and freshmen transfer students (transferring in less than 30 credit hours) are required to attend KickStart.

Why Is Orientation Mandatory?
We want our students to be successful and see them graduate from UIS. Our Summer KickStart and Semester Launch programs have been intentionally developed by UIS faculty and staff members to include sessions and information that lay a foundation for that success.

How Much Does Orientation Cost?
There is a mandatory $175 Orientation Fee that is assessed to each student and covers expenses for the student and up to two family members or guests at KickStart. While your student is completing the KickStart Orientation Registration form, they will be able to choose to pay the Orientation Fee by credit card, mail a check or money order, or defer the payment to their student account (due September 28).

Your student will see that the Orientation Fee is due on their Admissions Status page after they complete the online form. They can follow the directions on our website: go.uis.edu/o-fee to make the online payment or mail it.

The Orientation Fee is mandatory and non-refundable.
This fee is not calculated into the cost of attendance formula that the Office of Financial Assistance uses. Financial Assistance awards may not be enough to cover the Orientation Fees. Students must be prepared to pay by the due date.

Placement Testing

Math/Reading Placement Tests
Entering students may have to take Math, Reading, and/or Foreign Language placement exams. They can check requirements by reviewing the tables on the Testing Services website at go.uis.edu/testing.

If your student is unsure about the major requirements for ACT/SAT scores or what tests they need to take, please encourage them to contact their academic advisor:

- Capital Scholar Honors students contact CAP by email: capitalscholars@uis.edu or by phone: (217) 206-7251 or (800) 252-8533.

- All other first-year students contact the The Office of Advising Services, Information and Support (OASIS) by e-mail: advising@uis.edu or phone (217) 206-7471.
Placement Tests Before KickStart

It is strongly encouraged that students take English and Math placement testing 
BEFORE their KickStart session by going to one of our remote sites (see below). If you live near 
Springfield, your student can make an appointment at the UIS Testing Services office here 
on campus. Taking tests before their KickStart date will shorten their first KickStart day.

On Campus
Placement testing is scheduled at UIS throughout the year. Contact Testing 
Services to request an appointment. Phone: (217) 206-8114 or by email: 
testingservices@uis.edu. There is no charge to take placement tests at UIS.

Remote Sites
Testing can be scheduled at remote testing locations throughout Illinois and 
the United States. Your student should complete the remote testing form online 
at go.uis.edu/remote_test. The Testing Services office will contact them about 
remote site options. There is a small fee to test at remote sites—make sure they 
save the payment receipt and bring it with them to KickStart. They can turn it in to 
the OASIS advising staff on Day 2 of KickStart. A reimbursement will be credited 
to their UIS student account.

Foreign Language Placement Testing
Depending on their major, program of study, TOEFL, or ACT/SAT scores your 
student may need to take a placement test before they can register for a foreign 
language course. Please encourage your student to contact the Modern Languages 
Department by e-mail at aroble9@uis.edu or phone: (217) 206-8300 to schedule 
their foreign language placement test for the morning on the first day of your 
KickStart session between 9 and 11 a.m. There is a small fee to take this exam.

Where Students Will Stay and What You Should Bring
Students attending the June KickStart will stay in the residence hall for overnight 
orientation housing with one other student. Your student, their roommate, and 
another suite of students of the same sex will share a bathroom with a shower. The 
residence hall room will be air conditioned and have basic linens (a pillow, sheets, 
blanket, bath/hand towels, and washcloth). See page 10 for suggestions on what 
your student should bring for their overnight stay.

August KickStart. Students who have sent deposits and completed housing appli-
cations will move into their fall housing assignment. Students who do not live on 
campus, called Commuter or Off-Campus Living students, will come to campus 
each day for KickStart and Semester Launch sessions. Commuters will need to 
schedule work around the KickStart and Semester Launch requirements.

Why Do Students Stay Overnight in the 
Residence Hall During KickStart?
To get to know one another. Staying overnight during KickStart will provide plenty of 
opportunities for your student to meet, make connections, and get to know some of 
their classmates. After mandatory programming is done at 8:45 p.m., students will 
check-into their room. There will also be board games and refreshments in the 
residence hall.
Parents, Family, and Guests

Parents/Families and Guests Orientation Program
Our orientation program has a track for families designed to help you understand the transition that you and your student will be making. Sessions will also help you become familiar with resources our campus has to support students. Some sessions students will be with parents/family, and other sessions have been designed specifically for parents/family only. We do have a full program for our parent orientation. Parents will have their own Orientation Leader (OL) who will be with them and take them to each group session.

The parent program is optional. While we want to make sure parents and family members learn about our campus resources, we understand if you do not want to attend some sessions. You are welcome to visit the bookstore or relax in one of our lounges—just note you cannot attend students-only sessions.

What if I Cannot Attend KickStart with My Student?
Students can bring close family friends or mentors over the age of 18 if parents/family members are not available. It is expected that these guests will follow the Parent/Family Orientation Program, take notes, and collect information for the student. Guests will also be expected to stay at one of the local hotels.

Additional Guests
If you would like to bring additional guests there will be a guest fee of $25/person to cover meals and refreshments. You can pay for additional guests when you register for KickStart. Please be aware the guest fee for any guests who do not come to KickStart will not be refunded. If you are unsure of a guests’ attendance you can wait until you check-in and pay on site.

Children
While we encourage students to share their orientation experience with family members, we have found the littlest family members get bored very easily since there are no play facilities or activities available for them. They might have a better time if they stay at home with family members or friends and among their favorite playthings.

Guests Overnight Accommodations

Area Hotels
Because students are sharing a room with another student, family members and guests are not allowed to stay in the residence hall and must make accommodations at one of the area hotels. We have identified a number of hotels with different price points and amenities for families to choose from. Several hotels offer special rates if you call their Springfield phone number to make reservations and let them know you are coming for UIS Orientation. Please view the list at go.uis.edu/travelandhotels.
On-Campus
The Office of Residence Life is offering a limited number of campus apartments for overnight lodging during KickStart. There will be basic linens and amenities available. To learn more about the costs and what is included please contact Residence Life by email: reslife@uis.edu or phone: (217) 206-6190.

Students or Family Members with Disabilities
Students who need accessible housing for their overnight stay or other accommodations during KickStart and Semester Launch should indicate this on the KickStart registration form. We need at least three weeks notice before the orientation session to make arrangements with our Office of Disability Services.

If resources are available, we will also try to provide accessibility accommodations for a parent or family member. Please include this information on the registration form. Our office will follow-up and confirm if we can make arrangements.

Interpreters for Parents who are Spanish-Speaking
Are you more comfortable speaking Spanish? Your student can request an interpreter for your family when they register for KickStart. We will have student interpreters with Spanish/English Language translation abilities available at KickStart sessions. They will meet the family at KickStart check-in to review the schedule and identify things the family wants to attend or participate. The student interpreter will be available to attend the Financial Assistance consultation with the family if they are needed to translate questions and responses.
Directions for Your Student
Registering for KickStart

Step 1: Review the Dates and Schedules online

go.uis.edu/MyFirstYear

Discuss date(s) that fit into your summer schedule with your parents/family members, or guardian (keep in mind work, vacations, and summer activities). If you are a UIS Athlete or CAP Honors student there are specific dates that have been designated for you.

2019 Dates Summer KickStart, two-day sessions (overnight in June):

- June 11–12 ✤
- June 14–15 ✤▲
- June 17–18 ✤▲
- June 19–20 ✤
- June 21–22
- June 17–18 ✤▲
- August 19–20 *

*Reserved for students admitted after June 10, Out of State, and International Students. (August is also an Honors and Athlete designated session.)

**Athletes** — have been offered a position on one of the UIS athletic teams. Attend one of the dates that have been designated by the Athletics Department. Look for this symbol ▲ to identify these sessions.

**Freshmen Honors Students** — students who have been offered, and have accepted, admission into the Capital Scholars Honors program can choose sessions designated with ✤. Honors advisors will only be available on those dates.

**Freshmen** — All freshmen except those in the Capital Scholars Honors program and Athletes can choose to attend any of the orientation sessions.

Step 2: Register for Orientation

Students can access the KickStart Registration form from their UIS status page (http://apply.uis.edu/portal/kickstart). Complete the Registration form—take your time to read it carefully.

Step 3: Pay Orientation Fee

You can pay the Orientation Fee [go.uis.edu/o-fee] online by credit card, or mail a check or money order after you register.

Step 4: Print Confirmation & Put It in Your Calendar

A confirmation of your KickStart registration will be sent to the email account you listed in your admissions application. Please make sure you read the confirmation. Share your KickStart confirmation with any guests who will be attending with you. You will receive email reminders the week before your KickStart session to that same email address, so make sure to check it often.
Step 5: Review & Print the First-Year Checklist

The New Student Orientation check-list on our website: go.uis.edu/MyFirstYear has more information than what we are able to share in this booklet. Please print this and work through the items that need to be accomplished before your KickStart session. Make sure you are also working through your admitted student checklist.

KickStart Schedule Overview

This schedule is subject to change; a more detailed schedule is available online.

Day One

8:30 – 11:45 a.m. Orientation Help Desk and Student Luggage Check, Lincoln Residence Hall.
9 – 11:30 a.m. Placement Testing, Human Resources Building (HRB), room 112
9 – 11:30 a.m. Optional Morning Activities
  • Office of Financial Assistance: Meet with your Counselor
    University Hall (UHB), room 1015
  • Campus Tours (at 9, 10, 10:45 a.m.)
9:45 – 10:45 a.m. Parents of Capital Scholars Honors Students Program Information Session (June 11, 14, 17, 19, and August 19 only)
10 – 11:30 a.m. Office of Disability Services Open House. Human Resources Building (HRB), room 80
11 – 11:55 a.m. KickStart Check-in. Student Union, 3rd Floor
11 – 11:55 a.m. Campus Opportunity Fair. Student Union, 3rd Floor, Ballroom
12 noon KickStart Welcome. Student Union, 3rd Floor, Ballroom
1:35 – 5:25 p.m. Student Track or Parent & Family Track
5:35 p.m. Living on Campus [Residence Life] OR Commuting to Campus What Students and Families Need to Know
6:15 p.m. Parents & Families: Dinner on Your Own: Take this opportunity to explore some of our unique Springfield eateries.
6:15 p.m. Students: Dinner with the Orientation Team
7:10 p.m. Students: Session
8 p.m. Students: Overnight Housing Check-in
9 p.m. Students: Evening Fun
Day Two

7:30 a.m.  Students: Breakfast with the Orientation Team

8:05 – 9:35 a.m.  Students: Session

9:35 a.m.  Parent/Family/Guests: meet up with Students

9:50 – 11:45 a.m.  Students, Parents, Families, and Guests: Information Sessions

11:55 a.m. – 3 p.m.  Students: Getting It Done: Advising, Registration, Orientation Group, Lunch*
                       Parent/Family/Guests: Parent and Family Information Sessions, Lunch*

3:10 – 3:25 p.m.  Closing – Next Steps, August and Semester Launch

3:30 – 4:30 p.m.  UIS Pre-Nursing Pathway and UIC Nursing Information Session

3:30 – 5 p.m.  Information Sessions for Student Athletes and their Parents/Families (June 15, 18, and August 20 only)

* Students, Parents & Guests will receive a $10 meal card to use in the Food Studio. If the amount of the meal is more than $10, be prepared with cash or credit card to pay the difference. On Saturday, June 15 and 22 the Food Studio will be closed, guests will have a buffet lunch.
Orientation Checklist

Things to do before KickStart

- Make Arrangements for Travel and Accommodations.
  See our Travel and Accommodations page: go.uis.edu/travelandhotels for train information, ground transportation, and driving directions to campus.
  Parents/Family Members/Guests should make reservations at a local hotel for their overnight stay. We have information from a number of hotels on the website above.

  August Orientation session: only students living on-campus will be staying on campus. They will check into their rooms. Commuter students will be coming to KickStart and Semester Launch each day directly from home.

Things to bring to KickStart

For Students — Full checklist at go.uis.edu/MyFirstYear

- Government Issued ID: Passport, Driver's License, or State ID (if you do not have a driver's license), you will need this to get your i-Card picture taken (if you haven't uploaded before your Kickstart session), and take Placement Exams

- Your Financial Aid award letter—if you want to meet with a counselor from the Office of Financial Assistance

- Your UIN, NetID and password (save them in your smart phone so you don't forget—you will be using them during advising sessions and registration)

- Appropriate gear for the Central Illinois weather (62703 zip code)

- Sweater or jacket (meeting rooms can get a little chilly)

- Spending money for snacks or the UIS Bookstore, which has great UIS gear (Meals that are included in your orientation fees are the refreshment break and dinner and on day 1, and breakfast and a $10 meal card towards lunch on day 2.)

- For students staying overnight in June: Pajamas, clothes for day 2, toiletries, a blanket or sleeping bag (optional, we will provide: 2 sheets, one pillow case, pillow, one facial cloth, and one bath towel), and an alarm;

- In August, Students living on campus will move directly into their housing assignment before Orientation begins, so you will need to be prepared to bring things for move-in.

For Parents

- Sweater or jacket (meeting rooms can get a little chilly)

- A good book (you will have time to relax in the evening)

- Spending money for snacks or to by UIS gear at the UIS Bookstore (meals that are included in your orientation fees are the refreshment break on day 1 of KickStart and coffee and a $10 meal card towards lunch on day 2 – you may want to bring additional money in case your order is more than $10)

- Clothes, toiletries, etc.
Student-Athletes

Student-Athletes KickStart Orientation Dates
June 14–15 | June 17–18 | August 19–20

Athletes. Incoming students who have been recruited to play on one of the UIS Prairie Star athletic teams are required to attend an orientation session listed above. Athletic academic advisors and student-athlete programming will only be available during designated orientation dates.

Things to do before your KickStart session

- **Request Transcripts and Scores.** Request all dual-credit, final high school and college transcripts, and AP/IB scores be sent to UIS Admissions.

- **Placement Testing.** Information regarding placement testing will be sent by the athletic academic advisors in March. Student-Athletes are asked to make arrangements for remote testing ahead of their pre-orientation advising meeting or by March 31st.

- **Pre-Orientation Advising.** Student-athletes should make an appointment with their athletic academic advisor in April. Any student-athlete who has accepted admission to the Capital Scholars Honors Program will need to schedule a meeting with their Honors program advisor.

- **Athletic Training Information.** Register for the Athletic Trainer System (ATS) at uis2.atsusers.com. Additional information about registering should be included in the Welcome information from the athletics advisor. Student-athletes will also need to get a copy of their immunization record to submit at orientation. Questions? Contact Athletic Training at (217) 206-7597.

Student-Athlete Programming
During the designated orientation sessions, incoming student-athletes will have the opportunity to meet with their athletic academic advisor, hear from UIS coaches and staff, and interact with current and former Prairie Stars.

Student-Athlete Parent Programming
On Day Two parents of incoming student-athletes are invited to attend an informational session to learn more about the UIS Department of Athletics. Athletic Training will be available to answer questions and collect medical packets and immunization records. Parents can also double-check their student-athlete’s status with the NCAA Eligibility Center and get more information about joining the UIS Student-Athlete Scholarship Society.
August KickStart Session Notes

The last session is on Monday, August 19 and Tuesday, August 20. Priority registration for this session is given to out-of-state students, students who applied after June 10, and international students. Students should arrange to take Placement Testing at a remote site prior to KickStart.

If your student has sent in their housing application and deposit, Residence Life will send them information on the time and location for check-in. While you are moving in or doing last minute shopping, keep an eye on the time. KickStart check-in is from 11 –11:50 a.m. and you will want to get lunch before KickStart begins at 12 noon.

Commuter students/students living at home and their families: Park in Parking Lots C-North, D, I, or J. KickStart check-in is from 11–11:50 a.m. and the KickStart program begins at 12 noon.

August Move-in - Residential On-Campus Student Move-in,
For First-Year Students Living on Campus

If your student is not participating in the August 19–20 KickStart and is not on a fall sports team, their first-year move-in date is Tuesday, August 20. The Residence Life Office will post the move-in schedule on their website www.uis.edu/residencelife/.

Commuter Students/Students living at home
If your student will be driving to campus, they can purchase their parking permit during the first week of August. They can pick up their hangtag on August 20. If they are taking the bus or using other modes of transportation, make sure they arrive on campus for Semester Launch check-in from 5–6:30 p.m. and programming until 9:30 p.m. At check-in they will receive their schedule and a meal card that they will use to pay for lunches during Semester Launch programming Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday.

Please encourage them to let their supervisor know that they will be unavailable during mandatory Semester Launch sessions. We highly recommend that they take those days off so they will be able to spend more time on campus with their new classmates and enjoy all of our activities.

Semester Launch Schedule  (The schedule will be posted in July)

Tuesday, August 20 (mandatory for all First-Year students)
• Semester Launch Student Check-in, Student Union, 5–6:30 p.m.
• Orientation Group Meeting, 6:30–7:30 p.m.
• Residence Hall Floor Meetings (On-Campus Living Students), 7:30–8:20 p.m.
• Commuter Student Meeting (Off-Campus Living Students), 7:30–8:20 p.m.
• Prairie Star Connections, 8:30–9:30 p.m.
Wednesday, August 21: Mandatory sessions from 9:30 a.m.–5 p.m.

Thursday, August 22: Mandatory sessions from 9:30 a.m.–5 p.m.

Friday, August 23: Mandatory sessions from 9:30 a.m.–5 p.m.

Saturday, August 24: No mandatory programming
* FREE, Fun Welcome Week programming for all students begins

Sunday, August 25: No mandatory programming
* FREE, Fun Welcome Week programming for all students

Monday, August 26: First Day of Classes

Driving, Parking, and Arrival

You will be able to find driving directions, a printable map of campus, and parking lot information at go.uis.edu/campusmaps.

UIS GPS addresses you might find helpful for Springfield, IL 62703 (for a complete list visit go.uis.edu/gps):
- Student Union: 2251 Richard Wright Drive
- Testing Services Office (Human Resources Building): 2415 Nelson Algren Lane
- Residence Life Office (Homer Butler Commons): 2325 Richard Wright Drive
- Lincoln Residence Hall: 2160 Vachel Lindsay Drive

Parking — There will be 5-minute unloading in front of Lincoln Residence Hall. Parking Lot D is closest to the residence halls. Most of our programming will be in the Student Union and the Public Affairs Center (PAC). Guest parking is allowed in Lots C-North, D, I, J, and A.

Orientation Help Desk — 8:30–11:45 a.m. First floor of Lincoln Residence Hall. We will have OLs in Parking Lot D and the lobby of the residence hall to answer questions. OLs can take groups to Testing Services, Financial Assistance, and other offices. They will also be offering campus tours. OLs can check student baggage in secure storage until overnight housing check-in at 8 p.m.
Get Connected & Stay Informed

“Like” the Office of New Student Orientation & Parent Relations on Facebook to stay up-to-date on the latest KickStart and Semester Launch information. www.facebook.com/uisnewstudentorientation/

Parents/Family members “Like” the UIS Prairie Stars Family Association (PSFA) Facebook page to connect with other parents and learn more about the PSFA and its activities. www.facebook.com/uispsfa/

“Like” the University of Illinois Springfield page for updates and news about the UIS campus and our students. www.facebook.com/uis.edu/

Follow us @UISOrientation on Twitter for updates or use the #UISOrientation’s handle for questions while you are on campus for KickStart and Semester Launch.

Follow @uisedu and tag your pics to the UIS Instagram account by using the hashtags #UISOrientation and #MyUISLife to document your Orientation and UIS experience!

Questions about orientation programming? Contact our office.

Contact
Office of New Student Orientation & Parent Relations
Office Hours: M–F 8:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m.
(217) 206-8181
UISOrientation@uis.edu
go.uis.edu/orientation

UIS is a TOBACCO-FREE CAMPUS