



[Home](#) » [Commencement](#)

Commencement 2026

Saturday, May 9 at
the Bank of
Springfield Center in
Downtown
Springfield

Each year the University of Illinois Springfield celebrates its many outstanding graduates by holding commencement ceremonies. This year, ceremonies (divided by college)

were held to celebrate our graduates as noted below:

- 12:30 p.m. - Graduates from the College of Health, Science and Technology AND the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences
- 5:30 p.m. - Graduates from the College of Business and Management AND the College of Public Affairs and Education

Meet Up for Graduates/Faculty

The Meet Up, a lively pre-ceremony gathering for graduates, faculty, families, and supporters, was held on commencement day. This was a space to connect, share congratulations, and capture meaningful moments before heading to the commencement ceremonies.

- **Event Location:** Innovate Springfield (Horace Mann Building), 3rd Floor
- **Date/Times:** Saturday, May 9
 - 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (prior to 12:30 p.m. ceremony)
 - 3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. (prior to 5:30 p.m. ceremony)

The description for the event was as follows: Enjoy light refreshments, take photos with your graduate or colleagues, reconnect with members of the campus community, and experience the excitement of Commencement Day together. This event is co-sponsored by the divisions of Academic Affairs and Student Affairs, as well as the Center for Online Learning, Research and Service.

News



Apr 14, 2026

Employee Awareness: Commencement 2026 - Student Information

Earlier today, the message below was sent to participating students regarding this year's commencement ceremonies on May 9. This notice is being featured on...



Mar 25, 2026

Monday is Student Speaker App Deadline

FINAL REMINDER for all Graduating Students Who Plan To Participate in Commencement 2026! Our student commencement speaker is an important tradition at UIS...



Mar 20, 2026

Intent to Participate Deadline is Monday

Final Reminder: Students planning to participate **MUST** complete the following steps Step #1 – Confirm Participation Earlier today personalized emails were...



Mar 19, 2026

Reminder: Submit Your Student Speaker Application

REMINDER for all Graduating Students Who Plan To Participate in Commencement 2026! Our student commencement speaker is an important tradition at UIS. All...



Mar 16, 2026



Mar 12, 2026

REMINDER for Students Participating in Commencement

REMINDER for Students Planning to Participate in Commencement 2026!
Dear students, You are receiving this message because you may be eligible to...

Student Speaker Application Form Available!

Attention all Graduating Students Who Plan To Participate in Commencement 2026! Our student commencement speaker is an important tradition at UIS. All...

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 ... >>

Events

No upcoming events at this time. Check back soon!



[Home](#) » [Commencement](#) » Contact

Ceremony Information

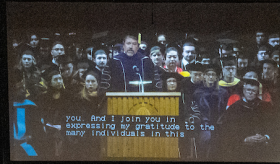
- Call [217-206-7730](tel:217-206-7730)
- Email: commencement@uis.edu
[u](#)

Ceremony
Assistance/Accommodation
(Students or Guests)

- Call [217-206-7730](tel:217-206-7730)
- Email: commencement@uis.edu
[u](mailto:commencement@uis.edu)

Eligibility to Graduate

- Call [217-206-7730](tel:217-206-7730)
- Email registrar@uis.edu



COMMENCEMENT FAQs



[Home](#) » [Commencement](#) » Commencement FAQs

Frequently Asked Questions

The 55th annual UIS Commencement ceremonies were held in downtown Springfield at the Bank of Springfield Center. Two ceremonies (divided by college) were held to celebrate our graduates on **Saturday, May 9, 2026**. Please direct any questions to commencement@uis.edu.

Please take a few moments and review the frequently asked questions pertaining to commencement below. **Note: These FAQs pertain to the 55th annual UIS Commencement ceremonies held on May 9, 2026, and will be updated for future years.**

Who can participate in commencement?



The following three groups of individuals may be eligible to participate in the upcoming commencement ceremonies if they meet all of the listed guidelines. There will be **NO** exceptions to the criteria listed below.

Please note that students can only participate in the commencement ceremony in which they are **FIRST** eligible (based upon the term for which the student submitted an online graduation application). Students cannot participate in more than one ceremony for the same degree program. Therefore, if the student already participated in or was eligible to participate in a **PREVIOUS** ceremony, participation in the upcoming ceremonies is not possible.

Summer 2025 and Fall 2025 Graduates:

These graduates are automatically eligible to participate.

Spring 2026 Candidates:

A Spring 2026 graduation application must be on file in the Office of Records and Registration no later than **Feb. 20, 2026**.

Summer 2026 Candidates:

A Summer 2026 graduation application must be on file in the Office of Records and Registration no later than **Feb. 20, 2026**. In addition, an approved Student Petition requesting to participate in commencement must also be on file in the Office of Records and Registration by **Feb. 20, 2026**.

How do I register for commencement?



Each student must complete a graduation application by **Feb. 20, 2026**. Additionally, graduates must complete an online Intent to Participate form. This form will be live on the commencement website and eligible graduates will receive an email communication when the form is available.

What happens before and during each commencement ceremony?



Graduates will check in at the Bank of Springfield Center prior to their ceremony. Staff will then escort graduates to their seats. Once the ceremony begins, the processional will begin (consisting of the platform party and faculty). After several ceremonial pieces, students will walk across the stage, have their name announced, receive a UIS diploma cover, and have their photo taken by a professional photographer with the Chancellor.

Which ceremony do I attend?



A list of academic programs by ceremony and college is listed on the "Graduates" page of the [commencement website](#).

How long will the ceremony last?



The ceremony will last approximately 90 minutes to two hours.

Do I have to wear a cap and gown?



Academic regalia is required, including a black cap and gown. It is suggested that you wear lightweight clothing and dark shoes under your cap and gown. Items such as purses should not be brought.

When will I be able to purchase a cap and gown?



Upon completion of the online Intent to Participate form, graduates will receive a link to purchase their regalia and other items (such as invitations) through Herff Jones.

When and where are diplomas mailed?



At commencement, diploma covers are presented to students by the Chancellor. Official diplomas are 8.5x11 inches and are sent by first-class mail to each student's diploma address approximately nine weeks after

your conferral date. Check your address by logging into [Student Self-Service](#) to ensure your correct address is on file.

My guests or I will require assistance/accommodations for accessibility so who should I contact?



Graduates or **Guests** with an assistance/accommodation request should contact the Office of Records and Registration (217-206-7730 or commencement@uis.edu).

Tickets, Ticket Distribution, and Accessible Seating Tickets



Tickets will be required for admission into each ceremony. A notice will be sent to students when tickets are available. Students may print or email tickets to their guests. Tickets will be general admission. Once accessible seating is assigned to those guests, their general admission tickets will be placed back in the pool for reassignment.

Overflow Seating for Those Without a Ticket



Overflow seating with livestreaming will be available in the lower level of the Bank of Springfield Center for those without a ticket. Signs will be in place noting the designated location for overflow seating.

Commencement Livestream



Access [a livestream of each ceremony](https://uis.edu/uislive) at uis.edu/uislive. The livestream will be accessible on personal devices.

Student Speaker



The student commencement speaker is an important tradition at UIS. All graduating students are invited to audition for this honor and responsibility. Speeches for the audition should be no longer than five minutes and should be presented in their entirety. Speeches will be evaluated by a faculty committee for clarity of expression, delivery, timing, appropriateness, and relevance of the topic as representative of the graduating class.

Stoles/Cords



Program marshals have the responsibility of representing their fellow graduates. Because of this responsibility, it is essential that these individuals can be identified and therefore, they wear gold stoles during commencement.

Some departments, associations and groups recognize their students with colored cords or non-gold stoles. Those seeking approval to distribute cords or non-gold stoles to their students must do so by submitting a formal request to the Registrar in the Office of Records and Registration. The request is considered, the Registrar communicates a decision to the appropriate parties, and updates the master list of approved cords, stoles, and miscellaneous items worn at commencement.

Program marshals receive gold stoles from the Office of Records and Registration on commencement day. Non-gold cords and stoles are provided by the department, association, or group that requested the recognition.

Photographs



Graduates will receive professional photo proofs in the mail. There is no obligation to purchase, and they will have the option of ordering several enlargement packages. Questions regarding photographs following commencement should be addressed to [GradImages](#).

Bookstore Info



Be sure to visit the UIS Bookstore on the UIS campus to purchase commencement-related items. [Bookstore hours](#) are posted online.

iCard for Commencement Check In



If you have an iCard, please bring it to Commencement to expedite check in. If you do not have an iCard, you can check in using your UIN and NetID.

Etiquette



Review proper [etiquette for Commencement](#).

NetID Access



Your NetID will remain active for three (3) semesters after graduation. After that time, you will no longer be able to use your NetID to access email, Canvas, or other campus services such as Box, Office 365, etc. Please see the [User Account Lifecycle for NetIDs](#) policy for more information.

First Destination Survey (FDS)



The First Destination Survey (FDS) is a national survey that is meant to gain knowledge about what activities students are engaging in after graduation from college. The information gained from the survey helps to determine institutional effectiveness and provides data for reporting needs, to enhance UIS academic offerings, and support career exploration for current and future students. Prior to commencement day, you will receive emails with additional information and be asked to complete the Outcomes Survey. By completing the survey, you will qualify to win a variety of prizes including iPads and gift cards. For further information, you may visit the [UIS Career Development](#) website.

Directions/Maps



Directions to the [Bank of Springfield Center](#) (where the commencement ceremonies will be held) can be found on the [Visitors page](#). The

University of Illinois Springfield campus is located at [One University Plaza Springfield, IL 62703](#).

Parking



Information regarding parking near the Bank of Springfield Center can be found on the [Visitors page](#).

Special Events Related to Commencement



Numerous events are being planned to help graduates celebrate. Special events will be scheduled for certain groups. Please be sure to check the [Commencement homepage](#) for more information.



[Home](#) » [Commencement](#) » Graduates

Information for Graduates

Welcome, graduates, to our most cherished tradition. The 55th annual UIS Commencement ceremonies were held in downtown Springfield at the Bank of Springfield Center. Two ceremonies (divided by college) were held to celebrate our graduates on **Saturday, May 9,**

2026. Please direct any questions to commencement@uis.edu.

Communications with specific commencement information were sent in February, March, and April and were posted below:

- Communication #1 (pdf) - Sent to all Students in **February**
- Communication #2 (pdf) - Sent to all Students in **March**
- Communication #3 (pdf) - Sent to all Participating Students in **April**

Have questions?

Check out the Commencement frequently asked questions.

FAQs

Eligibility

The following groups of individuals may have been eligible to participate in the upcoming commencement ceremonies if they met all listed guidelines. There were NO exceptions. Please note that students can only participate in the commencement ceremony in which they are FIRST eligible (based upon the term for which the student submitted an online graduation application). Students cannot participate in more than one ceremony for the same degree program. Therefore, if the student already participated in or was eligible to participate in a PREVIOUS ceremony, participation in this year's ceremonies was not possible.

- **Summer 2025 and Fall 2025 Graduates:**

Automatically eligible to participate.

- **Spring 2026 Candidates:**

A Spring 2026 graduation application must have been on file in the Office of Records and Registration no later than **Feb. 20, 2026**.

- **Summer 2026 Candidates:**

A Summer 2026 graduation application must have been on file in the Office of Records and Registration no later than **Feb. 20, 2026**. In addition, an approved Student Petition requesting to participate in commencement must have been on file in the Office of Records and Registration by **Feb. 20, 2026**.

- **DPA Students:**

You must have been deemed eligible to participate by **April 1**. Please contact your advisor for additional information.

Participation

Those planning to participate in commencement were required to complete the following two steps:

1. **Confirm participation:** Graduates were to confirm participation by submitting an online intent to participate form between **March 6 and 23**. The form is no longer live. Only those students who were eligible were able to submit their intent to participate. This step was required, even for students who were making special cap and gown arrangements (e.g., borrowing a black cap and gown).
2. **Purchase Regalia (Cap and Gown):** After clicking submit on the online intent to participate, a screen appeared with information about purchasing regalia. Graduates were to screen grab this information or be prepared to immediately follow the prompts to purchase regalia. Orders were mailed to the graduate's home or to the UIS Bookstore for pick up, as requested. **Note: The UIS Bookstore has temporarily moved into Founder's Hall and because of their reduced space, they do not have any caps or gowns on site for purchase; therefore, participating graduates who needed to purchase regalia MUST have done so online.**

Graduates are responsible for knowing and adhering to all University of Illinois Springfield policies, deadlines, and procedures. Specific graduation and commencement-related information is available in the current catalog and must be followed. Any questions related to participation should be directed to commencement@uis.edu. *

Regalia (How to Wear a Hood)

One of the most common questions about regalia is how to properly wear a master's or doctoral hood. To help, we created a [UIS-specific instructional video](#).

Student Speaker

Our student commencement speaker is an important tradition at UIS. All graduating students were eligible to audition. Representatives of the faculty selected the speaker. The chosen speaker's speech was pre-recorded and broadcast to graduates and attendees during both commencement ceremonies. If you have any questions, please email commencement@uis.edu.

Programs by Ceremony and College

SATURDAY, MAY 9 CEREMONY - 12:30 P.M.
COLLEGE OF HEALTH, SCIENCE &
TECHNOLOGY

Athletic Training

Biochemistry

Biology

Chemistry

Clinical Laboratory Science

Computer Science

Data Analytics

Environmental Health

Environmental Sciences

Environmental Studies

Exercise Science

Information Systems Security

Mathematical Sciences

Medical Laboratory Science

Philosophy

Psychology

Public Health

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS & SOCIAL SCIENCES

Art (Visual Arts)

Criminal Justice

Criminology and Criminal Justice

English

History

Human Development Counseling

Liberal & Integrative Studies

Liberal Studies

Social Work

Sociology/Anthropology

Theatre

SATURDAY, MAY 9 CEREMONY - 5:30 P.M.

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS & MANAGEMENT

Accountancy

Accounting

Business Administration

Cybersecurity Management

Economics

Finance

Healthcare Informatics

Human Resource Management

Management

Management Information Systems

COLLEGE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS & EDUCATION

Communication
Education
Educational Leadership
Educational Studies
Elementary Education
Global Studies
Human Services
International and Global Studies
Legal Studies
Middle Grades Education
Political Science
Public Administration
Public Affairs Reporting
Public Policy
Public and Nonprofit Administration
Secondary English Education
Secondary History Education
Secondary Mathematics Education
Teacher Leadership

Special Instructions for International Students

Commencement information for international students (including information for inviting guests) can be found on the [International Student Services](#) website.

* In those years when commencement is held on campus, visitors must abide by the [Visitor Behavior Policy of the UIS Performing Arts Center](#).



[Home](#) » [Online Graduate Celebration 2026](#) » Online Graduate Celebration 2026

Congratulations Graduates!

UIS Online grads, we are proud of you -- of your achievements, of your resilience, of your tenacity. Earning your degree online requires tremendous self-discipline and determination: juggling schedules, keeping organized, studying late into the night, and rising early to make deadlines.

Enjoy this day. Be proud. You've worked hard to earn it, and **we salute you!**



Chancellor Janet Gooch Commencement Message

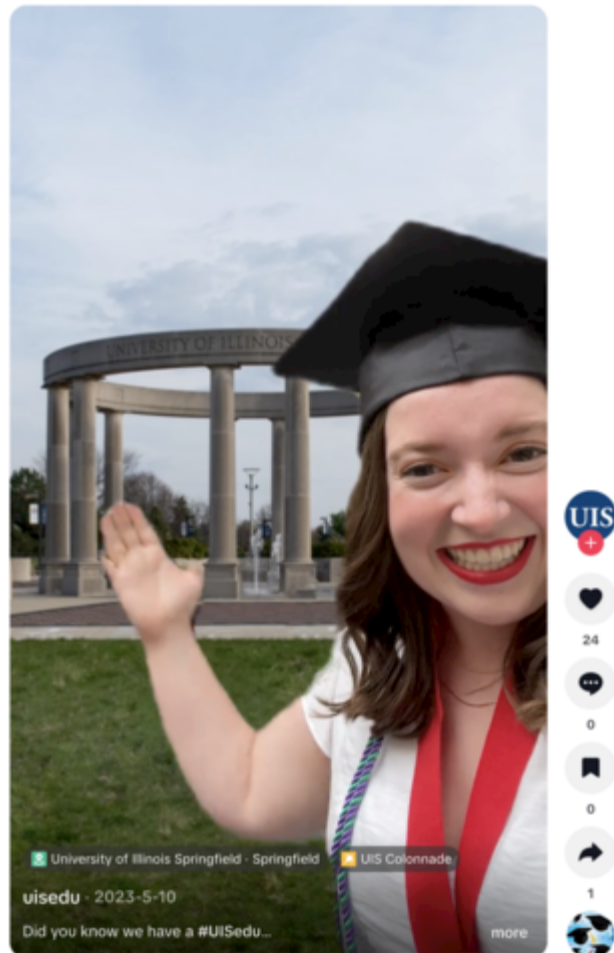
University of Illinois Springfield



Watch on

Virtual Gifts for the Class of 2026

To help you virtually celebrate, UIS has created multiple AR effects available on [TikTok](#). Take your photo in front of the colonnade or try on a graduation cap, UIS baseball cap, or UIS beanie and share your photos or videos with **#UISedu**.



Join the #UISedu Commencement Celebration

Join the [Commencement Celebration](#) and use #UISedu when posting photos or congratulatory messages on social media and remember to follow on your favorite social channel TikTok, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat and Facebook!

The Online Graduating Class of 2026

Search for graduate names below and select to see their details.

Search for students...

Afia Abbas

Cybersecurity
Management

**Zain Ahmed
Abbasi**

Master of
Business
Administration

**Shakhriyor
Abduvaliev**

Computer Science

**Hassan
Abouelkheir**

Cybersecurity
Management

**Samantha May
Acheke**

Mathematical
Sciences

Samuel Addo

Master of
Business
Administration

**Ademola
Adedeji**

Cybersecurity
Management

**Adeola
Oluwatobi
Aderinwale**

Finance

Andrew Adjetej

Master of
Business
Administration

**Farida I
Akhmadullina**

Data Analytics

Roth Colbert

Bachelor in
Business
Administration

Renee Cole

Finance

**Ernestine
Coleman**

Master of
Business
Administration

**Marisol Corral
Quinones**

Human Resource
Management

**Eduardo Costa
Freire**

Finance

Mikaila Couch

Cybersecurity
Management

Ami Crane

Human Resource
Management

**Alexander
Cummings**

Computer Science

**Madaline Rose
Cunningham-
Reidy**

Public
Administration

Claire Daly

Human Services

Cierra Daniel

Cybersecurity
Management

**Neil Craig
Hohenstein**

Master of
Business
Administration

**Curtis Roy
Homann**

Master of
Business
Administration

**Haylee Louise
Hornback**

Master of
Business
Administration

**Alexander
Douglas Hoskins**

Environmental
Sciences

Alicia Howard

Master of
Business
Administration

**Jonathan
Sianguk Hrang**

Management
Information
Systems

Tam Minh Hua

Computer Science

**Malik
Humphries**

Cybersecurity
Management

Jane Hyder

Political Science

**David Benjamin
Igolnikov**

**David Nicas
Mhenga**

Computer Science

**Evan
Christopher
Miller**

Master of
Business
Administration

**Tekoa Rozia
Miller**

Master of
Business
Administration

Filip Milosevic

Finance

**Jean Paul
Miranda**

Cybersecurity
Management

**Nelson Augusto
Mogollon**

Management
Information
Systems

**Gameelah
Mohamed**

Public
Administration

**Zeeshan
Mohammed**

Computer Science

**Natalie Nicole
Molburg**

Psychology

**Jocelyn M
Morales**

Master of

**Katherine
Earlene
Schneider**

Bachelor in
Business
Administration

**Amy Renee
Schroeder**

Master of
Business
Administration

Hunter Schulte

Master of
Business
Administration

Lauren Seliga

Political Science

**Kimberly Rose
Serocki**

Psychology

**Jami Sue
Severino**

Master of
Business
Administration

**Yash
Ashvinkumar
Shah**

Finance

**Kelsey Lynn
Shanle**

Public
Administration

Susan Shanley

Legal Studies

Wyatt Shannon

Finance



[Home](#) » [Commencement](#) » Faculty

Information for UIS Faculty

Welcome, faculty, to our most cherished tradition. The 55th annual UIS Commencement ceremonies were held in downtown Springfield at the Bank of Springfield Center. Two ceremonies (divided by college) were held to celebrate our graduates on **Saturday, May 9,**

2026. Please direct any questions to commencement@uis.edu.

Faculty Participation/Regalia

The online **Faculty Participation and Regalia form** is no longer live.

If you submitted the online Faculty Participation and Regalia form indicating that you will be participating, commencement information was sent to you.

Please read the following additional notes carefully:

- If you planned to participate and had special needs/accommodation requests, you were to have emailed commencement@uis.edu.
- If you ordered regalia as part of the Faculty Participation and Regalia form submission, items were delivered to your college office in late April/early May.
- If your participation plans changed after your submission, you were asked to email commencement@uis.edu. Please be aware that, while it may have been possible to submit late regalia orders after the final deadline date, only the home ship option was available and the cost for home shipping was the responsibility of the faculty member.

Meet Up for Graduates/Faculty

The Meet Up, a lively pre-ceremony gathering for graduates, faculty, families, and supporters, was held on commencement day. This was a space to connect, share congratulations, and capture meaningful moments before heading to the commencement ceremonies.

- **Event Location:** Innovate Springfield (Horace Mann Building), 3rd Floor
- **Date/Times:** Saturday, May 9
 - 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (prior to 12:30 p.m. ceremony)
 - 3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. (prior to 5:30 p.m. ceremony)

Parking

Due to other events happening in downtown Springfield on commencement day, we asked that faculty allow extra time for arrival and to locate parking. A number of options were available, including parking ramps, parking lots, and street parking (meters are free on weekends). You were asked to visit the [Springfield Convention and Visitors Bureau](#) website to plan your trip downtown.

Ceremony Information

The Faculty Robing Room was located in the lower level of the Bank of Springfield Center. You were asked to look for room signs on the day of the ceremonies.



[Home](#) » [Commencement](#) » [Guests and Visitors](#)

Information for Guests and Visitors

Welcome, visitors, to our most cherished tradition. The 55th annual UIS Commencement ceremonies were held in downtown Springfield at the Bank of Springfield Center. Two ceremonies (divided by college) were held to celebrate our graduates on **Saturday, May 9,**

2026. Please direct any questions to commencement@uis.edu.

Commencement Program

Those attending commencement in person received a printed program that included summarized ceremony information. Past complete commencement programs (including graduate names, etc.) are posted below:

- [2026 Commencement Program](#) (pdf)
- [2025 Commencement Program](#) (pdf)
- [2024 Commencement Program](#) (pdf)

Assistance/Information

Guests could visit the information desk in the Bank of Springfield Center's lobby for questions and assistance.

Directions/Maps

Address for the Bank of Springfield Center: [Convention Center Plaza #1, Springfield, IL 62701](#)

The Center's parking ramp is located at the corner of 7th and Washington streets. Other special events were being held downtown on commencement day. Therefore, it was highly recommended that you allow extra time for heavy traffic and parking (parking information can be found below).

Address for the University of Illinois Springfield campus: [One University Plaza Springfield, IL 62703](#)

Gifts for Graduates

If you would like to purchase gifts for your graduate, the [UIS Bookstore](#) has a number of items for sale. In addition, the [Commencement Group](#) offers a variety of items, including T-shirts and flowers.

Parking

Due to other events happening in downtown Springfield on commencement day, guests/visitors were asked to allow extra time for arrival and to locate parking. A number of options were available, including parking ramps, parking lots, and street parking (meters are free on

weekends). You were asked to visit the [Springfield Convention and Visitors Bureau](#) website to plan your trip downtown.

Special Needs

Wheelchairs for transport are not available at the Bank of Springfield Center. **Graduates** or **Guests** with an assistance/accommodation were asked to contact the Office of Records and Registration at 217-206-7730 or commencement@uis.edu.

Springfield Information

For information related to Springfield, including lodging and restaurants, visit the [Springfield Convention and Visitors Bureau UIS Friends and Family page](#).

Hotels

The following hotels may have extended discounted rates to family members and friends attending the UIS Commencement Ceremonies. You were asked to mention "UIS Commencement" when calling to make reservations.

Candlewood Suites

2501 Sunrise Dr.

Springfield, IL 62703

217-522-5100

[Candlewood Suites Hotel Information/Rates](#)

Carpenter Street Hotel

525 N 6th St.

Springfield, IL 62702

217-789-9100

[Carpenter Street Hotel Information/Rates](#)

Comfort Suites

2620 South Dirksen Parkway

Springfield, IL 62703

217-615-4445

[Comfort Suites Hotel Information/Rates](#)

Holiday Inn Express

3050 South Dirksen Pkwy

Springfield, IL 62703

888-465-4329

[Holiday Inn Express Room Information/Rates](#)

President Abraham Lincoln a Doubletree by Hilton Hotel

701 E Adams St

Springfield, IL 62701

217-544-8800

[President Abraham Lincoln a Doubletree by Hilton Hotel Room Information/Rates](#)

Residence Inn

2915 Stanford Ave.

Springfield, IL 62703

217-527-1100

[Residence Inn Room Information/Rates](#)

SpringHill Suites

3921 MacArthur Blvd.

Springfield, IL 62711

217-789-0000

[SpringHill Suites Room Information/Rates](#)