

# Member Colleges and Universities

1. Augustana College, Rock Island
2. Benedictine University, Lisle
3. Blackburn College, Carlinville
4. Concordia University Chicago, River Forest
5. Dominican University, River Forest
6. Elmhurst College, Elmhurst
7. Eureka College, Eureka
8. Greenville College, Greenville
9. Illinois College, Jacksonville
10. Knox College, Galesburg
11. Lewis University, Romeoville
12. McKendree University, Lebanon
13. Millikin University, Decatur
14. Monmouth College, Monmouth
15. North Central College, Naperville
16. North Park University, Chicago
17. Olivet Nazarene University, Bourbonnais
18. Principia College, Elsau
19. Quincy University, Quincy
20. Rockford University, Rockford
21. Trinity Christian College, Palos Heights
22. University of St. Francis, Joliet



## Associated Colleges of Illinois



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**Associated Colleges of Illinois (ACI) helps first-generation, minority and low-income students succeed in college, career and life, and supports member schools advancing liberal arts education.**

## The Liberal Arts: Backbone of American Education

American independent higher education has a history which began before the U.S. Constitution was written. By teaching subjects such as languages, literature, mathematics, social and physical sciences, institutions of higher learning have been and continue to be the furnace which fires the economic growth and development of our state, nation and the global community. Throughout history many of the significant advances in health, economic welfare, care of the environment, defense, and breakthroughs in astronomy, chemistry, earth sciences and mathematics have come from independent colleges and universities that focus on a liberal arts curriculum.

**91%**

Nearly all employers (91 percent) agree that for career success, "a candidate's demonstrated capacity to think critically, communicate clearly and solve complex problems is more important than his or her undergraduate major."  
(Association of American Colleges & Universities)

In Illinois today, independent colleges and universities represent an engine for stability and expansion which began more than 278 years ago, including important milestones in commerce and scholarly research.

## Investing in the Future

ACI promotes quality choices in higher education for an underserved student population, assuring access to a multitude of subjects and affordable learning environments, tailored to the needs of today's diverse learners and changing workplaces.

Graduates of ACI member colleges and universities are today's community and corporate leaders. They are problem solvers and creators who think critically and communicate clearly, while aspiring to live and work within an ethical framework vital to the future success of our nation.

These graduates are highly skilled, trainable and ready to work. Investing in these students helps create a "brain trust" for Illinois.

**77%**

77 percent of 18- to 24-year-old private college students are registered to vote.  
(The Council of Independent Colleges)

## ACI Highlights

**64-year**

history of service to Illinois colleges and universities

More than

**\$70 million**

in scholarships awarded to Illinois college students since 1952

22 member colleges and universities serving more than

**55,000 students**

**Higher graduation and retention rates than Illinois public universities**

## ACI Programs

**ACI raises scholarship funds** from corporations, foundations and individuals for deserving first-generation, minority and low-income students attending member colleges and universities, to underwrite tuition and related expenses. In fiscal 2015, there were more than 325 scholarships awarded.

**ACI's Emergency Financial Aid Program** provides funds to meet the financial needs of students facing unanticipated hardship which can disrupt their academic studies during the school year. Emergency financial aid enables students from low-to-moderate income families the opportunity to continue their studies without interruption, even if they suffer reversals of fortune once they are enrolled at an ACI institution.

**49%**

of Bachelor of Arts degrees last year were awarded to first-generation students.  
(President of ACI-affiliated college)

**The Peer Mentoring Program** increases the number of first-generation, minority and low-income college students who remain in school, succeed and graduate from ACI member colleges and universities. The program matches at-risk college freshmen with peer mentors – trained juniors or seniors – from similar backgrounds.

The retention rate for students participating in the Peer Mentoring Program is as high as 97 percent. Beginning in fall 2016, Peer Mentoring programs will operate on seven member campuses, serving 150 students.