



Associated Colleges of Illinois

Arianna Jones
North Central College
CIC/UPS Scholarship

Arianna Jones is a student-athlete at [North Central College](#) in Naperville, Illinois, where she majors in health science. She is also a long-jumper, triple-jumper and sprinter for the women's track and field team. From the south side of Chicago, Jones, a sophomore, chose North Central because it was close to home, and she could participate as a track athlete. Plus, North Central College helped make her education affordable with grants, scholarships and loans, she says.



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Originally, Jones was a biology major, but turned her attention to a health science major. "I felt that it was more in my realm of experience and my realm of understanding of things I wanted to accomplish," she says. She's focused on becoming a child-life specialist, similar to a pediatric diagnosis counselor. The important part is being able to help children in medical settings, Jones says.

"I feel kids need someone to understand them. I've been working with kids for almost 10 years as a volunteer teachers' assistant at my church. I work very well with children," Jones says. In

medical settings, children need someone to listen and explain things, and parents need to understand medical treatments, Jones says.

Jones funds her North Central education with an ACI General Scholarship and other sources of grants and scholarships. The ACI scholarship helped her avoid additional loan debt, she says. "It didn't make sense to take out more loans because over the long run it would hurt me more. Receiving the scholarship put me back on track to be able to afford college," Jones says. "I actually cried when I got the scholarship because I was overwhelmed and enthused that someone took the time to care about my future as much as I cared about my future. I'm so grateful that I even was selected."

In addition to her track and field experience, Jones participates in the college's Black Student Association, where she is secretary, and North Central's OUTreach, which promotes understanding about lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender issues.