An Overview of Illinois' Direct Admissions Program "One Click College Admit"



Presentation to the Illinois Board of Higher Education March 12, 2025

Ginger Ostro, Executive Director

Colleen Sexton, Assistant Director, Transfer Initiatives

Goals for a Thriving Illinois



Close the equity gaps for students who have been left behind.



Increase talent and innovation to drive economic growth.

5 Consider implementation of a direct admissions program.

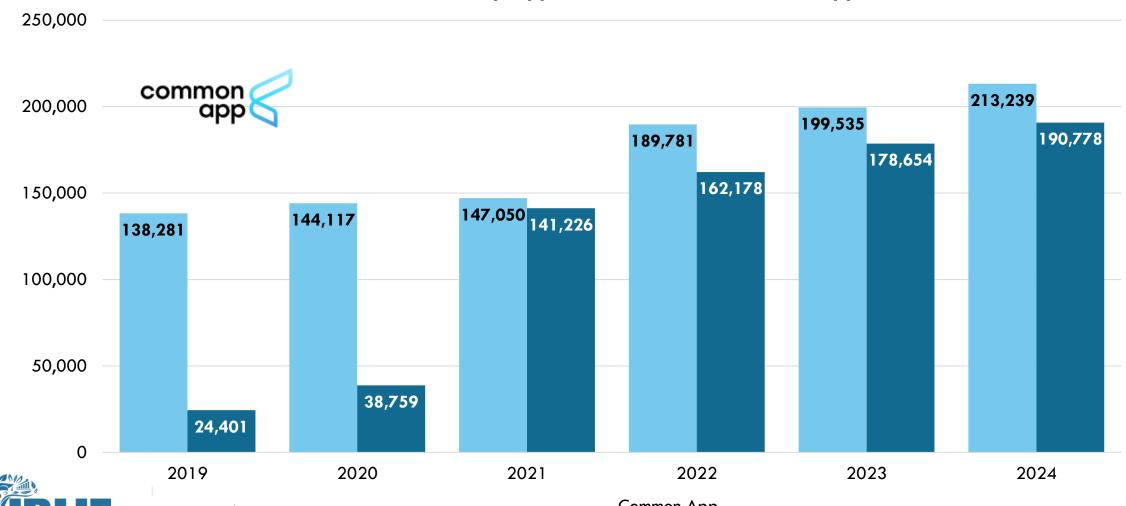
Encourage high school graduates to enroll in our higher education system and keep talent in Illinois.



Build a stronger financial future for individuals and institutions.

Common App has led to dramatic increases in applications, including for students from low-income families and students of color

Total Illinois Public University Application Volume, Common App Volume



Direct Admission Idaho



Undergraduate Enrollment

- 3.1% increase in overall full-time enrollment
 - Greatest gains by the two-year Community Colleges
- 88% increase in applications to colleges and universities
- Increased state's college going rate by 6.7%

In-state Enrollment

- Increased by 8-15% since its inception in 2015
- 3% less students are leaving Idaho for out-of-state colleges and universities
- Positive impact for the state workforce and economic development.

Economically Disadvantaged

- Students with a GPA between 2.81 3.0 received a Direct Admission (DA) offer that included the state's two selective enrollment institutions due to their high SAT scores; of those 53.7% have economic disadvantage status.
- No direct influence on enrollment of Pell-eligible students or students of color



Sources: Jennifer A. Delaney, "Direct Admissions: Reducing Inequality in College Admissions." PowerPoint for Thurgood Marshall Institute, Protecting and Expanding Education Access. June 29, 2023; Taylor K. Odle and Jennifer A. Delaney, "You are Admitted! Early Evidence on Enrollment from Idaho's Direct Admissions System." Research in Higher Education (2022): 899-932; and Jennifer A. Delaney and Taylor K. Odle, "Reducing Red Tape through Simplification: How Idaho Radically Reimagined College Admissions." Hack The Gates: Radically Reimagine Admissions (2020): 1-11; Source: Burns, R., Chawla, S., & Collins, C. (2024). The Impact of the Idaho Direct Admissions Program on Institution Selectivity. State Higher Education Executive Officers 4 Association. https://sheeo.org/wpcontent/uploads/2024/05/Idaho_Direct-AdmissionsImpact.pdf

Direct Admission Minnesota

Undergraduate Enrollment

- AY24, 120 high schools participated
- 20,000 students received a personalized letter offering direct admission (DA); 4,858 accepted the offer



In-state Enrollment

- In the fall after HS graduation, 46% of the direct admission students were enrolled in a MN college, compared to 28% of those students who did not accept the DA offer
- Enrollment by race/ethnicity compared to 12th students who did not participate in direct admissions was:
 - Black 63% / 38%
 - Latino 47% / 20%
 - White 46% / 27%

FAFSA Completion

- Direct admission students had higher FAFSA filing rates (76% compared to 50% of all other 12th grade students)
- High schools participating in DA had higher FAFSA filing rates as compared to the two years preceding participation in DA













Public University Direct Program Act HB3522 and SB2448

COLLABORATIVE EFFORT

Directs IBHE, ICCB, ISAC, and ISBE to establish and administer a statewide direct admissions program.

TARGET AUDIENCE

All Illinois high school seniors for admission to their local community college, and to public universities where they meet the minimum GPA admission criteria

Public community college students who meet transfer requirements to IL public universities



STEP 1

High school parents' opt-in to the direct admissions program as parents register their students prior to their junior year of high school.

Each year, public universities (with exception of UIUC and UIC), submit min. GPA to ISAC by March 1st.

STEP 3

ISAC, in collaboration with the IBHE and ICCB, determines which students meet the minimum GPA for each university and will identify their local community college.

STEP 2

High School and Community Colleges provide student information, including email addresses and GPAs for those students who have opted-in, to ISAC by July 1.

STEP 4

High school students and community college transfer students will be notified of their direct admission offers through a statewide portal. Public universities and community colleges may also directly inform admitted students.

Implementation Timeline: Fall 2027 Enrollment

Fall 2025

 August 2025 School districts begin collecting opt-in forms during registration for high school juniors; community colleges begin collecting opt-in forms for transfer students.

Spring 2026

• **Beginning March 1, 2026 (Annually after)** Public universities submit GPA admission standards; UIC/UIUC submit out-reach and access criteria.

Summer 2026

By July 1, 2026, High schools begin providing junior/rising senior student data to ISAC for admission determinations. Community colleges will begin to provide transfer student data to ISAC for admission determinations.

Fall 2026

 September 2026 First direct admission offers, and pre-selection notifications issued for enrollment in Fall 2027.

August 1, 2029

Program report submitted to the Governor and General Assembly.



One Click College Admit: High School Program Overview



One Click College Admit is Illinois' free, quick, and stress-free direct admissions program into the state's participating universities. With only their GPA, graduating high school students are directly admitted to one or more Illinois public universities!

One Click College Admit

- Removes application fees, essays, and letters of recommendation
- Expedites the admission process
- Ensures students, who meet eligibility criteria, a spot at an Illinois university
- Reminds students of open enrollment at their local Community College























SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

EDWARDSVILLE













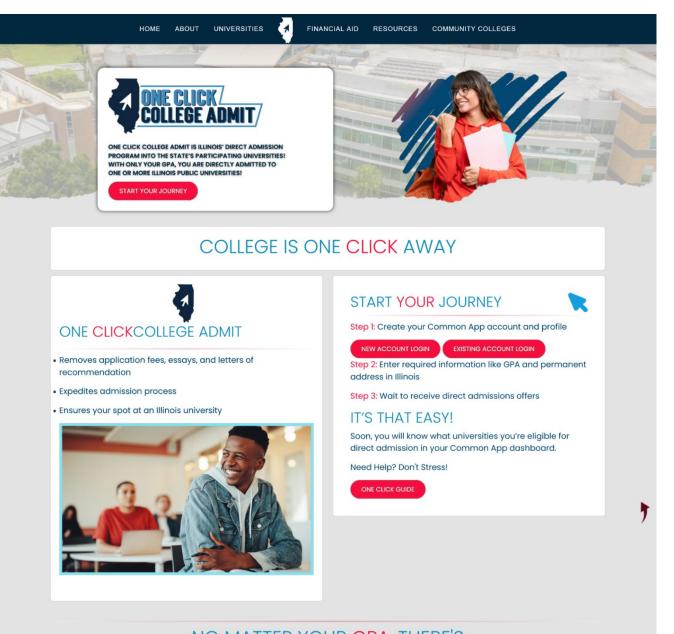






Where do students start?

www.oneclickadmit.org





NO MATTER YOUR GPA, THERE'S AN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY FOR YOU!

Illinois One Click College Admit Getting Admissions Offers

- To receive One Click College Admit offers, students:
 - Create a Common App account (or have an existing account)
 - Indicate their permanent home address in IL
 - Enter their GPA and GPA scale (One Click College Admit guide provides step by step directions)
- That's it at this point there is no need to complete the full application inside Common App
- Eligibility match process will run weekly
- Institutions verify with transcripts before enrollment





One Click College Admit Data

Data since the mid-January 2025 launch with 8 participating public universities



Undergraduate enrollment

- 63,969 students have been offered One Click admission
- 1,569 have applied to at least one One Click institution
- 5,661 have indicated interest in at least one of the One Click institutions



Student Profiles

- 3,175 of the 5,661 identified as first-gen
- 954 of the first-gen students applied to at least one of the universities
- 2,626 of the 5,661 are low income (fee waiver eligible)
- 2,619 live in a zip code below the median income level



Work Underway to Include Transfer Students in One Click



Learn from Current Universities Build ICCB/IBHE/ ISAC Data Match

Comms and Outreach Campaign

Launch OneClick



