



# ISAC Services & Resources



# Agenda

1. ISAC Website
2. ISAC Services for Counselors
3. ISAC Student Portal

# ISAC Website

# ISAC Homepage

The screenshot shows the ISAC homepage with the following elements:

- Header:** ISAC Illinois Student Assistance Commission logo on the left. Navigation links: COUNSELORS, E-LIBRARY, FAA'S, GAP ACCESS, SEARCH.
- Left Sidebar:** HOME, STUDENTS & PARENTS >, COLLEGE ILLINOIS! >, RESEARCH & POLICY >, NEWSROOM, ABOUT ISAC >.
- Main Content Area:** A yellow banner for "Important information for Undocumented & Transgender Students". Below it, a blue box titled "ALTERNATIVE APPLICATION FOR ILLINOIS FINANCIAL AID" with the text "A new path for qualified undocumented students and transgender students who are not eligible for federal financial aid to apply for MAP grants" and "Available January 6". A green "LEARN MORE" button is present.
- Navigation Bar:** A row of buttons: Alternative App, State Scholars, College Outreach, **MAP Dates** (circled in red), FAFSA Initiative.
- Footer:** College Changes Everything, Professional Development, MAP Matters, GEAR UP, Illinois PaCE.
- Featured Section:** A red circle highlights the word "Featured". Below it, a video thumbnail titled "RISE Act & Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid" is shown. To the right, a text block asks "What's your path after high school? ISAC can help you find it..." and includes a video thumbnail for "Celebrating 10 Years ISACorps".

# Students & Parents

The image shows a screenshot of the ISAC (Illinois Student Assistance Commission) website. The top navigation bar includes links for COUNSELORS, E-LIBRARY, FAA'S, GAP ACCESS, and a SEARCH box. The main header features the ISAC logo and a large banner for 'CONGRATULATIONS ILLINOIS STATE SCHOLARS!' for the 2020-2021 year. A left-hand navigation menu is visible, with 'STUDENTS & PARENTS' highlighted by a red arrow. A dropdown menu is open for 'STUDENTS & PARENTS', listing options: Before College - Planning, During College - Paying, After College, Parents, and Español. Below the dropdown, there are buttons for 'Alternative App', 'State Scholars', 'College Outreach', 'MAP Dates', and 'FAFSA Initiative'. The footer contains links for 'College Changes Everything', 'Professional Development', 'MAP Matters', 'GEAR UP', and 'Illinois PaCE'.

ISAC  
Illinois Student Assistance Commission

COUNSELORS E-LIBRARY FAA'S GAP ACCESS SEARCH

HOME  
STUDENTS & PARENTS  
COLLEGE ILLINOIS!@>  
RESEARCH & POLICY >  
NEWSROOM  
ABOUT ISAC >

Before College - Planning  
During College - Paying  
After College  
Parents  
Español

STATE SCHOLARS

Alternative App State Scholars College Outreach MAP Dates FAFSA Initiative

College Changes Everything Professional Development MAP Matters GEAR UP Illinois PaCE

# Before College

Before College - Planning   During College - Paying   After College   Parents   Español

Home > Students & Parents > Before College - Planning

## Before College

You have big plans. Big dreams. You know college is where to start. But a dream is not enough. College doesn't just happen; you have to work to make it a reality.

ISAC can help you and your family navigate through the college and financial planning process, so you get to the school and program that's right for you with a smart financial plan to manage college costs.

Explore the host of tools - and people - we offer to help you achieve your dreams. From online resources to explore careers, find colleges, and learn about applying for financial aid, to in person presentations and one-on-one assistance from our ISACorps members, we've got you covered.

### College and Career Exploration and Planning

Check out our online tools to research careers, find the best college match for you, familiarize yourself with the college admissions process and, and even complete the admissions process online. Find the ISACorps member in your area who can assist you with the college navigating and admissions process.

### Financial Aid Planning: Completing the FAFSA®

Sound college planning means exploring not only careers, colleges and programs, but also how you will pay for college. This section provides important information and resources to help you with the crucial first step in applying for financial aid: completing the FAFSA®. Take that first step and learn about how to complete the FAFSA by checking out our online information, attending a presentation in your area, and working with your local ISACorps member.

### Making an Informed College Choice

You've gone through the college admission process, applied for financial aid, and now it's time to narrow your choices to the school you will attend. Here's where you will find information to help you weigh your options, understand your financial aid award letter(s), and plan for the transition to college.

- About The ISACorps
- College And Career Exploration And Planning
- Financial Aid Planning
- Making An Informed College Choice
- Outreach Activities/Event Calendar

# Quick Links

The image shows a dark teal navigation menu for the ISAC website. The menu is organized into four columns. The first column, titled 'Quick Links', contains links for Borrowers, Counselors, e-Library, FAAs, GAP Access, IDAPP, Lenders, Military Service, Non-Eligible, Non-Citizens, and Transcript Exchange. The second column, titled 'About ISAC', contains links for Contact ISAC, Employment, Executive Director, The Commission, and FOIA. The third column, titled 'Social Networks', features icons for Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube. The fourth column contains the phone number '800.899.ISAC (4722)', 'e-Messaging' with the subtext 'Get the latest news & updates from ISAC', 'Order ISAC Materials', and 'Applications'. Two red circles are drawn on the image: one around the 'Quick Links' header and another around the 'Order ISAC Materials' link.

- Quick Links
  - Borrowers
  - Counselors
  - e-Library
  - FAAs
  - GAP Access
  - IDAPP
  - Lenders
  - Military Service
  - Non-Eligible, Non-Citizens
  - Transcript Exchange
- About ISAC
  - Contact ISAC
  - Employment
  - Executive Director
  - The Commission
  - FOIA
- Social Networks
  - Facebook
  - Twitter
  - Instagram
  - YouTube
- 800.899.ISAC (4722)
- e-Messaging
  - Get the latest news & updates from ISAC
- Order ISAC Materials
- Applications

# Information for Professionals

**ISAC**  
Illinois Student Assistance Commission

COUNSELORS E-LIBRARY FAA'S GAP ACCESS SEARCH

HOME  
STUDENTS & PARENTS >  
COLLEGE ILLINOIS! >  
RESEARCH & POLICY >  
NEWSROOM  
ABOUT ISAC >

Home E-Library

## E-Library for Partners

- 1. Partner E-Messages & Newsletters**  
This month's e-Messages and the monthly/quarterly ISAC Updates and Communique
- 2. Partner Training**  
ISAC training and event calendars and online registration
- 3. Applications, Forms & Brochures**  
Scholarship, grant, and loan repayment/forgiveness applications, common FFELP forms and ISAC brochures
- 4. Administrative Rules**  
Current and previous year's ISAC Rules, Proposed Rules if applicable
- 5. ISAC Governing Board: The Commission**  
Meeting schedules, Commissioner biographies, Agenda Books
- 6. Manuals & Handbooks**  
Common Manual, Federal Student Aid Handbook, Counselors and Mentors Handbook, Handbook of Illinois Postsecondary Institutions

Partner E-Messages And Newsletters  
Partner Training  
Applications, Forms, Brochures  
Administrative Rules  
The Commission  
Outreach Events  
Electronic Tools  
Applying For Financial Aid  
ISAC Transcript Exchange  
Federal Information  
Job Aids And Reference Materials  
Press Releases And State Legislative Update  
Research, Policy Analysis & Statistics  
Advisory Groups



# ISAC Services for Counselors

# FAFSA Completion Initiative

- Promotes FAFSA Completion by providing data on the number of FAFSAs completed by school
- Search and sort features allow users to easily find and compare data from Illinois high schools
  - Data updated on a weekly basis



# FAFSA Completion By School

†Please note disclaimer below.

Find a Local Financial Aid Workshop

## FAFSA Completion by School: 2020-2021

As of December 30, 2019, 48% of high school seniors have completed a FAFSA

Search will|

REGION	COUNTY	DISTRICT	HIGH SCHOOL	CITY	YEAR	#STUDENTS	#FAFSAS	%FAFSAS
56	Will	35	JOLIET CATHOLIC ACADEMY	JOLIET	2020	128	90	70%
56	Will	204	JOLIET CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL	JOLIET	2020	703	218	31%
	Will		JOLIET TOWNSHIP ALTERNATIVE HIGH SCHOOL	JOLIET	2020	13	0	0%
56	Will	204	JOLIET TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL WEST	JOLIET	2020	887	333	38%

Showing 1 to 38 of 38 entries (filtered from 946 total entries)

# GAP Access

- What is it?
  - Provides participating high schools the ability to identify which of their students have completed the FAFSA or the Alternative Application each academic year
  - Data includes:
    - Student names
    - Eligibility for MAP Grant
    - Aggregate #s of how many students are eligible for the Monetary Award Program (MAP) and the federal Pell Grant Program; expected family contribution (EFC) ranges
    - listing of the first-choice colleges to which students sent their application results.
  - High school principals [sign up](#) for participation through the [GAP Access](#) portal of ISAC's website
- For assistance, contact Mary Lewis at [Mary.Lewis@Illinois.gov](mailto:Mary.Lewis@Illinois.gov)

GAP ACCESS  
ISAC GR Assistance Program

JJ Pritzker, Governor,  
State of Illinois

User Login

Login

User ID

Password

Login

[Forgot Password?](#) [Forgot User ID?](#)

[Click here to register](#)

**\*\*COMPUTER SYSTEM USAGE WARNING\*\***

This is an Illinois Student Assistance Commission (State of Illinois) computer system, which may be accessed and used only for official business by authorized personnel. Unauthorized access or use of this computer system may subject violators to criminal, civil, and/or administrative action.

All information on this computer system may be intercepted, recorded, read, copied, and disclosed by and to authorized personnel for official purposes, including criminal investigations. Access or use of this


# State Scholars Program

- Early announcements
  - Schools will have the option of participating in an early announcement cycle – announcements will be made on a regular schedule
- Congratulatory letters & certificates
  - Congratulatory letters will be sent out at the same time as the announcements
  - Schools will have the option of printing their own certificates
    - This option will allow schools to reprint certificates at any time
- Regular announcements
  - Schools that do not wish to participate will receive announcements as regularly scheduled (around November)

# College Changes Everything (CCE) Campaign

- The mission of the CCE campaign is to encourage students to complete college applications and a financial aid application.
- Schools and organizations can participate in the CCE campaign by:
  - Submit an Outreach Request Form and check they are interested to participate in CCE
  - Conduct one college application workshop and one Financial Aid Application Completion Workshop between Labor day and Thanksgiving



 Illinois Student Assistance Commission

## Outreach Request Form

To request an ISAC representative for your event, please email this completed Outreach Request Form no more than **six (6)** months and no less than **three (3)** weeks prior to the event to [isac.outreach@illinois.gov](mailto:isac.outreach@illinois.gov).  
Your event will be added to our websites at [www.isac.org/students/before-college/outreach-activities/event-calendar/](http://www.isac.org/students/before-college/outreach-activities/event-calendar/). All events are free and open to the public.

### SECTION I – Event Logistics

Event Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Event Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Event Time: From: \_\_\_\_\_ a.m. To: \_\_\_\_\_ a.m.  
MM/DD/YYYY p.m. p.m.

If first choice for date is not available, please indicate second choice: \_\_\_\_\_

Event Location: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address Building/Room Number  
City State ZIP Code

Event Contact: \_\_\_\_\_  
First Name Last Name  
Title Organization  
( )  
Area Code & Phone Number & Extension Email Address (required)

### SECTION II – Event Profile

**Outreach Event Type:** (select one) – *See following pages for descriptions.*  
 The Financial Aid Process Presentation  FAFSA Completion Workshop  Information table

*If selecting one of the events below, please enter specific event name from descriptions on following pages.*

Financial Aid/Literacy event: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Postsecondary Exploration/Preparation event: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Career Exploration event: \_\_\_\_\_

**Language** (select one):  English  Spanish

**Anticipated Number of Attendees:**  Under 20  21-30  31-50  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Audience** (select as many as apply):  
 Freshmen  Juniors  Sophomores  Seniors  Parents  Professionals/Educators  
 Younger than high school  Nontraditional students  Adult learners  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**College Changes Everything 2019 Campaign**  
 Yes! I'm interested in being a College Changes Everything (CCE) site by having a FAFSA and college application workshop in the fall. [CCE sites will receive promotional materials for their FAFSA & application workshop.]

### For ISAC Use Only

ORF Received	Recorded in OD	Staff Assigned	Confirmed	OD Complete
ISAC #F3249 (ONK3249) 08/05/2019				Printed by authority of the State of Illinois

# ISAC Transcript Exchange

- ISAC Transcript Exchange
  - Through **Parchment** – a digital credential service
  - Electronic exchange of transcript information for Illinois students
- No Cost
  - Service is free for high schools when transcripts are sent electronically to any participating college worldwide
    - Including schools on the NCAA and Common App
- To participate or learn more, contact:
  - Lenore Smith
  - [Lenore.Smith@Illinois.gov](mailto:Lenore.Smith@Illinois.gov)
  - (217) 685-2678

## ISAC Transcript Exchange

*Attention Students:* The information on this page describes the process by which Illinois high schools can participate in the ISAC Transcript Exchange. Students who wish to request that their academic transcripts be sent to their prospective college(s) should contact their high school guidance counselor for assistance.



[Overview](#)

[No Cost](#)

[Register to Participate](#)

### Overview

The ISAC Transcript Exchange, through [Parchment Exchange](#) enables the electronic exchange of transcript information for Illinois students.

Launched in fall 2011, the service provides the opportunity for students to request that transcripts be sent electronically to the college(s) of their choice. To protect the privacy and confidentiality of transcript data, documents are sent through a secure transcript service in compliance with the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

# ISACorps

- Recent college graduates
- Near-peer mentoring
  - One-on-one assistance for students and their families
  - College and career exploration
  - Completing Financial Aid Applications
- Presentations and workshops
  - The Financial Aid Process
  - Financial Aid Application workshops
  - College Application workshops
- Find your ISACorps member
  - Search by zip code

## Find Your ISACorps Member

The ISACorps are here to help you through the college planning process! ISACorps members are recent college graduates from across the state that can help you with the ins and outs of selecting and applying to college, scholarship searches, FAFSA completion, and student financial aid. Meet with your local ISACorps member for free one-on-one assistance or at FREE college fairs and financial aid workshops in your community.



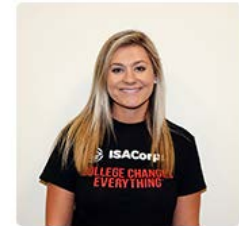
Simone Bridgeforth

community college district  
assigned to:

ILLINOIS CENTRAL COLLEGE

✉ Simone.Bridgeforth@illinois.gov

☎ (309) 408-4175



Emily Blankenship

community college district  
assigned to:

ILLINOIS CENTRAL COLLEGE

✉ Emily.Blankenship@illinois.gov

☎ (309) 370-5216



# Resources Available

- Resources available on how to help students complete FAFSA, learn about different initiatives and resources from the Department of Education.

## Counselors

At your fingertips, High School Counselors/Personnel, College Admission Counselors, library and community agency staff have access to a centralized source of information concerning college planning, paying for school, and career planning information for students and their parents, as well as information concerning ISAC's programs, processes, and resources.

- ISAC Gift Assistance Programs
- Other Programs
- Processes
- Resources
- e-Library

## Counselor Quick Links



Professional Development



Illinois PaCE: Postsecondary and Career Expectations



Scholarship Searches



Training Calendar

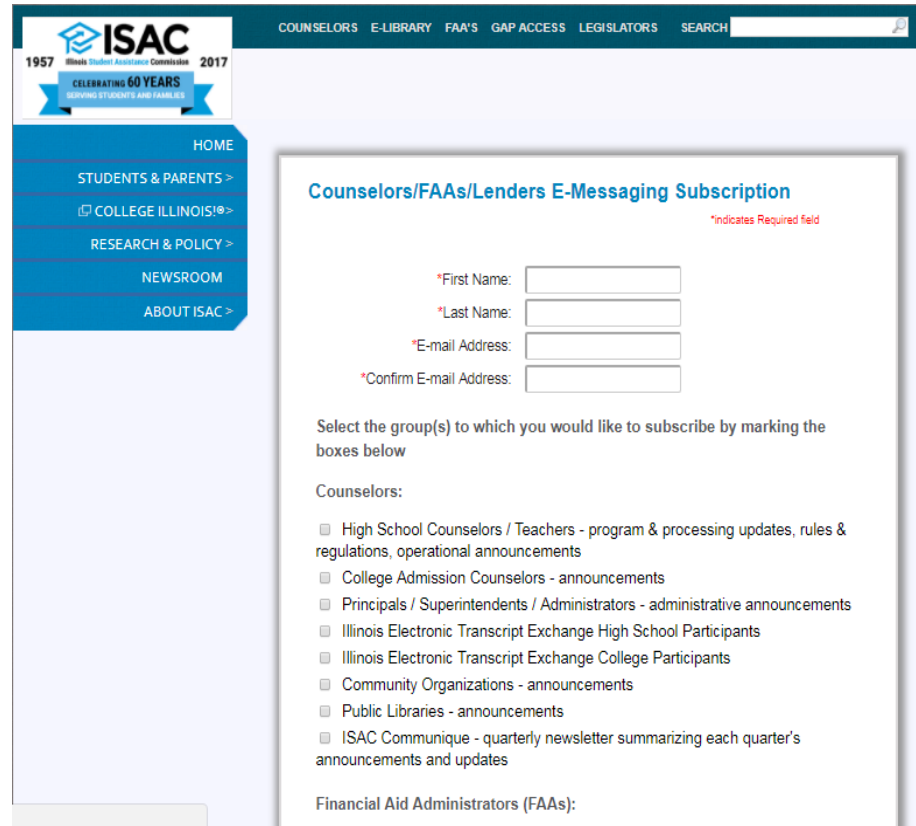
Resources for Non-U.S. Citizens (including Illinois DREAM Act)

MAP Task Force



# ISAC E-Messaging

- Sign up for e-messaging to get the latest news and updates from ISAC
- e.g. State Scholar information, RISE Act, MAP suspense date, in-person trainings, webinars, etc.



The screenshot shows the ISAC website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for COUNSELORS, E-LIBRARY, FAA'S, GAP ACCESS, LEGISLATORS, and a SEARCH box. Below this is a banner for ISAC's 60th anniversary (1957-2017). A vertical menu on the left contains links for HOME, STUDENTS & PARENTS >, COLLEGE ILLINOIS! >, RESEARCH & POLICY >, NEWSROOM, and ABOUT ISAC >. The main content area is titled 'Counselors/FAAs/Lenders E-Messaging Subscription' and includes a red asterisk note: '\*Indicates Required field'. The form contains four input fields: \*First Name, \*Last Name, \*E-mail Address, and \*Confirm E-mail Address. Below the fields, it instructs users to 'Select the group(s) to which you would like to subscribe by marking the boxes below'. Under the heading 'Counselors:', there is a list of seven subscription options, each with an unchecked checkbox: High School Counselors / Teachers - program & processing updates, rules & regulations, operational announcements; College Admission Counselors - announcements; Principals / Superintendents / Administrators - administrative announcements; Illinois Electronic Transcript Exchange High School Participants; Illinois Electronic Transcript Exchange College Participants; Community Organizations - announcements; and Public Libraries - announcements. Below this list, the text 'ISAC Communique - quarterly newsletter summarizing each quarter's announcements and updates' is visible. At the bottom of the form, the heading 'Financial Aid Administrators (FAAs):' is present.

# ISAC Publications

- PDF versions available online for viewing or printing
- You can order printed materials on our website by clicking “Order Materials” at the bottom of the page
- Materials are free and will be shipped at no cost
  - Takes approximately 10 days for delivery

F241 – A Guide to ISAC Programs and Services (ISAC programs overview) (10/17) 


F3778 – Update flyer to ISAC Guide to Programs and Services (10/19) 

F837 – The Financial Aid Process (Paying for College) (10/19) 

F240 – The 4 Steps to College Checklist (English) (10/17) 

F3369 – The 4 Steps to College Checklist (Spanish) (10/18) 

F3737 – Student Portal Postcard (8/18) 

F3753 – What's Next FAFSA/College Application Postcard (8/17) 

F3767 – ISAC College Q & A Card (8/18) 

F3726 – What's Needed for FAFSA Postcard (5/18) 

F3528 – Value of a College Degree Chart (10/18) 

F3769 – Illinois College 2 Career Flyer (8/18) 

# Illinois Postsecondary and Career Expectations Framework (PaCE)

- Framework outlines information a student should have to make the most informed decision about college and career planning
- ISAC PaCE support options:
  - PaCE Overview Presentation
  - PaCE Framework Development Workshop
- For information, resources, or the PaCE Support Request Form, visit our website

## Illinois PaCE Postsecondary and Career Expectations

Each student should have an individualized learning plan to help make decisions about career and post-secondary (PS) education or training, to plan a course of study, and to make financial aid assessments with family members.

By the end of 8th grade	By the end of 9th grade	By the end of 10th grade	By the end of 11th grade	By the end of 12th grade
<p><b>A student should be supported to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>complete a career cluster survey</li> <li>attend a career exploration day</li> <li>complete a unit on education planning</li> <li>be exposed to a financial literacy unit in a course or workshop</li> </ul> <p><b>A student should know:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>relationship between community service/extracurricular activities and postsecondary (PS)/career goals</li> </ul>	<p><b>A student should be supported to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>revisit career cluster interest survey and take a career interest survey</li> <li>complete an orientation to career clusters</li> <li>attend a PS options workshop</li> <li>meet with a counselor to discuss coursework and PS/career plans using the ISBE College and Career Readiness Indicators</li> <li>begin determining eligibility for advanced placement (AP) courses</li> <li>outline a plan for community service and extracurricular activities related to PS plans</li> <li>complete a financial aid assessment with a family member</li> </ul> <p><b>A student should know:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>one or two career clusters for further exploration and development</li> <li>the relationship between HS coursework and extracurricular activities to PS and career plans</li> <li>importance of community service and extracurricular activities to PS and career plans</li> <li>general cost ranges of various PS options</li> </ul>	<p><b>A student should be supported to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>visit at least one workplace aligned with career interests</li> <li>complete an orientation course to a particular career cluster or cluster grouping</li> <li>select a career pathway (CP) within a career cluster of interest</li> <li>begin determining eligibility for AP courses</li> <li>identify 2-3 adults to support the student through the PS and career selection process</li> <li>review coursework, and PS/career plans in relation to the ISBE College and Career Readiness Indicators (every year)</li> <li>attend a PS affordability workshop with a family member</li> </ul> <p><b>A student should know:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>different types of PS credentials and institutions</li> <li>general timing of PS entrance exams and applications</li> <li>benefit of early college credit opportunities to PS access and completion</li> </ul>	<p><b>A student should be supported to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>revisit the career survey</li> <li>participate in a mock job interview</li> <li>create a resume and personal statement</li> <li>identify an internship opportunity related to the CP</li> <li>determine readiness for college-level coursework in math/ELA and enrollment in either "catch up" or "speed up" course</li> <li>complete or enroll in at least one early college credit opportunity</li> <li>attend a college fair</li> <li>visit at least 3 PS institutions</li> <li>take at least one college entrance exam</li> </ul> <p><b>A student should know:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>application deadlines, test timing, cost, and preparation for industry-based certification for CP</li> <li>career attributes related to career interests</li> <li>entrance requirements, including application deadlines, for expected PS programs of study</li> <li>3-5 match schools, one safety, one reach school for PS program of study</li> <li>negative impact of remediation on PS goals</li> <li>financial aid deadlines for chosen PS options</li> </ul>	<p><b>By 12/31 of 12th grade a student should have:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>completed 3 or more admissions applications to PS institutions</li> <li>met with a school counselor to ensure all steps in the PS admissions process are completed on time</li> <li>attended a FAFSA completion workshop</li> <li>completed the FAFSA</li> </ul> <p><b>By the end of 12th grade a student should be supported to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>obtain an internship opportunity related to the CP</li> <li>address any remedial needs in math/ELA</li> <li>if applicable, receive industry-based certification(s) related to the CP</li> <li>complete one or more team-based challenges or projects related to the CP</li> <li>attend a financial aid award letter workshop</li> </ul> <p><b>A student should know:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>how CP courses and experiences articulate to degree programs at PS options</li> <li>estimated cost of each PS option</li> <li>affordability of PS options in relation to expected entry-level career salary and anticipated debt</li> <li>terms and conditions of any scholarship or loan</li> </ul>



# Professional Development

- Professional Development Opportunities for counselors and professionals on the topics of:
  - Financial Aid Process
  - Working with Special Student Populations
  - Verification and Professional Judgment
  - PaCE Overview
- Available in the forms of:
  - Training and presentations – anywhere between 1 – 3 hours
  - Webinars

# ISAC Student Portal

# ISAC Student Portal Postcard



## COLLEGE PLANNING MADE EASY.

The **ISAC Student Portal** has all the tools you need to help you with college planning, financial aid, student loans and money management, and even career exploration and job search—all free and just a click away!



### COLLEGE AND SCHOLARSHIP SEARCH

Check out ISAC partner **College Greenlight™** to search college profiles with student reviews, videos and more. Plus search a database of billions of dollars in scholarships.



### FINANCIAL AID

Need financial aid for college but not sure what's out there and how to apply? Learn about financial aid with the **FinAid Game**, use our **Calculators** to determine your eligibility for aid, and compare your **Financial Aid Award Letters** with our easy-to-use online tool.



### MONEY MANAGEMENT

Play **Claim Your Future™**, a game that lets you explore education and training after high school, future careers, and money management.



### CAREERS AND JOBS

With ISAC partner **Illinois workNet®** you can explore careers and salaries, build a resume and search for jobs. And if you are looking for a summer job or internship in Illinois, check out the regularly updated listings on the **Student Job Board**.



### COLLEGE PLANNING TIPS

In high school and just starting to think about the whole college process? Use our handy online **College Checklist** to stay on top of all the steps you need to take in planning for college.



**ISAC Program Applications/Status** Create a student profile on the Portal to apply for the Illinois Veteran Grant (IVG) and Illinois National Guard Grant (ING), and to check your IVG and ING units used. Are you a current MAP recipient? You can also use the Portal to check your MAP paid credit hours.



**Need some in-person help with the process?** Use the Portal to find a workshop in your area or to contact your local **ISACorps College Mentor** for free in-person assistance with the college-going and financial aid process.

**Make College Happen!**

Visit [isac.org/studentportal](http://isac.org/studentportal)

# ISAC Student Portal

- Free college and career planning platform for students
  - Resources
  - Toolbox
  - ISACorps
  - ISAC Programs
  - Now Playing



The screenshot shows the ISAC Student Portal website. At the top left is the ISAC Student Portal logo. To the right are navigation links: Resources, Toolbox, ISACorps, ISAC Programs, Now Playing, and Login. Below these are social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. The main content area features a large blue banner with the text 'COLLEGE PLANNING MADE EASY.' and a paragraph: 'Planning for college can seem pretty overwhelming, but it's a lot easier with the right tools just a click away. And it's even better when those tools are free! Use the ISAC Student Portal to help you choose a college, learn about careers, find scholarships, simplify the financial aid process, learn how to budget your money, and much more. You can even connect with one of our ISACorps counselors for one-on-one help or to find a workshop in your area!' To the right of the banner is a white box with a money bag icon and the text: 'It's that time of year when students receive financial aid award letters from the colleges they have applied to. Make smarter decisions by comparing your financial aid awards with this simple tool. Need some help working through this? Contact the ISACorps member in your area.' Below this is another white box titled 'Today's Events' with the text: 'Monday, January 13th Welcome to high school Presentation (English), 7:00pm - 8:00pm Huntley, IL'.



# Student Portal – Resources

- College Greenlight
- Claim Your Future
- IL College2Career
- Illinois WorkNet
- ISAC college Q&A
- College Scorecard
- Illinois college/university food pantries



[College Greenlight](#) 

Get a jump on college planning and find the colleges you want and the scholarships you need. Use College Greenlight to get matched with possible scholarships, to compare colleges, and to figure out your chances of admission at colleges of interest to you.



[Claim your Future](#) 

Play Claim Your Future®-- a game that encourages exploration of education and training after high school, future careers, and money management.



[College2Career](#) 

Try the new Illinois College2Career tool to find the Illinois college or university that's the best fit for your education and career goals. Easily search a variety of different categories, including: costs, financial aid, graduation rates, student debt, jobs, earnings after graduation for different areas of study, and more.



[WorkNet](#) 

Use Illinois workNet to explore careers, job training programs, and look up salaries. You can even build a resume, search for jobs, negotiate your salary and get tips on how to succeed in your new position.

# College Greenlight

- A scholarship and college search platform
- Designed for students to explore different options based on preferences and eligibility



We connect first generation and underrepresented students to caring colleges, generous scholarships, and life-changing counselors and mentors.

**START NOW** 

# Claim Your Future

- Financial literacy game that allows students to choose a career and navigate through different spending choices
- Game can be played online or using game kit, which includes:
  - Career wheels based on Illinois employment statistics
  - Printable budget worksheet
  - Additional financial education resources
  - Educator's Guide with a detailed lesson plan and homework activities
- Limited to one kit per school



# Illinois College2Career

- College search tool for Illinois colleges or universities
- Search options include:
  - Career Outcomes
  - Costs
  - Financial Aid
  - Graduation Rates
  - Student Debt

The screenshot displays the Illinois College2Career website interface. On the left, a blue sidebar contains the following text: "Language: English Español", "Welcome to ILLINOIS COLLEGE 2CAREER", and "Illinois College2Career helps you find Illinois colleges that best fit your educational priorities and career goals within the state." Below this text are two buttons: "Check out our tutorial!" and "Find your match now!". On the right, a white panel titled "Choose Your Options and Go!" contains three search filters: "What type of college do you want to attend?" with options "2-Year College" and "4-Year College"; "What are you planning to study?" with a "-- Select --" dropdown; and "What colleges would you like to explore?" with another "-- Select --" dropdown. A "SEE RESULTS" button is located at the bottom of the search options panel.

# Illinois workNet



- A web platform that provides individuals with resources that focuses on:

- Skills inventory
- Interest profiler
- Job searching
- Resume building
- Career exploration and preparations

## Career Cluster Inventory



Rate 80 activities as like very much, like, dislike, or not sure.

**Results:** Provides a graph indicating how your interests match up to each career cluster area.

Duration  5-25 minutes

## Interest Profiler



There are 180 activities. Choose if you like, dislike, or are unsure for each activity.

**Results:** Organizes interests into 6 categories of work.

Duration  10-20 minutes

## SKILLS Profiler



Select 35 skills and group them as very, moderate, or somewhat satisfying.

**Results:** Lists top 30 occupations that match your skills. Calculates Holland Personality Type.

Duration  10-20 minutes

## Work Importance Locator



Group 20 statements based on how important the work aspect is to you.

**Results:** Provides scores for 6 work values and occupations for each work value.

Duration  5-15 minutes

# ISAC College Q & A

- Service for students and parents to text us their questions about college and financial aid
- Questions are answered by ISAC staff during regular business hours
- Students are sent targeted messages by grade level
  - i.e. October 1<sup>st</sup>: It's time to complete your FAFSA! Visit [www.FAFSA.gov](http://www.FAFSA.gov) to complete it.
- To get started, text your first and last name to the number closest to your area



**ISAC College Q&A**

(217) 207-3265    (309) 306-7066

(618) 223-6450    (630) 216-4910

(708) 252-3890    (773) 453-9520

(815) 242-4630    (847) 243-6470

# University Food Pantries

## Illinois College Food Pantries

**Augustana College:** [Campus Kitchen at Augustana](#)

**Aurora University:** [Libby's Place](#)

Wackerlin Center for Faith and Action

430 S. Evanslawn Avenue

Aurora, IL 60506

630-844-6865

Open Tuesdays and Wednesday from 12:30- 2:30 pm (hours vary by semester)

For Aurora University students only

## **City Colleges of Chicago**

Food Pantries/Meal Programs

[Greater Chicago Food Depository](#)

[Cook Co. Sheriff's List of Food Pantries](#)

**Harold Washington College:** The Arlethia G. Mayes Healthy Food Market

30 E. Lake Street

Chicago, IL 60601

Hours vary each semester

312-553-5600

-For students taking at least one course and staff at Harold Washington College

-Employees must participate in an eligibility screening

-For those experiencing food insecurity at any level

**Truman College:** The Falcon Food Pantry

Truman Cafeteria // Main Building, Room 1575

1145 W. Wilson Avenue,

Chicago, IL 60640

## Illinois Hunger Hotline:

1-800-359-2163

The IHC Hunger Hotline provides bilingual services to low-income households through its statewide toll-free Hunger Hotline. Callers can get assistance in applying for the Supplemental Nutrition Service (SNAP), All Kids, Medicaid, Medicare, and Temporary Assistance for Needed Families (TANF). Learn more at <http://www.ilhunger.org/programs-and-services>.

# Toolbox









# Student Portal – Toolbox

- FinAid game
- Internships and summer job postings
- College checklist
- Event calendar
- Financial aid comparison worksheet
- PaCE student checklist
- MAP estimator
- State Scholar Program badge claim & verification

**TOOLBOX**  
Handy tools to help you with college preparation, financial aid, and more.

ALL

 <b>FinAid Game</b> How much do you know about student financial aid? Take the quiz and find out.	 <b>Internship and Summer Jobs</b> Use the Job Board to find a co-op position, summer job or internship at an Illinois company.	 <b>College Checklist</b> Stay on top of all the steps you need to take in planning for college.
 <b>Event Calendar</b> Attend a free college application planning, or financial aid workshop in your area.	 <b>Financial Aid Comparison Worksheet</b> Easily compare financial aid offers from colleges.	 <b>PaCE Student Checklist</b> Explore the activities and experiences for grades 8-12 that can help you prepare for college and career.

# FinAid Game

- Game to test financial aid knowledge
- Students can be divided into groups to work together to answer questions correctly and earn points
- Two levels
  - Financial aid 101
  - Advanced financial aid

FINANCIAL AID 101    ADVANCED FINANCIAL AID

**YOUR SCORE**  
0

**Financial Aid 101**  
Think you know everything about financial aid?  
Play to find out! Please click on the "Select School / Save Progress" button to select your school and save scores to the leaderboard.

SELECT SCHOOL / SAVE PROGRESS

100	100	100	100	100
200	200	200	200	200
300	300	300	300	300
400	400	400	400	400
500	500	500	500	500

# Internships and Summer Jobs

- Listing of co-op positions, jobs, and internships for students at different Illinois companies across the state
- Expose students to experiential learning opportunities as they explore different careers
- Search by:
  - Keywords
  - Locations
  - Internships
  - Jobs

## STUDENT JOB BOARD









Jobs

Click on the name of the position that interests you for the job description and a link to the application

Employer Login

Keyword ...	Location ...
<input type="checkbox"/> Internship	<input type="checkbox"/> Summer Job
<a href="#">Filter Results</a>	

 <b>Administrative Intern (On-Call)</b> Erie Family Health Center	 Chicago, IL Internship	Jun, 20 <a href="#">NEW</a>
 <b>Quality Administrator</b> Komatsu America Corp.	 Peoria, IL Internship	Jun, 20 <a href="#">NEW</a>
 <b>Market Research Internship Program</b> FOG Software Group	 Deerfield, IL Internship	Jun, 20 <a href="#">NEW</a>
 <b>DC Intern</b> PETSMART	 Ottawa, IL Internship	Jun, 20 <a href="#">NEW</a>

# College Checklist

- Checklist that serves as a reminder of the steps students need to take to apply for college and financial aid
- Steps are broken down by grade level
- Some steps may be time sensitive, depending on the grade level

SENIOR JUNIOR SOPHOMORE FRESHMAN

SAVE PROGRESS

### Senior Checklist

<input type="checkbox"/>	Complete your FAFSA	October/November	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Determine application requirements for the colleges that interest you	October 1	▼
<input type="checkbox"/>	Submit five to eight applications	November 1	▼
<input type="checkbox"/>	Review college award letter using interactive ISAC award comparison tool	March & April	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Send in college acceptance form or tuition deposit	May 1	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Submit housing contract if living on campus – before or at the same time as accepting offer of admission		

# Event Calendar


- Enter your zip code to find free ISAC-sponsored events near you such as:
  - Financial Aid Process presentation
  - Financial Aid Application Completion Workshop
  - All About Scholarships presentation

## Find An Event Near You

Looking for a FREE financial aid presentation, FAFSA completion workshop, or a college fair in your area? Check our calendar to find an event near you. Don't see anything close by or in the near future? Check with your high school to see if your school is holding an event on campus. Or contact your local ISACorps member for free one-on-one assistance. If you are planning to attend a FAFSA Completion Workshop, check out [What to Bring to a FAFSA Completion Workshop](#) before you go!


## Saturday, January 11th

**Financial Aid Presentation (English),**  
9:00am - 2:30pm  
 DePaul University - Lincoln Park  
2320 N Kenmore Ave, Levan 110, Chicago, IL

**Event Contact:**  
Rebeca Hernandez-Espinoza  
RHERNA41@depaul.edu  
(773) 325-8045

**ISACorps Event**  
  
**Maggie West**  
Maggie.West@illinois.gov  
(773) 597-5214

## Monday, January 13th

**Welcome to high school Presentation (English),**  
7:00pm - 8:00pm  
 Huntley Public Library  
11000 Ruth Road, Huntley, IL

**Event Contact:**  
Karin Thogersen  
KThogersen@huntleylibrary.org

**ISACorps Event**  
  
**Neveen Sheikhal**  
Neeven.Sheikhal@illinois.gov  
(779) 707-5062

# Financial Aid Comparison Worksheet

- Worksheet that allows students to compare up to 3 award letters at a time
- Helps student calculate out-of-pocket costs
- Gives a better understanding of the components within award letters such as:
  - Cost of attendance
  - Gift aid
  - Federal work study
  - Student loan aid
  - Remaining need

PRINT BLANK WORKSHEET      PRINT COMPLETED WORKSHEET

2019-2020 Academic Year  
Add another college to compare award packages.

College A	College B	College C
First year out of pocket cost <b>"18534"*</b>	First year out of pocket cost <b>"1275"*</b>	First year out of pocket cost <b>"32165"*</b>
<small>*Estimated student loan debt over 4 years \$22000</small>	<small>*Estimated student loan debt over 4 years \$22000</small>	<small>*Estimated student loan debt over 4 years \$22000</small>
<small>*Estimated parent loan debt over 4 years \$0</small>	<small>*Estimated parent loan debt over 4 years \$0</small>	<small>*Estimated parent loan debt over 4 years \$0</small>
↑	↑	↑
Cost of Attendance 47569	Cost of Attendance 27310	Cost of Attendance 63700
Gift Aid - 21535	Gift Aid - 18535	Gift Aid - 24035
Federal Work Study - 2000	Federal Work Study - 2000	Federal Work Study - 2000
Student Loan Aid - 5500	Student Loan Aid - 5500	Student Loan Aid - 5500
Remaining Need = 18534	Remaining Need = 1275	Remaining Need = 32165
Parent PLUS Loan -	Parent PLUS Loan -	Parent PLUS Loan -
Out of Pocket Cost = 18534	Out of Pocket Cost = 1275	Out of Pocket Cost = 32165
EDIT    DELETE	EDIT    DELETE	EDIT    DELETE

# PaCE Student Checklist

- The checklist corresponds with the Illinois PaCE benchmarks
- Written in student-friendly language
- Students can use the checklist to help them prepare for college and career

## PaCE Student Checklist



### 9TH GRADE



#### Career

- Revisit the careers you are interested in and expand on your current career interests. Identify one or two new careers that you might want to explore.
- Explore career clusters by going to [studentportal.isac.org/resources](http://studentportal.isac.org/resources) > Illinois WorkNet > Careers, Wages and Trends.
- Research the careers you are interested in to find out what the job responsibilities are for each career, and what kind of education and skills are needed.
- Consider talking to someone who works in those careers about their favorite and least favorite part of their job, as well as how much education is needed for their job.



#### Money

- Talk to your parent(s)/guardian or your local ISACorps member about what financial resources are available to help you pay for college. You can use the FAFSA4Caster by going to [studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa/estimate](http://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa/estimate) and clicking on FAFSA4Caster.
- Research how much it would cost to attend an:
  - in-state 4-year public college/university vs. in-state 4-year private college/university
  - in-state 4-year public college/university vs. out-of-state 4-year public college/university
  - in-state 4-year private college/university vs. out-of-state 4-year private college/university



#### College

- Research what degree/certificate programs colleges offer.
- Make an appointment to meet with a counselor at your school to talk about what classes you need to take to prepare for college.
- Talk to your counselor about Advanced Placement (AP) classes: what the courses require as well as how and when you can take them.
- Identify different community service and extracurricular activities that could help you explore your career interests.
- Talk to your school counselor or teacher about how your school grades and attendance can affect your future plans for life after high school.

# MAP Estimator

- Calculator that provides a student's estimated MAP award based on:
  - EFC
  - Dependency status
  - Colleges of Interest
- Ability to compare 3 Illinois schools at a time

To use the tool, you'll need your expected family contribution (EFC) -- if you don't already know your EFC, find it by using the [FAFSA4caster](#) . If you're a [dependent student](#) , you will also need to know your adjusted gross income (AGI) from the most recent tax year, as well as your cash, savings and checking account balances.

My EFC is...

For the purposes of the FAFSA, I am...

Independent

Dependent

I am interested in attending...

Select College Choice

Select College Choice

Select College Choice

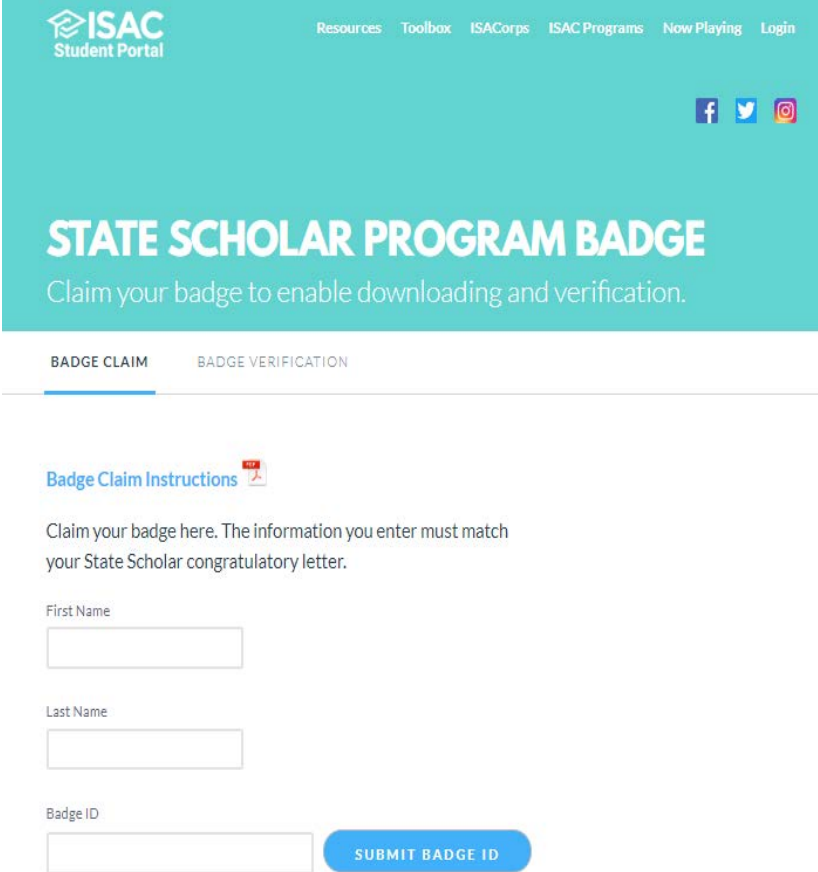
GET ESTIMATE

RESET



# State Scholar Program Badge

- Students who are designated as Illinois State Scholars may claim a digital badge on the Student Portal
- The digital badge can be shared on online profiles and social media accounts
- Schools are able to verify badge authenticity to ensure that students have been selected as State Scholars

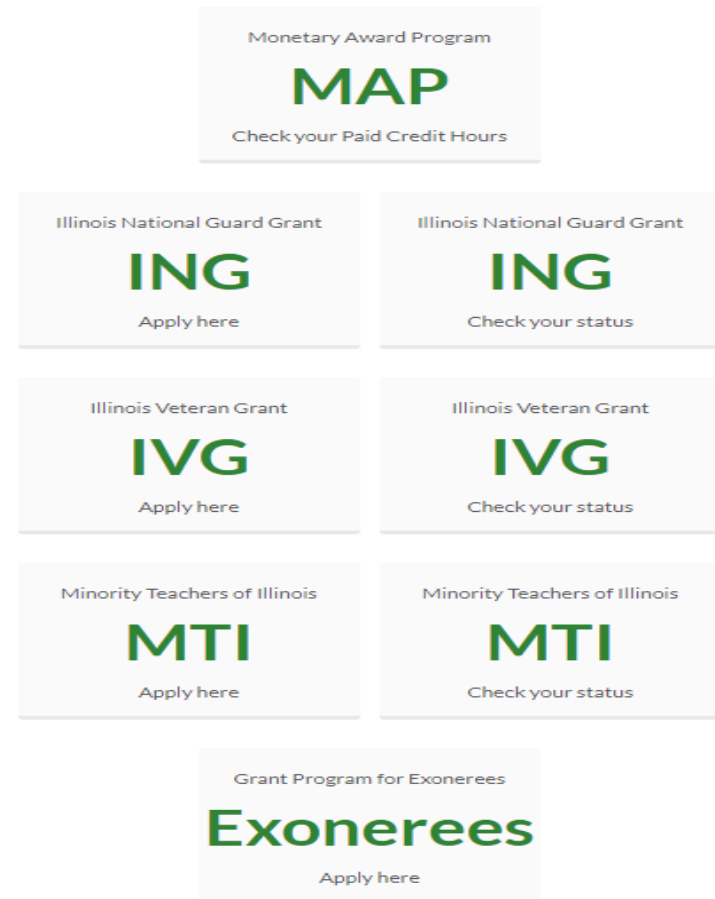


The screenshot shows the ISAC Student Portal interface for claiming a State Scholar Program Badge. The header includes the ISAC Student Portal logo, navigation links (Resources, Toolbox, ISACorps, ISAC Programs, Now Playing, Login), and social media icons (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram). The main heading is "STATE SCHOLAR PROGRAM BADGE" with the subtext "Claim your badge to enable downloading and verification." Below this are two tabs: "BADGE CLAIM" (selected) and "BADGE VERIFICATION". The "BADGE CLAIM" section features a link for "Badge Claim Instructions" with a PDF icon. A message states: "Claim your badge here. The information you enter must match your State Scholar congratulatory letter." There are three input fields: "First Name", "Last Name", and "Badge ID". A blue "SUBMIT BADGE ID" button is positioned to the right of the "Badge ID" field.

# ISAC Programs

# ISAC Programs

- MAP Paid Credit Hours
- ING status check and application
- IVG status check and application
- MTI status check and application
- Grant Program for Exonerees application



# ISAC Now Playing

# Now Playing

- Recorded Facebook Live videos
- Student resources and videos
  - College apps
  - College resources
  - FAFSA
  - Financial Aid
  - ISAC programs
  - MAP Grant
  - Preparing for college
  - Scholarships

The screenshot displays the ISAC Student Portal interface. At the top, a navigation bar includes 'NOW PLAYING', 'STUDENT PORTAL', 'TOOLBOX', and 'ISACORPS'. The main content area features a large video player for 'ISAC FACEBOOK LIVE EVENT: FAFSA' dated October 9, 2019. Below it are two smaller video thumbnails: 'ISAC FACEBOOK LIVE: ISAC RESOURCES' (November 22, 2019) and 'ISAC FACEBOOK LIVE: NEXT STEPS/FOLLOW-UP' (November 15, 2019). A sidebar on the right contains 'SHARING' options (Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Instagram, LinkedIn, Email) and a 'CATEGORIES' dropdown menu. The ISAC logo is visible in the bottom right corner of the page.

Thank You!

Ana Moya

Professional Development Specialist

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