

HB3116



104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

HB3116

Introduced 2/18/2025, by Rep. Blaine Wilhour

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

110 ILCS 305/8

from Ch. 144, par. 29

Amends the University of Illinois Act. Beginning with the 2026-2027 academic year, provides that the Board of Trustees shall give priority admission to residents of this State. Based upon academic year, sets forth the percentage of the University's freshman class of undergraduate students that must be State residents. Effective immediately.

LRB104 10017 LNS 20088 b

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning education.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The University of Illinois Act is amended by
5 changing Section 8 as follows:

6 (110 ILCS 305/8) (from Ch. 144, par. 29)

7 Sec. 8. Admissions.

8 (a) (Blank).

9 (b) No new student shall be admitted to instruction in any
10 of the departments or colleges of the University unless such
11 student also has satisfactorily completed:

12 (1) at least 15 units of high school coursework from
13 the following 5 categories:

14 (A) 4 years of English (emphasizing written and
15 oral communications and literature), of which up to 2
16 years may be collegiate level instruction;

17 (B) 3 years of social studies (emphasizing history
18 and government);

19 (C) 3 years of mathematics (introductory through
20 advanced algebra, geometry, trigonometry, or
21 fundamentals of computer programming);

22 (D) 3 years of science (laboratory sciences or
23 agricultural sciences); and

1 (E) 2 years of electives in foreign language
2 (which may be deemed to include American Sign
3 Language), music, career and technical education,
4 agricultural education, or art;

5 (2) except that institutions may admit individual
6 applicants if the institution determines through
7 assessment or through evaluation based on learning
8 outcomes of the coursework taken, including career and
9 technical education courses and courses taken in a charter
10 school established under Article 27A of the School Code,
11 that the applicant demonstrates knowledge and skills
12 substantially equivalent to the knowledge and skills
13 expected to be acquired in the high school courses
14 required for admission. The Board of Trustees of the
15 University of Illinois shall not discriminate in the
16 University's admissions process against an applicant for
17 admission because of the applicant's enrollment in a
18 charter school established under Article 27A of the School
19 Code. Institutions may also admit 1) applicants who did
20 not have an opportunity to complete the minimum college
21 preparatory curriculum in high school, and 2)
22 educationally disadvantaged applicants who are admitted to
23 the formal organized special assistance programs that are
24 tailored to the needs of such students, providing that in
25 either case, the institution incorporates in the
26 applicant's baccalaureate curriculum courses or other

1 academic activities that compensate for course
2 deficiencies; and

3 (3) except that up to 3 of the 15 units of coursework
4 required by paragraph (1) of this subsection may be
5 distributed by deducting no more than one unit each from
6 the categories of social studies, mathematics, sciences
7 and electives and completing those 3 units in any of the 5
8 categories of coursework described in paragraph (1).

9 (c) When allocating funds, local boards of education shall
10 recognize their obligation to their students to offer the
11 coursework required by subsection (b).

12 (d) A student who has graduated from high school and has
13 scored within the University's accepted range on the ACT or
14 SAT shall not be required to take a high school equivalency
15 test as a prerequisite to admission.

16 (e) The Board of Trustees shall establish an admissions
17 process in which honorably discharged veterans are permitted
18 to submit an application for admission to the University as a
19 freshman student enrolling in the spring semester if the
20 veteran was on active duty during the fall semester. The
21 University may request that the Department of Veterans'
22 Affairs confirm the status of an applicant as an honorably
23 discharged veteran who was on active duty during the fall
24 semester.

25 (f) Beginning with the 2025-2026 academic year, the
26 University shall provide all Illinois students transferring

1 from a public community college in this State with the
2 University's undergraduate transfer admissions application fee
3 waiver policy and, if such a policy exists, any application or
4 forms necessary to apply for a fee waiver as part of the
5 University's transfer admissions process. The University is
6 encouraged to develop a policy to automatically waive the
7 undergraduate transfer admissions application fee for
8 low-income Illinois students transferring from a public
9 community college in this State. The University shall post
10 this policy in an easily accessible place on the University's
11 Internet website.

12 (g) Beginning with the 2026-2027 academic year, the Board
13 of Trustees shall give priority admission to residents of this
14 State as follows:

15 (1) for the 2026-2027 academic year, 79% of the
16 University's freshman class of undergraduate students
17 shall be residents of this State;

18 (2) for the 2027-2028 academic year, 82.5% of the
19 University's freshman class of undergraduate students
20 shall be residents of this State;

21 (3) for the 2028-2029 academic year, 86.5% of the
22 University's freshman class of undergraduate students
23 shall be residents of this State; and

24 (4) for the 2029-2030 academic year and each academic
25 year thereafter, 90% of the University's freshman class of
26 undergraduate students shall be residents of this State.

1 (Source: P.A. 102-403, eff. 1-1-22; 102-404, eff. 1-1-22;
2 103-936, eff. 8-9-24.)

3 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
4 becoming law.