

If You Apply To >

Howard: Early decision, early action, regular decision. Accepts the Common Application with supplement. Please consult Howard's website for the most up-to-date information regarding standardized test requirements.

The College of Idaho

Caldwell, ID 83605

Got a map? You'll need a sharp eye to spot C of I, the *Fiske Guide's* only liberal arts school between the Rocky Mountains and the West Coast. Innovative PEAK curriculum allows students to specialize in multiple fields. Just over half of the students are from Idaho.

Website: www.collegeofidaho.edu

Location: Small Town

Private

Total Enrollment: 1,060

Undergraduates: 1,051

Male/Female: 49/51

Financial Aid: 100%

Pell Grant: 38%

Expense: Pr \$

Student Loans: 95%

Average Debt: \$ \$

Applicants: 3,159



Accepted: 57%

Enrolled: 20%

Grad in 6 Years: 65%

Returning Freshmen: 78%

Academics:   

Social:   

Q of L: ★ ★ ★

Admissions: (208) 459-5305

Email Address: admission@collegeofidaho.edu

Strong Programs:

Business

Psychology

Biology

Health Sciences

Environmental Studies

Premed

Prenursing

Prelaw

With an emphasis on education and experiential learning, The College of Idaho, the state's oldest four-year university, offers students an opportunity to earn a solid liberal arts education through small classes in a small town. Outside class, the school's scenic environment allows sports and nature enthusiasts to explore freely before heading back into the classroom. At C of I, you'll be exposed to "hard work, great opportunities, and a healthy amount of fun," says a freshman.

The college is in the small town of Caldwell, where the atmosphere is calm and serene. For those looking for a little excitement, the state capital of Boise is a short drive from campus. Also nearby are some of Idaho's most scenic locations, such as beautiful mountains, deserts, and white-water rivers. The school, originally a Presbyterian college, first planted roots in downtown Caldwell in 1891 and then moved to its present site in 1910, where its nearly 30 buildings now inhabit 43 acres. Newer campus additions include a 60,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art library.

The school's academic schedule is composed of 12-week semesters, spring and fall, separated by a four-week winter session, during which students can assist professors with research, take an internship, volunteer, or travel abroad. The college's distinctive PEAK program combines a liberal arts education with specialization in multiple fields. Over four years, students earn a major and three minors spread across four knowledge "peaks"—the humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, and a professional field. Students choose among 33 majors and 30 minors. Freshmen sign an honor code and go through a first-year program that involves a first-year seminar, a premodern civilization course, a junior or senior mentor, a team of advisors, and a weeklong orientation that includes an off-campus overnight stay at a lakeside camp.

"The workload can be relaxed or intense depending upon a student's desire for success," says one senior. Business, psychology, biology, health sciences, and environmental studies are among the majors recommended by students, and pre-professional programs, such as premed, prenursing, and prelaw are also popular and strong. Sixty percent of all classes at C of I have fewer than 20 students, and faculty are praised for their knowledge and accessibility. "The professors are masters of their craft," a senior says. The college cooperates with the University of Idaho to offer a five-year course of study in engineering. Undergraduate research opportunities are available in all fields, and students present their findings at state and regional conferences. The Center for Experiential Learning coordinates out-of-classroom experiences, such as international education and service learning. For those who want

to venture abroad, the college offers options for attending a foreign university or traveling overseas during the summer and winter breaks. Travel has really taken off, with study abroad opportunities in nearly 60 countries around the world.

“Everyone seems like some kind of repressed genius trying to figure out their own existence, pursue stability, and create something meaningful,” muses one student, adding, “There are also those who are more career-minded.” Fifty-six percent of the students are from Idaho and 18 percent come from foreign countries. Thirteen percent are Hispanic, 2 percent are African American, 2 percent are Asian American, and 5 percent are multiracial. Political issues receive plenty of attention on campus, and debates about the school’s honor code are not uncommon among students. Of the most recent freshman class, 38 percent qualify for the Pell Grant. The college offers merit scholarships averaging \$24,300, as well as more than 120 athletic scholarships. Not surprisingly, some of those dollars are set aside for skiers.

Sixty-five percent of students live on campus. “Residences are great, easy to decorate, and relatively big,” says one student. Other options include five traditional residence halls, two suite-style apartment buildings, and more than 20 rental houses. For meals, C of I provides “a grill, deli, salad bar, pizza, and vegetarian options” that are “to die for,” according to one student. “Campus safety gets a 10 out of 10,” says a junior. “There is an officer on duty 24/7 even over breaks and summer vacation.”

Thirteen percent of men and 11 percent of women participate in the Greek system, which dominates campus social life. Students 21 and over are permitted to have alcohol on campus, in moderation (i.e., no kegs). Annual social highlights include Winterfest, Spring Fling, and homecoming week. Games against rival Northwest Nazarene also attract attention. “We have a fantastic social scene. We host

“Intramurals are huge at our school.”

events almost nightly,” a student reports. Undergraduates can choose among 50 student clubs, and the arts are strong. Students of all majors participate in a wide range of instrumental and choral music, theater, visual arts, and other activities, and the choir has performed at Carnegie Hall and other venues around the country. “Finals breakfasts” offer something for bleary-eyed students to look forward to during finals week; at midnight on Tuesday, faculty and staff cook breakfast for students.

Caldwell, with about 50,000 people, is not a great spot for college students, but students get involved by helping out the local school district. Nearby Boise is a popular destination for shopping, dining, and cultural events, including a symphony orchestra, art museum, zoo, professional baseball and hockey, and the must-see World Center for Birds of Prey. Many students hit the road during a weeklong break taken every six weeks. Outdoor enthusiasts relish the fact that the C of I campus is just minutes away from world-class opportunities for skiing, hiking, camping, fishing, and white-water rafting. The student-run Outdoor Program offers trips, classes, and equipment rentals.

More than a third of students play for one of the college’s 20 varsity teams, which compete in NAIA Division II. The Yotes (translation: “We are the Coyotes”) have earned national championships in baseball, basketball, and skiing, and recent conference champs include men’s basketball and lacrosse. For those who enjoy the game but might not make the team, there is an active intramurals program and the large Albertson Activities Center. “Intramurals are huge at our school,” says a sophomore, drawing nearly half the students.

C of I has much to offer its Yotes. They enjoy a well-designed liberal arts education and personal academic attention on a campus striving to keep its offerings on the cutting edge. What’s more, students here are encouraged to take an active role in the school’s future. From creating traditions to upholding the honor code, a sophomore says, “We are involved in all aspects of campus life.”

Over four years, students earn a major and three minors spread across four knowledge “peaks.”

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Overlaps

**Boise State,
University of Idaho,
Idaho State, College
of Western Idaho,
Westminster,
Earlham, Northwest
Nazarene**

If You Apply To >

Idaho: Early action I and II, regular decision. SATs or ACTs: optional. (Test-optional applicants must complete additional short-answer essay questions.) Accepts the Common Application with supplement.

University of Illinois at Urbana–Champaign

901 West Illinois Street, Urbana, IL 61801

Half a step behind Michigan and neck and neck with Wisconsin among top Midwestern public universities. U of I's strengths include business, communication, engineering, architecture, and the natural sciences. Three-quarters of the undergraduates hail from in state. Huge Greek system.

Like many of its Midwestern neighbors, the University of Illinois, which dates to 1867, has its roots in agriculture. The Morrow Plots, the oldest experimental fields in the nation, still rest symbolically in the middle of campus—and when the wind blows the wrong way, students are not-so-subtly reminded of their heritage as a farm school. Like most big, public universities, U of I has a barn full of choices, and with a strong Greek system and 1,200 clubs, social activities are more than plentiful. Homecoming weekend was invented at the University of Illinois, and whether cheering for the Illini, pledging a Greek organization, or celebrating Moms', Dads', or Siblings' Weekends, students here stir up a vibrant mix of school spirit and good times. This may look and feel like a laid-back Midwestern campus, but make no mistake: Illinois's stellar academics and learning communities are up there with any of the country's public flagships.

Befitting the oldest land grant institution, the Illinois campus was built in farm country between the twin cities of Champaign and Urbana. The flat, parklike campus was designed along a mile-long axis where trees and walkways separate stately white-columned Georgian structures made of brick. The impressive Illinois library system, the largest public university collection of its kind worldwide, makes it easier to keep up with classwork. A 225,000-square-foot computer science center and the physical education center are notable facilities. The \$48 million Siebel Center for Design was completed in 2020.

Illinois has eight undergraduate colleges and one school that together offer more than 150 undergraduate programs; if none of these strike your fancy, you may design your own. The general education program includes standard distribution requirements across a range of subjects; students may fulfill some requirements by taking Grand Challenge Learning courses, interdisciplinary classes that explore three main “pathways,” or real-world challenges facing today's society: Inequality and Cultural Understanding; Health and Wellness; and Sustainability, Energy, and the Environment.

Partially because of its size, Illinois can afford to support excellent programs across the university, including the expansion of undergraduate minors campus-wide. Engineering, business, communication, social sciences, architecture, education, industrial design, and the sciences—especially biological sciences, agriculture, and veterinary medicine—get high marks from students and lots of resources from administrators. A “CS + X” degree program allows students to combine the study of computer science with one of 10 other liberal arts fields, ranging from

Website: www.illinois.edu

Location: Small City

Public

Total Enrollment: 43,498

Undergraduates: 32,408

Male/Female: 53/47

Financial Aid: 56%

Pell Grant: 25%

Expense: Pub \$ \$ \$ \$

Student Loans: 44%

Average Debt: \$

Applicants: 43,452

Accepted: 59%

Enrolled: 30%

Grad in 6 Years: 85%

Returning Freshmen: 93%

Academics: 📖 📖 📖 📖 📖

Social: 📞 📞 📞

Q of L: ★ ★ ★

Admissions: (217) 333-0302

Email Address: admissions@illinois.edu

Strong Programs:

Engineering

Business

Communication

Social Sciences

Architecture

Education

Industrial Design

Biological Sciences

“[Professors] are truly invested in our success.”

impressive Illinois library system, the largest public university collection of its kind worldwide, makes

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