



PAP Handbook 2026-2028

This handbook is published for each entering first-year class. Up-to-date information will be sent via the PAP listserv. It is your responsibility for knowing the content of this handbook. This handbook is intended for students enrolled in the President's Award Program only.

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Contact Information

President's Award Program Office, MC 158
Student Services Building (SSB)
1200 West Harrison Street
1100, Admissions Office
312.996.6421
papscholars@uic.edu

WELCOME!

Welcome to the University of Illinois Chicago Class of 2029! Your anticipated graduation date is in May 2030. Tell your parents, family, and friends to mark it on their calendars to share in this celebration.

We are glad you're here! You are about to embark on a new experience... college. You are the PAP Scholars for Cohort 14 and will be referred to as "P14," which reflects that you are the thirteenth group of students selected for the scholarship program. We want you to succeed and thrive while pursuing your undergraduate degree here at UIC. We have high expectations and know that you can do well at UIC. However, you must take responsibility for your learning and take advantage of the many opportunities available. If at any time, you need to discuss a concern, problem or issue, no matter how small or big, please seek the advice of a staff member. The staff at PAP are here to listen in a nonjudgmental way and make the appropriate referrals to assist you. You set the standard for other PAP Scholars to follow in your success!

Again, we cordially welcome you to UIC.

The University of Illinois Chicago (UIC)

The University of Illinois Chicago is the largest institution of higher education in the Chicago area, one of the top research universities in the United States and dedicated to the land grant university tradition of research, teaching, and public service. Through its 15 academic colleges and professional schools, the University offers 71 undergraduates, 87 masters, and 51 doctoral programs in the humanities, mathematics, sciences, and social sciences, as well as architecture, art, business administration, education, engineering, applied health sciences, social work, and urban planning.

The President's Award Program (PAP)

This guide will address only the President's Award Program at UIC. Please contact our office if you have any specific questions about your scholarship.

The President's Award Program offers one of the most prestigious scholarships at the University of Illinois on all three campuses. The President's Award Program was created in 1985 to recognize and award students graduating from Illinois high schools who have demonstrated outstanding academic performance and who represent the rich diversity of the State of Illinois. The goals of the PAP are to provide financial assistance and to promote academic excellence through programming that provides resources and the attention to assist motivated students to persist and graduate within four years. The following information is crucial to understanding the program's requirements, expectations, and responsibilities.

Policy Overview

In addition to the scholarship agreement and conditions form that you have agreed to, please familiarize yourself with the following policies:

- 1. President's Award Program (PAP) are expected to enroll at the University for the fall semester after graduating from high school and maintain continuous enrollment during the academic year. However, the following exceptions apply:*
 - When a **PAP** student transfers within the University of Illinois system, it is the responsibility of the campus to which the student is transferring to notify the other PAP Coordinator and University-wide Student Program (USP) once the said student has notified both campuses within a reasonable time. **This policy is under review and subject to change.**
 - PAP students who withdraw from the University and are readmitted within one calendar year (12 months) remain eligible for the scholarship.
 - Decisions about individual cases concerning delayed admission, transfer admission, or readmission for students are determined by the campus in accordance with the PAP policies.
- 2. The award applies to undergraduate studies until the completion of the baccalaureate for up to four years. It will be awarded during the fall and spring semesters at the University of Illinois Chicago. The scholarship cannot be used for summer session or professional school regardless of whether the recipient moves to a professional program before completing the undergraduate degree.*
- 3. The award ends when the eight semesters of eligibility have been disbursed even if awardee has not completed an undergraduate degree.*
- 4. The award ends when awardee has completed an undergraduate degree even if there are remaining semesters of eligibility. This means that PAP Scholars graduating early (before they reach 8 consecutive fall and spring semesters) with unused semesters of PAP available will forfeit any remaining scholarship funding upon completion of an undergraduate degree.*
- 5. The award will not be disbursed if awardee is registered for less than 12 hours a semester.*
- 6. The award is institutional funds and awardee must be in compliance with the Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) policy.*
- 7. Failure to maintain the mandatory cumulative GPA of 2.75 may result in the award not being disbursed until it is raised to the minimum 2.75 cumulative GPA, though we encourage a 3.0 GPA.*

Scholarship Conditions and Requirements 2026—2030

As a President's Award Program scholarship awardee, you are expected to fully participate in the programming events and activities during each semester you are enrolled at UIC. **You are required to declare your Intent to Enroll by May 1st of your incoming Fall semester, or you will no longer be eligible.**

SCOPE OF THE AWARD

- The award applies to undergraduate studies and is renewable for up to eight consecutive semesters at \$2,500 per semester for a total of \$20,000. This award is in addition to any other financial aid that you receive as long as the total amount of scholarships and grants do not exceed total cost of attendance less your Expected Family Contribution as calculated on your FAFSA application.
- The award is only disbursed for fall and spring semesters at the University of Illinois Chicago. It will not be disbursed for UIC Summer Session.
- The award cannot be used for professional school if the recipient moves to a professional program before completing an undergraduate degree.
- The scholarship can be renewed for the fall and spring semesters through the fourth year or until the awardee fulfills the undergraduate degree requirements, transfers to a professional school, graduates (whichever comes first) provided that:
 - a. The recipient continues to complete a full-time program during each of the two semesters (fall and spring) in each consecutive year.
 - b. The recipient maintains, in each semester, a grade point average of 2.75.
 - c. The recipient makes satisfactory progress toward the bachelor's degree and has observed all other University and college regulations applicable to the recipient.

CONDITIONS OF THE PROGRAM

1. **The awardee must submit an Intent to Enroll (ITE), accept this scholarship offer by May 1, 2026, and enroll at UIC for the Fall 2026 term. Failure to do so ends the scholarship offer. No exceptions will be made.**
2. The awardee must maintain a full-time program (15–16 credit hours recommended) for each of the two semesters of each academic year and must remain in good academic standing within their designated college.
3. Awardee must fulfill the requirements of the President's Award Program as detailed in the *PAP Scholar's Handbook*. Please review the PAP Handbook online.
4. The awardee will also participate in their designated college by completing activities for the fall and spring semesters and in activities and events stipulated by the President's Award Program.
5. In any one semester, academic probation from the degree-granting college, withdrawal from the University, or failure to complete with passing grades in all courses may automatically cause the termination of the scholarship.

In – Person Attendance:

- We strongly recommend the awardee to attend an in-person PAP Welcome Session. Dates will be sent out via email in May-June.

Failure to comply with the above conditions may result in automatic termination of the scholarship.

Advance notice of exceptions to these conditions and requirements will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the PAP Policy Committee. A formal letter of petition providing a detailed description of the reason for the requested exception is required.

RECOMMENDED ACTIVITIES

- It is strongly recommended that the awardee attend a 1-day PAP Welcome Session held in July 2026. Students who attend these sessions benefit greatly when coming into their first semester of college. Dates to be sent out via email.
- It is strongly suggested that the awardee attend one Summer College Lecture Day happening July 2026; more information can be found on the UIC Summer College website.
- We also suggest that students attend one workshop during Seminar Days, held during July 2026. Doing so can help students learn more about life and activities at UIC. Dates listed on the UIC Summer College website.

Grade Point Average Policy

(Scholarship Probation Policy)

Scholars are expected to earn a 2.75 (or higher) grade point average each semester. Any student not earning a minimum 2.75 grade point average by the end of the first year (second semester) will be placed on scholarship probation during the third semester. If the required grade point average is not reached by that time, the scholarship will be permanently removed from the student's financial aid package. Students may submit an appeal with documentation for extenuating circumstances, such as U.S. military duty, illness, etc. **Submitting an appeal does not guarantee approval.**

However, students are strongly encouraged to demonstrate academic excellence with a grade point average of 3.00 or higher. This is a competitive grade point average for students who plan to apply for prestigious scholarships, to attend graduate and professional schools, or to work in a highly competitive global job market.

Please note that students must maintain a minimum grade point average of 2.0 or higher to be in good academic standing within their designated college. If their grade point average falls below 2.0, they are placed on academic probation by their individual colleges and may be at risk of being dropped. It is the student's responsibility to know their college's policies.

Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy

Please note that the PAP scholarship consists of institutional funds administered by the Office of Student Financial Aid (OSFA). The scholarship is under the Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) policy. Therefore, your scholarship will not be disbursed if you do not meet the Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) requirements.

- **Financial Aid:** To maintain your financial aid eligibility and/or scholarship, you must make Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) toward completion of your degree. SAP requirements for financial aid are separate from degree progress requirements monitored by academic departments. The SAP policy for Financial Aid is available on the Office of Student Financial Aid website:
http://www.uic.edu/depts/financialaid/sap_policy.shtml.

- Using a late drop after the add/drop period (provided that you do not fully withdraw) does not affect your current term aid or your enrollment hours; however, you will receive a grade of W for the course(s) withdrawn. Late dropping/withdrawing hours after the add/drop period (provided you do not fully withdraw from the University) will not affect your current term aid but could impact your future eligibility by lowering your SAP Completion Ratio.
- GPA is also an important factor in determining SAP for financial aid. A minimum GPA of 2.00 is required by the end of the second academic year (for transfer students, the 2.00 requirement applies when the student has at least 60 combined UIC attempted hours and transfer hours or after two years at UIC, whichever comes first). You should consider the impact grades of D or F might have on your GPA. Receiving a grade of F and, therefore, no credit for a course would also impact your SAP Completion Ratio.
- If you have questions about how a late drop or your academic performance may affect your financial aid eligibility, please contact: Office of Student Financial Aid (OSFA), 1800 Student Services Building (SSB), 312.996.3126, money@uic.edu, <http://www.uic.edu/depts/financialaid/index.shtml>.

Scholarship Disbursement

Disbursement of financial aid/scholarship is typically 10 days before the start of each semester (fall/spring). All aid will disburse to your student account each semester (if student completes all requirements) and if aid is greater than student account (billing balance), University Bursar will issue the student a refund. Students must enroll in direct deposit to receive refunds. To enroll in direct deposit visit the University Bursar website at: <https://paymybill.uillinois.edu/refunds/directdeposit>.

Early or Late Graduation

PAP Scholars graduating early (before they reach 8 consecutive fall and spring semesters) with unused semesters of PAP available, will forfeit any remaining scholarship funding upon completion of an undergraduate degree. As stated in the policy, the award ends when awardee has completed an undergraduate degree even if there are remaining semesters of eligibility. No “remaining semesters of eligibility” will be disbursed after graduation.

PAP Scholars graduating after 8 semesters, will **only** receive up to 8 semesters. As the policy states, the award ends when the eight semesters of eligibility have been disbursed, even if awardee has not completed an undergraduate degree. No “extensions” for the PAP Scholarship will be disbursed after 8 semesters have been disbursed.

PAP Welcome Session

We strongly suggest that students register and attend one PAP Welcome session to prepare for life in the research university. The session introduces students to the concepts, resources, and skills necessary for successful learning in higher education and facilitates adjustment to and engagement into the new learning environment. Why is this important? Students most likely to succeed, both in college and after graduation, tend

to be those who have learned to listen effectively, think critically, express themselves clearly, appreciate diversity, and work in teams. Students will continue to develop these skills throughout the first year at UIC.

PAP STEM Initiative

The PAP STEM Initiative provides support and resources to scholars pursuing degrees in biochemistry, biological sciences, chemistry, computer sciences, earth and environmental sciences, engineering, mathematics, neuroscience, and physics. Students are expected to participate in a six-session research experience on Fridays during the summer before matriculation and maintain a 3.25 grade point average in all STEM courses to remain a part of this program. Participation in the PAP STEM Initiative is optional. For more information, please contact Kristy Kambanis, Assistant Director for STEM Initiatives at kristyk@uic.edu.

PAP Health Initiative

The PAP Health Initiative provides support and resources to scholars majoring in pre-health disciplines (Pre-Applied Health, Pre-Dentistry, Pre-Medicine, Pre-Nursing, Pre-Pharmacy, Pre-Public Health, and Pre-Social Work). Students are expected to participate in six-session research/clinical experience on Fridays during the summer before matriculation and maintain a 3.25 grade point average in all Health courses to remain a part of this program. Participation in the PAP Health Initiative is optional. For more information, please contact Dr. Darryl Pendleton, Associate Dean for Student and Diversity Affairs in the College of Dentistry at dpendle@uic.edu.