

Southern Illinois University

Southern Illinois University has entered its second hundred years of teaching, research, and service. At the outset of the 1970's, Southern Illinois University became a single state system with two universities: Southern Illinois University Carbondale and Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. Southern Illinois University Carbondale also has a medical school campus at Springfield.

Southern Illinois University Carbondale (SIUC) first operated as a two-year normal school but in 1907 became a four-year, degree-granting institution. In 1943 SIUC was transformed from a teacher-training institution into a university, thus giving official recognition to the area's demand for diversified training and service. Graduate work was instituted in 1943, with the first doctoral degrees granted in 1959. There has been diversification and expansion of graduate programs across the University through the Colleges of Agricultural Sciences, Business and Administration, Education and Human Services, Engineering, Liberal Arts, Mass Communication and Media Arts, and Science. Combined, these colleges presently offer 86 graduate degree programs. In addition to expansion of programs within the Graduate School, professional schools were established in medicine and law.

In keeping with the state's master plan, and with a commitment to enhance its Carnegie Doctoral/Research-Extensive University status, the University's objective is to provide a comprehensive educational program meeting as many individual student needs as possible. While providing excellent instruction in a broad range of traditional programs, it also helps individual students design special programs when their interests are directed toward more individualized curricula. The University comprises a faculty and the facilities to offer general and professional training ranging from two-year associate degrees to doctoral programs, as well as certificate and non-degree programs meeting the needs of persons not interested in degree education.

Enrollment

In fall semester 2003, out of a total enrollment of 21,387, SIUC had 4,343 and 678 registered graduate and professional students respectively.

Location

Carbondale is approximately 100 miles southeast of St. Louis, Missouri. Immediately south of Carbondale begins some of the most rugged and picturesque terrain in Illinois. Sixty miles to the south is the historic confluence of the Ohio and Mississippi rivers, the two forming the border of the southern tip of Little Egypt, the fourteen southernmost counties in Illinois. Within ten miles of the campus are located two state parks and four recreational lakes and much of the area is a part of the 263,000 acre Shawnee National Forest.

Campus

The Carbondale campus, comprising more than 3,290 acres, has developed a 981 acre portion with woods and a lake as a site for its academic buildings and residence halls. The buildings are located in wooded tracts along two circular shaped campus drives, named for Lincoln and Douglas.

The Graduate School

The primary concerns of the Graduate School are graduate instruction and research. The Graduate School therefore plays an essential role in development of instructional and research programs, in acquisition of funds, and in procurement of facilities necessary to encourage and support research by members of its scholarly community. Through faculty, staff, and students the Graduate School makes its contribution to the public welfare of the region, state, nation, and international community.

The Graduate School offers master's degrees through sixty programs and the doctoral degree through twenty-six programs. Graduate students pursue advanced study and research under the leadership of a graduate faculty of over 800 members. In addition, the Schools of Law and Medicine provide graduate students with additional opportunities in instruction and research. The Graduate School administers programs in the Colleges of Agricultural Sciences, Business and Administration, Education and Human Services, Engineering, Liberal Arts, Mass Communication and Media Arts, Science, and the School of Medicine.

Within these colleges and schools are departments whose distinguished faculty offer inspired teaching, conduct innovative research, and facilitate student services from admission to placement. The University has an excellent library and has a very good computing facility. For further information, see Academic Resources elsewhere in this chapter. In addition to the excellent research conducted in the colleges and schools, SIUC operates a number of research and service centers, most of which have been established with the aid of outside funding. These centers also are described under Academic Resources.