



EXCELLENCE AT ILLINOIS.

OFFICE OF MINORITY STUDENT AFFAIRS





For more than five decades, the **Office of Minority Student Affairs** has been at the forefront in providing support services to historically underrepresented, low-income, and first-generation students at the **University of Illinois**. We exist because of campus leadership, community support, and the activism of **African-American** students at the **University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign**. After the success of the **Project 500** initiative in 1968, the

need emerged for a permanent campus program to provide ongoing services to enrich, retain, and graduate the newly admitted students of color. To that end, the campus commissioned a small group of individuals to deliver the critical student support services that became the **Office of Minority Student Affairs** or the **OMSA**. What a great foundation on which we continue to build!

Over the past 50-plus years, our mission has expanded to include serving marginalized and underserved student communities at **Illinois**. Whether you are a student, alumni, or friend of the **OMSA**, we invite you to find your space within our community and help us advance our mission of providing exceptional support services that enhance the academic and personal outcomes of those we serve.

A white, handwritten signature of Domonic Cobb, consisting of stylized, flowing letters.

Domonic Cobb
Director, Office of Minority Student Affairs

EXCELLENCE AT ILLINOIS.

The Office of Minority Student Affairs (OMSA) is one of the longest-running and most comprehensive support programs in the country. Diversity is one of the great strengths of a world-renowned academic institution such as the University of Illinois, and that presents both advantages and challenges for students. The OMSA works to create and sustain a strong support network for students by partnering with academic deans and advisors in the colleges and departments on campus to offer valuable services and events for students.

At its core, the OMSA embodies the notion of **Excellence at Illinois**-both in the support services we provide and through the community of students who call the OMSA home. Across the University of Illinois campus, in Urbana-Champaign, and throughout Central Illinois, it is our vision to transform the lives of first generation, low-income, and historically underrepresented students. The OMSA and our students are a vital component of academic and personal achievement at the University of Illinois.



EXCELLENCE AT **ACADEMICS.**

The OMSA's Academic Services Center (ASC) offers several academic support services designed to increase academic performance. The level of rigor at the University of Illinois is different than in high school or community college. Regardless of how well they scored on the SAT/ACT, students should routinely work to examine and hone their study skills in order to remain competitive. The OMSA ASC's services can help make that adjustment process faster and stress-free.

The ASC offers tutoring for 50-60 freshman-level courses; including but not limited to: calculus, physics, chemistry, psychology, economics, political science, and foreign languages. We also provide space for guided collaborative learning or study groups, along with a variety of 1:1 and group workshops and review sessions. Workshops are centered on test study strategies, time management, lecture note-taking techniques and test-taking strategies. Additionally, we offer online workshops and tutor scheduling.



734
Unique
Students



6,929
Hours of
Tutoring



4,579
Total
Interactions

EXCELLENCE AT MENTORING.

The Office of Minority Student Affairs (OMSA) offers advising and mentoring services designed to ensure retention and timely graduation. Our highly-trained staff are not academic advisors, but work with our Colleges and Departmental Academic Advisors to ensure student success. We do this by keeping our students fully informed of their options, assisting them with determining the pros and cons of each of those options, and serving as their facilitators and advocates.

During a student's first year, they will meet biweekly or monthly with their assigned Student Success Advisor (SSA) or Graduate Mentor (GM). Their SSA or GM will assist them in a variety of areas including: navigating campus; identifying college related goals via SMART GOALS; crafting a success plan; assessing academic progress; exploring career counseling; using personal development coaching; and introducing them to a variety of campus resources, such as tutoring and academic services, study abroad, leadership, cultural centers, and various career centers. Other students may request a Graduate Mentor as space allows or may attend our drop-in hours.



Any one considering Illinois should know that the OMSA offers great support systems! I've only experienced the OMSA for one semester and have already witnessed how impactful it has been for me as a student of color on campus. I can only imagine what other experiences I will have with the OMSA and the people I will build bonds with in the future.

Grace Johnson is a first-year student majoring in Media and Cinema Studies.

EXCELLENCE AT OMSA.

“The OMSA has not only offered academic support, but also emotional support. You never actually realize how much emotional support you need until you are completely on your own like you are in college. The campus is so massive and it is hard to find your place or a safe place, but I have found it here with my mentors and peers at the OMSA. The OMSA has become my home away from home.

Thanks to the OMSA, I have been able to experience things that I could have never experienced with anyone else or anywhere else. I have such pride being a part of the OMSA because I know it helps students see their full potential no matter how doubtful they started. I know that anyone who is a part of the OMSA can gain passion to do more for themselves and the world.”

Green Ahmad is a Sophomore majoring in Crop Science.



EXCELLENCE IN GIVING.

For over 50 years, the Office of Minority Student Affairs has had a tremendous impact on the lives of students. Some of our most successful efforts would not have been possible without the generous support of alumni, community leaders, and friends of the program. Your contribution to any of the five OMSA funds will have a very real benefit to current and future OMSA students. Visit omsa.illinois.edu/give for more information.

Clarence Shelley Minority Student Success Fund

Named for the Office of Minority Student Affairs' first director, the Clarence Shelley Minority Student Success Fund will provide unrestricted funds to support an array of student success initiatives including academic enrichment initiatives, academic support incentives, and academic achievement recognition.

Greta Hogan Student Persistence Scholarship

This scholarship was created in 2018 to honor the rich legacy of support that Greta Hogan provided generations of OMSA students during her distinguished tenure at Illinois. To be eligible for this award students must demonstrate need, be in good academic standing, and participate in OMSA activities.

Michael L. Jeffries & Mrs. Gayle Jeffries and Friends – OMSA High Achievement Scholarship

This scholarship was created in 2013 by Michael Jeffries, former Associate Dean of Students and OMSA Director, to be provided annually to students served by the OMSA. To be eligible, students must have a 3.00 grade point average from the previous year at Illinois and have demonstrated an interest in pursuing studies in graduate or professional school. The primary focus will be on students from Chicago Public Schools who are participants in OMSA activities.

H.O.P.E. Scholarship

The H.O.P.E. (Helping Others Prosper from Education) Scholarship was created in 2001 by Jacquelyn Hayes in memory of her parents. This is an endowed fund that is designated for University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign undergraduate students with sophomore, junior, or senior standing, with a 3.20 GPA, and who participate in OMSA services, with preference given to minority students.

The Diane Moore and Ann Moore Endowed Scholarship

Diane Moore is a Chicago Police Officer that places a high premium on education as a means to breaking societal barriers. Officer Moore believes that if children receive a quality education, they can combat social injustices. Her passion for justice and equitable education was instilled in her by her mother Ann Moore.

The scholarship, which bears both of their names, represents their value of education. This fund is designated for students who participated in the Office of Minority Student Affairs' services and earned a 3.25 GPA.



EXCELLENCE AT SUPPORT.

TRIO Student Support Services helps students successfully transition to the University of Illinois and graduate. TRIO SSS serves traditionally underrepresented students from low-income, first-generation backgrounds or students with disabilities. Along with fostering a culture of high academic achievement and financial wellness, SSS helps prepare students for their post-baccalaureate destination.

SSS provides a variety of services aimed at engaging students through academic mentoring and coaching, assistance with course selection, tutoring and academic services, graduate school preparation, financial aid and economic literacy workshops, individualized guidance with personal concerns, major and career exploration, and academic events that build community and connect them with resources that increase their collegiate success.



93%

of SSS students maintained good academic standing during the past academic year.



101

SSS students graduated or are expected to graduate in the Spring and Summer 2019 semesters.



87%

of SSS students graduated within 6 years, on average, exceeding their non-SSS peers.

EXCELLENCE BEYOND ILLINOIS.

TRIO MCNAIR SCHOLARS

Established in the Office of Minority Student Affairs (OMSA) in 1990, the TRIO Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program (McNair Scholars) provides research, mentoring, advising, and graduate school preparation opportunities for eligible sophomores, juniors and seniors. McNair Scholars engage in rigorous research with faculty mentors, attend relevant workshops and seminars, and commit to preparing themselves for doctoral studies following the completion of an undergraduate degree. We envision a program in which all McNair Scholars achieve academic and personal success so they can become the next generation of scientists, researchers, and professors.

Benefits of participating in the McNair Scholars Program include preparation for graduate education, graduate school fairs and application waiver, GRE prep and fee reduction voucher, trainings, workshops, and connection to campus resources, research mentorship, participation in a Summer Research Institute with stipend, a spring research seminar course, one-on-one and peer mentoring, and research presentations on-campus and at conferences across the country.



The OMSA represents students at U of I. It really is a community and it feels like there is always someone you can speak with. It is normal to feel uneasy or lost in the process of finding a career, but it all starts with looking for help. No one knows everything, and no one can achieve what they set out to do until they try.

Martin Castro is a Senior majoring in Political Science and Psychology.

EXCELLENCE BEFORE ILLINOIS.

TRIO Talent Search is funded by the U.S. Department of Education and has been in the Office of Minority Student Affairs (OMSA) since 2011. Talent Search is designed to create and sustain a college-going culture for its target schools and to improve parents' capacity to prepare their child/children for college. Talent Search identifies and assists eligible individuals from the cities of Champaign, Decatur, and Urbana who have the potential to succeed in higher education.

The mission of the TRIO Talent Search program is to prepare participants for collegiate success. Services are designed to keep participants in high school until they graduate, help individuals re-enter high school or an equivalent program (e.g., GED), prepare participants for enrollment in college immediately following high school graduation, and provide college-readiness support to ensure post-secondary completion.

TRIO TALENT SEARCH

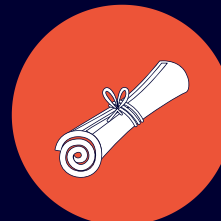
TRIO Talent Search works with students from over 11 local schools:

Centennial High
Central High
Edison Middle
Eisenhower High
Franklin Middle
Jefferson Middle
MacArthur High
Stephen Decatur Middle
Thomas Jefferson Middle
Urbana High
Urbana Middle



500

students from more than 11 local target schools are served each year by TRIO Talent Search.



98%

of Talent Search students persist to the next grade level on a year-to-year basis.

EXCELLENCE AT SERVICE.

TRIO Upward Bound in the Office of Minority Student Affairs (OMSA) has been a part of the Illinois community since 1966. We at Upward Bound are committed to providing our students with high quality academic, cultural, and career related activities to prepare and equip them to successfully complete high school, enroll in an accredited post-secondary institution, and obtain a baccalaureate degree.

During the academic year, Upward Bound services focus on improving skills via academic tutoring, test preparation workshops, course selection assistance, and getting ready for life after high school through college admission prep, college visits, and financial aid application assistance. Summer Upward Bound activities include a 6-week on-campus residential academy, academic classes, cultural enrichment experiences, career exploration experiences.



88%

of students enroll in college immediately following high school.



89%

of students persist to the next grade level and graduate high school in their proposed year.



70%

of students maintain a GPA of 2.5 or higher throughout high school.

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