



**ILLINOIS STATE
UNIVERSITY**
Illinois' first public university

Robert G. Bone SCHOLARSHIP

Bone Scholarship Application Materials and Instructions

Application deadline:

Monday, March 2, 2026 (4:30 pm).

Application submission:

- Application materials will be submitted online; the link was provided in the email you received notifying you of your nomination.
- Nominees will upload one document that contains all of the application materials; only Word or PDF files will be accepted.
- Nominees may upload an additional file of any format; for example, your academic product may be uploaded separately.
 - Video files should be saved as .mp4 files and must be smaller than 250 MB.

Nominees may submit hard copies of academic products to the Honors Program, located in the Honors Program Building, 207 S. Main St., Normal, IL.

Any questions regarding the submission or receipt of application materials should be addressed to Lauren Palmer at: Lmvala@ilstu.edu or (309) 438-2559.

Application materials:

Application materials submitted by the nominee should be double spaced and each section should be clearly identified.

The committee requests that nominees do not include a picture.

1. Letters of Nomination and Recommendation

Purpose To provide the selection committee with insight about your character, work ethic and accomplishments, from people who know you personally and/or professionally.

Criteria Your complete application will contain four letters. Your department/school submitted two letters of nomination. You will request two additional letters of recommendation from personal and/or professional contacts (such as work supervisors and/or Illinois State personnel).

Letters should be submitted by one of the following methods:

- Hard copy to:
Bone Scholarship Selection Committee
c/o Illinois State University
6100 Honors Program
Normal, IL 61790-6100
- Electronically to Lmvala@ilstu.edu
(preferred).

The letters should include:

- the relationship between you and the writer;
- a description of your character, work ethic, and accomplishments; and,
- a discussion of how you qualify as a Bone Scholar.

Please provide your letter writers with the [Guidance for Letters of Recommendation document](#).

2. Activities and Organizations

Purpose To provide the selection committee with insight regarding the breadth and depth of your involvement beyond academics.

Criteria Select no more than 7 Activities/Organizations to share. You may include campus activities as well as involvement in the Bloomington/Normal and/or your home community. Selected activities might include Registered Student Organizations (RSOs), employment, volunteer experiences, social, and/or civic involvement.

Your description of your Activities and Organizations, including your discussion of the three most meaningful, may include how Covid-19 affected your involvement and may have altered your ability to pursue your past activities.

Your **list** should include:

- A brief description of the Activity/Organization (no more than one, succinct paragraph)
- Dates and length of participation
- Duties and/or responsibilities
- Positions and/or offices held
- Honors and/or awards received

From your list of no more than seven Activities/Organizations, you may select three to discuss as being among the most meaningful. When considering which experiences are the most meaningful, you might consider the transformative nature of the experience: the impact you made while engaging in the activity and the personal or professional growth you experienced as a result of your participation.

Label the experience as “Most Meaningful” and limit your discussion to one double spaced page per meaningful experience.

3. Significant Courses

Purpose To provide the selection committee with insight about what intrigues, excites, or inspires you in your role as a student.

Criteria Identify **four courses** taken at Illinois State that have had a significant impact on your academic career.

In no more than one double-spaced page per course, discuss why these courses had such a significant impact on your development as a student. Briefly explain when you took the course and what requirement it was fulfilling (major, minor, General Education, etc.).

4. Academic Product Example

Purpose To provide the selection committee with insight about your abilities as a student/scholar.

Criteria Submit an academic product that you are proud of and that represents your skills and abilities as a student/scholar.

Submission guidelines:

- “Academic product” is considered broadly and may include papers, visual media, musical compositions, research reports, or other class assignments.
- Submissions should be from sophomore or junior year.
- Individual works are preferred as compared to a group assignment/project.
- While submissions do not necessarily have to be from an academic context, they should provide evidence as to your skills and abilities as a student/scholar.
- If it is necessary to submit your project as a hard copy, it will be returned to you after May 1, 2026.

In addition to the academic product itself, in no more than one double-spaced page:

- Provide a brief description of your submission and the context in which it was created. **If you are submitting a group project, be sure to describe and/or indicate your contribution.**

5. Academic Product Reflection

Purpose To provide the selection committee with insight about your ability to reflect on your own work and comment on your skills and abilities as a student/scholar.

Criteria In no more than two double-spaced pages:

- Why are you proud of this product and how does it demonstrate your academic mindset and growth over time?
- What is the significance of this product in terms of the development of your skills and abilities as a student/scholar?

6. Essay

Purpose To provide the selection committee with insight about your ability to think critically about and reflect upon your experiences, consider future goals and possible achievements, and express yourself in writing (including style, organization, and grammar).

Criteria Consider [Illinois State University's core values](#):

- Learning and Scholarship
- Individualized Attention
- Diversity and Inclusion
- Civic Engagement
- Respect
- Integrity
- Collaboration

In no more than three double-spaced pages, respond to the **two parts** of the following prompt:

1. In what ways has your undergraduate experience encompassed these values?
 - Limit your discussion to no more than three core values.
 - Provide examples of how your experiences connect to these values.
2. How might your future goals include engaging with these values?