



## 2026-2027 Robert G. Bone Scholarship Awards

Being designated a Bone Scholar is the highest honor an Illinois State undergraduate student can receive. Bone Scholars receive a scholarship, commemorative medallion, framed certificate, and are recognized in a display in the Bone Student Center. Scholars are also formally recognized at a formal recognition event in the Fall Semester of their Senior year.

### Eligibility and Criteria

Nominees must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- Cumulative grade point average of 3.7 or higher at the time of nomination.
- Have attended Illinois State University for at least four semesters (excluding summer) by June 2026.
- Anticipate graduating no earlier than December 2026, and no later than August 2027.
- Be an undergraduate student at Illinois State during the Fall 2026 semester.

Students who already have a bachelor's degree are not eligible. Bone Scholarship recipients will be announced as soon as they are selected, usually in early May.

Bone Scholars are students who combine broad and excellent academic achievement with campus and community engagement. They are expected to have shown outstanding qualities of character and leadership. A selection committee carefully reviews the submitted applications and makes awards based on the following considerations:

- The breadth, diversity, and quality of nominees' academic work.
- The type and extent of activities in which nominees have been involved, both in the university and the community.
- Nominees' personal qualities including dependability, cooperation, initiative, and other criteria determined by the committee.

### Selection Process

1. The Director of the Honors Program coordinates the Bone Scholar selection process. Each department/school may nominate at least one student. For each 200 undergraduate majors (beyond the first 200 majors), each department/school may nominate an additional student. No department/school, however large, may nominate more than four students.

**Nominations are due no later than Monday, February 2, 2026**, and should be accompanied by two letters of nomination, obtained by the department/school. These letters will be considered by the Committee in the selection process and will be distinct from letters of recommendation sought out by nominees themselves, as part of their application. Please review the [Guidance for Nomination Letters document](#).

2. Following the nomination deadline, the Director of the Honors Program invites all nominees to apply for the award and provides instructions on how to do so.

Completed applications are due from nominees on **Monday, March 2, 2026**. Nominees will receive detailed instructions as to the application components and will be invited to attend an optional workshop to review the requirements.

Application materials include:

- 2 letters of nomination and 2 letters of recommendation.
  - A list of significant courses accompanied by a discussion of why these courses have had a significant impact on the nominee's personal and/or professional life.
  - A listing and brief description of the nominee's involvement in activities and organizations at Illinois State and/or in the community.
  - An academic product of which the nominee is proud and that represents their abilities as a student/scholar.
  - A reflection on the academic product in which the nominee considers its significance.
  - An essay in which the nominee reflects on how their undergraduate experience at Illinois State has encompassed the university's core values.
3. The Committee will choose up to 14 Bone Scholars from the nominees who submit complete applications. In 2025, there were 61 nominees and 59 applicants.