



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

**Robert G. Bone  
SCHOLARSHIP**

# **Bone Scholarship Nominee Workshop**

Thursday, February 6, 4 – 5 pm

Friday, February 7, 2 - 3 pm

Monday, February 10, 4 – 5 pm

**Christie Martin**

**Honors Program Associate Director**

**[cmproct@ilstu.edu](mailto:cmproct@ilstu.edu)**



ILLINOIS STATE  
UNIVERSITY  
*Illinois' first public university*

Robert G. Bone  
SCHOLARSHIP

## Our time together...

- What is the Bone Scholarship?
- What does the application entail?
- What makes an application exceptional?
- Committee experience vs. opinion



ILLINOIS STATE  
UNIVERSITY  
*Illinois' first public university*

# Robert G. Bone SCHOLARSHIP

## What is the Bone Scholarship?

- Named after Robert G. Bone
  - 9<sup>th</sup> President of Illinois State University;  
1960 – 1967
- Highest honor an undergraduate can receive





ILLINOIS STATE  
UNIVERSITY  
*Illinois' first public university*

Robert G. Bone  
**SCHOLARSHIP**

# What is the Bone Scholarship?

- First scholarships were awarded in 1967
- Recognizes and celebrates outstanding academic achievement and campus/community engagement



ILLINOIS STATE  
UNIVERSITY  
*Illinois' first public university*

Robert G. Bone  
**SCHOLARSHIP**

# What is the Bone Scholarship?

- Financial award
- Commemorative medallion
- Framed certificate
- Display in the Bone Student Center
- Fall recognition event



ILLINOIS STATE  
UNIVERSITY  
*Illinois' first public university*

Robert G. Bone  
SCHOLARSHIP

## Eligibility Requirements

- 3.70 cumulative GPA
- Graduation timeline
  - December 2025
  - May 2026
  - August 2026
- Each Department/School = 1 nominee
  - 1 additional nominee for every 200 students
  - No more than 4 nominees



ILLINOIS STATE  
UNIVERSITY  
*Illinois' first public university*

Robert G. Bone  
**SCHOLARSHIP**

## Selection Committee

- 1 faculty member from each college (6 total)
- Current Bone Scholar
- Foundation Association Representative
- Alumni Association Representative
- Director of the Honors Program



ILLINOIS STATE  
UNIVERSITY  
*Illinois' first public university*

Robert G. Bone  
**SCHOLARSHIP**

# Application Basics

- 60 nominees
- 14 Bone Scholars selected
- Submission deadline is 4:30 pm on Monday, March 3
- Materials submitted online





ILLINOIS STATE  
UNIVERSITY  
*Illinois' first public university*

Robert G. Bone  
SCHOLARSHIP

## Online Application

- Submit two files
- **File 1: Application materials**
  - PDF or Word documents only
- **File 2: Academic Product**
  - Any format
- **File 3: Optional**
  - If needed (any format)
- Contact Lauren Palmer for “not-digital” products or materials



ILLINOIS STATE  
UNIVERSITY  
*Illinois' first public university*

Robert G. Bone  
SCHOLARSHIP

## Letters of...

- **Nomination**
  - 2 letters were submitted with your formal nomination
- **Recommendation**
  - 2 additional letters acquired by the nominee
  - Academic and/or professional contacts
  - Letters should be sent directly to the Honors Program



ILLINOIS STATE  
UNIVERSITY  
*Illinois' first public university*

Robert G. Bone  
SCHOLARSHIP

# Letters of Recommendation

- Academic and/or professional contacts
- Refer to your strengths and character
- Provide examples of your achievements
- Share a resume or ask the letter writer to focus on something specific

**Guidance for Letters of Recommendation**



ILLINOIS STATE  
UNIVERSITY  
*Illinois' first public university*

Robert G. Bone  
SCHOLARSHIP

## Themes of Advice

- What have you learned?
- Explain the meaning and significance
- Identify growth and transformation as a student, scholar, person
- Reflect on the past while looking towards the future
- Be specific: examples and evidence
- Cohesive, compelling, well-written narratives
- Balance of academic excellence and leadership achievements



ILLINOIS STATE  
UNIVERSITY  
*Illinois' first public university*

Robert G. Bone  
**SCHOLARSHIP**

# Significant Courses

What intrigues, excites, or inspires you as a student?

- 4 courses from Illinois State
- 1 double-spaced page per course
- Briefly: when taken, requirement fulfilled
- Why was the course significant to your development as a student?



ILLINOIS STATE  
UNIVERSITY  
*Illinois' first public university*

Robert G. Bone  
SCHOLARSHIP

## Significant Courses

- Clear and compelling rationale as to the significance of the courses identified
- Examples/evidence of your development as a student
- Make connections to:
  - Skills developed
  - Involvement
  - Career path



ILLINOIS STATE  
UNIVERSITY  
*Illinois' first public university*

Robert G. Bone  
**SCHOLARSHIP**

# Activities and Organizations

Share the breadth and depth of your involvement.

- Up to 7 Activities/Organizations
- Committee prefers bullet points
- List that includes:
  - Brief description of the Activity/Organization
  - Dates and length of participation
  - Duties and/or responsibilities
  - Positions and/or offices held
  - Honors and/or awards received



ILLINOIS STATE  
UNIVERSITY  
*Illinois' first public university*

Robert G. Bone  
SCHOLARSHIP

# Activities and Organizations

- RSOs, volunteer experience, employment, family/social/community/civic involvement
- Breadth and depth of experiences
- Roles and responsibilities are clear and succinct





ILLINOIS STATE  
UNIVERSITY  
*Illinois' first public university*

Robert G. Bone  
SCHOLARSHIP

# Activities and Organizations

## 3 “Most Meaningful”

- 1 double spaced page per “Most Meaningful”
- Reflect on the impact you had and growth you experienced
- Examples of initiative, making change
- “Transformative”
  - How did you leave your mark?
  - Personal/professional growth



ILLINOIS STATE  
UNIVERSITY  
*Illinois' first public university*

Robert G. Bone  
SCHOLARSHIP

## Academic Product

- Influential; not necessarily big
  - Sophomore or junior year
  - Showcase your abilities as a student/scholar
  - Substantial assignments
  - Not necessarily from a class
- 1 double-spaced page with a brief description and context
  - Class title, semester taken
  - Goals for the assignment



ILLINOIS STATE  
UNIVERSITY  
*Illinois' first public university*

Robert G. Bone  
SCHOLARSHIP

# Academic Product

- Group Projects
  - Clear and strong rationale for selecting a group project
  - Explanation of your role and responsibility
  - Why is this the best representation of your skills?
  - How did you take the work to the next level?



ILLINOIS STATE  
UNIVERSITY  
*Illinois' first public university*

Robert G. Bone  
SCHOLARSHIP

# Academic Product Reflection

- 2 double-spaced pages
- Why are you proud of this product?
  - Academic mindset
  - Growth as a student/scholar
- What is the significance of the product?
  - Skills developed
  - Important outcomes
  - Abilities as a student/scholar



ILLINOIS STATE  
UNIVERSITY  
*Illinois' first public university*

Robert G. Bone  
SCHOLARSHIP

# Academic Product Reflection

- Self-Reflection
  - What did you learn?
  - How did you grow?
  - What could you have done better or differently?
- Ability to find meaning and critique your own work



ILLINOIS STATE  
UNIVERSITY  
*Illinois' first public university*

Robert G. Bone  
SCHOLARSHIP

# Essay

Consider Illinois State University's core values.

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?



ILLINOIS STATE  
UNIVERSITY  
*Illinois' first public university*

Robert G. Bone  
**SCHOLARSHIP**

# Essay

- 3 double-spaced pages
- Clear connection to no more than three core values
- Well-written narrative with specific examples and supporting details
- Reflect on your experiences
- Beyond a summary; bring in new information
- Future oriented; goals and achievements



ILLINOIS STATE  
UNIVERSITY  
*Illinois' first public university*

Robert G. Bone  
SCHOLARSHIP

# Page Count

	Section	Total
Significant Courses	4	4
Activities and Organizations	List (4*) + 3	11
Academic Product**	Product + 1	12
Academic Product Reflection	2	14
Essay	3	17
	Total pages	17 (ish)

\*Assumes 4 pages to explain 7 activities.

\*\*Product not included in total page count.



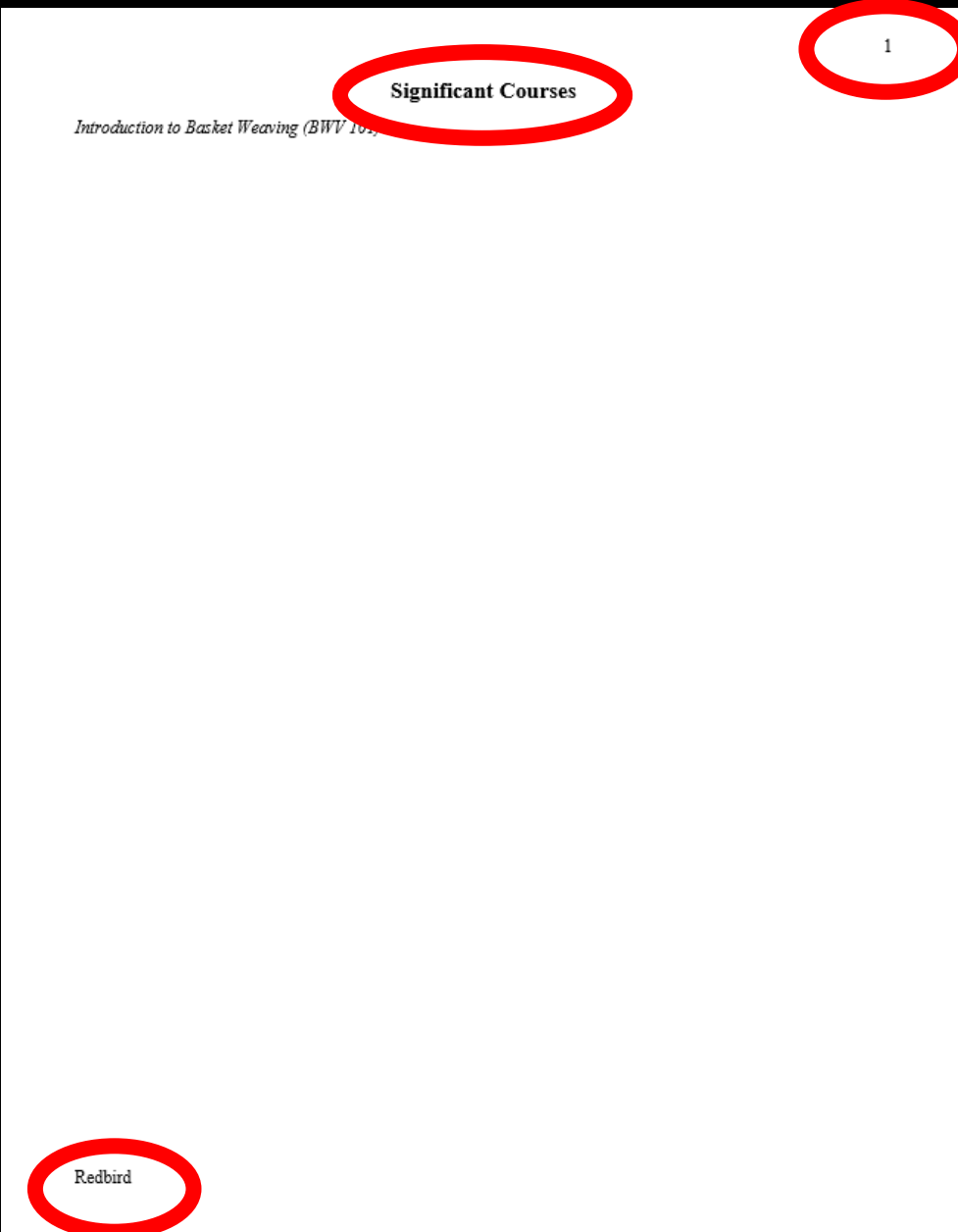


ILLINOIS STATE  
UNIVERSITY  
*Illinois' first public university*

Robert G. Bone  
**SCHOLARSHIP**

## Technical things

- Do NOT include a picture
- No errors; proofread like your life depends on it
- One file saved in Word or PDF format
- Standard margins
- Times New Roman or Arial (don't get fancy)
- No less than 11 point font
- Label each section



**Significant Courses**

*Introduction to Basket Weaving (BWV 100)*

1

Page number in the header

Section title

Redbird

Name in the footer



ILLINOIS STATE  
UNIVERSITY  
*Illinois' first public university*

Robert G. Bone  
**SCHOLARSHIP**

## Themes of Advice

- What have you learned?
- Explain the meaning and significance
- Identify growth and transformation as a student, scholar, person
- Reflect on the past while looking towards the future
- Be specific: examples and evidence
- Cohesive, compelling, well-written narratives
- Balance of academic excellence and leadership achievements



ILLINOIS STATE  
UNIVERSITY  
*Illinois' first public university*

Robert G. Bone  
SCHOLARSHIP

**Good Luck!**