### LOCK IN THE FUTURE COST OF COLLEGE TUITION

Enrollment Dates: Nov. 2, 2015 -May 31, 2016\*

> COLLEGE ILLINOISI 529 prepaid tuition program

Learn More collegeillinois.org 1.877.877.3724

\*Newborn enrollment period extended through August 31, 2016. Newborn enrollment is for children born on or between September 1, 2015, and August 31, 2016.

# THE **RISING COST** OF COLLEGE TUITION



### THE RISING COST OF COLLEGE TUITION



Average cost of college tuition and fees at Illinois public universities in 2005-2006



Average increase of tuition at Illinois public universities since 2005 \$14,535

Average cost of college tuition and fees at Illinois public universities in 2015-2016



#### WHAT COLLEGE COSTS YOUR STUDENT

64% of Illinois college students have loans with an average balance of \$28,000.





### THE RISING COST OF COLLEGE TUITION

#### WHAT YOU CAN DO TO PREPARE

Invest in your child's future by purchasing a College Illinois! 529 Prepaid Tuition Plan.

- College Illinois! has paid over \$725 million in tuition and mandatory fees on behalf of over 30,000 students.
- Purchase semesters of college now, locking in the future cost of tuition at today's plan rate.
- Pay one price now that will cover tuition and mandatory fees for each semester you purchase at the colleges and universities in your plan, or apply the future value of those semesters to most private or out-of-state colleges.

# CHOOSING YOUR PLAN



## CHOOSING YOUR PLAN



#### **CHOOSE A FLEXIBLE PREPAID TUITION PLAN**

Explore 3 distinct plans, with individual prices and flexible payment options. Decide how many semesters you want to purchase and which payment option works best for you.

- College Illinois! makes choosing the right prepaid tuition plan simple. The 3-tier system gives you the flexibility to purchase plans that cover 100% of in-state or in-district tuition and mandatory fees at different types of Illinois public higher education institutions.
- The Program allows you to purchase anywhere from 1 to 9 semesters for any one child, depending on the plan.
- Once the contract is paid in full, you'll enjoy the peace of mind that comes from knowing your child's future is secure. Then, when your child is ready to attend college, College Illinois! pays contract benefits directly to the college you have chosen. Benefits can be used at all Illinois public colleges, or applied toward tuition and mandatory fees at most private colleges and universities in Illinois and throughout the U.S.
- No matter which College Illinois! plan you choose, your future student always has the flexibility to apply the value of their benefits to attend the in-state, out-of-state or private school of his or her choosing.



### **CHOOSING YOUR PLAN**

#### **PICK FROM 3 PLAN OPTIONS**

Each semester is equal to 15 credit hours.



#### Choice 1:

- Covers 100% in-district tuition and mandatory fees at all Illinois community colleges
- Can be converted to use at any Illinois public or private university or out-of-state school
- Purchase up to 4 semesters



#### Choice 2:

- Covers 100% tuition and mandatory fees at all Illinois public universities. Benefits may be applied to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) but will not provide full coverage
- Can be converted to use at private, out-of-state or community colleges
- Purchase up to 9 semesters or a combination plan of 4 Community College and 4 University semesters



#### Choice 3:

- Covers 100% tuition and mandatory fees at all Illinois public universities, *including* University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC)
- Can be converted to use at private, out-of-state or community colleges
- Tuition and mandatory fees at Illinois public universities other than UIUC will be paid in full, and the prepaid tuition account will be depleted for fewer credit hours
- Purchase up to 9 semesters or a combination plan of 4 Community College and 4 University+ semesters



## **CHOOSING YOUR PLAN**

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#### **CHOOSE A PAYMENT OPTION**

Make monthly, annual or lump-sum payments depending on your plan and the age of your child. Find a payment plan to fit your family's needs with the **Plan Finder** and other easy-to-use calculation tools on the College Illinois! website.

Plan prices are determined by:

- The age/grade level of the beneficiary
- The Plan you choose
- The number of semesters you decide to purchase

Your first payment is due the first day of the second month after your application is received.

See payment schedules and fees here.

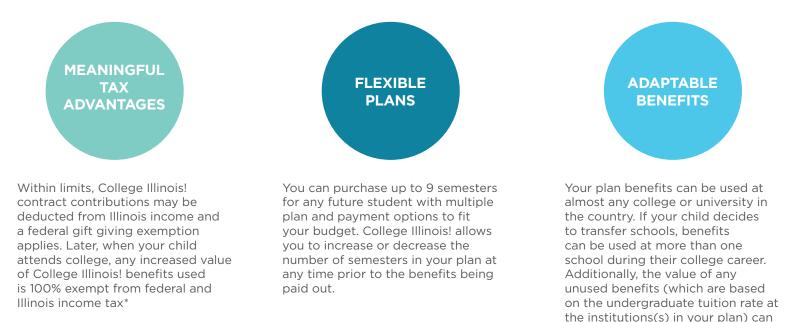
## ADVANTAGES FOR PURCHASERS



### **ADVANTAGES FOR PURCHASERS**

#### **BE REWARDED FOR PLANNING AHEAD**

A College Illinois! Plan offers families a wide range of incentives and tax advantages to make planning ahead an even better decision. And the sooner you start your College Illinois! Plan, the more you'll save on your purchase. Here are powerful reasons to enroll in your plan now:



\*Please see Disclosure Statement and Master Agreement for more details. The College Illinois!\* Prepaid Tuition Program cannot provide purchasers with any legal or tax advice. Purchasers should consult their own tax advisor concerning federal and state tax implications of purchasing a contract.

also be applied to graduate-study

tuition and fees.



### **ADVANTAGES FOR PURCHASERS**

#### **BE REWARDED FOR PLANNING AHEAD (CONTINUED)**

Here are more powerful reasons to enroll in your plan now:



Any U.S. resident 18 or older can purchase a plan for a future student. College Illinois! has a 1-year Illinois residency requirement that can be met by the purchaser or the beneficiary.



You can transfer funds from another qualified tuition program, Coverdell Education Savings Account or certain series of U.S. Savings Bonds to your College Illinois! account or another qualified tuition program.



## **ADVANTAGES FOR PURCHASERS**

#### PLANNING AHEAD MEANS MORE TAX ADVANTAGES

Plan benefits, or funds, are exempt from both federal and Illinois state taxes. Illinois taxpayers can deduct contributions from state taxable income in the year the contribution is made, subject to limits.



- 100% tax-exempt earnings on benefits used.
- A state income tax deduction for contributions up to \$10,000 (\$20,000 for married couples filing jointly).



- 100% tax-exempt earnings on benefits used..
- Account owners can make a lump-sum contribution of up to \$70,000 per beneficiary or \$140,000 if married and filing jointly, and avoid incurring a gift tax on this amount by electing to use five years of the annual gift tax exclusion all in one year.
- Within limits, you can roll over funds from another qualified 529 tuition program, a Coverdell Education Savings Account and certain series of U.S. Savings Bonds to a College Illinois! account.



# A COLLEGE ILLINOIS! PLAN CAN TAKE YOUR STUDENT ANYWHERE

Planning ahead for your child helps to significantly reduce student loan debt. Your future student can imagine any future they want and know that their plan is flexible. Other advantages include:





#### Application to undergraduate and graduate study.

A College Illinois! Plan is intended to cover tuition and mandatory fees for full or part-time undergraduate study. While College Illinois! does not offer plans specifically for graduate study, the value of unused benefits can be applied toward graduate-study tuition and mandatory fees.

#### Benefits transfer.

Benefits can be used at more than one school if your child transfers to another school during their college career. You can also convert from one prepaid tuition plan type to another before beginning benefit usage. Additional costs may apply.

#### Entering college later is okay.

The beneficiary has 10 years from the expected college enrollment date to begin using benefits and ten years from then to use benefits.



#### Can be applied to private and out-ofstate schools.

Plans are even flexible enough to be applied toward tuition and mandatory fees at private and out-of-state schools.



#### **HOW ARE BENEFITS APPLIED**

If the beneficiary attends an Illinois public institution within the plan purchased, tuition and mandatory fees will be fully paid at the in-state or in-district rate for the number of credit hours covered by the contract no matter what the cost of tuition and mandatory fees are when the beneficiary attends college.



#### **HOW ARE BENEFITS APPLIED (CONTINUED)**

If the beneficiary attends an Illinois public institution not specifically covered by their plan, tuition and fees will be paid in full up to the amount payable under their contract. For example, if a student who is a beneficiary of a Choice 2 plan chooses to attend UIUC (the Choice 3 plan school), the number of credit hours deducted from the plan's balance will be determined by a conversion factor comparing the tuition at all other Illinois public universities with the cost of UIUC. As a result, their credit hour balance will be reduced at a faster rate than if they attended one of the Illinois public universities covered by their Choice 2 plan, and the beneficiary will be responsible for paying any additional amounts.



#### **HOW ARE BENEFITS APPLIED (CONTINUED)**

If a beneficiary of a Choice 3 plan attends an Illinois public institution other than UIUC, their tuition and fee benefits will cover 100 percent but the number of credit hours deducted from the plans balance will be determined by a conversion factor comparing the average tuition at UIUC to the cost of the state university or community college they choose. As a result, their credit hours balance will be reduced at a much slower rate than if they attended UIUC. Under this scenario, it is possible that a balance might remain in the beneficiary's account for future use.

See the chart under **Plans and Pricing** for further explanation.



#### **HOW ARE BENEFITS APPLIED (CONTINUED)**

If a plan beneficiary chooses to attend a private institution or out-of-state institution, benefits paid will equal the mean-weighted average of tuition and fees charged by Illinois public universities or community colleges (in the plan you purchased) at the time of the beneficiary's enrollment in college. The mean-weighted average depends on the type (Choice 1, 2, or 3) of prepaid plan purchased. The mean-weighted average may be more or less than tuition and mandatory fees charged depending on where the student enrolls. If the amount paid is less than the cost of tuition and mandatory fees, then the beneficiary is responsible for paying the difference. If this amount is more, then the balance will remain in the student's account for future use.

For the current mean-weighted average tuition and fees, please **click here**.



#### **PURCHASING YOUR PLAN IS EASY**

Once you've decided to purchase a College Illinois! Plan, there are only a few steps to enroll. Following is a step-by-step description of the process and information you'll need to make college happen.





#### **COLLECT THE INFORMATION YOU NEED**

There are only a few pieces of information required to enroll in a plan. They include:

- You and your Beneficiary's (future student) and your Successor Purchaser's Social Security Number\*
- Your Beneficiary's date of birth
- Your selections for the type of College Illinois! plan, the number of semesters you wish to purchase and the payment option you intend to use





#### **ENTERING YOUR INFORMATION**

- 1. Click "Enroll Now" on the College Illinois! website
- 2. Enter your information in our secure enrollment portal
- 3. Select your plan and payment option
- 4. Complete the purchase of your plan

The process takes about 15 minutes, and you can always save your application and return to it at a later date.

If you need to submit your application at a later date, be sure to save it so that your information is there when you return. Look for the "Save Application" button at the bottom of each enrollment page.



#### FINDING RESOURCES ONCE YOU'VE PURCHASED YOUR PLAN

Information for account owners is available on the College Illinois! website, including:

- How to use your benefits
- A definition of plan types
- How to change your plan
- Forms and downloads
- Monthly Program financial reports

For specific information about your account, you can log in from the "Account Login" section found at the top of the College Illinois! website. Access your account by entering your account number and official PIN number.

If you have any questions or need assistance at any point, please call College Illinois! toll free at 1.877.877.3724. Knowledgeable representatives will be happy to help you and can be reached Monday through Friday between the hours of 8am and 5pm CST.

Get started **here**.

# NEWBORN ENROLLMENT



### **NEWBORN ENROLLMENT**

#### THE SOONER YOU ENROLL, THE MORE YOU SAVE

College Illinois! has an extended enrollment period for newborns. For children born on or between September 1, 2015, and August 31, 2016, the enrollment deadline is **August 31, 2016**.





### **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

# CAN THE BENEFITS BE USED AT A PRIVATE OR OUT-OF-STATE UNIVERSITY?



**YES.** At an eligible private or out-of-state institution, the benefits paid will equal the mean-weighted average tuition (WAT) charged at Illinois public universities or community colleges (in the plan you purchased) at the time of enrollment in college.

The WAT depends on the type (Choice 1, 2 or 3) of prepaid plan you have purchased. The WAT for tuition and mandatory fees is recalculated each year for each plan choice to keep pace with tuition increases at Illinois public institutions.



### **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

# WHAT IF MY STUDENT RECEIVES A FULL OR PARTIAL SCHOLARSHIP?

If a full or partial scholarship is secured, the College Illinois! 529 Prepaid Tuition Program offers multiple options:



Benefits can be held for future use, such as graduate school



The purchaser can choose to change the beneficiary of the contract



A refund can be issued to the purchaser each semester for the amount of the scholarship.

Have other questions? Click to see all FAQs.

# ENROLL NOW



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