

The Student Experience Student-Parent

Overview of the opportunities and challenges for undergraduate and graduate students who are parenting while pursuing their education at the University of Illinois and the services available to support these students.

Student-Parents

- * What we know:
 - * Graduate and undergraduate
 - * Domestic and international
 - * Partnered, married, and single parent households
 - * Full-time and part-time students
- * What we need to know:
 - * How many student-parents do we have on Campus?

Overview of Needs

- * Academic: classes, group projects, study time
- * Child Care: availability, hours of operation, cost
- * Financial Aid and Money Management
- * Health Care and Insurance
- * Healthy Food
- * Housing: affordability, location
- * Parental Support
- * Recreational Space

Academics

Challenges

- * Child care
- * Schedule varies
- * Evening hours
- * Homework
- * Study time
- * Group projects

Opportunities

- * Child friendly study space
- * Excused absence for sick child
- * Cooperative child care
- * Free child care nights

Child Care

Challenges

- * Availability
- * Limited drop-in service
- * Cost
- * Proximity to campus
- * Transportation
- * Child illness

Opportunities

- * Child Development Lab
 - * CCAMPIS
- * Child Care Resource Service
- * Orchard Downs Pre-School
- * Orchard Downs After-School
- * Crisis Nursery

Financial Management

Challenges

- * Affording school and living expenses
- * Money management
- * Competing demands
- * Availability to work
- * Cost of child care

Opportunities

- * Financial aid
- * Budget training

Health Care

Challenges

- * Availability of local care
- * Cost of insurance
- * Availability of insurance
- * Balance sick child and academic demands
- * Limited drop-in child care

Opportunities

- * McKinley Health Center
- * Student Insurance
- * All Kids State Insurance
- * Multi-Cultural Health Center
- * Local Free Health Care Clinic
- * Women Infant and Child, WIC

Healthy Food

Challenges

- * Access to food
- * Affordability
- * Cultural and regional differences
- * Knowledge base for healthy food

Opportunities

- * University Housing Dining
- * Eastern Illinois Foodbank
 - * Wesley Foodbank
- * Public Health – WIC
- * McKinley Health Center – Nutritionist
- * Campus Recreation classes

Affordable Housing

Challenges

- * Lease terms
- * Rates
- * Proximity to campus
- * Access to child care
- * Apartment types

Opportunities

- * University Housing
- * Tenant's Union

Parental Support

Challenges

- * Meeting other parents
- * Student experience

Opportunities

- * I-Parents
- * Student–Parent Events
- * Women’s Center
- * Parenting 24/7
- * Chambana Moms
- * United Way - Birth to 6
- * Healthy Families Program
- * Up Center
- * Crisis Nursery

Fitness and Recreational Space

Challenges

- * Outdoor play space
- * Indoor play space
- * Parent's fitness
- * Children's fitness

Opportunities

- * Playground near campus
- * First Christian Church
- * YMCA Family Night
- * Campus Rec Family Night
- * McKinley Health Center – fitness instruction
- * C-U Fit Families

What Can You Do?

- * **Ask:** Do you know if the students you work with have children or other dependents?
- * **Listen:** Be open to the full student experience.
- * **Support:** Know what University and community support exist and be a part of the support network.
- * **Connect:** Provide referral to resources on campus or in the community.

Next Steps

- * Further study of the needs of graduate and undergraduate students who are parenting
- * Coordinated efforts: I-Parents and Student Affairs
- * Systematic approach to identifying student-parents
- * Training for staff throughout the University