



DATA DRIVEN INSIGHTS INTO HIGHER EDUCATION: ACCESS AND AFFORDABILITY IN ILLINOIS

AccessLex Institute's state-based sheets provide key insights into advanced degree enrollment and attainment, borrowing patterns, and broad student loan repayment and forgiveness trends. This data empowers students, administrators, and policymakers with the information needed to inform policies that protect and expand opportunities in higher education and beyond.

Advanced Degree Enrollment and Attainment

Graduate and professional students drive innovation, meet critical workforce demands, and strengthen their local communities. Examining enrollment and completion trends in your state highlights the importance of access and affordability to meet these goals.

Fall 2024 Advanced Degree Enrollment

161,698 graduate and professional students enrolled.

5,453 law students enrolled.



AY 2023-24 Advanced Degrees Awarded

56,662 advanced degrees were awarded.

1,909 law degrees were awarded.



Graduate and Professional Borrowing Patterns

Financing an advanced degree can often require taking on student loan debt. Borrowing patterns in your state — such as the number of recipients in graduate student loan programs during the 2024-25 academic year, including the **Grad PLUS** and **Direct Unsubsidized** programs — emphasizes the need for federal policies to ensure these programs remain accessible and affordable.



Student Loan Repayment at a Glance

Navigating student loan debt repayment is critical for long-term financial stability upon degree completion. Programs like **income-driven repayment (IDR)** provide relief by reducing monthly payment costs, but continued policy protections are essential.

451.8
thousand



borrowers are enrolled in IDR plans in
your state as of September 2025.

\$28.4
billion



in student loan balances were held by
borrowers enrolled in IDR plans in your state
as of September 2025.



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AccessLex Institute's Member Law Schools

AccessLex member law schools in your state have a critical role in shaping the next generation of legal professionals.

Chicago Kent College of Law School
The University of Chicago Law School
DePaul University College of Law
University of Illinois Chicago School of Law
University of Illinois College of Law
Loyola University Chicago School of Law
Northern Illinois University College of Law
Northwestern University - Pritzker School of Law
Southern Illinois University School of Law

Learn About All 50 States and U.S. Territories

Scan the QR code below to link to our data sheets for all 50 states.



Notes: Data for general graduate and professional enrollment and degrees awarded is from the U.S. Department of Education, Institute for Education Sciences via the Integrated Postsecondary Education System. The data represent Title IV-participating institutions and, while enrollment reflects total enrollment, degrees awarded include master's degrees, doctoral degrees - research/scholarship, doctoral degrees - professional practice, and doctoral degrees - other. Data for law school enrollment and J.D.s awarded is from the American Bar Association. Data for direct loan recipients is from the U.S. Department of Education, Federal Student Aid (FSA) via the FSA Data Center. Data for borrowers enrolled in IDR is from the U.S. Department of Education, Federal Student Aid (FSA) via the FSA Data Center and is current as of September 30, 2025. All data are rounded to the nearest whole number.
