Welcome to the LEADS Living-Learning Community

Started in 2000, LEADS is an exemplary living-learning community at ILLINOIS, widely recognized, emulated, and beloved by our students.

We will communicate with you regularly through email during the summer to share information about Move-In, Orientation, and other announcements.

We hope you join us for our annual LEADS Fall Orientation Program from August 21 through 23. Move in early, learn what LEADS is all about, participate in fun activities, and get to know other LEADS residents!

If you have any questions, please contact the LEADS program office at (217) 244-9700 or LEADS@illinois.edu.

We are excited to have you join our community and can’t wait to meet you!

Gail Pring
LEADS Office Support Associate and the entire LEADS Team!

Meet the LEADS Staff!

Paul Wojdacz, Interim Program Director
Paul manages the administrative aspects of LEADS (recruitment, orientation, academic courses, programs, and resources).

Kim Soumar, Hopkins Residence Hall Director
Kim supervises all floors, resident advisors (RAs), and multicultural advocate (MA) within Hopkins Hall to ensure positive and healthy communities for our residents.

LEADS Resident Advisors
We are fortunate to have amazing paraprofessionals working with and living on the LEADS floor! These RAs make LEADS a great place to live by offering programs, building a strong floor community, enforcing hall policies, and getting to know each student who lives in our community.

Stay Updated on LEADS! Facebook LEADSLLC Twitter @IllinoisLEADS

Contact Us
LEADS Program Office | 17 Weston Hall | (217) 244-9700 | leads@illinois.edu
Academic Courses

A major benefit of a living-learning community is access to on-site and high-demand courses. We encourage you to register for any of these that interest you; however, none of our courses are required.

Taking classes in a small collegial setting with access to your instructors and your fellow classmates in your hall is a major benefit. These courses are for full credit, some meeting degree and general education course requirements while others are electives. These courses range from Leadership Studies to Sign Language to Public Speaking and more!

LEADS residents are also eligible for **FREE MUSIC LESSONS**! A lottery is held at the start of each semester for piano, guitar, or vocal lessons.

A copy of the LEADS course schedule can be found on our website at HOUSING.ILLINOIS.EDU/LEADS.

*Be sure to tell your academic advisor that you are a LEADS student when you meet during the summer to register for your fall classes!*

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**Move In Two Days Early For LEADS Orientation!**

The LEADS Fall Orientation is an optional program that nearly all new LEADS residents attend!

- Move in early
- Fun and exciting activities
- Become familiar with campus and the LEADS LLC
- Get to know new friends
- Meet our staff
- Planned by former LEADS students just for you

**Orientation Fee**

$30 covers your housing, meals, and a t-shirt.

**To Sign Up**

Check your Illinois email or visit the University Housing LEADS webpage

**Questions?**

LEADS@illinois.edu

HOUSING.ILLINOIS.EDU

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**Helpful Websites**

- Information about the LEADS LLC: HOUSING.ILLINOIS.EDU/LEADS
- View room assignment, roommate information, change your meal plan, etc., starting in late June: HOUSING.ILLINOIS.EDU/MYHOUSING
- Hopkins Hall floor plans and room/furniture dimensions can be found at HOUSING.ILLINOIS.EDU/HOPKINS under “Layouts and Floor Plans”.
- Interested in ordering a micro-fridge, linens, or carpet? Visit HOUSING.ILLINOIS.EDU/INCOMING for details.

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Stay Updated on LEADS!

LEADSLLC  @IllinoisLEADS
LEADS Programs

LEADS staff and students plan a variety of programs throughout the year. We encourage you to participate in anything that interests you! Interested in other programs or resources? Let us know!

Examples of Past Programs:
- LEADS Emerging Leaders Program
- iHelp Day of Service
- Women in Leadership Workshop Series
- Illinois Leadership Center Workshops
- Halloween Party
- Canned Food Drives
- Resume Writing Workshops
- Business Etiquette Dinner
- Relay for Life
- Campus Day of Service
- LEADS Semi-Formal

And many more each year!

August Move-In Information

If you are participating in the LEADS Fall Orientation Program, you can move in on Tuesday, August 21 from 9 a.m.–4 p.m. Freshmen who are NOT participating in the LEADS Orientation Program or other approved early arrival activity can move in on Thursday, August 23. Additional information about Move-In will be sent from University Housing in late July.

Move-In volunteers (I-Guides) will be available to help new students move into Hopkins Hall on both Tuesday and Thursday. Your keys can be picked up in the Hopkins Main Lounge during official move in times (Tuesday until Thursday from 9 a.m.–4 p.m.). If you arrive outside of these times, you can pick up your keys at the Ikenberry North Area Office located in Nugent Hall.

If you need early arrival housing on Sunday, August 19 or Monday, August 20, you can check in at the Ikenberry North Area Office located in Nugent Hall and pick up the keys to your room in Hopkins. The rate for early arrival housing is $60/night for each student and includes three meals each day. The $30 LEADS Orientation fee covers your housing and meals starting with dinner on August 21. If you are participating in LEADS Orientation, you will not be charged the early arrival fees for Tuesday or Wednesday.

Are you an international or out-of-state student and need to arrive earlier than August 19? Early arrival housing information is available on the University Housing website at HOUSING.ILLINOIS.EDU/EARLYARRIVAL.
LEADS Frequently Asked Questions

How do I know if LEADS is for me?
The LEADS LLC is for any student interested in learning more about leadership and developing leadership skills. You do not need to have leadership experience or hold a leadership position to be a valuable member of the community. All LEADS residents are expected to get involved in the community and have a positive impact within this dynamic living and learning environment.

What programs and events typically take place on the LEADS floor?
Beginning with Orientation, LEADS residents never have to worry about being bored or finding ways to get involved! Our staff offers fun and interesting community service and leadership programs and events throughout the year. We offer an Emerging Leaders Program just for LEADS residents. LEADS residents plan programs for the floor, and there are many great opportunities available in Hopkins Hall and beyond! Past LEADS programs included: open doors night, resume workshop, multicultural events, team building workshops, time management workshops, business etiquette dinner, leadership certificate informational session, “So you want to be a RA/MA,” barbeque, service projects, field trips, semi-formal, and much more!

How do I register for a LEADS course?
A complete list of LEADS courses is available on our website (HOUSING. ILLINOIS.EDU/LEADS). You can register for a LEADS course like any other course. Remember to inform your academic advisor that you are a member of the LEADS LLC so that you can see if these classes fit your schedule.

Are there any requirements to live in the LEADS LLC?
While participation in LEADS activities and events is expected, there are no specific requirements. We expect that students selected to live in LEADS will fully participate in our programs to get the most out of their experience in our community.

Am I required to take LEADS courses?
LEADS offers a wide variety of elective and general education courses both in the fall and spring semesters that meet in Weston Hall. However, there is no course requirement to participate in LEADS. LEADS students also have the opportunity to enter in a lottery for free music lessons each semester in voice, piano, or guitar. The lottery for these lessons takes place during the first week of classes each semester.

What are some of the resources available to LEADS residents?
We are a small community with great resources! We are fortunate to have a leadership library collection in the Ikenberry Commons Residence Hall Library located in the Student Dining and Residential Programs building (SDRP). We also have a floor lounge and a study room on the first floor just for LEADS residents which serves as a great study space. Our dedicated staff members (program director, resident director, three resident advisors, and multicultural advocate) are also excellent resources for personal, academic, social, and leadership development. The LEADS Program Office is located in the basement of Weston Hall where there are classrooms, a study area, and offices.

What leadership opportunities are available for me in Hopkins Hall?
LEADS students can get involved in numerous ways right in Hopkins Hall! Examples of groups within Hopkins and LEADS are: LEADS Advisory Council, Ma’at Black Student Union, Hopkins Hall Council, floor and hall-wide events and workshops, the LEADS Fall Orientation Team, and many University Housing student groups. LEADS staff can also help you find opportunities throughout campus that best suit your needs.

What is the connection between LEADS and the Illinois Leadership Center (ILC)?
LEADS and the ILC have a very strong partnership. Most LEADS students attend I-Programs. A number of LEADS students are also enrolled in the ILC’s Leadership Certificate Program. The LEADS program also offers one annual scholarship to The LeaderShape Institute held in January.

Is there an additional cost to live in the LEADS LLC?
Yes, there is an additional $200 fee per year that covers the resources, staff, and services available exclusively for LEADS residents.