

ALTERNATIVE ADMISSIONS:

GETTING INTO COLLEGE THROUGH THE SIDE DOOR

Why would you want to go “through the side door”?

- Your G.P.A. is low.
- Your ACT score is low.
- Your class rank is low.
- There is some “unique, compelling circumstance” in your life that has contributed to your low G.P.A., ACT score, and rank and you are willing to write an excellent essay about this circumstance.

What could be considered a unique, compelling circumstance?

- Family situations, for example, moving to several different schools, parent separation/divorce, death of someone close to you
- Your personal responsibilities, for example, caring for siblings, working a lot
- Your attitude toward school, for example, during your first years of high school not having plans for college or not understanding how important school is

**How do I get in “through the side door”?
Which schools have programs like this?**

READ ON....

CHICAGO STATE UNIVERSITY

Program name: University College

Requirements: ACT: 16 or above

GPA: 2.0/4.0 If the GPA is 1.79-1.99, student must have a 19 on ACT

How do I apply? 1. Complete the CSU application.

2. Apply early.

3. Include a recommendation from teacher or counselor with your app.

4. Interview with a University College coordinator and take their placement test.

5. After acceptance, work with an adviser, be part of a cohort group, and attend a transitional workshop class.

EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

Program name: Gateway

Requirements: ACT: 14

GPA: minimum 2.0/4.0

Be a member of a minority group or be socio-economically disadvantaged (receive free or reduced lunch), or be a first generation college student

How do I apply? 1. Complete the EIU application and check the "Gateway" box.

2. Send three (3) letters of reference, one must be from counselor, 2 from teachers

3. Send an essay about yourself indicating your area of disadvantage.

4. Ask your counselor to phone the admissions representative.

5. Ask your parents to phone the admissions representative.

6. Apply early.

7. Follow all the rules of Gateway; if you don't follow the rules, you can be dismissed from EIU, even if your grades are good.

NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

Program name: Proyecto Pa'Lante for Hispanic students

Project Success for African American students

Requirements: Student does not meet regular admissions requirements. ACT: 15 – 18

How do I apply? 1. Complete the NEIU application.

2. Submit an essay explaining your unique and compelling circumstances.

3. After acceptance, participate in academic support available to you. and attend a summer transitional program.

NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

Program name: CHANCE (500 freshmen)

Requirements: ACT is below 19, deadline is April 1st, only 500 slots available

Have a special talent, significant activities and accomplishments, leadership potential, personal commitment, personal goals

How do I apply? 1. Complete application to NIU. Write CHANCE at the top.

2. Submit your official transcript.

3. Have ACT scores sent to NIU.

4. Write and submit an autobiographical letter.

5. Meet with a CHANCE counselor for a personal interview.

6. Participate in a full two-day summer orientation at NIU.

7. Sign all agreements and official acceptance letters.

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY CARBONDALE

Program name: Center for Academic Success

Requirements: Not meet the minimum requirements for admission to SIU.

How do I apply? 1. Submit regular SIU application.
2. Submit a personal statement of your unique and compelling circumstances.
3. Sign a contract, agree to take a limited number of credit hours, talk with a mentor, not enter your major area of study right away.
4. Apply early.

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY EDWARDSVILLE

Program name: None

Requirements: Individual

How do I apply? 1. Submit regular SIUE application.
2. If not accepted, appeal and can be admitted on basis of the appeal.

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS CHICAGO

Program name: AAN – African American Academic Network

LARES – Latin American Recruitment and Educational Services

NASP – Native American Student Program

Requirements: Individual

How do I apply? 1. Submit regular UIC application and check appropriate program box.
2. Include a letter of petition, requesting admission into UIC.
3. Include a personal statement of unique/compelling circumstances.
4. Include two (2) letters of recommendation.
5. Ask your counselor to phone the appropriate program office.
6. Apply early.

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Program name: Bridge (50 freshmen)

Requirements: Individual

How do I apply? 1. Submit regular UIUC application.
2. Include in your personal essay your unique and compelling circumstances.
3. Minority students are underrepresented so are encouraged to apply.

WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

Program name: Alternative Admissions

Requirements: Do not meet admission standards

GPA: 2.2/4.0

ACT: 16

How do I apply? 1. Submit regular WIU application.
2. Include personal statement which explains what extenuating circumstances have kept you from being successful in high school.
3. Include a recommendation letter from an academic teacher or counselor.
4. Complete Math and English assessments.
5. Complete an interview.
6. Students who are denied may appeal.