



ELMHURST LEARNING & SUCCESS ACADEMY (ELSA)

**YOU ASPIRE TO GO FAR,
WE'LL HELP YOU DO WELL.**

The Elmhurst Learning and Success Academy (ELSA) is a four-year, postsecondary certificate program for young adults, ages 18-28, with intellectual disabilities.

\$41,080
Annual tuition

\$1,078*
Part-time Tuition by
Semester Hour

\$10,613**
Typical Annual
Housing Costs

**tuition and fees
subject to change*

**Part-time students
typically are enrolled
in 7 or 8
semester hours.*

***Housing costs vary based
on occupancy and
meal plan choices, and
estimate does not include
additional student
life-coaching costs.*

**Elmhurst
University**

Elmhurst Learning
and Success
Academy (ELSA)

At Elmhurst University, we provide an inclusive campus environment where students have access to educational opportunities and supportive experiences that prepare them for a successful future. ELSA students are able to participate in most clubs, organizations, events and other activities alongside their degree-seeking peers. While in the program, students may also seek paid part-time student worker positions. We want our students to continue to grow as individuals and acquire the knowledge and skills they need to work productively and live as independently as possible.

Curriculum

To earn a certificate of completion, students must complete a total of 32 credits or 128 semester hours of coursework (52 hours of required courses and 76 hours of individual choice/elective courses), which mirrors the experience of any four-year student at Elmhurst University.

First-year students complete a common core of required courses. Senior year includes a required off-campus internship. Upon completing the program, students participate in the University's commencement ceremony.

Focus Areas

The program consists of three focus areas, challenging the personal growth of every student:

- **Academics, Career Exploration and Internships**
Students take courses to enhance their literacy skills and abilities in writing, mathematics, purposeful reading and reading for pleasure. Students job shadow, take career exploration courses, and complete internships and other field experiences. Instruction in personal finance and use of technology are also integrated throughout the program. Additionally, students have the option to take ELSA electives, beginning in their second year of study, pending necessary approvals.
- **Independent Living Skills**
Students learn valuable strategies to enhance their skills in budgeting, shopping, use of public transportation, household management, personal care, and other functional life skills.
- **Social and Recreational Skills**
Students are part of the Elmhurst University community and participate in a wide variety of clubs, organizations and intramural sports on campus. Volunteers from other programs at the University can be involved as community advisors and job, life and education coaches, engaging the students in a range of planned activities fostering peer interaction and building social skills.

Go Far.



PROGRAM FORMAT

ELSA is an on-campus program following the academic calendar of the University. Students may take courses in the Fall, January, Spring and Summer Terms, and may attend on a full-time or part-time basis.

HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES

Students have the opportunity for on-campus residential housing. To be considered, students must be their own legal guardian. An additional student assessment and housing application is required. Students approved for residential housing are required to have a life coach at an additional cost.

On-campus housing is not required. Students have the option to commute or live independently by renting apartments or condominiums—many of which are within walking distance or a short shuttle bus ride from campus.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

To qualify for ELSA, a student must have an intellectual disability, basic reading, writing, mathematics and comprehension skills, sufficient emotional skills and the capacity for independence. Applicants must have earned a high school diploma, certificate of completion or both.

How to Apply

To apply for admission, submit the following documents:

- A completed ELSA application
- A current educational evaluation (within three years)
- Official high school transcript and IEP
- Recommendation Assessment Form
- Housing assessment (for those seeking this option)

Upon receipt of the completed application, students and families will be contacted to set up an interview with the ELSA Admission Committee. After the interview, students will receive a letter of admission or denial. Students will be asked to complete an intention to enroll form and submit it with a nonrefundable \$200 tuition deposit that will be applied to the first term's tuition and fees.

FINANCIAL AID

To help families cover the cost of their student's education, the University recommends that prospective and continuing students apply for federal financial aid. Financial aid for students consists of federal and Elmhurst University grants and federal work study. Individual eligibility for grants is based on a student/family's estimated need. Grants and other gift assistance do not have to be repaid.

ELMHURST UNIVERSITY GRANTS

United Church of Christ Award

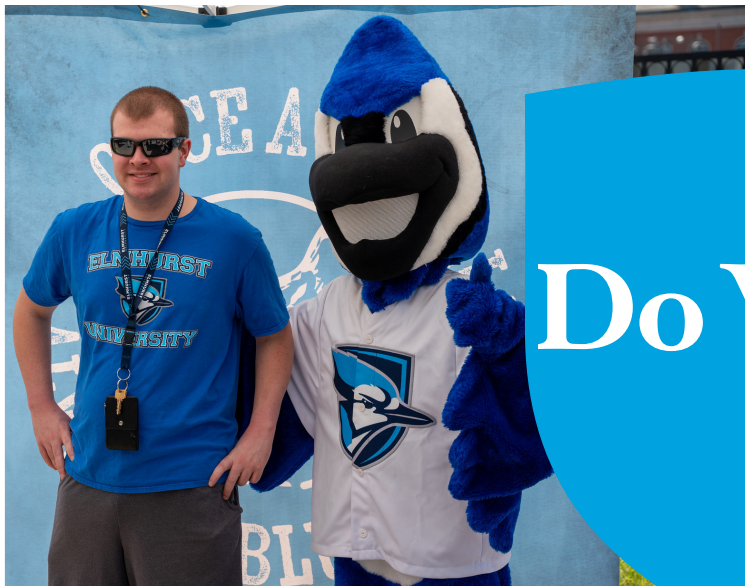
Elmhurst offers up to \$2,000 per year to ELSA students who belong to a congregation of the United Church of Christ. To receive consideration, you must note that you are a member of a UCC congregation on your admission application and your pastor must submit a letter of membership to the director of Student Financial Services.

Legacy Award

Elmhurst offers up to \$2,000 per year to any student who has a sibling currently attending Elmhurst University, or who is directly related (sibling, parents or grandparents) to a graduate of the University. Students must identify their legacy relative on their application for admission in order to receive this award.

The UCC and Legacy awards are renewable each year, provided that the student remains in good academic standing at the University.

APPLY AT
elmhurst.edu/Apply



Do Well.

ELMHURST UNIVERSITY NEED-BASED GRANT

Students who have successfully completed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) each year are eligible for a need-based grant. Only students who complete the FAFSA will be considered for this award. Elmhurst University grants range in value from \$500 to \$11,000, and are awarded by the Office of Student Financial Services after admission to the ELSA program.

Consideration for the Elmhurst University need-based grant is based on the submission of the FAFSA each year and the student remaining in good academic standing in the ELSA program.

FEDERAL GRANTS

Pell Grant is a federally-funded grant that is intended to assist the most needy of students.

FSEOG (Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant) is a federally funded grant that is awarded to Pell-eligible students who are enrolled full time. FSEOG is a limited resource.

FWS (Federal Work Study) is an award that is federally funded and assists eligible students for work on campus. University supervisors do their own hiring. Students who want to work on campus can search for jobs online at elmhurst.edu/Finaid.

HOW TO APPLY FOR FINANCIAL AID

To begin the process, parents or guardians of applicants and current students should complete the FAFSA. It is recommended that the FAFSA be completed online at fafsa.gov no later than July 1 for Fall Term or full-year enrollment and December 1 for Spring Term enrollment. Applicants must include the Elmhurst University school code (001676) on their FAFSA application.

The FAFSA should be renewed each year that the student is enrolled at the University. It is available for completion beginning October 1 of each year. It is recommended that the FAFSA be completed as early as possible when accurate income data is available for submission. All questions regarding the FAFSA completion should be directed to the Office of Student Financial Services at (630) 617-3015.

TUITION PAYMENT PLAN

The University offers payment plans that give students the opportunity to pay tuition and fees over the semester if they prefer not to pay in full at the beginning of each term. Students can enroll online for one of the payment plans as well as assign an authorized user on the account.

The initial payment for the Fall Term is due on August 15 and January 15 for the Spring Term. Additional information about Elmhurst University payment options may be obtained by contacting the Office of Student Financial Services at (630) 617-3015.

EXTERNAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The O'Neill Tabani Enrichment Fund

Ruby's Rainbow Scholarship

Epilepsy Foundation

UPS for Downs

Band of Angels

Special People In Need (SPIN)

Union Plus

HEATH Resource Center

Illinois Family Assistance and Home-Based
Support Services Program

DO-IT

Think College

Scholarships.com

APPLY AT
elmhurst.edu/Apply



FAST FACTS

2,838 undergraduates

55+ ELSA students

13 students per faculty member

18 students in a class (on average)

70+ majors

100+ student clubs
and organizations

6 residence halls

930 students live on campus

100% of new students receive
some type of financial aid

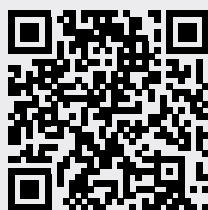


PREFERRED APPLICATION DEADLINES

Applications are accepted and reviewed on a rolling, first-come, first-served basis. Students interested in living on campus should have a complete application on file by January 15. Applications submitted after the deadline will be considered if space remains available.

Apply online at elmhurst.edu/Apply.

Scan for more info:



AUDIT AND CREDIT CLASSES

ELSA Certificate of Specialized Study

Students can choose to earn an ELSA Certificate of Specialized Study. After completing their first year, students select four Elmhurst University courses over two years from various areas of interest. Past areas have included English, business, art, music, theatre and digital media. The courses can include two intro and two advanced courses and are determined on a case-by-case basis, with the help of the associate director and approval of the department chair. The goal is to create opportunities for ELSA students to enhance their education, improve prospects for employment and increase college integration.

Students with strong academic skills may consider enrolling in Elmhurst University courses for credit. Upon completion, students will receive an Elmhurst University transcript that may be used to move into an Elmhurst University degree program. It is recommended students take one college course for credit in addition to three ELSA courses. Students will have access to standard college accommodations and must demonstrate academic ability and sufficient independence. Students must complete at least one semester of the ELSA program. Course selections will be approved based on person-centered planning meetings with ELSA advising staff.

ELSA Alumni Continuing Education Program

The ELSA Alumni Continuing Education Program enables graduates to return to Elmhurst University and take any new courses that faculty have introduced since the student has graduated. The program gives alumni an opportunity to learn, reconnect with the University and make new friends.

Alumni may take one free course each school year, with approval from the program director. Alumni can register one week prior to the beginning of the semester and can choose to either audit the course or to receive a letter grade.



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Office of Admission
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Elmhurst, Illinois 60126
(630) 617-3400

(630) 617-3752
elsa@elmhurst.edu
elmhurst.edu/ELSA



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elmhurst.edu/Apply