



# ACE: Accelerated College Experience

*A one-semester university prep program for high school scholars*

*Tuesdays, 4-6:30pm, Fall 2021*

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The ACE program at Southeastern Illinois College works with the district's high achieving high school students to help them prepare for college. This program is designed to motivate academically talented students to go further and have a competitive advantage in college admissions and scholarship applications through service learning, test preparation and communication training. ACE also creates an academic cohort in which gifted students at surrounding high schools can come together in one group setting to discuss their next steps after high school. By implementing volunteer experience, ACT/SAT test prep, developing relationships for positive letters of recommendation, and learning how to write and speak professionally to earn high dollar scholarships, this program will challenge our area's best and brightest high school students. Our goal is to help prepare our district's high school scholars for higher education beyond the traditional classroom.

## Pre-Selection Criteria for District High School Students

- Must have junior or senior status in high school
- Must be 16 years old or older;
- Must be highly motivated, have the ability to work independently without direct supervision, and display self-discipline;
- Have intentions to attend a university after high school or community college;
- Have reliable transportation to and from the college and volunteer site in Harrisburg;
- Have a minimum 3.0 cumulative high school GPA;
- Have one of the following: college level test scores on Accuplacer Next Gen in reading, writing and math; a 20 or higher ACT composite; or 1020 or higher SAT composite.
- Submit application packet:
  - Completed SIC data form;
  - Official high school transcript and test scores;
  - One letter of recommendation from an English, Math, Science, or History teacher from the high school in which the candidate attends;
- Parent/Guardian approval and signature upon acceptance into program.

## Program Learning Objectives

**Service Learning:** Volunteer experience is *necessary* in order to obtain top college scholarships. Students will engage in a group community volunteer project with their ACE peers that will aid in the development of scholarship and college admission essays. The project will be local and every ACE will walk away with 30 hours of volunteer experience ready to put on college and scholarship applications.

**Strategies for ACT/SAT Testing and College Success:** Students will learn how to improve their scores on standardized tests, time management, effective ways to study as well as discuss majors and career development.

**Oral and Written Communication Skills:** Learn the role of communication in professional settings, how to write professional emails and interviewing techniques for scholarships and future jobs. ACE's will stay ahead of their peers by learning how to give a college level presentation on topics that interest them.

*Benefits of the ACE program*

- Each ACE will be paired with a faculty member from SIC that specializes in a field in which they intend to major. This faculty mentor can also serve as a letter of recommendation/reference for future scholarships and college applications;
- Each ACE will have personalized attention from a college academic advisor that can also serve as a letter of recommendation for future scholarships and applications;
- ACE's will earn 5 hours of college credit, transferable to universities;
- All ACE's will have personal assistance in applying for scholarships including writing effective, persuasive essays that will set them apart;
- Every ACE will have the opportunity to work with SIC's student ambassadors at events for additional volunteer experience, which will only strengthen their future scholarship and admissions applications.

The ACE program is competitive. The top **20** applicants will be selected to become an ACE. Each district high school will be granted a minimum of two spots in the program. The following high schools are eligible for the program:

Carmi-White County HS  
Carrier Mills-Stonefort HS  
Eldorado HS  
Galatia HS  
Gallatin County HS  
Hardin County HS  
Harrisburg HS  
Norris City-Omaha-Enfield HS  
Pope County HS  
Vienna HS

Total cost of program: \$50 per student accepted. Payment due on or before August 1, 2021.

*Applications can be sent to:*

**Dr. Tyler Billman**  
**ACE program application**  
**Southeastern Illinois College**  
**3575 College Rd**  
**Harrisburg, IL 62946**

*\*A limited number of program scholarships are available based on financial need.*

*\*\*Homeschool students are encouraged to apply for this program under the same criteria. Letters of recommendation will be accepted from community members in those instances.*

**Want more information? Call 618.252.5400 ext. 2250 or email [tyer.billman@sic.edu](mailto:tyer.billman@sic.edu)**