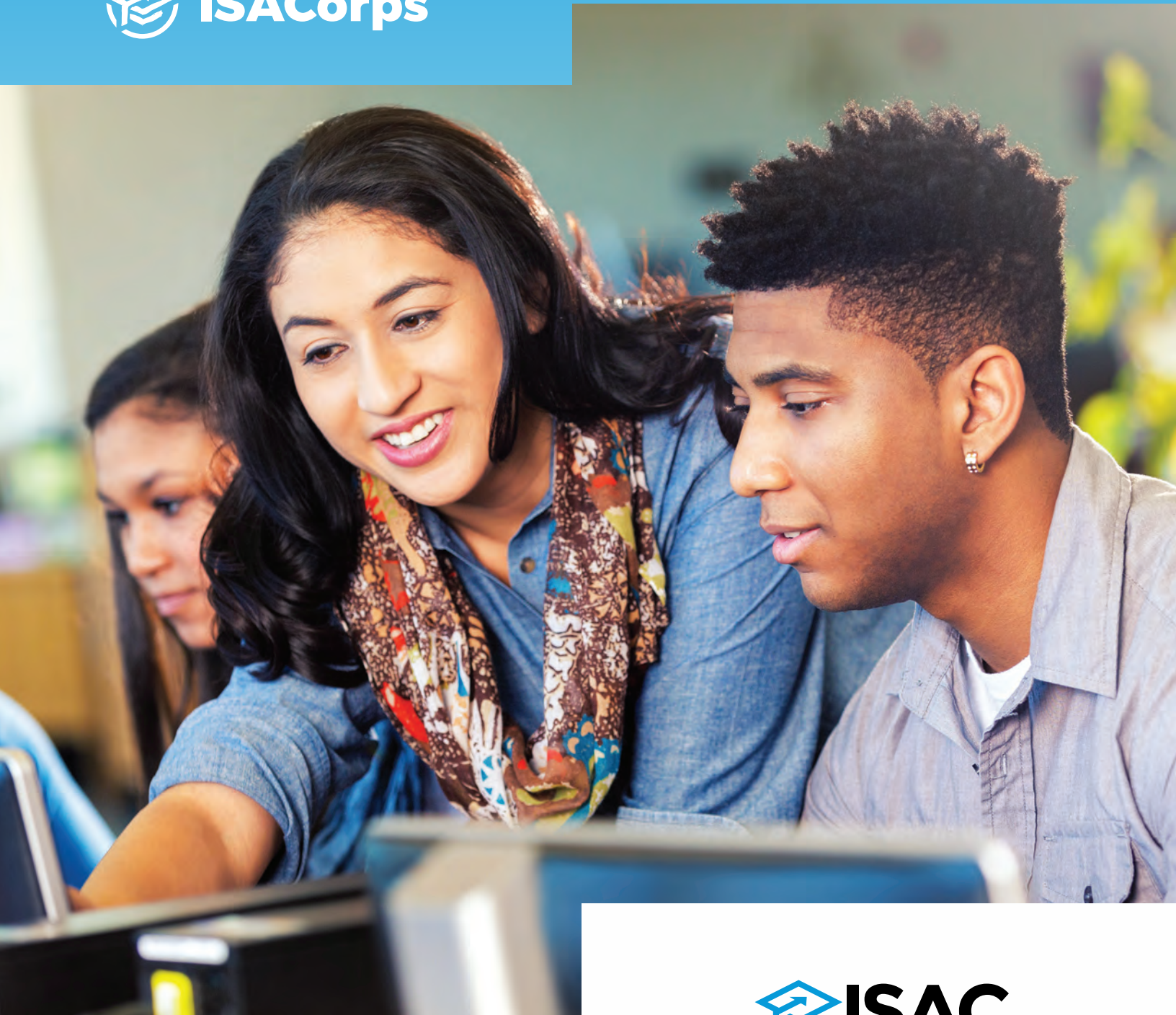


Are you graduating from college and interested in giving back to your community by helping students find a path to college, while you earn great on-the-job experience and a monthly salary?

JOIN THE ISACORPS



YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE



WHO IS THE ISACORPS?

First launched in 2009, the Illinois Student Assistance Corps (ISACorps) is a group of recent college graduates who participate in a two-year, salaried program to provide Illinois students and their families with objective information and the support they need to make informed decisions about college and other postsecondary educational options. These talented young professionals help implement the mission of the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC), the state's college access and financial aid agency, by helping to make college accessible and affordable for Illinois students.

Although ISACorps services are available to any family in the state, ISACorps members focus on working with students from under-resourced communities and with those whose families have no prior college-going experience. Working from locations throughout the state, ISACorps members have a goal to spend approximately half of their time working in the high schools in their district and half of their time in other community-based organizations and locations.

ISACorps members receive extensive training from ISAC to serve as "near peer" mentors to middle and high school students. The "near peer" principle is based on evidence that shows that students will be more likely to interact with someone who is more like them, who has had similar experiences, is closer to their age, and who may have come from their home town or a similar background.

ISACorps members pay it forward — they use the knowledge and experience they gained on their postsecondary path to help others in their community reach their postsecondary education goals — making a real difference in the lives of students, families, and communities.



I absolutely loved how much autonomy we got over our work in the ISACorps. I felt so fulfilled in my job because I could demonstrate my impact in the community through the activities that I created and the partnerships and events that I developed in my two years as an ISACorps member. I think the flexibility that each ISACorps member has to develop the best possible programming for their specific communities is one reason counselors and community partners really enjoy working with the ISACorps, and it also helps ISACorps members to make such a personal impact on students' lives. The ISACorps program allowed me to be many things to many people, and it allowed me to practice many skills within one job!"

ISACORPS ALUM MIKALYNN WADDELL,
Financial Aid Specialist, Illinois State University



Whether it's working with students one-on-one on college and career readiness, meeting with parents to discuss the value of a postsecondary education, or collaborating with community members to provide resources relevant to college and financial aid, every day brings a different opportunity to serve your community. As an ISACorps member you have the ability to decide what your "typical day" will look like — but I'd say that being adaptable is essential because the needs of our students and communities are often changing."

ISACORPS ALUM SARA ESPINOSA,
Manager, Training and Development, ISAC

IS THE ISACORPS RIGHT FOR YOU?

What specifically do ISACorps members do?

ISACorps members partner with local schools, businesses, and nonprofit organizations to provide free college planning, financial aid information, and career exploration services. The ISACorps provides workshops, presentations, and one-on-one mentoring for students and families, assisting them with college exploration and selection, college applications, financial aid and scholarship search, financial aid applications, and career exploration.

ISACorps members also help support local college and financial aid events and present at conferences. They build relationships with school counselors, faculty and staff, with communities and regional/local organizations, with parents, and most important, with students.

Benefits of working for the ISACorps

The ISACorps program offers a truly unique opportunity for recent college graduates to gain significant on-the-job work experience in a variety of educational settings while making a positive difference in the lives of students.

ISACorps members receive six weeks of intensive training from ISAC experts and partners so that they can assist students and families with the entire college-going process — from college search and applications to the details of financial aid and completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®). Throughout their two years of service, ISACorps members will hone their presentation and outreach skills and expand their professional networks, all the while serving students and their communities.



ISACorps members receive a monthly salary and can also take advantage of tuition waivers at select Illinois public universities.

As a result of their training, on-the-job experience and the relationships they build with ISAC partners, ISACorps alums move on to positions such as financial aid counselors, admissions advisors, college and career counselors, youth counselors, community organizers, outreach specialists, and other roles. ISACorps alums often go on to graduate school, and there are alums working at almost every public university in Illinois, at private institutions such as University of Chicago and DePaul University, at high schools throughout Illinois, at nonprofit organizations, at companies like Grainger and Gallup, and even at the U.S. Census Bureau.



I never thought I would end up being so lucky to have the career I have. Whether it's spending the day advocating on Capitol Hill or developing international marketing strategies for the U.S. boating industry, none of this would have been possible without my time in the ISACorps. I was surrounded by the perfect supervisors, who were true mentors that guided me in developing new skills and encouraged me to take chances and implement new ideas with their support. The ISACorps created an environment where I could challenge myself and learn to thrive in a variety of situations."

ISACORPS ALUM ERIK RANCATORE,
Association Marketing Strategist, National Marine Manufacturers Association



ARE YOU RIGHT FOR THE ISACORPS?

Who are we looking for?

Here are a few of the key requirements we look for in potential candidates:



Passion for making a difference, for giving back to the community, and for working with middle and high school students and families to help students — especially first generation students and those from under-resourced communities — on their path to postsecondary education.



Recent college graduate. Because ISACorps members act as "near peer" mentors, we seek students who graduated from high school within the last six years.



Bachelor's degree or higher.



Excellent written and oral communication skills.



Willingness to commit to the ISACorps program for two years.



Bilingual skills are definitely a plus (but not required).

All candidates are required to pass a background check.

DO YOU MEET THE REQUIREMENTS AND WANT TO APPLY?

Fill out the brief form at <http://www.isac.org/jointheisacorps> and ISAC will contact you about immediate openings.

Questions? Contact us at ISAC.CorpsPositions@illinois.gov

Learn about ISAC at www.isac.org

2018 ISACorps



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