Located in the heart of west central Illinois, historic Macomb (population 20,000) first welcomed Western Illinois University (WIU) in 1899. A tradition of partnership between Western and the City of Macomb has made Macomb the educational, cultural and athletic center of the region. Macomb offers a high quality of life in a relaxed setting and a welcoming community to the students and families it serves. Special annual events in Macomb include a hot air balloon rally held on campus, the Al Sears Jazz Festival, seasonal farmers markets and the Dickens on the Square holiday celebration. The region also boasts three 18-hole golf courses, including one on the WIU campus. Macomb, an Amtrak city with twice daily service to Chicago, is located approximately 75 miles from the Quad Cities International Airport (Moline, IL) and 70 miles from the Greater Peoria Regional Airport (Peoria, IL). For more information on attractions and accommodations, call the Macomb Area Convention and Visitor’s Bureau at (309) 833-1315 or visit makeitmacomb.com.

Character: Recognized as a “Best Midwestern College” by Princeton Review and ranked a top-tier “Best Midwestern College” by U.S. News and World Report, WIU’s friendly, accessible campus communities are dedicated to higher values in higher education and are comprised of accomplished faculty, state-of-the-art technology and facilities, and a wide range of academic and extracurricular opportunities. The four core values at the heart of WIU are academic excellence, educational opportunity, personal growth and social responsibility.

Macomb Campus: More than 1,050 beautifully landscaped acres support 64 buildings and nine residence halls. 

Enrollment: Western Illinois University serves more than 12,200 students in the heart of the Midwest through its traditional, residential four-year campus in Macomb, IL (enrollment 10,263); its metropolitan, non-residential location in the Quad Cities/Moline, IL (enrollment 1,204); and through extension courses. WIU provides a low student-to-faculty ratio (15:1) and an average class size of 22 students. 

Faculty: With 612 professors teaching 94 percent of all undergraduate and graduate courses, Western students benefit from a high degree of interaction and interest from their professors.

Diversity: Western’s commitment to access, opportunity, affordability and the potential of every student is evident in its diverse student body. Students come from 90 Illinois counties, 36 states, and 55 countries, and 24 percent are minority students. The male-to-female ratio is 52:48.

Technology: Wireless coverage extends to all academic buildings and common areas of residence halls and dining centers, as well as to most buildings on campus, and each residence hall room has Internet capability. Western continually adds technology-rich electronic classrooms, and updates older technologies with the newest, to provide the best education and opportunities for students.

Library: University Libraries provide research assistance; instruction in library use; group study space; lectures and special events; regional archives; and is a site location for Illinois Legal Aid Online. The libraries house an extensive collection and offer online database access to thousands of academic periodic journals and publications. The Leslie F. Malpass Library in Macomb is the main branch and provides an inviting environment for research and study. The Macomb campus also has three specialized branch libraries for music, curriculum and physical sciences. The WIU Quad Cities campus houses a branch library and provides access to the same materials as the Macomb libraries.

Athletics: Western Illinois University offers a broad-based athletics program, sponsoring 18 intercollegiate sports. Football competes in the NCAA Football Championship Subdivision through the Missouri Valley Football Conference; all other sports compete at the Division I level through The Summit League.