AELP Admission Requirements
To be eligible for the Academic English Language Program (AELP), students must:
• Be at least 18 years of age upon arrival in the United States
• Have a high school diploma
• Have earned a minimum IELTS score of 4.5 or TOEFL score of 475
• Show proof of financial support ($20,000 minimum) in English
• Complete the application form, including a $100 non-refundable application fee

For more information about Heartland’s International Student Program, including application dates, program costs and payment deadlines, contact:

Pamela Sweetwood
Director of International Programs
Heartland Community College
1500 W. Raab Road
Normal, IL 61761
USA
Tel: (309) 268-8164; Fax: (309) 268-7994
E-mail: pamela.sweetwood@heartland.edu.

Experience America in the Midwest!
Heartland Community College

is located in Normal, Illinois—part of the unique twin municipalities of Bloomington-Normal—a small, popular, friendly region between Chicago, Illinois and St. Louis, Missouri often recognized for its pure form of American English. In October 2007, Bloomington-Normal was designated as the "Techiest" metro area in the United States, complementing Heartland's state-of-the-art campus, which is surrounded by a quiet, safe and agreeable community, which includes:
- Two local universities—Illinois State University and Illinois Wesleyan University
- Several major businesses, including State Farm Insurance, COUNTRY Financial, Mitsubishi Motors of North America, Bridgestone/Firestone, Enurka, Affn and Caterpillar, Inc.
- Several theater and performing arts venues
- An assortment of restaurants and shopping complexes
- Numerous new housing and business developments

Business Training and Additional Higher Education in the Midwest

In addition to the local workforce, Chicago and the surrounding area offers a diverse array of business opportunities in the financial sector, petty commodities, clothing and manufacturing, metallurgy, electronics and auto parts. Several major businesses operate in the region as well, including Sears, Rouseck and Company, Caterpillar Inc., Denre & Company, Whirlpool Corporation, and The Boeing Company, as well as several auto manufacturers, like Chrysler, Ford and Mitsubishi. Students interested in pursuing an M.B.A. degree also have access to the best business schools in the world, including the University of Chicago's Graduate School of Business, Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management, and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign College of Business.

About Heartland Community College

Founded in 1991, Heartland Community College is a fully accredited two-year public institution of higher education centrally located in Normal, Illinois. In addition to its main campus in Normal, campus extension centers also are available in the nearby communities of Pontiac and Lincoln.

Heartland provides a safe and nurturing environment that encourages each of its 5,000 students to reach for his or her fullest potential. International students are a valued part of the Heartland community—and with more than 100 international students representing nearly 30 countries enrolled at the college, Heartland is an ideal place for students from all over the world to pursue a college education. In addition, smaller class sizes emphasize personal attention in the classroom. A variety of academic and personal resources also are available for any student who needs it, as well as an assortment of extracurricular activities on and off campus, including nearly 20 student clubs and organizations that appeal to a wide selection of student interests.

Academic and Business Training Programs

Heartland is proud to offer high quality instruction by dedicated and knowledgeable instructors in more than 65 different associate degree and certificate programs. In addition, the College offers several developmental and continuing education courses, including the Academic English Language Program (AELP).

Degree and Certificate Programs

Students who meet or exceed a score of 550 on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), or who meet or exceed a 6.5 on the International English Language Testing System (IELTS), or who have successfully completed the Academic English Language Program (AELP) are encouraged to enroll in an associate degree or certificate program at Heartland Community College once all other Heartland assessment requirements have been met. Staff members will help students explore their educational goals at Heartland, as well as examine options for future enrollment at other colleges or universities.

Heartland Community College offers Associates of Arts and Associate of Science degrees in mathematics, agriculture, art, art education, biological sciences, business, chemistry, clinical laboratory science, criminal justice, education, engineering, English, history, sociology and social work, among others. In addition, Associate of Applied Science degrees are offered in computer aided design, computer networks, digital media, early childhood education, criminal justice, electronic systems technology, information technology, life and health insurance, maintenance technology, manufacturing technology and microcomputer applications, among others.

Associate degrees represent the first two years of study toward a bachelor's degree. Students who successfully complete the AELP and satisfy all Heartland credit assessment requirements can be admitted to a diverse assortment of the College's associate degree or certificate programs. Seven nearby colleges and universities are available for students who have earned an associate's degree and intend to transfer to another school to complete a bachelor's degree. Specifically, Illinois State University, Illinois Wesleyan University and Lincoln College all are located in the Bloomington-Normal area.

Academic English Language Program (AELP)

Heartland's Academic English Language Program (AELP) offers three semesters of intensive English language instruction. AELP courses require 20 hours of classroom instruction per week, including conversational, reading, listening, writing and grammar. Classes are held for 14 to 16 weeks during the fall and spring semesters and for eight weeks during the summer.

Heartland's AELP is designed for students seeking future admission to U.S. undergraduate degree programs, or for students seeking a strong level of English language competency to begin a professional career. Students who successfully complete each semester of the program will be awarded a certificate of completion. A certificate of completion from the previous coursework is required to enroll in the next sequence of courses. Students may repeat a semester if necessary. Earlier admission to credit courses is possible if Heartland assessment standards are met.

Instructional Support

Heartland Community College provides its students with dedicated faculty and staff committed to their success. All Academic English Language Program faculty members at Heartland have extensive experience teaching English in the United States and overseas. Students are assigned an academic advisor dedicated to assisting each international student with his or her unique needs. Tutoring services also are offered free of charge.

Support Services

The AELP offers:
- Small class sizes
- Personal support from program facilitators
- Bilingual staff
- American conversational partners
- Extracurricular activities and events that help students experience U.S. culture
- American friendship families

Housing near Heartland Community College

Heartland's international students are provided with modern, comfortable off-campus housing within walking distance of Heartland's Normal campus. These furnished apartments typically contain four private bedrooms with private bathroom facilities, a kitchen and living room. The kitchen area includes a standard oven, a microwave oven, a dishwashing machine, a clothes washing machine and a clothes dryer. Television, telephone and Internet services also are available. Recreational facilities include a pool table, ping-pong table, fitness room, swimming pool, sand volleyball court, computer center, outdoor cooking facilities and areas for resident parking. Several shopping centers, restaurants and supermarkets are within walking distance. A resident program facilitator who can assist students on a 24-hour basis resides at the housing complex. Students are required to live in this college-approved facility for a minimum of one year to take advantage of the cultural and support services offered by the program's staff. After completion of the first year, students have the option of selecting other housing accommodations.