



ILLINOIS  
TECH

TALON'S  
**GALACTIC  
TRIP**

FOR FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS



## How High Can You Fly?

Congratulations! We are excited to welcome you to Illinois Tech! You've already taken the first steps by applying, being admitted, and submitting your deposit. Now it's time to complete the rest of your journey. **This user guide is your instruction manual for *Talon's Galactic Trip*, an online game outlining the next steps you need to take before you arrive on campus. Complete each step to help Talon, our mascot, reach his destination.**

You can track your progress, along with your incoming classmates who are playing *Talon's Galactic Trip* and compete against them. Using the app, you'll complete each step and see how high you can fly as you work toward the final level: Welcome Week at Illinois Tech, where the next leg of your journey toward a future with infinite possibilities begins!

**We can't wait to see you this fall.**

Scan the QR code to download the 312 app and begin the game!



## IMPORTANT DEADLINES

*Make sure you complete each portal level on time!*

**LEVEL 1**

**Complete ASAP!**

**LEVEL 2**

**Complete ASAP!**

**LEVEL 3**

**Complete in April–May**

**LEVEL 4**

**Complete in June–July**

**LEVEL 5**

**See you on August 10!**



**P.S.** Don't forget to review the **final arrival checklist** inside this guide when you land! Be sure to finish the full game and the bonus round for special prizes!



# LEVEL 1



## Prepare for Liftoff

Before jumping in the cockpit, you need to access your personal Illinois Tech Hawk email account through [portal.iit.edu](https://portal.iit.edu). Check your Hawk email regularly for updates, and make sure to complete the online pre-arrival module.

COMPLETE ASAP!

ACTION  
STEPS



- Check out the Illinois Tech Portal
- Log into your Hawk email
- Complete the interactive Pre-Arrival Module

# LEVEL 2



## Ignition Sequence

You will need to finish academic placement assessments before going further. Make sure you get in touch with your academic adviser so you can select your first courses. Next, prepare for a two-day introduction to Mies Campus by signing up for SOAR: New Student Orientation. Time slots are available throughout June–August. Don't forget to upload a HawkCard ID photo before attending SOAR: New Student Orientation.

COMPLETE ASAP!

ACTION  
STEPS



- Financial aid requirements—begin completing your financial aid checklist, if necessary
- Register for SOAR: New Student Orientation and upload your HawkCard ID photo
- Complete the necessary academic placement assessments

## LEVEL 3



### Racing Through the Sky

The bright lights of Chicago flicker below as you rocket along on your Illinois Tech adventure. Now is the time to find your new home away from home. Find the housing and meal plan selection in the Illinois Tech Portal, and pick which residence is right for you. Make sure to attend a virtual academic advising session as well.

COMPLETE BY APRIL–MAY

ACTION  
STEPS



- ❑ Schedule your initial advising appointment with your adviser, and register for courses
- ❑ Submit your Housing and Food Contract or Housing Waiver Application

## LEVEL 4



### Nearing the Edge of Space

Only a few tasks remain as you near the edge of space. Did you get any scholarship funds? What are your tuition payments? Access your student bill through the Illinois Tech Portal to set up a payment plan and to set up direct deposit. Also, prepare to show proof of immunizations by the first week of courses. All students are required to have health insurance and are automatically opted in to Illinois Tech's student health insurance. If you have health insurance, don't forget to submit a waiver to the Student Health and Wellness Center to avoid being charged for student health insurance!

COMPLETE BY JUNE–JULY

ACTION  
STEPS



- ❑ Attend SOAR on June 11–12, or June 25–26
- ❑ Pick up HawkCard ID and opt in to the U-Pass program when you arrive on campus
- ❑ Submit health and immunization forms in Med + Proctor
- ❑ Waive Illinois Tech health insurance, if applicable



## LEVEL 5



### Safe Landing

Welcome to Illinois Tech, where you'll receive a world-class, comprehensive tech-focused education and the twenty-first century skills that employers seek, preparing you for an infinite number of career possibilities. Be on the lookout for your itinerary for Welcome Week, when you'll meet your classmates, settle into your new home, and prepare to begin your next great adventure!

ACTION  
STEPS



- ❑ Sign up for IIT Alert and access your student bill on the Illinois Tech Portal
- ❑ Move in to campus on Sunday, August 9, 2026
- ❑ Attend SOAR on August 10–11 (if not attending SOAR in June)
- ❑ Attend Welcome Week starting on Monday, August 10
- ❑ Pick up U-Pass on campus (if opted in)

BONUS



ROUND

Follow us on our social media channels.

# WHAT YOU'LL WIN

You'll earn more than bragging rights if you're victorious at *Talon's Galactic Trip*. You'll arrive at Illinois Tech ready to hit the ground running—and you can pick up some more spoils while you're at it!



**All participants** who play *Talon's Galactic Trip* online will receive a free T-shirt.



► *Design is a surprise!*

The **first 30 participants to complete all levels** will win an Illinois Tech sweatshirt from our Visitors Center.



# YOUR TOOLKIT

## CAMPUS CONTACTS



Want more guidance on what to do next and who can help? Learn more below:



Learn more about Illinois Tech's **Elevate initiative** and the opportunities awaiting you now and when you arrive on campus ([elevate.iit.edu](http://elevate.iit.edu)).



**Illinois Tech staff** are available to help answer any questions and provide you and your family with assistance. Here are a few offices that could be of help during your journey:

### Undergraduate Admission

([www.iit.edu/admissions-aid/undergraduate-admission](http://www.iit.edu/admissions-aid/undergraduate-admission))

*Questions about SOAR and the admission process*

### Residence Life ([www.iit.edu/housing](http://www.iit.edu/housing))

*Questions about housing and meal plans*

### Student Accounting ([www.iit.edu/student-accounting](http://www.iit.edu/student-accounting))

*Questions about your bill*

### Student Health and Wellness Center ([www.iit.edu/shwc](http://www.iit.edu/shwc))

*Questions about immunizations, health services, and accommodations*

### Student Life ([www.iit.edu/student-life](http://www.iit.edu/student-life))

*Questions about activities on campus*

## FINAL ARRIVAL CHECKLIST

As you bask in your glorious landing at the end of *Talon's Galactic Trip*, take a minute to complete a final check of all the steps along your journey. **Here is the rundown of everything you need to do by August 17 (fall 2026 courses begin on this date):**

- Check out the Illinois Tech Portal and your Hawk email
- Submit your Housing Contract or Housing Waiver Application
- Complete the necessary academic assessments, schedule your initial advising appointment with your adviser, and register for courses
- Complete online Pre-Arrival Module
- Register for SOAR: New Student Orientation and upload your HawkCard ID photo
- Complete financial aid checklist, if necessary
- Attend SOAR: New Student Orientation
- Submit health and immunization documents
- Waive Illinois Tech health insurance, if applicable
- Pick up HawkCard ID and U-Pass (if opted in) when you arrive on campus
- Sign up for IIT Alert
- Attend Welcome Week starting August 10



## Prefer Analog?

Don't want to play *Talon's Galactic Trip*? Rather stay offline and keep track of your to-do's using pen and paper? That's OK! **Make sure to complete the final arrival checklist on page 10.** To learn more about what you need to do before arriving on campus, visit [go.iit.edu/fy-dom-tgt26](https://go.iit.edu/fy-dom-tgt26) to view a full list including links to useful resources.

### PARENTAL GUIDANCE

# PG

Make sure to share this checklist with your parents and family members, so they know what needs to be completed before you arrive on campus in August. They can also visit [go.iit.edu/fy-dom-tgt26](https://go.iit.edu/fy-dom-tgt26) to view a full checklist at any time.

# ILLINOIS TECH

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