

## Postsecondary Award Benefits

### College

- Per [105 ILCS 5/2-3.159](#), all Illinois public colleges and universities must accept the State Seal of Biliteracy as equivalent to two years of foreign language coursework taken during high school for admissions purposes and must also award course credit for the State Seal of Biliteracy based on foreign language course equivalencies.
  - Awarded course credits vary per school. Some colleges/universities will recognize the Seal as meeting all foreign language graduating requirements, whereas others might recognize it as partially meeting the requirements. Students who have earned a State Seal of Biliteracy must request course credit for their Seal within three academic years after graduating from high school.
  - There are other situations in which course credit *might* be given for an award, but it is not required per Illinois' rules. For the below situations, students will need to check with their prospective institution(s) to learn if they are eligible to receive course credit for their award:
    - Seeking admission at a private Illinois college/university.
    - Seeking admission at an out-of-state college/university.
    - Having earned the Commendation toward Biliteracy, as the legal requirement pertains only to the Seal.
    - Having earned a Seal of Biliteracy from a state other than Illinois and seeking admission at an Illinois college/university.
    - Students who earn more than one Seal of Biliteracy may want to check with the institution to learn if they will receive additional credit.
    - Students who have not earned a State Seal of Biliteracy but have earned a Global Seal of Biliteracy.
- Earning course credit from the Seal could more quickly put students on track toward a major or minor in that foreign language.
- Students may be able to earn scholarship money for being biliterate.
- Students may have opportunities to join certain clubs or activities to meet and engage with peers who speak the same language.

### Career

- The Seal is a formal or official way of acknowledging biliteracy on a resume or on professional sites, such as LinkedIn.
- Many employers seek out or strongly prefer candidates who are biliterate. Earning the Seal could give students a “leg up” among other applicants in the job market, as well as opening a larger pool of potential jobs or fields to enter.
- Employers may pay more or offer bonuses to applicants who are biliterate.
- Employers may give biliterate employees additional tasks or responsibilities due to their language skills, giving those employees more opportunities for various experiences, professional development, and gained knowledge in their field.