

2009-2010

# COLLEGE PLANNING GUIDE

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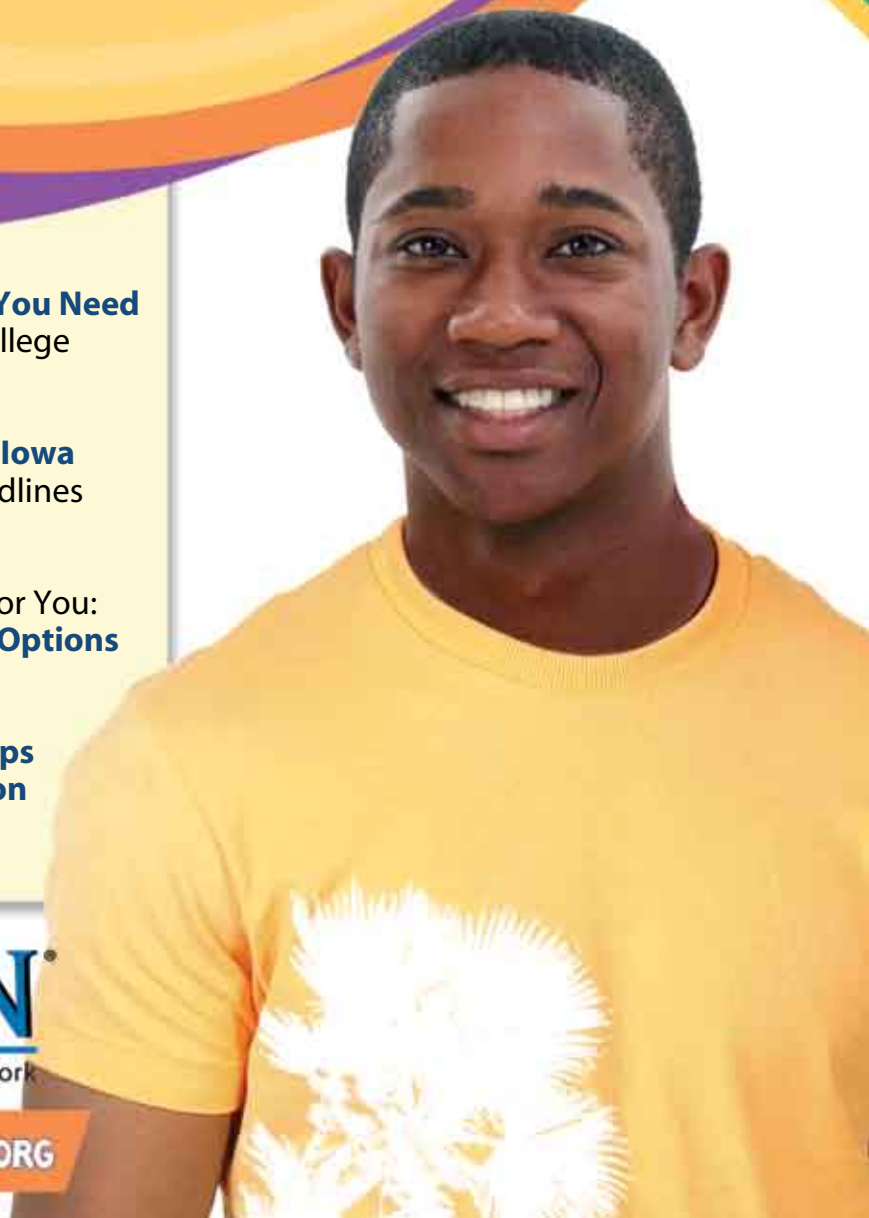
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**ICAN**<sup>®</sup>  
Iowa College Access Network

[WWW.ICANSUCCEED.ORG](http://WWW.ICANSUCCEED.ORG)





## Receive College Planning Assistance

- ▶ Explore the new [www.ICANSucceed.org](http://www.ICANSucceed.org).
- ▶ Get **one-on-one assistance** with completing the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) form.\*
- ▶ Attend a **presentation** at your school on college planning, financial aid, filling out the FAFSA, money management and how to succeed in college.
- ▶ Receive college planning information in the **impact monthly e-newsletter**.
- ▶ Request **free publications** on college planning and financial aid topics.
- ▶ Visit ICAN's **Facebook** page — [www.ICANSucceed.org/facebook](http://www.ICANSucceed.org/facebook).

## About ICAN's Services

- ▶ **Se habla español** — Services are available in Spanish.
- ▶ All ICAN services are **free**.
- ▶ ICAN is a **Character Counts** – supporting organization.

**WWW.ICANSUCCEED.ORG**  
**(877) CPC – IOWA**

\* The FAFSA is a free form that may be completed without professional assistance via paper or electronic forms provided by the U.S. Department of Education at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov).

## ICAN College Planning Centers

### Central Iowa

160 S. 68th St.  
Suite 1101  
West Des Moines, IA 50266

### Eastern Iowa

1100 Blairs Ferry Road N.E.  
Suite 104  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402

### Hours

8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.  
Monday and Friday

8 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.  
Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday

PLAN • APPLY • PAY • SUCCEED

# College Planning Guide

The mission of the Iowa College Access Network® (ICAN) is to help individuals attain their educational and career goals. This guide will help you plan for college during your high school years.

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# COUNTDOWN TO COLLEGE

Check off these tips as you move through high school to make sure you stay on course for college. When you reach your senior year, make sure you complete the Just for Seniors tips as well.

## Fall

- Talk to your parents and school counselor about where you want to go to college and how you can prepare academically and financially. If you're not sure yet, research schools now.
- Find college fairs, financial aid informational sessions and parent nights in your area with the calendar of events at [www.ICANSucceed.org](http://www.ICANSucceed.org).
- Visit the Golden Circle College Fair Oct. 4 at the Polk County Convention Complex.
- Register for preliminary or actual college entrance exams. For tips, visit [www.ICANSucceed.org](http://www.ICANSucceed.org).
- Find a mentor to help you through high school and the college search process. Consider teachers, family members and older friends.
- Get involved in your community or at your school. Update your activities portfolio often.
- Plan to visit college admission counselors when they come to your school.

### Just for Seniors

- Download a College Checklist from [www.ICANSucceed.org](http://www.ICANSucceed.org) and use it to organize admission, scholarship and financial aid information for your top five colleges.
- Start writing essays and asking for letters of reference for admission and scholarship applications.
- Try to fill out college admission forms by Nov. 1.

## Winter

- Research scholarships using free searches. Keep an ongoing file of scholarship and financial aid information, such as criteria, amounts, contacts and deadlines. Never pay for scholarship search services.

- ❑ Visit [www.ICANSucceed.org](http://www.ICANSucceed.org) for tuition and fee information for Iowa colleges and make a plan to pay for your education. Become familiar with the different types of financial aid available.
- ❑ Find careers and majors at [www.ihaveaplaniowa.gov](http://www.ihaveaplaniowa.gov), a free resource provided by the Iowa College Student Aid Commission and endorsed by the Iowa Department of Education.
- ❑ Schedule college visits. For tips, go to [www.ICANSucceed.org](http://www.ICANSucceed.org).
- ❑ Keep your grades up. Colleges look at the grades you've earned each year.

### Just for Seniors

- ❑ Stay on top of deadlines and needed forms for scholarships and financial aid.
- ❑ File your financial aid forms as soon after Jan. 1 as you can. If you need free help, call the ICAN College Planning Centers at (877) CPC-Iowa.
- ❑ Look for your Student Aid Report (SAR) and check it for accuracy. Be prepared to send additional copies of financial information to colleges.

## Spring

- ❑ Visit college fairs in your area to talk to college representatives. Finalize your top five and at least one "safety net" choice by the fall of your senior year.
- ❑ Talk to your school counselor about next year's classes to stay on track for college. AP® or other challenging courses will help you prepare for college, and dual-enrollment classes let you earn college credit.
- ❑ Look for summer jobs, activities, internships or job shadowing opportunities that are in line with your career interests.
- ❑ Make plans to read over the summer. Reading builds vocabulary for college entrance exams, increases comprehension skills and broadens your perspective.
- ❑ Use your activities portfolio and grade reports to start a resume of activities, volunteer experiences, academic achievements and employment. Use this resume for scholarship and college applications.

### Just for Seniors

- ❑ Compare financial aid packages and decide which school you'll attend. Send in the necessary fees and paperwork according to deadlines.
- ❑ Notify other colleges that you won't be attending.
- ❑ Prepare a budget for college that includes your savings, earnings and financial aid as well as anticipated expenses. Review it with your parents.

# EXPLORE CAREERS



Explore Careers



Prepare Academically



Choose a College



Apply for College



Pay for College



Succeed in College

College planning also means career planning. You don't need to commit to a specific career right now, but you should spend some time figuring out the types of things you want to do in the future. Set goals and think about where you'd like to end up; then decide the best way to get there.

## Find Your Path

You need to understand yourself and identify your abilities, interests and values to narrow down careers. Visit [www.ihaveaplaniowa.gov](http://www.ihaveaplaniowa.gov) to match your interests and skills with careers. IHaveaPlanIowa is a free resource for education and career planning provided by the Iowa College Student Aid Commission and endorsed by the Iowa Department of Education.

## Try It Out

Gain experience and skills now to learn what you want out of a career — and life. The following activities can help you:

- ▶ Take some different courses to explore new interests.
- ▶ Participate in career days and mentoring programs at your school.
- ▶ Volunteer, job-shadow or intern at local organizations and businesses.
- ▶ Work part-time to gain experience and build skills in your chosen career.
- ▶ Participate in extracurricular activities, especially those that offer leadership opportunities.
- ▶ Talk to professionals in specific careers to learn more.

Use these opportunities and your high school classes to enhance the skills that will make you an ideal job candidate. Employers want you to have:\*

- ▶ Communication skills.
- ▶ A strong work ethic.
- ▶ The ability to work in a team.
- ▶ Initiative, or the drive to start projects on your own.
- ▶ Leadership experience.
- ▶ Relevant work experience.

## Create an Activities Resume

A list of your activities is useful for scholarship and admission applications. You can also use it to build a more detailed resume later; just add jobs, volunteer positions, skills and achievements.

## Rethink Often

Career planning is an ongoing, lifelong process. Your goals will change as you develop new skills, experience new things and have new ideas. Don't feel like you have to stick to the plan you make now for the rest of your life. You'll have plenty of opportunities to adapt your plan as you grow and change.



\* Job Outlook 2009 Survey, National Association of Colleges and Employers

# PREPARE ACADEMICALLY



Explore Careers



Prepare Academically



Choose a College



Apply for College



Pay for College



Succeed in College

Colleges admit students based on academic achievement, extracurricular activities and other accomplishments. Start preparing early so you can reach your education goals. All your high school grades will play a major role in the college admission process, so work hard through the final exam.

## Take the Right Classes

Good grades alone aren't enough for college admission; make sure you're challenging yourself and taking the classes you need. Requirements vary, so be sure to find out what classes are required by the colleges you may attend and the majors you plan to pursue. If you're unsure where you'll be going to school, use the Iowa Board of Regents' High School Course Requirements shown on the next page as a base to build on.

## Optimum Recommendations for Success

The Iowa Board of Regents lists additional recommendations for success on their Web site, [www.state.ia.us/regents](http://www.state.ia.us/regents). In general, you should plan to take English/language arts, math, natural science, social science and foreign language classes each year of high school with additional courses in arts, computers or technology.



## Iowa Board of Regents — High School Course Requirements

	Iowa State University	University of Iowa	University of Northern Iowa
Language Arts	Four years of English/language arts emphasizing writing, speaking and reading as well as an understanding and appreciation of literature.	Four years, with an emphasis on the analysis and interpretation of literature, composition and speech.	Four years, including one year of composition; also may include one year of speech, communication or journalism.
Math	Three years, including one year each of algebra, geometry and advanced algebra.	Three years, including two years of algebra and one year of geometry, for admission to the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Four years, including two years of algebra, one year of geometry and one year of higher mathematics (trigonometry, analysis or calculus), for admission to the College of Engineering.	Three years, including the equivalent of algebra, geometry and advanced algebra.
Natural Science	Three years, including one year each from any two of the following: biology, chemistry and physics.	Three years, including one year each from any two of the following: biology, chemistry and physics for admission to the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Three years, including at least one year of chemistry and one year of physics, for admission to the College of Engineering.	Three years, including courses in general science, biology, chemistry, earth science or physics; laboratory experience highly recommended.
Social Science	Two years for admission to the Colleges of Agriculture, Business, Design, Human Sciences and Engineering. Three years for admission to the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.	Three years, with U.S. history and world history recommended, for admission to the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Two years, with U.S. history and world history recommended, for admission to the College of Engineering.	Three years, including courses in anthropology, economics, geography, government, history, psychology or sociology.
Foreign Language	Two years of a single foreign language for admission to the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the College of Engineering. Foreign language courses aren't required for admission to the Colleges of Agriculture, Business, Design or Human Sciences.	Two years of a single foreign language.	Foreign language courses aren't required for admission. However, two years of a foreign language in high school with a C- or above in the last term will meet the university graduation requirement.
Other	Specific elective courses aren't required.	Specific elective courses aren't required.	Two years of additional courses from the required subject areas, foreign languages or fine arts.

## Take College Entrance Exams

Entrance exam scores are also taken into account during the admission process. Your scores may also be used to determine the amount of merit-based financial aid the college will award you, so it's important to do your best.

Ask the colleges you're considering which test they require; this information may also be on their Web sites. The ACT® and SAT® tests are most common, but some colleges ask for another exam so be sure to verify with the schools you're applying to. For upcoming test dates and deadlines, go to:

- ▶ ACT: [www.act.org](http://www.act.org)
- ▶ SAT: [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)

ACT Dates and Deadlines	
Test Date	Registration Deadline
Sept. 12, 2009	Aug. 7, 2009
Oct. 24, 2009	Sept. 18, 2009
Dec. 12, 2009	Nov. 6, 2009
Feb. 6, 2010	Jan. 5, 2010
April 10, 2010	March 5, 2010
June 12, 2010	May 7, 2010

SAT Dates and Deadlines	
Test Date	Registration Deadline
Oct. 10, 2009	Sept. 9, 2009
Nov. 7, 2009	Oct. 1, 2009
Dec. 5, 2009	Oct. 30, 2009
Jan. 23, 2010	Dec. 15, 2009
March 13, 2010	Feb. 4, 2010
May 1, 2010	March 25, 2010
June 5, 2010	April 29, 2010

Community colleges may not require entrance exams, but you might need to take a placement test like COMPASS® or ASSET®. Check with your school counselor or the community colleges you're considering for more information.

## Don't Ease Up

As graduation approaches, keep working hard. Don't let senioritis keep you from earning scholarships or college admission.

## Find Your RAI Score

Iowa's three Regent universities assign you a Regent Admission Index (RAI) based on test scores, class rank, GPA and the number of core classes you've completed. (If you aren't sure what core courses are, talk to your school counselor.) You must score at least 245 on the RAI to be admitted to one of these universities. Private colleges don't use the RAI, but they typically consider the same four factors for admission, so your RAI score can indicate whether you're building a good foundation for college. Community colleges don't have specific admission requirements, but the four RAI factors are usually considered for scholarship opportunities. Use the following chart to figure your score.

Element	Your Statistics	Element Score
ACT or SAT Composite Score	_____	x 2 = _____
Percentile High School Class Rank	_____	x 1 = _____
High School GPA	_____	x 20 = _____
Number of Core Subject Area Courses Completed in High School	_____	x 5 = _____
Add All Element Scores Together to Find Your RAI Score =		_____

## Push Yourself

Colleges and universities also look for students who do more inside and outside the classroom.

- ▶ Challenge yourself with tougher courses — colleges prefer students who take harder classes over those who achieve high grades in easier ones.
- ▶ Take courses that match your career interests and prepare you for your college major.
- ▶ Participate in extracurricular activities.
- ▶ Volunteer or work part time.

# CHOOSE A COLLEGE



Explore Careers



Prepare Academically



Choose a College



Apply for College



Pay for College



Succeed in College

Before you apply to college, narrow down your options. Give some thought to who you are, what you want out of the college experience and the schools that fit you best.

## What Matters to You?

What's important to you may not necessarily be what's important to your friends, siblings or parents. You should find the college that's the best fit for you. The happier you are at the college you choose, the more likely you are to succeed and complete your degree.

## Types of Colleges

Do you want to go to a two-year, four-year or community college? Maybe you'd prefer a vocational or technical school. Depending on your circumstances, it might be best for you to start at one type of school and transfer to another. Find out how to transfer to a private college or university at [www.thinkindependently.com](http://www.thinkindependently.com). If you think you'll transfer to a Regent university, visit [www.transferiniowa.org](http://www.transferiniowa.org).

## Types of Postsecondary Institutions

Below are general descriptions of postsecondary institutions in Iowa by type to help you examine your options. **Note:** This information shouldn't be used as a substitute for facts provided by individual schools.

### Business, Health Profession or Technical Colleges

Specialized colleges train students for specific careers.

- ▶ These schools may offer several levels of degrees (certificate, associate, bachelor's, master's and doctorate).

## Community or Junior Colleges

Community colleges allow students to earn a degree or transfer in two years.

- ▶ Community colleges may offer an associate (two-year) degree, certificate or diploma program.
- ▶ Specialized occupational preparation is offered.
- ▶ Many students attend before transferring to a four-year college or university.
- ▶ Class size is generally small, and students are able to receive individual attention.
- ▶ Students often choose community college as an affordable option.

## Private Colleges and Universities

Private schools rely on tuition, fees and other private sources of funding.

- ▶ Private schools offer bachelor's degrees and possibly associate (two-year) or advanced degrees.
- ▶ A broad base of courses is available (such as social sciences, humanities, sciences and businesses).
- ▶ Courses of study begin with general education requirements; students choose at least one area of in-depth study as their major.
- ▶ Total enrollment is generally lower than at public universities.

## Public Universities

Public universities in Iowa get much of their funding from state government.

- ▶ Iowa public universities offer several levels of degrees (bachelor's, master's and doctorate).
- ▶ A liberal arts college as well as professional colleges and graduate programs are included.
- ▶ The universities are divided into several colleges such as the College of Business and the College of Education.
- ▶ In general, public universities are larger than private colleges and universities (although smaller universities exist) with larger classes.
- ▶ Classes are sometimes taught in a lecture format.

## Iowa Postsecondary Institutions at a Glance

Please note:

- ▶ Tuition and fees and room and board costs are those reported for the 2009 – 2010 academic year. Costs are based on full-time attendance each term. Community college tuition is per credit hour; additional fees may apply. Campus housing and/or meal plans are not available at all colleges, but aid may be available for these off-campus costs. For actual costs based on your program of study and housing options, contact the school. Other fees and costs not listed include those for books, transportation, entertainment, telephone and other personal expenses.
- ▶ Financial aid priority date is the date the student’s Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) should be received at the processing center, not the postmark date. If you apply after the deadline, you might miss some sources of aid.
- ▶ Type indicates whether the institution is a community college; business, health profession or technical institution; private college or university; or public university. (Some schools are classified as more than one type.)

- Business, Health Profession or Technical College
- Private College or University
- ▲ Community or Junior College
- ◆ Public University

College/University	Type	Phone Number & Web Site	Admission Deadline	Tuition & Fees	Room & Board	School Code	Financial Aid Priority Date
AIB College of Business	■●	(800) 444-1921 www.aib.edu	Rolling	\$12,120 <sup>†</sup>	\$4,311 <sup>†</sup>	003963	April 1
Allen College	●	(319) 226-2000 www.allencollege.edu	Rolling	\$14,579	\$6,816	030691	May 1
Ashford University	■	(800) 242-4153 www.ashford.edu	Rolling	\$16,270	\$6,000	001881	March 1
Briar Cliff University	■	(800) 662-3303 www.briarcliff.edu	Rolling	\$22,536	\$6,762	001846	March 15

College/University	Type	Phone Number & Web Site	Admission Deadline	Tuition & Fees	Room & Board	School Code	Financial Aid Priority Date
Buena Vista University	■	(800) 383-9600 www.bvu.edu	Rolling	\$25,540	\$7,292	001847	April 1
Central College	■	(877) 462-3687 www.central.edu	Rolling	\$25,010	\$8,368	001850	March 15
Clarke College	■	(800) 383-2345 www.clarke.edu	Rolling	\$23,520	\$6,840	001852	April 15
Clinton Community College	▲	(888) 336-3907 www.eicc.edu	Rolling	\$107 <sup>†</sup> / credit hr	\$3,600 <sup>†</sup>	001853	April 1
Coe College	■	(877) 225-5263 www.coe.edu	Rolling	\$29,270	\$7,150	001854	March 1
Cornell College	■	(800) 747-1112 www.cornellcollege.edu	February 1	\$29,580	\$7,500	001856	March 1
Des Moines Area Community College	▲	(800) 362-2127 www.dmacc.edu	Rolling	\$115/ credit hr.	\$5,302	004589	April 1
Des Moines University	●	(515) 271-1499 www.dmu.edu	Rolling	Varies*	Varies*	015616	April 15
Divine Word College	■	(800) 553-3321 www.svdvocations.org	July 15	\$10,800	\$2,850	001858	August 1
Dordt College	■	(800) 343-6738 www.dordt.edu	Rolling	\$22,080	\$6,010	001859	April 1
Drake University	■	(800) 443-7253 www.drake.edu	Rolling	\$25,622	\$7,800	001860	March 1
Ellsworth Community College	▲	(800) 322-9235 www.ellsworthcollege.com	Rolling	\$153/ credit hr	\$4,776	001862	June 1
Emmaus Bible College	■	(800) 397-2425 www.emmaus.edu	Rolling	\$11,578	\$5,396	016487	April 15
Faith Baptist Bible College	■	(888) 324-8448 www.faith.edu	Rolling	\$13,260	\$5,510	007121	March 15
Graceland University	■	(866) 472-2352 www.graceland.edu	Rolling	\$20,090	\$6,780	001866	March 1
Grand View University	■	(800) 444-6083 www.gvc.edu	Rolling	\$18,944	\$6,442	001867	March 1
Grinnell College	■	(800) 247-0113 www.grinnell.edu	January 2	\$36,476	\$8,536	001868	February 1
Hawkeye Community College	▲	(800) 670-4743 www.hawkeyecollege.edu	Rolling	\$128/ credit hr	\$5,720	004595	July 1
Indian Hills Community College	▲	(800) 726-2585 www.indianhills.edu	Rolling	\$124/ credit hr	\$3,930	008298	July 1

(continued)

## Iowa Postsecondary Institutions at a Glance (cont.)

- Business, Health Profession or Technical College
- ▲ Community or Junior College
- Private College or University
- ◆ Public University

College/University	Type	Phone Number & Web Site	Admission Deadline	Tuition & Fees	Room & Board	School Code	Financial Aid Priority Date
Iowa Central Community College	▲	(800) 362-2793 www.iowacentral.com	Rolling	\$128/ credit hr.	\$4,975	004597	March 1
Iowa Lakes Community College	▲	(800) 242-5108 www.iowalakes.edu	Rolling	\$144.75/ credit hr	\$4,800	001864	April 1
Iowa State University	◆	(800) 262-3810 www.iastate.edu	Rolling	\$6,650	\$7,277	001869	March 1
Iowa Wesleyan College	■	(800) 582-2383 www.iwc.edu	Rolling	\$21,000	\$6,654	001871	April 1
Iowa Western Community College	▲	(800) 432-5852 www.iwcc.edu	Rolling	\$130/ credit hr.	\$6,980	004598	July 1
Kaplan University — Cedar Falls	■●	(800) 728-1220 www.kucampus.edu	Rolling	\$14,640 (9 mos.)	\$8,442 (9 mos.)	E00920	None
Kaplan University — Cedar Rapids	■●	(800) 728-0481 www.kucampus.edu	Rolling	\$14,640 (9 mos.)	\$8,442 (9 mos.)	004220	None
Kaplan University — Council Bluffs	■●	(800) 518-4212 www.kucampus.edu	Rolling	\$14,640 (9 mos.)	\$8,442 (9 mos.)	E01153	None
Kaplan University — Davenport (Main Campus)	■●	(800) 747-1035 www.kucampus.edu	Rolling	\$14,640 (9 mos.)	\$8,442 (9 mos.)	004586	None
Kaplan University — Des Moines	■●	(800) 383-0253 www.kucampus.edu	Rolling	\$14,640 (9 mos.)	\$8,442 (9 mos.)	E00925	None
Kaplan University — Mason City	■●	(800) 274-2530 www.kucampus.edu	Rolling	\$14,640 (9 mos.)	\$8,442 (9 mos.)	E00926	None
Kirkwood Community College	▲	(800) 332-2055 www.kirkwood.edu	Rolling	\$111/ credit hr	\$3,800	004076	July 1
Loras College	■	(800) 245-6727 www.loras.edu	Rolling	\$25,435	\$7,026	001873	April 15



College/University	Type	Phone Number & Web Site	Admission Deadline	Tuition & Fees	Room & Board	School Code	Financial Aid Priority Date
Luther College	■	(800) 458-8437 www.admissions.luther.edu	Rolling	\$32,290	\$5,380	001874	March 1
Maharishi University of Management	■	(800) 369-6480 www.mum.edu	Rolling	\$24,430	\$6,000	011113	August 1
Marshalltown Community College	▲	(866) 622-4748 www.iavalley.cc.ia.us/mcc	Rolling	\$153/ credit hr	\$5,370	001875	July 1
Mercy College of Health Sciences	●	(800) 637-2994 www.mchs.edu	Rolling	\$13,000	Varies*	006273	April 15
Morningside College	■	(800) 831-0806 www.morningside.edu	Rolling	\$22,020	\$6,740	001879	March 1
Mount Mercy College	■	(800) 248-4504 www.mtmercy.edu	Rolling	\$22,100	\$6,980	001880	March 1
Muscatine Community College	▲	(800) 462-3255 www.eicc.edu	Rolling	\$107+/ credit hr.	\$3,600 <sup>†</sup>	001882	April 1
North Iowa Area Community College	▲	(888) 466-4222 www.niacc.edu	Rolling	\$123.04/ credit hr.	\$4,806	001877	March 1
Northeast Iowa Community College	▲	(800) 728-7367 www.nicc.edu	Rolling	\$143/ credit hr.	\$5,427	Calmar 004587	July 1
Northeast Iowa Community College	▲	(800) 728-7367 www.nicc.edu	Rolling	\$143/ credit hr.	\$5,427	Peosta 012634	July 1
Northwest Iowa Community College	▲	(800) 352-4907 www.nwicc.edu	Rolling	\$119/ credit hr.	\$3,900	004600	April 1
Northwestern College	■	(712) 707-7000 www.nwciowa.edu	Rolling	\$22,240	\$6,756	001883	April 1
Palmer College of Chiropractic	●	(800) 722-3648 www.palmer.edu	Special**	\$27,540	\$17,964	012300	May 15
Scott Community College	▲	(800) 895-0811 www.eicc.edu	Rolling	\$107+/ credit hr.	\$3,600 <sup>†</sup>	004074	April 1
Simpson College	■	(800) 362-2454 www.simpson.edu	Rolling	\$25,733	\$7,261	001887	April 1
Southeastern Community College	▲	(800) 828-7322 www.scciowa.edu	Rolling	\$120/ credit hr.	\$5,310	004603	July 1
Southwestern Community College	▲	(800) 247-4023 www.swcciowa.edu	Rolling	\$128/ credit hr.	\$4,300	001857	July 1
St. Ambrose University	■	(800) 383-2627 www.sau.edu	Rolling	\$22,590	\$7,670	001889	March 15

(continued)

## Iowa Postsecondary Institutions at a Glance (cont.)

- Business, Health Profession or Technical College
- ▲ Community or Junior College
- Private College or University
- ◆ Public University

College/University	Type	Phone Number & Web Site	Admission Deadline	Tuition & Fees	Room & Board	School Code	Financial Aid Priority Date
St. Luke's College	●	(800) 352-4660 www.stlukescollege.org	Rolling	\$14,100	Varies*	007291	March 1
University of Dubuque	■	(800) 722-5583 www.dbq.edu	Rolling	\$20,770	\$6,990	001891	April 1
University of Iowa	◆	(800) 553-4692 www.uiowa.edu	April 1	\$6,824	\$8,004	001892	ASAP after January 1
University of Northern Iowa	◆	(800) 772-2736 www.uni.edu	Rolling	\$6,636	\$6,980	001890	ASAP after January 1
Upper Iowa University	■	(800) 553-4150 www.uiu.edu	Rolling	\$21,418	\$6,578	001893	March 1
Waldorf College	■	(800) 292-1903 www.waldorf.edu	Rolling	\$20,554	\$5,954	001895	March 1
Wartburg College	■	(800) 772-2085 www.wartburg.edu	Rolling	\$27,450	\$7,615	001896	March 1
Western Iowa Tech Community College	▲	(800) 352-4649 www.witcc.com	Rolling	\$130.50/ credit hr.	\$5,000	004590	July 1
William Penn University	■	(800) 779-7366 www.wmpenn.edu	Rolling	\$18,934	\$5,292	001900	April 15

† Costs shown reflect 2008 – 2009 figures. Contact the school or visit the school's Web site for current costs.

\* Costs vary based on program of study. Contact the school for actual costs.

\*\* Admission deadline is 30 days prior to term start.

Note: Some institutions may have additional locations that are not listed in the chart. Please refer to their Web sites. The data contained in this chart was accurate at the time of printing. It should not be used in place of information provided by Iowa postsecondary institutions.

## Other Iowa Postsecondary Institutions

These schools offer a variety of programs with different deadlines and fees. Schools may or may not offer federal financial aid. Please contact the school directly for more information.

College/University	Type	Contact Information
American College of Hairstyling	●	(515) 244-0971 www.americancollegeofhair.com
Bill Hill's College of Cosmetology	●	(319) 372-6248 bhill@lisco.com
Bio-Chi Institute of Massage Therapy	●	(712) 252-1157 www.bci-ed.com
Capri College*	●	(800) 397-0612 www.capricollege.com
Carlson College of Massage Therapy	●	(319) 462-3402 www.carlsoncollege.com
College of Hair Design	●	(319) 232-9995 www.chd.net
Covenant Medical Center School of Radiologic Technology	●	(319) 272-7419 www.covhealth.com/radiology-school.asp
Dayton's School of Hair Design*	●	(319) 524-6445
EQ School of Hair Design	●	(712) 328-2613 www.egschool.net
Faust Institute of Cosmetology*	●	(712) 732-6571 www.faustinstitute.com
Iowa School of Beauty*	●	(515) 278-9939 www.iowaschoolofbeauty.com
LaJames College of Hairstyling*	●	(888) 880-2106 www.lajames.net
Mercy Medical Center - Sioux City	●	(712) 279-2371 smithmk@mercyhealth.com
Mercy/St.Luke's School of Radiologic Technology	●	(319) 369-7097 www.isrt.org/mstl.htm
Salon Professional Academy*	●	(800) 956-3781 www.thesalonprofessionalacademy.com
St. Luke's Clinical Laboratory Science Program in Medical Technology	●	(319) 369-7309 sojkan@crstlukes.com
Total Look School of Cosmetology	●	(563) 547-3624 www.totallookschool.com
Vatterott College	●	(515) 309-9000 www.vatterott-college.com

\* School has more than one location. Please check with school for additional sites and contact information.

## Consider the Features You Want

Once you know the type of college you're looking for, think about other factors such as:

- ▶ **Location**
  - Geographically, where do you want to live?
  - How far away from home do you want to go?
  - Do you want to live in a big city or small town?
- ▶ **Academic Programs**
  - Does the college offer the major you want? Is it strong in that academic area?
  - If you're undecided, are a variety of majors you're interested in offered?
- ▶ **Campus Life**
  - What types of social events take place?
  - Are fraternities and sororities available?
  - Are the athletic events popular?
  - Are there clubs or organizations on campus that interest you?
  - Are the arts supported?
- ▶ **Cost and Financial Aid Availability**
  - What's the total cost of education at the college?
  - How much financial aid is offered?
- ▶ **Facilities**
  - Are the student facilities, such as the library, athletic center and health center, adequate?
- ▶ **Living Accommodations**
  - Do most students live on or off campus?
  - Is housing available?
  - What are the residence halls like?
  - Are there different housing options?
- ▶ **Campus Safety**
  - How reliable is campus security? (Request a copy of the campus security report from the college or visit <http://ope.ed.gov/security>.)

## Narrow Your List

Review the factors important to you and make a list of colleges that fit your requirements. Search the Internet and find five to 10 colleges that match your preferences. Attend college fairs and speak with college representatives visiting your school. By the fall of your senior year, try to narrow the list to five colleges or fewer.

## Visit Campuses

Visits allow you to get an up-close look at colleges and experience a feel for life on campus. The best times for campus visits are during the spring of your junior year and the fall of your senior year. If a visit isn't possible, attend college fairs, talk to alumni or take a virtual tour online.

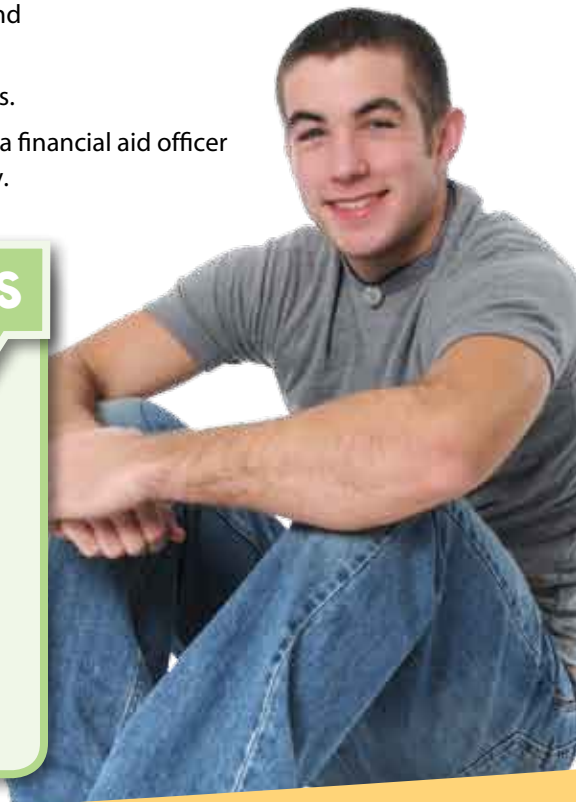
Make a list of questions to ask — and things to observe — during your campus visits. Download a checklist at [www.ICANSucceed.org](http://www.ICANSucceed.org). Print copies so you can log your experiences during each campus visit.

- ▶ Use file folders to store your notes, brochures, maps and other materials.
- ▶ Bring a camera. Photos can help you remember details.
- ▶ Schedule appointments with an admission counselor, a financial aid officer and a faculty member from your major course of study.

## REAL ADVICE FROM STUDENTS

“Visit schools that you maybe wouldn't think of just to get a feel for the campus because once you get there you're going to feel completely different than it did on paper. ... Take someone else that you trust — a family member or a friend — and get their opinion and really look around when you go to the school. ... Ask to see like the dorm rooms and the lunch dining halls and all the things that you're going to be doing in a daily basis.”

— Kasey, a college senior



# APPLY FOR COLLEGE



Explore Careers



Prepare Academically



Choose a College



Apply for College



Pay for College



Succeed in College

By the time you begin your senior year, you should know five colleges you're really interested in attending. Once you have this list, start filling out admission applications for schools that match your criteria. Include at least one "safety" college you know you'll be admitted to in case your top choices don't accept you.

## Be Thorough

Don't overlook the details. Fill in all the blanks, and read all the information and instructions. Some admission offices view the application as a test to see how detail-oriented you are and how well you follow instructions. Each year, colleges receive thousands of applications. Make sure yours stands out for the right reasons.

Remember to highlight the things colleges are most looking for — good grades, the appropriate classes, and involvement in community and activities.

## Apply On Time

Being early doesn't just make a good impression; it also gives the admission office time to thoroughly review your application, let you know about any missing information and approve you for early admission.

Apply by each school's application deadline (check the chart on pages 12 – 17 or the school's Web site). If the deadline is "rolling," plan to file your application no later than Nov. 1 of your senior year.

## About Admission Applications

Most schools offer both online and paper college admission application forms, and nearly 300 U.S. colleges accept the Common Application, a standard form available from guidance offices and online at [www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org). Check in advance with the schools you're applying to for their requirements.

Here's the information generally asked for in an admission application:

- ▶ **Admission Application Fee**
  - This may or may not apply, depending on the school.
- ▶ **Official High School Transcript**
  - Ask your school counselor to send your transcript to the colleges you're applying to.
- ▶ **Biographical Information**
  - You'll need to supply your basic personal information, such as your name, address, Social Security number and birth date.
  - Information on your high school education is also needed.
- ▶ **Test Score(s)**
  - Most four-year colleges require that you submit your ACT and/or SAT test scores.
  - Test scores are not required at most community colleges, but they do accept them. Contact the school to determine its requirements.
- ▶ **Letters of Recommendation**
  - Some colleges want letters of recommendation from adults who know you well.
  - Ask for letters at the beginning of your senior year.
- ▶ **Essay**
  - Some colleges require an essay. It can play an important role in the admission process.



## Write a Winning Essay

If the four-year colleges you'd like to attend ask for an essay as part of the admission application, be ready to submit a well-thought-out, clearly written paper. You may be able to choose your own topic, or the application may give you a writing prompt. Follow any directions given for the essay. Use these tips to help you write on any topic.

- ▶ Start by brainstorming ideas.
- ▶ Put your ideas into a logical order in an outline.
- ▶ Develop a theme and make sure all your points support that theme.
- ▶ Use vivid examples to create images rather than just reciting a story.
- ▶ Carefully review and edit your draft, and have others give you feedback.

For more information on how to write application essays, visit [www.ICANSucceed.org](http://www.ICANSucceed.org).

## Ace the Interview

While many colleges don't require a formal on-campus interview for admission, some do. If a school you apply to requires an interview, be ready. Treat it like a job interview, even though this will be just one of many factors considered in the admission process. Ask questions to show you're interested in attending the school.

## After You Apply

Once all your applications are sent in, what should you do while you wait for decisions? Keep working hard in school — colleges will want to see your final transcripts after graduation. Search for scholarships and continue to earn money to help pay for college expenses. Soon enough, you'll begin to receive acceptance, denial or wait-list letters from the colleges you applied to.



## Make a Decision

You'll start to receive acceptance letters as early as November and financial aid packages in the spring of your senior year. Follow these guidelines for your decision-making process:

1. Make sure you've filled out and submitted all applications for financial aid, scholarships and housing.
2. Compare the financial aid packages. Consider what each college is offering and how it fits with your educational goals and ability to pay. Remember that different types of aid have different requirements; think about repayment, interest and the cost over your entire college career when you compare aid packages.
3. Once you've decided on a college, submit any necessary paperwork ahead of the deadline. Contact the other colleges on your list immediately to notify them that you won't be attending.

### Handling Denial

It's not the end of the world if you end up attending your second choice, your third choice or even your "safety" school. You'll still learn a great deal, experience new things and prepare for a better future no matter which institution you end up attending. So make the most of it!



# PAY FOR COLLEGE



Explore Careers



Prepare Academically



Choose a College



Apply for College



Pay for College



Succeed in College

Paying for higher education can be a challenge. The good news is that financial aid is available. The more you and your parents know about financial aid, the better prepared you'll be to make the right choices. The best thing you can do to secure financial aid is to start planning as early as possible and be organized.

## Understand the Costs

Make sure you understand all the costs associated with each school you're applying to. Some direct costs, like room and board and tuition and fees, are billed directly to you from the school. In addition, you'll have indirect costs like books and supplies, transportation, and monthly bills. Remember, you're likely to pay less than the advertised total by the time financial aid is factored in. Compare the expenses and financial aid packages to determine which school will offer the best overall value by downloading the Compare College Costs work sheet from the Resource Zone on [www.ICANSucceed.org](http://www.ICANSucceed.org).

## Know Your Financial Situation

Talk to your parents to find out how much they're planning to help you with college costs. They may have savings or investments set aside specifically for that purpose. If not, tell them your plan for meeting your expenses. You may need to pick up additional hours at work to save more money, cut your spending or consider a less-expensive college. In addition, take into account the financial aid you're eligible for.

## Understand Financial Aid

Financial aid includes grants, scholarships, work-study and loans. Some types are based on your merit, talents or special abilities. Others are based on financial need. Find out more by reading ICAN's 2009 – 2010 Financial Aid Guide. For a free copy, go to [www.ICANSucceed.org/requestmaterials](http://www.ICANSucceed.org/requestmaterials).

## STEP 1

### Know Your Options

Financial aid comes in four forms. Know the differences and what they mean to you.

- ▶ **Grants** are funds you don't have to repay. They may be based on financial need and can come from a variety of sources. The most common types of grants come from federal and state agencies and colleges.
- ▶ **Scholarships** are awarded through private donors. As with grants, you don't have to repay them; many are based on merit, financial need or involvement.
- ▶ **Work-study** allows you to earn money by working at a part-time job on or near campus.
- ▶ **Loans** are debts that must be repaid. Loans can be a helpful source of financial aid, but be sure you understand the terms of the loan before you borrow. Seek loans only after pursuing all other forms of financial aid, and consider federally guaranteed loans before private ones. Federal loans generally offer better terms and conditions.

## STEP 2

### Search for Scholarships

Scholarships are highly prized by students — for good reason. You don't need to repay the money, and enough scholarships are available that with a little work you should be able to find some you may qualify for.

- ▶ Start early in your junior year of high school and continue searching for scholarships throughout your final year of college. Be aware of deadlines!
- ▶ Leave no stone unturned for sources of funding your education. Go to [www.ICANSucceed.org](http://www.ICANSucceed.org) for a list of scholarships and links to free search sites.
- ▶ Never pay for a scholarship search service — such businesses don't have access to any information you can't locate online for free.

## STEP 3

### Apply for Financial Aid

To be eligible for financial aid from the federal government, and many types of aid from the state and colleges, you need to file your **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)**.

- ▶ The FAFSA is a free form that may be completed without professional assistance via paper or electronic forms provided by the U.S. Department of Education.
- ▶ Visit [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) or call (800) 433-2142.
- ▶ Complete the FAFSA each year you want to receive financial aid.

### Prepare to File the FAFSA

Get ready by applying for an electronic personal identification number (PIN) and finding tax documents for you and your parents.

- ▶ You and one of your parents should each apply for separate PINs. Go to [www.pin.ed.gov](http://www.pin.ed.gov).
- ▶ Use your PIN to electronically sign your FAFSA application (for faster processing), make changes to your application and check its status.
- ▶ Gather your most recent federal tax returns and W-2 forms, along with current bank account and investment statements. Find a list of what you'll need by downloading "What to Bring to Fill Out Your FAFSA" in the Resource Zone at [www.ICANSucceed.org](http://www.ICANSucceed.org).

### REAL ADVICE FROM STUDENTS

“I didn’t realize how much money it would take to keep myself fed and have to maintain a lifestyle alone. ... [The] FAFSA was intimidating at first, but ... I would recommend it to anyone applying for college. It helps a lot.”

— Ben, a college junior

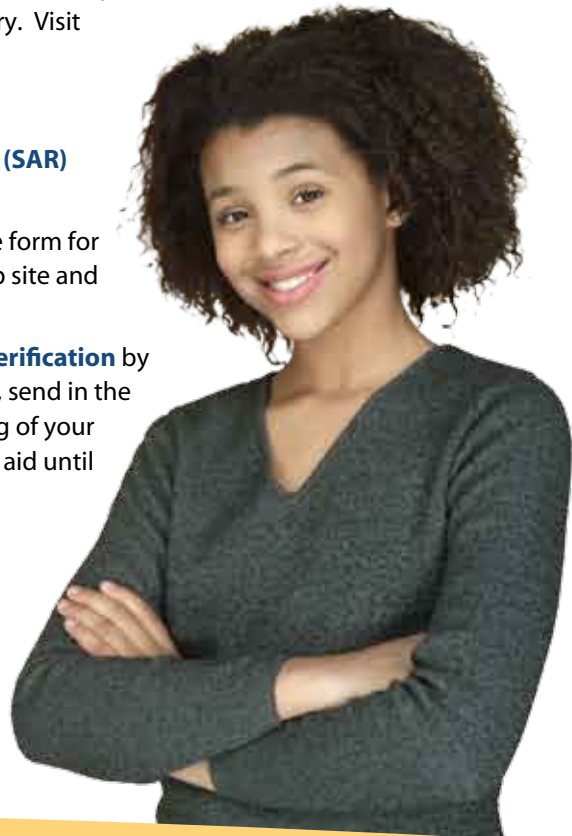
## File the FAFSA

Complete the form as soon as you can after Jan. 1 of your senior year and before your school's priority filing deadline (see pages 12 – 17 for Iowa deadlines).

- ▶ If you don't file your taxes right away, you can submit a FAFSA with estimated tax information based on last year's taxes. Make corrections as soon as your taxes are done.
- ▶ Check with the schools you're applying to about other forms they may require.
- ▶ If you need help with your FAFSA, the ICAN College Planning Centers offer free assistance. Call (877) CPC-Iowa for an appointment.
- ▶ Iowa College Goal Sunday is a free event where volunteers help students fill out and file the FAFSA during Saturdays in February. Visit [www.IowaCGS.org](http://www.IowaCGS.org) to find out more.

In a couple of weeks, once the FAFSA is processed, the U.S. Department of Education creates your **Student Aid Report (SAR)** and sends it to you.

- ▶ Check your SAR for mistakes. If it's accurate, keep the form for your records. If there are errors, go to the FAFSA Web site and use your PIN to make changes.
- ▶ One-third of all FAFSA applications are selected for **verification** by the government. If you receive a verification request, send in the paperwork promptly to avoid delaying the processing of your financial aid. A college can't officially award financial aid until verification is complete.



## STEP 4

### Compare Award Letters

Colleges generate award letters based on your FAFSA results. The letter is part of the financial aid package, which may also include loan documents.

- ▶ Remember that the award letter is subject to change, especially if you've estimated figures on your FAFSA. Read the award letter thoroughly to make sure you understand each type of aid offered.
- ▶ You don't need to accept a financial aid package as a whole; you may decide, for example, to accept a scholarship but decline a loan that's offered.
- ▶ Read the instructions carefully. Check to see if anything needs to be signed and returned to the school by a certain deadline. This doesn't commit you to attend; it simply reserves the funds.
- ▶ Carefully look at the award letters you receive to compare the different packages.
- ▶ Interpreting your award letter can be tricky. Contact the college's financial aid office or call ICAN at (877) CPC-Iowa for assistance.
- ▶ The Prepare to Pay for College work sheet can help you compare costs. Visit Pay for College in the high school section of [www.ICANsucceed.org](http://www.ICANsucceed.org).



## STEP 5

### Find Additional Funding Options

After you decide on a college and accept financial aid, you may need to come up with some additional funding for college. Loans can be a helpful — and sometimes necessary — source to help fund your education, but borrowing should be your last financial aid option. Don't forget that you may have other options.

- ▶ Ask the financial aid office about payment plans or for advice.
- ▶ Get a part-time job.
- ▶ Consider volunteer or military service that offers help with college costs.
- ▶ Find out about loan cancellation, forgiveness and tuition assistance programs.

## STEP 6

### Borrow Wisely

If you do decide you need a loan:

- ▶ Consider federal student loans before private education loans. Federally guaranteed loans generally offer better terms and conditions. For information on the types of available federal loans, visit [www.ICANSucceed.org](http://www.ICANSucceed.org).
- ▶ Carefully compare all terms of the loans you're considering. Think about how much you'll need to borrow over your college career, as well as whether you'll be able to repay them (with interest) on your starting salary.
- ▶ Borrow only what you need. Just because your award letter includes a loan amount, you don't have to borrow the entire sum.

# SUCCEED IN COLLEGE



Explore Careers



Prepare Academically



Choose a College



Apply for College



Pay for College



Succeed in College

Successful college students are those who've learned to balance the academic, financial and social aspects of college life and manage their physical and financial fitness.

## Get Ready for College

Moving day may seem a long way off, but the summer will go quickly. Prepare now.

- ▶ **Make a list.** Start gathering everything you'll need for the next school year. Download a Pack for College checklist at [www.ICANSucceed.org/pack](http://www.ICANSucceed.org/pack).
- ▶ **Plan your courses.** Summer orientation is your opportunity to register for the classes you want. You may not be able to get into all of them, but attend orientation for the best opportunity to choose much of your course load.
- ▶ **Get in touch with your roommate.** Discuss what each of you are bringing and start learning about each other.
- ▶ **Get your books.** Research your options online and on campus to buy, rent or download your books.

## Succeed Academically

Once you arrive on campus, you'll realize college is much different than high school. Being organized and efficient is the key to academic success.

- ▶ **Practice good time management.** You'll have less time in class and more freedom and flexibility than you did in high school. But you'll also have a lot more responsibility. Good time management skills and a planner or organizer will help you balance studying with fun.



- ▶ **Prepare for class.** Know what's expected of you for each class and make sure you meet those expectations. Plan to spend about two hours studying for every hour in class.
- ▶ **Study effectively.** Consider things like location, organization, noise levels and your schedule when determining your best study strategy. Use time between classes wisely.
- ▶ **Give yourself an edge.** Read the syllabus so you know what to expect from each class. Sit near the front of the classroom to help keep your focus, and participate in class. Visit your professors during their office hours for extra help. Continue to meet with your academic adviser to ensure you'll graduate on time or even early, which will save money.

## Outside the Classroom

Many students find the social life the most enticing part of college. Remember to stay healthy and balance your social activities with other commitments.

- ▶ **Make friends.** Leave the dorm for social outings to connect with others.
- ▶ **Get involved.** College is full of opportunities for fun and leadership experience. Make time to explore activities on campus.
- ▶ **Be safe.** Use caution and common sense. Don't assume you're invincible.
- ▶ **Make your body strong.** Good eating habits and plenty of exercise helps you reduce stress and avoid the "freshman 15" weight gain. Lack of sleep, on the other hand, can cause you to lose focus, so get plenty of rest.
- ▶ **Use student health services.** Don't let an illness or emotional issue run you down.

### Get More Advice Online

Visit [www.ICANSucceed.org](http://www.ICANSucceed.org) for tools and tips on setting and reaching your goals. You can also sign up for the free monthly *ignite* e-newsletter to receive informative articles and timely college success tips.

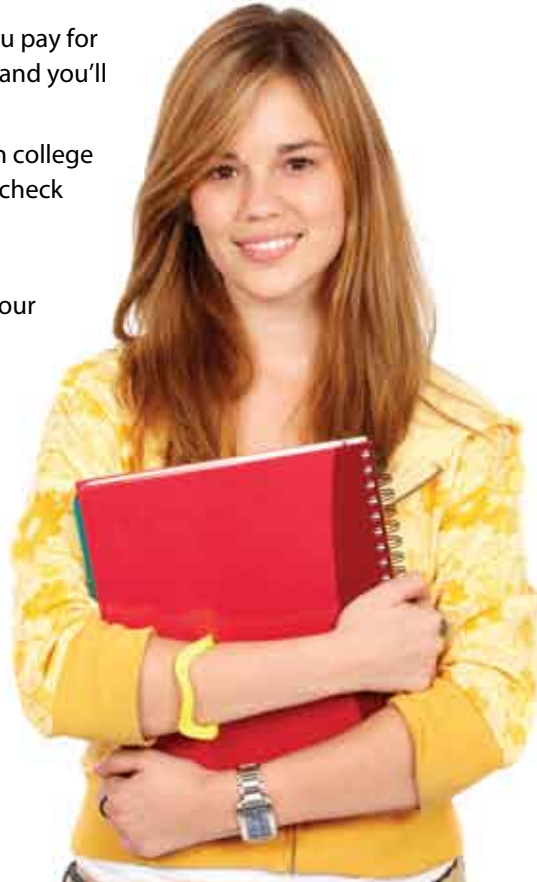
## Your Finances

College life is full of opportunities to spend money, but each financial decision you make now affects your life after college. Develop a budget to keep spending in control. (You can use the work sheet at right.)

- ▶ **Live within your means.** With all of the expenses in college, managing what money you do have is essential. Pay for things in cash whenever possible, and save your earnings if you have a job. Decide if expenses are wants or needs. Cut back on things you don't need or share expenses with roommates.
- ▶ **Take advantage of student discounts available on and off campus.** Some banks offer special incentives to students.
- ▶ **Use credit wisely.** Credit can be a useful tool to help you pay for emergencies, but remember that credit is a type of loan and you'll have to pay it back, often at high interest rates.
- ▶ **Protect yourself.** Identity theft is a growing problem on college campuses. Be careful of your personal information, and check your credit reports yearly.
- ▶ **Keep track of your debt.** Use the calculators at [www.ICANSucceed.org](http://www.ICANSucceed.org) or another system to monitor your total debt during your college years.

## Keep Moving Forward

You've taken the initial steps for college success by starting to plan. Now, make sure you achieve your goals by following through and adapting your plan as your life changes.



## Budget Work Sheet

Income	Your Budget
Grants/Scholarships	\$
Employment/Earnings	\$
Amounts Paid by Parents	\$
Other Income	\$
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	\$
Expenses Covered by Financial Aid	Your Budget
Tuition and Fees	\$
Room/Board or Rent/Housing and Utilities	\$
Books and Supplies	\$
Meals/Groceries	\$
Miscellaneous	\$
Additional Expenses	Your Budget
Clothing/Personal	\$
Phone	\$
Entertainment	\$
Auto Expenses (Car/Gas/Maintenance)	\$
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	\$
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	\$
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	- \$
<b>BALANCE</b>	= \$

If your total income minus your expenses is negative, you may need to find additional income sources or scholarships, decrease your spending or borrow money to pay for college.



(877) CPC-IOWA | [www.ICANsucceed.org](http://www.ICANsucceed.org)

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