



# Helpful Websites

## A Guide for Students and Parents

### Planning Resources

Iowa College Aid  
[www.IowaCollegeAid.gov](http://www.IowaCollegeAid.gov)  
The State of Iowa resource for planning, preparing and paying for college.

College Savings Iowa  
<https://collegesavingsiowa.com>  
This 529 plan helps parents, grandparents, family and friends save for college.

Upromise  
[www.upromise.com/iowa](http://www.upromise.com/iowa)  
A rewards program turning everyday spending into college savings.

Savings Bond Calculator  
[www.treasurydirect.gov/indiv/tools/tools\\_savingsbondcalc.htm](http://www.treasurydirect.gov/indiv/tools/tools_savingsbondcalc.htm)  
Calculate the current value of savings bonds.

Iowa College Access Network (ICAN)  
[www.icansucceed.org](http://www.icansucceed.org)  
ICAN provides free information about college planning and financial aid.

Going2College  
[www.going2college.org](http://www.going2college.org)  
A source for connecting students to resources in Iowa to help plan and prepare for college.

KnowHow2Go  
[www.knowhow2go.org](http://www.knowhow2go.org)  
This site breaks the college planning process into four simple, easy to follow steps.

Mapping Your Future  
<http://mappingyourfuture.org>  
Information on college and career planning.

American Council on Education  
[www.acenet.edu](http://www.acenet.edu)  
This site motivates students to attend college.

ACT  
[www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org)  
The official site for information on the ACT test.

SAT  
[www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)  
The official site for information on the SAT test.

### Scholarship Sources

I Have A Plan Iowa®  
[www.IHaveAPlanIowa.gov](http://www.IHaveAPlanIowa.gov)  
Free scholarship search that matches interests to scholarship opportunities.

FastWeb  
[www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)  
A free service which matches students to scholarships, internships, grants, and loans from various sources.

XAP  
[www.xap.com](http://www.xap.com)  
XAP offers a scholarship search and other tools to plan, explore, apply, and pay for college.

Dollars For Scholars  
<https://scholarshipamerica.org>  
A community-based fund-raising effort that awards scholarships to local students.

College Board/Pay for College  
<http://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college>  
The College Board site offers a scholarship search tool as well as college planning and SAT information.

United Negro College Fund (UNCF)  
[http://www.uncf.org/sections/ForStudents/SS\\_Scholarships/scholarships.asp](http://www.uncf.org/sections/ForStudents/SS_Scholarships/scholarships.asp)  
UNCF raises funds to distribute scholarships and fellowships minorities attending college.

Hispanic College Fund  
[www.hsf.net](http://www.hsf.net)  
The Hispanic Scholarship Fund provides the Latino community with college scholarships and educational support.

International Financial Aid & College Scholarship Search  
[www.iefa.org](http://www.iefa.org)  
A resource for financial aid, college scholarship and grant information for U.S. and international students wishing to study abroad.

Proteus  
[www.proteusinc.net](http://www.proteusinc.net)  
Proteus offers programs for low-income individuals, primarily farm workers, seeking permanent, self-supporting occupations.

## U.S. Department of Education

Financial Aid Estimator  
[www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov)

Use the FAFSA4caster to receive an early estimate of the financial aid you may be eligible to receive.

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

[www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov)

Complete a FAFSA to be considered for state and federal grants, and other types of financial aid. Apply early, making sure you meet all state and college deadlines.

Federal Student Aid PIN Web Site

[www.pin.ed.gov](http://www.pin.ed.gov)

Apply for your PIN (Personal Identification Number) to electronically sign your FAFSA on the Web and access loan information.

National Student Loan Data System

[www.nslsds.ed.gov](http://www.nslsds.ed.gov)

Access information about loan amounts, outstanding loan balances, statuses and disbursements. A Federal Student Aid PIN is required to access the information.

Federal Student Aid  
[www.studentaid.ed.gov](http://www.studentaid.ed.gov)

Information about federal aid programs and tips on how to plan and pay for college. The site also includes a scholarship search and a student portal. Create your own personal portfolio to save scholarship information, apply to colleges online, transfer your profile to FAFSA on the Web and more.

National Center for Educational Statistics

<http://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator>

Lists the average financial aid award at each school, how many students receive aid and various other statistics.

Publications for Parents

[www.ed.gov/parents](http://www.ed.gov/parents)

Publications for parents to help children plan, prepare, and succeed in education.

### Don't Get Stung by Scams

The Internet can be a great source for facts and interactive planning tools. It is also a place where consumers can get stung by scams. Stay away from fee-for-service offers or claims that come with a "catch." The application process for state and federal aid is FREE. If you have questions, contact Iowa College Aid at 877-272-4456.

The Federal Trade Commission offers tips on how to recognize a scholarship scam and file a complaint.  
[www.ftc.gov/bcp/menus/consumer/education/scholarships.shtm](http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/menus/consumer/education/scholarships.shtm)

## Money Management

Vault™

[www.IHaveAPlanIowa.gov](http://www.IHaveAPlanIowa.gov)

Building the foundation for a financially literate youth.

MyMoney.gov

[www.mymoney.gov](http://www.mymoney.gov)

A source for financial education basics.

Hands On Banking

[www.handsonbanking.org](http://www.handsonbanking.org)

Learn about money skills for life.

Free Credit Report

[www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com)

Obtain a free credit report.

Feed the Pig

[www.feedthepig.org](http://www.feedthepig.org)

Take control of your personal finances.

## Tax Benefits

IRS Tax Information for Students

[www.irs.gov/individuals/students](http://www.irs.gov/individuals/students)

IRS Publication 970: Tax Benefits of Higher Education

[www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p970.pdf](http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p970.pdf)

## Other Resources

I Have A Plan Iowa

[www.IHaveAPlanIowa.gov](http://www.IHaveAPlanIowa.gov)

Access career and education information, prepare for the ACT, SAT and GRE college entrance exams, and apply for state financial aid through Iowa's community web portal.

Iowa Association of Community Colleges Trustees

[www.IACCT.com](http://www.IACCT.com)

Iowa Association of Independent Colleges & Universities

[www.thinkindependently.com](http://www.thinkindependently.com)

State of Iowa Board of Regents

[www.regents.iowa.gov](http://www.regents.iowa.gov)



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Des Moines, IA 50309-1920  
Phone: 877-272-4456 or 515-725-3400  
Fax: 515-725-3401  
Email: [info@iowacollegeaid.gov](mailto:info@iowacollegeaid.gov)  
[www.IowaCollegeAid.gov](http://www.IowaCollegeAid.gov)