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2024-2025

# LIFE AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

A Guide to Career and College Planning



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## Receive Career and College Planning Assistance

- ▶ Get one-on-one assistance with planning for high school, college, career, and financial aid including the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) form\* from a Student Success Advisor through a virtual appointment or at an ICAN location near you.
- ▶ Attend a seminar online or in-person on beginning high school, college and career planning, and the financial aid process. Visit [ICANSucceed.org/events](https://www.icansucceed.org/events).
- ▶ Check out the [Wednesday webinar](https://www.icansucceed.org/webinars) schedule and event recordings at [ICANSucceed.org/webinars](https://www.icansucceed.org/webinars).
- ▶ Talk with an ICAN advisor through the chat feature on our website at [ICANSucceed.org](https://www.icansucceed.org).
- ▶ Register online for college and career planning information through the [ICAN Tip of the Week](https://www.icansucceed.org) video series and ICAN e-alerts. Visit [ICANSucceed.org/signup](https://www.icansucceed.org/signup).
- ▶ Review the ICAN Scholarship Database at [ICANSucceed.org/scholarships](https://www.icansucceed.org/scholarships).
- ▶ Se habla Español — Services are available in Spanish. Para mas informacion, visita [ICANSucceed.org/espanol](https://www.icansucceed.org/espanol).
- ▶ Most ICAN programs and services are offered without charge to students and schools.

## Follow ICAN



[WWW.ICANSUCCEED.ORG](https://www.icansucceed.org)

\* The FAFSA is free and may be completed without professional assistance at [www.studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa](https://www.studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa).

### ICAN Student Success Centers

To provide personalized service and help more students succeed, ICAN offers virtual and in-person advising. To schedule an appointment, visit [ICANSucceed.org/apt](https://www.icansucceed.org/apt) or call (877) 272-4692.

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# Career & College Planning Guide

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Ninety percent of the fastest growing careers require post-secondary training or education. ICAN® empowers Iowans to achieve lifelong success through education, training, and informed decision-making.



ICAN supports [Future Ready Iowa](#), an initiative to build Iowa’s talent pipeline. Education and training beyond high school is the new minimum to earn a living wage. Careers today and in the future require advanced knowledge and/or technical skills. The goal of [Future Ready Iowa](#) is for **70 percent** of Iowa’s workforce to have education or training beyond high school by **2025**.

To fulfill its mission ICAN relies on donations. Generous financial support from people and companies ensures that the work to build Iowa’s future workforce and empower young people to fulfill their dreams is carried out. To make a gift, please visit [ICANSucceed.org/give](https://ICANSucceed.org/give) to make an online contribution, or you can contact the development team at (877) 272-4692, or by email [development@ICANSucceed.org](mailto:development@ICANSucceed.org).

# EXPLORE CAREERS



Explore Careers



Prepare Academically



Choose Your Education



Apply to College



Pay for College

## Set Your Goals

Career planning is an ongoing process – one that benefits from the help and support of others. Think about long-term goals and whether you need to build certain skills, gain experience, or create a financial plan. Not having goals could increase your educational costs and the time you spend in training. Work with your school counselor, teachers, and family members to formalize your path for the future.

## Find Your Path

Exploring careers before you select an education or training path enables you to find the best option that fits your career interests and goals. It does you no good to attend a four-year school if the career that most interests you only requires a two-year degree. College is expensive, especially if you begin college without a plan, or you begin college heading down the wrong path.

## Career Assessments

The key to a long and happy career is finding one that matches your interests and values. Career planning is simply getting to know yourself. Career assessments can help you:

- ▶ Identify your strengths, values, and areas of interest.
- ▶ Match your results to career pathways or industries.
- ▶ Link career pathways to specific careers and salary expectations.
- ▶ Link careers to education and training requirements.
- ▶ Understand education requirements that will lead to potential college majors.
- ▶ Help narrow your list of potential colleges to those that fit your interests and price range.

## Assessment Options - Career Exploration Made Easy

**MyACT** is an easy tool featuring three short assessments. In 10-15 minutes MyACT creates a Career Map identifying career options that best fit your personality. Visit [MyACT.org](https://myact.org).

**Career Coach** is a program utilized by many colleges to help students understand their interests. Visit [ICANSucceed.org/careercoach](https://icanucceed.org/careercoach).

**Holland Occupational Themes (RIASEC)** is a theory of personality that focuses on career and vocational choice. It groups people on the basis of their suitability for six difference categories of occupations; Realistic, Investigative, Artistic, Social, Enterprising, and Conventional (RIASEC). Visit [ICANSucceed.org/RIASEC](https://icanucceed.org/RIASEC).

### Your School Assessment

Beginning in 8th grade your school will provide you access to an assessment tool to help in your planning process. Talk to your school counselor to learn how to access this assessment and your previous results.

## Course Selection Based on Career Pathways

The National Career Clusters Framework organizes careers into 16 career pathways. Assessments help identify career pathways that align with your interests so you can explore careers through coursework and field experiences.

Career Pathways include:

- ▶ Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources
- ▶ Architecture & Construction
- ▶ Arts, A/V Technology & Communications
- ▶ Business Management & Administration
- ▶ Education & Training
- ▶ Finance
- ▶ Government & Public Administration
- ▶ Health Science
- ▶ Hospitality & Tourism
- ▶ Human Services
- ▶ Information Technology
- ▶ Law, Public Safety, Corrections & Security
- ▶ Manufacturing
- ▶ Marketing
- ▶ Sciences, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics
- ▶ Transportation, Distribution & Logistics

Learn more at [ICANSucceed.org/career-planning](https://icanucceed.org/career-planning).



U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT

# BEST VALUE

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**<20**

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**65+**

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Learn more at [bvu.edu](http://bvu.edu).



# DISCOVER

THE POSSIBILITIES. WHERE YOU BELONG. WHO YOU WILL BECOME. BVU.



## Try It Out - Job Shadows and Internships

Picking a career is a big and often overwhelming decision for students because of the vast array of options offered. About **80%\*** of college students in the United States change their majors at least once; and this indecision often costs time and money. One way to avoid additional semesters and student loans is to try out a few different interest areas **BEFORE** picking a career. Consider these options:

- ▶ Participate in career days and mentoring programs at your school
- ▶ Volunteer or intern at local organizations and businesses. Look for volunteer information at [volunteeriowa.org](http://volunteeriowa.org) and [volunteermatch.com](http://volunteermatch.com)
- ▶ Shadow different professionals to learn about their jobs. Find job shadowing resources and information at [indeed.com/career-advice/finding-a-job/job-shadowing-for-high-school-students](http://indeed.com/career-advice/finding-a-job/job-shadowing-for-high-school-students).
- ▶ 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 and prospective student:

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



\* "National Center for Labor Statistics (2021) <https://www.hamlineoracle.com/8575/variety/80-percent-of-students-change-their-mind/>

# PREPARE ACADEMICALLY



Explore Careers



Prepare Academically



Choose Your Education



Apply to College



Pay for College

## Align Your Courses With Your Career Pathway

Academic preparation depends on your path forward. Use your career pathway to guide your four-year plan of courses and update your plan each year.

College-bound - there are three key components considered for admission:

- ▶ High school grade point average (GPA)
- ▶ ACT or SAT composite score, unless test optional (pg 14)
- ▶ Core subject-area courses completed in high school (pg 12)

You should also review college admission course requirements. Your district may not require world language to graduate, but many four-year colleges have a world language admission or graduation requirement. Also take a look at college credit courses such as AP or concurrent enrollment (pg 14).

Headed toward a career-training program or apprenticeship - you should:

- ▶ Supplement your required courses with career and technical education courses such as Intro to ACE, Engineering Concepts, Construction Technology, or Health Science. Take classes that fit your career pathway.
- ▶ Investigate Career Academy programs at your local community college for hands-on learning and career prep experience.

Whether you are planning for hands-on training, a community college program, or a four-year degree, certain steps remain the same.

- ▶ Challenge yourself with tougher courses — it's better to take harder classes than achieve high grades in easier ones.
- ▶ Follow your pathway recommendations for high school courses. You'll gain experience and learn more about the fit of your potential future career.
- ▶ Go beyond high school graduation requirements.
- ▶ Participate in extracurricular activities, volunteer or work part-time.

# IT'S YOUR FUTURE

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TRANSFER  
DEGREES



**2**

COLLEGIATE  
ATHLETIC TEAMS:

- + ESPORTS
- + SPORTS SHOOTING

## THE **SMART START** TO A 4-YEAR DEGREE

**Why pay more?** You'll take the same classes the first two years of your four-year degree - ***no matter where you go.***

Our transfer majors meet gen. ed. requirements, our instructors are highly qualified and we have excellent support services.

The biggest differences between NICC and the first two years at other colleges are what you'll pay and the hands-on learning you experience. Our scholarships, earn-while-you-learn programs, business-sponsored education and other opportunities set you up for financial and career success.

Choose College Suites for the ultimate off-campus experience. Fully furnished living starts at \$599/month, which covers all utilities, plus free access to a fitness center and study spaces, saving you \$865 compared to other options.

### The Smart Choice.

▶ [nicc.edu/smartchoice](http://nicc.edu/smartchoice)



**NORTHEAST IOWA  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

## Optimum Preparation - Recommended High School Courses\*

Subject Area	Optimum Years	Recommendation Reasoning	Sample Courses
English	4 years	Emphasis on communication skills of writing, reading and listening, and the analysis and interpretation of literature. In addition, courses in journalism and media literacy will be valuable.	Advanced Composition, Speech, Communication, Journalism
Math	4 years	One course each year of high school. While advanced courses like calculus and statistics are good, it's more important that you gain a complete understanding of advanced algebra and trigonometry.	Algebra, Geometry, Trigonometry, Calculus, Statistics
Natural Science	4 years	One course each year of high school. To be better prepared, take at least one year each of biology, chemistry, and physics.	Biology, Earth Science, Chemistry, Physics (with Lab)
Social Studies	3 -4 years	Three years is essential but four is better. Take at least one year each of US and world history. Additional courses in anthropology, economics, political science, psychology, and sociology provide an important understanding of political, social, and economic institutions.	Geography, U.S. History, World History, Government, Economics
World Language	4 years	By taking world language during all four years of high school, you'll go beyond the basic skills and begin to use the language and reinforce your fluency. Four years is recommended for optimum preparation for college-level academics, however many colleges will accept two years for admission and graduation requirements.	Any one language
Electives	2 – 3 years	Courses in the fine arts, performing arts, computers, or technology will help round out your high school experience. Your future field of concentration or career may lie in one of those areas. Follow your interests, talents, and the strengths of your school. Remember to choose courses with high academic standards.	Fine/Performing Arts, Computer Science/Tech, CTE courses (business, family & consumer science, industrial tech, ag)

## Be Prepared - A Lot Can Change From Year to Year

The optimum preparation chart is the recommendations for courses that best prepare students for college-level academics. While high schools may not require four years of each subject to graduate, if you are college-bound, or headed to a career that is heavy in math or science, take the fourth year of the subject. Studies show taking a year off can lead to remedial courses at the college-level and can make the transition into college much more difficult.

\* Source: Iowa Board of Regents: [http://www.regents.iowa.gov/Admissions/Building\\_Your\\_Future.pdf](http://www.regents.iowa.gov/Admissions/Building_Your_Future.pdf)



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## Advanced Placement & College Credit Courses

Plan ahead and talk to your counselor about what options are available in your district and which classes would work best in your four-year plan. Remember these courses are the beginning of your college transcript. Only take courses if you are academically ready and prepared for a higher level of rigor and classroom expectations, as well as a greater time commitment.

- ▶ **Advanced Placement (AP)** courses are taught in high school at the college level. A test is given at the end of the course to potentially earn college credit.
- ▶ **Concurrent Enrollment** are college-level courses offered through local colleges that count towards both high school credit and college level credit.

## Understand Your Grade Point Average

Your GPA is calculated by assigning a point value to each grade you receive at the end of the quarter, trimester, or semester. Traditionally, GPA is calculated on an unweighted scale. Higher level courses such as an Honors or AP class may be calculated on a weighted scale, resulting in a higher GPA. Improve and maintain your GPA by:

- ▶ **Studying hard.** Ask for tutoring or assistance from your teacher if you are having trouble understanding a subject or unit.
- ▶ **Improve your attendance.** Try to avoid missing tests, homework, or projects. If you do miss something, schedule a make-up time right away.
- ▶ **Prepare for class.** Know what's expected of you. Some classes may come easy and others you'll have to study more than you ever have before. Find the study patterns that work best for you. Get into the habit of taking notes during class, and completing all homework assignments. Also find a quiet spot to review before tests and make review sessions a habit.

## Entrance and Placement Exams

Exams like the ACT®, SAT®, ACCUPLACER, and ALEKS help with admission and placement in courses required for your program of study. Your scores may also be used to determine the amount of merit-based financial aid provided, so it's important to do your best.

The ACCUPLACER is a placement test that evaluates students' skills in reading and writing. ALEKS is a placement test designed to measure a student's understanding of advanced mathematics.

The ACT® is an achievement test, measuring what a student has learned in school. The test is made up of five components: English, Mathematics, Reading, Science and an optional Writing Test. To learn more visit [ACT.org](https://act.org).

The SAT® is an aptitude test which measures reasoning and verbal abilities. The SAT® includes a Reading Test, a Writing and Language Test, and a Math Test. The SAT® also features an optional essay component, which some colleges require. Learn more at [collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/SAT](https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/SAT).

## Practice Makes Perfect

Take advantage of practice exams online or in your counseling office or library. If you really want to get ahead take the PreACT® test or the PSAT/NMSQT®. Both tests give a good indication of how you will score on the ACT® or SAT® and what areas you should focus on prior to the formal exam. For more information visit [ACT.org/aspire](http://ACT.org/aspire) or <https://satsuite.collegeboard.org/psat-nmsqt>.

PreACT® measures current academic development, helping to highlight areas to focus on before taking the ACT®. PSAT/NMSQT® stands for the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test which provides firsthand practice for the SAT®. The PSAT/NMSQT® is given once per year. Talk to your school counselor about taking these exams to find out about local testing dates and registration.

## Taking the Test

College-bound students should take either the ACT® or SAT® test during junior year, and then plan a second test date before **Nov. 1** of your senior year. Community colleges and apprenticeship programs may not require entrance exams, but you might need to take a placement test. **Even if the ACT® or SAT® is not required for admission, scores may be required for scholarships.**

For the most up-to-date information on test dates, locations, and registration deadlines visit:

- ▶ **ACT:** [ACT.org](http://ACT.org)
- ▶ **SAT:** [collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/register/dates-deadlines](http://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/register/dates-deadlines)
- ▶ **PSAT/NMQT:** **October 1-31** (Check with your school counselor - schools choose the date in October)

## Find Your RAI Score

Iowa's three Regent universities assign a Regent Admission Index (RAI) score to determine admission. In addition to required courses for admission, you must receive a minimum **245** on the RAI to be automatically admitted to one of these universities. Use this chart to find your score or visit [regents.iowa.gov/RAI](http://regents.iowa.gov/RAI). If you don't submit a test score you will not be able to use the RAI for admission. The University will give you a holistic review, meaning additional factors will be considered such as extra-curricular activities, recommendations, unique experiences, and civic engagement. This could also include a personal statement or interview with the college.

Private colleges don't use the RAI, but they typically consider the same factors for admission, so your RAI score can be a good indicator for admission. Community colleges don't have specific admission requirements, but the RAI factors are usually considered for scholarships.

Element	Your Statistics	RAI Score Totals
ACT or SAT Composite Score	_____	x 3 = _____
High School GPA	_____	x 30 = _____
Number of RAI-approved courses Completed in High School	_____	x 5 = _____
Add All Element Scores Together for RAI Score = _____		

# CHOOSE YOUR EDUCATION



Explore Careers



Prepare Academically



Choose Your Education



Apply to College



Pay for College

## Education & Training After High School

**70%** of jobs in Iowa now require education and training beyond high school.\*

To be competitive you need to plan for the education and training identified by your career pathway. Every pathway has options that allow for less than a year of training (Diploma or Certificate), a year or two, all the way through a four-year degree and beyond. You should consider the careers you are interested in and find the education or training program that meets the career qualifications.

### Apprenticeship

A paid job that provides on-the-job training in a highly skilled career. Typically someone new to the field learns the skills needed through training by a master craftsman, who is an expert in their field. They share skills and knowledge to help the apprentice become an expert. To explore apprenticeship opportunities in Iowa, visit [ICANSucceed.org/careertraining](http://ICANSucceed.org/careertraining).

### Nine Month Certificate/One Year Diploma

Full-time programs designed to provide core skills and knowledge needed to work in a specific professional field or enhance a current profession. To explore careers requiring a certificate or diploma, visit [ICANSucceed.org/1yroptions](http://ICANSucceed.org/1yroptions).

### Two Year Degree (Associate's Degree)

Generally earned at a community college, a two year degree can focus on liberal arts (general education) as a step towards transferring to a four year college OR a two year degree can focus on specific career training that leads directly into employment. To explore high growth sectors for Associate's Degrees in Iowa, visit [ICANSucceed.org/2yroptions](http://ICANSucceed.org/2yroptions).

### Four Year Degree (Bachelor's Degree)

A combination of liberal arts (general education) courses and a specific course of study for a major area of interest. To explore four-year degree options, visit [ICANSucceed.org/4yroptions](http://ICANSucceed.org/4yroptions).



### Master or Doctorate Degree

Required for professions in medicine, law and higher levels of education, graduate level degrees are also attained in business administration and other specialty fields. These degrees are attained through the completion of additional graduate-level coursework after receiving a Bachelor's Degree. To explore careers with graduate degrees visit [ICANSucceed.org/graduateoptions](https://www.icansucceed.org/graduateoptions).

### Military or Specialized Training

There are many options when considering military or specialized training in one of the seven branches of the U.S. military. The first step is to take the ASVAB (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery) test which helps identify the correct Military Occupational Specialty. Basic training will follow. There are also military academies and preparatory schools that focus on both academics and military training. Graduates can enter service as officers, ranking higher than enlisted military personnel. Visit [ICANSucceed.org/militaryoptions](https://www.icansucceed.org/militaryoptions).

## Consider Transferring

Do you want to go to a four-year college or a 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 to complete your degree.

To make your transfer as smooth as possible, it's best to plan ahead. Talk to advisors at both institutions to ensure your classes will transfer and that credits will be accepted and are in line with the degree requirements of the transfer school. For information about transferring in Iowa visit the websites listed below.

- ▶ Transfer to a Regent university - [transferiniowa.org](https://www.transferiniowa.org)
- ▶ Explore your transfer options - [transferology.com](https://www.transferology.com)



## Is Education/Training Beyond High School Worth It?

Does a degree or credential really make that big of a difference? Is it worth the money spent and potential debt undertaken to earn additional education and training after high school? According to experts in economics, education, and community development, the answer is, **Yes, it's worth it.** Education and training beyond high school has never been more valuable. Here are a few reasons:

**48.7%**

less earnings for high school diploma holders than for college graduates.\*

**\$45,040**

average annual income of a high school graduate.\*

**\$62,270**

average annual salary of an Associate's degree holder.\*

**\$85,800**

average annual salary of a Bachelor's degree holder.\*

**\$80,000**

average annual salary of an apprenticeship program graduate.\*\*

## Return on Investment Tools

The above numbers show the average salaries by degree or credential, however it's important to understand what you make truly depends on what career you pursue. In some cases, depending on the field of study, workers with certificates and associate's degrees earn more than those with a bachelor's degree. For example, STEM career credentials have higher median salaries than education or fine arts and healthcare profession associate's degree programs rank in the top five broad fields of study with the highest earnings.\*\*\*\*

Education and training beyond high school is an investment in your future, and like any investment, it's important to do as much research as possible before you make your decision. Connecting programs to earnings at the community, regional, and state level is the key to unlocking the value of education and training beyond high school.

Each career has its own job prospects, earning potential, and maximum suggested student loan debt. Consider using a [Return on College Investment Tool](#) to explore jobs held by people who graduated with a degree in your potential major. Visit [studentloan.org/college-planning-tools](https://studentloan.org/college-planning-tools) to get started.

\* Occupational Employment & Wage Statistics Program, US Bureau of Labor Statistics, April 2024. \*\* Apprenticeship.gov, 2024

\*\*\*\* Data Source: Iowa Workforce Development State of Iowa Laborshed Analysis 2023: ([https://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/sites/search.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/files/documents/2018/statewidelaborshed\\_execsummary\\_2022.pdf](https://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/sites/search.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/files/documents/2018/statewidelaborshed_execsummary_2022.pdf))

## Education is Essential. A Four-Year Degree is Not.

Four years of college isn't for everyone, and the job market isn't set up for everyone to need a four-year degree. In fact, most careers in areas such as advanced manufacturing, healthcare, transportation and communications utilities, agriculture and forestry, and the building and construction trades require education beyond high school but not a four-year degree. Jobs in these areas make up the largest part of the labor market, accounting for [54% of Iowa's labor market](#),\*\*\* and [54% of job openings in Iowa](#).\*\*\*\* Earn the skills you need through specific career and industry training - from on-the-job training and apprenticeships, to career-focused certificate and degree programs at a community college or career training center.

## Earn As You Learn Apprenticeships

"Earn and Learn" programs that combine on-the-job training with structured learning at **no cost** to students. While individual programs and trades vary, in many cases an apprentice student would spend time with experienced professionals on real job sites working and learning the trade. When not on a job, students are in classes.

The Iowa Building and Construction Trades Registered Apprenticeship Programs are overseen by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training. Both on-site and classroom experience provide a paycheck, and while exact figures vary by profession, the average apprentice makes about half of a journeyman's hourly wage with salary increases every six months, along with healthcare benefits and the opportunity to enroll in a pension program. Most programs also guarantee a job within the union upon completion of the registered apprenticeship program. To learn more visit [ICANSucceed.org/careertraining](http://ICANSucceed.org/careertraining).

There are apprenticeship opportunities across Iowa in the areas of healthcare, social assistance, manufacturing, and information technology. To learn more visit [earnandlearniowa.gov/apprentice](http://earnandlearniowa.gov/apprentice).

In addition to experience, a paycheck, and a job guarantee, many apprentice program classes and training can be applied to an associate's or bachelor's degree. For transfer credit specifics, talk to your the college of interest about how programs can be transferred for college credit.





## Building Trades Registered Apprenticeships

**Boilermakers.** Boilermakers build and repair steam and hot water boilers that are used in a wide variety of commercial and industrial settings.

**Bricklayers.** Bricklayers build walls, partitions, arches, fireplaces, chimneys and other structures from bricks, blocks, structural tile and other pre-made materials. Specialty areas include bricklayers, terrazzo workers, pointers, cleaners and caulkers, stonemasons, tile and marble setters, tile and marble finishers.

**Carpenters.** Carpenters construct, erect, install and repair commercial and residential structures and fixtures of wood, plywood and wallboard. They erect framework in buildings, including sub-flooring, partitions and rafters, and install molding, wood paneling, cabinets, windows, doors and hardware as well as building forms for concrete work, building stairs and laying floors.

**Electricians.** Electricians plan, install, maintain and test electrical circuitry and appliances for heating, lighting, communications and power, as well as in air conditioning and refrigeration systems in homes, commercial buildings and factories.

**Elevator Constructors.** Complete installation, service and maintenance of all residential, commercial and industrial elevators, escalators, moving walks or any other form of people-moving and vertical transportation systems.

**Glaziers.** Glaziers cut and install all types and sizes of glass such as plate glass, custom glass, window glass, obscure glass, mirrors, leaded glass panels and curtain wall. They also fit and install aluminum entrances, sidelights and show windows, as well as plastic and porcelain panels in metal and wood frames.

**Insulators.** Insulators install insulation in both industrial and commercial mechanical systems, such as piping, boilers, duct work, storage tanks and equipment for the purpose of energy savings and burn protection, and to control system heat transfer and condensation.

**Ironworkers.** Ironworkers erect structural steel, install reinforcing steel, metal floor and roof decking, and assemble and install decorative curtain wall. They also move heavy machinery and assemble pre-engineered buildings.

**Laborers.** Work by Construction Craft Laborers can include construction, remodeling and demolition of buildings, dams, bridges, airports, streets, sewers, and tunnels. A laborer may do placement of asphalt and concrete, assist brick masons, carpenters, and plaster masons, earth compaction, pavement breaking, landscaping, pipe laying, cleanup, flagging environmental remediation, cutting/burning steel, rigging, & sandblasting.

**Linemen.** As a lineman, you'll be involved in the construction and maintenance of overhead and underground power lines. You'll learn the skills needed to work on substations and switchyards, as well as distribution and transmission circuits up to 500,000 volts.

**Millwrights.** Millwrights are construction mechanics who install and maintain conveyance systems and large machinery for factories and shops.

**Operating Engineers.** Operating Engineers operate and maintain heavy construction equipment such as cranes, backhoes, loaders, scrapers and bulldozers for use in the construction of buildings, factories, roads, dams, power plants and bridges.

**Painters & Drywall Finishers.** Residential, industrial and commercial painters prepare surfaces and apply paint to walls and moldings, indoors and out. Industrial work may include bridges, tanks, powerhouses, sandblasting and spray painting. Commercial work can involve painting/brush and roll, and wall covering.

**Plasterers & Cement Masons.** Plasterers mix and apply coats of standard and decorative plasters, inside and out. Cement masons smooth/finish exposed concrete surfaces on walls, floors, steps, sidewalks, driveways and roads.

**Plumbers & Steamfitters.** Plumbers design, install and maintain sanitary, storm, water supply and gas service lines, plumbing fixtures and mechanical equipment. Steamfitters install and service pipes and measuring devices in water and steam-pressure systems, air-conditioning and refrigeration systems, and power and fuel facilities.

**Roofers & Waterproofers.** Install roofs on structures in a variety of materials, including shingles, slate and tile, hot tar, rubber, plastics and composites.

**Sheet Metal Workers.** Sheet Metal Workers build products from sheets of steel, aluminum, copper and other metals, and install the finished products. They are responsible for heating, air conditioning and ventilation of commercial buildings and homes. They also design and fabricate fascia, flashing, awnings, gutters and metal roofs, as well as kitchen equipment and exhaust systems.



Trade	Apprenticeship Coordinator	Hourly Wage	Total Wage Package*
Boilermakers Local 83 Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas, Missouri	Tom Burgess - (816) 523-8300	\$46.63	\$79.99
Bricklayers & Allied Craftworkers 3 Cedar Rapids & Iowa City	Bob Rowland - (641) 328-2251 bob@bac3ia.us	\$34.75	\$52.70
Bricklayers & Allied Craftworkers 3 Des Moines	Bob Rowland - (641) 328-2251 bob@bac3ia.us	\$36.00	\$55.48
Bricklayers & Allied Craftmakers Local #15 Missouri/Kansas/Omaha, NE	Tammy Stuhlman - (816) 595-4135 tstuhlman@builderassoc.com	\$32.67	\$51.35
Carpenters Locals #308 - Cedar Rapids Carpenters Locals #1260 - Iowa City Carpenters Locals #678 - Dubuque	John Delany - (319) 365-9519 jdelany@carpenterstraininginstitute.org	\$31.17 - \$32.09	\$55.41 - \$56.33
Carpenters #106 - Des Moines	Anthony Fasano - (515) 265-3467	\$34.10	\$54.35
Carpenters Local 427- Papillion, NE	Juan Alvarado - (402) 203-0953	\$31.25	\$51.10
North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters Local #948 Sioux City	Anthony Fasano - (515) 265-3467 afrasano@carpenterstraininginstitute.org	\$28.00	\$46.25
Cement Masons Local 561 - Des Moines	Adam Nevins - (515) 266-1668 anevins@opcmia538.org	\$33.16	\$53.05
Electricians Local 405 - Cedar Rapids	Jebediah Novak - (319) 654-9238 jebediahnovak@crejatc.org	\$40.42	\$59.38
Electricians #347 Des Moines	Steve Hansen - (515) 224-4349 shansen@dmelejatc.org	\$44.45	\$63.41
Electrical - Omaha JATC	Kevin Wetuski - (402) 331-3103 kevinw@electriciansjatc.org	\$43.05	\$62.33
Electrical - Sioux City JATC	Tom Zeman - (712) 274-6474 thomas.zeman@witcc.edu	\$37.88	\$50.01
Elevator Constructors #33 - Des Moines	Chris Shay - (515) 262-0120	\$39.185 - \$53.94	\$93.125
Elevator Constructors #28 - Omaha	Call (402) 680-7273 - <a href="https://www.iuec.org">https://www.iuec.org</a>	\$49.11	\$91.87
Glaziers & Glassworkers Local 581 Cedar Rapids	Justine Goulder - (309) 788-8080	\$30.78 - \$33.37	\$52.43 - \$55.02
Glaziers, Architectural Metal & Glassworkers Local 1075 - Des Moines	Jason Drummond - (515) 289-0482 jdrummond@iupatdc81.org	\$33.00	\$55.98
Heat & Frost Insulators & Allied Workers Local 81 - Cedar Rapids/Quad Cities	Jeremiah Griep - (309) 283-7470	\$34.21	\$59.01
Heat & Frost Insulators Local 39 Omaha, NE	Glen Adams - (402) 333-6960 glenadams@insulators39.com	\$37.06	\$55.92
Heat & Frost Insulators Local #57 - Sioux City	John Windle (712) 258-0145   Contact for more information.		
Insulators #74 Des Moines	Jeremy Heimbaugh - (515) 202-6903 moughley04@aol.com	\$30.77	\$51.16
Ironworkers Local 89 Cedar Rapids	Luis Marmolejo - (319) 365-8675	\$33.41	\$57.59
Ironworkers #67 Des Moines	Joe Durby - (515) 262-9366 joeiw67@hotmail.com	\$35.85	\$59.33
Ironworkers Local 21- Omaha, NE	Jason Willey - (402) 333-0276	\$35.69	\$55.93
Laborers Local #43 - Cedar Rapids (319) 366-0859	Dan Ness - (319) 721-0431	\$21.09 - \$27.30	\$40.08 - \$46.29
Laborers #177 - Des Moines (515) 265-2558	Dan Ness - (319) 721-0431	\$28.61	\$45.86

Trade	Apprenticeship Coordinator	Hourly Wage	Total Wage Package*
Laborers Local #309 - Quad Cities	Brad Long - (309) 786-5479	\$26.36	\$50.66
Laborers Training Fund #571 - Omaha, NE	Doug Sea - (402) 573-7878	\$23.00	\$35.53
Missouri Valley Line Constructors JATC - Des Moines	Wes Roberson - (515) 961-5062	\$31.48 - 52.46	
Millwright Local 2158 - Cedar Rapids/Quad Cities	Dan Ketchum - (563) 332-3595	\$35.08	\$63.63
Millwright Local 1463 - Des Moines/Nebraska	DM - Anthony Fasano - (515) 265-3467 NE - Toby Graser - (402) 571-2561	\$34.78	\$57.37
Operating Engineering Local 234 Cedar Rapids	Ryan Hollinrake - (641) 942-7112	\$31.86 - \$38.47	\$49.01 - \$55.62
Operating Engineering Local 234 Des Moines	Ryan Hollinrake - (641) 942-7112	\$32.90 - \$34.65	\$52.95-\$54.70
Operating Engineers Local #571- Omaha, NE	Walt Wrasse - (402) 571-4939	\$17.60	\$37.43
Painters & Drywall Finishers Local 1178 - Cedar Rapids	Travis Luchtenberg - (309) 737-2095	\$28.60 - \$29.10	\$40.53 - \$41.03
Painters & Allied Trades #246 Des Moines	Jeremiah Fliss - (515) 421-0002	\$30.98 - \$31.34	\$46.61 - \$46.96
Painters Local 1178 - Quad Cities (Painters & Drywallers)	Travis Luchtenberg - (309) 737-2095	\$31.32 - \$31.82	\$50.89 - \$51.39
Painter & Allied Trades #109 Omaha, NE & #214 Sioux City	Howard Baker - (515) 289-0482 hbaker@iupatdc82.org	\$18.42	\$27.48
Plasters & Cement Masons #21 Des Moines	Adam Nevins - (515) 266-1668	\$32.16 (CM) \$33.31 (PL)	\$51.57 (CM) \$48.25 (PL)
Plasters & Cement Masons Local 538 - Omaha, NE	Joel Santos - (402) 333-7921	\$26.85	\$41.59
Plumbers & Pipefitters Local 125 Cedar Rapids	Liam Wilkins - (319) 362-9259 liam.wilkins@ua125jatc.com	\$41.94	\$63.22
Plumbers & Steamfitters #33 Des Moines	Chuck McKnight - (309) 788-4159 ua33jatc.org	\$43.20	\$66.70
Plumbers & Pipefitters #25 JATC Quad Cities	Chuck McKnight - (309) 788-4159 ua33jatc.org	\$41.70	\$67.22
Plumbers Local #16 - Omaha, NE	Ben Morgan - (402) 734-6274 ben@plumberslocal16.org	\$41.16	\$57.53
Roofers & Waterproofers Local 182 Cedar Rapids	Brian Cosgrove - (319) 213-0332	\$29.28	\$46.72
Roofers #142 Des Moines & Sioux City	Dan Ferch - (515) 779-9950	\$31.50	\$46.72
Sheet Metal Workers Local 263 Cedar Rapids/Iowa City	Mike McCullough - (319) 533-1389 mikemccullough@smart263.org	\$40.01	\$63.84
Sheet Metal Workers #45 Des Moines & Sioux City	Larry Ferriss l.ferriss@smw45.com	\$41.31	\$65.01
Sheet Metal - Omaha	A.J. Wilwerding - (402) 330-3636 www.smartloc3.com	\$39.65	\$59.57
Sprinklerfitters Local 669 Dis. 23 - Iowa	Tony Zakara - (515) 203-0398 tonyzlocal669@gmail.com	\$43.04	\$69.14
Teamsters Local 238 - Cedar Rapids	Zach Peterson - rwalton@iowalabor.com	\$32.81	\$57.71

\* Total wage Package is inclusive of total benefits paid in addition to the hourly wage.

## Iowa Postsecondary Institutions at a Glance

- ▶ **Institutions** are categorized by type - community college; public university; private college or university; or business, health profession or technical institution.
- ▶ **Tuition/fees** and housing/food costs are those reported for the 2024 – 2025 academic year. Costs are based on full-time attendance. Community college tuition is per credit hour; additional fees may apply. Don't let the listed price stop you from exploring a college that interests you or has a program that fits your career pathway. In many cases, students will not pay the listed or sticker price.
- ▶ **Housing/Food.** 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.
- ▶ **School Code** is the number you need to list on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form to be considered for financial aid from that institution.
- ▶ The **financial aid priority date** is the date the FAFSA should be received at the processing center. If you apply after the priority date, you might miss out on some sources of aid. All dates listed are as of July 1, 2024. For the most up-to-date priority dates visit [ICANSucceed.org/priority](https://icansucceed.org/priority).

## Community Colleges

Community colleges offer associate (two-year) degree, certificate and diploma programs.

College/University	Phone Number & Website	Tuition & Fees	Housing & Food	School Code	Financial Aid Priority Date
Clinton Community College	(563) 244-7001 <a href="http://www.eicc.edu">www.eicc.edu</a>	\$202/ credit hr	N/A	001853	March 1
Des Moines Area Community College	(515) 964-6200 <a href="http://www.dmacc.edu">www.dmacc.edu</a>	\$193/ credit hr	N/A	004589	July 1
Ellsworth Community College	(800) 322-9235 <a href="http://www.ellsworthcollege.com">www.ellsworthcollege.com</a>	\$221/ credit hr	\$6,340	001862	March 1
Hawkeye Community College	(319) 296-2320 <a href="http://www.hawkeyecollege.edu">www.hawkeyecollege.edu</a>	\$225/ credit hr	Varies*	004595	February 1
Indian Hills Community College	(800) 726-2585 (Ottumwa) (880) 670-3641 (Centerville) <a href="http://www.indianhills.edu">www.indianhills.edu</a>	\$210/ credit hr	\$5,210	008298	June 30
Iowa Central Community College	(800) 362-2793 <a href="http://www.iowacentral.edu">www.iowacentral.edu</a>	\$229/ credit hr	\$7,830	004597	March 1
Iowa Lakes Community College	(800) 521-5054 <a href="http://www.iowalakes.edu">www.iowalakes.edu</a>	\$231/ credit hr	\$6,970	001864	July 1
Iowa Western Community College	(800) 432-5852 <a href="http://www.iwcc.edu">www.iwcc.edu</a>	\$231/ credit hr	\$8,750	004598	July 1
Kirkwood Community College	(800) 363-2220 <a href="http://www.kirkwood.edu">www.kirkwood.edu</a>	\$217/ credit hr	\$6,510	004076	March 15

\* Options and costs may vary. Check with the school for accurate costs.



College/University	Phone Number & Website	Tuition & Fees	Housing & Food	School Code	Financial Aid Priority Date
Marshalltown Community College	(641) 752-7106 www.ialvalley.edu/mcc	\$221/ credit hr	\$7,750	001875	July 1
Muscatine Community College	(563) 288-6001 www.eicc.edu	\$202/ credit hr	\$4,850	001882	March 1
North Iowa Area Community College	(641) 422-4104 www.niacc.edu	\$221.75/ credit hr	\$8,000	001877	March 1
Northeast Iowa Community College	(800) 728-2256 www.nicc.edu	\$240/ credit hr	N/A	004587	July 1
Northwest Iowa Community College	(712) 324-5061 www.nwicc.edu	\$208/ credit hr	Varies	004600	April 1
Scott Community College	(563) 441-4001 www.eicc.edu	\$202/ credit hr	N/A	004074	March 1
Southeastern Community College	(319) 208-5000 www.scciowa.edu	\$214/ credit hr	\$9,440	004603	July 1
Southwestern Community College	(641) 782-7081 www.swcciowa.edu	\$224/ credit hr	\$8,110	001857	March 15
Western Iowa Tech Community College	(712) 274-6400 www.witcc.edu	\$208/ credit hr	\$6,800	004590	March 15

## Public Universities

Iowa's 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 in their selection of programs.

College/University	Phone Number & Website	Tuition & Fees	Housing & Food	School Code	Financial Aid Priority Date
Iowa State University	(515) 294-4111 www.iastate.edu	\$10,787	\$10,808	001869	January 2
University of Iowa	(800) 553-4692 www.uiowa.edu	\$10,964	\$12,920	001892	December 1
University of Northern Iowa	(800) 772-2736 www.uni.edu	\$9,936	\$9,986	001890	January 15

## Private Colleges and Universities

Private colleges and universities offer undergraduate students a bachelor's degree (four-year degree.) Associate (two-year) or advanced degrees may be offered as well.

College/University	Phone Number & Website	Tuition & Fees	Housing & Food	School Code	Financial Aid Priority Date
Briar Cliff University	(712) 279-5200 www.briarcliff.edu	\$35,544	\$11,518	001846	December 31
Buena Vista University	(712) 749-2078 www.bvu.edu	\$41,798	\$11,330	001847	June 1
Central College	(877) 462-3687 www.central.edu	\$20,988	\$12,060	001850	March 15

College/University	Phone Number & Website	Tuition & Fees	Housing & Food	School Code	Financial Aid Priority Date
Clarke University	(888) 825-2753 www.clarke.edu	\$40,910	\$11,735	001852	July 1
Coe College	(877) 225-5263 www.coe.edu	\$54,666	\$11,790	001854	March 1
Cornell College	(319) 895-4166 www.cornellcollege.edu	\$52,660	\$11,594	001856	March 1
Divine Word College	(563) 876-3353 www.dwci.edu	\$15,400	\$4,200	001858	July 1
Dordt University	(800) 343-6738 www.dordt.edu	\$37,050	\$11,770	001859	January 15
Drake University	(515) 271-2011 www.drake.edu	\$52,130	\$12,452	001860	March 1
Emmaus Bible College	(563) 588-8000 www.emmaus.edu	\$20,800	\$9,600	016487	June 1
Faith Baptist Bible College	(515) 964-0601 www.faith.edu	\$20,270	\$8,380	007121	May 1
Graceland University	(641) 784-5000 www.graceland.edu	\$20,950	\$11,000	001866	February 1
Grand View University	(515) 263-6012 www.grandview.edu	\$34,112	\$12,272	001867	March 1
Grinnell College	(641) 269-3620 www.grinnell.edu	\$68,106	\$16,842	001868	January 15
Loras College	(563) 588-4995 www.loras.edu	\$39,912	\$11,000	001873	December 1
Luther College	(563) 387-2000 www.luther.edu	\$52,120	\$11,530	001874	March 15
Maharishi International University	(641) 472-1110 www.mum.edu	\$16,530	\$7,400	011113	July 1
Morningside University	(712) 274-5000 www.morningside.edu	\$39,660	\$11,650	001879	January 1
Mount Mercy University	(319) 368-6460 www.mtmercy.edu	\$39,878	\$11,600	001880	February 1
Northwestern College	(800) 747-4757 www.nwciowa.edu	\$36,400	\$11,100	001883	July 1
Simpson College	(800) 362-2454 www.simpson.edu	\$47,656	\$10,500	001887	April 1
St. Ambrose University	(800) 383-2627 www.sau.edu	\$36,378	\$13,430	001889	March 15
University of Dubuque	(563) 589-3000 www.dbq.edu	\$42,095	\$12,050	001891	April 1
Upper Iowa University	(800) 553-4150 www.uiu.edu	\$19,475	\$9,277	001893	June 30
Waldorf University	(641) 585-8112 www.waldorf.edu	\$25,978	\$9,920	001895	March 1

College/University	Phone Number & Website	Tuition & Fees	Housing & Food	School Code	Financial Aid Priority Date
Wartburg College	(319) 352-8475 www.wartburg.edu	\$26,250	\$11,750	001896	March 1
Wartburg Theological Seminary	(563) 589-0200 www.wartburgseminary.edu	\$20,800	Varies*	001897	N/A
William Penn University	(800) 779-7366 www.wmpenn.edu	\$29,750	\$8,222	001900	July 1

## Business, Health Profession and Technical Colleges

Specialized colleges offer training for specific careers. Options and costs may vary by program and location. Contact the school for specific program costs.

College/University	Phone Number & Website	Tuition & Fees	Housing & Food	School Code	Financial Aid Priority Date
Allen College	(319) 226-2515 www.allencollege.edu	\$21,800	\$8,800	030691	March 1
American Hair Academy	(319) 219-6248 www.americanhairacademy.com	\$19,680	N/A	016167	N/A
Aveda Institute of Des Moines	(515) 200-1096 www.avedainstitutedesmoines.com	Varies	N/A	042033	N/A
Capri College	(800) 397-0612 www.capricollege.edu	Varies	N/A	Varies by Location	N/A
Carlson College of Massage Therapy	(319) 462-3402 www.carlsoncollege.com	\$11,625	N/A	N/A	N/A
DeltaV Code School	(319) 214-5646 www.deltavcodeschool.com	Varies	N/A	007611	N/A
Des Moines University	(515) 271-1701 www.dmu.edu	Varies	Varies	015616	July 1
Faust Institute of Cosmetology	(712) 336-3518 (Spirit Lake) www.faustinstitute.com	Varies	N/A	015973	N/A
Iowa School of Beauty	(515) 278-9939 www.iowaschoolofbeauty.com	Varies	N/A	Varies by Location	N/A
The Original La'James College of Hairstyling	(641) 424-2161 www.lajames.com	Varies	N/A	007659	N/A
La'James International College of Hairstyling	(888) 880-2106 www.ljic.edu	Varies	N/A	Varies by Location	N/A
Mercy College of Health Sciences	(515) 643-6715 www.mchs.edu	\$722/ credit hr	Varies	006273	July 1
Mercy/St. Luke's School of Radiologic Technology	(319) 369-7097 www.unitypoint.org/ cedar Rapids/school-of-radiologic-technology/	\$4,125	N/A	014918	May 1
Palmer College of Chiropractic	(800) 722-2586 www.palmer.edu	\$13,436/ trimester	\$4,510/ trimester	012300	April 30

College/University	Phone Number & Website	Tuition & Fees	Housing & Food	School Code	Financial Aid Priority Date
PCI Academy	(515) 956-3781 www.PCI-Academy.com	Varies	N/A	Varies by Location	N/A
Ross College - Quad Cities	(563) 344-1500 www.rosseducation.edu	Varies	N/A	016611	July 1
The Salon Professional Academy (Cedar Falls)	(319) 260-9995 www.tspacedarfalls.com	Varies	N/A	007941	N/A
Signature Healthcare	(515) 252-0000 www.mysighealth.com	Varies	N/A	N/A	N/A
SoHo Hair Academy	((712) 328-2613 www.sohohairacademy.com	Varies	N/A	007611	N/A
St. Luke's College	(712) 279-3149 www.stlukescollege.edu	\$555-620/ credit hr	N/A	007291	March 1
UPH-DM School of Radiologic Technology	(515) 241-6880 www.unitypoint.org/ desmoines/radtech.aspx	\$4,000	N/A	006267	July 1





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## Narrow Your List

Review the factors important to you and make a list of five to ten programs that match your preferences. Attend career and college fairs and speak with representatives visiting your school. By the fall of your senior year, try to narrow the list to five options that help you meet your career pathway goals. There are many factors to consider such as:

- ▶ **Career Pathway Requirements and Recommendations**
  - What type of education or training program do you need for your pathway or career? Is there a college major or program, or is there career training or apprenticeship options?
  - Is it strong in that academic area?
  - If you're undecided, are there a variety of majors/programs offered that interest you?
  - Is there a wait list or specific requirement for the program you are interested in?
  - What options do you have while you are waiting to be admitted?
- ▶ **Cost and Financial Aid Availability**
  - What's the total cost of education or training program?
  - How much financial aid is offered?
- ▶ **Class Size and Focus**
  - Do you need specialized training for a hands-on career?
  - How much individual attention do you want from instructors or professors?
  - Do you prefer to be part of large groups or small groups?
- ▶ **Career Placement and Graduation Rates**
  - Do graduates completing the program find careers in their field?
  - How many individuals complete the program?
- ▶ **Location**
  - How far away from home do you want to go? Do you want to live in a big city or small town?
- ▶ **Life Outside the Classroom**
  - What types of social and athletic events take place?
  - Are fraternities and sororities, student clubs or organizations available?
- ▶ **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?
  - What housing options are available?
- ▶ **Safety**
  - How reliable is campus security? Visit the National Campus Safety & Security website at <http://ope.ed.gov/security> to learn more.
  - Be responsible and aware of your surroundings. Always lock your room, gym lockers and cars.

## Make Campus and Program Visits

Campus visits allow you to get an up-close look and experience the feel for life on campus. One of the best times for a campus visit is during the spring of your junior year. Being on campus gives you the opportunity to know if the college is the right fit in a way brochures and websites cannot. If a visit isn't possible, attend college fairs, talk to alumni, or take a virtual tour. Career training and apprenticeship programs provide information sessions and facility tours that will give you insight into your choice of program.

**Start with admissions** - every college has an admissions office that will help you schedule your visit, ensuring you see everything on your list. Make the most of your campus visits by downloading our checklist of questions to ask and place to visit while on campus. Download a checklist from the Resource Zone at [ICANSucceed.org/materials](https://ICANSucceed.org/materials).

- ▶ Use file folders to store your notes, brochures, maps and other materials.
- ▶ Take pictures and videos to help you remember details.
- ▶ In addition to admissions, schedule appointments with a financial aid officer, a faculty member from your program of study, and check out student housing, the cafeteria, and student life.

## Begin Your Search for Scholarships

Visit [ICANSucceed.org/scholarships](https://ICANSucceed.org/scholarships), to find free scholarship resources including a virtual presentation of the scholarship process and the ICAN scholarship database. Here are some free, trusted sites to get your started.

- ▶ [ICANSucceed.org/ICAN-scholarship-database](https://ICANSucceed.org/ICAN-scholarship-database)
- ▶ [educate.iowa.gov](https://educate.iowa.gov)
- ▶ [studentscholarshipsearch.com](https://studentscholarshipsearch.com)
- ▶ [tuitionfundingsources.com](https://tuitionfundingsources.com)
- ▶ [niche.com/colleges/scholarships](https://niche.com/colleges/scholarships)
- ▶ [bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search](https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search)
- ▶ [coalitionforcollegeaccess.org/scholarships](https://coalitionforcollegeaccess.org/scholarships)

### Scholarship Apps

- ▶ [scholarsapp.com](https://scholarsapp.com)
- ▶ [scholarships.com](https://scholarships.com)
- ▶ [goingmerry.com](https://goingmerry.com)
- ▶ [myscholly.com](https://myscholly.com)




## Inter-Collegiate Athletics

The governing bodies for college athletics have specific requirements that must be met by prospective student athletes in order to compete at the college level, including academic and GPA standards. Visit [ICANSucceed.org/colleageathletes](https://ICANSucceed.org/colleageathletes) to learn more.





# Experience more at Wartburg for less than you think.

Explore more at [wartburg.edu/commitment](http://wartburg.edu/commitment) 



## WARTBURG COLLEGE

Experience more.

Wartburg professors know you by name and go the extra mile to help you succeed. All admitted students qualify for generous scholarships. Through the Access to Excellence program,\* new students who qualify for the Iowa Tuition Grant will have their entire tuition covered.

**Wartburg's sticker price is less than many private colleges in Iowa.\*\***

Coe	\$63,912	
Luther	\$61,500	
Drake	\$61,384	
Simpson	\$56,300	
Loras	\$47,966	
<b>Wartburg</b>	<b>\$38,000</b>	
Central	\$33,048	

**\$18,265**  
average 2023-24  
first-year net price

**Many students receive the Iowa Tuition Grant, making their net price even lower. Compare it to our state schools.**

Iowa	\$16,185	
<b>Wartburg</b>	<b>\$13,000</b>	
Iowa State	\$12,838	
UNI	\$12,341	

Example shows net cost assuming eligibility for Iowa Tuition Grant and the full Federal Pell Grant.

\*Iowa students must live on campus to participate in the program. \*\*Competitor prices based on most current information available at the time of this publication and includes tuition, fees, housing, and food costs only.



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**RESEARCH**  
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## Be Active and Get Involved

High school offers you the opportunity to get involved in extracurricular activities and community service, which can be a lot of fun, and give you a feel for future careers. Be active in school and community groups, sports, and other activities. You'll have a good time and gain experience and skills you can't get in the classroom. You can:

- ▶ **Build skills.** Skills like leadership, teamwork, organization, and time management, will help you in any career or future endeavor.
- ▶ **Improve your interpersonal abilities.** Finding success in your career has a lot to do with your ability to work with many different personalities. Learning how to relate to different people and different personalities is a skill that will help no matter what career you pursue.
- ▶ **Find the career you love.** You might discover that you love to write articles or raise funds through one of your extracurricular activities.
- ▶ **Make friends.** Find activities and work opportunities that allow you to meet new people and have new experiences.

## Create an Activities Resume

A list of your activities each year of high school is useful for scholarship and admission applications. You can also add jobs, volunteer positions, skills, and achievements. Build an activities resume using the template in the ICAN Resource Zone - visit [ICANSucceed.org/activitiesresume](http://ICANSucceed.org/activitiesresume).

Mallory Morgan	
419 Main Street • Ansonia, Iowa 52341 • 565-555-1234 • <a href="mailto:morganm@gmail.com">morganm@gmail.com</a>	
<b>Education</b>	
Iowa High School	
GPA: 3.77; Class Rank: 84/200	
ACT Composite: 36	
Academic Awards: Academic Letter, National Honor Society and Honor Roll (4 yrs)	
<b>School Activities</b>	
Editor-in-Chief of The Spectator (school newspaper)	Grades 11-12
Student Council Vice-President	Grade 12
Class Treasurer	Grade 11
School Play - set designer	Grades 10-12
Soccer	Grades 9-12
Swim Captain	Grade 12
<b>Community Involvement</b>	
Assistant Little League Coach	Grades 11-12
Church Youth Group	Grades 9-12
Hospital Volunteer	Grade 11
Food Pantry Volunteer	Grades 9-11
Humane Society Volunteer	Grade 10
Total Community Service Hours	232 Hours
<b>Employment</b>	
Waitress, The Restaurant	Grades 11-12
Provided menus, met special customer needs, took orders, brought food to tables, refilled glasses, and cleaned tables.	
Grocery Clerk, The Store	Grade 9
Provided customer service, including greeting customers, bagging groceries and answering their questions. Also assisted with stocking shelves and maintaining a clean and safe environment. Assisted with other duties as assigned.	
<b>Honors &amp; Awards</b>	
AP Scholar	Grades 11-12
Service & Leadership Award	Grade 11
Soccer MVP	Grade 11



# APPLY TO COLLEGE



Explore Careers



Prepare Academically



Choose Your Education



Apply to College



Pay for College

By the beginning of your senior year, start filling out admission applications for at least three to five colleges or training programs you're interested in attending. Include at least one college you know will admit you (safety school.)

## Be Thorough

Each year, colleges receive thousands of applications. Make sure yours stands out for the right reasons. 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. Remember to highlight the things colleges are looking for most — good grades, the appropriate classes, and involvement in activities and your community.

## 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.

Plan to file your application no later than **Nov. 1** of your senior year, allowing you additional time to apply for housing and scholarships.

## About Admission Applications

Most schools offer both online and paper college admission application forms. In addition, more than 1,000 U.S. colleges accept the Common Application, a standard form available from counselors and online at [commonapp.org](http://commonapp.org). Another option is the Coalition for College Application which is accepted by more than 165 schools. Visit [coalitionforcollegeaccess.org](http://coalitionforcollegeaccess.org) to learn more.

Check in advance with the schools you're applying to for their requirements.



## *EDUCATION BEYOND THE CLASSROOM*

**Learning doesn't just happen in the classroom.**

At Hawkeye Community College, hands-on experiences are an important part of preparing you for your career. Visit campus to discover the ways Hawkeye can help you become career ready in two years or less.

## PLAN YOUR VISIT



**HAWKEYE**  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

[www.hawkeyecollege.edu](http://www.hawkeyecollege.edu) | 319-296-4000 | [admission@hawkeyecollege.edu](mailto:admission@hawkeyecollege.edu)

1501 East Orange Road, Waterloo, IA 50701

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

▶ **Admission Application Fee**

- This may or may not apply, depending on the school. When applicable it is generally non-refundable.

▶ **Official High School Transcript**

- Ask your high school counselor or registrar to send your official 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. Make sure the information provided is accurate as it will be matched with your financial aid applications.

▶ **Test Score(s)**

- Many four-year colleges require that you submit your ACT or SAT test score for admission. It's best to check with individual colleges as some have moved to a test optional admission policy.
- 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 or Personal Statement**

- Some colleges require an essay or personal statement. It can play an important role in the admission process.

**Note:** Colleges may check social media websites to observe your behavior and create a more defined image of you as a potential student. What first impression does your social media profile portray?

### 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. No matter which institution you attend, you'll still learn a great deal, experience new things, and prepare for a better future. Make the most of it!



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## Make an Informed Decision

You'll start to receive acceptance letters as early as October and financial aid packages between December and April 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. You should submit a housing application to every school you are considering. Deposits are generally refunded if you do not attend.
2. Review and compare college financial aid packages. When they arrive 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 financial aid packages. ICAN can help - schedule an advising session at [ICANSucceed.org/apt](https://ICANSucceed.org/apt) or call (877) 272-4692.
3. Even with financial aid, you may have college expenses that you can't cover with your savings, earnings or parent contributions. If that's the case you may have to consider other options:
  - ▶ **Develop an In-School Budget.** Download a budget template at [ICANSucceed.org/materials](https://ICANSucceed.org/materials).
  - ▶ **Payment Plan.** Talk to the financial aid office about making your payment in installments.
  - ▶ **Consider a Part-Time Job.** Many students work through college to help cover expenses, taking a job through campus work-study or at a local business close to campus.
  - ▶ **Rethink Your Plan.** You may need to be creative in cutting costs or consider a less expensive school. You can also start at a community college and transfer later.
  - ▶ **Borrow Wisely and Borrow Only What You Need.** Student loans are intended to help you with college costs, not pay for a lifestyle. When you consider borrowing remember to consider your life after college. Estimating the total you'll borrow over the course of your education will help you estimate what your monthly loan payment will be after graduation and, more importantly, if you can afford that payment with all of your other responsibilities.

For example, if you borrow **\$80,000** in student loans your monthly payment will be around **\$800** for **10 years** after graduation.

You shouldn't borrow more than the starting salary for the career you intend to pursue after college. For example, if your expected starting salary is **\$40,000**, you shouldn't borrow more than **\$40,000** for your entire degree. This would give you an estimated monthly payment of **\$400** for **10 years** following graduation.

4. 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.

# PAY FOR COLLEGE

Make sure you understand all the costs associated with each school. **Cost of Attendance (COA)** includes both direct and indirect costs.

Type of Expense	Examples	Notes
Direct Costs	Tuition and fees Housing and food	Typically billed by school
Indirect Costs	Books and supplies Transportation Personal expenses	Estimated costs

Each institution is required to have a [Net Price Calculator](#) on its website to help students calculate an estimated net price for attendance based on individual circumstances. Find a link for each Iowa college at [ICANSucceed.org/npc](http://ICANSucceed.org/npc). While paying for college can be a challenge, financial aid is available. You may qualify for aid based on your talents, academics, special abilities, or financial need.

## Consider Work-Study

Many students can manage a part-time job during the academic year; check out work-study programs.

- ▶ Work-study jobs are typically on campus and may help you gain experience.
- ▶ Work-study employers may offer flexible scheduling around classes.
- ▶ Money earned in work-study can be used for living expenses and other indirect costs. When you attend orientation, pursue any openings.

## Realities of Financial Aid

Grants and scholarships are the best way to pay for college because they don't have to be repaid. However, not everyone receives enough grants and scholarships to cover the full cost of college, and many scholarships are only renewable under specific circumstances. Some are only for freshman year.

It's important to talk about paying for college. Free aid is typically lower after freshman year so families should have a plan for every year a you plan to enroll, not just your first.



Explore Careers



Prepare Academically



Choose Your Education



Apply to College



Pay for College

## 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 you should be able to find some for which you qualify.

- ▶ Start early in your junior year of high school and continue searching for scholarships throughout your final year of college. Be aware of deadlines! Visit page 32 for a list of free scholarship sites.
- ▶ Pay attention to scholarship announcements from your school counselor.
- ▶ Never pay for a scholarship search service — you can locate the same information online for free.
- ▶ Learn all about the scholarship process by viewing the ICAN virtual scholarship presentation at [ICANSucceed.org/videos](http://ICANSucceed.org/videos).

## File the FAFSA

To be eligible for financial aid from the federal government, and many types of aid from the state and colleges, you need to file the [Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](#) during your senior year.

- ▶ Get an estimate of the FAFSA results prior to completing the form at <https://finaid.org/calculators/saicalculator>.
- ▶ To complete the form visit [studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa](http://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa) or connect with an ICAN advisor. Visit [ICANSucceed.org/apt](http://ICANSucceed.org/apt) or call (877) 272-4692 to schedule an in-person or virtual appointment.
- ▶ Complete the FAFSA after Oct. 1 of your senior year and each additional year you want to receive financial aid. **Submit it by the school's priority date** (see pages 24 – 28).

## Understand College Costs & Financial Need

Upon submission of the FAFSA, you will be given a SAI (Student Aid Index). This number will help the college determine how much financial need you and your family have. Your financial need is what the school will try to meet in the financial aid package. It is important to understand this is an estimate and is NOT how much you will be billed by the school.

Your financial need is determined by subtracting your SAI from the school's Cost of Attendance (COA). Your financial need will differ from school to school based on the Cost of Attendance (COA). If your SAI is negative it will be calculated as \$0.

	College A	College B	College C
COA	\$50,000	\$27,000	\$18,000
- SAI	\$18,000	\$18,000	\$18,000
= Financial Need	\$32,000	\$9,000	\$0

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ICAN® does not endorse the product, service or advice of any outside institution or entity. Students should exhaust all other financial options before borrowing and compare several loan products to obtain the best rate. Students should consider many options in pursuing higher education and find the right fit for their life situation and career aspirations.

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