

# PAYING FOR COLLEGE

## A Guide to the Financial Aid Process

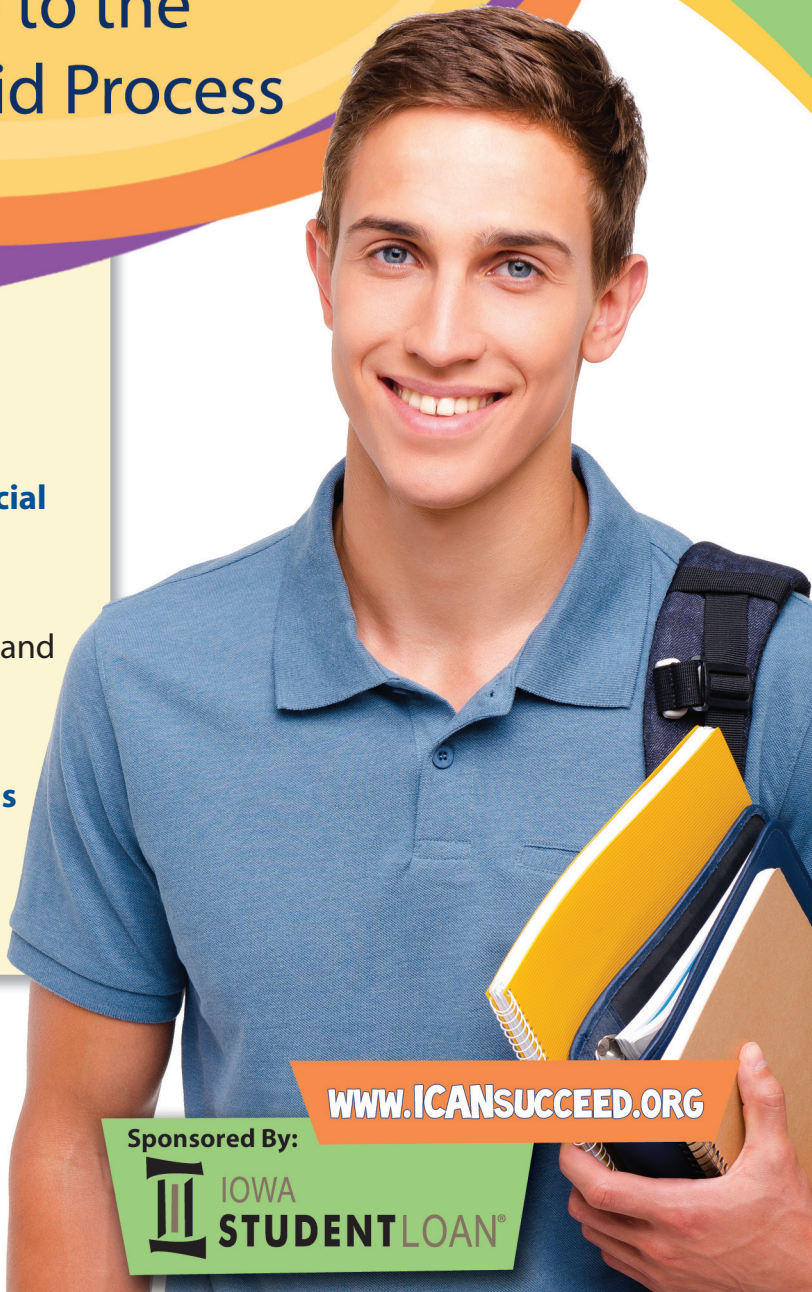
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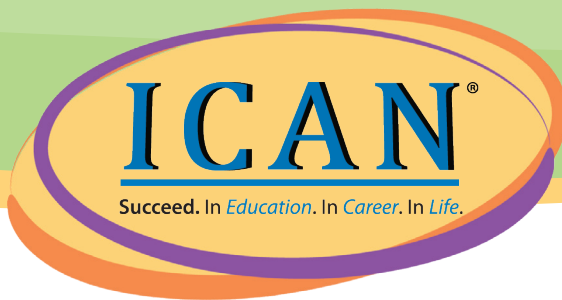


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## Receive Career and College Planning Assistance

- ▶ 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 at an ICAN location near you.
- ▶ Attend a presentation on transitioning to high school, college and career planning, financial aid, financial literacy and making a successful college transition. Visit [ICANSucceed.org/events](https://www.icansucceed.org/events).
- ▶ Register online for college and career planning information through the [Career and College Corner blog](#) and the [ICAN Tip of the Week](#) video series.
- ▶ 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).
- ▶ All ICAN programs and services are offered without charge to students and schools.

## Follow ICAN



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

### ICAN Student Success Centers

To provide personalized service and help more students succeed, ICAN has 10 locations throughout Iowa.

To schedule an appointment, visit [ICANSucceed.org/apt](https://www.icansucceed.org/apt) or call (877) 272-4692.

**Central Iowa** - Ankeny  
Des Moines

**East Central Iowa** - Hiawatha  
Coralville

**Eastern Iowa** - Davenport

**Northeast Iowa** - Waterloo

**Northwest Iowa** - Orange City  
Sioux City

**Southwest Iowa** - Council Bluffs

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

# Paying for College

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**The Goal:** To increase the proportion of Americans with high-quality degrees and credentials to **60 percent by the year 2025**. Currently only **40 percent** of Americans have post-secondary certificates, diplomas or degrees. ICAN is a proud partner of the **Goal 2025** initiative as set forth by the Lumina Foundation for Education. To learn more visit [ICANSucceed.org/goal2025](https://www.ICANSucceed.org/goal2025).

To fulfill its mission and meet **Goal 2025**, ICAN relies on donations. Generous financial support from people and companies ensure that the work to change the future and offer hope to young people is carried out. To make a gift, please contact the development team at (877) 272-4692, email [development@ICANSucceed.org](mailto:development@ICANSucceed.org) or make an online contribution at [www.ICANSucceed.org/give](https://www.ICANSucceed.org/give).

# GET READY FOR COLLEGE



## Get Ready for College



## Financial Aid Timeline



## Pay for College



## Tax Benefits and Savings Plans



## Succeed in College

## Get Ready for College

Colleges base their admission decisions on academic achievement, extracurricular activities and other accomplishments through the very last day of your senior year. Meet with your school counselor on a regular basis to make sure you're on the right track. Before applying to colleges, narrow down your options.

## Apply for College

Fill out admission applications for your final college choices.

- ▶ **Be thorough.** Carefully read the information and instructions provided before completing the application.
- ▶ **Be complete.** Don't overlook the details — an incomplete application may keep you from the next step of the admission process.
- ▶ **Be timely.** Try to complete college admission forms by **Nov. 1**.

## Iowa Postsecondary Institutions at a Glance

- ▶ 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.)
- ▶ Tuition/fees and room/board costs are listed for the 2018 – 2019 academic year. Costs are based on full-time attendance. 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 costs. For actual costs based on your program of study and housing options, contact the school.
- ▶ Each college has a **financial aid priority date** for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Make sure your FAFSA is received at the processing center before the priority date. If you apply after the deadline, you might miss out on some sources of aid.
- ▶ All dates listed are as of July 1, 2018.

## Iowa Postsecondary Institutions at a Glance

Indicates a **FAFSA Ready Iowa** FAFSA assistance location. Visit [ICANSucceed.org/FAFSAreadyIA](https://ican.succeed.org/FAFSAreadyIA).

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

College/University	Type	Phone Number & Website	Tuition & Fees	Room & Board	School Code	Financial Aid Priority Date
Allen College	●	(319) 226-2514 <a href="http://www.allencollege.edu">www.allencollege.edu</a>	\$18,662	\$7,282	030691	March 1
Briar Cliff University	■	(712) 279-5200 <a href="http://www.briarcliff.edu">www.briarcliff.edu</a>	\$31,094	\$9,020	001846	March 1
Buena Vista University	■	800) 383-9600 <a href="http://www.bvu.edu">www.bvu.edu</a>	\$34,004	\$9,538	001847	April 1
Central College	■	(877) 462-3687 <a href="http://www.central.edu">www.central.edu</a>	\$37,295	\$10,280	001850	January 15
Clarke University	■	(888) 825-2753 <a href="http://www.clarke.edu">www.clarke.edu</a>	\$33,350	\$9,600	001852	April 15
Clinton Community College	▲	(563) 244-7000 <a href="http://www.eicc.edu">www.eicc.edu</a>	\$162/ credit hr	Varies	001853	March 1
Coe College	■	(877) 225-5263 <a href="http://www.coe.edu">www.coe.edu</a>	\$44,050	\$9,480	001854	March 1
Cornell College	■	(319) 895-4334 <a href="http://www.cornellcollege.edu">www.cornellcollege.edu</a>	\$42,299	\$9,384	001856	March 1
Des Moines Area Community College	▲	(800) 362-2127 <a href="http://www.dmacc.edu">www.dmacc.edu</a>	\$156/ credit hr	N/A	004589	April 1
Des Moines University	●	(515) 271-1499 <a href="http://www.dmu.edu">www.dmu.edu</a>	Varies*	Varies*	015616	N/A
Divine Word College	■	(563) 876-3353 <a href="http://www.dwci.edu">www.dwci.edu</a>	\$13,000	\$3,700	001858	None
Dordt College	■	(800) 343-6738 <a href="http://www.dordt.edu">www.dordt.edu</a>	\$30,870	\$9,590	001859	March 1
Drake University	■	(800) 44-DRAKE <a href="http://www.drake.edu">www.drake.edu</a>	\$41,396	\$10,528	001860	March 1
Ellsworth Community College	▲	(800) 322-9235 <a href="http://www.ellsworthcollege.com">www.ellsworthcollege.com</a>	\$199/ credit hr	\$5,970	001862	March 1

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

(continued)

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

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

College/University	Type	Phone Number & Website	Tuition & Fees	Room & Board	School Code	Financial Aid Priority Date
Emmaus Bible College	■	(800) 397-2425 www.emmaus.edu	\$18,400	\$8,500	016487	July 1
Faith Baptist Bible College	■	(515) 964-0601 www.faith.edu	\$16,274	\$6,800	007121	December 15
Graceland University	■	(866) 472-2353 www.graceland.edu	\$29,240	\$8,760	001866	Not Available
Grand View University	■	(515) 263-2808 www.grandview.edu	\$27,518	\$8,988	001867	March 1
Grinnell College	■	(641) 269-4000 www.grinnell.edu	\$52,392	\$12,810	001868	January 15
Hawkeye Community College	▲	(800) 670-4743 www.hawkeyecollege.edu	\$181/ credit hr	\$8,217	004595	June 30
Indian Hills Community College	▲	(800) 726-2585 www.indianhills.edu	\$176/ credit hr	\$5,115	Centerville 008298	July 1
Indian Hills Community College	▲	(800) 726-2585 www.indianhills.edu	\$176/ credit hr	\$5,115	Ottumwa 008298	July 1
Iowa Central Community College	▲	(800) 362-2793 www.iowacentral.edu	\$178/ credit hr	\$6,750	004597	March 1
Iowa Lakes Community College	▲	(800) 521-5054 www.iowalakes.edu	\$179/ credit hr	\$6,230	001864	July 1
Iowa State University	◆	(800) 262-3810 www.iastate.edu	\$9,002	\$8,720	001869	December 1
Iowa Wesleyan University	■	(800) 582-2383 www.iw.edu	\$30,500	\$10,500	001871	April 1
Iowa Western Community College	▲	(800) 432-5852 www.iwcc.edu	\$186/ credit hr	\$4,125	004598	May 1
Kirkwood Community College	▲	(319) 398-5517 www.kirkwood.edu	\$169/ credit hr	Varies	004076	March 15
Loras College	■	(800) 245-6727 www.loras.edu	\$34,184	\$8,275	001873	March 1

\*\* Costs are for the 2017-2018 academic year.





College/University	Type	Phone Number & Website	Tuition & Fees	Room & Board	School Code	Financial Aid Priority Date
Luther College	■	(563) 387-1287 www.luther.edu	\$42,290	\$9,460	001874	March 1
Maharishi University of Management	■	(800) 369-6480 www.mum.edu	\$16,530	\$7,400	011113	July 1
Marshalltown Community College	▲	(866) 622-4748 www.iavalley.edu/mcc	\$194/ credit hr	\$7,280	001875	March 1
Mercy College of Health Sciences	●	(515) 643-6715 www.mchs.edu	\$17,952	Varies	006273	July 1
Mercy/St. Luke's School of Radiologic Technology	●	(319) 369-7097 www.unitypoint.org/ cedarapids/school-of-radiologic-technology	\$3,750	Varies	14918	First Friday in June
Morningside College	■	(712) 274-5511 www.morningside.edu	\$30,030	\$9,610	001879	December 1
Mount Mercy University	■	(800) 248-4504 www.mtmercy.edu	\$31,998	\$9,534	001880	February 1
Muscatine Community College	▲	(800) 462-3255 www.eicc.edu	\$162/ credit hr	\$3,750	001880	March 1
North Iowa Area Community College	▲	(888) 466-4222 www.niacc.edu	\$180.25/ credit hr	\$7,128	001877	March 1
Northeast Iowa Community College	▲	(800) 728-2256 www.nicc.edu	\$185/ credit hr	\$5,832	Calmar 004587	July 1
Northeast Iowa Community College	▲	(800) 728-7367 www.nicc.edu	\$185/ credit hr	\$5,832	Peosta 012634	July 1
Northwest Iowa Community College	▲	(800) 352-4907 www.nicc.edu	\$197/ credit hr	\$6,040	004600	April 1
Northwestern College	■	(712) 707-7000 www.nwciowa.edu	\$31,100	\$9,200	001883	June 30
Palmer College of Chiropractic	●	(800) 722-2586 www.palmer.edu	\$11,749 (trimester)	Varies	012300	April 30
Scott Community College	▲	(800) 462-3255 www.eicc.edu	\$162/ credit hr	Varies	004074	March 1
Simpson College	■	(800) 362-2454 www.simpson.edu	\$38,412	\$8,380	001887	February 1
Southeastern Community College	▲	(800) 828-7322 www.sccciowa.edu	\$185/ credit hr	\$8,600	004603	March 1
Southwestern Community College	▲	(800) 247-4023 www.swccciowa.edu	\$184/ credit hr	\$7,660	001857	July 1
St. Ambrose University	■	(563) 333-6000 www.sau.edu	\$30,614	\$10,360 (Varies)***	001889	March 15

\*\* Costs are for the 2017-2018 academic year.

\*\*\* Check with the college for room and board options.

(continued)

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

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

College/University	Type	Phone Number & Website	Tuition & Fees	Room & Board	School Code	Financial Aid Priority Date
St. Luke's College	●	(712) 279-3149 www.stlukescollege.edu	\$17,190**	Varies	007291	March 1
University of Dubuque	■	(563) 589-3000 www.dbq.edu	\$34,110	\$9,780	001891	July 1
University of Iowa	◆	(319) 335-3847 www.uiowa.edu	\$9,492	\$11,171	001892	December 1
University of Northern Iowa	◆	(319) 273-2281 www.uni.edu	\$8,938	\$8,948	001890	January 15
Upper Iowa University	■	(800) 553-4150 www.uiu.edu	\$30,450	\$8,454	001893	June 30
Waldorf University	■	(800) 292-1903 www.waldorf.edu	\$20,934	\$7,524	001895	March 1
Wartburg College	■	(800) 372-2085 www.wartburg.edu	\$40,220	\$9,996	001896	December 1
Wartburg Theological Seminary	■	(563) 589-0200 www.wartburgseminary.edu	\$17,569	\$11,350	001897	April 15
Western Iowa Tech Community College	▲	(800) 352-4649 www.witcc.edu	\$178/ credit hr	\$5,650	004590	March 1
William Penn University	■	(800) 779-7366 www.wmpenn.edu	\$25,600	\$6,952	001900	April 15

\*\* Costs are for the 2017-2018 academic year.



## Other Iowa Postsecondary Institutions

The following 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	School Code	Contact Information
American College of Hairstyling	●	007658	(515) 244-0971 www.americancollegeofhair.com
American Hair Academy	●	016167	(319) 219-6248 www.americanhairacademy.com
Aveda Institute of Des Moines	●	042033	(515) 224-5244 www.avedainstitutedesmoines.com
Capri College*	●	Varies by Location	(800) 397-0612 www.capricollege.com
Carlson College of Massage Therapy	●	037203	(319) 462-3402 www.carlsoncollege.com
EQ School of Hair Design	●	007611	(712) 328-2613 www.eqschool.net
Faust Institute of Cosmetology	●	015973	(712) 732-6570 www.faustinstitute.com
Hamilton Technical College	●	012064	(563) 386-3570 www.hamiltontechcollege.edu
Iowa Methodist Medical Center School	●	006267	(515) 241-6880 www.unitypoint.org/desmoines/radtech.aspx
Iowa School of Beauty*	●	Varies by Location	(515) 278-9939 www.iowaschoolofbeauty.com
LaJames College of Hairstyling	●	007659	(641) 424-2161 www.lajames.com
LaJames International College of Hairstyling*	●	Varies by Location	(888) 880-2106 www.lijic.edu
PCI Academy	●	015245	(800) 956-3781 www.PCI-Academy.com
Ross College	●	E01451	(563) 344-1500 www.rosseducation.edu
The Salon Professional Academy (Cedar Falls)	●	007941	(319) 260-9995 www.tsplacedarfalls.com
The Salon Professional Academy (Iowa City)	●	041778	(319) 248-2958 www.tspiowacity.com
Vatterott College	●	Varies by Location	(888) 202-2636 www.vatterott.edu

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

# FINANCIAL AID TIMELINE



Get Ready for College



Financial Aid Timeline



Pay for College



Tax Benefits and Savings Plans



Succeed in College

## Before You Apply (Before Oct. 1)

- ▶ Visit <https://fsaid.ed.gov> to setup your FSA ID username and password. One of your parents also needs an FSA ID username and password.
- ▶ Check the financial aid priority date at schools to which you plan to apply.
- ▶ Gather the papers listed at [ICANSucceed.org/FAFSAChecklist](https://icanucceed.org/FAFSAChecklist).
- ▶ Complete any scholarship applications that are due.

## Apply By Priority Date (see pages 3-6)

- ▶ Fill out your FAFSA form at [www.fafsa.gov](https://www.fafsa.gov).
- ▶ Class of 2019 use **2017 taxes**. Class of 2020 use **2018 taxes**.
- ▶ Visit [ICANSucceed.org](https://icanucceed.org) or call (877) 272-4692 if you need help.

## After You Apply

- ▶ Review your Student Aid Report (SAR) when it arrives.
- ▶ Respond promptly to any requests for documentation or verification.
- ▶ If requested by a college, make corrections using the IRS data retrieval tool within the FAFSA application.
- ▶ Read and compare award letters you receive in the spring.
- ▶ If necessary, begin to research loans. Plan ahead and borrow wisely (page 24.)

## Before You Go to Campus

- ▶ Attend summer orientation programs to register for classes.
- ▶ Look for part-time jobs to earn money for college expenses and reduce the amount you need to borrow.
- ▶ Continue to search for scholarships and grants.
- ▶ Make sure all of your financial aid is in order, and if needed, make arrangements to cover additional costs.

# Consider Costs

As you consider which college is right for you, think about your costs and the affordability of each school. You can't graduate from college if you can't afford to stay there long enough to earn your degree. Consider utilizing online resources such as the *Return on Investment Reality Check Tool* at [www.iowastudentloan.org/ROItool](http://www.iowastudentloan.org/ROItool). Here you can compare the possible financial returns of different college majors.

If you have to borrow money for school, consider what you'll be able to afford to repay after graduation as part of your decision process. Research starting salaries in your preferred geographic area and career choice, and then subtract your anticipated monthly expenses, such as housing, utilities and food, to make an informed decision. Visit [www.ACTprofile.org](http://www.ACTprofile.org) to research starting salaries for careers that interest you.

# Avoid Money Mistakes

If you start school already tight on cash, money mistakes can be the difference between graduation and leaving college without a degree. A budget, or spending plan, can help you master your finances. Create an estimated budget listing money you'll earn, receive or already have (income) minus the money you'll spend (expenses) to get a good idea of your ability to afford a particular school.

Annual In-School Budget Worksheet			
If an item doesn't apply to you, leave it blank.			
Income	Your Budget	Expenses (monthly bill X 12 months)	Your Budget
Savings	\$	Tuition and Fees	\$
Earnings or Work Study (less taxes)	\$	Room and Board (or Rent)	\$
Grants/Scholarships	\$	Books and Supplies	\$
Amount Paid by Parents and Others	\$	Meals and Groceries (if no meal plan)	\$
Student Loans	\$	Utilities and Phone	\$
Other	\$	Clothing and Personal Expenses	\$
		Transportation (Payment, Insurance, Gas, Maintenance)	\$
Total Income	\$	Savings	\$
Download the monthly budget worksheet from the Resource Zone at <a href="http://www.ICANSucceed.org/materials">www.ICANSucceed.org/materials</a>		Student Loan Interest Payment	\$
		Other	\$
		Total Expenses	\$

Total Income	\$
Minus Total Expenses	\$
Balance	\$

# PAY FOR COLLEGE

Covering the cost of higher education can be a challenge, but financial aid can help. Start planning for the financial aid process as early as possible and stay organized.

## Understand the Costs

You should understand several important things about paying for a college education.

- ▶ **Prices vary.** Different types of schools have substantially different tuition, room and board, and other fees. Research this information for several types of colleges you might consider.
- ▶ **You may pay less than published rates.** Many factors go into the amount you actually pay, including the amount of financial aid the school can offer. Each institution is required to have a **Net Price Calculator** available on its website to help students calculate an estimated cost of attendance based on their individual circumstances. You can find a link to the **Net Price Calculator** for each Iowa college at [ICANSucceed.org/npc](https://icansucceed.org/npc). After calculating each institution's net price, compare costs between schools with the Compare College Costs work sheet from the Resource Zone at [ICANSucceed.org/materials](https://icansucceed.org/materials). You can also visit with an ICAN advisor - schedule at [ICANSucceed.org/apt](https://icansucceed.org/apt).
- ▶ **Cost of Attendance.** Cost of attendance, or the average yearly cost, typically includes both direct and indirect costs, though only the direct costs are billed by the school. You must decide what fits into your budget.
  - **Direct Costs.** Expenses such as Tuition/Fees and Room/Board are typically billed by the school.
  - **Indirect Costs.** Expenses such as Books and Supplies, Transportation, and Personal Expenses are estimated costs and not billed by the school.



Get Ready for College



Financial Aid Timeline



Pay for College



Tax Benefits and Savings Plans



Succeed in College

## STEP 1

### Know Your Options

- ▶ **Grants** don't need to be repaid. They may be based on financial need and can come from a variety of sources. The most common types of grants come from the federal and state government and colleges.
- ▶ **Scholarships** are awarded from various sources and, as with grants, you don't have to pay back. Most are based on merit — your talents and abilities — while some are based on financial need.
- ▶ **Work-study** allows you to earn money by working a part-time job on campus. Work-study is an excellent opportunity to gain experience while earning money for your education. Generally, students use their work-study money to cover personal expenses.
- ▶ **Loans** are debts that must be repaid. In most cases, repayment begins after you graduate or leave college. Student 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.

### Realities of Financial Aid

According to the study *How America Saves for College 2015*, nearly **two-thirds** of non-college saving parents aren't saving for college because they believe their children will earn enough financial aid/scholarships to cover the cost of paying for college. However, scholarships and grants don't typically cover the full cost. Undergraduate students reported receiving scholarships and grants to cover about one-third or **31%** of the total average cost of one year of a college education (\$20,882). Families should talk about paying for college and formulate a plan that will cover the college costs left after scholarships and grants

## STEP 2

### Search for Scholarships

Scholarships are a great source of college funding because you don't need to pay them back. They are awarded by many different organizations for a variety of reasons. To find scholarships for which you qualify, start your search early.

- ▶ Begin early in your junior year of high school and continue looking through your junior year of college — some awards are intended for college upperclassmen or students in a specific major.
- ▶ Check out many different sources to find funding for your education. Look locally first because you have a better chance of winning a scholarship awarded by an organization in your hometown. Start with the resources listed on pages 12 and 13.

## Types of Financial Aid That Don't Need to Be Repaid

Financial Aid Type	Who Qualifies
<b>Private Scholarships</b>	Students with exceptional academic achievement, athletic ability or financial need, as well as those who volunteer for community service and/or are in certain ethnic groups, religious, fraternal or social organizations.
<b>College Scholarships and Grants</b>	Students with special talents (academic, artistic, athletic ability) and/or financial need.
<b>Federal Pell Grant*</b>	Students with financial need.
<b>Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)*</b>	Students with financial need. Pell Grant recipients receive priority.
<b>Iowa Tuition Grant**</b>	Iowa residents with financial need enrolled at eligible Iowa private colleges/universities, as well as business or nursing schools.
<b>Iowa Vocational-Technical Tuition Grant**</b>	Iowa residents enrolled at an Iowa community college in a vocational-technical or career option program; based on financial need.
<b>Federal Work-Study*</b>	Students with financial need.
<b>Iowa National Guard Educational Assistance Program</b>	Iowa residents who are members of an Iowa Army or Air National Guard Unit for each term the member receives benefits.
<b>Kibbie Grant**</b>	Iowa residents enrolled in specified career or technical education programs at Iowa community colleges; based on financial need.

## Begin Your Search for Private Scholarships

Visit [ICANSucceed.org/scholarships](http://ICANSucceed.org/scholarships), to find free scholarship resources including a virtual presentation of the scholarship process, a scholarships database.

- ▶ [raise.me](http://raise.me)
- ▶ [schoolsoup.com](http://schoolsoup.com)
- ▶ [http://colleges.niche.com/scholarships](http://http://colleges.niche.com/scholarships)
- ▶ [finaid.org](http://finaid.org)
- ▶ [iowacollegeaid.gov](http://iowacollegeaid.gov)
- ▶ [supercollege.com](http://supercollege.com)
- ▶ [scholarships.com](http://scholarships.com)
- ▶ [scholarshippoints.com](http://scholarshippoints.com)
- ▶ [scholarshipmastery.com](http://scholarshipmastery.com)
- ▶ [fastweb.com](http://fastweb.com)
- ▶ [studentsscholarshipsearch.com](http://studentsscholarshipsearch.com)

"Maximum award" is based on levels for the 2017 – 2018 academic year and is dependent upon final appropriations. The information in this chart is generally targeted toward students in undergraduate programs, not graduate or professional students.

\* Federal programs are subject to change.

\*\* State programs are subject to change.

How to Apply	When to Apply	Other Important Points
Scholarship resources are available at public libraries, high school counseling offices and online. Students are responsible for contacting the scholarship organization to request an application.	As soon as possible under the guidelines of each particular scholarship. Each scholarship will have a different deadline.	Paid scholarship search services aren't necessary.
Students are responsible for contacting the admission and financial aid offices at their college.	Inquire when applying for admission.	Many (but not all) colleges offer aid and list opportunities on their websites.
File the FAFSA.	File the FAFSA as soon after Oct. 1 as possible.	The maximum full-time award is \$6,095 for the 2018 – 2019 school year.
File the FAFSA.	File the FAFSA as soon after Oct. 1 as possible.	The amount varies by college.
File the FAFSA.	File the FAFSA as soon after Oct. 1 as possible. The deadline is July 1.	The maximum award is \$5,650 per year for the 2018 – 2019 academic year.
File the FAFSA.	File the FAFSA as soon after Oct. 1 as possible. The deadline is July 1.	The maximum award is \$900 per year for the 2018 – 2019 academic year.
File the FAFSA; additional forms may be supplied by your college.	File the FAFSA as soon after Oct. 1 as possible.	Part-time jobs, usually on campus, pay at least minimum wage. Contact the college for details.
Visit <a href="http://www.iowacollegeaid.gov">www.iowacollegeaid.gov</a>	The deadline is July 1 for fall and Dec. 1 for spring.	Awards vary by program funding and participation; eligibility determined by the Iowa Adjutant General.
File the FAFSA.	File the FAFSA as soon after Oct. 1 as possible. The deadline is July 1.	The maximum full-time award is \$2,700 for the 2018-2019 academic year.

These resources are also recommended:

- High school counselor
- College financial aid and admission offices
- College academic departments that apply to your field of study
- Community, religious and social organizations/Libraries
- Your parents' or your own employers
- Local businesses

### Raise.Me Microscholarship Program

Raise.Me is a scholarship program that allows students in 9th-12th grade to earn money toward college. By taking part in college planning activities, taking certain courses, and attending events, a student can earn money for college. Currently 150 colleges nation wide are part of Raise.Me including Briar Cliff University, Buena Vista University, Cornell College, Drake University, Grinnell College, Luther College, the University of Iowa, and the University of Northern Iowa. Visit **[www.Raise.Me](http://www.Raise.Me)** for more details.



## Apply for Awards

- ▶ **Be aware of deadlines.** Missing a deadline can force you to pay extra money, cause you to miss out on free money or simply miss out on an opportunity all together.
- ▶ **Learn qualification criteria.**
  - Awards are given for criteria such as family heritage, religious affiliation, academic achievements, hobbies, leadership accomplishments, community involvement, school activities, and athletics.
  - Many scholarship organizations seek students who are well-rounded — not just those with good grades.
- ▶ **Follow the directions and pay attention to the details.**

Be careful when you complete scholarship applications.

  - Submit the materials in the order requested.
  - Don't include items that aren't requested.
  - Don't use a special folder unless instructed to do so.
- ▶ **Make a copy of the application before you begin.** Use the copy for your rough draft and save the original for your final answers. Make sure handwritten answers are legible.
- ▶ **Be professional as you answer questions and represent yourself.**
  - Use a formal e-mail address. Don't use something that could be considered inappropriate. For example, john.doe@email.com is OK; smileyface@email.com is not.
  - Stick to a professional font, such as Times New Roman or Arial.
  - Answer every question and leave nothing blank. Don't crowd the form with extra-long answers; be concise and stick to the point.
  - Treat the scholarship application as a job interview. Remember that your application is a reflection of you.
- ▶ **Impress the committee with your answers.** Don't just say that you're well-rounded. Use examples that show the judges why you're the ideal choice for the scholarship.
  - Express your excitement for the opportunity and thank the funding organization for considering you.
  - Have a positive attitude and share your goals for the future.
  - Write your essay in your voice. Scholarship selection committees look for people who stand out and are “real.”

### Parent Tip

Ask your employer if they offer scholarships or tuition reimbursement programs. Many employers offer scholarships specifically for employees' dependents.

## Include Additional Items When Requested

### ▶ **Create an activity resume or profile.**

Include memberships, participation, honors and employment.

### ▶ **Provide letters of recommendation.**

Ask for letters from adults who know you well, such as teachers, employers, coaches, activity advisors, clergy members or someone in the field of study you plan to pursue.

- Give people plenty of time to write letters, and then send them thank-you notes.
- Supply a copy of your activity resume when you ask someone for a letter. Not only does this make you look good, it is extremely helpful for those writing the letter.
- Make copies of each letter to use for other applications.

### ▶ **Write an essay to be proud of.**

- Brainstorm before you begin and create an outline for structure.
- Include an introduction that draws the reader in.
- Develop a theme to convey your overall message.
- Be sure to conclude smoothly, not abruptly.
- Tell the judges how you've succeeded in overcoming challenges, but be optimistic.

### ▶ **Proofread your application.**

Have at least one other person read it too.

### ▶ **Follow up.**

Send a thank-you if you receive a scholarship, and inform your college about the award money.

- Check with the organization to find out whether the award is renewable and if you have to maintain a certain GPA or need to fulfill other requirements to keep it.

**Jason Smith**  
419 Main Street • Anytown, Iowa 12345 • (999) 555-1234 • jsmith@gmail.com

**Academics**  
**Iowa High School**  
GPA 3.77; Class Rank 84/386  
ACT Composite - 26  
Academic Awards: Academic Letter, National Honor Society and Honor Roll

**Athletics**  
**High School Football**  
Starting Positions: Long Snapper, DE (Junior Year)  
Linebacker, Center, Long Snapper (Senior Year)  
Team Captain - 12th  
Varsity Letter - 2017, 2018  
State Play-Off Participant - 2017, 2018  
All-Conference, 2018  
  
**High School Wrestling**  
Varsity Letter - 10th, 11th, 12th  
7th Place State Tournament Finish  
Team Captain, 2018, 2019  
All-Conference Academic Award, 2017, 2018, 2019

**Accomplishments and Activities**  
2018 Athlete of the Year - Iowa High School; Above and Beyond Award  
2018 Summer Naval Academy and Coast Guard AIM Participant  
American Legion Boys State Participant  
Student Government - 2016-2019  
Student Council - 2016-2019  
1st Degree Black Belt - Tae Kwon Do  
Certified Scuba Diver

**Volunteer Experience**  
Metro Football Youth Program  
Flood Relief Volunteer  
Church Photographer  
Acolyte/Teacher  
Camp Hitaga

Download an activity resume template  
from the Resource Zone at  
[www.ICANSucceed.org/materials](http://www.ICANSucceed.org/materials).

## STEP 3

Download a list of items you will need to complete the FAFSA from the Resource Zone at [www.ICANSucceed.org/materials](http://www.ICANSucceed.org/materials).

### Apply for Financial Aid

The FAFSA is required for any type of federal financial aid and many types of state and college aid.

- ▶ Visit [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov) to complete the online application
- ▶ Call (800) 4-FED-AID to request a paper form.
- ▶ Fill out the FAFSA every year you want to be considered for aid.

### Prepare to File the FAFSA

Before you actually fill out the FAFSA, request an FSA ID and gather some necessary information.

- ▶ You and one parent each need an FSA ID to complete the FAFSA. Request an FSA ID at <https://fsaid.ed.gov>. Your FSA ID is used to:
  - Sign your FAFSA electronically.
  - Make changes or corrections to your FAFSA.
  - Check the status of your application.
  - Renew your FAFSA in the future.
- ▶ Gather the following documents and information for both you and your parents.
  - Social Security numbers and alien registration numbers (non-U.S. citizens).
  - Driver's license numbers, dates of birth and date of parents' marriage/divorce.
  - Most recent federal tax forms, including W-2 forms.  
**Class of 2019 use 2017 taxes. Class of 2020 use 2018 taxes.**
  - Current bank account and investment statements.
  - Records of untaxed income received last year.
  - Last year's business and farm records.
  - Total amount of child support paid or received.

### File the FAFSA

You and your parents should fill out and file the FAFSA together. These tips will help with the process.

- ▶ Complete the FAFSA any time after **October 1** of your senior year and before your school's priority filing date.
  - Each school has its own financial aid filing date. See Iowa priority dates on pages 3 – 7.
  - Check with each school you're applying to about any other financial aid forms required.

#### Special Circumstances

If you have questions about divorce/separation situations, the loss of jobs, income, or you're unsure about what information you need, call the college financial aid office.

## File the FAFSA (continued)

- ▶ If required by the college use the IRS data retrieval tool within the FAFSA application or order a tax transcript from [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) to update your FAFSA.
  - Assistance is available at ICAN centers without charge. Visit [ICANSucceed.org/apt](http://ICANSucceed.org/apt) or call (877) 272-4692.
  - Get free help at **FAFSA Ready Iowa** events October 1, 2018 - March 15, 2019. Visit [ICANSucceed.org/FAFSAreadyIA](http://ICANSucceed.org/FAFSAreadyIA) for more information regarding specific locations.
- ▶ Keep copies of your FAFSA and any other documents submitted to colleges, and note conversations with financial aid offices.



## Understand College Costs and Financial Need

Upon completion of the FAFSA, you will be given an **EFC**, or **Expected Family Contribution**, which is an index colleges use to determine your financial need. Your financial need determines the types of financial aid you are eligible to receive and is the amount the school will try to meet. 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 EFC from the school's **Cost of Attendance (COA)**. Your financial need will differ from school to school based on each individual Cost of Attendance (COA).

	College A	College B	College C
<b>COA</b>	\$45,000	\$22,000	\$15,000
<b>- EFC</b>	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000
<b>= Financial Need</b>	\$30,000	\$7,000	\$0

## Calculating Your EFC

### Parents Factors:

- ▶ Total Income (after exclusions) with household size and students in college considered.
- ▶ Total Parent Assets (12% of assets after Asset Protection Allowance). Asset Protection Allowance is based on the age of the older parent. Visit [ICANSucceed.org/assetprotection](http://ICANSucceed.org/assetprotection) for protection levels.

### Student Factors:

- ▶ 50% of Total Income After Protection Allowance
- ▶ 20% of Total Assets

## STEP 4

### Review Student Aid Report/Make Corrections

Following the submission of your FAFSA you will receive your **SAR**, or **Student Aid Report**, which summarizes the information you submitted on the FAFSA.

- ▶ The SAR is generated by the U.S. Department of Education after your FAFSA has been processed and officially notifies you that your FAFSA was received.
- ▶ Check your SAR for mistakes. If it's accurate, keep the form for your records. If there are errors, go to the FAFSA website, login using your FSA ID and make corrections.
- ▶ Verification is a request to verify income and tax information before an official award letter can be given. If the college needs additional information you will be contacted by email or through your online student account. There are two options to complete verification:
  - Request a tax transcript from the IRS at [www.IRS.gov](http://www.IRS.gov).
  - Use the IRS Data Retrieval tool through the FAFSA form by visiting [www.FAFSA.gov](http://www.FAFSA.gov) and click Make Corrections.
  - If you have questions contact the college or call ICAN at (877) 272-4692.

## STEP 5

### Compare Award Letters

You'll receive an award letter from each college to which you've been admitted and that has received your FAFSA results. The letter is part of the school's financial aid package, which may also include loan documents. Specific types of financial aid you're eligible for if you attend that college are outlined in the letter.

- ▶ Each award letter is subject to change, especially if you estimated numbers on your FAFSA. Read the letter thoroughly and make sure you understand each type of financial aid offered to you.
  - Enrolling less than full-time might reduce or eliminate some of the financial aid you receive.
  - Some awards have special criteria, such as residency or performance standards.
- ▶ Aid may be a combination of funds you won't need to repay along with loans that you do repay.
- ▶ Read the instructions carefully. Some colleges will ask you to sign and return the letter by a certain date. This doesn't commit you to attend; it merely reserves the funds. **NOTE:** Some colleges will complete this process online through the college's online student portal system.
- ▶ Interpreting your award letter can be confusing. The sample award letter featured on page 19 details the direct cost, indirect cost and financial aid sections. Compare two different award packages and see how to calculate your real cost versus your estimated cost for college on pages 20 – 22. The figures provided are samples; every award package is unique to the student and the school providing the package.

# Sample Award Letter

This sample award letter from a four-year public university in Iowa shows what a financial aid package from a college might look like. The actual award letter(s) you receive may look very different.

Cost of Attendance:			
Direct Costs (Billed to you by the college):			
	Fall	Spring	Total
Tuition and Fees	\$4,501	\$4,501	\$9,002
Room and Board	\$4,360	\$4,360	\$8,720
<b>Total Direct Costs</b>			<b>\$17,722</b>

Cost of Attendance:			
Indirect Costs (Estimated expenses not billed by college):			
	Fall	Spring	Total
Books and Supplies	\$525	\$525	\$1,050
Transportation	\$625	\$625	\$1,250
Personal	\$900	\$900	\$1,800
<b>Total Indirect Costs</b>			<b>\$4,100</b>

Financial Aid	Fall	Spring	Total	Reduce Loan To	Circle One
Federal Pell Grant	\$1,675	\$1,675	\$3,350		
University Academic Scholarship	\$900	\$900	\$1,800		
Local Community Organization Scholarship	\$600	\$600	\$1,200		
<b>Total Grants and Scholarships</b>			<b>\$6,350</b>		
Federal Stafford Loan — Subsidized/Unsubsidized	\$2,750	\$2,750	\$5,500		ACCEPT/DECLINE
Federal PLUS and/or Private Loan	\$3,986	\$3,986	\$7,972		ACCEPT/DECLINE
<b>Total Loans</b>			<b>\$13,472</b>		
Federal Work-Study	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$2,000		ACCEPT/DECLINE
<b>Total Work-Study</b>			<b>\$2,000</b>		
<b>Total Award</b>			<b>\$21,822</b>		
Student Signature				Date	

## If You Have Questions?

If you have questions regarding your actual award letter(s), contact the college’s financial aid office or call ICAN at (877) 272-4692 for assistance. You can also use the online *College Funding Forecaster* tool to analyze your award letters. Visit [www.iowastudentloan.org/forecaster](http://www.iowastudentloan.org/forecaster).

## Understand the Difference Between Direct and Indirect Costs

Direct costs are charges billed by the school, such as tuition, fees and room and board. Indirect costs are estimated expenses that students may have throughout the year, such as books, transportation, and personal expenses. While indirect costs may appear on the award letter, they are not billed by the school. When comparing school costs, focus on the direct (billable) costs of each school. In the examples, College A has total direct costs of \$40,974 for a student living on campus for one year while College B has total direct costs of 17,722.

### College A

Cost of Attendance			
Direct Costs (Billed to you by the college):			
	Fall	Spring	Total
Tuition and Fees	\$15,307	\$15,307	\$30,614
Room and Board	\$5,180	\$5,180	\$10,360
<b>Total Direct Costs</b>			<b>\$40,974</b>
Indirect Costs (Not billed to you by the college):			
Books and Supplies	\$525	\$525	\$1,050
Transportation	\$625	\$625	\$1,250
Personal	\$900	\$900	\$1,800
<b>Total Indirect Costs</b>			<b>\$4,100</b>
<b>Total Costs</b>			<b>\$45,074</b>

### College B

Cost of Attendance:			
Direct Costs (Billed to you by the college):			
	Fall	Spring	Total
Tuition and Fees	\$4,501	\$4,501	\$9,002
Room and Board	\$4,360	\$4,360	\$8,720
<b>Total Direct Costs</b>			<b>\$17,722</b>
Indirect Costs (Not billed to you by the college):			
Books and Supplies	\$525	\$525	\$1,050
Transportation	\$625	\$625	\$1,250
Personal	\$900	\$900	\$1,800
<b>Total Indirect Costs</b>			<b>\$4,100</b>
<b>Total Costs</b>			<b>\$21,822</b>

When you review your financial aid, focus on the direct costs. Try not to borrow money for indirect costs. Instead, try to pay as you go with earnings or savings to reduce your overall debt at graduation.

## Compare the Same Types of Aid

Remember that grants and scholarships don't need to be repaid. Don't just look at the bottom line for each school; a smaller package that includes aid you won't have to pay back may be a better deal than a larger package mostly made up of loans.

- ▶ **Scholarships and grants.** In the examples on page 21, College A offers more in grants and scholarships than College B.
- ▶ **Loans.** Your award letters may not have all the loan types shown on page 21, depending on the availability of funds and your individual needs. You don't need to accept every loan offered. You can also accept a lower amount than offered if your expenses are lower than the loan amount listed.



## College A

Financial Aid	Fall	Spring	Total	Reduce Loan To	Circle One
Federal Pell Grant	\$1,675	\$1,675	\$3,350		
Iowa Tuition Grant	\$2,825	\$2,825	\$5,650		
College Grant	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$5,000		
College Academic Scholarship	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$12,000		
Local Community Organization Scholarship	\$600	\$600	\$1,200		
<b>Total Grants and Scholarships</b>			<b>\$27,200</b>		
Federal Stafford Loan — Subsidized/Unsubsidized	\$2,750	\$2,750	\$5,500		ACCEPT/DECLINE
Federal PLUS and/or Private Loan	\$5,187	\$5,187	\$10,374		ACCEPT/DECLINE
<b>Total Loans</b>			<b>\$15,874</b>		
Federal Work-Study	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$2,000		ACCEPT/DECLINE
<b>Total Work-Study</b>			<b>\$2,000</b>		
<b>Total Award</b>			<b>\$45,074</b>		

## College B

Financial Aid	Fall	Spring	Total	Reduce Loan To	Circle One
Federal Pell Grant	\$1,675	\$1,675	\$3,350		
University Academic Scholarship	\$900	\$900	\$1,800		
Local Community Organization Scholarship	\$600	\$600	\$1,200		
<b>Total Grants and Scholarships</b>			<b>\$6,350</b>		
Federal Stafford Loan — Subsidized/Unsubsidized	\$2,750	\$2,750	\$5,500		ACCEPT/DECLINE
Federal PLUS and/or Private Loan	\$3,986	\$3,986	\$7,972		ACCEPT/DECLINE
<b>Total Loans</b>			<b>\$13,472</b>		
Federal Work-Study	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$2,000		ACCEPT/DECLINE
<b>Total Work-Study</b>			<b>\$2,000</b>		
<b>Total Award</b>			<b>\$21,822</b>		

Download the *Compare College Costs* worksheet from the Resource Zone at [ICANSucceed.org/materials](https://icansucceed.org/materials).

## Calculate Your Real Cost

Now you can subtract your scholarships and grants from the direct cost at each school.

	College A	College B
Direct costs	\$40,974	\$17,722
Scholarships and grants	- \$27,200	- \$6,350
Remaining costs	= \$13,774	= \$11,372

After you calculate your costs after scholarships and grants, consider any other non-loan awards, like work-study. The money you earn at a work-study job can be used for personal expenses and other indirect costs. Figure out how much of your remaining costs you can cover with personal savings, earnings or gifts.

	College A	College B
Costs after scholarships and grants	\$13,774	\$11,372
Personal savings/Payment plan	- \$3,000	- \$3,000
May need to borrow	= \$10,774	= \$8,372

Now that you see your out-of-pocket cost to attend each school that offers you a financial aid package, you can decide which school you can afford to attend or how much you have in remaining costs.

Remember that the college has offered you the best package available based on available funding, college policies, and federal and state regulations. You do not need to accept every loan offered - borrow only what you need and consider all your options to cover additional expenses. **NOTE:** Loan amounts are guaranteed whether you borrow everything now or borrow only half and request the additional amount later in the academic year.

## Understand Your Award Letter

Breakdown your award letters with the College Funding Forecaster online tool. Visit [www.iowastudentloan.org/forecaster](http://www.iowastudentloan.org/forecaster) to get started. You can also watch an ICAN advisor compare two letters and outline the estimated vs. real costs for attendance in our virtual presentation. View at [ICANSucceed.org/virtualpresentations](http://ICANSucceed.org/virtualpresentations)

### Schedule an ICAN Advising Session!

Visit [ICANSucceed.org/apt](http://ICANSucceed.org/apt) to schedule an Award Letter Review session with an ICAN advisor. We can help you understand your options and make the best decision about financing your future.

## STEP 6

### Make an Informed Decision

Even with financial aid, you may have college expenses you can't cover with your savings, earnings or parent contributions. If that's the case, consider these options:

- ▶ **Develop an In-School Budget**
  - The cost of attendance at the college includes allowances for personal expenses and transportation. These items may already be part of your family budget, so you may not need to borrow money to cover them.
- ▶ **Change Your Lifestyle**
  - Evaluate your “wants vs. needs” and decide which expenses are necessary and which would just be a nice perk to college life. If you cannot afford them, eliminate some of the perks.
- ▶ **Payment Plan**
  - Talk to the financial aid office. You might be able to make your payment in installments, or the staff might be able to direct you to some additional scholarship or grant opportunities.
- ▶ **Consider a Work-Study Job**
  - 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 jobs can be used for living expenses and other indirect costs. When you visit campus during orientation, pursue any openings..
- ▶ **Consider a Part-Time Job**
  - Start working or work additional hours to increase your earnings.
  - Carefully weigh how much you can work without affecting your academic performance — if you end up staying in school longer, you may pay more in tuition and fees.
- ▶ **Rethink Your Plan**
  - You may need to be creative to cut costs.
  - Consider less-expensive schools.
  - Begin your four-year degree at a community college and transfer later.
  - Attend a school close to home and live with your parent(s) or guardian(s).
  - Take on a heavier-than-normal course load to graduate in less time.



## STEP 7

### Borrow Wisely and Only What You Need

Student loans are a form of financial aid that must be repaid. Loans can be a helpful — and sometimes necessary — source to help fund your education. Student loans are intended to help you with college costs, not pay for a lifestyle. Save your plans for trendy furniture, nightly restaurant meals and expensive clothing for your future. You should consider borrowing only after you've exhausted other financial aid.

- ▶ Before you borrow, add up all the loans you'll need throughout college. Then determine if you can afford to repay them, plus pay all other living expenses, on the starting salary for the career field you have chosen. Check out the budget calculators at [www.ICANSucceed.org/calculators](http://www.ICANSucceed.org/calculators) or visit [www.studentloan.org/gameplan](http://www.studentloan.org/gameplan) for a simulated estimate based on your career.
- ▶ Find out if interest will accrue while you're in school and if your payments can be deferred until after you graduate. Visit [www.ICANSucceed.org/payforcollege](http://www.ICANSucceed.org/payforcollege) to compare loan types
- ▶ **Understand Your Limits.** 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 payments will be after graduation, and more importantly, if you can afford that payment with all your other responsibilities. For example, if you borrow **\$80,000** in student loans your monthly payment will be around **\$800**. Consider whether you'll be able to afford these payments on the average starting salary of your career choice. These decisions will impact your standard of living after college.
- ▶ 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 **\$25,000**, you shouldn't borrow more than **\$25,000** for your entire degree. This would give you an estimated monthly payment of **\$250** for **10** years following graduation.

## Federal Student Loan Types

You may see four types of federal student loans on your award letter.

### 1. Subsidized Federal Stafford Loans

- ▶ Awards are based on financial need; you must complete a FAFSA to qualify.
- ▶ The federal government pays the interest while you're in school.
- ▶ The interest rate is fixed at 5.045%\*.
- ▶ Repayment begins six months after you graduate, leave college, or drop to less than half time.

### 2. Unsubsidized Federal Stafford Loans

- ▶ These loans are not based on financial need, but you must complete a FAFSA to qualify.
- ▶ You are responsible for the interest, beginning as soon as the loan is disbursed, or released to the school.
- ▶ The interest rate is fixed at 5.045%\*.
- ▶ Repayment begins six months after you graduate, leave college, or drop below half time.

Annual Federal Stafford Loan Limits for Undergraduate Students (July 1, 2018– June 30, 2019)		
Annual Loan Limits	Dependent Undergraduate	Independent Undergraduate**
Freshman	\$5,500 (maximum \$3,500 in Subsidized Stafford Loans)	\$9,500 (maximum \$3,500 in Subsidized Stafford Loans)
Sophomore	\$6,500 (maximum \$4,500 in Subsidized Stafford Loans)	\$10,500 (maximum \$4,500 in Subsidized Stafford Loans)
Junior and Senior	\$7,500 (maximum \$5,500 in Subsidized Stafford Loans)	\$12,500 (maximum \$5,500 in Subsidized Stafford Loans)

\* Interest rates are set by the United States Congress. As of June 2018 interest rates were set at 5.045%.

\*\*If you're a dependent student whose parents applied for, but were not approved for, a Federal PLUS Loan (parent loan), you can borrow at the independent undergraduate level. Contact your financial aid office to find out how.

### Parent Tip

Talk to the financial aid office about possible payment plans for tuition expenses. Payment plans are typically interest free and can significantly reduce the amount of student loan debt your family borrows.

### 3. Federal PLUS Loans

In addition to federal loans for students, parents can take out Federal PLUS Loans on behalf of dependent, undergraduate students who are enrolled at least half time.

- ▶ Parents must pass a credit check to borrow these funds.
- ▶ PLUS Loans are not based on financial need.
- ▶ Parents are responsible for the interest, beginning 60 days after the loan is disbursed, or released to the school.
- ▶ The interest rate for a Direct PLUS Loan is fixed at 7.595% with fees up to 4.276%.
- ▶ Your parents may request to defer repayment while you're enrolled or during grace periods.
- ▶ The maximum loan amount equals cost of attendance minus other aid received.
- ▶ The loan is in the parents' name only. The loan is taken on behalf of the student but is not in the student's name.

## Research and Compare Student Loans Options

**Federal Student Loans** are an option provided by the US Department of Education, and, for some students, are the most affordable option. Federal student loans offer deferred payments and fixed interest rates, and for some students even a subsidized interest rate while in-school. There are also federal loan options for parents. The application process for federal student loans is done through the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and accepted through your institution's financial aid office. For more information visit [ICANSucceed.org/federalloans](https://icanucceed.org/federalloans).

**Private Student Loans** are offered by various private lenders, banks, and credit unions. Depending on a lender's qualification requirements, private loans may be a better fit for some students and parents. Each lender has a different set of criteria, which, when qualified, can offer students and parents better interest rates and payment options. The State of Iowa has a nonprofit lender, Iowa Student Loan, who offers rates for students and parents below those of national lenders and the Federal Plus Loan. Make sure they are one of the options you research. Learn more at [www.iowastudentloan.org](https://www.iowastudentloan.org).

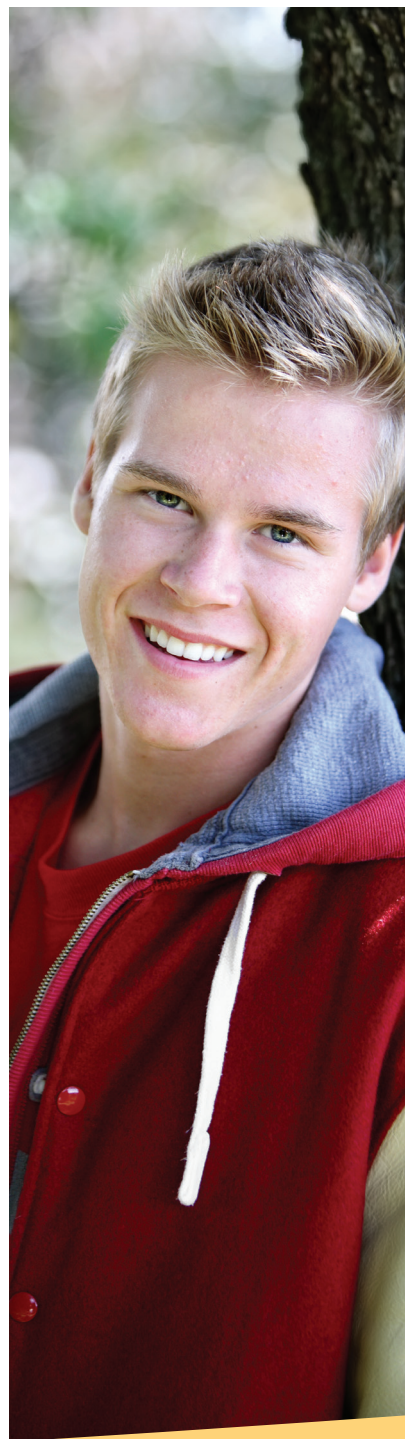
- ▶ Student borrowers will most likely need a cosigner.
- ▶ Borrowers must pass a credit check to borrow these funds.
- ▶ Each lender sets its own rates and terms so review all your options.
- ▶ Rates are competitive and can be lower than the Parent PLUS loan.
- ▶ The maximum loan amount equals cost of attendance minus other aid received.

## Questions to Ask When Choosing a Lender for Private Student Loans

It's not easy choosing a lender, but not doing your research can be a costly mistake. Before you borrow, gather the basic facts, such as how much you can borrow, interest rates, fees and repayment terms. Before you sign for any private loans, get the answers to these questions. Compare information from different lenders carefully; the combination of fees and conditions can make this a tricky process.

- ▶ How is the interest rate for my loan determined? Is the interest rate variable or fixed?
- ▶ In determining the interest rate on a loan, do you consider only the credit rating of the cosigner or does the borrower's credit also impact the rate received?
- ▶ Are any fees or other charges associated with this loan?
- ▶ What's your lowest interest rate and fee combination, and how can I get it?
- ▶ Is this combination available for the life of the loan, or only during a limited period of time?
- ▶ Is there a limit on how high the variable interest rate can go?
- ▶ How often is the interest rate adjusted, and how is it determined?
- ▶ Is there a penalty for paying off the loan early?
- ▶ When will my loan repayment period begin?
- ▶ What are the repayment plan options?
- ▶ Is deferment or forbearance assistance available for the loan?
- ▶ Can I defer payments if I go to graduate school?
- ▶ Does the loan include any benefits or interest rate reductions?
- ▶ How do I qualify and how could I lose those benefits?
- ▶ Are your discounts guaranteed or are they subject to change?
- ▶ Would you let me defer or reduce payments temporarily because of economic hardship?
- ▶ Do I need a cosigner to get the loan?

Download *Student Loan Facts* from the Resource Zone at [ICANSucceed.org/materials](https://www.icansucceed.org/materials).





## Federal Loan Programs (2018-2019 academic year)

Loan	Eligibility	Annual Loan Limits	Cumulative Loan Limits	Interest Rate
Subsidized Stafford	Available to students enrolled at least half time at an eligible institution and who show financial need. Must file a FAFSA.	Freshman = \$3,500 Sophomore = \$4,500 Junior/Senior = \$5,500	\$23,000	5.045% fixed
Unsubsidized Stafford	Available to students enrolled at least half time at an eligible institution. This loan is not based on financial need. Must file the FAFSA.	Please see chart on page 25.	Total limit for combined subsidized/unsubsidized:  Dependent: \$31,000  Independent: \$57,500 (No more than \$23,000 of this amount may be subsidized.)	5.045% fixed
Parent PLUS	Available to parents of dependent undergraduate students. Loan is not based on financial need. Borrower is subject to credit check and must file the FAFSA.	Cost of attendance, less other aid received.	None.	7.595% fixed

## Volunteer or Military Service Can Help with College

Several programs provide at least partial college funding in return for your service.

- AmeriCorps. [www.nationalservice.gov/programs/ameriCorps](http://www.nationalservice.gov/programs/ameriCorps)
- Armed forces. [www.gibill.va.gov](http://www.gibill.va.gov)
- Peace Corps. [www.peacecorps.gov](http://www.peacecorps.gov)
- ROTC. [www.rotc.com](http://www.rotc.com)
- The Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance Program. [www.gibill.va.gov](http://www.gibill.va.gov)

Fees	Disbursement	Grace Period	Repayment Terms
Origination fees up to 1.069% for 2018 – 2019.	Disbursements are sent directly to school by EFT (electronic funds transfer).	Six months after graduation or changing to less than half time. Interest does not accrue while in school, but does accrue during the grace period.	Up to 10 years following the grace period, or longer under an extended repayment plan. Deferments may be available. Check with your loan servicer.
Origination/default fees up to 1.069% for 2018 – 2019.	Disbursements are sent directly to school by EFT (electronic funds transfer).	Six months after graduation or changing to less than half time. Interest accrues while in school and during grace periods, but payment can be postponed. Note: Postponing interest may result in more interest being charged over the life of the loan.	Up to 10 years following the grace period, or longer under an extended repayment plan. Deferments may be available. Check with your loan servicer.
Origination fees of up to 4.276% for 2018 – 2019.	Disbursements are sent directly to school by EFT (electronic funds transfer).	None.	Begins 60 days after the loan is fully disbursed. Up to 10 years from the date of the last disbursement, or longer under an extended repayment plan. A deferment for PLUS Loans is available. Check with your loan servicer.

An application or promissory note must be completed for each type of loan listed above. The college will supply information on how to apply. Federal programs are subject to change.  
There may be options for forgivable loans under certain fields of study; check with the financial aid office.

## Loan Cancellation Programs

You may also want to look into loan cancellation, forgiveness and tuition assistance programs. The most common programs are shown below.

Program
Federal Teacher Loan Forgiveness Program <a href="http://www.studentaid.ed.gov/sa/repay-loans/forgiveness-cancellation/teacher">www.studentaid.ed.gov/sa/repay-loans/forgiveness-cancellation/teacher</a>
Federal Perkins Loan Teacher Cancellation <a href="http://www.studentaid.ed.gov/sa/repay-loans/forgiveness-cancellation/perkins">www.studentaid.ed.gov/sa/repay-loans/forgiveness-cancellation/perkins</a>
Teacher Iowa Scholar Program <a href="https://www.iowacollegeaid.gov/teachiowascholar">https://www.iowacollegeaid.gov/teachiowascholar</a>
Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant Program <a href="https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/types/grants-scholarships/teach">https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/types/grants-scholarships/teach</a>
Public Service Loan Forgiveness <a href="http://www.studentaid.ed.gov/sa/repay-loans/forgiveness-cancellation/public-service">www.studentaid.ed.gov/sa/repay-loans/forgiveness-cancellation/public-service</a>
NURSE Corps Loan Repayment Program <a href="https://bhw.hrsa.gov/loansscholarships/nursecorps/lrp">https://bhw.hrsa.gov/loansscholarships/nursecorps/lrp</a>
Federal Perkins Cancellation for Nurses <a href="http://ifap.ed.gov/qahome/qaassessments/perkinscancellation.html">http://ifap.ed.gov/qahome/qaassessments/perkinscancellation.html</a>
Iowa Registered Nurse and Nurse Educator Loan Forgiveness Program <a href="https://www.iowacollegeaid.gov/content/iowa-registered-nurse-nurse-educator-loan-forgiveness-program">https://www.iowacollegeaid.gov/content/iowa-registered-nurse-nurse-educator-loan-forgiveness-program</a>
Nurse Educator Grant <a href="http://www.iowastudentloan.org/scholarships-and-programs/nurse-educator-grant.aspx">www.iowastudentloan.org/scholarships-and-programs/nurse-educator-grant.aspx</a>
Attorney Student Loan Repayment Program <a href="http://www.justice.gov/oarm/policy">www.justice.gov/oarm/policy</a>
John R. Justice Student Loan Repayment Program <a href="https://www.iowacollegeaid.gov/content/john-r-justice-student-loan-repayment-program">https://www.iowacollegeaid.gov/content/john-r-justice-student-loan-repayment-program</a>

Find additional information on these options at [ICANSucceed.org/payforcollege](http://ICANSucceed.org/payforcollege).



## Finalizing Your Financial Aid

Once you have determined which school is the best fit for you, both academically and financially, you must finalize your financial aid.

### Notify Each Institution

- ▶ Sign the award letter of the school you have selected and return any required paperwork.
- ▶ Notify other schools that you will not be attending.

### Payment Plan

If you are utilizing a payment plan for part of all of your expenses, talk to the financial aid office about the set up process.

### Student Loan Documents

If you are taking out student loans you are required to complete additional documentation to secure your funding. This documentation may be included within your award letter or may be accessed through the financial aid office or your online student account. You can also visit [www.studentloans.gov](http://www.studentloans.gov).

- ▶ Acceptance on Award Letter and Amount Verification
- ▶ Signed Master Promissory Note (MPN) - see sample at right.
- ▶ Completion of Entrance Counseling

Direct Loans		Federal Direct Stafford/Ford Loan Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford/Ford Loan Master Promissory Note William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program	CMB No.: 1845-0007 Form Approved Exp. Date 05/31/2011
<small>Warning: Any person who knowingly makes a false statement or misrepresentation on this form will be subject to penalties which may include fines, imprisonment, or both, under the U.S. Criminal Code and 20 U.S.C. 1091.</small>			
<b>SECTION A: BORROWER INFORMATION</b>		<b>READ THE INSTRUCTIONS IN SECTION F BEFORE COMPLETING THIS SECTION</b>	
1. Driver's License State and No.		2. Social Security No.	
3. E-mail Address (optional)			
4. Name and Address		5. Date of Birth 6. Area Code/Telephone No.	
7. References: List two persons with different U.S. addresses who have known you for at least three years. The first reference should be a parent or legal guardian.			
Name 1. _____ 2. _____ Permanent Street Address _____ City, State, Zip Code _____ Area Code/Telephone No. ( ) _____ ( ) _____ Relationship to Borrower _____			
<b>SECTION B: SCHOOL INFORMATION - TO BE COMPLETED BY THE SCHOOL</b>		9. School Code/Branch 10. Identification No.	
<b>SECTION C: BORROWER REQUEST, CERTIFICATIONS, AUTHORIZATIONS, AND UNDERSTANDINGS - READ CAREFULLY BEFORE SIGNING BELOW</b>			
11. This is a Master Promissory Note (MPN) for one or more Federal Direct Stafford/Ford (Direct Subsidized) Loans and/or Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford/Ford (Direct Unsubsidized) Loans. I request a total amount of Direct Subsidized Loans and/or Direct Unsubsidized Loans under this MPN not to exceed the allowable maximums under the Act ("the Act" is defined in Section 4 under Governing Law). My school will notify me of the loan type and loan amount that I am eligible to receive. I may cancel a loan or request a lower amount by contacting my school. Additional information about my right to cancel a loan or request a lower amount is included in the Borrower's Rights and Responsibilities Statement and in the disclosure statements that will be provided to me.			
12. Under penalty of perjury, I certify that: A. The information I have provided on this MPN and as updated by me from time to time is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief and is made in good faith. B. I will use the proceeds of loans made under this MPN for authorized educational expenses that I incur and I will immediately repay any loan proceeds that cannot be attributed to educational expenses for attendance on at least a half-time basis at the school that certified my loan eligibility. C. If I owe an overpayment on a Federal Perkins Loan, Federal Pell Grant, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant, Academic Competitiveness Grant (ACG), National Science or Mathematics Access to Retain Talent (SMART) Grant, or Leveraging Educational Assistance Partnership Grant, I have made satisfactory arrangements to repay the amount owed. D. If I am in default on any loan received under the Federal Perkins Loan Program (including National Direct Student Loans), the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program (including the Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) Program), I have made satisfactory repayment arrangements with the holder to repay the amount owed. E. If I have been convicted of, or pled not guilty to, a crime involving fraud in obtaining funds under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (HEA), as amended, I have completed the repayment of the funds to the U.S. Department of Education (ED) or to the loan holder in the case of a Title IV federal student loan.			
13. For each Direct Subsidized Loan and Direct Unsubsidized Loan I receive under this MPN, I make the following authorizations: A. I authorize my school to certify my eligibility for the loan. B. I authorize my school to credit my loan proceeds to my student account at the school. C. I authorize my school to pay to ED any refund that may be due up to the full amount of the loan. D. I authorize ED to investigate my credit record and report information about my loan status to persons and organizations permitted by law to receive that information. E. Unless I notify ED differently, I authorize ED to defer repayment of principal on my loan while I am enrolled at least half-time at an eligible school. F. I authorize my school and ED to release information about my loan to the references on the loan and to members of my immediate family, unless I submit written directions otherwise. G. I authorize my schools, lenders and guarantors, ED, and their agents to release information about my loan to each other. H. I authorize my schools, ED, and their respective agents and contractors to contact me regarding my loan request or my loan, including repayment of my loan, at the current or any future number that I provide for my cellular telephone or other wireless device using automated dialing equipment or artificial or pre-recorded voice or text messages. I. I will be given the opportunity to pay the interest that ED charges during grace, in-school, deferment, forbearance, and other periods as provided under the Act, including during in-school deferment periods. Unless I pay the interest, I understand that ED may add unpaid interest that is charged on each loan made under this MPN to the principal balance of that loan (this is called "capitalization") at the end of the grace, deferment, forbearance, or other period. Capitalization will increase the principal balance on my loan and the total amount of interest I must pay. 15. I understand that ED has the authority to verify information reported on this MPN with other federal agencies.			
<b>SECTION D: PROMISE TO PAY</b>			
16. I promise to pay to ED all loan amounts disbursed under the terms of this MPN, plus interest and other charges and fees that may become due as provided in this MPN. I understand that more than one loan may be made to me under this MPN. I understand that by accepting any disbursement issued at any time under this MPN, I agree to repay the loan associated with that disbursement. I understand that, within certain timeframes, I may cancel or reduce the amount of a loan by refusing to accept or by returning all or a portion of any disbursement that is issued. Unless I make interest payments, interest that ED charges on my loans during grace, in-school, deferment, forbearance, and other periods will be added to the principal balance of the loan as provided under the Act. If I do not make a payment on a loan made under this MPN when it is due, I will also pay reasonable collection costs, including but not limited to attorney's fees, court costs, and other fees. I will not sign this MPN before reading the entire MPN, even if I am told not to read it, or told that I am not required to read it. I am entitled to an exact copy of this MPN and the Borrower's Rights and Responsibilities Statement. My signature certifies that I have read, understand, and agree to the terms and conditions of this MPN, including the Borrower Request, Certifications, Authorizations, and Understanding in Section C, the Notice About Subsequent Loans Made Under this MPN in Section E, and the terms and conditions described in Section E of this MPN and in the Borrower's Rights and Responsibilities Statement.			
I UNDERSTAND THAT I MAY RECEIVE ONE OR MORE LOANS UNDER THIS MPN, AND THAT I MUST REPAY ALL LOANS THAT I RECEIVE UNDER THIS MPN.			
17. Borrower's Signature _____ 18. Today's Date (mm-dd-yyyy) _____			

# TAX BENEFITS AND SAVINGS PLANS



Get Ready for College



Financial Aid Timeline



Pay for College



**Tax Benefits and Savings Plans**



Succeed in College

When college tuition bills begin to arrive, parents might look to tax credits and reductions for relief. Income limitations and eligibility requirements apply, so parents and guardians should talk to their tax advisers or financial planners about their specific situations. Also, tax legislation often changes with the general economy. Detailed descriptions are available online at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov).

Your parents or guardians may want to start a college savings investment plan. Many college savings vehicles are available, and some offer tax benefits of their own.

## Education Tax Credits and Deductions

To apply for the tax credit, the taxpayer, taxpayer's spouse, or a dependent must have paid out-of-pocket for tuition and fees. The Lifetime Learning maximum allowance can't be exceeded, and the tax credit or deduction is not available if borrower's filing status is "married filing separately."

- ▶ The taxpayer doesn't have to itemize deductions.
- ▶ Taxpayers can't claim the credit themselves if they're claimed as a dependent by other taxpayers. The taxpayer who claims the eligible student as a dependent is the individual eligible to claim the tax credit.
- ▶ Some credits and deductions cannot be used in combination for the same student for the same academic year.

## American Opportunity Credit

- ▶ Families can claim up to a \$2,500 tax credit per year for each student for tuition, fees, course materials.
- ▶ The student must be enrolled at least half time in an eligible program leading to a degree or certificate at an eligible school during the calendar year.
- ▶ Income limits and other qualifications apply.

## Lifetime Learning Credit

- ▶ Families may claim up to \$2,000 per tax return.
- ▶ The number of years the taxpayer may claim the credit is not limited. The borrower can qualify even if the student is enrolled less than half time.
- ▶ Eligible students include undergraduate, graduate, professional and others.
- ▶ Income limits and other qualifications apply.

## Student Loan Interest Deduction

- ▶ The borrower may be able to deduct up to \$2,500 of interest paid yearly on a loan.
- ▶ The loan must have been used to pay tuition and other qualified higher education expenses.
- ▶ Eligibility requirements apply.

## Tuition and Fees Tax Deduction

- ▶ Parents or students may be eligible to deduct up to \$4,000 in tuition and fees required for enrollment or attendance at an eligible postsecondary institution.
- ▶ Parents or students may not deduct personal, living or family expenses, including room and board, insurance, medical expenses or transportation.
- ▶ A student can qualify even if they're enrolled less than half time.
- ▶ Eligibility requirements apply.

As legislation changes, tax credits and deductions for college students are added or taken away. Ask your tax preparer about current tax benefits or visit [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov).

### Get More Advice Online

Find more advice on career and college success online at [ICANSucceed.org](http://ICANSucceed.org). You'll find tips and tools to help you focus on your college and career goals. Visit [ICANSucceed.org/signup](http://ICANSucceed.org/signup) to register for the ICAN Tip of the Week and follow the ICAN Career and College Corner Blog at [ican-collegeplanning.blogspot.com](http://ican-collegeplanning.blogspot.com). Make your journey through high school and college an exciting and successful one!

## Methods of Saving for College

Many college savings plans are available. Iowa residents most commonly use the following.

### College Savings Iowa 529 Plan

Named for the section of IRS code that defines it, a 529 plan offers tax-free growth and the potential for state tax deductions. Visit [www.collegesavingsiowa.com](http://www.collegesavingsiowa.com) for more information.

- ▶ Anyone can participate in College Savings Iowa and invest on behalf of a beneficiary. No residency restrictions apply. More than one person can contribute for the same beneficiary, and one person can contribute for more than one beneficiary.
- ▶ Participants pay no enrollment fees, and no income restrictions apply. A small asset-based management fee is charged.
- ▶ The minimum contribution is \$25. Contributions can be made electronically or by check. Additional contributions can be as low as \$15 when investing through a payroll deduction plan.
- ▶ Withdrawals used to pay for qualified higher education expenses are not taxed by the federal government.
- ▶ Account assets can be used to pay for qualified higher education expenses at any eligible educational institution in the United States or abroad.

### Coverdell Education Savings Account

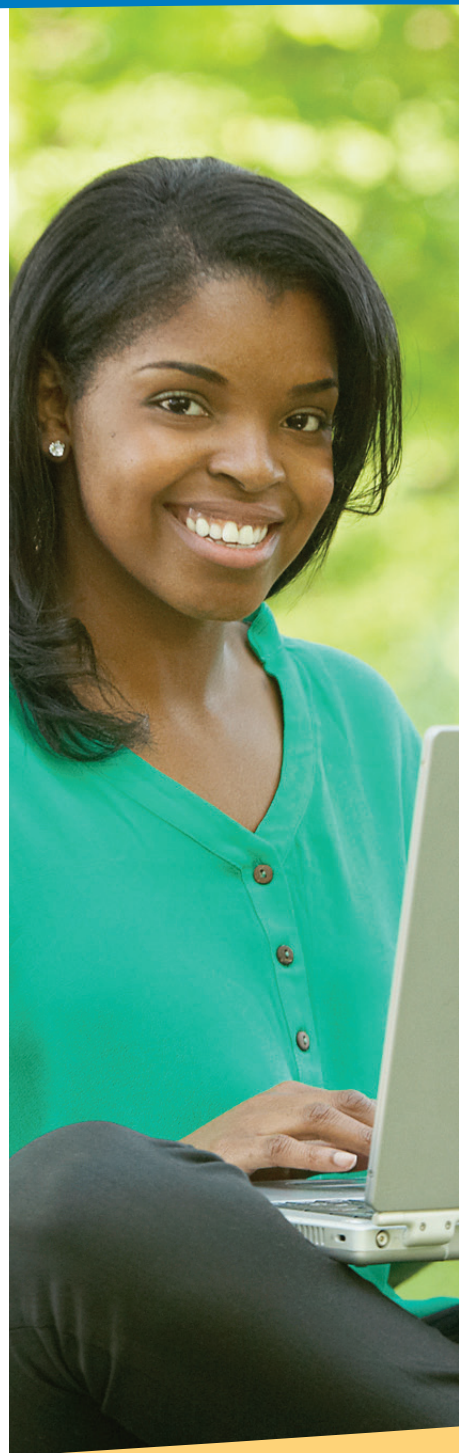
- ▶ The program was created as an incentive to help parents and students save for education costs.
- ▶ Contribution restrictions are based on income; contributions may be made until the beneficiary turns age 18, unless he or she is a special-needs beneficiary.
- ▶ Total contributions per beneficiary cannot exceed \$2,000 per year, no matter how many accounts have been established.
- ▶ The student won't owe tax on any withdrawal if the qualified higher education expenses equal or exceed the amount withdrawn. Tax credits may be used in the same year as a withdrawal if they cover other qualified expenses.
- ▶ Distributions for non-qualified expenses are subject to taxes. Any balance remaining in the account when the beneficiary reaches age 30 must be distributed (with taxes due on earnings plus an additional 10%) or rolled over into an account for a family member.



## Tackle Money Matters Together

Talking with your parents can help you make decisions as you think about how you can put together resources for college.

- ▶ Discuss how much your parents can contribute toward school.
- ▶ Go over the financial aid award letter(s).
- ▶ Brainstorm options for paying out-of-pocket costs.
- ▶ Decide if you or your parents/guardians will borrow money and who will pay it back.
- ▶ Review your budget for college with your parents.
- ▶ Estimate an after-college budget to determine how much you can afford to repay in loans. With your parents, research realistic starting salaries in your planned field of study.
- ▶ Talk about if and when a credit or debit card will be used, as well as the credit card interest rates, annual fees, minimum payments and other terms.
- ▶ Keep track of student borrowing loan amounts and interest rates by visiting [www.nslds.ed.gov](http://www.nslds.ed.gov) each semester.
- ▶ Additional life skills parents should help students understand before they head off on their own include:
  - **Balance a checkbook.** Owning and maintaining a checking and savings account is a life skill that lays the foundation for larger financial lessons.
  - **Stick to a budget.** Empower your student by giving them money management lessons such as a cell phone. Let them participate in family financial discussions so they see how you make your monthly family budget work.
  - **Explain how credit works.** You only get one chance to have a clean credit report. Make sure your student gets off on the right foot when it comes to building and maintaining good credit. If you aren't sure how to teach them about credit, check with your local bank or credit union to inquire about a teen or family money management course.
  - **Interest rates and loans.** Many individuals fail to understand how interest rates work until after they've had a loan or two. Make sure your student learns about interest rates, good and bad, and how loans for things like cars and houses work.



# SUCCEED IN COLLEGE

Successful college students develop the necessary skills to balance the academic, financial, and social aspects of life while they're in high school.



Get Ready for College



Financial Aid Timeline



Pay for College



Tax Benefits and Savings Plans



Succeed in College

## Succeed Academically

College is much different than high school. The sample schedule on page 37 shows a typical week for a college freshman.

- ▶ **Practice good time management.** Make sure you use a planner to keep track of deadlines, study time, activities, and work schedules. The organizational skills you learn now will help you balance the tougher classes and time demands in college.
- ▶ **Prepare for class.** Know what's expected of you. In college, you'll spend about two hours studying for each class hour. Start making that a habit now.

## Outside the Classroom

You'll meet many new people and have a lot of new freedoms in college.

- ▶ **Make friends.** Find activities and work opportunities that allow you to meet new people.
- ▶ **Get involved.** Extracurricular activities provide a great opportunity to learn how to manage projects, lead others and work effectively with a variety of personalities. These skills will be useful in college and in the future.

## Using Social Media Responsibly

Social media sites are useful Internet tools to keep in touch with friends and family, and can be utilized to meet new people with similar interests. When used responsibly, these sites can be a positive and beneficial resource. Irresponsible behavior can be detrimental, putting yourself and your future at risk.

- ▶ **Assume EVERYONE has access to your profile.** Don't discuss things you wouldn't want parents, teachers, future employers, and law enforcement to know about. Set your profile to "private" to gain as much control as possible over who has access to your information.
- ▶ **Use Discretion.** Your friends may think a photo of you acting silly at a party is funny, but how will the rest of the community feel? Your parents, college

officials, and potential employers might not be as amused. Also, remember that when your friends take your picture it may end up on their profile; be aware of how you pose for pictures.

- ▶ **Assume the worst.** Don't put anything online that you wouldn't want your worst enemy to know and don't add people as "friends" unless you know them in real life. Your "friends" have access to everything you post and once they have it, you can't take it away.

There are also social predators that utilize social media to find you. What information on your profile identifies who you are, where you hang out, your age, and where you live. Your real friends know how to find you, don't post this personal information online.

- ▶ **You are responsible for your content.** You are the only one in charge of your profile and you can be held responsible for inappropriate content. Schools across the country are revising policies to allow disciplinary action for online behavior - so behave.
- ▶ **Learn more.** Visit <https://mashable.com/2012/09/04/students-social-media-warnings/#i8tTK96248qfgs> for *12 Things Students Should Never Do on Social Media*.
- ▶ **Be Appropriate.** Make sure your email address is appropriate and that your voice message doesn't send the wrong signals to college officials or potential employers who may contact you.

## A Look at Your Week

Many students look at their first college schedule with excitement. Class takes up only a few hours each day, and the rest appears to be free time. In reality, you'll be expected to spend a lot of your free time studying.

Sample Class Schedule						
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
7 a.m.	Wellness		Wellness		Wellness	
8 a.m.	Western Civ	Work-Study	Western Civ	Work-Study	Western Civ	Wellness
9 a.m.	Study		Study		Study	
10 a.m.	Biology I		Biology I	Biology I Lab	Biology I	
11 a.m.	Study				Study	
Noon	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Study
1 p.m.	Composition I	Statistics	Composition I	Statistics	Composition I	
2 p.m.	Study	Study		Study	Study	
3 p.m.			Work-Study		Work-Study	
4 p.m.						
5 p.m.	Dinner					
6 p.m.	Art History	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	
7 p.m.		Study	Study	Study		
8 p.m.						
9 p.m.						

In this sample freshman schedule, the student spends:

- ▶ 16 hours in class.
- ▶ 32 hours studying.
- ▶ 10 hours working.
- ▶ 5 hours at the wellness center.

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

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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