LSA
LEGISLATIVE
SERVICES AGENCY
Serving the Iowa Legislature

Ground Floor, State Capitol Building   Des Moines, Iowa 50319   515.281.3566

Iowa State University — General Education

Purpose and History

Iowa has three public universities under the authority of the Iowa Board of Regents. Each university provides a broad array of programs and degrees while maintaining its own cultural heritage.

Iowa State University (ISU) was established as the Iowa Agricultural College and Model Farm in 1858 and became a land-grant university in 1864. The Morrill Acts of 1862 and 1890 funded higher educational institutions by granting federal land to the states to develop or sell to raise funds to establish and endow land-grant colleges. The 1862 Act required land-grant colleges to focus on the teaching of agriculture, science, and engineering, rather than higher education's traditional emphasis on classical studies. As a land-grant institution, ISU focuses on the ideals that higher education should be accessible to all and that the University should teach liberal arts and practical subjects. The University offers more than 300 degree programs at the bachelor's, master's, doctoral, and professional levels. These degrees are offered through eight colleges: Agriculture and Life Sciences, Business, Design, Engineering, the Graduate College, Human Sciences, Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Veterinary Medicine.

Funding

The General Assembly annually appropriates general education funding for the State universities to the Board of Regents, either in a specific amount for each university or in a lump sum appropriation to be allocated at the discretion of the Board.

Related Statutes and Administrative Rules

Iowa Code chapter 266
Iowa Administrative Code 681

Budget Unit Number

6150L300001

Doc ID 1285128

More Information

Board of Regents: www.iowaregents.edu
LSA Staff Contact: Michael Peters (515.281.6934) michael.peters@legis.iowa.gov