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 has an enrollment of over 35,000 and 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, Graduate, Human Sciences, Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Veterinary Medicine.

Funding

The General Education appropriation funds the University's primary educational functions. The University receives approximately 35.0% of its funding from State General Fund appropriations, about 58.0% from tuition and fees, and the remainder from other sources.

Related Statutes and Administrative Rules

Iowa Code Chapters 263, 266, and 268

681 Iowa Administrative Code

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