

CHAPTER 10
UNIFORM POLICIES

Chapter rescission date pursuant to Iowa Code section 17A.7: 3/11/31

283—10.1(256) Purpose. This chapter describes uniform definitions and policies that apply to programs administered by the college student aid commission.

[ARC 0046D, IAB 2/4/26, effective 3/11/26]

283—10.2(256) Definitions.

“Financial metric” is the means by which the commission ranks the relative financial need of an applicant for financial assistance. The calculated financial metric shall be evaluated annually on the basis of a confidential statement of family finances filed on a form designated by the commission. The commission has adopted the use of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), a federal form developed by the U.S. Department of Education, which is used to determine the financial metric. Relative need will be ranked based on the applicant’s financial metric provided by the U.S. Department of Education. The FAFSA must be received by the processing agent by the date specified by the commission. A negative financial metric is the equivalent of zero.

“Financial need” is the difference between the applicant’s cost of attendance, as defined in Title IV of the federal Higher Education Act of 1965, as of July 1, 2025, and the applicant’s financial metric and other available financial assistance at the eligible institution.

“Full-time” means enrollment in at least 12 semester credit hours, or the equivalent, that are part of a program of study. Credits that a student receives through “life experience credit” and “credit by examination” are not eligible for funding. Only coursework required for the student’s eligible program of study can be used to determine enrollment status for state award calculations.

“Iowa resident” means a person who:

1. If attending an Iowa regent university, Iowa private college or university, or Iowa barber or cosmetology college, meets the criteria used by the state board of regents to determine residency for tuition purposes as described in rule 681—1.4(262) and, if the person qualifies for residency only as described in 681—paragraph 1.4(2) “b,” meets the following additional criteria:

- Is a veteran or qualifying military person domiciled in the state of Iowa who is not dependent upon a parent for financial support;

- Is a dependent veteran or qualifying military person whose parent is domiciled in the state of Iowa;

or

- Is the spouse, domestic partner, or dependent child of a veteran or qualifying military person who is domiciled in the state of Iowa; or

2. If attending an Iowa community college, meets the criteria defined by the Iowa department of education to determine residency for community college tuition purposes as defined in 281—subrule 21.2(11) and, if the person qualifies for residency only as described in 281—subparagraph 21.2(11) “b”(5), meets the following additional criteria:

- Is a veteran of uniformed service or a national guard member domiciled in the state of Iowa who is not dependent upon a parent for financial support;

- Is a dependent veteran of uniformed service or a national guard member whose parent is domiciled in the state of Iowa; or

- Is the spouse, domestic partner, or dependent child of a veteran of uniformed service or a national guard member who is domiciled in the state of Iowa.

“Part-time” means enrollment that includes 3 to 11 semester credit hours, or the equivalent, that are part of a program of study. Credits that a student receives through “life experience credit” and “credit by examination” are not eligible for funding. Only coursework required for the student’s eligible program of study can be used to determine enrollment status for state award calculations.

“Program of study” means a course of study that is eligible for federal student aid programs and leads to a teaching license or an undergraduate diploma, certificate, or degree.

“*Satisfactory academic progress*” is determined by the eligible institution, the standards of which meet the criteria for participation in federal student aid programs and are published on the eligible institution’s website.

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283—10.3(256) Policies. A student who is in default on a Stafford Loan, SLS Loan, PLUS Loan, or Perkins/National Direct/National Defense Student Loan or who owes a repayment on any Title IV grant assistance or state award shall be ineligible for assistance under the program. The student regains eligibility under this rule by providing documentation to the eligible institution that the student has regained eligibility under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 as of July 1, 2025.

[ARC 0046D, IAB 2/4/26, effective 3/11/26]

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code chapter 256.

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