
BUDGET UNIT BRIEF – FY 2020

Fiscal Services Division

July 1, 2020



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 annual General Fund appropriation to ISU has been at \$167.5 million since FY 2018. For FY 2019, the General Assembly gave the Board of Regents a lump sum appropriation of \$8.3 million to be allocated to provide the three universities with an increase in funding at the discretion of the Board. The Board allocated \$3.2 million of the appropriation to ISU, bringing total State funding for General Education at ISU to \$170.6 million for FY 2019.

Related Statutes and Administrative Rules

Iowa Code chapters [263](#), [266](#), and [268](#)
Iowa Administrative Code [681](#)

Budget Unit Number

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More Information

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