

# EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS



## Chapter 9



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## STATE UNIVERSITIES

### THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

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The University of Iowa (UI) is one of the nation's premier public research universities, with 31,563 students from all 99 counties in Iowa, all 50 states, two U.S. territories, and 108 foreign countries. Founded in 1847, it is the state's oldest institution of higher education and exemplifies Iowa's commitment to innovative leadership in education, research, and service. In 1855, the year classes began, the UI became the first public university to admit women on an equal basis with men.

A member of the prestigious Association of American Universities since 1909 and the Big Ten Conference since 1899, the UI is home to one of the largest and most acclaimed medical centers in the country, as well as the world-renowned Iowa Writers' Workshop.

In accordance with its strategic plan, the UI seeks to provide a transformative educational experience that teaches all UI students to be engaged and fulfilled citizens in a diverse world; to advance scholarly and creative endeavors through leading-edge research and artistic production; and to engage with Iowa and the world to broaden education, improve health, and enhance economic development.

Forty-five percent of UI students are enrolled in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, which includes numerous schools, academic departments, and interdisciplinary programs. Nineteen percent are enrolled in graduate programs, most administered by the UI Graduate College, and approximately 6 percent are professional students in the Colleges of Dentistry, Law, Pharmacy, and the Carver College of Medicine. The UI is also home to the Colleges of Education, Engineering, Nursing, Public Health, the Tippie College of Business, and University College. The university offers programs in more than 200 areas of study and 110 graduate and professional degrees. The student-to-faculty ratio is 15:1.

The UI confers approximately 8,000 degrees each year — more than 400,000 in its history. The four-year and six-year graduation rates (64 percent and 75 percent, respectively) remain at or close to record levels. Within six months of finishing their degree, 96 percent of graduates are employed, continuing their education, or not seeking work.

Some of the most common undergraduate areas of study are psychology, human physiology, exercise science, English and creative writing, biology, finance, marketing, elementary education, and business. The most common graduate areas of study are business, nursing, English, music, physical therapy, social work, and education.

For decades, the UI has made commitments to the success of first-generation college students, beginning with the Upward Bound program in 1966. Examples of current campuswide efforts include the UI First-Generation Task Force, the UI's designation as a First Forward institution, participation in the National First-Generation College Celebration, and the 1stGen@Iowa initiative. Today, 19 percent of UI undergraduates identify as first-generation students.

Beyond the classroom, 57 percent of undergraduate students participate in at least two high-impact practices that require them to integrate learning across contexts and apply their education to real-world challenges. Two-thirds of undergraduate students have completed an internship or field experience, and almost half participated in a capstone experience or senior project.

In fiscal year 2025, UI faculty, staff, and students were awarded \$705.6 million in funding for research and other priorities, including hundreds of millions of dollars in government and industry grants and contracts. A current research project investigates why Iowa has the nation's second-highest rate of new cancers and is the only state where rates continue to rise. With support from the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services, UI is leading a statewide analysis to identify the cancer types and regions driving this trend.

The UI ranks 51st among academic institutions in federal research and development funding. Since 1966, the UI has received more than \$11 billion in competitive grants and contracts. In more than 150 centers and institutes, UI investigators explore emerging fields including nanotechnology, image processing, hydrology, gene mapping, pharmaceutical development, proteomics, and bioinformatics.

The UI continues to be a national leader in the biosciences, ranking 55th among academic medical institutions in National Institutes of Health funding. UI biomedical research efforts have produced pioneering treatments for cleft palate, cystic fibrosis, cochlear implants for hearing loss, and the globally adopted clubfoot treatment developed at Iowa, along with innovations in biomedical imaging and research on eye and brain diseases that continue to transform patient care.

The UI Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center is Iowa's only NCI-designated comprehensive cancer center and has held that designation since 2000. The NCI designation recognizes our cancer center, and its research scientists, physicians, and other health care professionals, for their roles in advancing cancer research that impacts on our ability to prevent, detect, and treat our patients with cancer.

In 1922, the university became the first to accept creative work to fulfill thesis requirements for graduate degrees in the arts, and in 1936, the Iowa Writers' Workshop was established as the first creative writing degree program in the United States. The UI's leadership in writing has expanded to include the Iowa Playwrights Workshop, a distinguished nonfiction writing program, the world's only international writing program, and efforts to improve the teaching of writing across a variety of disciplines. UI faculty and alumni have received 47 Pulitzer Prizes, in categories ranging from editorial cartooning to poetry.

UI scholars and scientists have been pioneers in fields including psychology, physics, biology, biomedical engineering, hydrology, and astronomy. The UI's Colleges of Medicine, Pharmacy, Nursing, and Public Health all offer programs that rank among the best in the nation. In the arts and humanities, the UI has consistently held national leadership rankings in creative writing, fine arts, psychology, English, history, sociology, and printmaking, among others.

The UI has been cited as one of the 100 most innovative universities in the world by Reuters. This recognition reflects the university's impact on Iowa's economy and its strategic focus on economic development. The university supports the translation of intellectual work into applications through entrepreneurial education, new-venture creation, technology transfer, and partnerships that connect faculty, staff, and students to organizations addressing social, technical, and business challenges.

Eight key initiatives support these efforts: Protostudios, the UI Research Park, the Translational Research Incubator, the UI Research Foundation, UI Ventures, MADE, the UI Center for Advancement, and the John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center.

In 2025, for the 36th consecutive year, University of Iowa Health Care was ranked the No. 1 hospital in Iowa. The state's only comprehensive academic medical center ranked overall as one of America's best hospitals, with four specialties ranked in the top 50 in an annual survey published by *U.S. News & World Report*: ophthalmology, ear, nose, and throat, cancer, and obstetrics and gynecology.

UI Health Care is one of the largest academic medical centers in the nation. The hospital employs more than 12,000 people, including more than 1,200 staff physicians and dentists, nearly 900 resident and fellow physicians, and more than 6,000 nursing staff members. Its staff is complemented by the most advanced medical technologies available in providing health care for more than one million admissions and ambulatory clinic visits annually, including those at outreach and family care clinic sites located throughout the state.

Iowans compose the vast majority of the patients at UI Health Care, although patients from across the country and several foreign nations are referred to the hospital by their physicians for highly specialized health care. In 2025, UI Health Care officially opened the new North Liberty medical campus, offering essential services such as orthopedics, emergency care, imaging, and rehabilitation under one roof. Beyond patient care for Iowans, UI Health Care engaged in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education activities in 60 counties in fiscal year 2023, reaching more than 15,000 K-12 students.

The UI educates many of the state's professionals, including 78 percent of Iowa's dentists, 50 percent of Iowa's physicians, and 48 percent of Iowa's pharmacists, as well as teachers and administrators in Iowa's K-12 schools.

In addition to UI-educated professionals practicing in all 99 Iowa counties, University of Iowa students, faculty, and staff make a meaningful impact across the state through community-engaged research and teaching. Each academic year, the university offers approximately 200 Community-Engaged Courses (CEC) spanning departments across campus. These designated courses integrate community partnerships directly into coursework, providing students with hands-on learning experiences that address real-world challenges. Importantly, 92 percent of students who

participated in a CEC reported that their projects helped them better understand the role of a professional in their field.

In 2025, UI launched the new Office of Writing and Communication (OWC) to serve as a central hub for student support, mentorship, and workshops that strengthen writing and communication skills across all disciplines. The OWC will unify programs such as the Iowa Writers' Workshop and the Undergraduate Writing Certificate, expanding academic opportunities, professional development, and coordinated services for students.

The UI's State Hygienic Laboratory is Iowa's environmental and public health laboratory, serving all 99 counties by testing and tracking infectious diseases and illnesses; performing newborn and maternal screening; and monitoring the air, water and soil for environmental contaminants.

Established by the state legislature in 2009, the Iowa Flood Center provides tools, technology, and information to help Iowans understand their flood risk and be prepared for flood events. The Iowa Flood Information System monitors river levels in real time through a network of 270 stream sensors and offers flood forecasts for more than 1,000 towns across Iowa.

The UI is a statewide cultural resource, offering arts programming to tens of thousands of Iowans each year. Through residencies with Hancher Auditorium and the Grant Wood Art Colony, artists and performers engage with communities across the state. In 2022, the UI Stanley Museum of Art celebrated its grand reopening, 14 years after historic flooding destroyed the old museum. As a teaching museum, it offers immersive, interdisciplinary, educational experiences for faculty and students, state educators and K-12 students, and visitors of all ages.

The UI's open-stack libraries, ranking among the nation's largest, house more than 3 million volumes; a wealth of special collections includes papers and letters of U.S. presidents and leading Iowa figures, the Iowa Women's Archives, and manuscripts and first editions from many Iowa authors. Iowa residents across the state may borrow UI books via interlibrary loan through their local libraries.

By guaranteeing admission to all qualified Iowa students, the UI fulfills its public mission to make world-class education accessible to Iowans. The University's impact extends beyond campus — providing Iowans with essential services in health care, economic forecasting, business consulting, teacher development, and the arts. These programs extend the institution's expertise to communities throughout Iowa and support the state's workforce, schools, and local economies.

## IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

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Iowa State University of Science and Technology (ISU) aims to advance the land-grant ideals of putting science, technology, and human creativity to work. ISU's mission is to create, share, and apply knowledge to make our students, Iowa, and the world better.

ISU's focus on innovation enlivens its mission, values, and aspirations. As the state's public land-grant university, ISU excels in innovative solutions, knowledge and discovery, education experience, and community engagement. The university is driven to be the most student-centric leading research university, the university that fosters lifelong learning, the university that is a trusted partner for proactive and innovative solutions, the university that creates opportunities and forges new frontiers, and the university that cultivates a welcoming and respectful environment where all students, faculty, and staff flourish.

In the most economic impact analysis conducted for the Iowa Board of Regents (for fiscal year 2022), ISU delivered a \$5 billion impact to the state of Iowa, with its total economic impact supporting more than 57,000 jobs — 1 out of every 36 jobs in Iowa. The university supports economic growth and prosperity through its research, teaching and extension and outreach. The value of ISU's economic impact is measured by cutting-edge research, economic development support for business and industry, student and visitor spending, alumni earnings, campus operations and construction, and Extension and Outreach. These activities support stronger, more resilient communities. ISU maximizes the return on investment for its students and all Iowans by continually adjusting programs to align with the state's workforce demands and the needs of business and industry.

At the center of the university's aspiration is academic excellence. ISU offers a high-quality, student-centered education to more than 31,100 students, including more than 26,300 undergraduates. There are students on campus from all 99 counties, all 50 states, and 110 countries.

The six undergraduate Colleges of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Business, Design, Engineering, Health and Human Sciences, and Liberal Arts and Sciences offer more than 100 programs leading to the baccalaureate degree; the Graduate College offers more than 250 programs leading to graduate degrees; and the College of Veterinary Medicine offers the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine professional degree. Many of ISU's academic programs in agriculture, engineering, entrepreneurship and veterinary science are ranked among the best in the nation. ISU is among *The Princeton Review's* Best 391 Colleges in the U.S., which is based on student surveys from across the country. In 2025, the university was named one of *Money's* Best Colleges for affordability, quality of education and outcomes.

ISU is a recognized national leader in innovation and entrepreneurship with world-class educational programs, activities and facilities. Innovate at ISU captures the university's history of exploration and ongoing commitment to innovation that is changing the world. ISU is ranked in the top 10 of The Princeton Review's Top 50 Entrepreneurship programs. In 2023, ISU was named the Entrepreneurial University of the Year for the Americas by the Accreditation Council for Entrepreneurial and Engaged Universities and received the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities' (APLU) top award for Economic Engagement Connections. ISU also is a four-time winner of APLU's Innovation and Economic Prosperity University Award, which honors institutions performing exemplary work to advance the economic well-being of their states, regions, and the nation.

ISU is the first public university in Iowa to offer an undergraduate major in entrepreneurship and just the eighth in the United States to offer a Ph.D. specialization in entrepreneurship. ISU opened the state-of-the-art Student Innovation Center in 2021, a hands-on hub where students from all majors can design, fabricate, test, and demonstrate their ideas. Innovation education also is supported in ISU's colleges through the Start Something Network, a set of innovation- and entrepreneurship-centric academic opportunities, from credit-earning coursework to capstone projects to internships, for all university students regardless of discipline.

ISU provides a high-quality learning environment for its students. While ISU is large, students say it has the feel of a smaller university because of the caring community and dedicated faculty and staff. Leading national and international scholars, experts, and political figures frequent the campus as guest lecturers. The Iowa State Center hosts performing artists and stage productions from around the world. ISU's Art on Campus Collection — with more than 2,700 pieces — is the largest campus public art program in the United States. In fall 2025, University Museums celebrated 50 years of working with ISU faculty to provide visual literacy components in their classes. The Brunner Art Museum holds one of the nation's finest collections of glass and ceramics art objects, and hosts numerous traveling exhibitions. The Christian Petersen Art Museum, located in historic Morrill Hall on central campus, is named for the nation's first permanent campus artist-in-residence, who sculpted at ISU from 1934 through 1955.

Students also receive support for learning and achievement from an award-winning academic advising staff and through an environment that places a priority on cooperative and experiential learning. In fall 2025, 95 percent of ISU's first-year students enrolled in learning communities, which group students by academic major or other common interests to ensure a successful transition to a large university setting. The one-year retention rate for the fall 2023 cohort of new direct-from-high-school learning community students was five percentage points higher than for nonlearning community students. Students can choose from more than 800 student organizations to get involved in. ISU is a member of the University Innovation Alliance, which aims to help students from all socioeconomic backgrounds and increase the number of Americans with college degrees.

Important measures of ISU's academic programs include retention, graduation, and post-graduation placement rates. In 2024, ISU's first-year retention rate was a record 89.1 percent, 11 points higher than the national average for four-year public universities. The university's six-year graduation rate in 2024 was 75.3 percent, and nearly 95 percent of ISU graduates found jobs in their field or were continuing their education within six months of graduation.

Research and extension are essential components of ISU's mission. ISU is designated as a Research 1: Doctoral University — Very High Research Activity by the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education. Research is critically important and integral to ISU's commitment to improving

the lives of Iowans while also contributing to the betterment of our nation and the world. Every day, ISU delivers new, research-based knowledge to help Iowans address life's challenges. ISU Extension and Outreach professionals live and work in every one of Iowa's 99 counties, providing needed resources to inform Iowans' local decisions. ISU Extension and Outreach provides direct assistance to more than one million Iowans each year through programs in agriculture and natural resources, community and economic development, human sciences, 4-H and youth development, and continuing education and professional development.

As part of a research-intensive land-grant university, ISU faculty have a successful record of attracting external-sponsored funding to leverage the state's investment in the university. During the 2025 fiscal year, ISU attracted \$549.3 million in total external funding. This included \$329.9 million in sponsored research funding, second only to the previous year's record of \$346.2 million. Among universities without a medical school, ISU ranks in the top 1 percent for funding received from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, top 3 percent for U.S. Department of Energy funding, and top 9 percent in funding support from the National Science Foundation.

ISU is among the top 100 worldwide universities for U.S. patents. In fiscal year 2024, 64 U.S. patents and an additional 15 foreign patents were issued to the Iowa State Research Foundation. During that time, the research foundation executed 25 license and option agreements for ISU technologies, 13 of which were with Iowa companies. With more than 400 U.S. patents, the university generated \$472 million in global sales of licensed technologies between 2020 and 2024.

ISU's research strengths include: biorenewable chemicals and products, precision and digital agriculture, vaccines and immunotherapies, plant sciences, many engineering disciplines, food sciences and human nutrition, animal health, climate science, energy, transportation and logistics, economics, rural sociology, child development, statistics, and many areas of psychology and behavioral science.

ISU's emphasis on interdisciplinary research, combined with investments in key research facilities — Center for Biorenewable Chemicals, BioCentury Research Farm, Plant Sciences Institute, Nanovaccine Institute, and Veterinary Diagnostic Lab, among others — has positioned the university for a leadership role in the state's priority initiative in biosciences as a key economic engine. The university is collaborating with the State of Iowa to establish nationally renowned innovation ecosystems in these Iowa-advantaged bioscience platforms:

- Biobased chemicals and products
- Precision and digital agriculture
- Vaccines and immunotherapeutics

A strong focus on purposeful interdisciplinary research is at the core of several other centers and facilities on the ISU campus as well. The Ames National Laboratory is the only U.S. Department of Energy national laboratory located on a campus of a major research university. ISU and the Ames National Laboratory collaborate on the Critical Materials Institute, which focuses on assuring reliable supply chains of materials critical to clean-energy technologies. The Alliant Energy Agriculture Innovation Lab in the ISU Research Park collaborates with industry partners to develop technologies and automation that are critical to feeding and fueling the world. The National Institute of Standards and Technology-funded Center for Statistics and Application in Forensic Evidence focuses on new methods to evaluate the quality of criminal evidence. The Institute for Transportation develops and implements innovative methods, materials, and technologies for improving transportation in Iowa and throughout the nation. The National Institute of Antimicrobial Resistance Research and Education coordinates with multiple institutions to spearhead research devoted to tackling antimicrobial resistance in both animals and humans.

Other major research centers and institutes at ISU include: The Center for Agricultural and Rural Development, Center for Nondestructive Evaluation, Center for Survey Statistics and Methodology, Iowa Nutrient Resource Center, Center for Food Security and Public Health, Translational AI Research and Education Center, Virtual Reality Applications Center, and the Center for Excellence in the Arts and Humanities.

ISU is home to one of the nation's most successful university research parks. Since 1987, hundreds of companies got their start through the entrepreneurial ecosystem in place at the research park, and today, many global brands also maintain innovation spaces, training and development hubs, testing fields/facilities, and research and development locations there. Five companies that started at the research park have had initial public offerings, and many others have enjoyed successful liquidity

events, bringing several global brands into the research park footprint through acquisition. The ISU Research Park spans 550 acres and is home to 140 companies and organizations across 21 buildings. Approximately 2,500 professionals and 400 students are working at the research park.

ISU is a lead partner in America's Cultivation Corridor, which has its north headquarters located in the ISU Research Park. This initiative seeks to leverage the strengths of ISU, Ames, and Des Moines to create a regional research and development powerhouse. Central to these efforts is the Economic Development Core Facility located at ISU Research Park, which houses all of ISU's economic development service units, providing a one-stop shop for business and industry seeking ISU's expertise and assistance. ISU programs at the research park include the Office of Economic Development and Industry Relations, America's Small Business Development Center Iowa, Center for Industrial Research and Service, Office of Innovation Commercialization, Pappajohn Center for Entrepreneurship Cultivation Corridor, and research park administrative offices.

ISU has been internationally recognized for the beauty of its campus. Renovations of historic buildings and construction of new buildings are ongoing as the university renews its physical campus to address today's standards for academic and research facilities and to meet students' housing, support, and recreational needs. Notable building projects recently completed are the first phase of a new Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory to support Iowa's \$32.5 billion agriculture industry and the Therkidsen facility, the new home of the Department of Industrial and Manufacturing Systems Engineering, renovations at two of the residence system's three dining centers, and multiple space innovations in Parks Library to accommodate new learning technologies and meet student preferences. A replacement of LeBaron Hall for the College of Health and Human Sciences and phase 2 of the Veterinary Diagnostic Lab are scheduled for completion in fall 2026. The Athletics Department completed a major renovation in the Scheman Building at the Iowa State Center to improve the Game Day experience for fans as well as the infrastructure and parking initial phase of the CyTown multi-use district, also at the center. McFarland Clinic will open the first of eight planned buildings in CyTown by early 2027.

ISU, originally known as Iowa Agricultural College and Model Farm, was established on March 22, 1858, by the Legislature of the State of Iowa. In 1862, Iowa became the first state in the nation to accept the provisions of the Morrill Act, which established the land-grant system. As a land-grant institution, Iowa Agricultural College (Iowa State College of Agricultural and Mechanic Arts as of 1898) focused on the ideals that higher education should be accessible to all, regardless of economic status, gender, or ethnicity, and that the university should teach liberal and practical subjects. In 1959, the college was officially renamed Iowa State University of Science and Technology. ISU was the pioneer in extension programs, which celebrate 120 years in 2023, and in the development of the national agricultural experiment station system to advance practical science.

ISU is where plant scientist George Washington Carver, the institution's first African American student and faculty member, earned bachelor's and master's degrees. Faculty member John V. Atanasoff, "The Father of the Computer," was credited with building the world's first electronic digital computer. Alumnus Dr. Frederick Douglass Patterson, a Presidential Medal of Freedom honoree, became Tuskegee Institute's president, founding its vet med and engineering colleges, the aviation program that produced the Tuskegee Airmen, and the United Negro College Fund. Alumna Carrie Chapman Catt is recognized as one of the key leaders of the American women's suffrage movement, who led the effort to ratify the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution in 1920, guaranteeing women the right to vote. Alumnus Brock Purdy is the starting quarterback of the San Francisco 49ers. Alumna Beth Ford, president and CEO of Land O'Lakes, is one of Fortune's World's 50 Greatest Leaders and Most Powerful Women.

Today, the university is building on its land-grant foundation by helping more students than ever achieve success through education and by finding new ways to put knowledge to work to benefit people in Iowa and the world. More than 290,000 ISU alumni live in all 50 states and 166 countries, with more than 126,000 alumni living in Iowa.

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## THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA

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The University of Northern Iowa (UNI) is a comprehensive institution distinguished by its focus on undergraduate education. The university provides a high-quality educational experience, purposefully guiding students to find and develop their strengths and prepare them for success after college. Building on its historic excellence in teacher education, some of the university's academic areas experiencing the strongest influx of students have been in the School of Health and Human Sciences, which includes nursing and other health-related programs. UNI's applied engineering program has seen substantial interest from students. Other fields of study that have experienced recent enrollment growth include construction management, business, social work, kinesiology, political science, and elementary education.

With enrollment at more than 9,200 students representing 53 countries, 42 states, and all 99 Iowa counties, students at UNI get the best of both worlds — a large university environment with a small college atmosphere — where they can stand out and excel. UNI is nationally recognized for its low student indebtedness, high educational standards, as well as its ability to provide its students with a variety of opportunities to live and learn together. UNI boasts 160+ majors and minors that span disciplines from accounting to kinesiology to music. To make its high-quality educational opportunities even more accessible, UNI offers a variety of learning options, including on-campus, online via distance education, full-time or part-time, and thesis or non-thesis programs.

UNI continues to be a destination of choice for community college students seeking a four-year degree with 74.6 percent of new transfer students coming from one of Iowa's community colleges. Enrollment in UNI's partnership with Iowa community colleges has more than doubled over the past three years with 539 students enrolled in 2025.

The university also emphasizes faculty-led classes, with UNI offering the highest rate of credit hours taught by faculty members among public universities in the state. UNI is also uniquely affordable with nearly one in seven students graduating in three years. In fact, one-third of UNI students graduate debt free. Additionally, UNI's four-year graduation rate stands nearly 20 percentage points above similar universities.

*U.S. News & World Report* has recognized UNI as one of the "Top Public Universities in the Midwest" for the past 20 years. The institution was also named to the 2026 Best Colleges in America list published by the *Wall Street Journal*.

UNI is known for providing students with a high-quality education at an affordable price, while prioritizing the needs of Iowa's economy. UNI recently announced its Neighboring State Rate, a bold initiative allowing new undergraduate students from Iowa's neighboring states to receive in-state tuition, saving those students approximately \$12,000 a year. Not only does this initiative benefit students, it also benefits the Iowa workforce, as nearly 70 percent of UNI students take their first job in the state of Iowa after graduation.

UNI also consistently receives recognition for its achievement and commitment to community engagement. In *Washington Monthly's* 2025 College Rankings, UNI earned high marks for its strong community and public service. The magazine ranked UNI 17th in the nation for service among all colleges and universities. Among master's-level universities, UNI placed fourth in the nation for service and 25th overall. For six years and counting, the university has also been designated a Military Friendly School, this year earning both Gold Status and the Military Friendly Spouse School distinctions.

The university continues to strategically pursue its role as a leader in pre-K-12 education and education-related issues in Iowa and the nation. Well known for preparing teachers, UNI's student teaching network is a national model for the involvement of practitioners in teacher education programs and offers student teaching opportunities in Iowa and beyond.

UNI's outreach programs have provided solutions to environmental and economic/business development issues. Business and Community Services (BCS) outreach provides service in all 99 counties and has served over 4,600 business, community, and local government clients.

At UNI, students find academic excellence and a welcoming atmosphere. All students have the opportunity to find mentors, work one-on-one, and learn alongside caring faculty on challenging

research projects. UNI's ever-expanding campus resources and academic distinctions mean UNI graduates are well prepared for their next step, whether that is in a career or graduate school.

## STATE SCHOOLS

### IOWA EDUCATIONAL SERVICES FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED

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www.iesbvi.org*

The purpose of Iowa Educational Services for the Blind & Visually Impaired (IESBVI) is to enable Iowa's eligible children, aged 0-21 who are blind or visually impaired, to function as independently as possible in all aspects of life. Services also are provided to these students who have additional disabilities. Resources and services are provided statewide for schools and students.

Through an itinerant model, teachers of the visually impaired and orientation and mobility specialists provide classroom consultation or one-on-one student support throughout Iowa. This support enables students to access their educational environments and materials. Among the services are evaluation and consultation, access to technology, math, literacy, science, and transition experts and opportunities for addressing subjects within the Expanded Core Curriculum.

Components of the Expanded Core Curriculum include specialized instruction relating to compensatory skills, orientation and mobility, social interaction skills, independent living skills, recreation and leisure skills, career education, use of assistive technology, visual efficiency skills, and self-determination.

IESBVI offers after-school, weekend, and summer camp activities specifically designed to address the Expanded Core Curriculum components.

IESBVI is governed by the Department of Education and is funded through tax support. Services and programs of IESBVI are carried out through cooperative efforts with state agencies, area education agencies (AEAs), and local education agencies (LEAs).

The programs of IESBVI are consistent with the philosophy, reflected in federal and state legislation, that children and youth with disabilities will be educated together with nondisabled peers to the greatest extent possible, and that a continuum of services must be available to children with disabilities.

Additional resources for students include a campus-based transition program, low-vision clinics, instructional materials including Braille, and an assistive device evaluation and loan program.

In collaboration with AEAs, LEAs, the Iowa Department for the Blind, and other related service providers, IESBVI provides information and professional development for parents, teachers, paraprofessionals, related service providers, and other agency personnel to increase access to and improve the quality of education for all blind and visually impaired children.

### IOWA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

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www.iowaschoolforthe deaf.org*

Iowa School for the Deaf (ISD) is a special school serving eligible Iowa, Nebraska, and South Dakota students who are deaf or hard-of-hearing. The mission of ISD is to prepare deaf and hard-of-hearing students from preschool to age 21 for life as literate citizens who contribute to society. The school is governed by the Department of Education and is funded through tax support.

ISD began in 1855 and has been located in Council Bluffs since 1870. Its programs are designed to provide maximum educational benefit to students whose needs can be met most effectively in a specialized school setting. ISD provides instructional options for deaf or hard-of-hearing students. Under state and federal special education laws, families are not charged for school tuition, transportation, or boarding.

ISD students are provided a highly individualized, structured program emphasizing language development, which often is delayed as a result of hearing loss or deafness. Literacy, vocabulary concepts, and social skills often are delayed as well, and are areas addressed through specialized instruction by highly qualified teachers of the deaf.

ISD offers a robust outreach program for schools across Iowa where students who are deaf or hard-of-hearing attend. Interpreter evaluation and support, student language assessments, family and educator workshops, sign classes and more are available without charge. Outreach events are held statewide and at ISD for students, educators, and families to improve the quality of education and provide socialization opportunities for deaf and hard-of-hearing students.

Students who live less than an hour's commute to ISD can attend as day students. Homegoings occur every weekend. ISD's school year runs August through late spring, fulfilling the educational days/hours required by Iowa law.

To prepare students for adult life, ISD and vocational rehabilitation staff work collaboratively to ensure effective transition to adult life. A campus-based transition program offers students extra support as they pursue independent employment in the community, increase core academic and daily living skills, or take classes at local two-year colleges.

## COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Iowa's 15 community colleges are public, two-year postsecondary institutions offering comprehensive programs that include arts and sciences college parallel (transfer) courses, career and technical education (CTE) programs, training and retraining programs for Iowa's businesses and industries, and a variety of adult education and noncredit courses for personal enrichment and academic preparedness. Each college serves a multicounty merged area that may vary in size from 4 to 12 counties; all of Iowa's 99 counties are included in one of these merged areas.

Embedded in the workforce and economic development fabric of our state, these institutions have an open-door admission policy that guarantees Iowans an opportunity for educational assistance and career development regardless of previous educational attainment. To this end, the community colleges offer assistance in developing skills necessary for success in preparatory career and college parallel programs, supplementary services to disabled and disadvantaged students, and a variety of other support services designed to help students succeed. Iowa's community colleges also offer unique educational programs and opportunities such as programs for incarcerated individuals in correctional facilities; evaluation and assessment centers; developmental education programs and services for underprepared students; special programs for the disabled, including sheltered workshops; customized training programs for business and industry; incubation centers to assist the development of small businesses; and the administration of service delivery areas for the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.

Iowa's community colleges trace their roots back to the junior college movement in the early 1900's, and within the formation of area vocational-technical high schools funded in part through the National Defense Education Act (1958). The 61st General Assembly enacted legislation in 1965 that permitted the development of a statewide system of two-year postsecondary educational institutions, identified as "merged area schools." The legislation authorizing the new institutions provided for their fiscal support through a combination of student tuition and federal, state, and local funds. Individual colleges were granted authority to establish tuition rates, not to exceed the lowest tuition rate charged by any one of Iowa's three public universities.

The legislation approved in 1965 was enthusiastically received, with the first plan for a community college being submitted just one day after the new legislation was effective. The new institutions grew quickly, both in terms of students served and of services offered. The Iowa Industrial New Jobs Training Act (1983) added contracted customized job training to the list of services provided by community colleges. Other job training programs followed, further expanding the role of community colleges in the state's economic development.

In 1989, the 73rd General Assembly passed legislation requiring that secondary vocational programs be competency-based and articulated with postsecondary vocational education, resulting in a growth of programs that offered articulated college credit to high school students. Senior Year

Plus, which includes the Postsecondary Enrollment Options (PSEO) Act of 1989 and supplemental weighting, allows high school students to jointly enroll in college credit courses in significantly high numbers.

Iowa's community colleges are governed by locally elected boards of directors that consist of five to nine members, elected for terms of three years. The Iowa Department of Education provides guidance and oversight to the community colleges on state accreditation, program approval, data and financial reporting, workforce training and economic development, adult education and literacy, the GAP Tuition Assistance program, Senior Year Plus, the Statewide Intermediary Network, and the Pathways for Academic Career and Employment (PACE) program. The Iowa Community College Council, a six-member council established in 2011, assists the State Board of Education with substantial issues directly related to the community college system.

## **AREA I – NORTHEAST IOWA COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

*Dave Dahms, interim president; Calmar 52132; Peosta 52068; 844.642.2338;  
www.nicc.edu*

Northeast Iowa Community College (NICC) is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) and follows established criteria for accreditation in partnership with state and federal agencies. The college participates in a 10-year Standard Pathway cycle focused on quality assurance and continuous institutional improvement.

NICC serves a large region through multiple locations across northeast Iowa. In addition to its two main campuses in Calmar and Peosta, the college operates centers in Cresco, Dubuque, Manchester, and Waukon that offer educational and career development opportunities. NICC also maintains four specialized service locations and select partner sites, including high schools where students can complete 50 percent or more of a degree or certificate program.

The college offers a wide range of programs of study, including fully online options and more than 35 career pathway certificates — short-term, skills-focused credentials that lead directly to employment or help students transition into degree programs. From health care to advanced manufacturing, agriculture to information technology, NICC provides diverse and innovative programs that prepare graduates for rewarding, in-demand careers throughout northeast Iowa.

Signature programs include John Deere TECH, Gas Utility Construction and Service, Engineering Technology, Dairy Science Technology, Beef Science Technology, Veterinary Technician, Industrial Maintenance Technician, Nursing, and several specialized Information Technology programs.

Each year, NICC serves more than 5,700 students through its academic programs, including high school students enrolled in college and transfer-level coursework. With a 14:1 student-to-faculty ratio, the college fosters a supportive, personalized learning environment that helps every student succeed.

Workforce and skills training are central to NICC's mission and are led by the Business and Community Solutions division. This division designs and delivers responsive education and training programs for business and industry, employees, and community members. Services include adult literacy programming, continuing education, professional licensure, short-term certificate training, and customized business training offered on site or virtually.

The college's economic development, business training, and conference services strengthen local employers through workforce growth, employee development, and productivity improvement. These cost-effective and flexible training solutions are highly valued by business and industry partners throughout NICC's eight-county district.

## **AREA II – NORTH IOWA AREA COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

*Joel Pedersen, president; Mason City 50401; 641.423.1264;  
www.niacc.edu*

North Iowa Area Community College (NIACC) has served north Iowa for over a century. Founded in 1918 as Mason City Junior College — the first public two-year college in Iowa — it is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and operates on a 500-acre countryside campus featuring STEM and health labs, diesel and agriculture technology centers, athletic fields, and student housing.

NIACC offers more than 100 academic programs, including certificates, diplomas, and associate degrees in areas such as health, business, trades, agriculture, IT, and human services. Students can earn an Associate in Arts, Science, General Studies, or Applied Science, or pursue short-term training programs aligned with local workforce needs. The college maintains community education centers in Garner, Hampton, Lake Mills, and Osage, and opened the John V. Hanson Career Center in Forest City in 2021. A newly expanded NIACC Career Center in Charles City opened in May 2024, offering classroom and lab space for high school academics, adult education, and workforce training. NIACC supports both transfer-focused students and those entering the workforce directly through strong advising, flexible learning formats, and local employer partnerships. In fall 2024, the college recorded a credit student headcount of approximately 3,000, while the Continuing Education Division offers a broad range of noncredit classes and trainings for youth, adults, and professionals.

### **AREA III – IOWA LAKES COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

*Scott Stokes, president; Estherville 51334; 712.362.2604; 800.IA.LAKES;  
www.iowalakes.edu*

Iowa Lakes Community College serves students throughout a five-county region with campuses in Algona, Emmetsburg, Estherville, Spencer, and Spirit Lake.

With more than 60 nationally recognized degrees, diplomas, certifications, and preprofessional programs, students can start at Iowa Lakes and go anywhere. Graduates are well prepared to transfer to a four-year university or step directly into a high-demand career equipped with the skills, knowledge, and preparation to succeed. Flexible course delivery options, including face-to-face, virtual, and online, make learning accessible for all.

Beyond degree programs, Iowa Lakes also provides lifelong learning opportunities through continuing education, vocational and relicensure training, and personal development classes.

Accredited by the Higher Learning Commission, Iowa Lakes Community College was established on January 12, 1967, through the merger of Emmetsburg Junior College and Estherville Junior College.

### **AREA IV – NORTHWEST IOWA COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

*Dr. John Hartog, III, president; Sheldon 51201; 712.324.5061; 800.352.4907;  
www.nwicc.edu*

Northwest Iowa Community College (NCC) was founded on April 27, 1966, and it is fully accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. The Carnegie Classification for NCC is Professions-focused Associate's College — Higher Access, Higher Earnings.

NCC is located on a 269-acre campus west of Sheldon. The college serves approximately 2,900 unduplicated students annually in credit programs and more than 4,500 noncredit enrollees in workforce, career supplemental, preparatory continuing, and high school completion programs, including adult education, HSED, and high school diploma programs.

NCC offers more than 50 programs, including applied technology and arts and sciences transfer options. Graduates may earn associate of arts, associate of science, or associate of applied science degrees, diplomas, or certificates. The college offers four programs exclusive to Iowa: Powerline, Industrial Instrumentation and Control, Advanced Standing Electrical Technology, and Heavy Equipment and Maintenance.

Campus housing includes apartment-style and suite-style living. Wellness and recreation facilities are available to students, employees, and the community.

NCC competes in the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Region 11 and the Iowa Community College Athletic Conference (ICCAC) in co-ed sports shooting and men's and women's soccer, with women's volleyball and men's golf to begin in fall 2026.

The NCC Foundation awards more than 580 scholarships annually, totaling nearly \$600,000. Financial aid is available through scholarships, grants, loans, and work-study employment.

According to the 2024 Placement Report, NCC graduates reported a 96 percent placement rate, with an average annual salary of \$55,700. The college's Placement Office provides lifetime job placement assistance for alumni.

NCC has been recognized by the Aspen Institute as one of the top community colleges in the nation in every award cycle since the Prize's inception — eight consecutive times — and was named a Top 20 Finalist for the 2025 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence. The college is governed by a seven-member Board of Trustees and serves the counties of Lyon, O'Brien, Osceola, Sioux, and Cherokee.

## **AREA V – IOWA CENTRAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

*Jesse D. Ulrich, Ph.D., president; Fort Dodge 50501; 800.362.2793;  
515.576.7201;  
www.iowacentral.edu*

Iowa Central Community College was organized in 1966 when the former public junior colleges in Eagle Grove, Fort Dodge, and Webster City were merged. The college serves a nine-county area consisting of Buena Vista, Calhoun, Greene, Hamilton, Humboldt, Pocahontas, Sac, Webster, and Wright.

The college offers more than 99 academic programs, more than 30 athletic programs, and numerous performing arts programs. Iowa Central partners with high school districts within Area V to offer college credits as well. In addition to associate of arts and associate of science degrees, graduates can receive an associate of professional studies degree from one of the four career-option programs; an associate of applied arts degree; an associate of applied science degree from a program of two or more years in the applied sciences and technologies area; a diploma upon completion of an applied science and technology program of less than two years; and a certificate upon completion of certain programs of less than one year.

More than 6,000 students were enrolled in fall 2025, and those students were taking more than 50,000 credit hours of instruction. Iowa Central is accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges.

Iowa Central's Fort Dodge campus spans across a 114-acre site where approximately 1,200 students live in apartment-style residences. Additionally, Iowa Central has campuses in Storm Lake and Webster City, and Career Academies in Laurens, Eagle Grove, and Jefferson. Iowa Central also serves the Fort Dodge Correctional Facility and North Central Correctional Facility for High School Equivalency, Literacy, Life Skills, and Vocational programs. Iowa Central also provides credit courses through the Second Chance Pell program. Besides traditional academic offerings, Iowa Central provides services for local and area businesses through a variety of programs, career connections, and community education. The college is also home to the Iowa Central Testing Laboratory, which serves the fuel/biofuel industry. Clients include producers, marketers, laboratories, consultants, transportation organizations, research firms, and consumers. The lab is ISO-9001:2008 accredited and is the first laboratory in the nation to have achieved BQ-9000 Accreditation (for biodiesel).

## **AREA VI – IOWA VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT**

*Anne Howsare Boyens, Ph.D., president; Marshalltown 50158; 641.752.4643;  
www.iavalley.edu*

Iowa Valley Community College District (IVCCD) operates Marshalltown Community College (MCC), Ellsworth Community College (ECC) in Iowa Falls, Iowa Valley Business and Community Solutions (BCS), and Iowa Valley Grinnell (a satellite campus of MCC). IVCCD serves more than 97,500 residents who live within its geographic boundaries, as well as students who live outside the area but choose to enroll in its programs.

IVCCD is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission, the Iowa Department of Education, and the National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships; some individual degree programs are also accredited by agencies specific to those areas of study. MCC and ECC offer one-year certificate and diploma programs and two-year associate degree programs in a variety of college transfer, preprofessional, and technical career curricula. In addition, both colleges provide a wide

array of student activities and athletic programs. The adult education programs and services provided by BCS are numerous, and BCS' annual enrollment of about 28,000 is indicative of the scope and popularity of its offerings.

The IVCCD administrative office and the BCS Conference Center are located in Marshalltown on the campus shared with MCC. In addition, the Education & Training Center is located in downtown Marshalltown, and the Tama County Education Center is located in Tama. Because IVCCD is committed to meeting the needs of all communities within its geographic area, many programs and services are offered at other locations in cooperation with a variety of agencies and organizations.

IVCCD takes pride in the many partnerships it has established with area businesses, industries, and organizations. The partnership for which IVCCD is best known involves economic development efforts in support of area businesses and industries. IVCCD works with businesses and industries to secure Iowa Industrial New Jobs Training Agreements, which provide state funding for companies that are expanding and adding jobs to the local economy. It is a win-win situation for IVCCD (which also often provides the training necessary for new or retrained industrial employees), the businesses and industries that receive state support, and the communities in which the economic growth takes place.

## **AREA VII – HAWKEYE COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

*Dr. Todd Holcomb, president; Waterloo 50704; 319.296.2320;*

*www.hawkeyecollege.edu*

Hawkeye Community College was organized May 25, 1966, under the name Hawkeye Institute of Technology. In 1993, the institution became a comprehensive community college and was renamed Hawkeye Community College. The college offers more than 50 programs in applied science and technology, as well as arts and sciences transfer programs.

The main campus is located on the south edge of Waterloo, with three other Waterloo-based locations: the Automation and Robotics Center at TechWorks Campus, the Regional Transportation Training Center, and the Van G. Miller Adult Learning Center. Additional locations include the Western Outreach Center in rural Holland and the Cedar Falls Center in Cedar Falls.

Hawkeye's credit enrollment in fall 2025 was more than 5,000 students, with continuing education enrollment of nearly 9,000.

## **AREA IX – EASTERN IOWA COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

*Bryan Renfro, chancellor; Davenport 52801; 563.336.3300;*

*www.eicc.edu*

Eastern Iowa Community College (EICC) includes Clinton, Muscatine, and Scott Community Colleges and holds full 10-year accreditation from the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. EICC serves the area's 281,000 residents from campuses in Clinton, Muscatine, and Bettendorf, as well as 14 additional facilities including the West Davenport Center, Blong Technology Center, Urban Campus, Clinton Career Advancement Center, and other locations in DeWitt, Maquoketa, and Wilton.

EICC offers two-year associate in arts and associate in sciences college transfer programs and more than 60 certificate, diploma, and Associate in Applied Sciences career technology degree programs. Articulation agreements with area secondary schools and regional four-year colleges and universities provide students with many educational options.

College enrollment for the 2025 fiscal year was 11,468, which included 4,733 concurrent high school students. In addition, EICC provided workforce training, adult, and continuing education programs to 14,119 noncredit students.

EICC was organized on March 16, 1966, merging the former public junior colleges in Clinton and Muscatine and the vocational-technical programs sponsored by the Davenport Community School District. In 1979, the district acquired Palmer Junior College, making Scott Community College a comprehensive institution.

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## **AREA X – KIRKWOOD COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

*Dr. Kristie Fisher, president; Cedar Rapids 52404; 319.398.5411;  
www.kirkwood.edu*

Kirkwood Community College is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission. Since its founding in 1966, Kirkwood has provided a comprehensive range of programs within its Applied Science and Technology, Arts and Sciences, and Continuing Education divisions. The college offers more than 140 majors, degrees, certificates, and diplomas. In addition, the Continuing Education division offers extensive programming and contracted training services. Kirkwood regional and/or county centers are spread out across the college's seven-county service area. The regional centers house Kirkwood's Career Academies, allowing students to earn college credit while still in high school. Kirkwood graduates can receive an associate of arts, associate of science, or associate of applied science degree, depending on the program in which they are enrolled. The college enrolled 16,939 students for the 2023 – 2024 academic year. Kirkwood employs a full-time workforce of 818.

## **AREA XI – DES MOINES AREA COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

*Robert J. Denson, J.D., president and CEO; Ankeny 50023; 515.964.6200;  
www.dmacc.edu*

Founded March 18, 1966, Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC) serves metro Des Moines and a 6,500-square-mile district that includes all or portions of 22 surrounding counties. The college enrolls students from nearly every county in Iowa, an array of other states, and 37 countries.

DMACC has 13 locations across Iowa including Ankeny, Boone, Carroll, Templeton, Newton, West Des Moines, Perry, Ames, and five in Des Moines. These include Urban Des Moines, Southridge, Capitol Center, the Evelyn K. Davis Center for Working Families, and the DMACC Transportation Institute. DMACC offers traditional classroom and online instruction to communities across Iowa and worldwide.

DMACC provides a quality, affordable, student-centered education and training, designed to empower our diverse communities and to serve as a catalyst for economic development. The college offers a diverse set of courses at the lowest tuition in the state, and 26 fully accredited programs, more than any other community college in Iowa.

Students select from 10 major pathways that include more than 220 associate degrees, certificate and diploma programs, plus developmental courses in basic skills. Many DMACC students pursue a liberal arts transfer degree or are enrolled in preprofessional programs that range from pre-law to pre-medicine.

Others graduate job-ready, having earned credentials to fill in-demand jobs in agriculture, manufacturing, information technology, and more. Approximately 95 percent of DMACC grads are employed, continuing their education, or in military service, and 95 percent of graduates stay in Iowa.

More than 33,000 students per year enroll in credit classes, and when added to those enrolled in noncredit programs, DMACC serves more than 60,000 students each year. Some 17,000 students in 67 central Iowa high schools take college-credit classes through DMACC's Career Advantage Program.

The college's 1,800 full-time and part-time faculty and staff members are dedicated to providing an outstanding learning experience in an environment that empowers students to succeed. In addition, DMACC offers students a well-rounded selection of intercollegiate and intramural sports, clubs and social activities, and academic honors fraternities. As part of the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA), DMACC has 10 men's and women's sports teams.

The college offers DMACC-owned and privately-owned and operated student housing on or near the Boone, Ankeny, and Carroll campuses.

DMACC also serves regional businesses by providing up-to-date training for current and future employees. DMACC Business Resources (DBR) works extensively with business and industry to provide work-ready training to new or existing employees.

DMACC facilities include 62 buildings, providing 2.3 million square feet of space. Since 2015, the college has invested more than \$100 million on new and renovated facilities. Recent projects include the completion of the new Templeton Regional Center, the Carroll Campus expansion, and

construction of a new Dental Health and Industry and Trades Center on the DMACC Ankeny Campus as well as the new Legacy Plaza Greenspace next to the DMACC Newton Campus.

## **AREA XII – WESTERN IOWA TECH COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

*Terry Murrell, Ph.D., president; Sioux City 51106; 712.274.6400;  
www.witcc.edu*

Western Iowa Tech Community College (WITCC) is a publicly supported, comprehensive community college serving Cherokee, Crawford, Ida, Monona, Plymouth, and Woodbury counties, with a combined population of about 140,000. The college's mission is to elevate our diverse learners and strengthen our communities through inclusive and innovative education.

Accredited by the Higher Learning Commission, WITCC was organized on December 8, 1966, and offered its first classes on January 27, 1967. The college serves Merged Area XII from its main campus in Sioux City and satellite campuses in Cherokee and Denison. Learning centers in Le Mars and Mapleton also offer educational opportunities to area residents.

Western Iowa Tech offers more than 70 career and transfer education programs and a full range of community and continuing education courses. The WITCC Corporate College provides customized training and economic development services to the business community. Graduates earn associate of arts, associate of science, or associate of applied science degrees, diplomas, and certificates. Credit enrollment for the 2025 fall semester reached 5,331.

## **AREA XIII – IOWA WESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

*Dan Kinney, Ph.D., president; Council Bluffs 51503; 712.325.3201;  
www.iwcc.edu*

Iowa Western Community College, organized May 26, 1966, merged with the former public junior college at Clarinda on July 1, 1966, and is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission. The college offers more than 90 programs of study, including two-year college transfer programs and career programs ranging in length from one to four semesters. In addition, Iowa Western offers arts and sciences and career and technical programs for high school students. The college also offers part-time educational programs, credit or noncredit, for adults in its seven-county merged area.

Iowa Western's main campus is located in Council Bluffs with centers in Atlantic, Clarinda, Harlan, Missouri Valley, and Shenandoah.

Degrees granted include the associate of arts, associate of general studies, associate of applied science, and associate of science. A diploma or certificate is granted upon the completion of selected programs. Full- and part-time enrollment in 2022 – 2023 was 8,740. Adult and continuing education enrollments reached 5,864 during the same period. The college employs 379 full-time professional staff members.

## **AREA XIV – SOUTHWESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

*Lindsay Stoaks, president; Creston 50801; 641.782.7081;  
www.swcciaowa.edu*

Southwestern Community College (SWCC) began operation as part of Iowa's community college system on July 1, 1966. SWCC is a comprehensive two-year public institution approved by the Iowa Department of Education and fully accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and the Iowa Department of Education. The college offers the associate of arts degree, a general education degree intended for transfer; the associate of science degree, designed for students who plan to transfer into four-year programs of study in science or mathematics; the associate of applied science degree, a two-year career and technical education (CTE) degree; the associate of applied arts degree, a two-year CTE degree; the diploma, for one-year CTE programs; or the certificate, granted to students who complete specified courses in CTE program areas. Continuing education programs are held throughout the college's eight-county merged area by the business and community development

department. Enrollment in credit programs is approximately 1,600. The college is located on a 200-acre site in Creston, with additional locations including the Osceola Center, the Red Oak Center, and the ORBIT Center. The college offers online courses as well. Student housing is available on the Creston campus.

## **AREA XV – INDIAN HILLS COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

*Dr. Matt Thompson, president; Ottumwa 52501; 641.683.5111; 800.726.2585;  
www.indianhills.edu*

Indian Hills Community College offers a wide variety of academic programs and courses to meet the needs of area employers and enhance the job prospects of its students, the vast majority of whom stay in Iowa after graduation.

The college's main campus, in Ottumwa, has seen the addition of many new buildings and programs over the years. Recent renovations include a state-of-the-art simulation lab utilized by all 14 Health Sciences programs and a renovation to the performing arts area that is 60 years in the making.

A recent renovation to the Ottumwa North Campus included expanded space for the Welding Technology program and a new Diesel Technology Lab equipped with cutting-edge technology. The Criminal Justice Training Center opened in fall 2023 on the North Campus, and will be integral to the training of law enforcement personnel in southern Iowa.

The Indian Hills Centerville Campus has drastically changed since 2020 with the addition of a wrestling practice facility, an upgrade to the weight room and baseball clubhouse in the multi-purpose facility, and the construction of the Irma W. Winslow Education Center. The new 60,000-square-foot academic building replaces 13 modular buildings that have been on the campus since 1971.

For nearly 50 years, the Indian Hills Foundation has provided scholarships for students. Annually, the foundation awards nearly \$2 million in scholarships to more than 800 students. Since its inception in 1975, the foundation has awarded \$28.6 million in scholarships to more than 25,000 students.

A vital part of IHCC's history has been securing grants from both federal and state governments. In 2023, the college received a grant from the U.S. Economic Development Administration to equip the new academic building on the Centerville Campus. The latest grant, from the National Science Foundation, will be used to grow rural Iowa's cybersecurity workforce.

Indian Hills offers on-campus living and dining on both the Ottumwa and Centerville campuses. Students on both campuses can choose from one- and two-person traditional residence hall rooms or suites, and apartment-style rooms that accommodate up to five people.

IHCC has more than 40 student organizations and 18 intercollegiate athletic teams.

## **AREA XVI – SOUTHEASTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

*Dr. Michael Ash, president; West Burlington 52655; 319.208.5000;  
www.scciowa.edu*

Southeastern Community College (SCC), a comprehensive multi-campus institution, was founded in July 1966, with roots dating back to 1920, when Burlington Junior College opened its doors. On July 1, 1967, SCC merged with the former public junior colleges in Burlington and Keokuk. The college now has two major campuses located in West Burlington and Keokuk, as well as attendance centers in Fort Madison and Mount Pleasant. The college also serves inmates of the Iowa State Penitentiary, the John Bennett Correctional Center in Fort Madison, and the Medium Security Correctional Facility in Mount Pleasant. Curricular offerings are comprehensive in nature, with two-year, college-parallel programs being offered at both major campuses and the two open attendance sites. Approximately 40 vocational-technical preparatory programs and a wide variety of noncredit adult education courses are offered at various sites throughout the area. Graduates of the college receive either an associate of arts or associate of science degree upon completion of the college-parallel program, an associate of applied science degree upon completion of a technical program, or a diploma upon completion of a vocational program. Nontraditional students are served through an area-wide adult education program, as well as an independent learning center at both major campuses. The enrollment for 2020 in credit courses for both campuses was approximately

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2,300 full- and part-time students. In SCC's 100 years of existence as a secondary and postsecondary education provider, it has served nearly 100,000 students.

## PRIVATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

### **BRIAR CLIFF UNIVERSITY**

*Dr. Matthew J. Draud, president; Sioux City 51104; 712.279.5321;  
www.briarcliff.edu*

### **BUENA VISTA UNIVERSITY**

*Brian Lenzmeier, Ph.D., president; Storm Lake 50588;  
712.749.2400; 800.383.9600;  
www.bvu.edu*

### **CENTRAL COLLEGE**

*Dr. Mark L. Putnam, Ph.D., president; Pella 50219; 641.628.9000;  
www.central.edu*

### **CLARKE UNIVERSITY**

*Fletcher Lamkin, Ph.D., president; Dubuque 52001; 563.588.6300;  
www.clarke.edu*

### **COE COLLEGE**

*David T. Hayes, J.D., LL.M., president; Cedar Rapids 52402; 319.399.8000;  
www.coe.edu*

### **CORNELL COLLEGE**

*Jonathan M. Brand, president; Mount Vernon 52314; 319.895.4000;  
www.cornellcollege.edu*

### **DES MOINES UNIVERSITY**

*Angela L. Walker Franklin, Ph.D., president and CEO; West Des Moines 50266;  
515.271.1400;  
www.dmu.edu*

### **DIVINE WORD COLLEGE**

*Thomas Ascheman, president; Epworth 52405; 563.876.3353;  
www.dwci.edu*

### **DORDT UNIVERSITY**

*Erik Hoekstra, president; Sioux Center 51250; 712.722.6000;  
www.dordt.edu*

### **DRAKE UNIVERSITY**

*Earl F. Martin, president; Des Moines 50311; 515.271.2011; 800.44D.RAKE;  
www.drake.edu*

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**FAITH BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE AND THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**

*Jim Tillotson, president; Ankeny 50023; 515.964.0601;  
www.faith.edu*

**GRACELAND UNIVERSITY**

*Joel D. Shrock, Ph.D., president; Lamoni 50140; 641.784.5000;  
www.graceland.edu*

**GRAND VIEW UNIVERSITY**

*Rachelle Keck, Ph.D., J.D., president; Des Moines 50316; 515.263.2800;  
www.grandview.edu*

**GRINNELL COLLEGE**

*Anne F. Harris, Ph.D., president; Grinnell 50112; 641.269.4000;  
www.grinnell.edu*

**LORAS COLLEGE**

*Mike Doyle, J.D., president; Dubuque 52001; 563.588.7100; 800.245.6727;  
www.loras.edu*

**LUTHER COLLEGE**

*Brad Chamberlain, Ph.D., president; Decorah 52101; 563.387.2000;  
www.luther.edu*

**MAHARISHI INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY**

*Tony Nader, M.D., Ph.D., president; Fairfield 52557; 641.472.7000;  
www.miu.edu*

**MERCY COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES**

*Dr. Adreain Henry, president; Des Moines 50309; 515.643.3180;  
www.mchs.edu*

**MORNINGSIDE UNIVERSITY**

*Chad Benson, interim president; Sioux City 51106; 712.274.5000;  
www.morningside.edu*

**MOUNT MERCY UNIVERSITY**

*Todd A. Olson, Ph.D., president; Cedar Rapids 52402; 319.363.8213;  
www.mtmercy.edu*

**NORTHWESTERN COLLEGE**

*Greg Christy, president; Orange City 51041; 712.707.7000; 800.747.4757;  
www.nwciowa.edu*

**PALMER COLLEGE OF CHIROPRACTIC**

*Dennis Marchiori, D.C., Ph.D., chancellor and CEO; Davenport 52803;  
800.722.3648;  
www.palmer.edu*

**SIMPSON COLLEGE**

*Dr. Susan B. Stuebner, interim president; Indianola 50125; 515.961.1611;  
www.simpson.edu*

**ST. AMBROSE UNIVERSITY**

*Amy C. Novak, Ed.D., president; Davenport 52803; 563.333.6000;  
www.sau.edu*

**UNIVERSITY OF DUBUQUE**

*Travis L. Frampton, Ph.D., president; Dubuque 52001; 563.589.3000;  
www.dbq.edu*

**UPPER IOWA UNIVERSITY**

*Kathy Franken, president and CFO; Fayette 52142; 800.553.4150;  
www.uiu.edu*

**WALDORF UNIVERSITY**

*Robert A. Alsop, Ph.D., president; Forest City 50436;  
641.585.8112; 800.292.1903;  
www.waldorf.edu*

**WARTBURG COLLEGE**

*Rebecca Ehretzman, Ph.D., president; Waverly 50677; 800.772.2085;  
www.wartburg.edu*

**WARTBURG THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**

*Rev. Dr. Kristin Johnston Largen, president; Dubuque 52003; 563.589.0200;  
www.wartburgseminary.edu*

**WILLIAM PENN UNIVERSITY**

*John Ottosson, president; Oskaloosa 52577; 800.779.7366;  
www.wmpenn.edu*

## AREA EDUCATION AGENCIES

Iowa's area education agencies (AEAs) are regional service agencies that work in partnership with public and accredited nonpublic schools to provide educational services, programs, and resources for improving the learning outcomes and well-being of all children and youth in Iowa. AEA staff members serve children from birth to age 21, families, educators, and communities.

As intermediate agencies, Iowa's nine AEAs offer the kinds of services that can be most efficiently and economically provided on a regional or cooperative basis among school districts. The Iowa system is widely regarded as one of the foremost regional service systems in the country.

AEA programs and services fall into nine areas that are defined by state AEA accreditation standards:

- School-Community Planning
- Professional Development
- Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment
- Diverse Learning Needs
- Multicultural, Gender-Fair
- Media Services
- School Technology
- Leadership
- Management

Each AEA is governed by a locally-elected board of directors of nine members, responsible for ensuring each AEA operates in the best interests of students and in accordance with state law.

### CENTRAL RIVERS AREA EDUCATION AGENCY

*Administrative Center, Cedar Falls; 319.273.8200;  
www.centralriversaea.org*

Counties: Black Hawk, Bremer, Buchanan, Butler, Cerro Gordo, Chickasaw, Floyd, Franklin, Grundy, Hancock, Hardin, Marshall, Mitchell, Poweshiek, Tama, Winnebago, Worth, and Wright. Board president, Debra Rich; administrator, Stan Rheingans. Assessed valuation: \$27,163,393,015 for 2025 – 2026. Population of area education agency:\* 409,846. Size of area education agency: 8,855 square miles. Size of area education agency board: 9. Number of local districts: 53. School enrollment:\*\* public — 60,258, nonpublic — 3,878.

### GRANT WOOD AREA EDUCATION AGENCY

*Administrative Center, Cedar Rapids; 319.399.6700;  
www.gwaea.org*

Counties: Benton, Cedar, Iowa, Johnson, Jones, Linn, and Washington. Board president, Randy Bauer; administrator, Susie Meade. Assessed valuation: \$31,235,392,955 for 2025 – 2026. Population of area education agency:\* 483,963. Size of area education agency: 4,323 square miles. Size of area education agency board: 9. Number of local districts: 32. School enrollment:\*\* public — 68,981, nonpublic — 5,294.

\* Population figures are based on 2020 federal Decennial Census.

\*\* School enrollment figures are rounded and based on 2025 – 2026 certified enrollment data from the Iowa Department of Education. Public enrollment may include some shared-time nonpublic enrollment.

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## **GREAT PRAIRIE AREA EDUCATION AGENCY**

*Administrative Centers: Burlington — 319.753.6561;*

*Ottumwa — 641.682.8591;*

*www.gpaea.org*

Counties: Appanoose, Davis, Des Moines, Henry, Jefferson, Keokuk, Lee, Louisa, Lucas, Mahaska, Monroe, Van Buren, Wapello, and Wayne. Board president, Joy Prothero; administrator, Nathan Wood. Assessed valuation: \$12,674,009,578 for 2025 – 2026. Population of area education agency:\* 230,568. Size of area education agency: 6,420 square miles. Size of area education agency board: 9. Number of local districts: 32. School enrollment:\*\* public — 33,108, nonpublic — 1,470.

## **GREEN HILLS AREA EDUCATION AGENCY**

*Administrative Center, Council Bluffs; 712.366.0503;*

*www.ghaea.org*

Counties: Adair, Adams, Cass, Clarke, Decatur, Fremont, Harrison, Mills, Montgomery, Page, Pottawattamie, Ringgold, Shelby, Taylor, and Union. Board president, Connie Maxon; administrator, Jason Plourde. Assessed valuation: \$17,983,043,362 for 2025 – 2026. Population of area education agency:\* 233,727. Size of area education agency: 8,443 square miles. Size of area education agency board: 9. Number of local districts: 43. School enrollment:\*\* public — 36,066, nonpublic — 1,226.

## **HEARTLAND AREA EDUCATION AGENCY**

*Administrative Center, Johnston; 515.270.9030;*

*www.heartlandaea.org*

Counties: Audubon, Boone, Carroll, Dallas, Guthrie, Jasper, Madison, Marion, Polk, Story, and Warren. Board president, Elizabeth Brennan; administrator, Cindy Yelick. Assessed valuation: \$62,655,842,430 for 2025 – 2026. Population of area education agency:\* 894,633. Size of area education agency: 6,455 square miles. Size of area education agency board: 9. Number of local districts: 53. School enrollment:\*\* public — 142,403, nonpublic — 11,598.

## **KEYSTONE AREA EDUCATION AGENCY**

*Administrative Center, Elkader; 563.245.1480;*

*www.keystoneaea.org*

Counties: Allamakee, Chickasaw, Clayton, Delaware, Dubuque, Fayette, Howard, and Winneshiek. Board president, Sue Updegraff; administrator, Stan Rheingans. Assessed valuation: \$14,131,133,089 for 2025 – 2026. Population of area education agency:\* 208,568. Size of area education agency: 5,054 square miles. Size of area education agency board: 9. Number of local districts: 21. School enrollment:\*\* public — 27,490, nonpublic — 4,016.

## **MISSISSIPPI BEND AREA EDUCATION AGENCY**

*Administrative Center, Bettendorf; 563.359.1371;*

*www.mbaea.org*

Counties: Cedar, Clinton, Jackson, Louisa, Muscatine, and Scott. Board president, Karen Vickers; administrator, Shane Williams. Assessed valuation: \$18,166,122,562 for 2025 – 2026. Population of area education agency:\* 291,574. Size of area education agency: 2,462 square miles. Size of area education agency board: 9. Number of local districts: 21. School enrollment:\*\* public — 43,736, nonpublic — 3,794.

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\* Population figures are based on 2020 federal Decennial Census.

\*\* School enrollment figures are rounded and based on 2025 – 2026 certified enrollment data from the Iowa Department of Education. Public enrollment may include some shared-time nonpublic enrollment.

**NORTHWEST AREA EDUCATION AGENCY***Administrative Center, Sioux City; 712.222.6000;**www.nwaea.org*

Counties: Cherokee, Crawford, Ida, Lyon, Monona, O'Brien, Osceola, Plymouth, Sioux, and Woodbury. Board president, Roger Brinkert; administrator, Seth Piro. Assessed valuation: \$18,030,396,024 for 2025 – 2026. Population of area education agency:\* 241,168. Size of area education agency: 6,201 square miles. Size of area education agency board: 9. Number of local districts: 34. School enrollment:\*\* public — 39,081, nonpublic — 5,777.

**PRAIRIE LAKES AREA EDUCATION AGENCY***Administrative Center, Pocahontas; 712.335.3588;**www.plaea.org*

Counties: Buena Vista, Calhoun, Clay, Dickinson, Emmet, Greene, Hamilton, Humboldt, Kossuth, Palo Alto, Pocahontas, Sac, Webster, and Wright. Board president, Todd Lundgren; administrator, Dan Mart. Assessed valuation: \$19,855,615,315 for 2025 – 2026. Population of area education agency:\* 196,322. Size of area education agency: 8,075 square miles. Size of area education agency board: 7. Number of local districts: 36. School enrollment:\*\* public — 29,544, nonpublic — 2,303.

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\* Population figures are based on 2020 federal Decennial Census.

\*\* School enrollment figures are rounded and based on 2025 – 2026 certified enrollment data from the Iowa Department of Education. Public enrollment may include some shared-time nonpublic enrollment.