



University of Northern Iowa

TUITION DIFFERENTIATION \$2.5M

UNI is committed to access, quality and affordability for lowans, and requests incremental funding of \$2.5 million to support our efforts to differentiate UNI tuition from that of research intensive universities. State investment is critical to keeping a four-year degree within reach for lowans.

As Iowa's only public comprehensive university, UNI focuses on providing accessible and affordable high-quality educational experiences. Ninety-one percent of UNI undergraduates come from Iowa, representing all 99 counties. Over 30% of UNI undergraduates receive the federal Pell Grant. 86% of our graduates from Iowa and 40% of the graduates from the states contiguous to Iowa stay in the state after graduation, supporting Iowa's workforce. We are 20 percentage points above the average four-year graduation rate of similar universities. Breaking away from national trends in student borrowing, the University of Northern Iowa has seen student indebtedness remain well below state and national averages.

WORKFORCE RECRUITMENT \$3M

Iowa has more job openings than people to fill them, and the state's slow population growth is not keeping pace with retirements. Our state's main economic growth challenge is our population; we must attract people from other states. As an access institution of higher education with a proven track record of keeping graduates in the state, UNI is uniquely positioned to play a critical role in attracting talent from other states and boosting Iowa's economic growth.

UNI is requesting \$3 million in FY 2026 state appropriations that would allow UNI to offer students from states contiguous to Iowa the same rate of tuition and mandatory fees that are charged to resident students. 40% of UNI graduates from the states contiguous to Iowa stay in the state after graduation, joining Iowa's workforce and adding value to Iowa's economic development. Not only will this funding open access to our programs for students from the states contiguous to Iowa, it will also increase enrollment of undergraduates ready to join the Iowa workforce upon graduation.



UNI@IACC \$1.63M

With support of federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) scale-up funds allocated through the Governor's office in 2022, UNI launched a highly successful UNI@IACC partnership with Iowa community colleges. The initiative creates an affordable way for students completing their associate's degree to finish their bachelor's degree through UNI, opening a path to those who may not otherwise have access due to job, location, or life commitments, but who need the degree to succeed and advance in Iowa's high-demand workforce. Over the last two years, the program has nearly doubled in size.

Initial ARP funding was used to establish Future Ready Scholarships for eligible UNI@IACC students, covering the difference between community college tuition and the UNI tuition. To qualify for the scholarship, students must demonstrate financial need, be enrolled in one of UNI's 12 online/distance bachelor's degree completion programs, reside in Iowa, and have attended an Iowa community college. Due to strong growth in the program and the number of students eligible for the scholarship (approximately half of all UNI@IACC students), we project that we will exhaust these funds by the end of 2025.

UNI is requesting \$1.63 million in FY 2026 state appropriations to continue providing access to four year education and support Iowa's workforce through Future Ready Scholarships.

CENTER FOR CIVIC EDUCATION \$1M

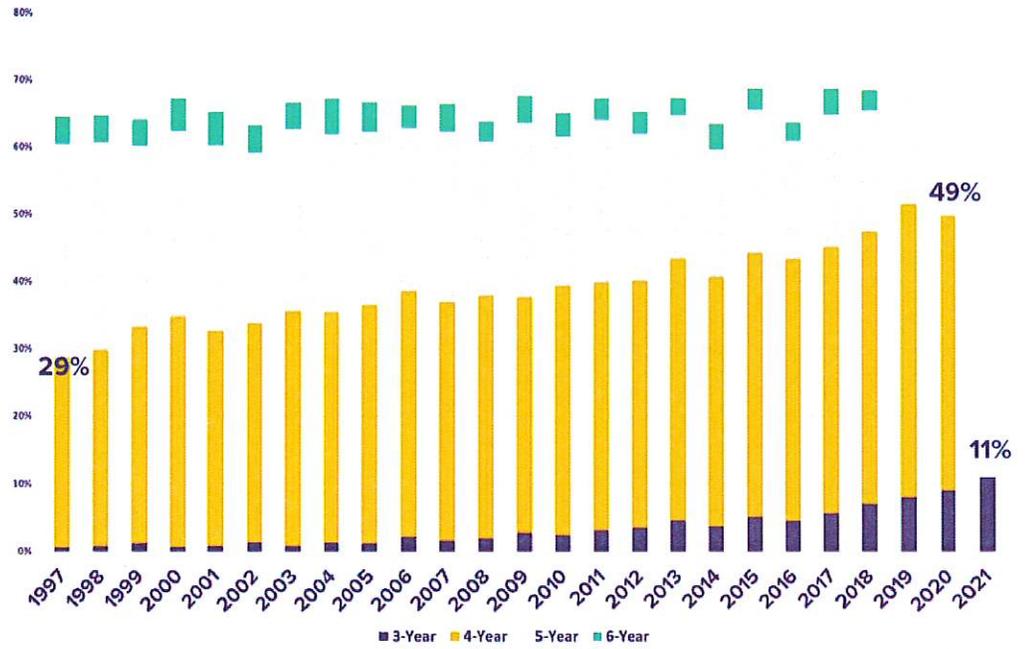
The Center for Civic Education will serve as a nationally recognized leader in research, teaching, and public outreach in free speech and civic education. It is established in response to directive 9 by the Board of Regents "to explore a proposal, including cost, to establish a widespread initiative that includes opportunities for education and research on free speech and civic education."

The Center will enhance civic education among university students, pre-K-12 students and teachers, and the broader public by developing and implementing effective civic learning strategies, encouraging respectful dialogue across differences, and offering educational resources on free speech and civic knowledge. It will serve the state of Iowa by centering civic education and free speech in its activities, and will promote the values of free speech, civic leadership, public service, and citizenship.

UNI is requesting \$1 million in FY 2026 state appropriations to launch the Center.



Undergraduate Graduation Rates



Key Points

UNI is 20 percentage points above the average four-year graduation rate of similar universities.

UNI has steadily decreased time to degree over the past 20 years

1 in 9 UNI students graduate in 3 years or less

Over 30% of UNI undergraduates receive the federal Pell grant

Undergraduate Student Debt



Breaking away from national trends in student borrowing, the University of Northern Iowa has seen its average student loan indebtedness decrease by 8% since 2011. UNI is \$5,000 below the national average on student debt.



86% of UNI graduates from Iowa **stay in the state**



88% of UNI transfer student graduates **stay in Iowa** to live and work after degree completion



43% of UNI graduates from **outside of Iowa** **stay in the state**