



**IowaCollegeAid.gov**  
Your Financial Aid Connection

## NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Iowa College Aid's Guide Helps Students Plan Their Course to College** *Fast Facts and Tips to Help Make College Planning Easy*

**Des Moines, IA., August 27, 2012** – With the new school year underway, the Iowa College Student Aid Commission (Iowa College Aid) has released its free, comprehensive college planning guide, *Your Course to College*, for the 2012-2013 academic year. The newest edition of *Your Course to College* is full of information to help students navigate the college admissions and financial aid processes, and prepare for life after high school.

“It is extremely important for Iowa families to have a neutral and reliable resource to guide them through the college planning and financial aid process,” stated Karen Misjak, executive director of Iowa College Aid. “*Your Course to College* is full of everything that students and families need to know about the college financial aid process, federal and state financial aid programs, colleges and universities in Iowa, selecting a major and future career, as well as tips to help make the transition to college easier.”

*Your Course to College* covers a wide range of topics including:

- High school junior and senior year checklists
- Selecting a major
- Types of degrees and training opportunities
- Choosing a college
- Top must-have items for college
- Getting involved on campus
- Preparing for the ACT and SAT with free test prep
- Filing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
- Scholarships and grants
- Student loans
- Money management and borrowing wisely
- Understanding a Student Aid Report (SAR)

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- Reviewing financial aid offers
- Federal and state loan forgiveness programs
- Tips for transfer students
- Services for students with disabilities
- Directory of Iowa colleges and universities

One of the most popular features of *Your Course to College* is the directory of Iowa colleges and universities. “The directory of Iowa colleges and universities is very popular with students, parents and educators,” explained Misjak. “*Your Course to College* profiles colleges and universities in Iowa, providing information such as admission requirements, costs (including tuition, fees, room and board and estimated books and supplies), priority deadlines for filing for financial aid, and types of degree programs offered for each Iowa college or university. Many colleges and universities provided a QR code with their profile information. Students and parents can simply scan each QR code with a camera-enabled Smartphone for immediate access to college-specific information.”

Iowa College Aid is pleased to provide free resources to help Iowa students and families plan, prepare and pay for college. *Your Course to College*, as well as other college planning and financial aid publications, can be ordered for free from Iowa College Aid’s website, [www.IowaCollegeAid.gov](http://www.IowaCollegeAid.gov). For more information about resources available to help families plan, prepare and pay for college, please contact Iowa College Aid at 877-272-4456.

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***About the Iowa College Student Aid Commission*** *Iowa College Aid provides college access, financial literacy, and outreach services to Iowa’s students and families as they prepare, plan and pay for college. Iowa College Aid also administers state scholarship, grant, work study, and loan forgiveness programs totaling nearly \$60.0 million annually, administers the Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP) program, provides borrowers with assistance to avoid the serious consequences of default, conducts research and distributes higher education data, and offers Iowans assistance in obtaining student financial aid and college-related information. Through its role, Iowa College Aid also serves as the state-designated administrator of the U.S. Department of Education’s College Access Challenge Grant, which is designed to increase the college-going culture in Iowa. Additionally, Iowa College Aid is the administrator of the Federal GEAR UP Grant, a multi-year state-wide grant which is being used to provide early awareness programming and outreach initiatives to thousands of Iowa’s students and families. More information is available at [www.IowaCollegeAid.gov](http://www.IowaCollegeAid.gov).*