



IowaCollegeAid.gov

NEWS RELEASE

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Iowa College Aid's Guide Helps Students Plan Their Course to College *Your Course to College helps make college planning easy*

Des Moines, IA., September 11, 2013 – The Iowa College Student Aid Commission (Iowa College Aid) announced today the availability of its premiere college planning guide, *Your Course to College*, for the 2013-14 school year. This free resource is full of information to help students as they prepare for college and future careers after high school. A favorite among Iowa high school counselors and college coordinators, the guide covers everything to help make the transition to college easier.

“There are many resources available to assist students in planning for college. The *Your Course to College* guide is my favorite,” said Tom Shively, career/college coordinator at Dowling Catholic High School in West Des Moines, Iowa. “It has in-depth information on every postsecondary educational institution in Iowa as well as a section on college majors offered at the schools. With helpful college planning tips and a comprehensive section on paying for college, the guide provides students and parents with essential information in a condensed, creatively designed format that is easy and fun to read.”

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

- Selecting a major and choosing a college
- Types of degrees and training opportunities
- Earning a National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC)
- Preparing for the ACT and SAT
- Ways to save on college costs
- Filing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
- Scholarships, grants and student loans
- Understanding a Student Aid Report (SAR) and reviewing financial aid offers
- Services for students with disabilities
- Getting involved on campus
- Profiles of Iowa's colleges and universities

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One of the most unique aspects 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 Karen Misjak, executive director of Iowa College Aid. “*Your Course to College* profiles colleges and universities in Iowa. You will find 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 institution. This year many colleges and universities provided a QR code to be included 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. For more information about free college and career planning resources, 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 over \$68.0 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 utilized to provide early awareness programming and outreach initiatives to thousands of Iowa’s students and families. More information is available at www.IowaCollegeAid.gov.