



4 reasons to go to college

Opportunity

Most of Iowa's fastest-growing and highest-paying jobs require education beyond high school.

Options

A college education increases your ability to solve problems, think critically, communicate clearly and manage multiple projects. These are all skills that employers value.

Income

The average lifetime earnings of a person with a four-year degree are 84 percent higher than the lifetime earnings of a person with only a high school diploma.

Security

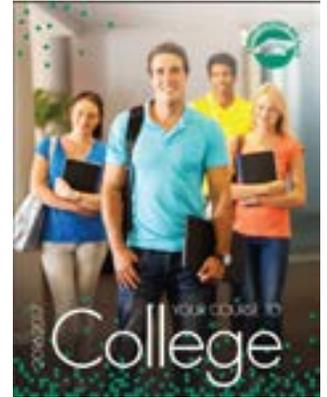
College graduates are more likely to have full-time jobs and are significantly less likely to be unemployed.

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Applying for College and Financial Aid

Getting to college: Everything you need to know

From how to choose a college to what you absolutely need in your dorm room, "Your Course to College" is a complete guide to making the transition from high school to higher education. This free publication from Iowa College Aid walks students and families through the process with information about types of schools and degrees, tips for applying for admission and financial aid, and honest advice from actual students. "Your Course to College" is available in English or Spanish, in print or as a digital download. [Order a free copy.](#)



FAFSA: What it is and why it's important

If you haven't learned this word yet, it's time: FAFSA. That's the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, and it's the gateway to the grants, scholarships and other financial aid you might receive for college. The window to file a FAFSA for the 2017-18 academic year opens October 1, and you can use your 2015 tax information (that's a change from previous years). Find the [FAFSA application](#), and find Iowa College Aid's [FAFSA Countdown](#).

What exactly is college, anyway?

College doesn't always involve a two-year or four-year degree. Depending on your career aspirations, "college" might mean a certificate, apprenticeship or professional credential. Any education or training you undertake after high school counts as college, and it will increase your chances for employment and earning potential. Learn more about the many options for college in [this video](#).