



NEWS RELEASE

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Iowa College Aid's Guide Helps Students Plan Their Course to College *Your Course to College simplifies the college planning process*

Des Moines, IA., September 16, 2014 – 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 2014-15 school year. This free resource, which can be ordered at IowaCollegeAid.gov, 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.

“Our school integrates the *Your Course to College* guide into our curriculum every year,” said Stephanie Paulsen, school counselor at West Liberty High School. “This college planning resource provides details on everything from the application process to financial planning and how to make the most of the overall college experience. The visual format is appealing to students and gives them the opportunity to explore information from every postsecondary institution in Iowa.”

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

- Selecting a major and choosing a college
- Types of degrees and training opportunities
- Preparing for the ACT and SAT
- Ways to save on college costs
- Tips for completing college admissions applications
- 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

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- Services for students with disabilities
- Getting involved on campus
- Study abroad tips
- Profiles of Iowa's colleges and universities

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 one of the most popular sections of this college planning resource,” explained Karen Misjak, executive director of Iowa College Aid. “*Your Course to College* features profiles of colleges and universities in Iowa with 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. Many colleges also include QR codes in their profiles so that students and their families can easily access more information.”

Iowa College Aid provides 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 \$64.0 million annually, conducts research and distributes higher education data, and offers Iowans assistance in obtaining student financial aid and college-related information. 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.