



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, October 7, 2015 – 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 2015-16 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 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 utilizes the *Your Course to College* guide extensively with our seniors every year,” said Meri Edel, school counselor at Marshalltown High School. “This college-planning guide is an excellent resource for them to get a comprehensive look at colleges in Iowa, learn more about financial aid and set the wheels in motion for the college-planning process!”

This year's guide contains new content based on suggestions from school counselors. Iowa high school counselors were surveyed last year to determine topics where students lacked knowledge and understanding. Based on those findings, the following new content was added:

- Recommended college prep courses
- The college admissions process, including factors in the admissions decision
- Career outlook
- Finding the right fit
- Choosing a major
- A breakdown of college costs
- Successfully transitioning from high school to college

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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 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.”

Iowa College Aid provides free resources to help make college possible for students and families. *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 \$70.0 million annually, 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.