



# Helpful Websites

## A Guide for Students and Parents

### Planning Resources

Iowa College Aid

[www.IowaCollegeAid.gov](http://www.IowaCollegeAid.gov)

The state of Iowa resource for planning, preparing and paying for college.

College Savings Iowa

<https://collegesavingsiowa.com>

The state of Iowa's 529 plan helps parents, grandparents, family and friends save for college.

Upromise

[www.upromise.com/iowa](http://www.upromise.com/iowa)

A rewards program that turns everyday spending into college savings.

Savings Bond Calculator

[www.treasurydirect.gov/indiv/tools/tools\\_savingsbondcalc.htm](http://www.treasurydirect.gov/indiv/tools/tools_savingsbondcalc.htm)

Calculate the current value of savings bonds.

Iowa College Access Network (ICAN)

[www.icansucceed.org](http://www.icansucceed.org)

ICAN provides free information about college planning and financial aid.

Going2College

[www.going2college.org](http://www.going2college.org)

A source for connecting students to resources in Iowa to help plan and prepare for college.

KnowHow2Go

<http://knowhow2go.acenet.edu/>

This site breaks the college planning process into four simple, easy to follow steps.

Mapping Your Future

<http://mappingyourfuture.org>

Information on college and career planning.

I Have A Plan Iowa®

[www.IHaveAPlanIowa.gov](http://www.IHaveAPlanIowa.gov)

Access career and education information, prepare for the ACT, SAT and GRE college entrance exams, and free scholarship search.

College Greenlight

[www.collegegreenlight.com/](http://www.collegegreenlight.com/)

This sites assists underrepresented and first generation students in finding the right college fit and locating local and national scholarships.

### Scholarship Sources

Cappex

<http://www.cappex.com/scholarships/>

Free search featuring scholarships from colleges, private companies and foundations.

FastWeb

[www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)

A free service which matches students to scholarships, internships, grants and loans.

XAP

[www.xap.com](http://www.xap.com)

XAP offers a scholarship search and other tools to plan, explore, apply and pay for college.

Dollars For Scholars

<https://scholarshipamerica.org>

A community-based fund-raising effort that awards scholarships to local students.

College Board/Pay for College

<http://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college>

This site offers a scholarship search as well as college planning and SAT information.

United Negro College Fund (UNCF)

<https://scholarships.uncf.org/>

UNCF raises funds to distribute scholarships and fellowships to minorities attending college.

Hispanic College Fund

<http://hsf.net>

HSF provides the Latino community with scholarship and educational support.

My College Dollars

[www.mycollegedollars.com](http://www.mycollegedollars.com)

A Facebook app that guides students through the scholarship application process.

Career One Stop

[www.careerinfonet.org/scholarshipsearch](http://www.careerinfonet.org/scholarshipsearch)

Features over 7,000 scholarship, fellowship loan and financial aid opportunities.

International Financial Aid & Scholarship Search

[www.iefaf.org](http://www.iefaf.org)

A resource for financial aid, college scholarships and grant information for U.S. and international students wishing to study abroad.

Proteus

[www.proteusinc.net](http://www.proteusinc.net)

Proteus offers programs for low-income individuals, primarily farm workers, seeking permanent, self-supporting occupations.

430 East Grand Ave., FL 3

Des Moines, IA 50309-1920

Phone: 877-272-4456 or 515-725-3400

Fax: 515-725-3401

Email: [info@iowacollegeaid.gov](mailto:info@iowacollegeaid.gov)

[www.IowaCollegeAid.gov](http://www.IowaCollegeAid.gov)

## U.S. Department of Education

FAFSA4Caster

[www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov)

Use the FAFSA4caster to receive an early estimate of the financial aid you may be eligible to receive.

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

[www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov)

Complete a FAFSA to be considered for state and federal grants and other types of financial aid.

Federal Student Aid PIN Web Site

[www.pin.ed.gov](http://www.pin.ed.gov)

Apply for your PIN (Personal Identification Number) to electronically sign your FAFSA on the Web and access loan information.

National Student Loan Data System

[www.nsls.ed.gov](http://www.nsls.ed.gov)

Access information about loan amounts, outstanding loan balances, statuses and disbursements. A Federal Student Aid PIN is required to access the information.

Federal Student Aid

[www.studentaid.ed.gov](http://www.studentaid.ed.gov)

Information about federal aid programs and tips on how to plan and pay for college. The site also includes a scholarship search and a student portal. Create your own personal portfolio to save scholarship information, apply to colleges online, transfer your profile to FAFSA on the Web and more.

National Center for Educational Statistics

<http://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator>

Lists the average financial aid award at each school, how many students receive aid and various other statistics.

Publications for Parents

<http://www2.ed.gov/parents/academic/help/tools-for-success/index.html>

Publications for parents to help children plan, prepare and succeed in education.

## Tax Benefits

IRS Tax Information for Students

[www.irs.gov/individuals/students](http://www.irs.gov/individuals/students)

IRS Publication 970: Tax Benefits of Higher Education

[www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p970.pdf](http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p970.pdf)

## Money Management

360 Degrees of Financial Literacy

[www.360financialliteracy.org](http://www.360financialliteracy.org)

Provides information for managing personal finances.

MyMoney.gov

[www.mymoney.gov](http://www.mymoney.gov)

A source for financial education basics.

Hands On Banking

[www.handsonbanking.org](http://www.handsonbanking.org)

Learn about money skills for life.

Free Credit Report

[www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com)

Obtain a free credit report.

Feed the Pig

[www.feedthepig.org](http://www.feedthepig.org)

Take control of your personal finances.

Practical Money Skills

[www.practicalmoneyskills.com](http://www.practicalmoneyskills.com)

Helps consumers and students of all ages learn the essentials of personal finance.

## Other Resources

Iowa Association of Community Colleges Trustees

[www.IACCT.com](http://www.IACCT.com)

Iowa Association of Independent Colleges & Universities

[www.thinkindependently.com](http://www.thinkindependently.com)

National Student Loan Data Center

[https://www.nsls.ed.gov/nsls\\_SA/](https://www.nsls.ed.gov/nsls_SA/)

State of Iowa Board of Regents

[www.regents.iowa.gov](http://www.regents.iowa.gov)

Transfer in Iowa

[www.transferiniowa.org](http://www.transferiniowa.org)

Helpful information for community college students interested in transferring to one of Iowa's three Regent universities.

Regent Admission Index

<http://www.regents.iowa.gov/RAI>

Calculate an unofficial Regent Admission Index Score.

ACT

[www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org)

The official site for information on the ACT test.

SAT

[www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)

The official site for information on the SAT test.

## Beware of Scams!

The Internet can be a great source for facts and interactive planning tools, but it is also a place where consumers can get stung by scams. Stay away from services that charge a fee or sound too good to be true. The application process for state and federal aid is FREE. If you have questions, call Iowa College Aid at 877-272-4456. The Federal Trade Commission offers tips on how to recognize a scholarship scam and file a complaint.

[www.ftc.gov/bcp/menus/consumer/education/scholarships.shtm](http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/menus/consumer/education/scholarships.shtm)