



SUCCESS STARTS HERE

IOWA PRIVATE COLLEGES
AND UNIVERSITIES

thinkindependently.com

FAMILY
RESOURCE
GUIDE



This is the starting point. But what is the ultimate destination? Iowa's private colleges and universities are the key to unlocking your student's future success. Our institutions of higher education can help your student realize his or her passions, and together we will reach every long-term goal.

Their future begins now. And your student's

SUCCESS STARTS HERE.





As the private colleges and universities of Iowa, we believe in helping students recognize and develop their full potential, and in leading them to rewarding personal and professional lives.

We believe in providing the finest higher education through rigorous academics, personal attention and instruction, the ability to participate in co-curricular activities and the formation of lifelong friendships.

To create the best students possible is our primary goal; creating the best citizens is our ultimate purpose in this ever changing global environment.



WE'VE GOT YOU

Thank you for your interest in Iowa's private colleges and universities. The decision to attend a private institution is an important one and undoubtedly your student will be **looking to you for guidance**. So, as your student begins sifting through the mountains of available information, it's important to **consider the variety of opportunities** each institution provides, and whether or not the structure essential to his or her success is in place.

This handbook presents some key discussion points and pertinent information to help you and your student **make the best possible college selection**. This is a very exciting time and we know you'll both have **lots of questions** along the way. We look forward to **providing the answers**.



- What is the percentage of students that graduate in four years?
- Are community service projects promoted?
- How accessible are the advisors and faculty to the students?
- Will students have the opportunity for hands-on experience in their field of study?
- What is the percentage of students that participate in campus co-curricular activities?
- Is the community and surrounding neighborhood welcoming and safe?
- Is it common for Iowa's private college students to receive financial aid?





EXPECT PERSONAL, INTELLECTUAL AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH

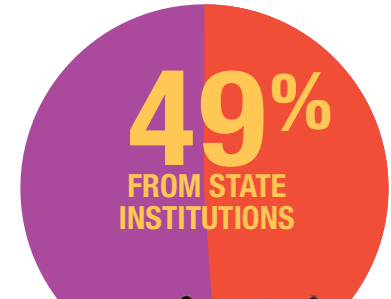
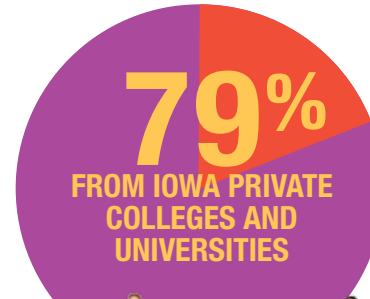
At Iowa's private colleges and universities, your student will be introduced to **world-class professors**. Experience cutting-edge technology. Feel the adrenaline rush from playing in collegiate sporting venues. Sing and perform before packed audiences. And become immersed in authors, historians, philosophers, scientists and artists that will open his or her mind and heart to a **lifelong love of learning**.

Beyond the opportunities present on campus, your student will also have the chance to engage in service learning experiences – an enriching educational opportunity that incorporates meaningful community service. Your student will be taught critical thinking and analysis while developing a sense of civic responsibility that is **vital to your student's long-term success** as an adult. Your student will also be empowered to make significant contributions to their surroundings with college projects that bring the classroom to the community.

And they'll do all this in four years. According to the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, 79 percent of private four-year college graduates earned their degree in four years compared to 49 percent at state four-year institutions.



STUDENTS THAT GRADUATE IN 4 YEARS





PRIVATE EDUCATION

In the classroom, your student will be taught by professors, not teaching assistants. Your student will be known by name and will know his or her classmates by name. That's not a stretch in **class sizes ranging from as large as 20 to 30 persons to as intimate as 5 or 6.**

A majority of private college and university professors are also advisors, meaning they are able to help direct your student to the most appropriate major and design a plan that gets your student to graduation in four years. Also, because our professors are advisors, your student is in constant contact with someone that genuinely cares about their path in life.

By having an intimate knowledge of your student's skill sets, objectives and goals, his or her professor/advisor can better assist with ongoing academic interests while your student is in school. This continuing relationship will then allow for future discussions on career aspirations, **support during the internship process** and when searching for the right job. Our faculty can put your student in touch with the Iowa College Recruiting Network (ICoRN), a unique and exclusive tool that links employers with students. And with access to our tight community connections and alumni networks, your student will be able to explore a specific interest or passion outside the classroom. With all these available resources, **it's no wonder that 98 percent of Iowa private college students are employed** or in graduate school within six months of graduating.



As private institutions, we provide hands-on, intellectually challenging, collaborative learning environments focused on fostering independent, well-educated leaders and critical thinkers.





STUDENTS FIRST

At Iowa's private colleges and universities, we offer **challenging, engaging and rewarding learning opportunities**. We put the educational, developmental, co-curricular and social goals of our students first. Our institutions help students explore current passions and find new ones that both fuel their spirit and help define their identity. We enable students to learn other cultures, study abroad and still graduate in four years. We foster personal growth, honing our students' skills and showcasing their talents. And we believe that **individual attention, high expectations and rigorous studies** cultivate the kind of success that leads to well rounded, responsible citizens of the world.

Promoting a **positive and comfortable home for all students** is a responsibility we take very seriously. That being said, one of the greatest benefits we have as private institutions in Iowa is the close-knit communities in which we are located. Knowing the community and your neighbors provides an invaluable sense of comfort. All of our campuses are equipped with security devices, including emergency telephones, campus security personnel, high-visibility lighting and security escorts 24-7. Our private colleges have a staff of student resident advisors and, **taking nothing for granted**, a professional resident life staff as well.



- Close-knit communities
- Campuses are equipped with security devices
- Security escorts 24-7
- Professional resident life staff
- Staff of student resident advisors
- Safety policies and procedures in every campus building



SAFETY





CONCERNED ABOUT THE COST OF PRIVATE COLLEGE?

Don't be. Ninety-eight percent of Iowa private college and university students receive some type of financial aid, which includes more than \$287 million in institutional grants and scholarships.



AFFORDABLE

FACTS ABOUT FINANCIAL AID



39.6%

TWO YEAR PUBLIC COLLEGES



52.5%

FOUR YEAR PUBLIC COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES



76.2%

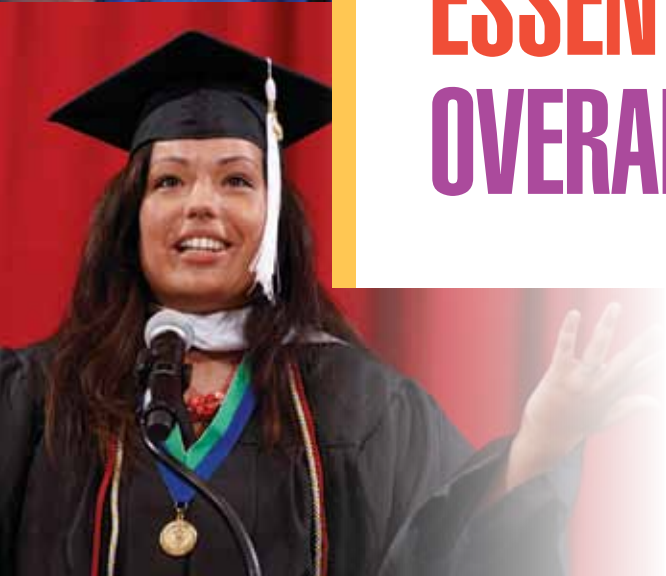
FOUR YEAR PRIVATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

The above is the percentage of undergraduate students nationwide that received financial aid in the form of non-refundable grants.





**YOUR GUIDANCE IS
ESSENTIAL TO THEIR
OVERALL SUCCESS.**



DEAR



You know your student better than anyone – his or her talents, dreams and aspirations. That’s why the **leadership you provide during this college selection process is vital** to your student making the best possible decision. Your guidance is essential to their overall success.

College is truly one of the most memorable times in your student’s life – during which he or she will experience tremendous academic and personal growth. **Your student will discover a new sense of confidence,** be self-sufficient and thoroughly prepared for what real life has in store. We hope your student takes full advantage of all the exceptional opportunities a private college or university offers, and we hope you’ll encourage him or her to do so. It is with our mutual support that your student will become a mature, confident and successful adult.

– Iowa Association of Independent Colleges and Universities

COLLEGE

An institution of higher education that offers a general or liberal arts curriculum and grants academic degrees. Can also be a division of the university.

UNIVERSITY

An institution of higher education which grants academic degrees at all levels (associate, bachelor, master and doctorate).

PROFESSOR

A teacher of the highest academic rank in a college or university.

TA

A teaching assistant (TA) is a graduate student who may assist a professor and/or conduct classes on their own.

ACADEMIC CALENDAR

The time during which classes are in session; often called terms, semesters, quarters or trimesters.

MAY/J TERM

An academic session, typically around three weeks in length, in which students can embrace opportunities for continuing education with travel, career observations or academic concentrations.

NATIONAL CANDIDATE REPLY DATE

Typically May 1 is the deadline for most colleges and universities to receive confirmation deposits from accepted fall first-year applicants.

MAJOR

A primary field of specialization during undergraduate studies entailing the completion of a predetermined number of relevant courses and requirements.

MINOR

A secondary field of specialization during a student's undergraduate studies requiring a specific number of completed classes.

CONCENTRATION

Similar to a minor, but concentrations are often interdisciplinary.

PRE-PROFESSIONAL

Undergraduate courses of study preparing students to enter graduate colleges for certain professions.

RESIDENTIAL STUDENTS

Students who live in housing owned by the institution on or near campus.

COMMUTER STUDENTS

Students who travel to campus for classes.

ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE

An Associate of Arts Degree (AA) is received for a two-year course of study

BACHELOR'S DEGREE

The degree awarded by a four-year college or university after satisfactory completion of a program of study.

GRADUATE DEGREE

An advanced degree, such as a master's or doctoral degree, earned after a student receives a bachelor's degree.

ROLLING ADMISSION

A policy by which students are invited to submit applications to the university anytime within a large window. The university then reviews the applications and notifies the student of their decision within a few weeks from submission.

EARLY DECISION

A one-time application process for students with a clear top choice for college. Constitutes a binding commitment to enroll and candidates must withdraw all other applications.

NCAA

The National Collegiate Athletic Association is a voluntary organization through which the nation's colleges and universities govern their athletics programs.

DIVISION I NCAA

Student-athletes may receive athletics-based financial aid for all or some of the tuition and fees, room and board, and books. Division I schools must meet minimum financial aid awards for their athletics program.

DIVISION II NCAA

Student-athletes pay for school through a combination of scholarship money, grants, student loans and employment earnings.

DIVISION III NCAA

Division III athletics feature student-athletes who receive no financial aid related to their athletic ability.

NAIA

The NAIA offers scholarships to students who model exemplary character traits. A member institution may award financial aid to student-athletes covering the actual cost of tuition, mandatory fees, books and supplies, and room and board.

PRIVATE vs. PUBLIC

A private university relies on private funding, tuition and fees, and receives no state financial assistance; a public university exists due to state-funded assistance.

NONPROFIT vs. FOR-PROFIT

Nonprofit colleges operate with a no-profit motive; for-profit institutions are in business to make money and satisfy stockholders.

INTERNSHIP

An official or formal program that provides practical experience in a desired occupation or profession.

EXTERNSHIP

A required period of supervised practice done off campus.

RETENTION RATE

The rate at which students in a college's fall semester enroll the following fall semester.

COHORT GRADUATION RATE

The number of semesters or years it takes a particular group of freshmen to graduate from a specific college or university.

FAFSA

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid is the form used by the government to determine eligibility for federal student financial aid money.

EFC

Expected Family Contribution (EFC) is a formula used to estimate the ability to contribute to post-secondary education expenses.

FINANCIAL NEED

The amount needed after calculating the cost of attending a college after the expected family contribution and estimated financial assistance.

GRANT

Sums of money awarded to students seeking financial support. Grants are gifts and do not need to be repaid.

SCHOLARSHIP

A financial aid award for an individual student scholar for the purpose of attending a university. It is based on merit, talent or need and does not require repayment.

PELL GRANT

Federal Pell Grants are awarded to undergraduate students who qualify based on their financial need.

IOWA TUITION GRANT

These grants are need-based state financial aid for Iowa students attending Iowa independent institutions of higher education.

MERIT SCHOLARSHIP

Scholarships based on academic achievement, leadership, special talents and other personal accomplishments.

OUTSIDE SCHOLARSHIP

A scholarship not awarded by the government or college, such as a scholarship provided by a private company or foundation.

INSTITUTIONAL GRANT

Money awarded by the institution the student is currently attending.

LOAN

Financial assistance that must be repaid.

SUBSIDIZED vs. UNSUBSIDIZED LOANS

Subsidized loans accrue no interest while the student is in college, whereas unsubsidized loans accrue interest during the student's course of study.

STAFFORD LOAN

The U.S. Department of Education administers the Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) Program and the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program. They are generally known as Stafford Loans (for students) and PLUS Loans (for parents).

WORK STUDY

A federal, state or college financial aid program that provides part-time jobs for students with financial need, allowing them to earn money to help pay education expenses.

NEED-BASED FINANCIAL AID

Grants, loans, scholarships or work-study given to students deemed in financial need of assistance based on their income and assets and their families' income and assets.



AIB COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Des Moines
aib.edu
(800) 444-1921

ALLEN COLLEGE

Waterloo
allencollege.edu
(319) 226-2000

BRIAR CLIFF UNIVERSITY

Sioux City
briarcliff.edu
(800) 662-3303

BUENA VISTA UNIVERSITY

Storm Lake
bv.u.edu
(800) 383-9600

CENTRAL COLLEGE

Pella
central.edu
(877) GO-CENTRAL

CLARKE UNIVERSITY

Dubuque
clarke.edu
(800) 383-2345

COE COLLEGE

Cedar Rapids
coe.edu
(877) CALL-COE

CORNELL COLLEGE

Mount Vernon
cornellcollege.edu
(800) 747-1112

DES MOINES UNIVERSITY

Des Moines
dmu.edu
(800) 240-2767

DORDT COLLEGE

Sioux Center
dordt.edu
(800) 343-6738

DRAKE UNIVERSITY

Des Moines
drake.edu/advantage
(800) 44-DRAKE
(800) 444-7253

GRACELAND UNIVERSITY

Lamoni
graceland.edu
(866) GRACELAND

GRAND VIEW UNIVERSITY

Des Moines
admissions.grandview.edu
(800) 444-6083

GRINNELL COLLEGE

Grinnell
grinnell.edu
(800) 247-0113

IOWA WESLEYAN COLLEGE

Mt. Pleasant
iwc.edu
(800) 582-2383

LORAS COLLEGE

Dubuque
loras.edu
(800) 24-LORAS

LUTHER COLLEGE

Decorah
luther.edu
(800) 4-LUTHER

**MAHARISHI UNIVERSITY
OF MANAGEMENT**

Fairfield
mum.edu
(800) 369-6480

**MERCY COLLEGE OF
HEALTH SCIENCES**

Des Moines
mchs.edu
(800) 637-2994

MORNINGSIDE COLLEGE

Sioux City
morningside.edu
(800) 831-0806

MOUNT MERCY UNIVERSITY

Cedar Rapids
mtmercy.edu
(800) 248-4504

NORTHWESTERN COLLEGE

Orange City
nwciowa.edu
(800) 747-4757

**PALMER COLLEGE
OF CHIROPRACTIC**

Davenport
palmer.edu
(800) 722-3648

SIMPSON COLLEGE

Indianola
simpson.edu
(800) 362-2454

ST. AMBROSE UNIVERSITY

Davenport
sau.edu
(800) 383-2627

ST. LUKE'S COLLEGE

Sioux City
stlukescollege.edu
(800) 352-4660

UNIVERSITY OF DUBUQUE

Dubuque
dbq.edu
(800) 722-5583

WARTBURG COLLEGE

Waverly
wartburg.edu
(800) 772-2085

WILLIAM PENN UNIVERSITY

Oskaloosa
wmpenn.edu
(800) 779-7366



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