

Understanding Your Financial Aid Award

An Investment in your Future

Amidst all of the numbers and figures, it's important to remember that college is an investment. Research shows college graduates will earn roughly \$1 million more than those with only a high school education over the course of their career. So before getting into the facts and figures, remember how important college is to your short- and long-term career goals.

Estimated Cost of Attendance

The financial aid award lists the total *estimated* cost, including costs you will pay directly to Iowa State such as tuition, fees, room/board (if you are in the residence halls), and books. It also includes indirect costs for personal expenditures such as laundry, transportation, and a modest amount for social activities. Actual costs may vary from the estimated costs based on where you live, which meal plan you select, the cost of individual textbooks and special fees related to your courses.

Grants and Scholarships

Grants are based on financial need as determined by the annual filing of the FAFSA and do not need to be repaid. Scholarships are awarded based on achievement although some also require financial need. If you receive scholarship funding from a source other than Iowa State University, it must be reported as additional aid through AccessPlus. Any scholarships added to the financial aid award may result in a revision to your financial aid award offer.

Scholarship checks received in the amount of \$500 or greater will be split equally between fall and spring semesters unless accompanied by documentation from the donor indicating the award is for a single semester. Any scholarship checks provided directly to the student should be mailed to our office. (Do NOT cash it!) Checks should include your name and university ID number and should be endorsed, so we can apply it to your account (write "Payable to Iowa State University" and include your signature on the back of the check).

Work-Study

There are many part-time employment opportunities available for students, both on- and off-campus. All students can view available opportunities on the student Job Board on AccessPlus. Students who are eligible will be able to see additional jobs that are restricted to those with work-study eligibility. Iowa State does not place students in jobs. Students working on campus may work a maximum of 20 hours per week during the academic year and are paid twice each month for hours worked.

Federal Loans for Undergraduate Students

Federal Direct Subsidized Loan*

This is a loan and must be repaid. Eligibility is based on financial need as determined by the annual filing of the FAFSA. No interest accrues on this loan while enrolled at least half-time. Repayment begins six months after graduation or dropping below half-time enrollment. The current interest rate is fixed at 4.29% with an origination fee of 1.068%.

Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan*

This is a loan that must be repaid. You do not need to show financial need but must file the FAFSA annually. Interest accrues on this loan while enrolled, though students have the option to make interest-only payments while in school. Repayment begins six months after graduation or dropping below half-time enrollment. The current interest rate is fixed at 4.29% with an origination fee of 1.068%.

Annual Federal Direct Loan Limits for Undergraduate Students

Classification	Dependent Student	Independent Student
Freshman 0-29 credit hours	\$5,500 (\$3,500)	\$9,500 (\$3,500)
Sophomore 29.5-59 credit hours	\$6,500 (\$4,500)	\$10,500 (\$4,500)
Junior & Senior 59.5+ credit hours	\$7,500 (\$3,500)	\$12,500 (\$5,500)
Max Cumulative Loan Limits	\$31,000 (\$23,000)	\$57,500 (\$23,000)

The amount in parentheses is the yearly maximum students can receive in subsidized student loans.

Key Terms

Full-Time/Half-Time

Students are considered full-time when they are taking at least 12 credits (undergraduate) or 9 credits (graduate) and half-time when they are taking 6 credits (undergraduate) or 5 credits (graduate).

Need-based Aid

The amount of additional financial resources you can receive to afford college as determined by a formula created by the federal government.

Origination Fees

Basically a loan processing fee. It pays for the work involved in originating your student loan.

Some Things to Remember...

You decide what you borrow.

You have the ability to take out less than what is listed. The amount listed is simply to show you the maximum amount you may borrow based on government regulations.

There are additional resources, like scholarships and employment.

Your current scholarships should be included in this sheet. However, you can seek out additional scholarship opportunities. For Iowa State scholarships, you can visit financialaid.iastate.edu/scholarships/ to discover the scholarships available. Additionally, the Ames and Des Moines metro areas have part-time job opportunities available to college students.

A Guide to Your Shopping Sheet

This sums up everything, including your text books, meals, technology fee, and everything in between.

Think of these as gifts or free money. You don't owe anyone anything.

This is simply your costs minus the gift money listed above.

This is money you earn.

This is money you borrow and will one day repay.

This is how your family helps you pay for college, including the possibility of borrowing.

Additional Federal Loan Information

Federal Loans for Parents of Undergraduate Students

Federal Direct Parent PLUS Loan*

This loan for parents of dependent undergraduate students is subject to credit analysis, including your parents' credit score. Your parent may borrow up to the amount of your cost of attendance less any other financial aid. Interest accrues on this loan while you are enrolled. Parents have a choice of repayment options. Payments begin 60 days after full disbursement of the loan, or your parent may choose to have the loan deferred for as long as you maintain at least half-time enrollment (although interest will accrue the entire time). The current interest rate is fixed at 6.84% with an origination fee of 4.272%.

Federal Loans for Graduate and Professional Students

Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan*

Graduate students can borrow up to \$20,500 per year with a maximum lifetime borrowing of \$138,500 (including undergraduate Stafford Loan borrowing). Veterinary Medicine students can borrow up to \$40,500 per year with a maximum lifetime borrowing of \$224,000 (including undergraduate Stafford Loan borrowing). Interest will accrue on this loan while you are enrolled. You have the option to make interest-only payments while enrolled or defer both principal and accruing interest until repayment is required. Repayment begins six months after graduation or dropping below half-time enrollment. The current interest rate is 4.29% with an origination fee of 1.068%.

Federal Direct Graduate PLUS Loan*

Graduate students may borrow up to the cost of attendance less any other financial aid. The loan is subject to credit analysis, including your credit score. Interest will accrue on this loan while you are enrolled. You have the option to make interest-only payments while enrolled or defer both principal and accruing interest until repayment is required. Repayment begins six months after graduation or dropping below half-time enrollment. The current interest rate is 6.84% with an origination fee 4.272%.

**Fixed interest rates for all Federal Direct and PLUS Loans will be set on July 1, 2016 for the 2016-17 academic year. Origination fees are subject to change for loans that have a first disbursement after October 1, 2016.*

Additional Information

Contact Information

Office of Student Financial Aid
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0210 Beardshear Hall
Ames, IA 50011-2103
financialaid@iastate.edu
Phone: 515 294-2223
Fax: 515 294-3622

Resources

Additional Aid Information
financialaid.iastate.edu

AccessPlus
accessplus.iastate.edu

Budgeting and Financial Planning
nofearfinance.com

Department of Residence
housing.iastate.edu

ISU Dining
dining.iastate.edu

Payment Plans
ubill.iastate.edu

Tuition & Fees
registrar.iastate.edu

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IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

A Guide to Understanding Your Financial Aid Award

Financial aid can seem like a complicated subject. Let's work through this together.

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