



IowaCollegeAid.gov
Your Financial Aid Connection

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NEWS RELEASE

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Link to Iowa Financial Aid Application Now Available on the FAFSA *Streamlined Process Helps Iowa Students Apply for State and Federal Financial Aid*

Des Moines, IA, February 18, 2011 – The Iowa College Student Aid Commission (Iowa College Aid) announced that its online Iowa Financial Aid Application is now accessible through a direct link from FAFSA on the Web. The FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) is a standardized federal form used to determine eligibility for federal, state, and in some cases, institutional financial aid. The FAFSA can be completed online at www.fafsa.gov.

To take advantage of all state-administered financial aid opportunities, Iowa students need to complete the Iowa Financial Aid Application in addition to the FAFSA. With the addition of this new direct link, when Iowa students complete the FAFSA on the Web and indicate Iowa residency, they will be offered an optional link on the FAFSA confirmation page which will direct them to the Iowa Financial Aid Application and pre-populate their demographic information. Previously, applicants needed to access the Iowa application separately.

“Providing the link to the Iowa Financial Aid Application through the FAFSA not only simplifies the financial aid process for Iowa applicants, it also creates awareness for individuals who may be unfamiliar with all state financial aid programs,” said Karen Misjak, executive director of the Iowa College Student Aid Commission. “Iowa joins only a handful of other states that have completed this initiative to streamline filing for federal and state financial aid programs.”

Priority filing deadlines for financial aid at many colleges, as well as for some programs administered by the State of Iowa, are quickly approaching. Students are encouraged to apply early to meet the priority deadlines associated with different programs and to check with their college of choice to determine its priority deadline for financial aid and if additional documentation is required.

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For more information on filing deadlines and financial aid opportunities for Iowa students, visit Iowa College Aid's website, www.IowaCollegeAid.gov. To receive the latest tips on college planning, financial aid, and financial literacy, become a fan of Iowa College Aid on Facebook® at www.facebook.com/iowacollegeaid or follow Iowa College Aid on Twitter® at www.twitter.com/iacollegeaid.

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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 nearly \$60.0 million annually, administers the Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP) program, provides borrowers with assistance to avoid the serious consequences of default, 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.