



Department of Education

# Iowa Community Colleges Tuition and Fees

Fiscal Year 2025

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# Iowa Community Colleges Tuition and Fees: Fiscal Year 2025

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## Executive Summary

The annual *Iowa Community College Tuition and Fees Report* provides information about tuition and fees charged at each of Iowa's 15 community colleges. This report also provides trends in tuition and fees among Iowa's community colleges, sources of general operating revenue and comparisons among states and institutions.

For fiscal year (FY) 2025, average in-state tuition for students attending Iowa's community colleges is \$205.15 per credit hour, a 3.5 percent increase from FY24. Average mandatory fees are \$14.63 per credit hour, down 3.3 percent from last year. The average total in-state cost of enrollment (tuition plus fees) is \$219.78 per credit hour, which represents a 3.1 percent increase from FY24.

Tuition and fees accounted for approximately 46.5 percent of community colleges' unrestricted operating revenue during FY23, the latest year for which data is available. The percentage of tuition and fees included in the unrestricted operating revenue peaked in FY12, when it accounted for 57.8 percent of such revenue, and has gradually decreased since then.

Nationally, provisional data from the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) shows Iowa's in-state cost of enrollment in FY23 (the latest year available) ranked in the 89th percentile. This indicates Iowa's average cost of enrollment was greater than or equal to 89 percent of community colleges in the nation.

Regionally, Iowa had the third highest average cost of in-state enrollment (\$5,991.00), following Minnesota (\$6,017.00) and South Dakota (\$7,475.00). IPEDS data also shows the average total in-state enrollment cost at Iowa's community colleges was 12.1 percent higher than the regional average (\$5,346.00) during FY23.

Iowa Code stipulates the highest tuition charged by Iowa's community colleges must be less than the lowest tuition charged at Iowa's public universities. In FY25, the highest community college in-state tuition for 24 credit hours (\$5,232.00) is 38.9 percent less than the lowest public university in-state tuition for the same number of credit hours (\$8,568.00).

## Tuition and Fees

### In-State (Resident) Tuition and Fees

Table 1 lists in-state tuition and fees for each community college during FY24 and FY25. The average in-state tuition and fees for this year is \$219.78 per credit hour, which is a 3.0 percent increase from last year. Southeastern Community College has the lowest percentage increase in tuition and fees (1.9 percent) this fiscal year, whereas Des Moines Area Community College has the highest percentage increase (4.3 percent).

The average in-state tuition for FY25 is \$205.15, which represents a 3.5 percent increase over last year. The maximum amount in mandatory fees decreased from \$30.00 in FY24 to \$29.00 in FY25. The average amount in mandatory fees also decreased from \$11.86 in FY24 to \$11.47 in FY25, representing a 3.3 percent decrease.

**Table 1**

College	FY24 Tuition (\$)	FY24 Fees (\$)	FY24 Total (\$)	FY25 Tuition (\$)	FY25 Fees (\$)	FY25 Total (\$)	Change (\$)	Change (%)
Northeast Iowa	195.00	25.00	220.00	201.00	25.00	226.00	6.00	2.7%
North Iowa Area	187.25	27.25	214.50	193.25	28.50	221.75	7.25	3.4%
Iowa Lakes	202.00	22.25	224.25	211.00	20.00	231.00	6.75	3.0%
Northwest	200.00	30.00	230.00	208.00	28.00	236.00	6.00	2.6%
Iowa Central	200.00	24.00	224.00	210.00	19.00	229.00	5.00	2.2%
Iowa Valley	195.00	26.00	221.00	203.00	26.00	229.00	8.00	3.6%
Hawkeye	211.00	6.50	217.50	218.00	7.00	225.00	7.50	3.4%
Eastern Iowa	195.00	0.00	195.00	202.00	0.00	202.00	7.00	3.6%
Kirkwood	210.00	0.00	210.00	217.00	0.00	217.00	7.00	3.3%
Des Moines Area	185.00	0.00	185.00	193.00	0.00	193.00	8.00	4.3%
Western Iowa Tech	173.00	29.00	202.00	179.00	29.00	208.00	6.00	3.0%
Iowa Western	209.00	17.00	226.00	214.00	17.00	231.00	5.00	2.2%
Southwestern	204.00	13.00	217.00	211.00	13.00	224.00	7.00	3.2%
Indian Hills	203.00	0.00	203.00	210.00	0.00	210.00	7.00	3.4%
Southeastern	203.00	7.00	210.00	207.00	7.00	214.00	4.00	1.9%
Minimum	173.00	0.00	185.00	179.00	0.00	193.00	4.00	1.9%
Median	200.00	17.00	217.00	208.00	17.00	224.00	7.00	3.2%
Maximum	211.00	30.00	230.00	218.00	29.00	236.00	8.00	4.3%
Average	198.15	15.13	213.28	205.15	14.63	219.78	6.50	3.0%
Standard Deviation	10.28	11.86	12.54	10.41	11.47	12.19	1.15	0.6%

## Out-of-State (Non-Resident) Tuition and Fees

Table 2 lists out-of-state tuition and fees for each community college during FY24 and FY25. The average out-of-state tuition and fees for this year total \$256.31 per credit hour, which represents a 0.8 percent decrease over last year. Des Moines Area Community College had the largest decrease (39.7%) in their tuition and fees for out-of-state students this fiscal year, whereas Iowa Valley, Marshalltown had the highest change, with a 12.0 percent increase. Additionally, the average out-of-state tuition, not including fees, is \$240.96 per credit hour for FY25, a 0.6 percent decrease from last year.

**Table 2**

College	FY24 Tuition (\$)	FY24 Fees (\$)	FY24 Total (\$)	FY25 Tuition (\$)	FY25 Fees (\$)	FY25 Total (\$)	Change (\$)	Change (%)
Northeast Iowa	224.00	25.00	249.00	234.00	25.00	259.00	10.00	4.0%
North Iowa Area	280.88	27.25	308.13	289.88	28.50	318.38	10.25	3.3%
Iowa Lakes	216.00	22.25	238.25	226.00	20.00	246.00	7.75	3.3%
Northwest	210.00	30.00	240.00	218.00	28.00	246.00	6.00	2.5%
Iowa Central	295.50	24.00	319.50	305.50	19.00	324.50	5.00	1.6%
Iowa Valley - Ellsworth	237.00	26.00	263.00	245.00	26.00	271.00	8.00	3.0%
Iowa Valley - Marshalltown	216.00	26.00	242.00	245.00	26.00	271.00	29.00	12.0%
Hawkeye	221.00	6.50	227.50	221.00	7.00	228.0	0.50	0.2%
Eastern Iowa	262.00	0.00	262.00	269.00	0.00	269.00	7.00	2.7%
Kirkwood	281.00	0.00	281.00	290.00	0.00	290.00	9.00	3.2%
Des Moines Area	370.00	0.00	370.00	223.00	0.00	223.00	-147.00	-39.7%
Western Iowa Tech	179.00	29.00	208.00	185.00	29.00	214.00	6.00	2.9%
Iowa Western	214.00	17.00	231.00	219.00	17.00	236.00	5.00	2.2%
Southwestern	211.00	13.00	224.00	218.00	13.00	231.00	7.00	3.1%
Indian Hills	255.00	0.00	255.00	255.00	0.00	255.00	0.00	0.0%
Southeastern	208.00	7.00	215.00	212.00	7.00	219.00	4.00	1.9%
Minimum	179.00	0.00	208.00	185.00	0.00	214.00	-147.00	-39.7%
Median	222.50	19.63	245.50	230.00	18.00	250.50	6.50	2.8%
Maximum	370.00	30.00	370.00	305.50	29.00	324.50	29.00	12.0%
Average	242.52	15.81	258.34	240.96	15.34	256.31	-2.03	0.4%
Standard Deviation	46.82	11.78	42.92	33.15	11.44	33.26	39.18	11.0%

## Other Out-of-State (Non-Resident) Tuition and Fees

With the approval from the Iowa Department of Education (Department), a community college may establish a tuition rate for eligible non-residents that is lower than its standard non-resident tuition. Under this provision, the Department has approved the following requests:

- Iowa Lakes Community College: \$216.00 per credit hour for students who are residents of Minnesota.
- Northwest Iowa Community College: \$213.00 per credit hour for students who are residents of Minnesota, Nebraska or South Dakota.
- Iowa Central Community College: \$215.00 per credit hour for non-Iowa residents with a 3.0 grade point average and above.
- Eastern Iowa Community College: \$223.00 per credit hour for students who are residents of adjacent Illinois counties.

## Online Tuition

State policy allows community colleges to establish separate tuition rates for distance education courses delivered by the Iowa Community College Online Consortium (ICCOC), according to an agreement approved by the Department. Under this agreement, ICCOC sets tuition and fees for online courses on behalf of its members\*. For FY25, ICCOC set tuition and fees ranging from \$216.00 to \$221.00 per credit hour. Community colleges not participating in the consortium set their own tuition and fees for online courses.

## Mandatory Fees

Table 3, on the following page, itemizes mandatory fees that are typically assessed per credit hour at each of Iowa's 15 community colleges. Mandatory fees do not include fees assessed for specific programs, such as nursing or welding.

North Iowa Area Community College increased its mandatory fees by \$1.25, which is an 11.6 percent increase from last year. Hawkeye Community College increased its mandatory fees by 50 cents, a 7.7 percent increase from FY24. Iowa Central Community College decreased its mandatory fees by \$5.00, which is a 20.8 percent decrease from last year. Northwest Iowa Community college decreased its mandatory fees by \$2.00, which is a 16.7% decrease from last year. Seven other community colleges made no net changes to their fee schedules. Four community colleges – Des Moines Area, Eastern Iowa, Indian Hills and Kirkwood – continued to assess no mandatory fees per credit hour.

Among colleges that do assess mandatory fees per credit hour, Western Iowa Tech Community College has the highest fees (\$29.00 per credit hour), and Hawkeye Community College and Southeastern Iowa Community College have the lowest (\$7.00 per credit hour). Although Kirkwood Community College has no mandatory fees per credit hour, the college does assess a \$50.00 technology fee per semester. In addition to a \$25.00 student fee per credit, Northeast Iowa Community College charges a \$14.00 technology fee per course.

*\*The following community colleges are members of ICCOC: Eastern Iowa, Iowa Lakes, North Iowa Area, Northwest Iowa, Southeastern, Southwestern and Western Iowa Tech.*

**Table 3**

College	Description	FY24 Amount (\$)	FY25 Amount (\$)	Change (%)
Northeast Iowa	Course	25.00	25.00	0.0%
North Iowa Area	Material/Lab/Supplies	12.00	12.00	0.0%
North Iowa Area	Student Activities	4.50	4.50	0.0%
North Iowa Area	Technology	10.75	12.00	11.6%
Iowa Lakes	General	10.00	10.00	0.0%
Iowa Lakes	Technology	10.00	10.00	0.0%
Northwest Iowa	Course	10.00	10.00	0.0%
Northwest Iowa	Student	12.00	10.00	-16.7%
Northwest Iowa	Technology	8.00	8.00	0.0%
Iowa Central	Student	24.00	19.00	-20.8%
Iowa Valley	Facility	2.00	2.00	0.0%
Iowa Valley	Materials/Technology	18.50	18.50	0.0%
Iowa Valley	Student	5.50	5.50	0.0%
Hawkeye	Student Activity	6.50	7.00	7.7%
Eastern Iowa	No fees	0.00	0.00	0.0%
Kirkwood	No fees	0.00	0.00	0.0%
Des Moines Area	No fees	0.00	0.00	0.0%
Western Iowa Tech	US Student Fee	29.00	29.00	0.0%
Iowa Western	College Service	17.00	17.00	0.0%
Southwestern	General	13.00	13.00	0.0%
Indian Hills	No fees	0.00	0.00	0.0%
Southeastern	Technology	7.00	7.00	0.0%

*\*Note: Northeast Iowa Community College Charges \$14.00 technology fee per course. Kirkwood Community College charges a \$50.00 technology fee per semester.*

## Cost of Enrollment

The sum of tuition and mandatory fees defines the cost of enrollment per credit hour. This cost does not include variable expenses such as books, room and board, transportation or other additional fees. The average in-state cost of enrollment per credit hour for FY25 is \$219.78 (see Table 1). Among Iowa's 15 community colleges, Des Moines Area Community College (\$193.00) and Eastern Iowa Community College (\$202.00) have the lowest costs of enrollment per credit hour. Neither college assesses mandatory fees, which helps minimize costs. By comparison, Northwest Iowa Community College has the highest cost of enrollment per credit hour (\$236.00), followed by Iowa Western Community College (\$231.00) and Iowa Lakes Community College (\$231.00).



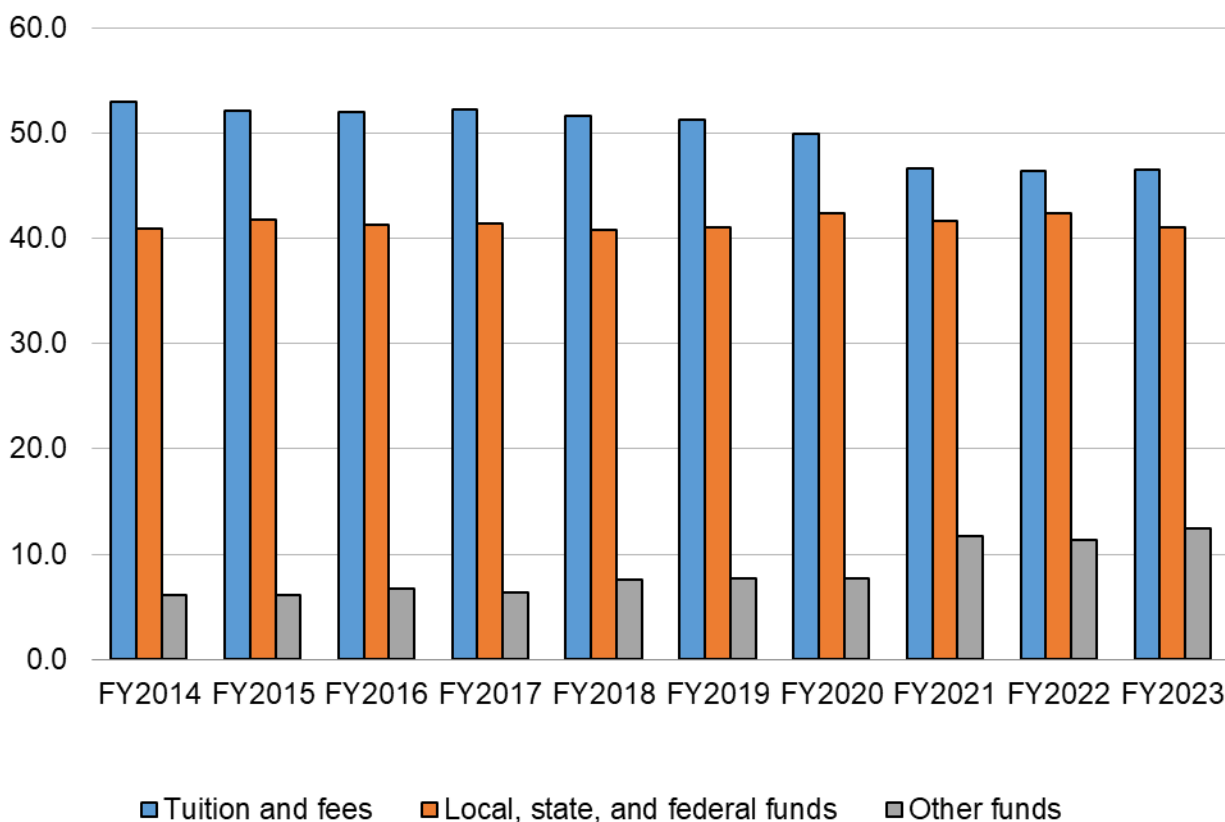
Based on the per-credit hour tuition and fees rate, a full-time Iowa resident will pay between \$5,790.00 and \$7,080.00 for 30 semester credit hours in FY25, depending on which community college the student attends. Total average cost of in-state enrollment at an Iowa community college increased \$6.50 (3.0 percent) per credit hour from FY24.

### Revenue Sources

Primary revenue sources for public community colleges in Iowa are public funds (local, state and federal) and tuition and fees, with tuition and fees accounting for the largest proportion. During FY23, the latest year for which data is available, tuition and fees accounted for 46.5 percent of total general operating revenue.

Figure 1 illustrates how tuition and fees have fluctuated since FY14, in response to changes in funding from public and other sources. During FY14, tuition and fees accounted for 57.8 percent of total general operating revenue. This percentage has gradually decreased over subsequent years.

**Figure 1**

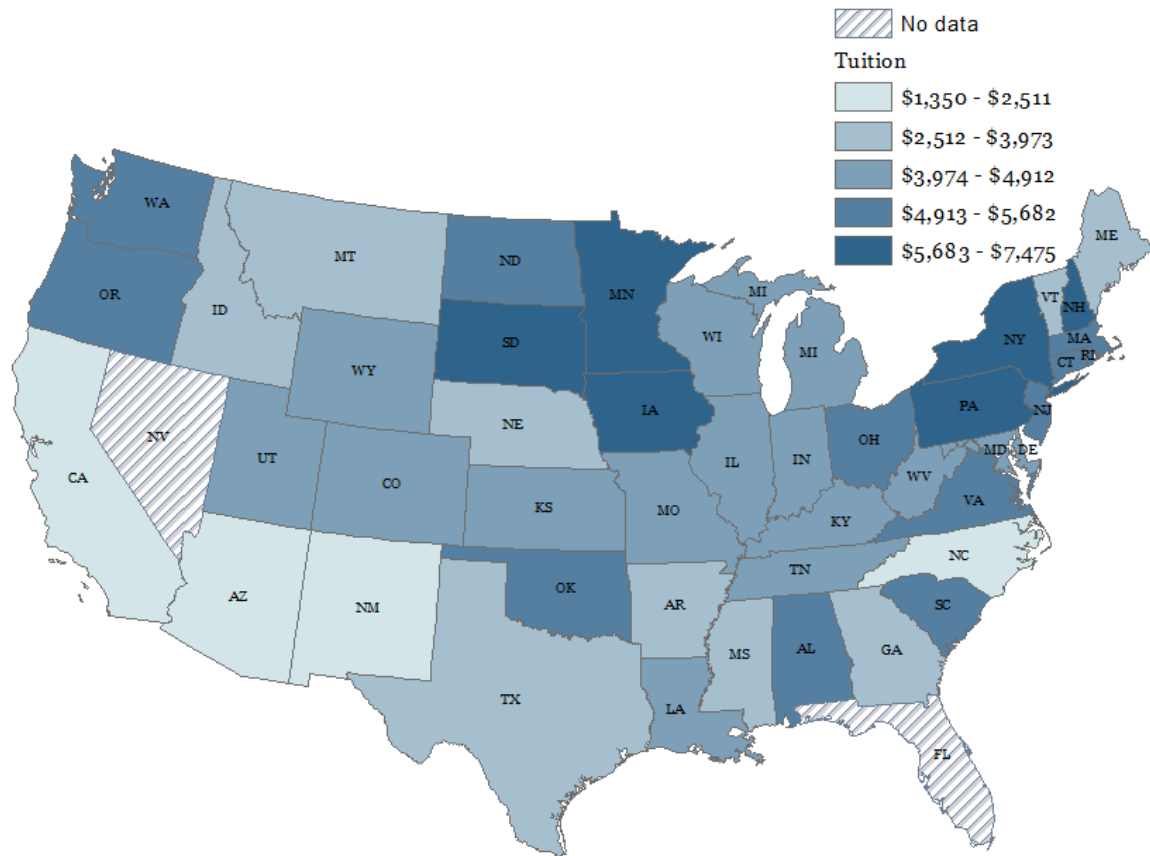


## National

According to IPEDS data, the average annual in-state total cost of enrollment in Iowa during FY23 was \$5,991.00, placing Iowa in the 89th percentile. This means Iowa's average annual in-state total cost of enrollment was greater than or equal to 89 percent of all reporting states. The national average was \$4,573.00.

Figure 2 shows a color-range distribution of average total in-state costs of enrollment for 30 semester hours in FY23 by state. Darker colors represent higher costs of enrollment. South Dakota (\$7,475.00), New Hampshire (\$7,049.00) and Pennsylvania (\$6,425.00) had the highest average total costs of in-state enrollment. By comparison, California (\$1,350.00), New Mexico (\$2,145.00) and Arizona (\$2,305.00) had the lowest averages.

**Figure 2**



## Regional

Provisional 2023 data from IPEDS [1], included in Table 4, shows Iowa had the third-highest average cost of in-state enrollment in the region (\$5,991.00), following Minnesota (\$6,017.00) and South Dakota (\$7,475.00). Nebraska (\$3,973.00) and Illinois (\$4,484.00) had the lowest regional averages.

**Table 4**

Fiscal Year	Iowa	Illinois	Minnesota	Missouri	Nebraska	South Dakota	Wisconsin
2019	5,298.00	4,072.00	5,335.00	3,522.00	3,506.00	6,082.00	4,445.00
2020	5,463.00	4,146.00	5,494.00	3,723.00	3,519.00	6,334.00	4,459.00
2021	5,593.00	4,310.00	5,534.00	3,883.00	3,590.00	6,895.00	4,521.00
2022	5,669.00	4,378.00	5,803.00	4,100.00	3,777.00	6,947.00	4,570.00
2023	5,991.00	4,484.00	6,017.00	4,807.00	3,973.00	7,475.00	4,678.00

## Institutional

Iowa Code section 260C.14(2) states, "Tuition for residents of Iowa shall not exceed the lowest tuition rate per semester, or the equivalent, charged by an institution of higher education under the state board of regents for a full-time resident student." Table 5 illustrates Iowa's compliance with this requirement. In FY25, the highest tuition per credit hour at Iowa community colleges (\$218.00) is 38.9 percent lower than the lowest base tuition at Iowa's public universities (\$357.00).

**Table 5**

Fiscal Year	Community Colleges (Highest, \$)	Public Universities (Lowest, \$)
2021	192.00	320.00
2022	202.00	325.00
2023	204.00	338.00
2024	211.00	350.00
2025	218.00	357.00

Source: [1] [2] Note: Base per-credit-hour tuition for Iowa's public universities is derived from 24 semester credit hours per academic year.

The average cost of in-state enrollment (tuition plus fees) per credit hour at Iowa's community colleges increased from \$194.48 in FY21 to \$219.78 in FY25 (Table 6). This represents a 13.0 percent increase, equivalent to an annualized rate of 3.1 percent. During the same period, the average cost of in-state enrollment at Iowa's public universities increased 15.0 percent, from \$387.00 per credit hour to \$445.00 per credit hour. This is equivalent to an annualized rate of 3.6 percent.

**Table 6**

Fiscal Year	Community Colleges	Public Universities
2021	194.48	387.00
2022	199.32	398.00
2023	206.08	415.00
2024	213.28	433.00
2025	219.78	445.00

Source: [1] [2] Note: Base per-credit-hour tuition for Iowa's public universities is derived from 24 semester credit hours per academic year.

## References

[1] Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System. IPEDS Data Center. Retrieved from <https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/use-the-data>, September 24, 2024.

[2] Iowa Board of Regents. Index of reports. Retrieved from chrome-<https://www.iowaregents.edu/news/newsletter/board-of-regents-news/june-2024-meeting-preview/2024-25-tuition-and-fee-rates>, June 2024.