

Iowa Community Colleges Tuition and Fees

Fiscal Year 2026



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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) 2026, average in-state tuition for students attending Iowa's community colleges is \$211.15 per credit hour, a 2.9 percent increase from FY25. Average mandatory fees are \$16.97 per credit hour, an increase of 16 percent from last year. The average total in-state cost of enrollment (tuition plus fees) is \$228.12 per credit hour, which represents a 3.9 percent increase from FY25.

Tuition and fees accounted for approximately 48.6 percent of community colleges' unrestricted operating revenue during FY24, the latest year for which data is available. The percentage of tuition and fees included in the unrestricted operating revenue peaked in FY19, when it accounted for 51.3 percent of such revenue, and had gradually decreased since increasing again in FY24.

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 second highest average cost of in-state enrollment (\$6,228), following South Dakota (\$7,547). IPEDS data also shows the average total in-state enrollment cost at Iowa's community colleges was 11.6 percent higher than the regional average (\$5,503.43) during FY24.

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 FY26, the highest community college in-state tuition for 24 credit hours (\$5,664) is 55.1 percent less than the lowest public university in-state tuition for the same number of credit hours (\$8,784).

Tuition and Fees

In-State (Resident) Tuition and Fees

Table 1 lists in-state tuition and fees for each community college during FY25 and FY26. The average in-state tuition and fees for this year is \$228.72 per credit hour, which is a 4.1 percent increase from last year. Iowa Western Community College has the lowest percentage increase in tuition and fees (1.7 percent) this fiscal year, whereas Hawkeye Community College has the highest percentage increase (4 percent).

The average in-state tuition for FY26 is \$211.75, which represents a 3.2 percent increase over last year. The maximum amount in mandatory fees increased from \$29 in FY25 to \$30 in FY26. The average amount in mandatory fees also increased from \$14.63 in FY25 to \$16.97 in FY26, representing a 16 percent increase.

Table 1

College	FY25 Tuition (\$)	FY25 Fees (\$)	FY25 Total (\$)	FY26 Tuition (\$)	FY26 Fees (\$)	FY26 Total (\$)	Change (\$)	Change (%)
Northeast Iowa	201.00	25.00	226.00	209.00	25.00	234.00	8.00	3.5%
North Iowa Area	193.25	28.50	221.75	198.25	28.50	226.75	5.00	2.3%
Iowa Lakes	211.00	20.00	231.00	221.00	17.00	238.00	7.00	3.0%
Northwest	208.00	28.00	236.00	213.00	30.00	243.00	7.00	3.0%
Iowa Central	210.00	19.00	229.00	216.00	19.00	235.00	6.00	2.6%
Iowa Valley	203.00	26.00	229.00	210.00	26.00	236.00	7.00	3.1%
Hawkeye	218.00	7.00	225.00	227.00	7.00	234.00	9.00	4.0%
Eastern Iowa	202.00	0.00	202.00	209.00	23.00	232.00	30.00	14.9%
Kirkwood	217.00	0.00	217.00	221.00	0.00	221.00	4.00	1.8%
Des Moines Area	193.00	0.00	193.00	201.00	0.00	201.00	8.00	4.1%
Western Iowa Tech	179.00	29.00	208.00	184.00	29.00	213.00	5.00	2.4%
Iowa Western	214.00	17.00	231.00	218.00	17.00	235.00	4.00	1.7%
Southwestern	211.00	13.00	224.00	219.00	13.00	232.00	8.00	3.6%
Indian Hills	210.00	0.00	210.00	218.00	10.00	228.00	18.00	8.6%
Southeastern	207.00	7.00	214.00	212.00	10.00	222.00	8.00	3.7%
Minimum	179.00	0.00	193.00	184.00	0.00	201.00	8.00	4.1%
Median	208.00	17.00	224.00	212.00	17.00	232.00	8.00	3.6%
Maximum	218.00	29.00	236.00	227.00	30.00	243.00	7.00	3.0%
Average	205.15	14.63	219.78	211.75	16.97	228.72	8.94	4.1%
Standard Deviation	10.41	11.47	12.19	10.46	9.74	10.41	-1.78	-14.6%

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

Table 2 lists out-of-state tuition and fees for each community college during FY25 and FY26. The average out-of-state tuition and fees for this year total \$261.89 per credit hour, which represents a 2.2 percent increase over last year. Indian Hills Community College had the smallest increase (0.0%) in their tuition and fees for out-of-state students this fiscal year, whereas Northeast Iowa Community College, had the highest change, with a 4.2 percent increase. Additionally, the average out-of- state tuition, not including fees, is \$247.13 per credit hour for FY26, a 2.2 percent increase from last year.

Table 2

College	FY25 Tuition (\$)	FY25 Fees (\$)	FY25 Total (\$)	FY26 Tuition (\$)	FY26 Fees (\$)	FY26 Total (\$)	Change (\$)	Change (%)
Northeast Iowa	234.00	25.00	259.00	245.00	25.00	270.00	11.00	4.2%
North Iowa Area	289.88	28.50	318.38	297.38	28.50	325.88	7.50	2.4%
Iowa Lakes	226.00	20.00	246.00	236.00	17.00	253.00	7.00	2.8%
Northwest	218.00	28.00	246.00	223.00	30.00	253.00	7.00	2.8%
Iowa Central	305.50	19.00	324.50	311.50	19.00	330.50	6.00	1.8%
Iowa Valley	245.00	26.00	271.00	252.00	26.00	278.00	7.00	2.6%
Hawkeye	221.00	7.00	228.00	228.00	7.00	235.00	7.00	3.1%
Eastern Iowa	269.00	0.00	269.00	276.00	0.00	276.00	7.00	2.6%
Kirkwood	290.00	0.00	290.00	296.00	0.00	296.00	6.00	2.1%
Des Moines Area	223.00	0.00	223.00	231.00	0.00	231.00	8.00	3.6%
Western Iowa Tech	185.00	29.00	214.00	190.00	29.00	219.00	5.00	2.3%
Iowa Western	219.00	17.00	236.00	223.00	17.00	240.00	4.00	1.7%
Southwestern	218.00	13.00	231.00	226.00	13.00	239.00	8.00	3.5%
Indian Hills	255.00	0.00	255.00	255.00	0.00	255.00	0.00	0.0%
Southeastern	212.00	7.00	219.00	217.00	10.00	227.00	8.00	3.7%
Minimum	185.00	0.00	214.00	190.00	0.00	219.00	5.00	2.3%
Median	230.00	18.00	250.50	236.00	17.00	253.00	2.50	1.0%
Maximum	305.50	29.00	324.50	311.50	29.00	330.50	6.00	1.8%
Average	240.96	15.34	256.31	247.13	14.77	261.89	5.58	2.2%
Standard Deviation	33.15	11.44	33.26	33.18	11.08	33.10	-0.16	-0.5%

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: \$226 per credit hour for students who are residents of Minnesota.
- Northwest Iowa Community College: \$218 per credit hour for students who are residents of Minnesota, Nebraska or South Dakota.
- Iowa Central Community College: \$221 per credit hour for non-Iowa residents with a 3.0 grade point average and above.
- Eastern Iowa Community College: \$230 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 FY26, ICCOC set tuition and fees ranging from \$218 to \$230 per credit hour. Community colleges not participating in the consortium set their own tuition and fees for online courses.

Mandatory Fees

Table 3 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.

Southeastern Community College increased its technology fees by \$3, which is a 35.2 percent increase from last year. Iowa Central Community College increased its student fees by \$5, a 26.32 percent increase from FY24. Iowa Lakes Community College decreased its mandatory fees by \$3, which is a 35.2 percent decrease from last year. Eight 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 per credit hour), and Hawkeye Community College has the lowest (\$7 per credit hour). Although Kirkwood Community College has no mandatory fees per credit hour, the college does assess a \$50 technology fee per semester. In addition to a \$25 student fee per credit, Northeast Iowa Community College charges a \$16 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	FY25 Amount (\$)	FY26 Amount (\$)	Change (%)
Northeast Iowa	Course	25.00	25.00	0.0%
Northeast Iowa	Technology	14.00	16.00	14.3%
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	12.00	12.00	0.0%
Iowa Lakes	General	10.00	7.00	-35.2%
Iowa Lakes	Technology	10.00	10.00	0.0%
Northwest Iowa	Course	10.00	10.00	0.0%
Northwest Iowa	Student	10.00	12.00	20.0%
Northwest Iowa	Technology	8.00	8.00	0.0%
Iowa Central	Student	19.00	24.00	26.3%
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	7.00	7.00	0.0%
Eastern Iowa	No fees	0.00	0.00	0.0%
Kirkwood	Technology	50.00	50.00	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%
Western Iowa Tech	Educational Resource Fee	0.00	97.00	100.0%
Iowa Western	College Service	17.00	17.00	0.0%
Southwestern	General	13.00	0.00	-171.4%
Indian Hills	No fees	0.00	0.00	0.0%
Southeastern	Technology	7.00	10.00	35.2%

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 FY26 is \$228.72 (see Table 1). Among Iowa's 15 community colleges, Des Moines Area Community College (\$201), Western Iowa Tech Community College (\$213), and Kirkwood Community College (\$221) have the lowest costs of enrollment per credit hour. Des Moines Area Community College and Kirkwood Community College do not assess mandatory fees, which helps minimize costs. By comparison, Northwest Iowa Community College has the highest cost of enrollment per credit hour (\$243), followed by Iowa Valley Community College (\$236) and Iowa Central Community College (\$235) and Iowa Western Community College (\$235). Based on the per-credit hour tuition and fees rate, a full-time Iowa resident will pay between \$6,030 and \$7,290 for 30 semester credit hours in FY26, depending on which community college the student attends. Total average cost of in-state enrollment at an Iowa community college increased \$8.94 (4.1 percent) per credit hour from FY25.

Concurrent Pricing

Concurrent enrollment is defined as credit hours earned when a high school student is taking a college course for both high school and college credit. The Department of Education collects the enrollment pricing data annually. Iowa code articulates that concurrent enrollment pricing is agreed upon via a contractual agreement between each community college and district they serve (Iowa Code Section 261E.8). This table outlines concurrent enrollment prices as negotiated for academic year 25-26 by course modality. Iowa Lakes Community College reports the lowest estimated cost per credit hour at \$42.20, while North Iowa Area Community College has the highest estimated cost at \$113.38 per credit hour. For community college faculty teaching online courses, Northeast Iowa Community College has the lowest estimated cost per credit hour at \$65, followed by Eastern Iowa Community College at \$138. Hawkeye Community College reports the highest estimated cost in this category at \$138. With respect to courses taught at the lowest overall rate, Northeast Iowa Community College again has the lowest cost at \$124.40 per course, whereas Hawkeye Community College has the highest charge at \$227 per course.

Table 4

High School						Community College		Online		Career Academy	
Community College (CC)	CC Tuition Rate Per Credit Hour for AY 25-26	Course taught in the high school by a high school teacher	Course taught in the high school by a high school teacher	CC faculty teaching at the high school	CC faculty teaching at the high school	Course taught at the CC	Course taught at the CC	CC faculty teaching online course	CC faculty teaching online course	Charge for Career Academy Programs at the CC	Charge for Career Academy Programs at the CC
		Per Credit Hour Cost Estimate	Percent of Tuition Estimate	Per Credit Hour Cost Estimate	Percent of Tuition Estimate	Per Credit Hour Cost Estimate	Percent of Tuition Estimate	Per Credit Hour Cost Estimate	Percent of Tuition Estimate	Per Credit Hour Cost Estimate	Percent of Tuition Estimate
Northeast Iowa	209.00	65.00	31.1%	156.75	75.0%	125.40	60.0%	156.75	75.0%	156.75	75.0%
North Iowa Area	198.25	99.13	50.0%	198.25	100.0%	138.78	70.0%	138.78	70.0%	198.25	100.0%
Iowa Lakes	221.00	42.20	19.1%	168.80	76.40%	168.80	76.4%	168.80	76.4%	168.80	76.4%
Northwest Iowa	213.00	62.40	29.3%			187.20	87.9%	145.60	68.4%	187.20	87.9%
Iowa Central	216.00	48.09	22.3%	183.00	84.7%	183.00	84.7%	183.00	84.7%	183.00	84.7%
Iowa Valley	210.00	94.50	45.0%	178.50	85.0%	178.50	85.0%	194.50	92.6%	210.00	100.0%
Hawkeye	227.00	56.75	25.0%	227.00	100.0%	227.00	100.0%	227.00	100.0%	227.00	100.0%
Eastern Iowa	209.00	67.93	32.5%	67.93	32.5%	138.00	66.0%	138.00	66.0%	209.00	100.0%
Kirkwood	221.00	48.62	22.0%	176.80	80.0%	176.80	80.0%	176.80	80.0%	221.00	100.0%
Des Moines Area	201.00	50.00	24.9%	158.33	78.8%	158.33	78.8%	158.33	78.8%	156.25	77.7%
Western Iowa Tech	184.00	43.61	23.7%	43.61	23.7%	151.00	82.1%	151.00	82.1%	151.00	82.1%
Iowa Western	218.00	109.00	50.0%	163.50	75.0%	196.20	90.0%	174.40	80.0%	196.20	90.0%
Southwestern	219.00	60.22	27.5%	197.10	90.0%	197.10	90.0%	197.10	90.0%	204.00	93.2%
Indian Hills	218.00	82.84	39.0%	174.40	80.0%	174.40	80.0%	218.00	100.0%	174.40	80.0%
Southeastern	212.00	75.00	35.4%	74.75	35.3%	146.00	68.9%	146.00	68.9%	146.00	68.9%
Statewide Average	211.75	66.69	31.6%	154.91	72.6%	170.83	80.5%	171.60	80.9%	182.98	86.4%

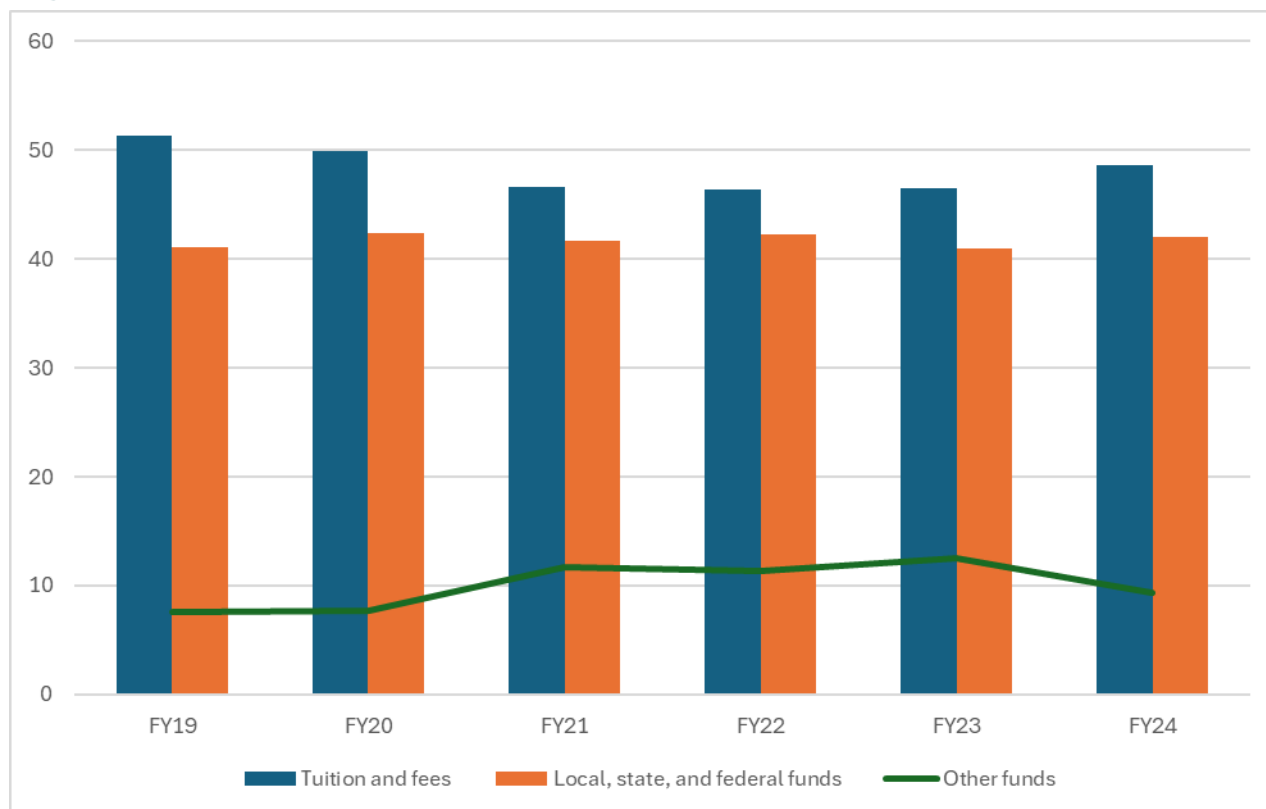
*Assumes costs for a 3-credit hour course

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 FY24, the latest year for which data is available, tuition and fees accounted for 48.6 percent of total general operating revenue.

Figure 1 illustrates how tuition and fees have fluctuated since FY19, in response to changes in funding from public and other sources. During FY19, tuition and fees accounted for 51.3 percent of total general operating revenue. This percentage has gradually decreased over subsequent years, then increased again in FY24.

Figure 1

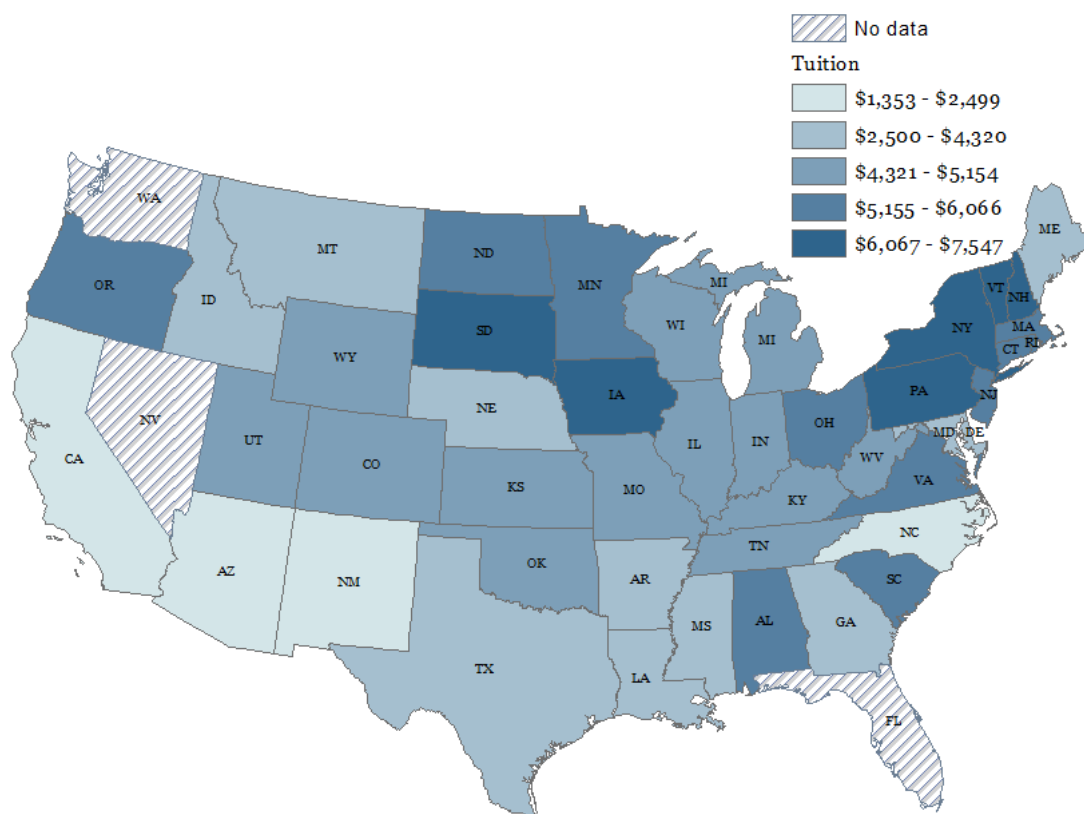


National

According to IPEDS data, the average annual in-state total cost of enrollment in Iowa during FY24 was \$6,228, placing Iowa in the 87th percentile. This means Iowa's average annual in-state total cost of enrollment was greater than or equal to 87 percent of all reporting states. The national average was \$4,779.

Figure 2 shows a color-range distribution of average total in-state costs of enrollment for 30 semester hours in FY24 by state. Darker colors represent higher costs of enrollment. South Dakota (\$7,547), New Hampshire (\$7,049) and Pennsylvania (\$6,920) had the highest average total costs of in- state enrollment. By comparison, California (\$1,353), New Mexico (\$2,199) and Arizona (\$2,314) had the lowest averages.

Figure 2



Regional

Provisional 2024 data from IPEDS [1], included in Table 5, shows Iowa had the second-highest average cost of in-state enrollment in the region (\$6,228), following South Dakota (\$7,547). Nebraska (\$4,129) and Illinois (\$4,617) had the lowest regional averages.

Table 5

Fiscal Year	Iowa	Illinois	Minnesota	Missouri	Nebraska	South Dakota	Wisconsin
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
2024	6,228.00	4,617.00	6,066.00	5,062.00	4,129.00	7,547.00	4,875.00

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 6 illustrates Iowa’s compliance with this requirement. In FY26, the highest tuition per credit hour at Iowa community colleges (\$236) is 43.2 percent lower than the lowest base tuition at Iowa’s public universities (\$366).

Table 6

Fiscal Year	Community Colleges (Highest, \$)	Public Universities (Lowest, \$)
2022	202.00	325.00
2023	204.00	338.00
2024	211.00	350.00
2025	218.00	357.00
2026	236.00	366.00

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 \$199.32 in FY22 to \$225.78 in FY26 (Table 7). This represents a 12.4 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 11.7 percent, from \$398 per credit hour to \$444.50 per credit hour.

Table 7

Fiscal Year	Community Colleges (\$)	Public Universities (\$)
2022	199.32	398.00
2023	206.08	415.00
2024	213.28	433.00
2025	219.78	445.00
2026	225.78	444.50

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>, December 26, 2025.

[2] Iowa Board of Regents. Index of reports. Retrieved from chrome-
<https://www.iowaregents.edu/news/newsletter/board-of-regents-news/april-23-24-2025-meeting-preview/2025-26-tuition-and-fees>, September 2025.