



Chapter 10 – Future Ready Iowa Grant

Established in 2018, the Future Ready Iowa Grant (FRG) is a non-need-based grant program that assists students who enroll in programs of study aligned with statewide high-demand jobs at Iowa Regent Universities, independent colleges/universities in Iowa or an approved virtual institution. A [Historical Appropriations Summary](#) can be found on the Iowa Department of Education’s Higher Ed and Postsecondary Readiness Reports site.

A. Eligibility

1. College/University

To be eligible to participate in the FRG, an institution must be a university governed by the state Board of Regents, an Iowa private college/university as defined in Iowa Code Section 256.183, or an approved virtual institution. Participating colleges/universities must offer eligible programs of study aligned with a high-demand job.

An eligible institution must require students to:

- Attend an orientation session, in-person or virtually, for the eligible institution;
- Register for courses with the assistance of an advisor and participate in available academic advising sessions;
- Create a graduation plan if required in the program of study;
- Participate in available career advising sessions if required in the program of study, including creation of a career plan when possible;
- Market eligible Future Ready Iowa programs of study on the institution’s website;
- Report information annually to the Iowa Department of Education’s Bureau of Iowa College Aid (Iowa College Aid).

Students attending the colleges/universities listed are eligible to receive the FRG.

Participating Colleges

FRG Participating College	College/University Sector	Location
Allen College	Private College/University	Waterloo
Briar Cliff University	Private College/University	Sioux City
Buena Vista University	Private College/University	Storm Lake
Central College	Private College/University	Pella

FRG Participating College	College/University Sector	Location
Clarke University	Private College/University	Dubuque
Coe College	Private College/University	Cedar Rapids
Cornell College	Private College/University	Mount Vernon
Dordt University	Private College/University	Sioux Center
Drake University	Private College/University	Des Moines
Emmaus Bible College	Private College/University	Dubuque
Faith Baptist Bible College	Private College/University	Ankeny
Graceland University	Private College/University	Lamoni
Grand View University	Private College/University	Des Moines
Grinnell College	Private College/University	Grinnell
Loras College	Private College/University	Dubuque
Luther College	Private College/University	Decorah
Mercy College of Health Sciences	Private College/University	Des Moines
Morningside University	Private College/University	Sioux City
Mount Mercy University	Private College/University	Cedar Rapids
Northwestern College	Private College/University	Orange City
St. Ambrose University	Private College/University	Davenport
St. Luke's College	Private College/University	Sioux City
Simpson College	Private College/University	Indianola
University of Dubuque	Private College/University	Dubuque
Upper Iowa University	Private College/University	Fayette
Waldorf University	Private College/University	Forest City

FRG Participating College	College/University Sector	Location
Wartburg College	Private College/University	Waverly
William Penn University	Private College/University	Oskaloosa
Iowa State University	Regent University	Ames
University of Iowa	Regent University	Iowa City
University of Northern Iowa	Regent University	Cedar Falls
Western Governors University	Approved Virtual Institution	Salt Lake City, UT

Each college/university must complete an initial application for participation in the FRG program. College/university officials must submit the application and supporting documentation establishing accreditation or accreditation plans by October 1 prior to the application year in which they want to participate. If the application is approved, students at the college/university may begin submitting need analysis applications (FAFSAs) the following October to apply for funds. For example, if a school's FRG application is received prior to October 1, 2027 and is subsequently approved, students could begin receiving ITG in the 2028-2029 award year by completing the 2028-2029 FAFSA that becomes available around October 1, 2027.

2. Student

In addition to the general eligibility requirements found in Chapter 1, an eligible FRG recipient must be at least 25 years old on July 1 preceding the academic year. The eligible student must enroll continuously on at least a part-time basis (6 hours minimum). Continuous enrollment/receipt is required during the fall and spring terms of enrollment. Summer enrollment is not required for a student to meet the continuous enrollment provision. However, a student enrolled in at least 6 credit hours during the summer term may be eligible to receive a FRG award if summer awards are authorized.

Any student who establishes (attends) the required minimum enrollment and partially withdraws, but does not completely withdraw, will be allowed to continue to receive the FRG and will be considered to have met the minimum enrollment threshold for continuous enrollment.

A student who is awarded FRG during a semester but withdraws from all courses after the add/drop date would not meet the continuous enrollment requirement in subsequent terms.

If a student is enrolled in a modular program and it is anticipated the student will be eligible for FRG at the time of award, the institution may disburse FRG based on the anticipated enrollment in late start courses. In the event a student does not attend a course or set of courses, FRG must be reduced to reflect accurate enrollment for courses attended and the student will lose future eligibility for FRG if the minimum enrollment threshold is not maintained during that term of enrollment. Schools should follow their refund/recalculation policies and award accordingly.

An otherwise eligible student may enroll in fewer than 6 credit hours in the term that the program of study will be completed if fewer than 6 credit hours are required to complete the eligible program of study.

3. Programs of Study

At least every two years the Iowa Workforce Development Board will update and approve the list of statewide high-demand jobs used for the FRG. Iowa College Aid staff map these high-demand jobs (using standard occupation classification codes, or SOC codes) to aligned programs of study (using classification of instructional program codes, or CIP codes). Iowa College Aid staff will work with participating colleges/universities to update the list of eligible programs of study offered at each institution. Students must be enrolled in the program of study aligned with the eligible CIP code as of the college/university census date to qualify (program of study changes after the census date will not impact eligibility for that semester, but will impact future eligibility under the program).

B. Application Process

Applicants who have not received the FRG in a prior year must complete both the Iowa Financial Aid Application and the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), as described in Chapter 1, on or before the corresponding deadline(s). Eligible applicants will be funded in date received order.

Students renewing their FRG award must complete only the FAFSA on or before July 1. It is not necessary for a student renewing their award to submit an Iowa Financial Aid Application.

C. Selection of Recipients

On-time applicants will be designated for an award by Iowa College Aid. If all applicants cannot be served due to funding limitations, Iowa College Aid will prioritize based on the following criteria:

- Eligible renewal students by application date
- Eligible new applicants by application date

Iowa college/university officials can access a designated roster of recipients by logging in to Iowa College Aid Processing System (ICAPS®) and clicking on 'Rosters'. Only students on the 'Designated' roster can receive a FRG payment. College/university officials should use the awarding instructions in this chapter, in conjunction with general guidance in Chapters 1-3, to award the FRG. College/university officials should verify the following criteria prior to making an award:

- The designated student is admitted into and enrolled in coursework that is part of a baccalaureate degree program with a CIP code that matches a CIP code on the list of eligible programs of study (identified at the end of this chapter).

D. Awarding

The 2026-2027 maximum FRG award is \$3,000 for students enrolled full-time. Part-time students may receive prorated assistance based on the credit hour enrollment.

College/university officials credit payments to student accounts on a per term basis. The following chart provides the maximum award allowed per credit hour based on the maximum award of \$3,000.

Summer payments are allowed when authorized explicitly by Iowa College Aid. If summer awards are authorized, follow the semester/quarter proration charts below. At this time, summer awards for 2026-2027 have not been authorized.

Semester Maximum

Enrollment Status	Credits	Semester	Quarter
Full-Time (F)	12+	\$1,500	\$1,000
Three-Quarter Time (P)	11	1,380	920
Three-Quarter Time (P)	10	1,245	830
Three-Quarter Time (P)	9	1,125	750
Half-Time (H)	8	1,005	670
Half-Time (H)	7	870	580
Half-Time (H)	6	750	500
Less-Than-Half-Time (L)	5	630	420
Less-Than-Half-Time (L)	4	495	330
Less-Than-Half-Time (L)	3	375	250

In order to determine amounts for students enrolled less than full time, use enrollment intensity percentages. For example, if a student is enrolled in 11 credits, they would be eligible for 92% (rounding to the nearest percent) of the maximum award making the student eligible for \$1,380 (round awards to the nearest dollar). $(3,000 * (11/12) / 2 = (3,000 * .92) / 2 = \$1,380)$. Total awards cannot exceed the annual maximum.

Awards must be made on an accurately calculated SAI.

E. Award Offer

Institution officials should provide financial aid offers to all FRG recipients. Award offers must clearly indicate award amounts and the state programs from which students will receive funding. All notices concerning state grants must include the following award notification statement:

“The amount of grant money you receive from the Iowa Department of Education may change based on state funding.”

F. Renewal and Lifetime Eligibility

FRG recipients will be considered for subsequent awards if the recipient completes the FAFSA by July 1, maintains continuous enrollment, and continues to meet all other FRG eligibility requirements.

Recipients of the FRG may renew their award for up to 4 full-time semesters as long as they continue to meet all other eligibility criteria. Part-time students may receive up to 8 semesters in assistance. Full-time

and part-time semesters will be calculated using enrollment statuses reported by college/university officials in the ICAPS.

ICAPS determines the semester maximum by the usage of points. The FRG has a maximum limit of 2 points. The following chart indicates the point values used per term based on the enrollment status indicated in ICAPS.

Points Established by Enrollment Status

Enrollment Status	Credits	Semester Points	Quarter Points
Full-Time (F)	12+	0.5	0.333
Three-Quarter Time (P)	9-11	0.375	0.25
Half-Time (H)	6-8	0.25	0.167
Less-Than-Half-Time (L)	3-5	0.125	0.083

G. Disbursement of Funds

Chapter 3 provides a complete description of the payment process. The FRG is a non-need-based program and payments may be applied to any expense within the student’s cost of attendance.

H. Changes/Corrections

Any changes in awards must be provided to Iowa College Aid electronically via ICAPS by the reporting deadlines established in Chapter 3 of the Iowa Student Financial Aid Guide.

I. Verification/Compliance

College/university officials are responsible for completing required federal verification procedures and for coordinating all aid to ensure compliance with student eligibility and allowable award amounts.

One disbursement of state-funded student financial aid may be made prior to completing the verification process as long as college/university officials have no reason to believe application information is inaccurate. If verification indicates that students are ineligible for aid, refunds must be made to state-funded program.

J. Future Ready Iowa Grant Eligible Programs of Study

A list of eligible shortage programs by participating college/university can be found in the attachment to this chapter.