

# Tuition and Fees Report

Fiscal Year 2017



**COMMUNITY COLLEGES &  
WORKFORCE PREPARATION**  
*PROSPERITY THROUGH EDUCATION*

**IOWA DEPARTMENT  
OF EDUCATION**



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Published:  
September 2016

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## Executive Summary

The annual community college tuition and fees report details the tuition and fee charges at each of Iowa's 15 community colleges. It also provides trends in tuition and fees among Iowa's community colleges, sources of general operating revenue, and comparisons among states and institutions.

Average in-state tuition for full-time students attending Iowa's community colleges is \$157.05 per credit hour in fiscal year (FY) 2017, a 4.4 percent increase from last year. Average mandatory fees are \$14.27 per credit hour in FY 2017, up 4.6 percent from last year. Average total in-state cost of enrollment (i.e., tuition and fees) is \$171.31 per credit hour in FY 2017, a 4.4 percent increase from last year.

Tuition and fees accounted for approximately 52 percent of community colleges' unrestricted operating revenue during FY 2015. This percentage has gradually decreased since 2011 when it was just over 57 percent. During this five-year period, state general aid increased from approximately 29.5 percent in 2011 to 36 percent in 2015.

Provisional data from the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) [2] suggest that Iowa ranked 44th in average total enrollment costs in FY 2015 (the latest year available), placing it in the 85th percentile. By comparison, California ranked first in affordability with average total enrollment costs of \$1,243.99.

Regionally, the average IPEDS total enrollment costs per credit hour during FY 2015 were higher in Minnesota and South Dakota than in Iowa [2]. However, IPEDS data suggest average total enrollment cost per credit hour at Iowa's community colleges (\$149.33) was approximately 10 percent higher than the regional average (\$135.35) in FY 2015.

In accordance with Iowa Code, the highest tuition charged by an Iowa community college is less than the lowest tuition charged at Iowa's public universities. In FY 2017, the highest community college tuition for 24 credit hours (\$4,080) is more than 40 percent less than the lowest public university tuition for the same number of credit hours (\$6,848).





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## Tuition and Fees

[Iowa Code §260C.14 §§2](#) states that “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 Iowa Board of Regents for a full-time resident student.” Furthermore, for non-resident (out-of-state) students, “tuition. . . shall not be less than the marginal cost of instruction of a student attending the college”.

### Tuition

Table 1 lists tuition and fees for each community college during FY 2016 and 2017. These figures illustrate that Des Moines Area Community College had the lowest percentage increase in tuition (2.8 percent), whereas Eastern Iowa Community Colleges had the highest (6.4 percent).

TABLE 1: TUITION AND MANDATORY FEES PER SEMESTER CREDIT HOUR BY COLLEGE

College	FY 2016			FY 2017		
	Tuition (\$)	Fees (\$)	Total (\$)	Tuition (\$)	Fees (\$)	Total (\$)
Northeast Iowa	154.00	13.00	167.00	160.00	19.00	179.00
North Iowa Area	133.75	26.00	159.75	140.75	26.00	166.75
Iowa Lakes	160.00	16.75	176.75	167.00	16.75	183.75
Northwest	150.00	28.00	178.00	157.00	28.00	185.00
Iowa Central	149.00	14.00	163.00	158.00	14.00	172.00
Iowa Valley	---	---	---	---	---	---
Ellsworth	158.00	26.00	184.00	163.00	26.00	189.00
Marshalltown	158.00	26.00	184.00	163.00	26.00	189.00
Hawkeye	152.00	7.50	159.50	161.00	7.50	168.50
Eastern Iowa	140.00	0.00	140.00	149.00	0.00	149.00
Kirkwood	148.00	0.00	148.00	154.00	0.00	154.00
Des Moines Area	143.00	0.00	143.00	147.00	0.00	147.00
Western Iowa Tech	139.00	32.00	171.00	143.00	32.00	175.00
Iowa Western	149.00	14.00	163.00	157.00	17.00	174.00
Southwestern	152.00	12.00	164.00	158.00	12.00	170.00
Indian Hills	160.00	0.00	160.00	165.00	0.00	165.00
Southeastern	162.00	3.00	165.00	170.00	4.00	174.00
Minimum	133.75	0.00	140.00	140.75	0.00	147.00
Median	151.00	13.50	163.50	158.00	15.38	173.00
Maximum	162.00	32.00	184.00	170.00	32.00	189.00
Average	150.48	13.64	164.13	157.05	14.27	171.31
Std. Dev.	8.30	11.28	13.03	8.43	11.32	12.95

Community colleges may charge non-residents a lower tuition if an approved reciprocal tuition agreement is on file with the Iowa Department of Education. Under this provision, the department has approved the following requests:

- » Northwest Iowa Community College, \$162.00 per credit hour (up 4.5 percent from last year) for students who are residents of Minnesota, Nebraska, or South Dakota.
- » Iowa Lakes Community College, \$172.00 per credit hour (up 4.2 percent) for students who are residents of Minnesota.
- » Eastern Iowa Community Colleges, \$171.00 per credit hour (up 5.6 percent) for students who are residents of adjacent Illinois counties.

## Mandatory Fees

Table 2 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.

TABLE 2: MANDATORY FEES PER SEMESTER CREDIT HOUR BY COLLEGE

College	Description	Amount (\$)	
		FY 2016	FY 2017
Northeast Iowa	General	13.00	19.00
North Iowa Area	Material/Lab/Supplies	12.00	12.00
	Student activities	4.00	4.00
	Technology	10.00	10.00
Iowa Lakes	Activity	2.25	2.25
	General	5.50	5.50
	Noel Levitz/LSA	0.25	0.25
	Processing	0.75	0.75
	Technology	8.00	8.00
Northwest Iowa	Course	10.00	10.00
	Student	10.00	10.00
	Technology	8.00	8.00
Iowa Central	Student	14.00	14.00
Iowa Valley	Facility	2.00	2.00
	Materials/Technology	17.00	18.50
	Student	7.00	5.50
Hawkeye	Student activity	3.50	3.50
	Computer	4.00	4.00
Western Iowa Tech	Matriculation	8.00	8.00
	Technology	24.00	24.00
Iowa Western	College service	14.00	17.00
Southwestern	Service/Technology	12.00	12.00
Southeastern	Technology	3.00	4.00

*Note:* Eastern Iowa, Kirkwood, Des Moines Area, and Indian Hills Community Colleges have no mandatory per-credit-hour fees.

Twelve (12) of Iowa's 15 community colleges did not change their fee schedules for FY 2017 and three community colleges – Des Moines Area, Eastern Iowa, and Indian Hills – do not assess any mandatory fees. Among colleges that do assess mandatory fees, Western Iowa Tech has the highest (\$32.00 per credit hour) and Southeastern Community College has the lowest (\$4.00 per credit hour).

Iowa Lakes Community College assesses students \$10.00 per term for a basic activity fee in addition to its other mandatory fees. Although Kirkwood Community College has no mandatory fees per credit hour, the college introduced a technology fee effective FY 2016. The technology fee for FY 2017 is \$25.00 per term.

### Online Tuition

State policy allows community colleges to establish separate tuition rates for distance education courses that are delivered through a consortium agreement approved by the Iowa Department of Education. This agreement pertains to the Iowa Community College Online Consortium (ICCO) that sets tuition and fees for online courses on behalf of its members. For FY 2017, the ICCOC's tuition and fees will amount to \$171.00 per credit hour. Community colleges that do not participate in the consortium set their own tuition and fees for online courses.



## Cost of Enrollment

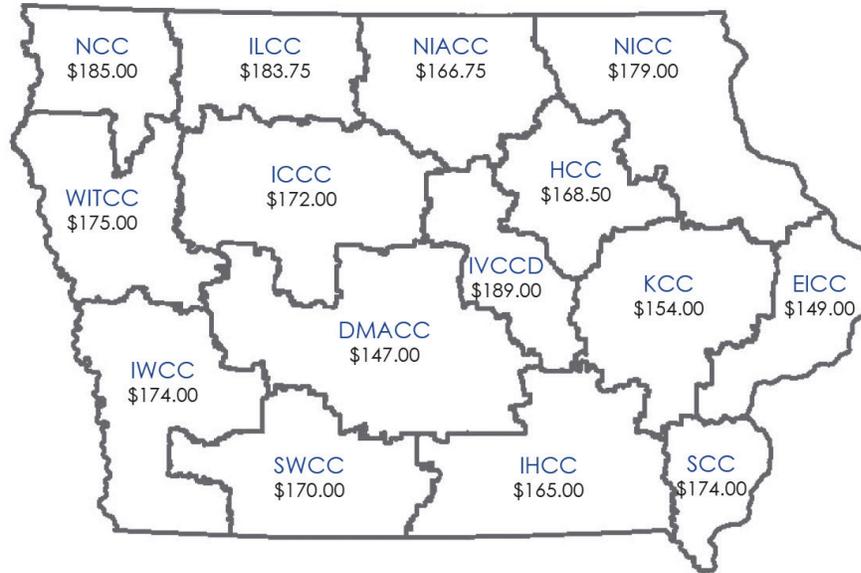
The per-credit-hour sum of tuition and mandatory fees defines cost of enrollment. This cost does not include expenses such as books, room and board, transportation, or other additional fees. Table 3 shows cost of enrollment per credit hour for FY 2016 and FY 2017.

TABLE 3: YEAR-TO-YEAR COMPARISON OF PER-CREDIT-HOUR COST OF ENROLLMENT BY COLLEGE

College	Cost (\$)		Difference	
	FY 2016	FY 2017	\$	%
Northeast Iowa	167.00	179.00	12.00	7.19
North Iowa Area	159.75	166.75	7.00	4.38
Iowa Lakes	176.75	183.75	7.00	3.96
Northwest Iowa	178.00	185.00	7.00	3.93
Iowa Central	163.00	172.00	9.00	5.52
Iowa Valley	---	---	---	---
Ellsworth	184.00	189.00	5.00	2.72
Marshalltown	184.00	189.00	5.00	2.72
Hawkeye	159.50	168.50	9.00	5.64
Eastern Iowa	140.00	149.00	9.00	6.43
Kirkwood	148.00	154.00	6.00	4.05
Des Moines Area	143.00	147.00	4.00	2.80
Western Iowa Tech	171.00	175.00	4.00	2.34
Iowa Western	163.00	174.00	11.00	6.75
Southwestern	164.00	170.00	6.00	3.66
Indian Hills	160.00	165.00	5.00	3.13
Southeastern	165.00	174.00	9.00	5.45
Median	163.50	173.00	7.00	4.01
Average	164.13	171.31	7.19	4.42
Std. Dev.	13.03	12.95	2.43	1.56

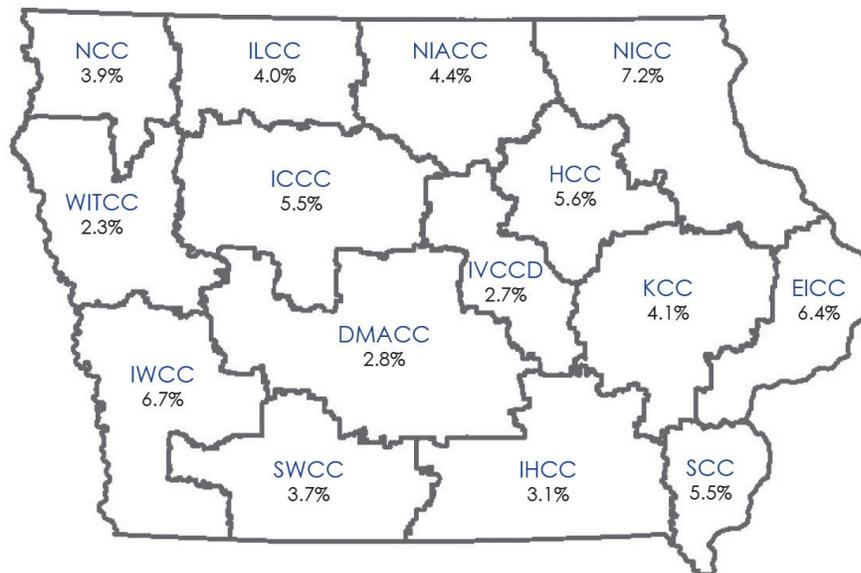
In FY 2017, \$171.31 is the average per-credit-hour sum of tuition and mandatory fees. Des Moines Area Community College (\$147.00) and Eastern Iowa Community College (\$149.00) have the lowest per-credit-hour costs of enrollment among Iowa's 15 community colleges. Neither college assesses mandatory fees, which helps minimize costs. By comparison, Iowa Valley Community College District has the highest per-credit-hour cost of enrollment (\$189.00), followed by Northwest Iowa Community College (\$185.00). Figure 1 depicts the per-credit-hour costs of enrollment across Iowa.

FIGURE 1: FY 2017 COST OF ENROLLMENT PER CREDIT HOUR



During FY 2017, a full-time Iowa resident will pay between \$4,410 and \$5,670 for 30 credit hours, depending upon which community college the student attends. The average total cost of enrollment increased \$7.19 (4.4 percent) from FY 2016. Western Iowa Tech Community College had the smallest percentage increase (2.3 percent), whereas Northeast Iowa Community College had the highest overall increase (7.2 percent). Figure 2 depicts distribution of year-to-year percent increases in per-credit-hour cost of enrollment among Iowa’s community colleges.

FIGURE 2: CHANGE IN COST OF ENROLLMENT PER CREDIT HOUR FROM 2016

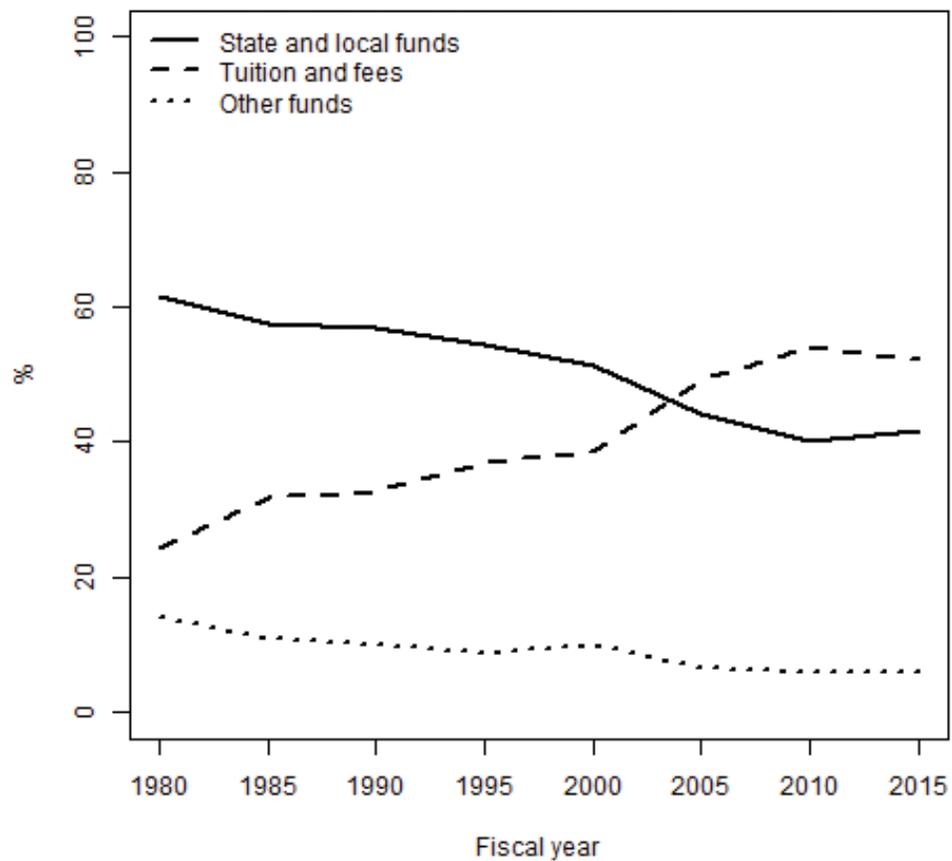


## Revenue Sources

Primary revenue sources for public community colleges in Iowa are local, state, and federal funds, and tuition and fees, with the latter accounting for the largest proportion. During FY 2015, tuition and fees accounted for 52 percent of total general operating revenue.

Despite slight increases in local, state, and federal funding over the past few years, figure 3 depicts how tuition and fees have risen since 1980 to offset decreased funding from public and other sources. During FY 2011, tuition and fees accounted for approximately 57.3 percent of total general operating revenue. By 2015, this percentage had decreased to approximately 52.1 percent.

FIGURE 3: SOURCES OF GENERAL OPERATING REVENUE AS PERCENTAGES OF TOTAL



## Comparisons

National and regional comparisons are based upon provisional Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) data collected from 921 public two-year institutions that award associate degrees [2]. IPEDS reports tuition and fees for an academic year, calculating costs based upon 30 credit hours per year. FY 2015 is the latest year available for this report.

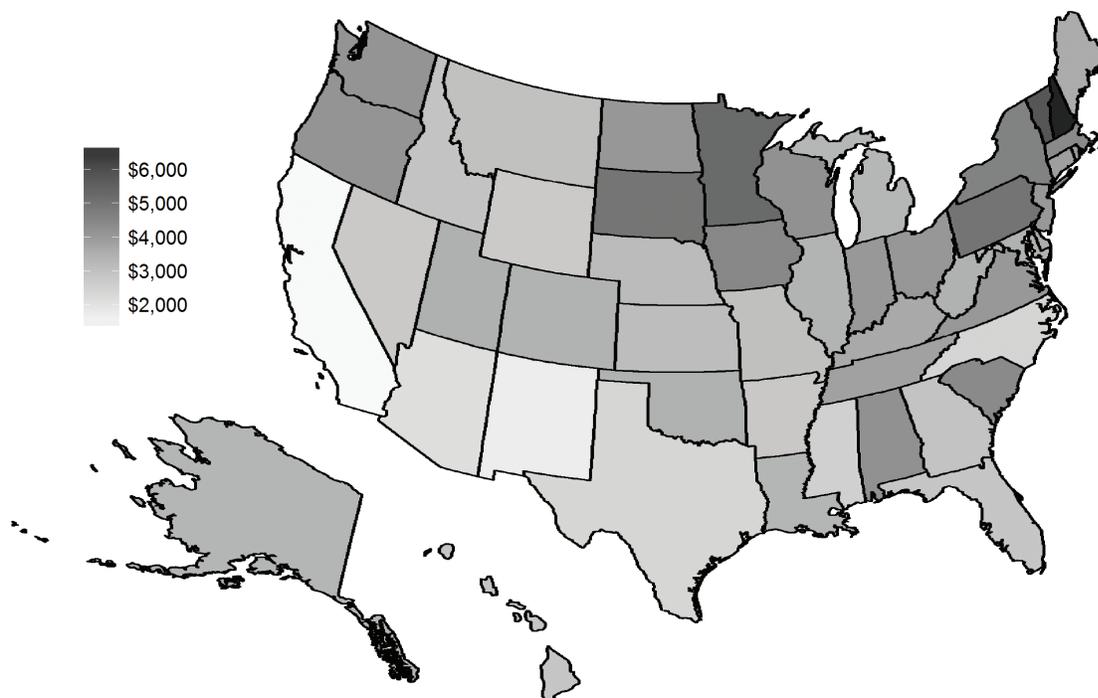
Data for Iowa's public universities were collected from current and historical tuition tables published by the Iowa Board of Regents [3]. Data for Iowa's community colleges were collected from an annual survey of community college business officers and from historical records available from the Iowa Department of Education [1].

### National

According to IPEDS data, the average annual in-district total cost of enrollment in Iowa during FY 2015 was \$4,480.06, placing Iowa in the 85th percentile. This means Iowa's average annual in-district total cost of enrollment was greater than or equal to 85 percent of all reporting states. The national average was \$3,234.74.

Figure 4 shows that in FY 2015, New Hampshire (\$6,972.71), Vermont (\$5,886.00), and Minnesota (\$5,308.77) had the highest average total costs of enrollment. By comparison, California (\$1,243.99), New Mexico (\$1,619.26), and Arizona (\$2,052.80) had the lowest average total costs of enrollment.

FIGURE 4: FY 2015 AVERAGE ANNUAL TOTAL COST OF ENROLLMENT FOR 30 SEMESTER CREDIT HOURS



## Regional

Provisional 2015 data from IPEDS [2] suggest that Iowa had the third highest average total cost of enrollment in the region (\$4,480.06), after Minnesota (\$5,308.77) and South Dakota (\$5,020.00) (Figure 5). As Table 4 illustrates, this trend has been consistent since 2011. Missouri (\$3,009.57) and Nebraska (\$3,188.88) had the lowest average total costs of enrollment in the region.

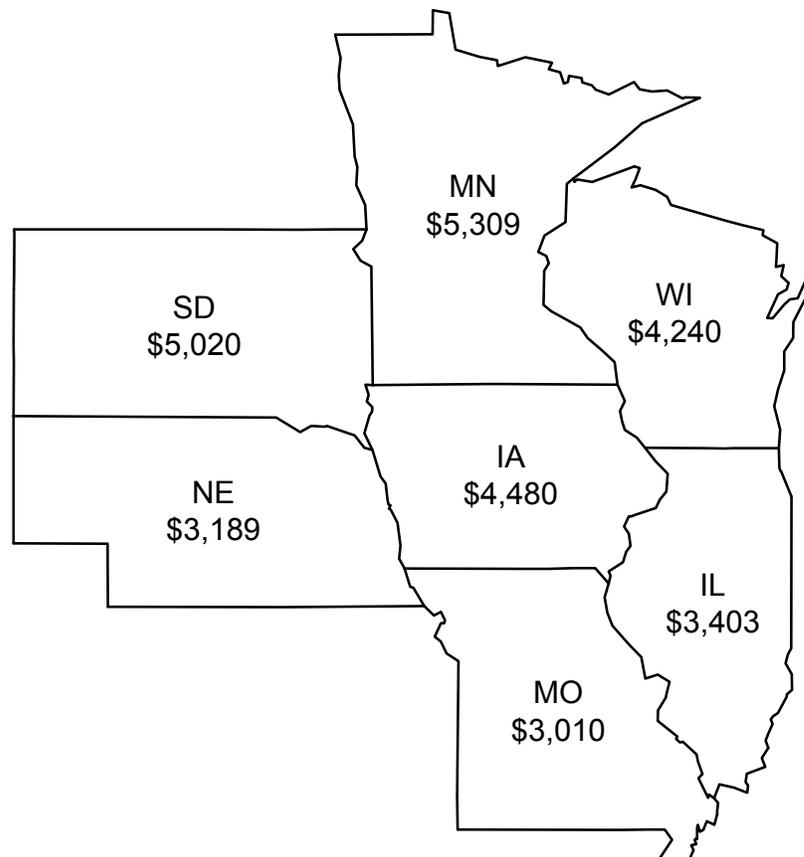
TABLE 4: REGIONAL AVERAGE TOTAL COST OF ENROLLMENT (\$) FOR 30 SEMESTER CREDIT HOURS PER ACADEMIC YEAR

Year	IA	IL	MN	MO	NE	SD	WI
2011	3,908	2,902	4,930	2,602	2,867	4,504	3,601
2012	4,128	3,031	5,146	2,758	2,922	4,876	3,745
2013	4,249	3,130	5,320	2,870	3,021	5,046	3,945
2014	4,417	3,258	5,344	3,012	3,067	4,806	4,116
2015	4,480	3,403	5,309	3,010	3,189	5,020	4,240

Source: [2]

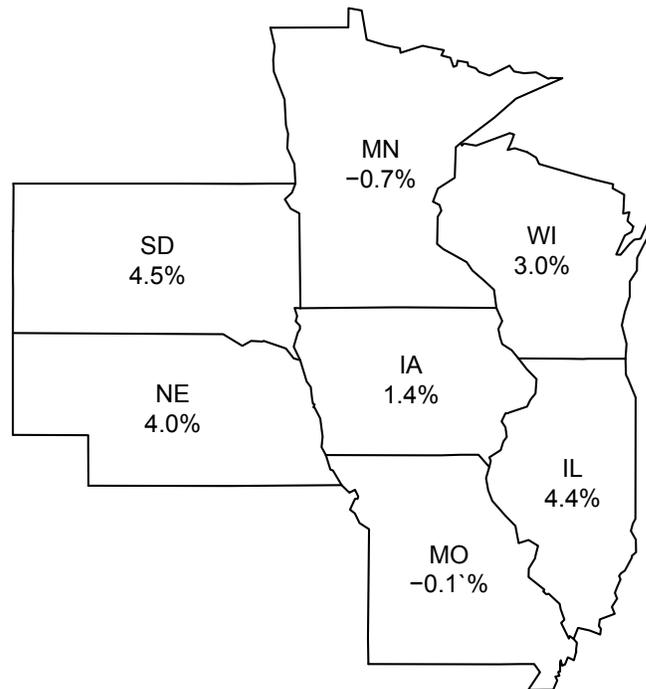
Note: Averages are rounded to the nearest dollar.

FIGURE 5: FY 2015 REGIONAL AVERAGE ANNUAL IN-STATE TOTAL COST OF ENROLLMENT FOR 30 SEMESTER CREDIT HOURS



In Iowa, the average annual in-district total cost of enrollment increased 1.4 percent from 2014 to 2015 (Figure 6). By comparison, South Dakota and Illinois had the highest average percentage change, 4.5 percent and 4.4 percent respectively. Although Minnesota had the highest average total cost of enrollment, it had the largest decrease in average total cost of enrollment (-0.9 percent).

FIGURE 6: REGIONAL PERCENTAGE CHANGE OF AVERAGE ANNUAL IN-STATE TOTAL COST OF ENROLLMENT FOR 30 SEMESTER CREDIT HOURS FROM FY 2014 TO FY 2015



### Institutional

Table 5 demonstrates Iowa’s community colleges’ compliance with Iowa Code [4]. In FY 2017, the highest tuition per credit hour at Iowa community colleges (\$170.00) is 42.4 percent lower than the lowest base tuition at Iowa’s public universities (\$295.75).

TABLE 5: COMPARISON OF TUITION PER CREDIT HOUR BY TYPE OF INSTITUTION

FY	Community Colleges (Highest, \$)	Public Universities (Lowest, \$)
2013	150.00	277.00
2014	150.00	277.00
2015	155.00	277.00
2016	162.00	278.25
2017	170.00	295.75

Source: [1] [3]

Note: Base per-credit-hour tuition for Iowa’s public universities is derived from 24 semester credit hours per academic year.

Average cost of enrollment (i.e., tuition and fees) per credit hour at Iowa’s community colleges increased from \$147.90 in FY 2013 to \$171.31 in FY 2017 (Table 6), representing a 15.8 percent increase. This is equivalent to an annualized 3.7 percent increase. During the same time period, average cost of enrollment at Iowa’s public universities increased 3.8 percent, from \$325.24 per credit hour to \$348.66 per credit hour.<sup>1</sup> This is equivalent to a 1.7 percent annualized rate. By comparison, the national cumulative rate of inflation increased 4.4 percent, equivalent to a 1.1 percent annualized increase [4].

TABLE 6: AVERAGE PER-CREDIT-HOUR COST OF ENROLLMENT (\$) BY TYPE OF INSTITUTION

FY	Community Colleges	Public Universities
2013	147.90	325.24
2014	151.89	325.99
2015	157.78	327.21
2016	164.13	334.12
2017	171.31	348.66

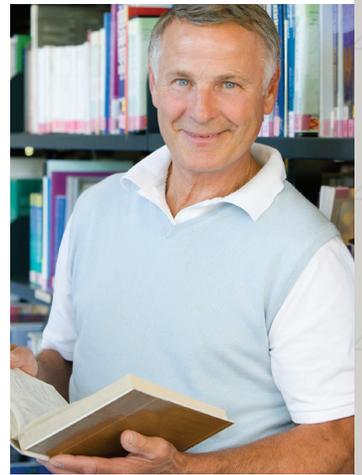
Source: [1] [3]

Note: Average per-credit-hour cost of enrollment for Iowa’s public universities is derived from 24 semester credit hours per academic year.

<sup>1</sup> The Iowa Board of Regents calculates base tuition rates, fees, and total costs for full-time students based upon 24 semester credit hours per academic year.

## References

- [1] Division of Community Colleges & Workforce Preparation. Tuition and Fees Report. Iowa Department of Education, Des Moines, IA. Available at [https://www.educateiowa.gov/adult-career-and-community-college/publications#Tuition\\_Fees\\_Report](https://www.educateiowa.gov/adult-career-and-community-college/publications#Tuition_Fees_Report).
- [2] Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System. IPEDS Data Center. Retrieved from <http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/datacenter/login.aspx> on June 7, 2016.
- [3] Iowa Board of Regents. Index of reports. Retrieved from <http://www.regents.iowa.gov/Reports/reports.html#T> on July 7, 2016.
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## **COMMUNITY COLLEGES & WORKFORCE PREPARATION**

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The Division of Community Colleges and Workforce Preparation within the Iowa Department of Education administers a variety of diverse programs that enhance Iowa's educational system and lead to a skilled and knowledgeable workforce. Divided between two bureaus — the Bureau of Community Colleges and the Bureau of Career and Technical Education — the Division is committed to providing and supporting opportunities for lifelong learning. In addition to working with the 15 Iowa public community colleges on state accreditation, program approval, and data reporting, guidance is also provided in the areas of career and technical education, workforce training and economic development, adult education and literacy, military education, the state mandated OWI education program, the GAP Tuition program, Senior Year PLUS, the National Crosswalk Service Center, and the Statewide Intermediary Network for Academic Career and Employment (PACE) program.