



Iowa Community Colleges
Tuition and Fees
Fiscal Year 2024

August, 2023



Iowa Community Colleges Tuition and Fees: Fiscal Year 2024

Prepared by:

**Iowa Department of Education
Division of Higher Education
Grimes State Office Building
400 E. 14th Street
Des Moines, IA 50319-0146**

Phone: 515-281-8260
Fax: 515-242-5988
www.educateiowa.gov

Jeremy Varner, Chief, Bureau of Community Colleges and Postsecondary Readiness
515-281-8260
jeremy.varner@iowa.gov

Amy Gieseke, Section Chief, Community Colleges
515-858-2234
amy.gieseke@iowa.gov

Lora Vargason, Administrative Consultant, Policy and Finance
515-729-0859
lora.vargason@iowa.gov

It is the policy of the Iowa Department of Education not to discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, sex, disability, religion, age, political party affiliation, or actual or potential parental, family or marital status in its programs, activities, or employment practices as required by the Iowa Code sections 216.9 and 256.10(2), Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. § 2000d2000e), the Equal Pay Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. § 206, et seq.), Title IX (Educational Amendments, 20 U.S.C. §§ 1681 – 1688), Section 504 (Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. § 794), and the Americans with Disabilities Act (42 U.S.C. § 12101, et seq.). If you have questions or complaints related to compliance with this policy by the Iowa Department of Education, please contact the legal counsel for the Iowa Department of Education, Grimes State Office Building, 400 E. 14th Street, Des Moines, IA 50319-0146, telephone number: 515-281-5295, or the Director of the Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education, John C. Kluczynski Federal Building, 230 S. Dearborn Street, 37th Floor, Chicago, IL 60604-7204, telephone number: 312-730-1560, FAX number: 312-730-1576, TDD number: 800-877-8339, email: OCR.Chicago@ed.gov

Contents

Executive Summary	4
Tuition and Fees	5
In-State (Resident) Tuition and Fees	5
Table 1	5
Out-of-State (Non-Resident) Tuition and Fees	6
Table 2	6
Other Out-of-State (Non-Resident) Tuition and Fees.....	7
Online Tuition	8
Mandatory Fees	8
Table 3	8
Cost of Enrollment.....	10
Revenue Sources.....	10
Figure 1	11
National.....	12
Figure 2	12
Regional.....	13
Table 4	13
Institutional.....	14
Table 5	14
Table 6	15
References	16

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) 2024, average in-state tuition for students attending Iowa's community colleges is \$198.15 per credit hour, a 3.6 percent increase from FY 2023. Average mandatory fees are \$15.13 per credit hour, up 1.6 percent from last year. The average total in-state cost of enrollment (tuition plus fees) is \$213.28 per credit hour, which represents a 3.5 percent increase from FY 2023.

Tuition and fees accounted for approximately 46.4 percent of community colleges' unrestricted operating revenue during FY 2022, the latest year for which data is available. The percentage of tuition and fees included in the unrestricted operating revenue peaked in FY 2012, 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 FY 2022 (the latest year available) ranked in the 87th percentile. This indicates Iowa's average cost of enrollment was greater than or equal to 87 percent of community colleges in the nation.

Regionally, Iowa had the third highest average cost of in-state enrollment (\$5,669.00), following Minnesota (\$5,803.00) and South Dakota (\$6,947.00). IPEDS data also shows the average total in-state enrollment cost at Iowa's community colleges was 12.6 percent higher than the regional average (\$5,035.00) during FY 2022.

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 FY 2024, the highest community college in-state tuition for 24 credit hours (\$5,064.00) is 39.7 percent less than the lowest public university in-state tuition for the same number of credit hours (\$8,400.00).

Tuition and Fees

In-State (Resident) Tuition and Fees

Table 1 lists in-state tuition and fees for each community college during FY 2023 and FY 2024. The average in-state tuition and fees for this year is \$213.28 per credit hour, which is a 3.5 percent increase from last year. Southeastern Community College has the lowest percentage increase in tuition and fees (1.4 percent) this fiscal year, whereas Northeast Iowa Community College has the highest percentage increase (5.3 percent).

The average in-state tuition for FY 2024 is \$198.15, which represents a 3.6 percent increase over last year. As for mandatory fees, the maximum has increased from \$29.00 last year to \$30.00 this year, and the average has increased by 1.6 percent.

Table 1

IN-STATE TUITION AND MANDATORY FEES PER CREDIT HOUR BY COLLEGE

College	FY 2023 Tuition (\$)	FY 2023 Fees (\$)	FY 2023 Total	FY 2024 Tuition (\$)	FY 2024 Fees (\$)	FY 2024 Total	Change (\$)	Change
Northeast Iowa	185.00	24.00	209.00	195.00	25.00	220.00	11.00	5.3%
North Iowa Area	179.25	27.25	206.50	187.25	27.25	214.50	8.00	3.9%
Iowa Lakes	196.00	22.25	218.25	202.00	22.25	224.25	6.00	2.7%
Northwest	194.00	28.00	222.00	200.00	30.00	230.00	8.00	3.6%
Iowa Central	192.50	24.00	216.50	200.00	24.00	224.00	7.50	3.5%
Iowa Valley	190.00	26.00	216.00	195.00	26.00	221.00	5.00	2.3%
Hawkeye	204.00	6.00	210.00	211.00	6.50	217.50	7.50	3.6%
Eastern Iowa	187.00	0.00	187.00	195.00	0.00	195.00	8.00	4.3%
Kirkwood	200.00	0.00	200.00	210.00	0.00	210.00	10.00	5.0%
Des Moines Area	178.00	0.00	178.00	185.00	0.00	185.00	7.00	3.9%
Western Iowa Tech	168.00	29.00	197.00	173.00	29.00	202.00	5.00	2.5%
Iowa Western	201.00	17.00	218.00	209.00	17.00	226.00	8.00	3.7%
Southwestern	198.00	13.00	211.00	204.00	13.00	217.00	6.00	2.8%

College	FY 2023 Tuition (\$)	FY 2023 Fees (\$)	FY 2023 Total	FY 2024 Tuition (\$)	FY 2024 Fees (\$)	FY 2024 Total	Change (\$)	Change
Indian Hills	195.00	0.00	195.00	203.00	0.00	203.00	8.00	4.1%
Southeastern	200.00	7.00	207.00	203.00	7.00	210.00	3.00	1.4%
Minimum	168.00	0.00	178.00	173.00	0.00	185.00	3.00	1.4%
Median	194.00	17.00	209.00	200.00	17.00	217.00	7.50	3.6%
Maximum	204.00	29.00	222.00	211.00	30.00	230.00	11.00	5.3%
Average	191.18	14.90	206.08	198.15	15.13	213.28	7.20	3.6%
Standard Deviation	10.07	11.66	12.52	10.28	11.86	12.54	2.00	1.0%

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

Table 2 lists out-of-state tuition and fees for each community college during FY 2023 and FY 2024. The average out-of-state tuition and fees for this year total \$258.34 per credit hour, which represents a 3.1 percent increase over last year. Indian Hills Community College had the lowest change, 0.0 percent, in their tuition and fees for out-of-state students this fiscal year, whereas Northeast Iowa Community College had the highest change, with a 6.9 percent increase. Additionally, the average out-of-state tuition, not including fees, is \$242.52 per credit hour for FY 2024, a 3.3 percent increase from last year.

Table 2

OUT-OF-STATE TUITION AND MANDATORY FEES PER CREDIT HOUR BY COLLEGE

College (Abbreviation)	FY 2023 Tuition (\$)	FY 2023 Fees (\$)	FY 2023 Total	FY 2024 Tuition (\$)	FY 2024 Fees (\$)	FY 2024 Total	Change (\$)	Change
Northeast Iowa	209.00	24.00	233.00	224.00	25.00	249.00	16.00	6.9%
North Iowa Area	268.88	27.25	296.13	280.88	27.25	308.13	12.00	4.1%
Iowa Lakes	210.00	22.25	232.25	216.00	22.25	238.25	6.00	2.6%
Northwest	204.00	28.00	232.00	210.00	30.00	240.00	8.00	3.4%
Iowa Central	284.25	24.00	308.25	295.50	24.00	319.50	11.25	3.6%

College (Abbreviation)	FY 2023 Tuition (\$)	FY 2023 Fees (\$)	FY 2023 Total	FY 2024 Tuition (\$)	FY 2024 Fees (\$)	FY 2024 Total	Change (\$)	Change
Iowa Valley Ellsworth	232.00	26.00	258.00	237.00	26.00	263.00	5.00	1.9%
Iowa Valley Marshalltown	211.00	26.00	237.00	216.00	26.00	242.00	5.00	2.1%
Hawkeye	221.00	6.00	227.00	221.00	6.50	227.50	0.50	0.2%
Eastern Iowa	254.00	0.00	254.00	262.00	0.00	262.00	8.00	3.1%
Kirkwood	268.00	0.00	268.00	281.00	0.00	281.00	13.00	4.9%
Des Moines Area	356.00	0.00	356.00	370.00	0.00	370.00	14.00	3.9%
Western Iowa Tech	169.00	29.00	198.00	179.00	29.00	208.00	10.00	5.1%
Iowa Western	206.00	17.00	233.00	214.00	17.00	231.00	8.00	3.6%
Southwestern	205.00	13.00	218.00	211.00	13.00	224.00	6.00	2.8%
Indian Hills	255.00	0.00	255.00	255.00	0.00	255.00	0.00	0.0%
Southeastern	205.00	7.00	212.00	208.00	7.00	215.00	3.00	1.4%
Minimum	169.00	0.00	198.00	179.00	0.00	208.00	0.00	0.0%
Median	216.00	19.63	235.00	222.50	19.63	245.50	8.00	3.3%
Maximum	356.00	29.00	356.00	370.00	30.00	370.00	16.00	6.9%
Average	234.88	15.59	250.48	242.52	15.81	258.34	7.86	3.1%
Standard Deviation	44.80	11.60	40.59	46.82	11.78	42.92	4.67	1.8%

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: \$207.00 per credit hour for students who are residents of Minnesota.
- Northwest Iowa Community College: \$205.00 per credit hour for students who are residents of Minnesota, Nebraska or South Dakota.

- Iowa Central Community College: \$205.00 per credit hour for non-Iowa residents with a 3.0 grade point average and above.
- Eastern Iowa Community College: \$216.00 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 (ICCOG), 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 FY 2024, ICCOC set tuition and fees at \$214.00 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.

Hawkeye Community College increased their mandatory fees by 50 cents, which is an 8.3 percent increase from last year. Northwest Iowa Community College increased their mandatory fees by \$2.00, a 7.1 percent increase from FY 2023. Northeast Iowa Community College increased their mandatory fees by \$1.00, which is a 4.2 percent increase 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, Northwest Iowa Community College has the highest fees (\$30.00 per credit hour), and Hawkeye Community College has the lowest (\$6.50 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 fees per credit, Northeast Iowa Community College charges a \$12.00 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

MANDATORY FEES PER SEMESTER CREDIT HOUR BY COLLEGE

College	Description	FY 2023 Amount (\$)	FY 2023 Amount (\$)	Change
Northeast Iowa*	Course	24.00	25.00	4.2%
North Iowa Area	Material/Lab/Supplies	12.00	12.00	0.0%
North Iowa Area	Student Activities	4.50	4.50	0.0%

College	Description	FY 2023 Amount (\$)	FY 2023 Amount (\$)	Change
North Iowa Area	Technology	10.75	10.75	0.0%
Iowa Lakes	Student Activity	2.25	2.25	0.0%
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	10.00	12.00	20.0%
Northwest Iowa	Technology	8.00	8.00	0.0%
Iowa Central	Student	24.00	24.00	0.0%
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	6.00	6.50	8.3%
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	U.S. 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 \$12.00 technology fee per course. Kirkwood Community College charges a \$50.00 technology fee per semester.*

Cost of Enrollment

As previously stated, the sum of tuition and mandatory fees defines the cost of enrollment per credit hour. This cost does not include expenses such as books, room and board, transportation or other additional fees. The average in-state cost of enrollment per credit hour for FY 2024 is \$213.28 (see Table 1). Among Iowa's 15 community colleges, Des Moines Area Community College (\$185.00) and Eastern Iowa Community College (\$195.00) 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 (\$230.00), followed by Iowa Western Community College (\$226.00).

During FY 2024, a full-time Iowa resident will pay between \$5,550.00 and \$6,900.00 for 30 semester credit hours, depending on which community college the student attends. The average net change for total cost of in-state enrollment at an Iowa community college increased \$7.20 (3.5 percent) per credit hour from FY 2023.

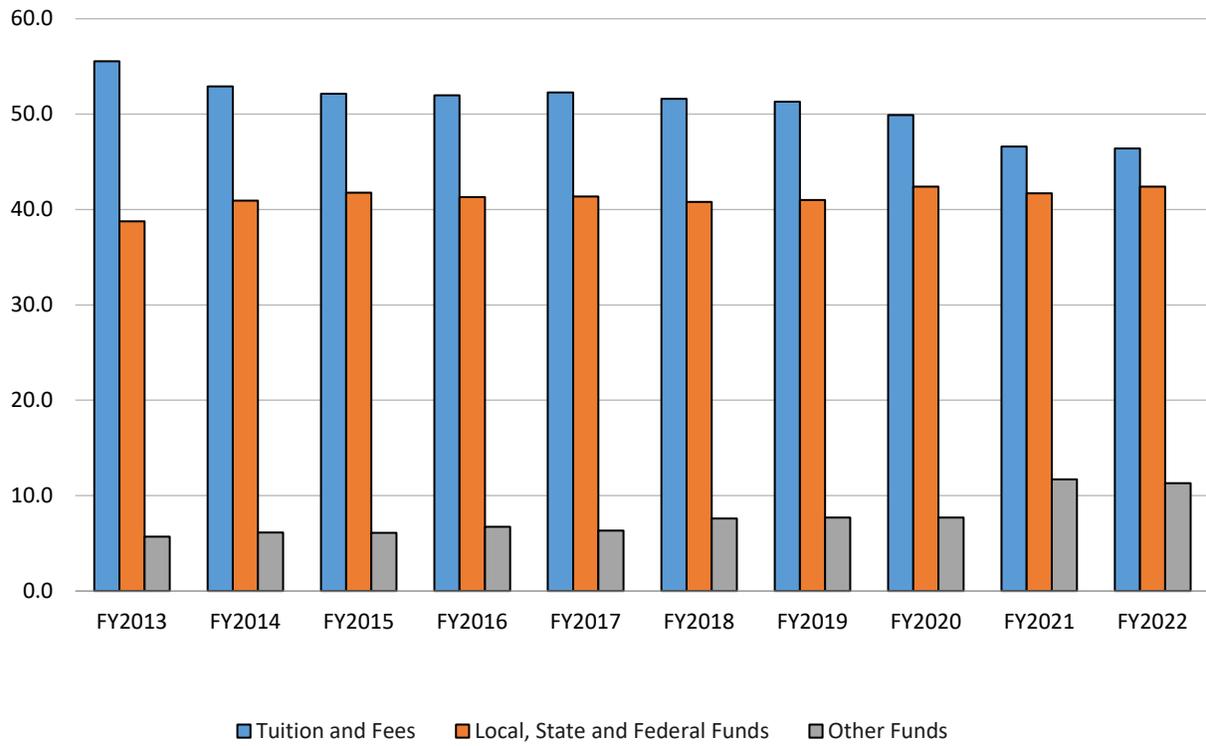
Revenue Sources

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 FY 2022, the latest year for which data is available, tuition and fees accounted for 46.4 percent of total general operating revenue.

Figure 1, on the following page, illustrates how tuition and fees have fluctuated since FY 2013, in response to changes in funding from public and other sources. During FY 2012, tuition and fees accounted for 57.8 percent of total general operating revenue. This percentage has gradually decreased over subsequent years.

Figure 1

10-YEAR TREND OF REVENUE SOURCES AS PERCENTAGES OF TOTAL



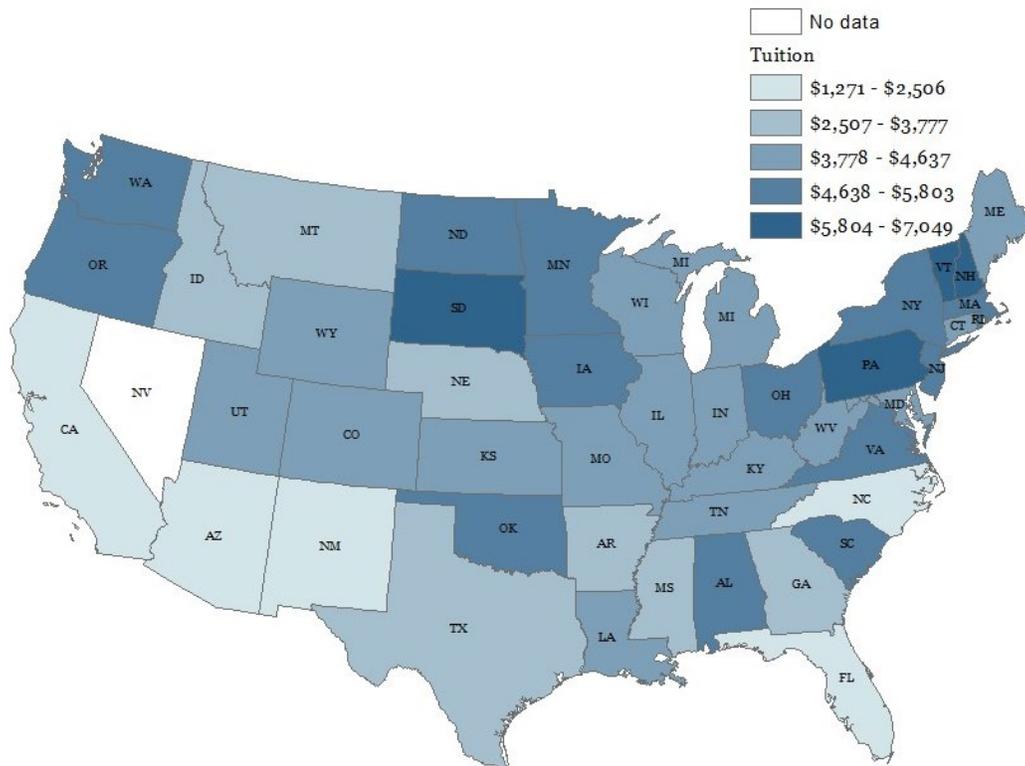
National

According to IPEDS data, the average annual in-state total cost of enrollment in Iowa during FY 2022 was \$ 5,669.00, 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 \$4,390.00.

Figure 2 shows a color-range distribution of average total in-state costs of enrollment for 30 semester hours in FY 2022. Darker colors represent the higher cost of enrollment. New Hampshire (\$7,049.00), South Dakota (\$6,947.00) and Vermont (\$6,920.00) had the highest average total costs of in-state enrollment. By comparison, California (\$1,271.00), New Mexico (\$2,000.00) and Arizona (\$2,179.00) had the lowest averages.

Figure 2

FY 2022 DISTRIBUTION OF AVERAGE ANNUAL TOTAL COST OF IN-STATE ENROLLMENT



Regional

Provisional 2022 data from IPEDS [1], included in Table 4, shows Iowa had the third-highest average cost of in-state enrollment in the region (\$5,669.00), following Minnesota (\$5,803.00) and South Dakota (\$6,947.00). Nebraska (\$3,777.00) and Missouri (\$4,100.00) had the lowest regional averages.

Table 4

REGIONAL AVERAGE TOTAL COST OF IN-DISTRICT ENROLLMENT (\$) FOR 30 SEMESTER CREDIT HOURS PER ACADEMIC YEAR

Fiscal Year	Iowa	Illinois	Minnesota	Missouri	Nebraska	South Dakota	Wisconsin
2018	5,082.00	3,976.00	5,325.00	3,438.00	3,496.00	5,947.00	4,404.00
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

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 FY 2024, the highest tuition per credit hour at Iowa community colleges (\$211.00) is 39.7 percent lower than the lowest base tuition at Iowa’s public universities (\$350.00).

Table 5

COMPARISON OF IN-STATE TUITION PER SEMESTER CREDIT HOUR BY TYPE OF INSTITUTION

Fiscal Year	Community Colleges (Highest, \$)	Public Universities (Lowest, \$)
2020	187.00	320.00
2021	192.00	320.00
2022	202.00	325.00
2023	204.00	338.00
2024	211.00	350.00

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 \$188.57 in FY 2020 to \$213.28 in FY 2024 (Table 6). This represents a 13.1 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 11.9 percent, from \$387.00 per credit hour to \$433.00 per credit hour. This is equivalent to an annualized rate of 2.8 percent.

Table 6

AVERAGE PER-CREDIT-HOUR COST OF IN-STATE ENROLLMENT (\$) BY TYPE OF INSTITUTION

Fiscal Year	Community Colleges (\$)	Public Universities
2020	188.57	387.00
2021	194.48	387.00
2022	199.32	398.00
2023	206.08	415.00
2024	213.28	433.00

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>, August 18, 2023.

[2] Iowa Board of Regents. Index of reports. Retrieved from https://www.iowaregents.edu/media/cms/0623_ITEM_7_Tuition_Fees_574604CA58DD9.pdf, August 2023.