The University of Iowa is among the top public research institutions in the nation—offering a world-class education in over 200 areas of study. From a nationally recognized academic medical center to the most prestigious creative writing program in the United States, our balanced excellence in the arts and sciences encourages innovation and creative exploration across the disciplines.

Most notable U.S. News & World Report rankings

- #33 Best public university
- #1 Public university for writing across the disciplines
- #1 Hospital in Iowa for 32 years
- #10 Best Bachelor of Science in Nursing program
- #24 Best public business school
- 12 Graduate programs ranked among the top 10 in the nation

Firsts

- 1st institution of higher education in the state of Iowa (1847)
- 1st public university to admit men and women on an equal basis (1860)
- 1st college of law west of the Mississippi (1868)
- 1st coeducational medical school (1870)
- 1st to award MFA degrees (1940)
- 1st state university to officially endorse an LGBTQ+ student group (1970)

Research

- $654.4 million raised in external research funding in FY 2022
- 2,400 projects secured research funding in FY 2022
- 150+ centers and institutes devoted to research and discovery
- 1 in 3 undergraduate students participate in research

Around Campus

- Top 10 college town (USA Today)
- Iowa City is one of 42 UNESCO Cities of Literature in the world, and one of only two in the U.S.
- 50+ parks, natural areas, and open spaces surrounding campus
- 1,700-acre, bicycle-friendly main campus with 18 major bus routes

Outcomes and Impact

- 95% of graduates find a job or are accepted to grad school within six months of graduation
- 88% first-year retention rate
- 4,300+ employers have hired Iowa graduates in the past three years
- 18 consecutive years on the Fiske Guide to Colleges “Best Buy” list