



Fall is finally here and school is in full swing! There are always a lot of things happening at Iowa State and we'd love to share a few of them with you.

Iowa State University Is Officially Test-Optional For Fall 2021 Freshman Applicants!

Because the pandemic continues to greatly limit ACT and SAT testing opportunities for freshman applicants, the Board of Regents recently approved a recommendation for Iowa's three Regent universities to be officially test-optional for fall 2021 admission cycle. This policy, which is specific to US freshman applicants entering next fall, allows students to choose whether they wish to submit ACT or SAT scores to Iowa State.

Applicants Who Choose To Provide Test Scores

These applicants will be admitted as they always have, based upon their Regent Admission Index (RAI) score. Below is the mathematical formula for calculating your students' RAI scores:

RAI Formula
ACT composite score (or converted SAT score) x 3
+ Cumulative GPA x 30
+ <u>Number of years of high school core courses x 5</u>
RAI score

Students who meet Iowa State's minimum high school course requirements and whose RAI score is at least 245 will automatically be approved for admission. Students whose RAI score falls below 245 will be considered on an individual basis.

Applicants Who Do Not Provide Test Scores

These applicants will be admitted based upon an individual review of their academic records

with special emphasis given to the student's high school cumulative GPA and core courses. These applicants will not be required to submit their test scores before they enroll.

Fall 2021 Automatic Freshman Merit Awards

We are finalizing our [automatic freshman merit award program](#) for Fall 2021 applicants. We expect to update our program, including awards and criteria, by early November 2020. As Iowa State is test-optional for the Fall 2021 term, students will not be penalized due to lack of an ACT or SAT score, but will undergo an individual review for automatic freshman merit awards offered through the Office of Admissions.

OneApp Scholarship Application

The OneApp scholarship portal is open! Incoming freshmen who have been offered admission must [set up their ISU Net-ID](#) first. Using the [OneApp scholarship portal](#), undergraduate students can submit scholarship applications in one system. The Office of Student Financial Aid, academic colleges and departments, and other campus units will use the information available in OneApp to select scholarship recipients. Deadlines will vary depending upon the scholarship or opportunity, so we encourage students to log in to OneApp early and often to ensure deadlines are met. Most applications are due by December 15, 2020. Once submitted, students can still access and revise their applications until the scholarship deadline.

Campus Visit Offerings For Fall 2020

We are offering a variety of visit options for students this fall. Check out our website <https://apps.admissions.iastate.edu/visit/> for more information and to register online.

Daily On-Campus Visits

Our on campus visit options are very limited this fall. These programs include a brief enrollment presentation followed by an outdoor campus walking tour led by a current student tour guide. Due to the continuous spread of COVID-19 and to prioritize the health and safety of our guests and campus, we have made some changes to our on-campus experiences. Guests will be required to wear a face covering while on campus and maintain physical distance from others.

Virtual Visits

Students can experience Iowa State University from the comfort of their home or school through one of our virtual visits. We have options for everyone including virtual student visits and transfer virtual visits. These programs will feature an admissions information session and a live student panel, academic information sessions and various campus resource sessions. You can choose to attend the sessions that work for you. Virtual Visits are offered Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 12:00 p.m. Check out our website for specific information on dates and options.

Tour Guide Live

Join our current students as they show you around campus using our YouVisit virtual campus tour. They will share information on academics, traditions, housing, and their own student experiences at ISU. Tour Guide Live is offered most Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Bringing Iowa State to You

Check out our series of Bringing Iowa State to You sessions! These engaging sessions will focus on specific topics each week and give you a special inside look at resources, academics, and student life at ISU.

Virtual High School Visits For Fall 2020—Coming Soon To A Screen Near You!

Like most things this fall, high school visits from the Iowa State Admissions staff will look a little different. We are still looking forward to the opportunity to interact with students, share information about Iowa State, and answer questions. Rather than meeting physically with students in their schools, we will be scheduling virtual visits.

Admissions staff are working together to create an interactive virtual presentation that allows students to closely participate whether they are learning from school or home. Virtual high school visits are planned to begin soon. Although a little later than normal, this will provide additional time for schools to adjust to all the other changes they have been navigating this fall.

Our staff will be in contact with you soon. If you have questions now, but are not sure who to talk to, please check out our [Connect With Us](#) page, or contact the Office of Admissions at admissions@iastate.edu or 515-294-5836.

Impact Of COVID On Iowa State's 2020-2021 Academic Calendar

Fall classes began Monday, August 17, a week earlier than planned, and the semester ends Wednesday, November 25 (the day before Thanksgiving).

The revised academic calendar includes:

- Final exams from Saturday, November 21, through Wednesday, November 25 (excluding Sunday, November 22)
 - Fall 2020 undergraduate and graduate commencement ceremonies and college convocations held virtually with prerecorded ceremonies available for viewing at 10 a.m. CST on Saturday, November 28.
 - Spring semester starts Monday, January 25, two weeks later than planned. There will be no spring break; classes will be held the week of March 15-19.
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- Spring semester ends Thursday, May 6. The spring semester, including final exams, will end as originally scheduled on May 6.

This schedule provides the university with the best opportunity to complete the fall semester safely and successfully on campus, while maximizing face-to-face instruction, maintaining experiential learning goals, and completing final exams onsite.
