Being a student at Iowa State University is about way more than what is learned in the classroom. It’s a time and a place for students to discover who they are and who they want to become through their unique college experiences.

The Division of Student Affairs touches the lives of all Cyclones within the diverse Iowa State community—providing support and empowering students to succeed.

And, because we believe learning can happen anywhere and everywhere, our innovative co-curricular programs and services focus on engaging with students outside classroom walls.

We are proud to highlight the impact the Division of Student Affairs and our dedicated staff have on helping students achieve their goals, advancing the university mission, and enhancing the Cyclone experience.
SUCCESS IN AND OUT OF THE CLASSROOM

Each student is unique in how they learn, live, and engage in the world around them. We help them get involved and minimize barriers to learning.

CREATING A SENSE OF PLACE FOR NEW STUDENTS

For some students, finding their place at a large university can seem overwhelming. LEARNING COMMUNITIES offer new Iowa State students a way to connect with others who have similar interests while deepening their learning and enrichment experiences. With 91 different learning communities to choose from, there’s a place for everyone.

PEER MENTORS

Upper division students within learning communities often serve as peer mentors, taking the lead in organizing study groups, social events, and out-of-class activities. This helps learning communities’ participants become more involved and develop a sense of belonging.

AVERAGE FIRST-YEAR RETENTION RATE IS 2 PERCENTAGE POINTS HIGHER FOR STUDENTS INVOLVED IN LEARNING COMMUNITIES THAN FOR THOSE WHO AREN’T

89% OF ALL FIRST-YEAR, FULL-TIME STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN PROGRAMS

600+ STUDENTS (ON AVERAGE) SERVE AS PEER MENTORS EACH YEAR

SUPPORTING SORORITY AND FRATERNITY COMMUNITIES

Driven by academic achievement, a passion for service, and the desire to be part of something bigger, more than 4,000 students make up the sorority and fraternity community at Iowa State. Through SORORITY AND FRATERNITY ENGAGEMENT, we give guidance, direction, and support to help students develop the leadership and life skills needed to put them on the path to success.

MADE UP OF 60 ORGANIZATIONS AND 43 CHAPTER HOUSES

13.9% OF STUDENTS INVOLVED HOLD LEADERSHIP POSITIONS ON CAMPUS

EACH YEAR, THE ACADEMIC SUCCESS CENTER DELIVERS OVER 100,000 HOURS OF ACADEMIC SUPPORT TO STUDENTS. DURING FISCAL YEAR 2022, MORE THAN 9,100 STUDENTS BENEFITED FROM SERVICES, INCLUDING:

32,355 HOURS OF SUPPLEMENTAL INSTRUCTION

3,000+ STUDENTS PARTICIPATING IN 100+ WORKSHOPS
DELIVERING MORE TO STUDENT LIFE
Located at the heart of the Iowa State campus, the MEMORIAL UNION is more than just a building. It’s a welcoming space for all to connect, create, and have their voices heard. A “home away from home,” the Memorial Union is a hub for fine arts, crafts, and entertainment to support students finding new ways to relax, grow, and express themselves. The renovation of floors four, five, and six, completed in 2022, ensures students will always have spaces to study and learn.

Students can also find resources within the Memorial Union to explore and develop as leaders and community advocates through student organizations, leadership programming, and service opportunities supported by STUDENT ENGAGEMENT.

PROMOTING CAREER READINESS
Nearly 1,800 students are employed by the Division of Student Affairs. Students gain hands-on experience designed to build knowledge and skills that will prepare them for their career after graduation. Whether it’s leading fitness classes, serving meals, tutoring, providing office administration, or something else entirely, every offered position supports personal and professional growth through our eight student employee Career Readiness Competencies:

- Collaboration and teamwork
- Communication
- Critical thinking and problem-solving
- Intercultural perspectives
- Leadership
- Learning and application
- Professionalism
- Technology

Of the more than 9,000 students who occupied on-campus housing during 2021–2022, 793 students were involved in leadership opportunities offered through the DEPARTMENT OF RESIDENCE. Positions available for student employment include resident assistants (RAs), live-in staff, office assistants, and more.
Students, and the world, continue to evolve, creating room to learn and grow. We work to instill a global mindset, enhancing students' cultural awareness, broadening their perspectives, and preparing them to make positive change.

LEARNING THROUGH ACTS OF SERVICE

Venturing off campus and into a new environment can help students experience the world and discover an area or issue they may have never considered. Participants in the Iowa State University Alternative Breaks program, offered through STUDENT ENGAGEMENT, are placed in teams across the United States to engage in community service. Students perform short-term projects for community agencies during university breaks in the fall and spring where they connect with others and learn about social issues and their impact.

THE INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AND SCHOLARS OFFICE PROVIDES IMMIGRATION SERVICES, PERSONAL SUPPORT, AND CROSS-CULTURAL EXPERTISE TO THE THOUSANDS OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS ENROLLED AT IOWA STATE EACH YEAR AS WELL AS THE HUNDREDS MORE ON CAMPUS WHO TEACH AND/OR CONDUCT RESEARCH.

BROADENING WORLDVIEW

Students can expand their education and explore new opportunities through NATIONAL STUDENT EXCHANGE (NSE), a program that provides accessible academic study away at the colleges and universities of other members. Students can benefit by taking classes not available at Iowa State—pursuing research, field study, and internship opportunities, or living in different geographic and cultural settings. In turn, NSE students attending other universities around the country have the opportunity to complete a portion of their coursework at Iowa State.

DEVELOPING FUTURE LEADERS

In high school, Zakiya Johnson was one of the only Black women in her grade, which she said made it difficult to feel comfortable and connected with her peers. Today, Zakiya is a student at Iowa State and a George Washington Carver (GWC) Scholar, a program available through MULTICULTURAL STUDENT AFFAIRS. As an executive board member of the Women of Colour Network, co-sponsored by the MARGARET SLOSS CENTER FOR WOMEN AND GENDER EQUITY, Zakiya has found a sense of belonging and developed leadership skills that set her up for a successful future.

THE SIX-YEAR GRADUATION RATE FOR GWC SCHOLARS AT IOWA STATE—WHICH IS 15.65% HIGHER THAN FOR ALL STUDENTS.
NAVIGATING IDENTITY AND INCLUSIVENESS

For lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer, intersex, asexual, and allied students, the CENTER FOR LGBTQIA+ STUDENT SUCCESS provides a place for them to explore their identities and find resources to be successful academically, personally, and professionally. The center also guides efforts for awareness and understanding across Iowa State, influencing change and creating a more inclusive environment for everyone. Sharing information about housing and health services, tips on communicating with peers and professors, details for getting involved in student organizations and interest groups, and more, the center helps students navigate campus and feel like welcomed members of the Iowa State community. Through courses, programs, and events, students learn about diverse communities, develop skills for leadership and teamwork, and create lifelong connections.

ADVANCING RACIAL AND ETHNICITY AWARENESS

Fostering an inviting and supportive community requires ongoing learning and sharing—a commitment upheld by an interdisciplinary delegation of Iowa State students, staff, and faculty. As part of the NCORE-ISCORE PROJECT, students engage in positive interactions and participate in the National Conference on Race and Ethnicity in Higher Education (NCORE). Students then present new knowledge gained from their NCORE experience at the Thomas L. Hill Iowa State Conference on Race and Ethnicity (ISCORE) the following year.

ADVOCATING FOR EQUITY

The MARGARET SLOSS CENTER FOR WOMEN AND GENDER EQUITY provides people-forward programs using a feminist lens. The center advocates for individuals and groups, provides support and referrals, and offers programming and educational resources for the advancement of gender equity.

NOURISHING MINDS AND BODIES

Iowa State is a second home for students, and we want it to feel that way. That’s why ISU DINING takes care to be inclusive in its options and services. For example, food is purchased and prepared in a manner suitable for a variety of religious practices, including Halal items and accommodations during Ramadan. For those with food allergies, the Special Diet Kitchen accommodates students with medically indicated special diets that are difficult to self-manage. Plus, a wide variety of vegan and vegetarian options are always readily available.

MORE THAN 90 CULTURE- AND IDENTITY-BASED STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS ENRICH THE IOWA STATE COMMUNITY.

A RESPECTFUL AND RESPONSIBLE COMMUNITY FOR ALL

We strive for Iowa State to be a welcoming and engaging place for everyone. We’re committed to respecting each person for who they are and creating equitable access to learning and involvement.

STUDENTS OF ALL ABILITIES ARE EMPOWERED TO SUCCEED WITH SUPPORT FROM STUDENT ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES (SAS). BY OFFERING ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES AND COLLABORATING WITH CAMPUS PARTNERS TO REMOVE BARRIERS, ALL STUDENTS CAN FULLY PARTICIPATE AT IOWA STATE.

1,456 STUDENTS RECEIVED SERVICES*

70% OF STUDENTS BELIEVE WHAT THEY LEARNED AT SAS WILL HELP THEM BE MORE ACADEMICALLY SUCCESSFUL*

70%

80%

3

70
Holistic health and well-being

When students feel well, they do well. Student health and well-being are directly linked to academic success as well as higher enrollment retention and graduation rates. We provide tools, resources, and support for the holistic health and wellness of students and staff so they can feel and perform their best.

Connecting students to resources

College is hard, filled with many highs and sometimes lows. In fact, 82% of students feel their well-being is just as important as academics, making connecting students and staff to university resources an important part of the Iowa State experience.

Student counseling services launched Cyclone Support in 2022, which reassures students they are not alone and encourages them to seek help when experiencing concerns related to mental health, sleep, substance use, hunger, body image, relationships, and more.

Empowering students

Creating a compassionate environment is everyone’s responsibility. The Green Dot program, coordinated by student wellness, trains students, faculty, and staff how to intervene as a bystander in a safe way to prevent incidents of harm, such as stalking, threats, harassment, sexual assault, or any form of intimidation over another person. A “green dot” refers to any choice, behavior, word, or attitude that promotes safety for everyone and communicates utter intolerance for power-based violence in the Iowa State community.

Addressing food insecurity

One out of four students at Iowa State report being hungry with limited access to food. To support those in the Iowa State and Ames community, there’s the student-run on-campus food pantry, Students Helping Our Peers (SHOP).

“Give a swipe” donation program

ISU dining supports the “Give a Swipe” program in which students donate flex meals or Dining Dollars to other students in need of assistance due to hardship. During fiscal year 2022, there were a total of 221 meals donated to the “Give a Swipe” meal share program.

Keeping campus healthy

Illness and injuries can happen and when they do, students can count on Thielens student health center. With same-day appointments as well as an on-site lab, X-rays, physical therapy, pharmacy services, and more, Thielens is a one-stop shop for students who don’t have time to be sick.

To further promote student wellness, recreation services provides facilities, classes, training, clubs, and intramural sports. Recreation services saw 772,187 facility visits in FY22.

People used the online well-being self-assessment tool

Students completed various online well-being programs during the year

Students have used the shop pantry

Pounds of food have been distributed

To further promote student wellness, recreation services provides facilities, classes, training, clubs, and intramural sports. Recreation services saw 772,187 facility visits in FY22.

Of students say they would recommend Thielens student health center

92%
CENTRAL OFFICE
- Administrative Services
- Assessment, Research, and Divisional Effectiveness
- Campus Organizations Accounting
- Learning Communities
- NCORE-ISCORE Office
- Strategic Communications
- TRIO Educational Talent Search
- TRIO Upward Bound

CAMPUS LIFE
- Department of Residence
- ISU Dining
- Memorial Union

STUDENT HEALTH AND WELLNESS
- Recreation Services
- Student Counseling Services
- Student Wellness
- Thielen Student Health Center

DEAN OF STUDENTS OFFICE
- Academic Success Center
- Center for LGBTQIA+ Student Success
- Hixson Opportunity Awards
- International Students and Scholars Office
- Margaret Slos for Women and Gender Equity
- Military-Affiliated Student Center
- Multicultural Student Affairs
- National Student Exchange
- Parent and Family Programs
- Sorority and Fraternity Engagement
- Student Accessibility Services
- Student Assistance
- Student Conduct
- Student Legal Services
- TRIO Student Support Services

DATA REFERENCES:
1. 20-year average
2. FY22
3. Spring 2022 survey
4. July 2021 through April 2022
5. FY22 patient satisfaction survey
The MILITARY-AFFILIATED STUDENT CENTER honors student veterans with a special stole to be worn during commencement.