Scholarship Details

"Full-ride" renewable scholarships equal to the cost of attendance, less other gift aid (including Pell Grants, institutional grants and scholarships, and private scholarships) are available at Iowa's three Regent Universities.

Renewable for up to four years (a total of 8 semesters) provided the student maintains full-time enrollment and a 2.5 cumulative GPA. Renewals are not guaranteed.

Funds for the Scholarship are provided by the Bright Foundation. The Foundation also provides additional communication and experiences for recipients, such as peer connections and networking, to enhance the college experience and help scholars reach their goals. Recipients are expected to provide the Bright Foundation with regular updates on their college experience through forms sent by the Bright Foundation.

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for a Bright Scholars of Iowa Award, a student must be accepted by one of the three Regent universities (Iowa State University, University of Iowa, University of Northern Iowa) and meet the following criteria:

- Current senior attending an Iowa high school.
- Outstanding academic achievement (top 10% or equivalent of high school graduating class, or ACT of 28 and above, or 299 and higher RAI---Regents Admission Index), or 3.7 GPA
- Demonstrate a commitment to learning and community service, as well as success in the face of adversity.
- SAI under 10,000 determined by filing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
- Enroll full-time.

Preference is given to students whose parents did not graduate from an accredited four-year college or university. Students who have a familial or otherwise close personal relationship with any member of the Bright Foundation Board of Directors or its employees are not eligible for the award.

How to Apply*

Iowa State University: Application in OneApp due by 2/8/2024. FAFSA Priority Deadline is 2/1/2024.

University of Iowa: Application for Bright Scholars of Iowa open in Scholarship Portal 11/15/2023-3/01/2024. FAFSA Priority Deadline for other need based aid is 2/1/2024.

University of Northern Iowa: Complete UNI Scholarship Application and FAFSA by Priority Deadline 2/1/2024.

Check out "Bright Scholars of Iowa" at brightiowa.org for more information.