We are thrilled you have chosen to visit the Iowa State University campus. We hope this visit provides you with the information you need to discover if Iowa State is the right fit for you.

While in Ames, I invite you to explore our campus and community. You will find Ames is a great city in which to learn, live, work, and play.

The City of Ames and Iowa State University work together to ensure students’ needs are met. One example is CyRide, the Ames public transportation system. CyRide is recognized as one of the safest and most effective systems in the country and provides fare-free bus service to students on campus and throughout the Ames community.

If you have questions about Iowa State or Ames, please feel free to ask!

Again, we welcome you to our city and our campus. Enjoy your visit!

Kristin Chapman
Assistant Director, Campus Visits

AMES FACTS

Population
Ames: 66,042
Story County: 99,472
Iowa: 3,193,079
*Based on Census Bureau data
Beneath the small town charm of Ames, Iowa, beats the heart of a much larger city. A city that has become a player in developing the world’s bio-economic future. A city with top-quality education, from kindergarten through grad school.

A city that regularly draws performers like Chance the Rapper, Dan + Shay, and Chelsea Peretti, along with international symphonies and Broadway musicals. A city with hundreds of acres of parks, numerous bike paths, and cultural festivals and celebrations. A city that’s ranked the 2nd best college town in the nation by Livability.

Ames is located roughly 30 miles north of the state capital Des Moines.
COME AND STAY.

Ames has more than 1,400 hotel rooms to choose from and all of them within miles of the action. Whether you want to be near the entertainment at Hilton Coliseum or Stephens Auditorium or in the heart of the Iowa State campus, Ames has a number of great places to stay.

Hotels

- AmericInn
  2507 SE 16th St
  515-233-1005

- Baymont Inn & Suites
  1605 S Dayton Pl
  515-337-2751

- Comfort Inn & Suites
  603 S 16th St
  515-663-9555

- Country Inn & Suites
  56461 180th St
  515-232-3935

- Econo Lodge
  2600 SE 16th St
  515-233-6060

- Fairfield Inn & Suites
  2137 Isaac Newton Dr
  515-232-4000

- Gateway Hotel & Conference Center
  2100 Green Hills Dr
  515-232-9600

- GrandStay Hotel & Suites
  1606 S Kellogg Ave
  515-232-8363

- Hampton Inn & Suites
  2100 SE 16th St
  515-232-5510

- Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites
  2600 E 13th St
  515-232-2300

- Iowa House Historic Inn
  405 Hayward Ave
  515-292-2474

- Microtel Inn & Suites
  2216 SE 16th St
  515-337-2748

- Quality Inn & Suites
  Starlite Conference Center
  2601 E 13th St
  515-232-9260

- Radisson Hotel Ames Conference Center
  2609 University Blvd
  515-268-8808

- Red Roof Inn
  1400 S Dayton Pl
  515-239-9999

- Sleep Inn & Suites
  1310 Dickinson Ave
  515-337-1171

- Springhill Suites
  1810 SE 16th Street
  515-598-8900

- Super 8
  1418 S Dayton Pl
  515-203-3249

- TownPlace Suites
  1523 S Dayton Pl
  515-232-9500

THERE’S SO MUCH TO OFFER. YOU DON’T HAVE TO GO FAR.

THINGS TO SEE AND DO.

Ames is a great place to stay busy. From live music venues to outdoor activities and arts and culture, whatever your interest there is always something to do.

Attractions

- Reiman Gardens
  1407 University Blvd
  515-294-2710

- Main Street Cultural District
  304 Main Street
  515-233-3472

- Furman Aquatic Center
  1635 13th Street
  515-232-7665

- Ada Hayden Heritage Park
  5205 Grand Avenue
  515-239-5360

- Center Grove Orchard
  32835 610th Avenue // Cambridge, IA
  515-383-4354

- Seven Oaks Recreation
  1006 22nd Drive // Boone, IA
  515-432-9457

- High Trestle Trail Bridge
  Madrid, IA
  515-795-3880

- Ledges State Park
  1515 P Avenue // Madrid, IA
  515-432-1852
Dine and sip our award-winning water.

Ames offers a plate and a taste for all its visitors, including many regional and national restaurants that you have come to enjoy at home or on the road.

Local Restaurants
- Aunt Maude's
- Bar La Tosca
- Brick City Grill
- Burgie's Coffee and Tea Company
- Café Beaudelaire
- Café Diem, Coffee House
- Café Milo
- Carlos Quesadillas
- Cookies Etc.
- Cornbred Barbecue
- Downtown Deli
- Dublin Bay Irish Pub and Grill
- El Azteca
- Es Tas Bar and Grill
- Flame and Skewer
- Ge-Angelo’s Italian Restaurant
- The Great Plains Sauce and Dough Company
- Grove Cafe
- Hickory Park Restaurant Co.
- House of Chen
- HyVee Market Grille
- The IowaStater Restaurant
- Jeff's Pizza
- Little Taipei

May House
- The Mongolian Buffet
- Mr Burrito
- Mucky Duck Pub/Ames British Foods
- Open Flame Steak & Lounge
- Provisions Lot F
- Stomping Grounds Café
- Szechuan House
- Thai Kitchen
- The Café
- The Spice Thai Cuisine
- Van Hemert’s Dutch Oven Bakery
- Wallaby’s Bar & Grille
- West Street Deli
- West Towne Pub

National Restaurants
- Applebee's
- Arby's
- B-Bops
- Blaze Pizza
- Boulder Tap House
- Buffalo Wild Wings
- Chick-fil-A
- Chipotle Mexican Grill
- Chocolaterie Stam
- Culver's
- Dairy Queen
- Domino's
- Dunkin' Donuts
- Firehouse Subs
- Five Guys Burgers and Fries
- Freddy's Frozen Custard & Steakburgers
- Fuji Japanese Steakhouse
- Great Harvest Bakery and Café
- HuHot
- Insomnia Cookies
- Jethro's BBQ Steak n' Chop
- Jimmy Johns
- Little Caesars Pizza
- McDonald's
- Noodles & Company

Old Chicago
- Orange Leaf Frozen Yogurt
- Papa John's Pizza
- Pancheros Mexican Grill
- Panda Express
- Panera Bread
- PepperJax Grill
- Perkins
- Pizza Hut
- Pizza Pit
- Pizza Ranch
- Potbelly Sandwich Shop
- Red Lobster
- Starbucks
- Subway
- Taco Bell
- Taco John's
- Texas Roadhouse
- Tropical Smooth Café
- Village Inn
- Wasabi Ames
- Wendy's
- Wing Stop

Ames History
The city was founded in 1864 as a station stop on the Cedar Rapids and Missouri Railroad. Ames was named after 19th century U.S. congressman Oakes Ames of Massachusetts, who was influential in the building of the transcontinental railroad.
VISIT OUR CAMPUS.

All college campuses look alike, or do they? You might begin to think differently after stepping foot on Iowa State’s campus. Nestled on more than 1,900 acres you’ll find one of the most beautiful college campuses in the country. And we’re not just saying that!

Daily Campus Visit

A daily campus visit is a great way to know if Iowa State is the right fit for you. A visit to campus includes a Preview of Iowa State presentation, a campus tour, and a residence hall tour. On most weekdays, we can arrange a visit with an adviser or professor in the academic area of your choice. Other activities can be arranged according to your special interest. You may choose to meet with staff from the University Honors Program, ROTC program, and Women in Science and Engineering.

Experience Iowa State

The Experience Iowa State program includes all the events that take place during a daily campus visit and more! Feel what it’s like to be a student. Talk to a panel of Iowa State students and find out what makes Iowa State so special. Tour areas of campus and see for yourself why Iowa State has been named one of the most beautiful campuses in the country.

For more information, visit iastate.edu/visit

Iowa State’s central campus was one of only three colleges to receive the American Society of Landscape Architects medallion award given to outstanding landscape sites.

Tips for a good visit:

1. Schedule your visit at least 10 days in advance. This allows us to follow up on your request and email you confirmation materials to help you prepare for your visit.

2. Check the Ames weather forecast before you come. Our campus visit does include a lot of walking. We suggest you wear comfortable shoes and dress appropriately for the weather, as we will be outside quite a bit.

3. Review your itinerary. Double check your schedule and directions before leaving home.

4. Prepare a list of questions. Take advantage of the time you’ll have with current students and academic advisers.

Getting Here

Traveling to Ames is easy: by car from north or south, use Interstate 35; east-west travelers use Interstate 80. By air, many commercial and commuter airlines serve the Des Moines International Airport.
WHERE A CYCLONE’S PATH BEGINS

From the very first moment on campus, you’ll find supportive spaces where you belong.

Admissions and Campus Visits
Enrollment Services Center
2433 Union Drive
Ames, IA 50011-2011
515-294-5836
admissions@iastate.edu
iastate.edu/admissions