

# 2024-2025 School Profile

CEEB Code # 160156

## ABOUT OUR SCHOOL

### OUR MISSION

The mission of Iowa Connections Academy is to partner with all stakeholders to succeed, in and beyond, the learning environment through compassionate collaboration, personalized learning, and purposeful relationships.

### OUR PROGRAM

Iowa Connections Academy includes a four-year comprehensive high school program with an enrollment of over 1,200 students. Here are some important facts about the program:

Iowa Connections Academy is accredited by the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement (NCA CASI), an accrediting division by Cognia.

The school was founded during the 2012-13 school year as a K-12, public school. School is in session for 1,200 hours between the months of August and May. In order to best serve our students, IACA goes above and beyond the required 1080 academic hours.

## STUDENT POPULATION

Iowa Connections Academy is an accredited, public school serving students in grades K-12 from across the state. Our students come from urban, suburban, and rural communities. The school's first 12th grade class graduated in May 2013.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

[www.connectionsacademy.com/iowa-online-school/](http://www.connectionsacademy.com/iowa-online-school/)

807 3rd Street

Anita, IA 50020

**Fax:** 712-248-8622

**Phone:** 712-581-0200

## SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

**SCHOOL LEADER:** Larry Hunt

**DIRECTOR OF STUDENT SERVICES:** Jennifer Tischer

**ELEMENTARY & MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL (K-8):**

Christina Luing

**HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL:** Ally Derby

**HIGH SCHOOL MANAGER:** Scott Giraud

## SCHOOL AND FACULTY ACCOLADES

IACA's school team is proudly comprised of over thirty-five (35) highly qualified, licensed professional administrative staff and teachers, over half of whom have earned advanced degrees.

## ACCREDITATIONS

### SAMPLING OF COLLEGE

### ACCEPTANCES

University of Iowa, Iowa State University, University of Northern Iowa, University of California: Los Angeles, Pennsylvania State University, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Brigham Young University, Mercy College of Health, Drake University

## ADVANCED COURSE OPTIONS

**AP Course Offerings Include:** Biology, Calculus, Human Geography

**Honors Course Offerings Include:** Algebra I and II, American Government, Biology, Chemistry, Earth Science, Economics, English 9-12, Geometry, Physical Science, Pre-Calculus, U.S. History, & World History.

**Concurrent Enrollment:** Available to Iowa Connections Academy students in 9<sup>th</sup> (Spring Semester), 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> grades, students can earn both Iowa Western Community College (IWCC) credits *and* high school credits at the same time. Each online IWCC class may earn up to five (5) college credits per semester and one (1) Iowa Connections Academy (IACA) credit per semester. Courses taken through IWCC will satisfy electives and, in some cases, core academic requirements.

## GRADE SCALE

Student transcripts reflect weighted grades if the student took Honors or Advanced Placement courses.

The numerical grading scale is as follows:

Grade	Numerical Percentage	Non-Weighted	Weighted (Honors)	Weighted (AP)
A+	98-100	4.00	4.50	5.00
A	92-97	4.00	4.50	5.00
A-	90-91	3.67	4.17	4.67
B+	88-89	3.33	3.83	4.33
B	82-87	3.00	3.50	4.00
B-	80-81	2.67	3.17	3.67
C+	78-79	2.33	2.83	3.33
C	72-77	2.00	2.50	3.00
C-	70-71	1.67	2.17	2.67
D+	68-69	1.33	1.83	2.33
D	62-67	1.00	1.50	2.00
D-	60-61	.67	1.17	1.67
F	0-59	0.00	0.00	0.00

## ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

IACA students have the opportunity to participate in Connections Academy Global Activities, IACA Clubs & Activities, and extracurricular activities through their resident school districts.

IACA offers in-person learning and engagement opportunities throughout the year, including an in-person Graduation Ceremony & Celebration.

## GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Iowa Connections Academy operates on a semester system utilizing Carnegie units. One semester class equals one-half of a high school credit. Students who have taken high school courses while in middle school may have been granted high school credit. The typical course load is 6.5 credits per semester. NOTE: PE is required to be taken all four years of High School through IACA. Two (2) credits are required in order to earn a diploma through IACA.

Area/Subjects	#Units for Graduation
Language Arts	4
Math	3
Science	3
Social Studies	3
Health	.5
Physical Education	2
Technology	.5
Fine Arts	.5
Personal Finance	.5
Career Technical	.5
Electives	6.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>26</b>

### Career Readiness Program

Iowa Connections Academy (IACA) began offering Coursera courses in 23-24. The IACA Coursera program allows students to earn industry certifications in eight areas or domains. Additionally, the courses within these certifications will earn high school elective graduation credits. Certifications Offered: Google Digital Marketing & eCommerce, Google IT Support, Google Project Management, Google UX Design, IBM - Cybersecurity Analyst, IBM - Full Stack Cloud Developer, META - Social Media Marketing, and Salesforce Sales Development Representative. Coursera offers IACA students: validation of skills and knowledge, enhances their credibility in the marketplace and opens the door to new job opportunities, promotions, and career advancements.

## PATHWAYS TO GRADUATION

One of IACA's key initiatives is to support students and families in developing personalized pathways to Graduation and beyond. Maintaining a "Future Ready" focus, regarding both career readiness and the capacity for students to sustain whole person well-being, is essential to assisting students with growing, fostering hope and a positive vision for their lives. Many IACA students take advantage of personalized, Future Ready pathways to Graduation:

#### Traditional Diploma Pathway

Iowa Required Diploma Pathway: Satisfy core course requirements, CPR, and approved independent study electives as a part of an individualized Pathway

Each of these opportunities run in conjunction or independent of postsecondary and other learning opportunities. Iowa Western Community College, CAM High School, and Iowa Connections Academy are working together to provide a number of educational opportunities for IACA students.