

Instructional Resources

DEVELOPMENTAL EDUCATION DIVISION

LEARNING SERVICES

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The mission of the Developmental Education Division is to provide access to education for the citizens of North Iowa and to support students' academic success regardless of their educational backgrounds.

This support includes assessment and developmentally appropriate instruction.

Assessment/Testing

- * American College Testing Program (ACT)
 - * College Level Examination Program (CLEP)
 - * Test Proctoring: External/Internal
 - * Police Dispatcher Recertification
 - * General Educational Development (GED)
 - GED Testing Site: NIACC Campus—Beem Center 103; five tests available in writing and reading skills, social studies, sciences, and mathematics.
 - Scholarship: For eligible GED candidates enrolling at NIACC each fall semester.
- Requirements of GED testing procedures/policies clarified by the chief GED examiner.

Basic Skills

Open entrance/open exit classes for adults with or without a high school diploma.

- * Adult Basic Education (ABE): Adults functioning below the ninth grade level study basic reading, writing, and mathematics.
- * General Educational Development (GED): Adults functioning below the twelfth grade level study basic reading, writing, and mathematics. Adults may also prepare for the GED tests which lead to the attainment of a high school equivalency diploma. GED requirements are clarified by the chief GED examiner.

Literacy/Adult Basic Education

- * Reading instruction for adult nonreaders
- * ABE/Special Learning Needs: Persons in residential or day-care institutions functioning below ninth grade level, i.e., Opportunity Village, county care facilities, and sheltered workshops are taught basic academic and life skills.
- * English as a Second Language (ESL): Preparation in conversational English, reading, and writing for non-native speakers.

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

Cooperative Education Program

North Iowa Area Community College provides an educational program in which a student has the opportunity to blend theory and practice by combining classroom learning with planned and supervised field experience.

Cooperative Education is a concept which incorporates academic work with employment experience to provide a more meaningful and valuable total experience for the college student. The goal is to afford students the opportunity to enhance their academic knowledge, personal development, and professional preparation.

Credit is granted for the field experience in Cooperative Education. Students may earn up to 5 credits per term and apply 12 credits toward an associate degree. Appropriateness of learning objectives is an essential feature in the approval for credit process. For further information, contact the Employment and Career Services Office at 515-422-4370.

Individualized Competency-Based Education Program (ICBE)

The Individualized Competency-Based (ICBE) program is an individually tailored, student-designed program leading to an Associate Degree. The ICBE program is designed for adults who have (1) acquired college-level learning outside the college setting; (2) desire assessment of this learning for credit equivalence; and (3) may desire a flexible time schedule for completion of their educational goals.

The program is designed to meet the specialized educational needs of adults who have either (1) a clear direction or desire for designing their own educational program, or (2) want opportunities for life or career development or change, or (3) prefer or need the nontraditional options for their area of study.

The ICBE degree program is an alternative mode of education for adults who have had learning experiences from employment, volunteer work, noncollege education, in-service training, or other life experiences.

Independent Study Lab (ISL)

The ISL, located in Beem Center, offers opportunities to all college students who wish to:

1. Improve the following:
 - Study skills
 - Math skills
 - Writing skills
 - Reading strategies
 - Test-taking skills
 - Note-taking skills
 - Time management skills
2. Schedule individual appointments for one-on-one tutoring.
3. Drop in for tutoring in NIACC class work or to study.
4. Study in a helping environment.

LEARNING SERVICES**Library**

The role of the NIACC Library is to support the curriculum and to provide resources and services to meet the needs of students, faculty, and area residents.

The collection contains 28,000 general volumes, 4,000 reference volumes, 15,000 nonbook media items, and 42,000 government publications. Subscriptions include 8 national newspapers, 44 NIAD area newspapers, and 377 periodicals with ten-year holdings of most titles. Also available are files containing up-to-date pamphlets, career information, and social concerns materials.

The library is open 70 hours per week, including evenings and Saturdays. A professional staff of two full-time librarians and one part-time librarian, assisted by three full-time assistants, and four student assistants provide service for all patrons. The library staff will provide assistance at any time. Library orientation sessions are offered at the beginning of each semester to inform students of library resources, policies, and procedures. A library handbook is also available. A student ID card is required to check out materials. ID's are available in Student Services.

Computers, a typewriter, and various types of media equipment are available for use in the library. Copying services are provided at a minimal cost.

The library is connected by computer to over 20,000 libraries across the country via the OCLC interlibrary loan system. This brings the libraries of the United States to NIACC students. A number of health-related data bases are searchable through the Iowa Health Information Network. A number of electronic databases, including a full-text periodical database, newspapers, and encyclopedias on the World Wide Web can be accessed through the library's web page. Many more CD-ROM databases, including ERIC, the Des Moines Register, and government reference resources are also available. Cooperative agreements with other Iowa community colleges and area libraries provide additional sources of information.

The library continues to implement the utilization of new technologies to meet the information needs of NIACC students. The library uses an online library catalog and circulation system to provide easy access to resources. Four Internet workstations are available for using the World Wide Web, and a CD-ROM network will soon provide access to periodical indexes and other resources via the campus network.

The Iowa Communications Network (ICN)

NIACC is proud to be a part of the ICN, a statewide two-way interactive video/audio/data network with over 600 electronic classrooms, connecting every county in the state. NIACC has four telecommunication classrooms at the main campus in Mason City and one at the NIACC Charles City Center. In addition, there are ICN classrooms at nearly all area high schools. Students can participate in a variety of college classes at the remote sites, communicating with the instructor and other students via two-way video and audio.

TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

The Technology Services Division provides technology-related support to the campus in the areas of computer services, media services, and telecommunications. Technology Services staff members set up and maintain the computers in the computer labs, data networks, Internet, and computer applications. In addition, staff members support classroom presentation equipment such as overhead projectors, video projectors, large screen computer displays, and interactive television classrooms (ICN). Other production services, such as overhead transparencies, electronic publishing, video production, photography, satellite down-linking services, and Internet Web page development are also provided by the division.

Quotable Quote:

Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.

-Martin Luther King, Jr.