The Dean of Students Office at Iowa State University uses an integrated approach to support student-centered learning through personal, community and academic development culminating in a transformative experience.

“Wellness must be a prerequisite to all else. Students cannot be intellectually proficient if they are physically and psychologically unwell.”
- Boyer, 1990

“Student success is enhanced when an institution provides many complementary policies and practices to support students academically and socially... Students are more likely to thrive when support comes from multiple sources.”
- Kuh, et al., 2005

“In a socially just setting, individuals possess the ability to choose their own path while working collaboratively with others.”
- Evans, 2010

“We come to college not alone to prepare to make a living, but learn to live a life.”
- M.J. Riggs, 1883

Reporting through the Division of Student Affairs, the DSO provides numerous opportunities for students to connect beyond the classroom. The 15 DSO departments are groups within four spheres of influence: Student Success and Retention, Student Life, Social Justice and Inclusion, and Safety and Wellness.

These departments work together across all four spheres to provide resources and services in support of our common mission. This collaborative model illustrates the dynamic synergy with which the Dean of Students Office supports a common community experience and creates a sense of belonging for all Iowa State University students.

Our Philosophical Approach

**Action-Oriented**
We provide a wide range of resources and service and encourage students to use them to maximize their experience at Iowa State University.

**Advocacy**
We work on behalf of students to help them navigate the University community; we also encourage them to find their own voice such that they can advocate for themselves.

**Community**
We create an environment that encourages connectedness, belonging and positive interpersonal relationships.

**Globally Engaged**
We facilitate transformative global learning and cross-cultural engagement opportunities for all students, promoting intercultural competence and understanding.

**Intersectionality**
We understand that effective work to support the holistic success of students must be informed by an integrated approach that encompasses multiple experiences, perspectives, and identities.