Understanding Academics & Advising at the University of Iowa

The Academic Advising Center
Academic Advising Center Staff
Welcome!

Session Topics:

- Degree Requirements
- The Path to Graduation
- Creating a First-Semester Schedule
- Academic Advising
Colleges with Undergraduate Programs

- Liberal Arts & Sciences
- Tippie College of Business
- Education
- Engineering
- Medicine
- Nursing
- Public Health

The University = 11 Colleges
Three Components of a degree:

- General Education Program
- Major
- Electives
Opportunity to:

- Explore the University
- Personalize the degree
- Develop valuable skills
- Acquire new ways of thinking

General Education Program
General Education Courses: The Foundation of Liberal Arts

- Communication & Literacy
- Natural, Quantitative & Social Sciences
- Culture, Society, & the Arts
A Liberal Arts Education Helps Students
Develop a Broad Perspective & Valuable Career Skills

- Communicate clearly
- Write well
- Analyze complex situations
- Solve problems
- Adapt to new and unusual situations
- Gain in-depth knowledge of a particular subject
- See the world from various points of view
What would these people say about love?

CLAS Master Class

- Religious Studies
- Communication Sciences & Disorders
- Art & Art History
- Philosophy
- Theatre
- Computer Science
Over 100 areas of study are available at Iowa:
- Most require 30-60 semester hours of coursework

Some are Selective Majors
- Have requirements to apply, such as pre-requisite courses, hours earned or a specific grade point average
Exploring Majors

- Open Majors – 20% of entering class
- Many students change in the first year
- Exploring strengths, interests & values
  - Coursework
  - Referrals to Career Center
  - Discussions with Academic Advisor
  - It’s a process!
Courses students take to...

- Explore majors
- Enhance majors
- Earn a second major, minor or certificate
- Simply learn something new!
• Most classes are worth 3 s.h. (range from 1 s.h. - 5 s.h.)

• Average course load = 15 – 16 s.h.
  • Full-time status is 12 s.h.

• 4-year graduation (120 s.h.) = 30 s.h. per year
Summer Hawk Tuition Grant

- Can be used for one summer during their time here
  - Tuition is waived for in-state students
  - Out-of-state students pay in-state rates
• Background Information
  • High school record
  • Standardized test scores
  • Previous college credit
  • Placement test scores

• Assess their current interests
Our goal = a balanced schedule

• Correct placement
  • Science, math, and world languages
• Number of courses / hours
• Small sections vs. large lectures
• Variety of course types
• Appropriate for interests and major
Balance of Academics & Extracurriculars

- Work
- Volunteering
- Clubs / Organizations
- Sports

The Advising Conversation
Sample First Semester Schedule

Example for Health Sciences

- Math 3 – 4 s.h.
- Chemistry 3 – 4 s.h.
- Gen ed 3 s.h.
- Gen ed/Elective 3 s.h.
- Success at Iowa 2 s.h.

15 – 16 s.h.
Sample First Semester Schedule

Example for Open Major

- Rhetoric / Gen ed 3 – 4 s.h.
- Gen ed 3 – 4 s.h.
- Gen ed/Elective 3 – 4 s.h.
- Success at Iowa 2 s.h.
- Possible elective? 3 s.h.

15 – 16 s.h.
First-Year Opportunities

Academic Experiences

- One Click Course Options
- The College Transition
- Courses in Common
- BizHawks
- First-Year Seminars
- Living Learning Communities
Reminder for the Final Schedule

Work load: Every 1 s.h. in class = 2+ hours of study and preparation outside of class
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Two-Tiered

- Academic Advising Center
- Departmental & Collegiate Advising

Academic Advising at the University
An Academic Advisor is ...

- Someone with the knowledge to help students...
  - EXPLORE options at Iowa
  - PLAN a program of study
  - CONNECT with UI resources
- Someone who cares about students and their success
Students and their Advisor will...

- meet regularly throughout the year
- discuss student interests & goals
- review major requirements
- explore ways to get involved
Commitment from the University

- Entering First-Year students are automatically covered by the plan if they are in a qualifying major

The University’s Four-Year Plan
These majors do not qualify:

- Applied Physics
- Computer Science & Informatics
- Elementary Education
- Environmental Sciences
- Nuclear Medicine
- Nursing majors (*who are not admitted to the College directly out of high school*)
- Radiation Sciences
- Science Education
What can you do to help?

- Ask your student if they check their University email regularly.
- Ask your student what they have done to problem solve when they run into challenges.
- Encourage them to come see their advisor!
We welcome communication from parents when situations arise.

- We are happy to listen and to provide general information.
- We do adhere to the Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), which protects the privacy rights of students.
What happens after Orientation?
"I didn’t need my parents for anything my senior year of high school. But now that I’m in college, I find them strangely useful."

(College Transition Journal Entry)