

BUILDING YOUR FUTURE

PREPARING FOR ACADEMIC SUCCESS AT REGENT UNIVERSITIES OF IOWA

Building your future is like building a house. Not somebody else's house—your own. You need to both envision your dream house and create blueprints for building it.

High school is a time of choices. In fact, some of the most important choices you'll make in life face you right now as you sign up for your high school courses.

TAKE THE CHALLENGE

Be ambitious in your planning. Prepare yourself not only to survive in college but to thrive. The best preparation for college is to take the optimum courses. Experience at all three universities points to one definite conclusion: students who succeed best in college are those who build the best foundations in high school. Even if you're not currently considering attending college, you will still benefit from a strong foundation, since all jobs require much better academic preparation than they did a few years ago.

DRAFT YOUR BLUEPRINT

01/ FOUNDATION

Lay your foundation carefully and wisely. It's tempting to choose a course in which you know you could get a good grade, rather than one that might be difficult for you. But a challenging course will help you when you get to college. During high school you need to develop strong skills in reading, writing, speaking, listening, and reasoning. Courses that will help you do so include English/language arts, mathematics, sciences with laboratory experience, social studies, and foreign language. Your counselor can help you make the right choices. Taking an ambitious course load in high school means you'll be starting college at an advantage.

02/ OPPORTUNITY

Learn to love learning. Every class you take is an opportunity to find something you care about, explore your intellectual horizons, and pursue your interests. View each class as an opportunity and a challenge.

03/ FRAMEWORK

Develop a framework of study and work habits. Practice study strategies that have been shown to work in college: listening, note-taking skills, daily study time rather than cramming, revisiting, revising, and reflecting. Make every effort to understand the concepts, theories, and relationships. Students who come to college with proven work and study patterns have an advantage over students who need to establish them while they're coping with the new experience of being a college freshman.

04/ EXPLORE

While you are in high school, consider taking courses that will allow you to explore a future career, cultivate a talent in the arts, or teach you about a field you've known nothing about until now. Participate in extracurriculars. These initiatives broaden your horizons, enhance your total educational experience, and increase your interaction with others. Combined with a strong academic program, these activities will make you a confident and successful college student. Use your senior year wisely. Explore your interests and develop your talents.

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

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IOWA

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319 335-3847
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UNI / University of Northern Iowa

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Cedar Falls, IA 50614-0018
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For more information:

Board of Regents, State of Iowa
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YOUR COURSES COUNT

REGENT ADMISSION INDEX (RAI)

Due to the many standardized testing issues caused by the COVID pandemic, Iowa's Regent universities are test-optional for freshman applicants entering Fall 2022 or earlier. In other words, these students may choose whether they wish to submit ACT or SAT scores.

Applicants Who Submit ACT or SAT Scores

These applicants will be considered for admission based upon their Regent Admission Index (RAI) score. Below is the mathematical formula for calculating your RAI score:

$$\begin{array}{r}
 \text{ACT composite score} \times 3 \\
 + \text{Cumulative GPA} \times 30 \\
 + \text{Number of years of high school core courses} \times 5 \\
 \hline
 \text{Total} = \text{RAI}
 \end{array}$$

Applicants Who Do Not Submit ACT or SAT Scores

These applicants will be considered for admission based upon an individual review of their academic records. Emphasis will be given to high school cumulative GPA and core courses.

MINIMUM COURSE REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION				
	IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY	IOWA	UNI / University of Northern Iowa	OPTIMUM RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SUCCESS
ENGLISH	4 YEARS emphasizing writing, speaking, reading, as well as an understanding and appreciation of literature.	4 YEARS with an emphasis on the analysis and interpretation of literature, composition and speech	4 YEARS including one year of composition, also may include one year of speech, communication or journalism	4 YEARS with an emphasis on the communication skills of writing, reading and listening, and the analysis and interpretation of literature. In addition, courses in journalism and media literacy will be valuable. Extracurricular activities in debate, speech contest, newspaper and yearbook will further develop essential competencies.
MATH	3 YEARS including one year each of algebra, geometry and advanced algebra.	3 YEARS including two years of algebra and one year of geometry for admission to the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. 4 YEARS including two years of algebra, one year each of geometry and higher math (trigonometry, analysis or calculus) for admission to the College of Engineering.	3 YEARS including the equivalent of algebra, geometry and algebra II.	4 YEARS one in each year of high school. While advanced courses like calculus and statistics are good, it's more important that you gain a complete understanding of algebra II and trigonometry.
NATURAL SCIENCE	3 YEARS including at least two years of courses which emphasize elements of biology, chemistry, or physics.	3 YEARS including courses in physical science, biology, chemistry, environmental science and physics for admission to the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. 3 YEARS with at least one year each in chemistry and physics for admission to the College of Engineering. Nursing—3 years, including one year each of biology, chemistry and physics.	3 YEARS including courses in general science, biology, chemistry, earth science or physics. Laboratory experience is highly recommended.	4 YEARS one in each year of high school. To be better prepared, take at least one year each of biology, chemistry and physics. These can be taken in any order and may be taught productively in either a separate or an integrated fashion, depending on your school's offerings.
SOCIAL STUDIES	2 YEARS for admission to Colleges of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Business, Design, Engineering and Human Sciences. 3 YEARS for admission to the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.	3 YEARS with U.S. history and world history recommended for admission to the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. 2 YEARS with U.S. history and world history recommended for admission to the College of Engineering.	3 YEARS including courses in anthropology, economics, geography, government, history, psychology or sociology.	3 YEARS is essential, but four is better. Take at least one year each of U.S. and world history. Additional courses in anthropology, economics, political science, psychology and sociology provide an important understanding of our political, social and economic institutions.
FOREIGN LANGUAGE	2 YEARS of a single foreign language for admission to the Colleges of Engineering and Liberal Arts and Sciences.	2 YEARS of a single foreign language are required for admission. For many degrees, the fourth year of proficiency is required for graduation. Nursing—4 years in a single language or two years each in two different languages.	Foreign language courses are not required for admission. However, two years of foreign language in high school with a C- or above in the last course will meet the university graduation requirement.	4 YEARS of a single foreign language. By taking foreign language during all four years of high school, you'll go beyond the basic skills and begin to use the language and reinforce your fluency.
OTHER COURSES	Specific elective courses are not required for admission.	Specific elective courses are not required for admission.	2 YEARS years of additional courses from the required subject areas, foreign language, or the fine arts.	Explore! Courses in the fine arts, performing arts, computers, or technology will help round out your high school experience. Your future field of concentration or career may lie in one of those areas. Follow your interests, talents, and the strengths of your school. Remember to choose courses with high academic standards.