

# BUILDING YOUR FUTURE

## PREPARING FOR ACADEMIC SUCCESS AT IOWA'S REGENT UNIVERSITIES

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, as a strong academic foundation from high school can also help you be successful in your job.

## DRAFT YOUR BLUEPRINT

### 1. 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 world 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.

### 2. 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.

### 3. 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.

### 4. 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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Ames, IA 50011-2011  
admissions.iastate.edu  
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## IOWA

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Cedar Falls, IA 50614-0018  
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## YOUR COURSES COUNT

### REGENT ADMISSION INDEX (RAI)

Freshman applicants from Iowa high schools who have an RAI of at least 245 and who meet the minimum requirements of the Regent universities will qualify for automatic admission to any of the three Regent universities. Freshman applicants who have an RAI below 245 or who wish to apply using the test-optional pathway may also be admitted to a specific Regent university; however, each Regent university will review these applications on an individual basis, and admission decisions will be specific to each institution.

### Applicants Who Submit ACT or SAT Scores

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

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

### 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	<b>4 YEARS</b> emphasizing writing, speaking and reading, as well as an understanding and appreciation of literature.	<b>4 YEARS</b> with an emphasis on the analysis and interpretation of literature, composition and speech	<b>4 YEARS</b> including one year of composition, also may include one year of speech, communication or journalism	<b>4 YEARS</b> 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	<b>3 YEARS</b> including at least two years of courses which emphasize elements of algebra, geometry and advanced algebra.	<b>3 YEARS</b> including algebra, geometry and advanced algebra.  <b>4 YEARS</b> with the addition of pre-calculus for admission to the College of Engineering.	<b>3 YEARS</b> including the equivalent of algebra, geometry and algebra II.	<b>4 YEARS</b> 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 advanced algebra and trigonometry.
NATURAL SCIENCE	<b>3 YEARS</b> including at least two years of courses which emphasize elements of biology, chemistry and physics.	<b>3 YEARS</b> including courses in physical science, biology, chemistry, environmental science and physics for admission to the Colleges of Liberal Arts and Sciences and Engineering.  <b>3 YEARS</b> including one year each of biology, chemistry and physics for admission to the College of Nursing.	<b>3 YEARS</b> including courses in general science, biology, chemistry, earth science or physics. Laboratory experience is highly recommended.	<b>4 YEARS</b> 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	<b>2 YEARS</b> for admission to Colleges of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Business, Design, Engineering, and Health and Human Sciences.  <b>3 YEARS</b> for admission to the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.	<b>3 YEARS</b> with U.S. history and world history recommended for admission to the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.  <b>2 YEARS</b> for admission to the College of Engineering.	<b>3 YEARS</b> including courses in anthropology, economics, geography, government, history, psychology or sociology.	<b>3 YEARS</b> 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.
WORLD LANGUAGE	<b>2 YEARS</b> of a single world language for admission to the Colleges of Engineering and Liberal Arts and Sciences.	<b>2 YEARS</b> of a single world language are required for admission.	World language courses are not required for admission. However, two years of world language in high school with a C- or above in the last course will meet the university graduation requirement.	<b>4 YEARS</b> of a single world language. By taking world 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.	<b>2 YEARS</b> years of additional courses from the required subject areas, world 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.