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.

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

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THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

Office of Admissions
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Cedar Falls, IA 50614-0018
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For more information:

Board of Regents, State of Iowa
www.iowaregents.edu

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.

The Iowa Regent Universities do not discriminate in their employment or educational programs on the basis of race, national origin, color, creed, religion, sex, age, disability, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or associational preference. Each university has adopted a comprehensive plan to assure that all programs will be open to all. For information on specific plans, please contact the universities directly.

BUILDING YOUR FUTURE

YOUR COURSES COUNT

REGENT ADMISSION INDEX (RAI)

Freshman applicans who wish to enter any of the three Iowa public universities will be held to the Regent Admission Index (RAI) requirement. The RAI score is based upon four factors: ACT composite score, high school class rank, cumulative high school grade point average and the number of years of high school courses completed in the core subject areas of English, mathematics, science, social studies, and foreign language.

The RAI places greater emphasis on your high school course selections. The more core courses you take, the higher your RAI. Check each university's website for additional details.

PRIMARY RAI CALCULATION
(for students whose high school provides class rank)

(1 x percentile rank)
+ (2 x ACT composite score)
+ (20 x Cumulative GPA)
+ (5 x total number of years of courses completed in the core subject areas)

Total = RAI

ALTERNATIVE RAI CALCULATION
(for students whose high school does NOT provide class rank)

(3 x ACT composite score)
+ (30 x Cumulative GPA)
+ (5 x total number of years of courses completed in the core subject areas)

Total = RAI

	MINIMUM COURSE REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION			OPTIMUM RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SUCCESS
	IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY	THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA	University of Northern Iowa	
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 profi ciency 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.