Sport Studies, B.A.

Learning Outcomes

Graduates of the B.A. in sport studies should have the following competencies.

- An understanding of the field’s interdisciplinary body of knowledge through familiarity with:
  - the culture of contemporary U.S. sport as it relates to institutions and contexts such as the media, politics, and the economy;
  - the diversity of sport experiences in the U.S., including how opportunities for and the nature of participation are influenced by social class, race, ethnicity, nationality, gender, sexuality, age, and physical ability/disability;
  - the historical and cultural processes shaping U.S. sport from the 19th century to the present; and
  - the nature and significance of U.S. sport within the context of global sporting patterns and forms, especially as this relates to imperialism, neocolonialism, and postcolonialism.

- A knowledge of theoretical perspectives relevant to the critical study of sport in culture.

- An understanding of the methodologies appropriate for the critical study of sport and the ability to apply these to individual research projects.

- The ability to apply critical thinking skills in the interpretation and analysis of peer-reviewed research and literature.

- The ability to analyze and synthesize primary and secondary source materials and communicate both orally and in writing evidence-based arguments regarding U.S. sport.

Requirements

The Bachelor of Arts with a major in sport studies requires a minimum of 120 s.h., including 45 s.h. of work for the major (30 s.h. in sport studies and 15 s.h. in an outside concentration area or a minor). Students must maintain a g.p.a. of at least 2.00 in all courses for the major and in all UI courses for the major. At least 24 s.h. of credit for the major must be earned at the University of Iowa. Students also must complete the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences GE CLAS Core.

The sports studies major examines sport in its historical and contemporary cultural contexts. Course work provides students with the critical skills necessary to understand the cultural significance of sport as it relates to the media, the economy, the political system, and the educational system. A focus on the race, class, and gender differences in the sport experience is central to the major.

Many students use their experience in the program to prepare for graduate school. For others, the required second concentration area or minor serves as an introduction to careers in a number of fields, such as sport journalism, sport management, or coaching.

The B.A. with a major in sport studies requires the following course work.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Sport Studies Foundation Courses</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sport Studies Foundation Courses</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sport Studies Core Courses</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Electives (approved courses)</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Outside Concentration Area or Minor Courses</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total Hours</strong></td>
<td><strong>45</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sport Studies Foundation

Students should complete the foundation courses as early as possible.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AMST:1010</td>
<td>Understanding American Cultures</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPST:1074/AMST:1074/GWSS:1074</td>
<td>Inequality in American Sport</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sport Studies Core

Students must complete one course from each of the following four content areas (total of 12 s.h.).

Diversity in Sport

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SPST:2078/GWSS:2078</td>
<td>Women, Sport, and Culture</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPST:2079/AFAM:2079</td>
<td>Race and Ethnicity in Sport</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

International Dimensions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SPST:2170</td>
<td>Sport and Globalization</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPST:3176</td>
<td>Sport and Nationalism</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPST:3177</td>
<td>Sport in the Western World</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPST:3500</td>
<td>The Olympics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Contemporary Sport in America

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SPST:3175/JMC:3183</td>
<td>Sport and the Media</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPST:3911</td>
<td>Sport Since 9/11</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

History of Sport and Leisure in America

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SPST:2050/AMST:2050</td>
<td>The American Vacation</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPST:3178/AMST:3178</td>
<td>American Sport to 1900</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPST:3179/AMST:3179</td>
<td>Twentieth-Century American Sport</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Electives

Students must complete at least 12 s.h. of approved elective courses; the department suggests courses from the following
list. Courses not used to satisfy the sport studies core can serve as electives; see "Sport Studies Core" above.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AMST:1065</td>
<td>Disney in America</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMST:1500</td>
<td>American Celebrity Culture</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMST:2000</td>
<td>Introduction to American Studies</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPST:1847/AMST:1847</td>
<td>Hawkeye Nation: On Iowa and Sport</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPST:2077/RELS:2877</td>
<td>Sport and Religion in America</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPST:2081</td>
<td>Theory and Ethics of Coaching</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPST:2084/AMST:2084</td>
<td>Sport and Film</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPST:2500</td>
<td>Sport and Technology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPST:3171/AMST:3171</td>
<td>Baseball in America</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPST:3172</td>
<td>Football in America</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPST:3181/JMC:3540</td>
<td>The Business of Sport Communication</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPST:3182/JMC:3182</td>
<td>Sport, Scandal, and Strategic Communication in Media Culture</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPST:3193</td>
<td>Independent Study</td>
<td>arr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPST:3198/AMST:3198/JMC:3135</td>
<td>New Media and the Future of Sport</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPST:4900</td>
<td>Topics in Sport Studies</td>
<td>1-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPST:4999</td>
<td>Honors Project</td>
<td>1-3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Outside Concentration Area or Minor**

All sport studies students must complete 15 s.h. of course work in an allied field of concentration outside the major (e.g., American studies; journalism and mass communication; business; gender, women's, and sexuality studies). Work for the concentration must include 6 s.h. earned in courses numbered 3000 or above or in courses that are designated advanced by the department or program that offers them. Concentration area courses may not be taken pass/nonpass.

Students select their allied field of concentration in consultation with their advisor, and they must have their advisor’s written approval for the area.

Students also may satisfy the concentration requirement by earning a second major or a minor in another discipline. Students who satisfy the requirement in this way are held responsible for ensuring that they have fulfilled the requirements for the second major or the minor.

**Coaching Authorization or Endorsement**

Students may prepare for coaching by completing additional course work that also qualifies them for a coaching authorization from the State of Iowa. The following courses are recommended.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ATEP:2030</td>
<td>Basic Athletic Training</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HHP:1100</td>
<td>Human Anatomy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HHP:3300</td>
<td>Human Growth and Motor Development</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPST:2081</td>
<td>Theory and Ethics of Coaching</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Students who successfully complete the requirements for the coaching authorization must submit an application to the Iowa Board of Educational Examiners. For more information, visit Coaching for Iowa K-12 Schools on the board’s website.

**Honors**

**Honors in the Major**

Students majoring in sport studies may graduate with honors in the major. They must maintain a University of Iowa g.p.a. of at least 3.33 and a g.p.a. of at least 3.33 in the major. Students write an honors paper under the guidance of an undergraduate advisor in the department. In special circumstances, the grade-point average requirement may be waived with permission of the honors advisor and the departmental director of undergraduate studies.

The honors project is an extended research paper (25-35 pages) usually undertaken in the student’s final semester. Research is done under the supervision of a faculty member who specializes in the field and who has agreed to supervise the student. Students should identify a potential research project the semester before and discuss it with their potential advisor. Students should enroll in SPST:4999 Honors Project for 3 s.h. The credit counts toward sport studies electives course work.

Results of the research project are presented in a senior essay to a committee of three faculty members, including the supervising faculty member and two other faculty members of a student’s choice. An oral defense of the final project will be held, usually in the 12th week of the semester.

Students who pursue honors projects in two departments may not submit the same project for both unless special permission is obtained from each department. They may want to form a collaborative committee between the departments. Such an option would require more substance and depth than projects undertaken in one department. Students should check with honors advisors from both departments before they pursue such projects.

**University of Iowa Honors Program**

In addition to honors in the major, students may pursue honors study through the University of Iowa Honors Program. University honors students must maintain a 3.33 g.p.a., complete 12 s.h. of course work designated as honors courses, and complete 12 s.h. of an experiential learning project. Visit Honors at Iowa for more details.

Membership in the UI Honors Program is not required to earn honors in the sport studies major.
### Academic Plans

#### Four-Year Graduation Plan

The following checkpoints list the minimum requirements students must complete by certain semesters in order to stay on the University's Four-Year Graduation Plan. Courses in the major are those required to complete the major; they may be offered by departments other than the major department.

**Before the fifth semester begins:** declaration of the major

**Before the sixth semester begins:** area of concentration determined

**Before the seventh semester begins:** at least six sport studies courses and at least 90 s.h. earned toward the degree

**Before the eighth semester begins:** at least eight sport studies courses

**During the eighth semester:** enrollment in all remaining course work in the major, all remaining GE CLAS Core courses, and a sufficient number of semester hours to graduate

#### Sample Plan of Study

Sample plans represent one way to complete a program of study. Actual course selection and sequence will vary and should be discussed with an academic advisor. For additional sample plans, see MyUI.

### Sport Studies, B.A.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>First Year</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMST:1010</td>
<td>Understanding American Cultures</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RHET:1030 or ENGL:1200</td>
<td>Rhetoric or The Interpretation of Literature</td>
<td>3 - 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GE CLAS Core: Diversity and Inclusion</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GE CLAS Core: Natural Sciences without Lab</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSI:1600</td>
<td>Success at Iowa</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Spring</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPST:1074</td>
<td>Inequality in American Sport</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL:1200</td>
<td>The Interpretation of Literature</td>
<td>3 - 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GE CLAS Core: Natural Sciences with Lab</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GE CLAS Core: Social Sciences</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective course c</td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Second Year</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major: sport studies core course d</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GE CLAS Core: Historical Perspectives</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GE CLAS Core: Quantitative or Formal Reasoning</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GE CLAS Core: World Languages First Level Proficiency or elective course e</td>
<td>4 - 5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective course c</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Spring</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Major: sport studies core course d</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Sample Plan of Study**

Department Application: apply on MyUI before deadline (typically in February for spring, September for fall)

**Hours**

15

**Total Hours**

123-129

- a Students should complete these foundation courses as early as possible.
- b GE CLAS Core courses may be completed in any order unless used as a prerequisite for another course. Students should consult with an advisor about the best sequencing of courses.
- c Students may use elective courses to earn credit towards the total s.h. required for graduation or to complete a double major, minors, or certificates.
- d Students must complete one course from each of the four content areas: Diversity in Sport, International Dimensions, Contemporary Sport in America, and History of Sport and Leisure in America.
- e Students who have completed four years of a single language in high school have satisfied the GE CLAS Core World Languages requirement. Enrollment in world languages courses requires a placement exam, unless enrolling in a first-semester-level course.
- f Students must complete at least 12 s.h. of approved sport studies elective courses.
Students must complete 15 s.h. of course work in an allied field of concentration outside the major (e.g., American studies; journalism and mass communication; business; gender, women’s, and sexuality studies). Work for the concentration must include 6 s.h. earned in courses numbered 3000 or above or in courses that are designated advanced by the department or program that offers them.

Please see Academic Calendar, Office of the Registrar website for current degree application deadlines. Students should apply for a degree for the session in which all requirements will be met. For any questions on appropriate timing, contact your academic advisor. For more information visit http://commencement.uiowa.edu/. If applicable search for “Early and Late Participation” to find this page (e.g. walk in graduation ceremony in May, degree conferral in August).

Career Advancement

Many sport studies students use their experience to prepare for graduate school. For others, the required second area of concentration or minor serves as an introduction to careers in a number of fields, such as sports journalism or sports information, sport management, and coaching.

The Pomerantz Career Center offers multiple resources to help students find internships and jobs.