The University of Iowa Center for Human Rights prepares students to apply human rights concepts to their professional career or field of study. Students learn to appreciate the value of empathy, social responsibility, and engaged global citizenship.

Pre-law students and others considering legal careers can experience undergraduate courses taught by law faculty and explore the role of the law and legal regimes—and how they intersect with civil society—to promulgate, promote, and protect human rights.

Students enrolled in the certificate program enjoy a unique, optional opportunity to engage in a field-based supervised internship on behalf of a scholar imprisoned for their ideas. HRTS:3920 Advocacy in Action: From the Classroom to Congress (Washington, D.C.) begins with team-based development of an advocacy plan on behalf of the scholar and culminates by implementing the advocacy plan on the ground in Washington D.C. in the halls of Congress.

The center also offers merit-based funding to support summer rights-related internships, hosts an annual student academic conference and essay contest, and provides hands-on learning experiences through center internships.
HRTS:3920 Advocacy in Action: From the Classroom to Congress (Washington, D.C.) 3 s.h.
Supervised, organized internship; focus on collaborative design and implementation of human rights-based advocacy plan for imprisoned scholar; includes three-day field experience in Washington D.C.

HRTS:3930 Peer Assistantship 1-2 s.h.
Designed to foster student and faculty collaboration in the classroom through a supervised mentoring internship; creates a credited opportunity for the student to work with the faculty member in a course they have previously taken by providing peer assistance and mentoring to currently enrolled students.