Sport Studies, B.A.

Learning Outcomes

Graduates of the B.A. in sport studies learn how to study sport critically and understand its complex cultural meanings. This entails an understanding of:

- contemporary U.S. sport’s relationship to institutions and contexts including 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 ability/disability;
- the historical and cultural forces that shape U.S. sport from the 19th century to the present;
- how U.S. sport relates to global sport and the historical, political, and social factors that impact it; and
- the theories and research methods that allow students to forge their own well-informed and clearly communicated critical studies of 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 meaning, history, and culture of sport. Coursework provides students with the critical skills necessary to understand sport’s relationship to media, economics, politics, and education. A focus on race, class, and gender in sport is central to the major.

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

Sport Studies Foundation Courses

- Both of these:
  - AMST:1010 Understanding American Cultures
  - SPST:1074/AMST:1074/GWSS:1074 Inequality in American Sport

Sport Studies Core Courses

- One of these:
  - SPST:2078/GWSS:2078 Women, Sport, and Culture
  - SPST:2079/AFAM:2079 Race and Ethnicity in Sport

International Dimensions

- One of these:
  - SPST:2170 Sport and Globalization
  - SPST:3176 Sport and Nationalism
  - SPST:3177 Sport in the Western World
  - SPST:3500 The Olympics

Contemporary Sport in America

- One of these:
  - SPST:3175/JMC:3183 Sport and the Media
  - SPST:3911 Sport Since 9/11

History of Sport and Leisure in America

- One of these:
  - SPST:3178/AMST:3178 Making It: Modern Sport and U.S. Society
  - SPST:3179/AMST:3179 Twentieth-Century American Sport

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.
The honors project is usually undertaken in the student's final semester. Students should identify a potential project topic and advisor from the sport studies faculty the semester before. Work for the honors project is done under the supervision of a faculty member with expertise in the topic the student is exploring. Projects typically take the form of traditional scholarly research. However, they also can be organized around public engagement, the digital humanities, or other formats decided on in consultation with the faculty advisor.

Students should enroll in SPST:4999 Honors Project for 3 s.h. The course counts toward sport studies elective credit.

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 coursework 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 during the degree
- **Before the eighth semester begins**: at least eight sport studies courses

During the eighth semester: enrollment in all remaining coursework 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>Fall</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>AMST:1010</td>
<td>Understanding American Cultures (a, b)</td>
<td>3</td>
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### Second Year

**Fall**
- Major: sport studies core course
- GE CLAS Core: Historical Perspectives
- GE CLAS Core: Quantitative or Formal Reasoning
- GE CLAS Core: World Languages First Level
- Elective course

**Spring**
- Major: sport studies core course
- GE CLAS Core: International and Global Issues
- GE CLAS Core: Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts
- GE CLAS Core: World Languages Second Level
- Elective course

### Third Year

**Fall**
- Major: elective course
- Major: outside concentration course
- Major: sport studies core course
- GE CLAS Core: World Languages Second Level
- Elective course

**Spring**
- Major: elective course
- Major: outside concentration course
- Major: sport studies core course
- GE CLAS Core: World Languages Fourth Level
- Elective course

### Fourth Year

**Fall**
- Major: elective course
- Major: outside concentration course
- Major: outside 3000-level concentration course
- Elective course
- Elective course

### 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, law, and coaching.

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