

# Russian, BA

The Russian major leading to the BA degree trains students in both written and spoken Russian and in Russian literature, culture, and civilization. The department encourages students to pursue a second major (e.g., global health, history, linguistics, political science) and to develop their interests in related or complementary fields. Students interested in focusing on a broader interdisciplinary understanding of the region may earn a second major in international studies; see the BA in international studies in the catalog.

## Learning Outcomes

Russian majors will:

- enhance their language proficiency and cultural awareness of the Russian-speaking world;
- attain skills to engage critically with histories, cultures, literatures, and other arts, and gained knowledge of the diversified Russian-speaking world (Russia, former Republics of the Soviet Union, and Southern and Western Slavs);
- practice interpersonal, interpretative, and presentational communication skills at levels of increasing complexity as indicated by each course number and description;
- engage with multiple perspectives while practicing linguistic skills and analyzing cultural items, such texts, art and other images, or film and music; and
- develop intercultural competence, helping to engage with those whose first language is other than English.

## Study Abroad

Russian is one of the most popular languages on earth. Contact the academic coordinator of the Russian program or International Programs Study Abroad for more information on safe programs abroad where Russian is one of the official languages.

### Requirements

The Bachelor of Arts with a major in Russian requires a minimum of 120 s.h., including 32 s.h. of work for the major earned in Russian courses. Students must maintain a grade-point average of at least 2.00 in all courses for the major and in all UI courses for the major. They also must complete the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences GE CLAS Core.

Students must complete RUSS:2112 Second-Year Russian II or the equivalent before they complete language requirements for the major.

The BA with a major in Russian requires the following coursework.

Requirements	Hours
Language Courses	23
Russian and East European Culture Courses	9

## Language

Course #	Title	Hours
All of these:		
RUSS:2112	Second-Year Russian II (course is 4 s.h., but only 3 s.h. applies toward the major)	3

RUSS:3111	Third-Year Russian I	4
RUSS:3112	Third-Year Russian II	4
RUSS:3113	Russian Composition and Conversation	4
RUSS:4111	Fourth-Year Russian I	4
RUSS:4112	Fourth-Year Russian II	4

## Russian and East European Culture

Course #	Title	Hours
Three of these (9 s.h.):		
RUSS:1131/ WLLC:1131	Introduction to Russian Culture	3
RUSS:1132	Russia Today	3
RUSS:1531	Slavic Folklore	3
RUSS:1532	Traces of Ancient Russian Culture (IX-XVII Centuries): Vikings, Mongols, and Tsars	3
RUSS:2050/ WLLC:2050	Women from an Unknown Land: The Fight for Independence	3
RUSS:2100	Russian Mindset: Sex, Business, and Politics	3
RUSS:2110	Russian Sports: Politics, Scandal, Glory	3
RUSS:3122/ TRNS:3122/ WLLC:3122	Tolstoy and Dostoevsky	3
RUSS:3202/ HIST:3492/ TRNS:3203/ WLLC:3202	Russian Literature in Translation 1860-1917	3

Students are urged to choose elective courses in economics, geographical and sustainability sciences, history, political science, global health, and international studies. Nearly every avenue of professional training and employment requires a solid background in Russian area studies. For example, criteria for U.S. government employment include substantive knowledge in history, economics, political science, sociological disciplines, scientific specialties, demography, military-related skills, and in some cases, cultural and religious background. In-depth knowledge of literature or linguistics without other substantive background may be of limited practical use in finding employment.

## Teacher Licensure

Students interested in teaching in elementary and/or secondary schools should seek admission to the Teacher Education Program (TEP) in the College of Education.

Majors must complete designated pedagogy and linguistics courses in the department in addition to the coursework required for their major.

To qualify for licensure in secondary teaching, students in the TEP complete a degree in education as well as a related College of Liberal Arts and Sciences degree. See Apply on the College of Education website for details on requirements and deadlines for applying to the College of Education and about TEP choices of majors leading to licensure.

## Honors

### Honors in the Major

Students have the opportunity to graduate with honors in the major. They must have junior or senior standing, a grade-point average (GPA) of at least 3.33 in Russian, and a cumulative University of Iowa GPA of at least 3.33 in order to enroll in the honors program.

Honors students must register for RUSS:4995 Honors. They must complete an honors project (e.g., thesis, translation, cultural studies, or research) in Russian. Students must present their work to a faculty committee as determined by their honors thesis advisor. Contact the department for more information about requirements for graduation with honors in the Russian major.

### University of Iowa Honors Program

In addition to honors in the major, students have opportunities for honors study and activities through membership in the University of Iowa Honors Program. Visit Honors at Iowa to learn about the university's honors program.

Membership in the UI Honors Program is not required to earn honors in the Russian major.

## Financial Support

Undergraduate students have access to undergraduate awards and scholarships. Visit the Department of Asian and Slavic Languages and Literatures for available scholarships and application information.

## Career Advancement

Training in Russian is often an important asset to careers in the natural and physical sciences, engineering, medicine, business, journalism, library and information science, and the social and military sciences. It also may be appropriate preparation for study of law or international relations as well as Russian language and literature, translation, and other humanistic disciplines.

Some governmental agencies are interested in job candidates who have advanced training in Russian; these agencies give preference to applicants who combine strong language proficiency with a well-rounded background in area studies. Students who develop an exceptional facility with the Russian language may pursue careers in literary and technical translation and interpretation.

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

## 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 third semester begins:** competence in first-year Russian.

**Before the fifth semester begins:** competence in second-year Russian.

**Before the seventh semester begins:** competence in third-year Russian, an additional course in the major, and at least 90 s.h. earned toward the degree.

**Before the eighth semester:** competence in fourth-year Russian and two more courses in the major.

**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.

## Russian, BA

Course	Title	Hours
<b>Academic Career</b>		
<b>Any Semester</b>		
GE CLAS Core: Sustainability <sup>a</sup>		
<b>Hours</b>		<b>0</b>
<b>First Year</b>		
<b>Fall</b>		
RUSS:1111	First-Year Russian I <sup>b</sup>	5
ENGL:1200	The Interpretation of Literature	3 - 4
or RHET:1030	or Rhetoric	
GE CLAS Core: Diversity and Inclusion <sup>c</sup>		3
Elective course <sup>d</sup>		1
CSI:1600	Success at Iowa	2
<b>Hours</b>		<b>14-15</b>
<b>Spring</b>		
RUSS:1112	First-Year Russian II <sup>b</sup>	5
ENGL:1200	The Interpretation of Literature	3 - 4
or RHET:1030	or Rhetoric	
GE CLAS Core: Historical Perspectives <sup>c</sup>		3
Elective course <sup>d</sup>		3
Elective course <sup>d</sup>		1
<b>Hours</b>		<b>15-16</b>
<b>Second Year</b>		
<b>Fall</b>		
RUSS:2111	Second-Year Russian I <sup>b</sup>	4
GE CLAS Core: Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts <sup>c</sup>		3
GE CLAS Core: Quantitative or Formal Reasoning <sup>c</sup>		3
Elective course <sup>d</sup>		2
Elective course <sup>d</sup>		3
<b>Hours</b>		<b>15</b>
<b>Spring</b>		
RUSS:2112	Second-Year Russian II <sup>e</sup>	4
Major: Russian and East European culture course		3
Elective course <sup>d</sup>		3
Elective course <sup>d</sup>		3
Elective course <sup>d</sup>		2
<b>Hours</b>		<b>15</b>

**Third Year****Fall**

RUSS:3111	Third-Year Russian I	4
RUSS:3113	Russian Composition and Conversation	4
GE CLAS Core: Natural Sciences with Lab <sup>c</sup>		4
Elective course <sup>d</sup>		3

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**Hours 15**

**Spring**

RUSS:3112	Third-Year Russian II	4
Major: Russian and East European culture course		3
GE CLAS Core: International and Global Issues <sup>c</sup>		3
GE CLAS Core: Natural Sciences without Lab <sup>c</sup>		3
Elective course <sup>d</sup>		1 - 3

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**Hours 14-16**

**Fourth Year****Fall**

RUSS:4111	Fourth-Year Russian I	4
Major: Russian and East European culture course		3
GE CLAS Core: Values and Culture <sup>c</sup>		3
Elective course <sup>d</sup>		3
Elective course <sup>d</sup>		2

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**Hours 15**

**Spring**

RUSS:4112	Fourth-Year Russian II	4
GE CLAS Core: Social Sciences <sup>c</sup>		3
Elective course <sup>d</sup>		3
Elective course <sup>d</sup>		3
Elective course <sup>d</sup>		2

Degree Application: apply on MyUI before deadline<sup>f</sup> (typically in February for spring, September for fall)

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**Hours 15**

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**Total Hours 118-122**

a Sustainability must be completed by choosing a course that has been approved for Sustainability AND for one of these General Education areas: Natural Sciences; Quantitative and Formal Reasoning; Social Sciences; Historical Perspectives; International and Global Issues; Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts; or Values and Culture.

b RUSS:1111, RUSS:1112, and RUSS:2111 do not count for credit toward the major. Enrollment in world languages courses requires a placement exam, unless enrolling in a first-semester-level course. Language level placement will be determined by placement exam score and/or oral interview. Students who place into the 5th semester level of the language will begin major level coursework and not be required to take semesters 1-4 of the language.

c 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.

d 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.

e Only 3 s.h. from RUSS:2112 applies toward the major.

f 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 or Graduation Services.