Italian, BA

Italian is the gateway to one of the world’s richest cultures. Italy has the most United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) world heritage sites—artistic treasures considered to be of universal value—of any country in the world, due to its history as the birthplace of the Roman Empire and the Renaissance. In addition to an internationally recognized cultural patrimony, the country also has one of the world’s largest economies. Italy is a world leader in design, fashion, art restoration, the culinary arts, robotics, shipbuilding, electromechanical machinery, machine tool manufacturing, construction machinery, space engineering, pharmaceuticals, and genetic mapping. Music, cinema, and sports also speak Italian. The video Italy the Extraordinary Commonplace highlights Italy’s important contributions.

Students pursue Italian studies for cultural reasons, for travel and study plans in Italy, and because it enhances their competitiveness in today’s marketplace. Because an estimated 950 Italian companies have offices in the U.S., and the U.S. is the third-ranked country of destination for Italian export, many employers are seeking people who speak both Italian and English. A major in Italian opens doors to careers in a variety of fields; see Career Advancement [p. 2] in this section of the catalog.

Languages, Culture, and Creativity

The major in Italian provides many opportunities for growth in the language and for increased cultural fluency through dynamic, in-class learning experiences and extracurricular activities such as the Italian Table (weekly conversation hours) and the film series Italian Movie Nights.

Learning Outcomes

Students who graduate with a major in Italian will be able to:

- understand Italian spoken language even when delivered at fast native speed;
- communicate effectively in both oral and written discourse, considering varying registers and cultural contexts;
- read with ease all forms of the Italian written language, including complex texts such as specialized articles and literary works;
- reflect with critical insight on a range of topics in Italian literature, history, and contemporary culture;
- explain the significance of a representative selection of figures, texts, and tendencies in the literature and other forms of cultural production from the Italian-speaking world;
- recognize and reflect in an informed way on cultural differences as well as shared values between Italian culture and their native cultures; and
- develop an intellectual engagement and reflective sensibility that will contribute to their lifelong learning.

Requirements

The Bachelor of Arts with a major in Italian requires a minimum of 120 s.h., including 32–33 s.h. of work for the major. 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 may count a maximum of 9 s.h. (three courses) of approved upper-level transfer or study abroad credit toward the major in Italian, but they must take either ITAL:3305 Advanced Italian or ITAL:3306 Advanced Italian II at the University of Iowa. The Italian Language and Culture Advanced Placement (AP) exam with a score of 4 or higher may be used to complete the General Education (GE) World Languages requirement and applied to requirements for the Italian major or minor, or used as elective hours.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course #</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ITAL:2203</td>
<td>Intermediate Italian I</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ITAL:2204</td>
<td>Intermediate Italian II</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ITAL:3305</td>
<td>Advanced Italian</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ITAL:3306</td>
<td>Advanced Italian II</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ITAL:4550</td>
<td>Topics in Italian Studies</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ITAL:4633</td>
<td>Dante’s Inferno</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ITAL:4660</td>
<td>Transcultural Texts and Translations</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ITAL:4667</td>
<td>Modern Italian Fiction</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>One of these:</td>
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<tr>
<td>ITAL:2550</td>
<td>Images of Modern Italy</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A course taught in Italian numbered above 3000</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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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.

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.

Majors who want to earn teacher licensure should include an additional 2 s.h. in their work for the major. They should consult the director of undergraduate studies.

Honors

Honors in the Major

Students have the opportunity to graduate with honors in the major. Departmental honors students must have a grade-point average (GPA) of at least 3.50 for work undertaken in the department and a cumulative University of Iowa GPA of at least 3.33.

To graduate with honors in the major, students must register for ITAL:4998 Honors Research and Thesis and one honors-designated course numbered 3000 or above. They must complete an honors thesis or the equivalent (e.g., translation, comparative stylistics, cultural studies, or research) in Italian and must present their work to a faculty committee.
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 Italian major.

Career Advancement

A background in Italian is helpful for students planning careers in international business, tourism, and teaching, as well as for opera singers, musicians, art and art history majors, and for those who study architecture, fashion, and design. With more than a thousand Italian companies doing business in the United States, the major in Italian combines well with career options in a wide variety of fields.

Students majoring in Italian may combine their studies with courses in education to prepare for jobs in high school teaching. They may go on to graduate study in areas such as Italian, comparative literature, and other interdisciplinary areas as preparation for college-level teaching. Some Italian majors go on to law school. Students also may combine other skills and studies with their major in Italian to prepare for challenging career opportunities in international government, business, finance, public relations, journalism, education, archaeology, arts administration, nongovernmental organizations, publishing, library science, politics, travel and tourism, hospitality management, communications, the culinary arts, and in other fields where the knowledge of more than one language is essential.

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 to stay on the university’s Four-Year Graduation Plan.

Before the third semester begins: competence in first-year Italian.

Before the fifth semester begins: competence in second-year Italian (ITAL:2204 Intermediate Italian II).

Before the seventh semester begins: four courses in the major numbered above 3000 and at least 90 s.h. earned toward the degree.

Before the eighth semester begins: a total of at least five courses in the major numbered above 3000.

During the eighth semester: enrollment in all remaining coursework in the major, all remaining GE CLAS Core courses, and enough semester hours to graduate.

Sample Plan of Study

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