

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 studies, 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 gain 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 31 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 must also 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	12
Composition and Conversation Course	4
Gateway Culture Courses	6
Advanced Culture Courses	9

Language Courses

Course #	Title	Hours
All of these:		
RUSS:2112	Second-Year Russian II	4

RUSS:3111	Third-Year Russian I	4
RUSS:3112	Third-Year Russian II	4

Composition and Conversation Course

Course #	Title	Hours
This course:		
RUSS:3113	Russian Composition and Conversation	4

Gateway Culture Courses

Course #	Title	Hours
Two of these (6 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

Advanced Culture Courses

Course #	Title	Hours
Three of these (9 s.h.):		
RUSS:3202/ HIST:3492/ TRNS:3203/ WLLC:3202	Russian Literature in Translation 1860-1917	3
RUSS:3122/ TRNS:3122/ WLLC:3122	Tolstoy and Dostoevsky	3
RUSS:3205	Contemporary Russian Prose in Translation	3
RUSS:3224	Russian Culture Through Cinema	3

Students are urged to choose elective courses in economics, geographical and sustainability sciences, history, political science, global health studies, 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.

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 may also be appropriate preparation for the 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.

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.

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This sample plan is currently being reviewed and will be added at a later date.