

Translation, BA

Translation is a crucial dimension of global society. Today's extensive exchange of material and nonmaterial cultures across national borders has made interconnectedness a defining feature of globalization. Translation has become at once the object, the conduit, and the method by which global culture gets generated, exchanged, and experienced. To brave this vast geography of interconnectedness requires a special reserve of knowledge and skills (i.e., global literacy) to support intercultural understanding and communication, critical inquiry and creativity, an ethics of trust and empathy, and global engagement and collaboration.

Undergraduate courses in translation equip students with proficiency in the complex, multifarious context in which texts are produced and processed. Critical reflection on and engaged practice of translation present unparalleled opportunities for undergraduate academic inquiry.

Students who major in translation become learned users of translation and critically reflective participants in the global circulation of information, people, and cultures. They graduate ready to fill the growing demand for trained translators to serve as language mediators in global sectors such as business, communication, and diplomacy.

Learning Outcomes

Students will:

- develop critical global literacies necessary for purposeful and productive participation in global professional and cultural environments;
- learn research methods to enhance creativity;
- develop foundational knowledge and practice of translation, in its various modes and contexts, necessary for graduate study in specialized translation programs;
- attain preprofessional competencies toward building a career as professional translators and language mediators; and
- gain awareness of the business and industrial dimensions of translation through networking and building communities.

Requirements

The Bachelor of Arts with a major in translation requires a minimum of 120 s.h., including 33 s.h. of work for the major. A minimum of 21 s.h. for the major must be earned at the University of Iowa. Coursework in the major may not be taken pass/nonpass. 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 are encouraged to declare the major as early as possible, especially if they intend to pursue an additional major or minor. Active proficiency in a second language is required for the major; most students who successfully complete the major will need at least 6 s.h. of additional coursework beyond fourth-level proficiency in language study.

In planning coursework, students should be guided by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences maximum hours rule: students earning a BA may apply a maximum of 56 s.h. earned in one department to the minimum 120 s.h. required for graduation, whether or not the coursework is accepted

toward requirements for the major; students who earn more than 56 s.h. from one department may use the additional semester hours to satisfy requirements for the major (if the department accepts them), and the grades they earn become part of their grade-point average, but they cannot apply the additional semester hours to the minimum 120 s.h. required for graduation.

Students who are earning two majors from the same department or a major and a minor from the same department may apply more than 56 s.h. from their home department toward their degree, but they must earn at least 56 s.h. of credit in courses outside their home department in order to graduate.

Students who earn a BA in translation may not earn a minor in translation for global literacy.

The major in translation prepares students to translate from another language into English or vice versa in a variety of fields such as literary, legal, medical, or technical translation. All students should tailor their plan of study to their experience and objectives. Students interested in the major should meet with a faculty member associated with the major program as soon as possible to develop an individualized plan of study.

Courses listed in two or more categories may only be used toward one requirement.

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

Requirements	Hours
Gateway and Foundation Courses	12
Workshops	6
Seminar	3
Electives	6
Outreach and Engagement	3
Capstone	3
Language Proficiency	

Gateway and Foundation Courses

Course #	Title	Hours
One of these:		
TRNS:1240/ CLSA:1040	World Literature in Translation I	3
TRNS:1241	World Literature: 1700 to Present	3
All of these:		
TRNS:2000	Translation and Global Society	3
TRNS:2578	Translation in the Humanities: Modes and Approaches	3
TRNS:3001	Reading for Translation: Text Analysis	3

Workshops

Course #	Title	Hours
This course:		
TRNS:3179/ CLSA:3979/ ENGL:3850	Undergraduate Translation Workshop	3
One of these:		

ARAB:3060	Introduction to Arabic-English Translation	3
CHIN:3201/ TRNS:3202	Workshop in Chinese Literary Translation	3
CLSL:3200/ CLSG:3200/ TRNS:3205	Literary Translation Workshop in Ancient Greek and Latin	3
ENGL:4724	Advanced Writers' Seminar: Literary Translation	3
FREN:3232/ TRNS:3232	French Literary Translation Workshop	3
IWP:5205/ TRNS:5210	International Translation Workshop	3
JPNS:3201/ TRNS:3201	Workshop in Japanese Literary Translation	3
KORE:3200	Introduction to Korean-English Translation	3
SPAN:3030	Translation Workshop: English to Spanish	3
SPAN:3050	Translation Workshop: Spanish to English	3
WLLC:3208/ ASIA:3208/ CHIN:3208/ TRNS:3208	Classical Chinese Literature Through Translation	3

Seminar

Course #	Title	Hours
One of these:		
TRNS:4040	Topics in Translation	3-4
TRNS:4470	Translating Style	3

Electives

Students earn 6 s.h. in electives chosen from a list of approved courses in consultation with a faculty advisor. Many different courses can be used to satisfy the electives requirement. The same section of TRNS:4040 Topics in Translation may not be used for both the seminar and electives requirements.

The following are examples of possible electives.

Course #	Title	Hours
ARAB:2012	Modern Palestinian Literature and Culture	3
ARTH:1020	Masterpieces: Art in Historical and Cultural Perspectives	3
ASIA:1510/ CHIN:1510/ WLLC:1510	Ghost Stories and Tales of the Weird in Premodern Chinese Literature	3
FREN:1006	Global Sports and National Cultures	3
GRMN:2275	Scandinavian Crime Fiction	3
IS:2000	Introduction to International Studies	3
JPNS:3208	Japanese Film	3
RUSS:1531	Slavic Folklore	3
SPAN:2050	Spanish in the United States	3

TRNS:1777/ ARAB:1777/ FREN:1777/ GRMN:1777/ ITAL:1777/ SWAH:1777/ WLLC:1777	Language Work in the Age of AI: The Products and the Poetry	3
TRNS:4040	Topics in Translation	3-4

Outreach and Engagement

Course #	Title	Hours
One of these:		
TRNS:3491	Translation Internship	3
Internship or study abroad experience, approved by the translation program		3

Capstone

Course #	Title	Hours
One of these:		
TRNS:4500/ ITAL:4500	Undergraduate Capstone Project	3
Language-specific capstone related to translation in the Department of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures, and Cultures or the Department of Spanish and Portuguese		3

Language Proficiency

Students are required to have language proficiency in the world language from which the student plans to translate, demonstrated by successfully completing an advanced course taught in that language: either a course numbered 4000 or above or a course at the highest level available in that language at the University of Iowa. With the consent of the advisor, exceptions can be made for transfer courses or independent study to meet the language proficiency requirement.

The following are possible choices.

Course #	Title	Hours
ARAB:3012	Advanced Modern Standard Arabic II	3
CHIN:4103	Fourth-Year Chinese: Society and Culture	3
CHIN:4104	Fourth-Year Chinese: Tradition and Change	3
CLSG:3001	Advanced Greek I	3
CLSG:3002	Advanced Greek II	3
CLSL:3001	Advanced Latin I	3
CLSL:3002	Advanced Latin II	3
FREN:4007	Topics in French Linguistics	3
FREN:4020	Oral Expression in French II	3
FREN:4080	Post-Colonial Literature in France	3
FREN:4090	Quebec Literature	3
FREN:4110	Francophone Studies: Literature and the Arts	3
FREN:4750	Topics in French Studies II	3
GRMN:3104	Composition and Conversation II	3
GRMN:3501	German Writers Engaged	3
GRMN:3855	The Sounds of German	3

GRMN:3860/ LING:3860	German Language and Society	3
ITAL:4660/ TRNS:4660	Transcultural Texts and Translations	3
ITAL:4667	Modern Italian Fiction	3
JPNS:4001	Fourth-Year Japanese I	3
JPNS:4002	Fourth-Year Japanese II	3
KORE:3102	Third-Year Korean: Second Semester	3
RUSS:3112	Third-Year Russian II	4
SPAN:4150	Introduction to Spanish Syntax	3
SPAN:4170	Second Language Acquisition	3
SPAN:4390/ LAS:4390	Topics in Spanish American Literature	3
SPAN:4690	Topics in Spanish Literature	3
SWAH:3007	Advanced Swahili	3

Related Majors and Programs

Translation majors can pursue second degrees or certificates in programs that emphasize language proficiency, writing arts, and international and global inquiry such as ancient civilization, creative writing, global health, international business, international relations, international studies, screenwriting, world language education, and world languages, literatures, and cultures.

Honors

Honors in the Major

Students majoring in translation have the opportunity to graduate with honors in the major. Departmental honors students must complete the required coursework for the major and an honors thesis or project. They must attain a grade-point average (GPA) of at least 3.50 in the major, and a cumulative University of Iowa GPA of at least 3.33.

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 translation major.

Career Advancement

The translation program approaches translation as a crucial dimension of global literacy and communication, and a valuable career competency for the future. Graduates complete pre-professional training to obtain specializations to serve as translators in global sectors such as business, communication, and diplomacy where there is growing demand for language mediation.

Graduates are strongly encouraged to pursue graduate study in a range of programs, including specialized translation and interpreting programs; area studies; world languages, literatures, and cultures studies; education and teacher-training programs in schools, cultures, and society; global

studies; international business; law school; nonprofit management; international development, and other fields in which language proficiency and language mediation are assets.

Graduates find opportunities in a range of professions for which language mediation is desirable: translation services; independent literary or legal/medical/business translation; international businesses; international agencies; publishing and media; refugee/immigrant service organizations; nongovernmental organizations (NGOs); schools and educational institutions; and research and academic institutions.

Translation graduates also receive fellowships to travel and work/teach abroad.

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 fifth semester begins: completion of fourth-level proficiency or two world language courses numbered 2000 or above, TRNS:2000 Translation and Global Society, and one additional major course.

Before the seventh semester begins: three more courses in the major and at least 90 s.h. earned toward the degree.

Before the eighth semester begins: 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.

Translation, BA

Course	Title	Hours
Academic Career		
Any Semester		

GE CLAS Core: Sustainability ^a

Students are required to have language proficiency in the world language from which they plan to translate, demonstrated by successfully completing either a course numbered 4000 or above or a course at the highest level available in that language at the University of Iowa. See the General Catalog and consult an advisor for more information.

Hours **0**

First Year**Fall**

TRNS:1241 or TRNS:1240	World Literature: 1700 to Present ^b or World Literature in Translation I	3
TRNS:2000	Translation and Global Society	3
ENGL:1200 or RHET:1030	Interpreting Literature or Rhetoric: Writing and Communication	3 - 4
GE CLAS Core: World Languages First Level Proficiency or elective course ^c		4 - 5
CSI:1600	Success at Iowa	1

Hours 14-16

Spring

TRNS:1240 or TRNS:1241	World Literature in Translation I ^d or World Literature: 1700 to Present	3
TRNS:2578	Translation in the Humanities: Modes and Approaches	3
ENGL:1200 or RHET:1030	Interpreting Literature or Rhetoric: Writing and Communication	3 - 4
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Second Level Proficiency or elective course ^c		4 - 5
Elective course ^e		2

Hours 15-17

Second Year**Fall**

TRNS:3001	Reading for Translation: Text Analysis	3
GE CLAS Core: Natural Sciences without Lab ^f		3
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Third Level Proficiency ^c		4 - 5
Elective course ^e		3
Elective course ^e		3

Hours 16-17

Spring

TRNS:3179	Undergraduate Translation Workshop	3
GE CLAS Core: Historical Perspectives ^f		3
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Fourth Level Proficiency ^c		4 - 5
Elective course ^e		3
Elective course ^e		3

Hours 16-17

Third Year**Fall**

TRNS:4040 or TRNS:4470	Topics in Translation or Translating Style	3 - 4
Major: translation workshop course ^g		3
Advanced language course (or elective course) ^{e, h}		3
GE CLAS Core: Natural Sciences with Lab ^f		4
GE CLAS Core: International and Global Issues ^f		3

Hours 16-17

Spring

Major: language-specific workshop ^g		3
Advanced language course (or elective course) ^{e, h}		3
GE CLAS Core: Social Sciences ^f		3

GE CLAS Core: Values and Society ^f	3
Elective course ^e	3
Hours	15

Fourth Year**Fall**

Major: elective course in languages or humanities ⁱ	3
Major: outreach and engagement component ^j	3
Advanced language course (or elective course) ^{e, h}	3
GE CLAS Core: Quantitative or Formal Reasoning ^f	3
Elective course ^e	3

Hours 15

Spring

Major: capstone project ^k	3
Major: elective course in languages or humanities ⁱ	3
Elective course ^e	3
Elective course ^e	3
Elective course ^e	3

Degree Application: apply on MyUI before deadline
(typically in February for spring, September for fall)^l

Hours 15

Total Hours 122-129

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 or Formal Reasoning; Social Sciences; Historical Perspectives; International and Global Issues; Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts; or Values and Society.

b Typically this course is offered in fall semesters only. Check MyUI for course availability since offerings are subject to change.

c Students who have completed four levels of a single language or two levels of two different languages in high school or college have satisfied the GE CLAS Core World Languages requirement. Students who have completed three levels of a single language may complete a fourth-level course in the same language or may choose an approved World Language and Cultural Exploration course. Enrollment in world languages courses requires a placement exam, unless enrolling in a first-semester-level course. Contact your academic advisor or CLAS Undergraduate Programs Office with questions concerning the World Languages requirement.

d Typically this course is offered in spring semesters only. Check MyUI for course availability since offerings are subject to change.

e 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.

f 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.

g See the General Catalog for list of approved courses.

h Students must demonstrate language proficiency by successfully completing either a course numbered 4000 or above or a course at the highest level available in that language at the University of Iowa. Students should continue language study if proficiency has not yet been reached. See the General Catalog and consult an advisor for more information.

i Students must complete 6 s.h. in elective courses in consultation with a faculty advisor. See the General Catalog for examples of possible electives.

- j Students can complete the outreach and engagement requirement in one of two ways: an internship registered as TRNS:3491, or by completing another internship or study abroad experience approved by the translation program.
- k Students must complete TRNS:4500 or an approved language-specific capstone related to translation in the Department of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures, and Cultures or the Department of Spanish and Portuguese.
- l Please see Academic Calendar, on 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 Degree Services.