

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.

Students may count a maximum of 9 s.h. of coursework from another major, minor, or certificate toward the translation major. 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: | | |
| TRNS:4050 | Independent Study | 3 |
| 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/ TRNS:3208 | Classical Chinese Literature Through Translation | 3 |

Seminar

| Course # | Title | Hours |
|-------------------------|-------------------|-------|
| One of these: | | |
| TRNS:4131/ WLLC:4131 | Critical Reading | 3 |
| 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 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/ 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 |

Outreach and Engagement

| Course # | Title | Hours |
|--|---------------------------------|-------|
| One of these: | | |
| TRNS:3491 | Translation Internship | 3 |
| TRNS:3498/ ARAB:3498 | Internship/Community Engagement | 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:3060 | Introduction to Arabic-English Translation | 3 |
| CHIN:4103 | Fourth-Year Chinese: First Semester | 3 |
| CLSG:3001 | Archaic and Classical Periods I | 3 |
| CLSG:3002 | Archaic and Classical Periods II | 3 |
| CLSL:3001 | Latin Literature of the Republic I | 3 |
| CLSL:3002 | Latin Literature of the Republic II | 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 |
| ITAL:4668 | Modern Italian Poetry and Theater | 3 |
| JPNS:4001 | Fourth-Year Japanese I | 3 |
| KORE:4000 | Fourth Year Korean: First Semester | 3 |
| RUSS:4111 | Fourth-Year Russian I | 4 |
| SPAN:4150/ SLA:4300 | Introduction to Spanish Syntax | 3 |
| SPAN:4170 | Second Language Acquisition | 3 |
| SPAN:4205/ GHS:4205 | Culture, Language, and Health | 3 |
| SPAN:4390/ LAS:4390 | Topics in Spanish American Literature | 3 |
| SPAN:4690 | Topics in Spanish Literature | 3 |
| SPAN:4815/ LAS:4815 | Lost Childhoods: Marginal Children of Latin America | 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, classical languages, 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 | | |
| The translation major requires 33 s.h. Students may count a maximum of 9 s.h. of coursework from another major, minor, or certificate toward the translation major. | | |
| 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 General Catalog and consult an advisor for more information. | | |
| Hours | | 0 |
| First Year | | |
| Fall | | |
| TRNS:1240 or TRNS:1241 | World Literature in Translation I ^b or World Literature: 1700 to Present | 3 |
| TRNS:2000 | Translation and Global Society | 3 |
| RHET:1030 or ENGL:1200 | Rhetoric: Writing and Communication or The Interpretation of Literature | 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:1241 or TRNS:1240 ^d | World Literature: 1700 to Present or World Literature in Translation I | 3 |
| ENGL:1200 or RHET:1030 | The Interpretation of 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 |
| Elective course ^e | | 3 |

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:2578 | Translation in the Humanities: Modes and Approaches | 3 |
| 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 |

Hours 16-17

Third Year**Fall**

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| TRNS:4470 or TRNS:4131 | Translating Style or Critical Reading | 3 |
| Advanced language course or elective course ^{e, g} | | 3 |
| GE CLAS Core: International and Global Issues ^f | | 3 |
| GE CLAS Core: Natural Sciences with Lab ^f | | 4 |
| Elective course ^e | | 3 |

Hours 16

Spring

| | | |
|---|--------------------------------|---|
| TRNS:4050 | Independent Study ^h | 3 |
| Advanced language course or elective course ^{e, g} | | 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, g} | | 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 122-128

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 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 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 General Catalog and consult an advisor for more information.

h See General Catalog for full list of approved courses.

i Students must complete 6 s.h. in elective courses in consultation with a faculty advisor. See General Catalog for examples of acceptable choices; see advisor for full list of approved courses.

j Students can complete the outreach and engagement requirement in one of three ways: an internship registered as TRNS:3491 or TRNS:3498, or 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 a Division of World Languages, Literatures, and Cultures department.

l 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 Degree Services.