Risk Management
and Insurance

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Undergraduate certificate: risk management and insurance

Faculty: https://tippie.uiowa.edu/undergraduate/beyond-classroom/vaughan-institute/contacts-boards

Website: https://tippie.uiowa.edu/undergraduate/beyond-classroom/vaughan-institute/risk-management-insurance

The financial services/insurance sector is the second largest economic sector in Iowa, including 29 headquartered companies and 228 branches. Risk management and insurance is a diverse field with many career opportunities, including corporate risk manager, risk management consultant, employee benefits manager, insurance broker, underwriter, wealth manager, financial analyst, claims adjuster, producer (sales), actuary, and auditor.

The Emmett J. Vaughan Institute of Risk Management and Insurance prepares students for risk management careers. In addition to the coursework, the Vaughan Institute provides professional development opportunities—networking events with industry speakers, scholarships, a mentorship program with alumni, and a job fair.

The certificate program is designed to give students an in-depth understanding of risk management tools as well as hands-on experience using them. It provides students with the knowledge to understand the business model of insurance. Experiential learning is a cornerstone of the program. Students work as consultants solving real world risk management challenges for companies in eastern Iowa. These projects are supervised by industry professionals, while conceptual classes are taught by research-active professors with global reputations. The Vaughan Institute was named a Global Center of Insurance Excellence, one of only 33 in the world.

Risk management and insurance courses provide value to students’ personal lives by familiarizing them with insurable risks and types of insurance (property, liability, life and health). With the selection of elective courses, students learn about employee benefit plans, wealth management, real estate, and banking, among others.

In addition, over 84 percent of students enrolled in the certificate program secure internships during their time in the program, while 98 percent receive a full-time position in a career field associated with risk management and insurance.