Every business decision involves risk. Having a sound understanding of how to deal with risk gives students an edge in any career. But that is not to say that there aren't plenty of opportunities in the risk management and insurance (RMI) industry, which accounts for 11% of Iowa’s gross domestic product. With 212 insurance companies in the state, the demand for RMI graduates continues to grow.

Managing and mitigating loss is a crucial factor in long-term success—be it in business or in personal finance. Having a risk management strategy and insurance protects people from financial disasters, like destructive acts of nature, accidents, litigation, or healthcare bills they cannot afford.

Insurance and risk management professionals put solutions in place, so companies are better prepared for those life situations. It is work with meaning where one can think critically and make a difference every day in jobs such as 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 offers an undergraduate major in risk management and insurance and an undergraduate Certificate in Risk Management and Insurance. In addition to coursework, the Vaughan Institute provides professional development opportunities—networking events with industry speakers, scholarships, a mentorship program with alumni, and a job fair. The Vaughan Institute was named a Global Center of Insurance Excellence, one of only 33 in the world.