

# College Success Initiatives

## Coordinator

Tina Arthur

College Success Initiatives (CSI) courses are designed to support new first year and transfer students in their transition to the University of Iowa. In addition, CSI courses enrich students' experiences, develop their academic skills, and prepare them for college-level learning.

College Success Initiatives courses are administered by the associate provost for undergraduate education through the Academic Advising Center and University College.

## Courses

### College Success Initiatives Courses

**CSI:1010 Kirkwood Joint Admission Program** 0 s.h.  
Requirements: enrollment in the Kirkwood Joint Admission program.

**CSI:1015 Living Learning Community Seminar** 1 s.h.  
Provides participants an opportunity to reflect on their transition to the University of Iowa, engage with fellow students, and learn about campus resources. Requirements: placement in a living learning community.

**CSI:1020 Academic Seminar I** 3 s.h.  
Development of knowledge and skills essential for academic success at college level; reading, writing, and communication skills; focus on reading comprehension, class discussion, and development of writing process; various narratives including published collections of essays and peers' texts; writing process and techniques, and components that bring each piece together. Requirements: IowaLink participant.

**CSI:1021 Academic Seminar II** 3 s.h.  
Continued development of knowledge and skills necessary for academic success; reading, writing, and communication skills; experimentation with ethnographic research methods, exploration of cultures and subcultures; writing about findings in various experimental forms, using as a model, short ethnographic essays, excerpts from a graphic novel; focus on reading comprehension strategies, class discussion, and development of writing process. Requirements: IowaLink participant. Recommendations: CSI:1020.

**CSI:1040 Artificial Intelligence Fundamentals** 3 s.h.  
Foundational understanding of artificial intelligence; exploration of fundamental AI concepts and hands-on experience with common commercial AI tools, including large language models, image generators, and more; integration of AI tools into academic and professional work with critical evaluation of these tools for ethical risk through guided exercises and assignments; emphasis on responsible and ethical use of AI; focus on issues such as transparency, fairness, privacy, accountability, and broader social impacts of AI systems; no prior technical background required. Same as ENGR:1040, PHIL:1040.

**CSI:1100 College Transition Seminar** 1 s.h.  
College culture, University of Iowa resources, refinement of study skills, test taking, identification of personal values, self-motivation, goal setting; taught in small sections with emphasis on classroom discussion. Requirements: entering first-year student.

**CSI:1110 College Transition for Pre-Health: Seminar I** 1 s.h.  
Explores the skills, values, and mindsets that are important in healthcare professions and how to cultivate them in college; identify and strengthen study skills and strategies for success in pre-health coursework and explore how healthcare professionals confront complex problems that have several possible answers; identify personal values, engage in meaningful extracurricular activities, explore personal interests and how they relate to career goals, and hone academic/study skills; first in a two-course series. Corequisites: CSI:1160 and CHEM:1070.

**CSI:1115 College Transition for Pre-Health: Seminar II** 1 s.h.  
Explores the skills, values, and mindsets that are important in healthcare professions and how to cultivate them in college; identify and strengthen study skills and strategies for success in pre-health coursework and explore how healthcare professionals confront complex problems that have several possible answers; identify personal values, engage in meaningful extracurricular activities, explore personal interests and how they relate to career goals, and hone academic/study skills. Corequisites: CSI:1165 and CHEM:1110.

**CSI:1150 College Transition Workshop** 1 s.h.  
Preparation for affiliated lecture course; practical context to apply, evaluate, and refine study skills strategies explored in CSI:1100; expand study strategies, enhance grasp of affiliated course material, and apply study skills to future coursework. Corequisites: CSI:1100. Requirements: concurrent enrollment in a CIC affiliated lecture course.

**CSI:1160 College Transition for Pre-Health: Workshop I** 1 s.h.  
Facilitated group study for connected anchor course; workshop setting to apply, evaluate, and develop study skills explored in CSI:1110; deepen grasp of connected anchor course material; expand and refine study strategies; apply study skills to future coursework and academic/professional goals. Corequisites: CSI:1110 and CHEM:1070.

**CSI:1165 College Transition for Pre-Health: Workshop II** 1 s.h.  
Facilitated group study for connected anchor course; workshop setting to apply, evaluate, and develop study skills explored in CSI:1115; deepen grasp of connected anchor course material; expand and refine study strategies; apply study skills to future coursework and academic/professional goals. Corequisites: CSI:1115 and CHEM:1110.

**CSI:1180 College Transition** 1 s.h.  
College culture, University of Iowa resources, refinement of study skills, test taking, identification of personal values, self-motivation, goal setting; taught in small sections with emphasis on classroom discussion.

**CSI:1200 First-Year Seminar** 1 s.h.  
Introduction to the intellectual life of the university; opportunity to work closely with a faculty member or senior administrator; active participation that eases the transition to college-level learning.

**CSI:1210 Peer Led Undergraduate Study (PLUS) 0 s.h.**

Peer guided and facilitated academic support focusing on quantitative problem-solving skills; students discuss course material, address multiple course concepts, and develop tools and skills for effective study habits. Corequisites: CHEM:1070 and MATH:1005.

**CSI:1213 Special Topics I 0-6 s.h.**

Special topics offered through University College.

**CSI:1214 Special Topics II 0-6 s.h.**

Special topics offered through University College.

**CSI:1270 Strategies for Veteran Success 1 s.h.**

Promotion of academic success, improve retention of student veterans, and assist in cultivating a systematic approach to career planning and decision-making; primary focus on available resources, identification of individual goals and strengths, development and application of study skills and time management strategies, and problem solving related to personal issues or barriers that could impede student transition and academic performance; for student veterans and service members in academic transition from active duty military or guard/reserve status to the University of Iowa. Requirements: veteran status.

**CSI:1280 Steps to Success for TRIO: Step I 1 s.h.**

Learning about and adjusting to the University of Iowa for TRIO Student Support Services (SSS) students; first in a series of courses.

**CSI:1281 Steps to Success for TRIO: Step I 1 s.h.**

Learning about and adjusting to the University of Iowa for TRIO Student Support Services (SSS) students; second in a series of courses.

**CSI:1290 Steps to Success for TRIO: Step II 1 s.h.**

Learning about and adjusting to the University of Iowa for TRIO Student Support Services (SSS) students; third in a series of courses.

**CSI:1291 Steps to Success for TRIO: Step II 1 s.h.**

Learning about and adjusting to the University of Iowa for TRIO Student Support Services (SSS) students; fourth in a series of courses.

**CSI:1325 Iowa Writers' Room: The Big Binge 1 s.h.**

Screening-based course in which students develop skills in television script writing, structural analysis, and story craft by conducting an in-depth review of a season of a television show; includes instruction and class visits by acclaimed industry insiders. Part of the Iowa Writers' Room series offered through the Magid Center for Writing.

**CSI:1380 Steps to Success for TRIO: Step III 1 s.h.**

Learning about and adjusting to the University of Iowa for TRIO Student Support Services (SSS) students; fifth in a series of courses.

**CSI:1381 Steps to Success for TRIO: Step III 1 s.h.**

Learning about and adjusting to the University of Iowa for TRIO Student Support Services (SSS) students; sixth in a series of courses.

**CSI:1390 Steps to Success for TRIO: Step IV 1 s.h.**

Learning about and adjusting to the University of Iowa for TRIO Student Support Services (SSS) students; seventh in a series of courses.

**CSI:1391 Steps to Success for TRIO: Step IV 1 s.h.**

Learning about and adjusting to the University of Iowa for TRIO Student Support Services (SSS) students; eighth in a series of courses.

**CSI:1400 The Three Ms: Strategies for Success in College and Beyond 2 s.h.**

Introduction to the Three Ms for Effective Learning (mindset, metacognition, and memory) and the practical tools to apply these concepts and achieve goals in college and beyond.

**CSI:1410 Life Design 2 s.h.**

Students discover what they are innately drawn to do through readings, activities, and reflective writing; integration of worldview and professional life; practical skills and exercises for investigating different career paths; cultivating mentors; relationship between ambition, drive, and the value of creating a meaningful life.

**CSI:1460 Athletic Transition Seminar 1 s.h.**

Focus on the comprehensive development of UI student-athletes through the Hawkeye Life Program pillars of leadership, community engagement, academic success, career development, and health and wellbeing).

**CSI:1480 Financial Wellness for Student-Athletes 1 s.h.**

Engage in discussions and exercises to better understand how to think about and manage your finances, both today as a student-athlete and through the course of your life; how you understand, protect, and grow your resources will affect your life and the lives of others for years to come if you have the tools to know how best to save, spend, invest, and give back.

**CSI:1500 College Success Seminar 1 s.h.**

Skills, habits, and mindsets essential for college success: goal setting, motivation, resiliency, time management, preparing for exams, working with instructors, and using campus resources including academic advisors, the Pomerantz Career Center, and University Counseling Service; emphasis on class participation and completion of assignments related to course topics. Requirements: selected students with first-year standing in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

**CSI:1550 Strategies for Academic Success 1 s.h.**

Designed for second-year students; focus on academic strategies to help students improve their academic performance; topics include organization, goal setting, motivation, time management, study skills, test preparation, and campus resources; requires class participation and completion of assignments related to course topics. Requirements: second-year standing in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and no prior credit earned for CSI:1500.

**CSI:1600 Success at Iowa 0-1 s.h.**

Online course designed to help students transition successfully to the University of Iowa; required of all new undergraduate first-year and transfer students.

**CSI:1610 Global Glow-up: Bringing Your Verto Experience Home to Iowa 1 s.h.**

College culture, University of Iowa resources, and study skills; channel your global mindset into your coursework, campus life, and future goals; discover topics designed to assist in your transition to campus, explore study skills and techniques for academic success, and reflect on your semester abroad as part of the Verto program; emphasis on classroom discussion and self-reflection; required of students in their first semester at the University of Iowa after participating in the Verto Education experience.

**CSI:1801 Edutainment Media for Academic Success****1 s.h.**

Overview of various technologies and learning foundations that can be carried out through edutainment, including locating and searching for instructional elements in entertainment media, social media, and digital games; discussion of new emerging forms of edutainment; engagement with various types of edutainment content to identify salient learning and experiences; incorporation of new methods of edutainment into academic success plans.

**CSI:1802 Digital and Social Media for Personal Success****1 s.h.**

Examination of effective strategies for creating a positive self-brand and identity that supports personal goals; overview of best practices for digital and social media use and personal branding; examination of effective strategies for creating a positive self-brand and identity that support personal goals by creating a professional presence on social media, a personal website, and formulating personal success plans.

**CSI:1803 Media and Identity for Success in Life****1 s.h.**

Exploration of specific representations and information about college and life experiences adapted from entertainment and social media among college students; examination of how entertainment and social media influences college students and identities; representations in entertainment and social media's impact on student identities; discussion of the media's impact on college student success.

**CSI:1804 Media Tools for Success: Strategic Communication, Entertainment, and Social Media****1 s.h.**

Overview of useful tools to help with student success; engage, learn, adapt, and incorporate media as tools for success in academic, personal, and social goals; examination of how intentional and unconscious media use, as well as specific media platforms, can be beneficial; overview of opportunities that media has to help students succeed in their goals through the lens of strategic communication, entertainment media, and social media.

**CSI:1805 Using Social Media Humor to Cope With Stress****1 s.h.**

Examination of how social media can be either a place of overwhelming stress or stress relief, especially in times where students deal with college life, academics, social life, and health; focus on coping mechanisms through social media tools to acknowledge and combat stress; draws on social media humor with considerations of social activism, social media engagement, and media effects; examination of experiences and issues brought on by the overall college experience as shared on social media; exploration of positive strategies for dealing with disruptions in life and in stressful situations.

**CSI:1806 Effective Use of Artificial Intelligence for Student Success****1 s.h.**

Examination of the implications of artificial intelligence tools as opportunities to help students learn and succeed, as well as understand the pitfalls that exist with over-reliance on artificial intelligence tools; dissection of the impacts of using media, technology, and artificial intelligence; exploration of finding the right balance of when and how to use technology to pursue academic and personal endeavors; discussion of appropriateness of AI use in academic settings and how to properly leverage AI tools to help us achieve goals without jeopardizing integrity; analysis of the past, current, and future trends of knowledge generation and absorption through AI.

**CSI:1807 Making the Most of Your Time at the University of Iowa****1 s.h.**

Discussion of students' experiences at the University of Iowa, showcasing opportunities to engage in academics, and how to devote time to balancing personal and social life while staying focused on professional goals; discussion of topics related to academics, student organizations, research experience, internships, career aspirations, and more; presentation of new opportunities for maximizing time at the University of Iowa, while incorporating how to succeed in academic, personal, social, and professional goals.

**CSI:1808 Reflecting on Your Time at the University of Iowa****1 s.h.**

Reflection on the experiences of being a student at the University of Iowa by examining the education curriculum, student activities, and the past, present, and future of the University of Iowa; consideration of coursework already taken and identification of overall themes, patterns, and value gained; reflection on experiences both inside and outside of the classroom to gain a better understanding of major events that have shaped students' current perspectives; the uses and effects of internal personal characteristics and external factors on experience at the University of Iowa; development of goals related to future endeavors after graduation.

**CSI:1998 Undergraduate Transfer****arr.****CSI:2010 Undergraduate Engagement Corps Grant****0 s.h.**

Builds on the foundations of community engagement; provides support and reflection space for students implementing community-engaged projects with UEC grant funding. Requirements: selection as an Undergraduate Engagement Corps Grant awardee.

**CSI:2021 First Gen Hawks Seminar****1 s.h.**

Meaningful connection with the University of Iowa through one of three learning track areas— leadership and engagement, on-campus student employment, or undergraduate research; course format includes small class size with emphasis on discussion, self-reflection, and relationship-building; content areas and activities focus on the development of knowledge, skills, and campus connections needed to thrive at the University of Iowa. Requirements: participation in First Gen Hawks program.

**CSI:2100 The Transfer Transition****1 s.h.**

Adjustment to university life and academics; strategies for academic success including study and test-taking skills, time management, utilization of campus resources for success in courses; planning a major and learning about Career Center services; exposure to university culture; opportunities to reflect on adjustment to the university. Requirements: entering transfer student standing.

**CSI:2150 Open Minded****1 s.h.**

Focus on self-reflection and use of resources to research majors; topics include values, strengths, goals, identity, managing uncertainty, critical reading and thinking skills, recognizing transferable skills cultivated by majors; class participation and assignments related to course topics; for students with open majors.

**CSI:3002 Foundations of Community Engagement****1 s.h.**

Knowledge, skills, and tools necessary for meaningful community engagement. Through a combination of theoretical insights, case studies, and practical strategies, become better prepared to engage partners in community-engaged courses and future careers. Effectively engage with diverse community members, assess local issues, and incorporate best practices of community engagement into academic and professional work. Same as URP:3002.

**CSI:3325 Iowa Writers' Room 3 s.h.**

Experiential learning in television writing field; first-hand experience as part of a traditional television writers' room—selecting material and show topics, pitching ideas, collaboratively breaking story, and writing and workshopping scripts for a limited series television show of student's choosing; includes instruction and class visits by acclaimed industry insiders. Same as THTR:3325.

**CSI:4325 Iowa Writers' Room: Advanced Pilot Writing 3 s.h.**

Advanced experiential learning in television writing field; builds on students' experience from WRIT:3325, Iowa Writers' Room—selecting material and show topics, pitching ideas, breaking story, and writing and workshopping scripts—to collaboratively produce a pilot for a limited series television show of students' choosing; includes instruction and class visits by acclaimed industry insiders. Prerequisites: CSI:3325.