Iowa Degree in Three—Tippie College of Business

The Iowa Degree in Three program helps students in select University of Iowa majors graduate in three years. Students agree to meet academic and advising milestones, while the university commits to ensure availability of required courses or alternatives.

Iowa Degree in Three is designed for students who are academically prepared to complete more semester hours per term than average or who come to the university with completed college credits. It's a flexible, affordable option developed to meet the needs of highly motivated students.

Iowa Degree in Three majors will be available to new first-year students enrolling in fall 2015 or after. The Tippie College of Business offers these majors in the Iowa Degree in Three plan:

- Accounting
- Business Analytics and Information Systems
- Economics
- Finance
- Management
- Marketing

The Tippie College makes several assumptions about candidates for the Iowa Degree in Three:

1. Students will be prepared to enroll in Math:1380 Calculus and Matrix Algebra for Business their first enrollment at Iowa.
2. Students will have fulfilled the World Language requirement before matriculation
3. Students will be Direct Admits to the Tippie College of Business
4. Students will have earned at least 15 s.h. of college credit before matriculation
5. Students will not be held for more than 2 English as a Second Language classes.

Students will be able to sign up for the program after they start classes and discuss the option with their academic advisors. Three-year programs require planning and
preparation, and it’s important for students to have the advising support they need to consider the program and get started.

**Who's eligible for Iowa Degree in Three?**

Entering first-year students who enroll at the University of Iowa for fall 2015 or subsequent semesters and are interested in one of the qualifying majors choose the program during their first semester in consultation with their advisor.

Students wanting to add a second major are not eligible for the plan and should instead plan to graduate in four years. With careful planning, some students may be able to add a certificate or minor to a major on the plan.

Students required to take more than two English as a Second-Language courses are not eligible, given the program's accelerated schedule.

**Does a three-year program differ from a four-year program regarding career preparation?**

Three-year programs require students to take a heavier course load and to proceed at a much faster pace. Three-year degrees require the same number of credits as four-year options and the same course work.

Iowa Degree in Three isn't right for everyone. The program is designed for students who come to Iowa well-prepared academically with specific goals and have already earned some college credit.

We also acknowledge that Tippie Students benefit from experiences such as internships and study abroad as a means to gain more experiences for career readiness. In fact, starting Fall 2015, students admitted to the Tippie College will be required to complete [Tippie Rise](#), an experiential learning requirement. Our advisors will encourage you to explore how to incorporate enriching learning experiences in your academic plan whether you complete requirements in three or four years.

**How do I enroll in the program?**

Eligible students can choose an Iowa Degree in Three option by:
1. Meeting with an advisor to discuss the program and a qualifying major during the first semester enrolled at Iowa.
2. Signing an Iowa Degree in Three Agreement by the end of the first semester at the university

What does the Iowa Degree in Three Agreement require?

The agreement spells out students' responsibilities and the University's commitment to ensuring that participating students can access required courses. Student responsibilities include:

- Signing the agreement during the first semester of enrollment
- Meeting with an advisor at least once each semester to discuss plans and progress
- Taking courses during two summer sessions, if necessary
- Earning a sufficient number of semester hours required to stay on track
- Meeting specific course sequence to be eligible for major-level classes according to plan
- Maintaining the grade point average required for the major

By signing the agreement, you state that you understand your responsibilities as a student and the steps you must take to remain eligible for the program.

What does an accelerated, three-year schedule look like?

Students who sign up for Iowa Degree in Three need to reach established milestones in order to stay on schedule. Specifics vary by major, but a sample schedule includes a certain number of required semester hours, as well as key courses for each major that must be completed by an indicated semester:

- Earn at least 40 semester hours (s.h.) of credit by the end of the first year (for a total of 55 semester hours including transfer work and credit by exam)
- Earn at least 84 s.h. by the end of the second year (most students will need to take 18 s.h. each semester and 6 s.h. in the summer)
- Earn 120 s.h. by the end of the third year
What are the benefits of participating?
The university ensures that Iowa Degree in Three students can enroll in required courses in order to graduate in three years. Benefits include:

- Participating students can use the Summer Hawk Tuition Grant to cover up to 12 s.h. over two summer sessions (instead of the usual one summer)
- Colleges and departments that offer specific majors will approve alternative courses or waivers as needed when required courses aren't available.

What if I want to add a second major, minor, or certificate?
Iowa Degree in Three covers only a primary major. Students wanting to add a second major are not eligible for the plan and should plan to graduate in four years.

With careful planning, it may be possible to add a minor or certificate to a participating major and still graduate in three years. Students should discuss options with their advisors during the first semester of enrollment.

What about the Four-Year Graduation Plan?
Nearly all first-year UI undergraduates are eligible for Iowa's Four-Year Graduation Plan. Students are automatically enrolled in the plan and guaranteed to graduate on time if they remain on track with the plan's requirements.

Iowa Degree in Three builds on the success of the Four-Year Graduation Plan, but doesn't replace it. The four-year option remains a great fit for most students.

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