

Directors of Undergraduate Studies Meeting—February 2025

Meeting Notes

Friday, February 14, 2025

8:30 AM-10:00 AM

UCC 2520D

Welcome and announcements

- Brief discussion about the University's severe weather policies, communication to instructors from departments, and possible future communication to instructors from the College (note with update: please see attached PPT slides regarding extreme weather and expectations that were shared with DEOs on 2/17/2025 as a follow up)
- Kelly Thornburg was going to present about Scholar Development but is unavailable; we will ask her to come to a different DUS meeting

Information, reminders, and Q&A about the [Honors Program](#)

Shaun Vecera, Director, Honors Program

- How Honors Program communications with prospective students (both prospective Iowa students and current Iowa students considering the program): more accurate to think about it as being for “academically motivated” students than “high achieving”—some high achieving students are not a good fit, depending on their goals, priorities, interests
- Honors is not increased work or more challenging work; helpful to think of it as “enrichment” for the work students are doing anyway, as well as community of similarly-motivated students
- Best practice for contract courses: students should not do them just because it's how they can fit honors hours into schedule. They need to show why this specific course for an honors experience
- Optional Honors Program courses:
 - HONR:1000 Introduction to Honors (1 s.h., online asynchronous). “Learn about what it means to be a student in the honors program and build community with peers, faculty, and staff.”
 - HONR:2990 Honors Second-Year Seminar (2 s.h., online asynchronous). “Provides Honors Program students an introduction to experiential learning and how to complete the program's experiential learning requirement.”
- Experiential learning requirement: students need to identify the experience in advance and articulate what they will get out of it; requirement includes self-reflection. Honors Program can work with students to help them identify opportunities
- Honors in the major is distinct from the Honors Program. Completing honors in the major fulfills the experiential part of the Honors Program, even if the number of semester hours for honors in the major doesn't equal the number of hours for other experiential opportunities

Presentation and discussion: AI tools and teaching

Eva Latterner, Assistant Director, Center for Teaching

Vicky Maloy, Associate Director of Academic Technologies, Office of Teaching, Learning, and Technology

- There is no College policy on the use of AI; there is some University guidance, and certain tools are not allowed
 - In line with the rest of the Big 10, AI detection software is not included as part of ICON and CLAS (and UI) do not endorse the use of these tools to prove that students have used AI tools in unauthorized ways
 - [UI Code of Student Life](#) specifies that academic misconduct includes “unauthorized use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools”
 - [CLAS Code of Academic Honesty](#) includes as an example of plagiarism “using material generated by artificial intelligence (AI) unless specifically allowed by the course instructor”
 - Some additional definitions, policies, and best practices:
 - General information from ITS about [generative AI](#)
 - Information from ITS about [prohibited technology](#)
 - From ITS: [using AI securely](#)
 - From ITS: [data classification guide](#), “to make informed decisions about where to safely store and share university data.” Includes information about what information can be used with ChatGPT and Copilot, for example
- Today’s discussion is to hear more about what faculty are experiencing in their courses related to AI tools and also to learn what resources faculty might benefit from having as they navigate AI tools and student assignments and assessments. Discussion about use and misuse of AI including but not limited to issues of academic integrity. Understanding that AI use across university varies greatly based on discipline, pedagogical approaches, student needs, student and instructor values and philosophies—and this variety makes sense but makes for a potentially confusing landscape for students to navigate across their 4-6 courses each semester
- Topics addressed in discussion included:
 - Uncertainty and anxieties: lack of detailed policy or guidelines set by UI and CLAS and variety of approaches within departments; preparing students for rapidly changing job markets where AI literacy is expected; balancing the teaching of AI skills with the expectation that students will do their own work; integration of AI tools into textbooks, for better and worse; difficulty of enforcing policies/expectations across courses
 - Concerns: recent research that shows the use of AI atrophies critical thinking skills; a sense that the use of AI for thinking, writing, creative tasks poses a threat to humanity/humanities; copyright issues and AI as theft of intellectual property; environmental impact; feeling that AI is increasingly unavoidable and inevitable even for people who don’t want to use it

- Promising possibilities: chatbots that could converse with language students in non-English languages; positive changes in teaching practices and assignments that have come about in response to the presence of AI; education of students on AI literacy that is happening in many courses across the CLAS
- Tools available to instructors (see attached PowerPoint):
 - Assessment scale and rubric (slides 7, 8)
 - Assignment design to disincentivize misuse of AI (slide 9), including adjusting rubrics to value the things AI can't do (slide 11)
 - What to do if unauthorized use is suspected (slide 10)
 - AI disclosure framework (slide 12)—useful to connect to discussions about citation practices
 - CLAS syllabus template: under revision to explain in more detail what instructors need to cover in AI policies
- Question about whether departments should/could create policies for themselves. Associate Dean Lang expressed that this is what CLAS would like to happen, so each department can make decisions about what works for themselves and within their disciplines. CLAS would be curious to see those policies but would not need to vet them and Associate Dean Lang continues to be part of campus-wide conversations about the implementation of AI across the undergraduate colleges at UI

Upcoming events:

- [Navigating AI in Your CLAS Courses \(Spring 2025\): AI Literacy, Resources and Support](#), Zoom workshops and conversations hosted by CLAS UP, the Office of Teaching and Learning Technology and the Center for Teaching.

Choose one date to attend:

- Tuesday, February 25, 12-1 pm
 - Wednesday, March 12, 12-1 pm
 - Monday, March 31, 12-1 pm
- [Research Panel Event: Students' Use \(and Misuse\) of Generative AI Tools in the Classroom](#)
 - Wednesday, Feb. 26, from 10:30 a.m. to noon in University Capitol Centre 2520D

Pomerantz Career Center Resources

Don't miss out on our upcoming Career Connectors sessions!

Designed by the Pomerantz Career Center, the [Career Connector training series](#) engages faculty and staff in a tailored curriculum designed to provide knowledge about the career development process and the foundations of employability, as well as teaching best practices for having career conversations with students. Participants will learn valuable helping skills, goal setting techniques, ethical practices, and how best to make referrals to the Pomerantz Career Center.



College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Undergraduate Programs

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Career Connectors takes a hands-on and practical approach to training. It is comprised of a comprehensive three-part training program designed to prepare our faculty and staff to better assist students in their career exploration, experiential education, and preparedness for the job search or graduate school process. Additionally, optional electives are offered periodically throughout the year to allow for specialized training on a specific topic, population, or resource. We provide real-world examples, case studies, ideas for the classroom, and interactive exercises to ensure that faculty and staff gain actionable knowledge they can immediately apply in their roles as career connectors.

Sessions range from 30 minutes-2 hours. Both in-person and virtual sessions are available. Training sessions will be offered year-round. **Please register on UI Employee Self-Service**, by clicking "Enroll in a Course" and searching for "Connectors" or by clicking on sessions below.

Upcoming Sessions:

[Session 2: Connecting to Experience](#)

Tuesday, February 25, 1–2:30 p.m.

[Session 3: Connecting to the Future](#)

Wednesday, March 5, 10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Thursday, March 13, 10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

[Elective: Introduction to Big Interview](#)

Thursday, March 27, 10–11:00 a.m.

[Elective: Integrating Career Development In the Classroom](#)

Tuesday, April 1, 1–1:50 p.m.

[Elective: From Stress to Success—Helping Students Balance Career Goals and Mental Well-Being](#)

Thursday, April 10, 11 a.m.–12 p.m.

[Elective: My Career Path Super Heroes](#)

Thursday, April 17, 1–2 p.m.

[Elective: Creating Career Confidence for Neurodiverse Students—Resources for Faculty and Staff](#)

Friday, April 18, 11 a.m. – 12 p.m.

[Elective: Don't Fear the Bot—Helping Students Navigate AI in Career Development](#)

Tuesday, April 22, 11 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Upcoming Events:

CAREER FAIRS



College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Undergraduate Programs

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- Engineering Career Fair: Thursday, February 20, 12-4 pm (Main Lounge, IMU)
- Engineering Interview Day: Friday, February 21 (PCC)
- Nursing Career Fair: Monday, February 24 (International Ballroom, IMU)
- All Majors Career Fair: Thursday, February 27, 12-4 pm (Main Lounge, IMU)
- Interview Day: Friday, February 28 (PCC)
- K-12 Educator Career Fair: Monday, March 3, 3-5 pm (International Ballroom, IMU)

CAREER TREKS

- Social Impact Career Trek, March 6-7, Kansas City, KS
 - Big Brothers Big Sisters of Kansas City
 - Mid-America Regional Council
- Technology & Innovation Career Trek, April 3-4, Madison, WI
 - EPIC
 - Raven Software

INDUSTRY INSIGHTS WEBINARS:

- Tuesday, February 11th: Helping & Counseling
- Tuesday, March 11th: Arts, Media, & Entertainment
- Tuesday, April 1st: Law & Public Service
- Tuesday, April 29th: Environment & Sustainability

More information at careers.uiowa.edu