

University of Iowa offers its first face-to-face course in Grinnell

Entrepreneurship and innovation class will meet Tuesday nights starting Feb. 28

The University of Iowa has just announced its first course offering face-to-face classes in Grinnell. The initial course this spring is ENTR2000 Entrepreneurship and Innovation. The course is part of the university's Bachelor of Liberal Studies – Innovative Leadership Track. This four-year degree provides an option for students wanting to focus on innovation, entrepreneurship and leadership.

The course will be offered in a condensed, 8-week, evening format to best suit the needs of non-traditional students. Classes will meet Tuesdays, from 6 to 9 p.m., Feb. 28 through May 2.

The professor will rotate between Grinnell, Iowa City and Des Moines with students participating remotely when the professor is not on site. This course may be taken on its own or as part of a degree-completion program such as the Bachelor of Liberal Studies – Innovation Leadership track.

The Grinnell offering is a partnership among Grinnell College, Iowa Valley Community College District, Des Moines Area Community College, Indian Hills Community College and University of Iowa to deliver more flexible post-secondary education options to students in this central Iowa rural area.

University of Iowa Associate Provost Lon Moeller explains, "As part of the University's mission, rural outreach is important. The community of Grinnell has been uniquely dedicated to bringing local resources to bear in making this new partnership possible. We're hopeful that the first class will be popular, so we can continue to build on the offerings in the future."

"For our employers, this is a great opportunity for their employees to pursue professional development in a more flexible, personal way," says Laura Manatt, executive director of Poweshiek Iowa Development. "In fact, several employers have created special tuition incentive programs to encourage their employees to participate."

"For the community colleges, this is an important way for our graduates to continue work toward a four-year degree without having to commute regularly or commit to an online-only option," says MaryAnne Nickle, Dean of Iowa Valley Grinnell.

"This partnership is the culmination of nearly two years of investigation, which included outreach to area employers and potential students in a five-county area, and the commitment of area educational and economic development agencies dedicated to creating a new option that was collaborative, rather than competitive," explains Monica Chavez-Silva, associate vice president for community enhancement and engagement at Grinnell College.

University of Iowa advisers will be available in Grinnell to share more about the program and assist potential students with academic, registration and financial aid questions. Jennifer Timmons, University of Iowa associate director of admissions, will host advising sessions at local employers the morning of Friday, Feb. 10, and also at the Iowa Valley Grinnell campus on Monday, Feb. 13.

Interested individuals may set up an advising appointment by calling Iowa Valley Grinnell at 641-236-0513. Employers interested in hosting an advising session at their site may contact Poweshiek Iowa Development at 641-236-1626.

To apply directly, students should complete an online Non-Degree Seeking application at <https://admissions.uiowa.edu/future-students/nondegree-students>.

To register, students must meet admissions requirements for the Bachelor of Liberal Studies (BLS) program: An Associate of Applied Science (AAS), Associate of Science (AS), or Associate of Arts (AA) degree with a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or above; OR 24 semester hours of transferable college credit with a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or above (maximum of 16 semester hours of career/technical credits). In addition, students must have earned a high school degree at least three years before admission to the BLS program.

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