

Asian Languages and Literature, BA

The BA program in Asian languages and literature gives students the opportunity to develop advanced skills in an Asian language while they study the people, literatures, and cultures of Asia. Students choose one of two tracks: Chinese or Japanese.

Many other disciplines work well as second majors for Asian languages and literature students, such as history, art history, political science, religion, sociology, journalism, business, and anthropology.

Learning Outcomes

Culture and Literature Knowledge

Students will have:

- knowledge about the target literature and culture, from premodern to modern and contemporary;
- the cultural foundation and critical thinking skills necessary to engage with relevant primary and secondary materials; and
- the ability to communicate their knowledge of Chinese or Japanese culture and language effectively.

Language Competence

Students will be able to:

- carry out tasks in various circumstances and interact with others in different social settings and everyday situations in a culturally appropriate manner;
- understand relatively uncomplicated texts that describe events and personal feelings, while they understand the essence of various types of lengthy, more complex written materials; and
- critically assess materials and produce coherent writing based on the acquired information.

Linguistics Knowledge

Students will have:

- basic knowledge of sociocultural aspects of the language; and
- skills to see through the stereotypes and myths of the target culture in order to have a better understanding of both the target culture and their own.

Requirements

The Bachelor of Arts with a major in Asian languages and literature requires a minimum of 120 s.h., including 30–32 s.h. of work for the major, depending on the track. Students choose one of two tracks: Chinese or Japanese. The credit required for the major depends on the choice of track. Students must maintain a grade-point average of at least 2.00 in all courses for the major and in all UI courses for the major. They must also complete the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences GE CLAS Core. Furthering Language Incentive Program (FLIP) credit may not be counted toward the major. Independent studies and arranged hours may be used as electives but are not counted toward the requirements for the major.

The amount of approved transfer credit that may be applied to the major varies by track; students should consult their advisors about courses taken at other institutions, including study abroad.

Students may earn both the major and minor in Asian languages and literature if the minor emphasis language (Chinese or Japanese) differs from the major language track.

In planning coursework, students should be guided by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences maximum hours rule: students earning a BA may apply a maximum of 56 s.h. earned in one department to the minimum 120 s.h. required for graduation, whether or not the coursework is accepted toward requirements for the major; students who earn more than 56 s.h. from one department may use the additional semester hours to satisfy requirements for the major (if the department accepts them), and the grades they earn become part of their grade-point average, but they cannot apply the additional semester hours to the minimum 120 s.h. required for graduation.

Students who are earning two majors from the same department or a major and a minor from the same department may apply more than 56 s.h. from their home department toward their degree, but they must earn at least 56 s.h. of credit in courses outside their home department in order to graduate.

The BA with a major in Asian languages and literature requires the following work.

Tracks

- Chinese Track
- Japanese Track

Chinese Track

Students in the Chinese track must complete the following coursework.

Requirements	Hours
Prerequisite Chinese Language Courses	
Chinese Language Core Courses	12-14
Literature, Translation, and Cinema Courses	6
Advanced Language and Linguistics Courses	6
Elective Courses	6

Prerequisite Chinese Language Courses

Students who begin the Chinese track with no previous Chinese language experience must successfully complete the following courses or their equivalents. These courses do not count as credit earned toward track requirements.

Course #	Title	Hours
CHIN:1111	First-Year Chinese: First Semester	5
CHIN:1112	First-Year Chinese: Second Semester	5
CHIN:2101	Second-Year Chinese: First Semester	5

Chinese Language Core Courses

Students must complete 12–14 s.h. of coursework in this area depending on their initial language placement. Students whose initial placement at the University of Iowa is Third-Year Chinese must complete both CHIN:4103 and CHIN:4104.

Courses CHIN:4103 and CHIN:4104 may be taken in either order.

Course #	Title	Hours
Four of these:		
CHIN:2102	Second-Year Chinese: Second Semester	5
CHIN:3101	Third-Year Chinese: First Semester	3
CHIN:3102	Third-Year Chinese: Second Semester	3
CHIN:4103	Fourth-Year Chinese: Society and Culture	3
CHIN:4104	Fourth-Year Chinese: Tradition and Change	3

Literature, Translation, and Cinema Courses

Course #	Title	Hours
Two of these:		
CHIN:3201/ TRNS:3202	Workshop in Chinese Literary Translation	3
CHIN:3208/ ASIA:3208/ TRNS:3208/ WLLC:3208	Classical Chinese Literature Through Translation	3
CHIN:3341	Chinese Literature	3
CHIN:4203/ WLLC:4203	Modern Chinese Writers	3
CHIN:4206/ WLLC:4206	Transnational Chinese Cinemas	3

Advanced language and Linguistics Courses

Course #	Title	Hours
Two of these:		
CHIN:3103	Professional Chinese I	3
CHIN:3104	Professional Chinese II	3
CHIN:3302/ LING:3302	Introduction to Chinese Linguistics	3
CHIN:4101	Classical Chinese: First Semester	3
CHIN:4102	Classical Chinese: Second Semester	3
CHIN:4103	Fourth-Year Chinese: Society and Culture (if not needed for the Chinese Language Core)	3
CHIN:4104	Fourth-Year Chinese: Tradition and Change (if not needed for the Chinese Language Core)	3
CHIN:4150	Advanced Reading and Writing in Chinese	3

Elective Courses

Course #	Title	Hours
Two of these, one of which must be a Chinese course (prefix CHIN):		
CHIN:1504/ WLLC:1504	China Beyond Walls	3

CHIN:1510/ ASIA:1510/ WLLC:1510	Ghost Stories and Tales of the Weird in Premodern Chinese Literature	3
CHIN:1702/ WLLC:1702	Chinese Popular Culture	3
CHIN:1800/ WLLC:1800	Chinese Calligraphy and Culture	3
CHIN:3208/ ASIA:3208/ TRNS:3208/ WLLC:3208	Classical Chinese Literature Through Translation	3
ASIA:1005	Scripts and Trips: A Journey Through East Asia (when topic focus is on China)	3
ASIA:1040/ HIST:1610/ RELS:1404	Introduction to Asian Religions	3
ASIA:1060/ HIST:1612/ RELS:1506	Introduction to Buddhism	3
ARTH:1070	Asian Art and Culture	3
ASIA:1601/ HIST:1601	Civilizations of Asia: China From Origins to the 17th Century	3
ASIA:1602/ HIST:1602	Civilizations of Asia: China from the 17th Century to the Present	3
ASIA:2222/ GWSS:2222/ WLLC:2222	Women in Premodern East Asian Literature	3
ASIA:2231/ ARTH:2220	Introduction to the Art of China	3
ASIA:2515/ RELS:2515	Introduction to Chinese Religious Thought: How Best to Live	3
ASIA:3225/ ARTH:3225	Modern and Contemporary Art in China	3
ASIA:3245/ ARTH:3245	Mountains and Waters: Landscape Art of East Asia	3
ASIA:3250/ ARTH:3250	Brushwork in Chinese Art	3
ASIA:3255/ ARTH:3255	Copy and Paste: Methods of Reproduction in Asian Art	3
ASIA:3650/ HIST:3650	Chinese History From 1600 to 1911	3
ASIA:3652/ HIST:3652	Twentieth-Century China	3
ASIA:3655/ HIST:3655/ RELS:3655	Zen Buddhism	3
Chinese courses (prefix CHIN) numbered 3000-4299 not otherwise applied to major requirements.		

Japanese Track

Students in the Japanese track must complete the following coursework.

Requirements	Hours
Prerequisite Japanese Language Courses	
Third- and Fourth-Year Japanese Courses	14
Literature and Translation Courses	9

Linguistics and Advance Language Studies Courses	6
Cultural Studies Course	3

Students may apply a maximum of 12 s.h. of approved transfer credit toward track requirements. Those who are planning to study abroad should consult with their Japanese track advisors in advance to determine whether their planned coursework abroad will be accepted toward track requirements.

Prerequisite Japanese Language Courses

Students must successfully complete the prerequisite courses or the equivalent before they enroll in required courses. These courses do not count as credit earned toward track requirements.

Course #	Title	Hours
All of these:		
JPNS:1001	First-Year Japanese: First Semester	5
JPNS:1002	First-Year Japanese: Second Semester	5
JPNS:2001	Second-Year Japanese: First Semester	5
JPNS:2002	Second-Year Japanese: Second Semester	5

Third- and Fourth-Year Japanese Courses

Course #	Title	Hours
Both of these sequences:		
JPNS:3001 & JPNS:3002	Third-Year Japanese I and Third-Year Japanese II	8
JPNS:4001 & JPNS:4002	Fourth-Year Japanese I and Fourth-Year Japanese II	6

Literature and Translation Courses

Course #	Title	Hours
9 s.h. from these:		
JPNS:3201/ TRNS:3201	Workshop in Japanese Literary Translation	3
JPNS:3202	Traditional Japanese Literature in Translation	3
JPNS:3203	Modern Japanese Fiction in Translation	3
JPNS:3204	Topics in Japanese Literature in Translation	1-3
JPNS:3205	Major Authors in Modern Japanese Literature	3
JPNS:3206	Warriors' Dreams	3
JPNS:3207	Japan Illuminated: Japanese Literature and Visual Culture	3
JPNS:3208	Japanese Film	3
JPNS:3210	Japanese Theater	3
JPNS:3601	Contemporary Japanese Culture	3
JPNS:4201	Genji Lab	3

Linguistics and Advanced Language Studies Courses, Japanese

Course #	Title	Hours
At least 6 s.h. from these:		
JPNS:3107	Classical Japanese: First Semester	3

JPNS:3128	Introduction to Japanese Linguistics	3
JPNS:3401	Language in Japanese Society	3
JPNS:3402	Japan: Culture and Communication	3
JPNS:3500	Japanese for Professional Purposes	3

Cultural Studies Course

Course #	Title	Hours
One of these:		
ASIA:1005	Scripts and Trips: A Journey Through East Asia (when topic focus is on Japan)	3
JPNS:1506	Ghostly Japan	3
JPNS:2250/ ARTH:2250	Introduction to the Art of Japan	3

Teacher Licensure

Students interested in teaching in elementary and/or secondary schools should seek admission to the Teacher Education Program (TEP) in the College of Education.

Asian languages and literature majors must complete designated pedagogy and linguistics courses in the department in addition to the coursework required for their major.

To qualify for licensure in secondary teaching, students in the TEP complete a degree in education as well as a related College of Liberal Arts and Sciences degree. See Apply on the College of Education website for details on requirements and deadlines for applying to the College of Education and about TEP choices of majors leading to licensure.

Honors

Honors in the Major

Students earning a major in Asian languages and literature with a minimum grade-point average (GPA) of 3.50 in the major and an overall minimum GPA of 3.33 have the opportunity to graduate with honors in the major. Students interested in earning honors in the major should seek the consent of the department chair and a faculty sponsor (an Asian specialist from any department) for departmental honors work. Students must register for ASIA:4301 Honors Tutorial and ASIA:4506 Senior Honors Thesis and must complete an acceptable thesis based on original research.

University of Iowa Honors Program

In addition to honors in the major, students have opportunities for honors study and activities through membership in the University of Iowa Honors Program. Visit Honors at Iowa to learn about the university's honors program.

Membership in the UI Honors Program is not required to earn honors in the Asian languages and literature major.

Financial Support

Undergraduate students have access to financial aid and scholarship resources.

Career Advancement

Asian languages and literature graduates pursue careers in education, government, communication, business, and other fields in the United States and beyond. The program also provides an excellent background for advanced study in the humanities and social sciences and in professional schools, such as law and business. The number of Americans who can speak Asian languages is relatively small, so many career opportunities exist for individuals trained in these areas.

The Pomerantz Career Center offers multiple resources to help students find internships and jobs.

Academic Plans

Four-Year Graduation Plan

The following checkpoints list the minimum requirements students must complete by certain semesters in order to stay on the university's Four-Year Graduation Plan. Courses in the major are those required to complete the major; they may be offered by departments other than the major department.

Before the third semester begins: begin language work.

Before the fifth semester begins: at least first-year language competency.

Before the seventh semester begins: at least second-year language competency and at least 90 s.h. earned toward the degree.

Before the eighth semester begins: at least third-year, first-semester language competency and one additional course in the major (for the Japanese track, two additional courses in the major).

During the eighth semester: enrollment in all remaining coursework in the major, all remaining GE CLAS Core courses, and a sufficient number of semester hours to graduate.

Sample Plans of Study

Sample plans represent one way to complete a program of study. Actual course selection and sequence will vary and should be discussed with an academic advisor. For additional sample plans, see MyUI.

Asian Languages and Literature, BA

- Chinese Track
- Japanese Track

Chinese Track

Course	Title	Hours
Academic Career		
Any Semester		
GE CLAS Core: Sustainability ^a		
Hours		0
First Year		
Fall		
CHIN:1111	First-Year Chinese: First Semester _b	5
ENGL:1200 or RHET:1030	Interpreting Literature or Rhetoric: Writing and Communication	3 - 4
GE CLAS Core: Values and Society ^c		3
CSI:1600	Success at Iowa	1

Elective course ^d		3
Hours		15-16

Spring

CHIN:1112	First-Year Chinese: Second Semester ^b	5
Major: elective course ^e		3
ENGL:1200 or RHET:1030	Interpreting Literature or Rhetoric: Writing and Communication	3 - 4
GE CLAS Core: Understanding Cultural Perspectives ^c		3
Elective course ^d		2
Hours		16-17

Second Year

Fall

CHIN:2101	Second-Year Chinese: First Semester ^b	5
Major: advanced language and linguistics course ^f		3
GE CLAS Core: Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts ^c		3
GE CLAS Core: Quantitative or Formal Reasoning ^c		3
Elective course ^d		2
Hours		16

Spring

Major: Chinese language core course ^g		3, 5
Major: literature, translation, and cinema course ^f		3
GE CLAS Core: Natural Sciences without Lab ^c		3
Elective course ^d		3
Elective course ^d		3
Hours		15-17

Third Year

Fall

Major: Chinese language core course ^g		3, 5
Major: translation, literature, and cinema course ^f		3
GE CLAS Core: Natural Sciences with Lab ^c		4
Elective course ^d		3
Elective course ^d		2
Hours		15-17

Spring

Major: Chinese language core course ^g		3, 5
Major: advanced language and linguistics course ^f		3
GE CLAS Core: International and Global Issues ^c		3
Elective course ^d		3
Elective course ^d		3
Hours		15-17

Fourth Year

Fall

Major: Chinese language core course ^g		3, 5
GE CLAS Core: Historical Perspectives ^c		3
Elective course ^d		3
Elective course ^d		3
Elective course ^d		3
Hours		15-17

Spring

Major: elective course ^e		3
GE CLAS Core: Social Sciences ^c		3
Elective course ^d		3
Elective course ^d		3

Elective course ^d	3
Degree Application: apply on MyUI before deadline (typically in February for spring, September for fall)	
Hours	15
Total Hours	122-132

a Sustainability must be completed by choosing a course that has been approved for Sustainability AND for one of these General Education areas: Natural Sciences; Quantitative or Formal Reasoning; Social Sciences; Historical Perspectives; International and Global Issues; Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts; or Values and Society.

b CHIN:1111, CHIN:1112, and CHIN:2101 do not count for credit toward the major. Enrollment in world languages courses requires a placement exam, unless enrolling in a first-semester-level course. Language level placement will be determined by placement exam score and/or oral interview. Students who place into the 5th semester level of the language will begin major level coursework and not be required to take semesters 1-4 of the language.

c GE CLAS Core courses may be completed in any order unless used as a prerequisite for another course. Students should consult with an advisor about the best sequencing of courses.

d Students may use elective courses to earn credit towards the total s.h. required for graduation or to complete a double major, minors, or certificates.

e Take two elective courses (6 s.h.), one of which must be a Chinese course (prefix CHIN). See the General Catalog for list of approved courses.

f See the General Catalog for list of approved courses.

g Complete 12-14 s.h. by taking four of the following courses: CHIN:2102, CHIN:3101, CHIN:3102, CHIN:4103, CHIN:4104. Students whose initial placement at the University of Iowa is Third-Year Chinese must complete both CHIN:4103 and CHIN:4104.

h Please see Academic Calendar, on Office of the Registrar website, for current degree application deadlines. Students should apply for a degree for the session in which all requirements will be met. For any questions on appropriate timing, contact your academic advisor or Degree Services.

Japanese Track

Course	Title	Hours
Academic Career		
Any Semester		
Students may apply a maximum of 12 s.h. of approved transfer credit toward track requirements. ^a		
GE CLAS Core: Sustainability ^b		
Hours		0
First Year		
Fall		
JPNS:1001	First-Year Japanese: First Semester ^c	5
Major: literature and translation course ^d		
ENGL:1200	Interpreting Literature	3 - 4
	or RHET:1030 or Rhetoric: Writing and Communication	
GE CLAS Core: Understanding Cultural Perspectives ^e		

CSI:1600	Success at Iowa	1
Hours		15-16

Spring		
JPNS:1002	First-Year Japanese: Second Semester ^c	5
Major: cultural studies course ^d		
ENGL:1200	Interpreting Literature	3 - 4
	or RHET:1030 or Rhetoric: Writing and Communication	
GE CLAS Core: Historical Perspectives ^e		
Elective course ^f		2
Hours		16-17

Second Year		
Fall		
JPNS:2001	Second-Year Japanese: First Semester ^c	5
Major: linguistics and advanced language studies course ^d		
GE CLAS Core: Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts ^e		
GE CLAS Core: Quantitative or Formal Reasoning ^e		
Elective course ^f		1
Hours		15

Spring		
JPNS:2002	Second-Year Japanese: Second Semester ^c	5
Major: literature and translation course ^d		
GE CLAS Core: Natural Sciences without Lab ^e		
Elective course ^f		3
Elective course ^f		1
Hours		15

Third Year		
Fall		
JPNS:3001	Third-Year Japanese I	4
Major: literature and translation course ^d		
GE CLAS Core: Natural Sciences with Lab ^e		
Elective course ^f		3
Elective course ^f		2
Hours		16

Spring		
JPNS:3002	Third-Year Japanese II	4
Major: linguistics and advanced language studies course ^d		
GE CLAS Core: International and Global Issues ^e		
Elective course ^f		3
Elective course ^f		2
Hours		15

Fourth Year		
Fall		
JPNS:4001	Fourth-Year Japanese I	3
GE CLAS Core: Values and Society ^e		
Elective course ^f		3
Elective course ^f		3
Elective course ^f		3
Hours		15

Spring		
JPNS:4002	Fourth-Year Japanese II	3
GE CLAS Core: Social Sciences ^e		

Elective course ^f	3
Elective course ^f	3
Elective course ^f	3
Degree Application: apply on MyUI before deadline (typically in February for spring, September for fall) ^g	
Hours	15
Total Hours	122-124

- a Students who are planning to study abroad should consult with their Japanese track advisors in advance to determine whether their planned coursework abroad will be accepted toward track requirements.
- b Sustainability must be completed by choosing a course that has been approved for Sustainability AND for one of these General Education areas: Natural Sciences; Quantitative or Formal Reasoning; Social Sciences; Historical Perspectives; International and Global Issues; Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts; or Values and Society.
- c JPNS:1001, JPNS:1002, JPNS:2001, and JPNS:2002 do not count for credit toward the major. Enrollment in world languages courses requires a placement exam, unless enrolling in a first-semester-level course. Language level placement will be determined by placement exam score and/or oral interview. Students who place into the 5th semester level of the language will begin major level coursework and not be required to take semesters 1-4 of the language.
- d See the General Catalog for list of approved courses.
- e GE CLAS Core courses may be completed in any order unless used as a prerequisite for another course. Students should consult with an advisor about the best sequencing of courses.
- f Students may use elective courses to earn credit towards the total s.h. required for graduation or to complete a double major, minors, or certificates.
- g Please see Academic Calendar, on Office of the Registrar website, for current degree application deadlines. Students should apply for a degree for the session in which all requirements will be met. For any questions on appropriate timing, contact your academic advisor or Degree Services.