

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.

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 the Asian languages and literature major and minor if the minor emphasis language (Chinese or Japanese) differs from the major language track.

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

Tracks

- Chinese Track [p. 1]
- Japanese Track [p. 2]

Chinese Track

Students in the Chinese track must complete the following coursework.

Requirements	Hours
Prerequisite Chinese Language Courses	
Chinese Language Courses	12
Gateway Courses	6
Literature and Culture Courses	6
Linguistics and Advanced Language Studies Courses	6

Prerequisite Chinese Language Courses

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

Course #	Title	Hours
This sequence:		
CHIN:1111	First-Year Chinese: First Semester	5
CHIN:1112	First-Year Chinese: Second Semester	5
CHIN:2101	Second-Year Chinese: First Semester	5
CHIN:2102	Second-Year Chinese: Second Semester	5

Chinese Language Courses

Course #	Title	Hours
All of these:		
CHIN:3101	Third-Year Chinese: First Semester	3
CHIN:3102	Third Year Chinese: Second Semester	3
CHIN:4103	Fourth-Year Chinese: First Semester	3
CHIN:4104	Fourth-Year Chinese: Second Semester	3

Gateway Courses

Course #	Title	Hours
This course:		
CHIN:1504	China Beyond Walls	3
And at least 3 s.h. from these:		
CHIN:1702	Chinese Popular Culture	3
CHIN:1800	Chinese Calligraphy and Culture	3

ASIA:1060/ HIST:1612/ RELS:1506	Introduction to Buddhism	3
ASIA:1510/ WLLC:1510	Ghost Stories and Tales of the Weird in Premodern Chinese Literature	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:2515/ RELS:2515	Introduction to Chinese Religious Thought: How Best to Live	3
ASIA:3208/ TRNS:3208/ WLLC:3208	Classical Chinese Literature Through Translation	3
ASIA:3650/ HIST:3650	Chinese History From 1600 to 1911	3
ASIA:3652/ HIST:3652	Twentieth-Century China	3

Literature and Culture courses

Course #	Title	Hours
Two of these:		
CHIN:3201/ TRNS:3202	Workshop in Chinese Literary Translation	3
CHIN:3341	Chinese Literature: Poetry	3
CHIN:4203	Modern Chinese Writers	3
CHIN:4206	Chinese Cinema	3

Linguistics and Advanced Language Studies courses, Chinese

Course #	Title	Hours
Two of these:		
CHIN:3302/ LING:3302/ SLA:3302	Introduction to Chinese Linguistics	3
CHIN:4101	Classical Chinese: First Semester	3
CHIN:4150	Advanced Reading and Writing in Chinese	3

Chinese Track Electives

The courses and requirements in the preceding lists represent the minimum hours required to complete the Chinese track. Students may also choose additional Chinese elective courses (prefix CHIN), but they may only apply a maximum of 56 s.h. of courses in Chinese to the 120 s.h. required for graduation. Elective Chinese courses will not count toward Chinese requirements for the major. Independent studies and arranged hours may be used as elective hours but are not counted toward the requirements for the major.

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 Advanced 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-II	8
JPNS:4001- JPNS:4002	Fourth-Year Japanese I-II	6

Literature and Translation courses

Course #	Title	Hours
9 s.h. from these:		
JPNS:3201/ TRNS:3201	Workshop in Japanese Literary Translation (only 3 s.h. may be applied to major requirements)	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 is focus on Japan)	3
JPNS:1506	Ghostly Japan	3
JPNS:2250/ ARTH:2250	Introduction to the Art of Japan	3

Japanese Track Electives

The courses and requirements in the preceding lists represent the minimum hours required to complete the Japanese track. Students may choose additional Japanese elective courses (prefix JPNS), but they may only apply a maximum of 56 s.h. of courses in Japanese to the 120 s.h. required for graduation. Elective Japanese courses will not count toward Japanese requirements for the major. Independent studies and arranged hours may be used as elective hours but are not counted toward the requirements for the major.

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.

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- Chinese Track [p. 4]
- Japanese Track [p. 4]

Chinese Track

This sample plan is currently being reviewed and will be added at a later date.

Japanese Track

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