ASIAN LANGUAGES AND CIVILIZATIONS - MASTER OF ARTS (MA)

The MA program specialization in Chinese is designed to offer students maximum general exposure to the long sweep of Chinese literary and cultural history, as well as the opportunity to delve into the study of a particular period, field, topic or genre. With six professors covering literature and culture from early China through the medieval era to the early modern period and contemporary China, the program is truly comprehensive in scope. The program focuses especially on preparing students for PhD study and careers in sinology. Since 1991, more than 50 graduates of the Chinese MA program have gone on to doctoral study here or at other first-rank institutions in the U.S.

The MA program specialization in Japanese is designed to provide advanced-level training in Japanese language, literature and civilization, with the aim of preparing students for both Japan-related professional careers and doctoral study in Japanese literature and culture. The program boasts four professors with specializations in the literature and performing arts of classical, medieval, early modern and modern Japan. In recent years, our MA students have gone on to PhD programs in Japanese literature, art history and religious studies at this and numerous other first-rank institutions in the U.S. and abroad.

For more information, visit the department’s Prospective Students webpages.

Dual Degree Program
Dual MA in Asian Languages and Civilizations and History or Religious Studies

The Department of Asian Languages and Civilizations participates in a dual master’s program with the Departments of History and Religious Studies. Students admitted to the MA programs in these departments may apply to complete a second MA in one of the other programs. Such degrees serve the needs of students who seek a truly interdisciplinary experience among intellectually affiliated departments. Students interested in exploring this option should contact the director of graduate studies in Chinese or Japanese.

Requirements

The MA in Asian languages and civilizations offers specializations in Chinese or Japanese.

All entering students in the Chinese program must take CHIN 5010 at the earliest opportunity. Students employed as teaching assistants also must take CHIN 5980 or JPNS 5980. Selection of courses beyond these is made in consultation with the director of graduate studies in Chinese or Japanese.

Prospective graduates will be required to present either 24 hours of approved course work plus a master’s thesis (Plan I), or 30 hours of approved course work without a thesis (Plan II). The 24 hours must be completed at the 5000 level or above. Up to six credits from other departments may be completed at the 3000 or 4000 level at the discretion of the department.

Specific requirements for the MA in Chinese, as well as a full list and description of graduate courses, are available on the department website.