

# ASIAN LANGUAGES AND CULTURES, BA

## REQUIREMENTS

### UNIVERSITY REQUIREMENTS

All undergraduate students must complete both the following Core General Education (Core GenEd) and University Degree and Quality of Work requirements. The requirements below apply to students whose first term at UW-Madison or whose earliest post-high school college attendance at any institution is Summer 2026 or later.

Students whose first term at UW-Madison or whose earliest post-high school college attendance at any institution occurred before Summer 2026 should refer to the archived Guide (<https://guide.wisc.edu/archive/>) for the requirements that apply to them.

### CORE GENERAL EDUCATION (CORE GENED) REQUIREMENTS

Civics & Perspectives 3 credits of Civics & Perspectives coursework.

Communication & Literacy 6 credits of Communication & Literacy coursework. This requirement may be partially satisfied by a qualifying placement test score. More information: <https://go.wisc.edu/qualifyingenglishplacement> (<https://go.wisc.edu/qualifyingenglishplacement/>)

Humanities & Arts 6 credits of Humanities & Arts coursework.

Mathematics & Quantitative Reasoning 6 credits of Mathematics & Quantitative Reasoning coursework. This requirement may be partially satisfied by a qualifying placement test score. More information: <https://go.wisc.edu/qualifyingmathplacement> (<https://go.wisc.edu/qualifyingmathplacement/>)

Natural Science & Wellness Complete both:
 

- 6 credits of Natural Science & Wellness or Natural Science & Wellness + Laboratory coursework.
- one course must be in Natural Science & Wellness + Laboratory coursework.

Social & Behavioral Science 3 credits of Social & Behavioral Science coursework.

Total Credits 30 credits.

For more information see the policy (<https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1095/>).

### UNIVERSITY DEGREE AND QUALITY OF WORK REQUIREMENTS

All undergraduate degree recipients must complete the following minimum requirements. Requirements for some programs will exceed these requirements; see program requirements for additional information.

Total Degree 120 degree credits.

Residency Complete 30 credits in residence. A course is considered "in residence" if it is taken when in undergraduate degree-seeking status and:
 

- is offered by UW-Madison and completed on the UW-Madison campus or at an approved off-site location, or
- is offered by UW-Madison in an online or distance format, or is completed during participation in a UW-Madison study abroad/study away program.

Quality of Work Achieve at least the minimum grade point average specified by the school, college, and/or academic program.

Math Demonstrate minimal mathematics competence by:
 

- placing above MATH 96, or
- successfully completing MATH 96, or
- successfully completing a more advanced mathematics course such as MATH 112, MATH 113, MATH 114, MATH 141, MATH 211, or MATH 221.

English Language If required to take the UW-Madison English as a Second Language Assessment Test (MSN-ESLAT), demonstrate minimal English language competence by:
 

- earning credit for ESL 118, or
- achieving a qualifying MSN-ESLAT placement test score.

Language Complete one:
 

- 2 high school units of a single language other than English, or
- one course with the second semester Language designation.

Major Declaration Declare and complete the requirements for at least one major.

## COLLEGE OF LETTERS & SCIENCE DEGREE REQUIREMENTS: BACHELOR OF ARTS (BA)

Students pursuing a Bachelor of Arts degree in the College of Letters & Science must complete all of the requirements below. Some courses satisfy more than one L&S degree requirement (visit College of Letters & Science: Requirements (<https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/letters-science/#requirementstext>) for details).

This major can be paired with either the Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science degree requirements.

### BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Communication Complete both:
 

- Part A: one course with the Communication A designation or eligible UW Placement Score; and
- Part B: one course with the Communication B designation

Quantitative Reasoning	Complete both: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Part A: one course with the Quantitative Reasoning A designation or eligible UW Placement Score; and</li> <li>Part B: one course with the Quantitative Reasoning B designation</li> </ul>
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Ethnic Studies	one 3+ credit course with the Ethnic Studies designation
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Language	Complete either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the fourth unit of one language other than English; or</li> <li>the third unit of one language other than English and the second unit of an additional language.</li> </ul>
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L&S Breadth: Humanities	Complete 12 credits with the Humanities or Literature designation, which must include at least 6 credits with the Literature designation.
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L&S Breadth: Social Sciences	Complete 12 credits with the Social Science designation.
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L&S Breadth: Natural Sciences	Complete 12 credits with the Natural Science, Biological Science, or Physical Science designations, which must include both: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>one 3+ credit course with the Biological Science designation, and</li> <li>one 3+ credit course with the Physical Science designation.</li> </ul>
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Liberal Arts and Science (LAS) Coursework	at least 108 credits
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Depth of Intermediate/Advanced work	at least 60 credits at the Intermediate or Advanced level
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Major	Declare and complete at least one major.
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Total Credits	at least 120 credits
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UW-Madison Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>30 credits in residence, overall; and</li> <li>30 credits in residence after the 86th credit</li> </ul>
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Quality of Work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2.000 in all coursework at UW-Madison</li> <li>2.000 in Intermediate/Advanced level coursework at UW-Madison</li> </ul>
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## NON-L&S STUDENTS PURSUING AN L&S MAJOR

Non-L&S students who have permission from their School/College to pursue an additional major within L&S only need to fulfill the major requirements. They do not need to complete the L&S Degree Requirements above.

## REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR

Students must take 32 credits as follows: <sup>1</sup>

## GATEWAY COURSE

Code	Title	Credits
Required course:		
ASIAN 100	Gateway to Asia: Special Topics	3-4

## REQUIRED LANGUAGE COURSES

Complete Third and Fourth Semester language courses:

Code	Title	Credits
<b>East Asian languages</b>		
ASIALANG 201 & ASIALANG 202	Third Semester Chinese and Fourth Semester Chinese	8
ASIALANG 203 & ASIALANG 204	Third Semester Japanese and Fourth Semester Japanese	8
ASIALANG 205 & ASIALANG 206	Third Semester Korean and Fourth Semester Korean	8
<b>South Asian languages</b>		
ASIALANG 233 & ASIALANG 234	Third Semester Hindi and Fourth Semester Hindi	8
ASIALANG 237 & ASIALANG 238	Third Semester Persian and Fourth Semester Persian	8
ASIALANG 235 & ASIALANG 236	Third Semester Modern Tibetan and Fourth Semester Modern Tibetan	8
ASIALANG 239 & ASIALANG 240	Third Semester Urdu and Fourth Semester Urdu	8
ASIALANG 241 & ASIALANG 242	Third Semester Sanskrit and Fourth Semester Sanskrit	8
<b>Southeast Asian languages</b>		
ASIALANG 229 & ASIALANG 230	Third Semester Thai and Fourth Semester Thai	8
ASIALANG 223 & ASIALANG 224	Third Semester Filipino and Fourth Semester Filipino	8
ASIALANG 225 & ASIALANG 226	Third Semester Hmong and Fourth Semester Hmong	8
ASIALANG 227 & ASIALANG 228	Third Semester Indonesian and Fourth Semester Indonesian	8
ASIALANG 231 & ASIALANG 232	Third Semester Vietnamese and Fourth Semester Vietnamese	8

## EAST ASIAN STUDIES COURSES

Code	Title	Credits
Complete two courses from the following options (at least 6 credits):		
ASIAN/HISTORY 103	Introduction to East Asian History: China	3-4
ASIAN/HISTORY 104	Introduction to East Asian History: Japan	3-4
ASIAN/HISTORY 108	Introduction to East Asian History - Korea	3-4
ASIAN 253	Japanese Popular Culture	3
ASIAN 254	Korean Popular Culture	3
ASIAN/HISTORY/POLI SCI 255	Introduction to East Asian Civilizations	3-4
ASIAN 301	Social Science Topics in Asian Studies	3

ASIAN/SOC 334	Gender, Work, and Family in East Asia	3	HISTORY/ ASIAN 335	The Koreans: Korean War to the 21st Century	3-4
ASIAN/ HISTORY 335	The Koreans: Korean War to the 21st Century	3-4	HISTORY 336	Chinese Economic and Business History: From Silk to iPhones	3-4
ASIAN/SOC 336	Social Change in Contemporary South Korea	3	HISTORY 340	Cultural History of Korea	3-4
ASIAN/ HISTORY 337	Social and Intellectual History of China, 589 AD-1919	3-4	LITTRANS 231	Manga	3
ASIAN 340	Study Abroad in Korean Topics	1-6	LITTRANS 232	Anime	3
ASIAN/HISTORY 341	History of Modern China, 1800-1949	3-4	LITTRANS 261	Survey of Chinese Literature in Translation	3
ASIAN/ HISTORY 342	History of the Peoples Republic of China, 1949 to the Present	3-4	LITTRANS 263	Survey of Japanese Literature in Translation	3
ASIAN 351	Survey of Classical Chinese Literature	3	LITTRANS 264	Survey of Japanese Literature in Translation	3
ASIAN 352	Survey of Modern Chinese Literature	3	LITTRANS 373	Topics in Japanese Literature	3
ASIAN 353	Lovers, Warriors and Monks: Survey of Japanese Literature	3	POLI SCI 324	Chinese Politics	3-4
ASIAN 354	Early Modern Japanese Literature	3	POLI SCI 328	Politics of East and Southeast Asia	3-4
ASIAN 355	Modern Japanese Literature	3	<b>SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES COURSES</b>		
ASIAN 357	Japanese Ghost Stories	3	<b>Code</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Credits</b>
ASIAN 358	Language in Japanese Society	3	Complete two courses from the following options (at least 6 credits):		
ASIAN 361	Love and Politics: The Tale of Genji	3	ASIAN/ ART HIST 179	Passage Through India: South Asia's Global Architectural Histories	3
ASIAN/ HISTORY 363	China and World War II in Asia	3-4	ASIAN 205	Animal Ethics in Asia	3
ASIAN 367	Haiku	3	ASIAN/ RELIG ST 206	The Qur'an: Religious Scripture & Literature	3
ASIAN 371	Topics in Chinese Literature	2-3	ASIAN/ LITTRANS 212	Classical South Asian Literatures	3
ASIAN 372	Study Abroad in Chinese Topics	1-6	ASIAN/ RELIG ST 218	History of Medicine in South Asia	3
ASIAN 373	Study Abroad in Japanese Topics	1-6	ASIAN 252	Contemporary Indian Society	3
ASIAN 374	Korean Cinema	3	ASIAN 268	Tibetan Cultures and Traditions	3
ASIAN 375	Survey of Chinese Film	3	ASIAN/ RELIG ST 274	Religion in South Asia	3
ASIAN 376	Manga	3	ASIAN/ RELIG ST 303	Jainism: Religion and Culture of Nonviolence	3
ASIAN 378	Anime	3	ASIAN/ ANTHRO 305	Anthropology of South Asia	3
ASIAN 432	Introduction to Chinese Linguistics	3	ASIAN/ RELIG ST 306	Hinduism	3
ASIAN 433	Topics in East Asian Visual Cultures	3	ASIAN/ RELIG ST 307	A Survey of Tibetan Buddhism	3
ASIAN 434	Introduction to Japanese Linguistics	3	ASIAN/HISTORY/ RELIG ST 308	Introduction to Buddhism	3-4
ASIAN 435	Teaching of Japanese	3	ASIAN/AFRICAN/ RELIG ST 370	Islam: Religion and Culture	3-4
ASIAN/ HISTORY 454	Samurai: History and Image	3-4	ASIAN/ ART HIST 379	Cities of Asia	3
ASIAN/ HISTORY 456	Pearl Harbor & Hiroshima: Japan, the US & The Crisis in Asia	3-4	ASIAN/ RELIG ST 405	Gods and Goddesses of South Asia	3
ANTHRO 357	Introduction to the Anthropology of Japan	3-4	ASIAN/ ART HIST 428	Visual Cultures of India	3
ART HIST 307	From Tomb to Temple: Ancient Chinese Art and Religion in Transition	3	ASIAN/ RELIG ST 430	Indian Traditions in the Modern Age	3
ART HIST 308	The Tastes of Scholars and Emperors: Chinese Art in the Later Periods	3	ASIAN/ COM ARTS 443	Indian Cinema in the U.S. and Beyond	3
ECON 350	The Chinese Economy	3			
ED POL 245	Education in East Asia	3			
HISTORY 145	America and China, 1776-Today	3-4			
HISTORY/ INTL ST 332	East Asia & The U.S. Since 1899	3-4			

ASIAN/ RELIG ST 444	Introduction to Sufism (Islamic Mysticism)	3
ASIAN/ RELIG ST 460	The History of Yoga	3
ASIAN/ RELIG ST 466	Buddhist Thought	3
ASIAN/ RELIG ST 473	Meditation in Indian Buddhism and Hinduism	3
ASIAN/ENGL 478	Indian Writers Abroad: Literature, Diaspora and Globalization	3
ART HIST 305	History of Islamic Art and Architecture	3
ART HIST/ RELIG ST 373	Mecca, Cairo, Istanbul, Delhi: Great Cities of Islam	3
ENGL/ASIAN 478	Indian Writers Abroad: Literature, Diaspora and Globalization	3
ENGL/ THEATRE 577	Postcolonial Theatre: Drama, Theory and Performance in the Global South	3
HISTORY 142	History of South Asia to the Present	3-4
HISTORY/GNS 265	An Introduction to Central Asia: From the Silk Route to Afghanistan	3
HISTORY 450	Making of Modern South Asia	3-4
POLI SCI 370	Islam and Politics	3-4

## SOUTHEAST ASIAN STUDIES COURSES

Code	Title	Credits
Complete two courses from the following options (at least 6 credits):		
ASIAN/GEOG/ HISTORY/POLI SCI/ SOC 244	Introduction to Southeast Asia: Vietnam to the Philippines	4
ASIAN/ASIAN AM/ HISTORY 246	Southeast Asian Refugees of the "Cold" War	4
ASIAN/AFRICAN/ RELIG ST 370	Islam: Religion and Culture	3-4
ASIAN 403	Southeast Asian Literature	3
ASIAN/ HISTORY 458	History of Southeast Asia Since 1800	3-4
ASIAN AM 170	Hmong American Experiences in the United States	3
ASIAN AM 441	Hmong American Social Movements in the 20th and 21st Centuries	3
GEOG 358	Human Geography of Southeast Asia	3
GEOG/ ENVIR ST 557	Development and Environment in Southeast Asia	3
HISTORY/ASIAN 319	The Vietnam Wars	3-4
HISTORY/ ASIAN 458	History of Southeast Asia Since 1800	3-4
POLI SCI 323	Islam and World Politics	3-4
POLI SCI 328	Politics of East and Southeast Asia	3-4
POLI SCI 370	Islam and Politics	3-4

## CAPSTONE COURSE

Code	Title	Credits
Complete one course (at least 3 credits):		
ASIAN/ RELIG ST 505	The Perfectible Body in Religions, Medicines, and Politics	3
ASIAN 600	Capstone Seminar in Asian Humanities	3
ASIAN/ ART HIST 621	Mapping, Making, and Representing Colonial Spaces	3
ASIAN 630	Proseminar: Studies in Cultures of Asia	3
ASIAN/ RELIG ST 650	Proseminar in Buddhist Thought	2-3
ASIAN 655	Ethnography in Asia	3
ASIAN 682	Senior Honors Thesis (must be enrolled in Honors in the Major)	3
ASIAN 692	Senior Thesis (must have permission from faculty)	3
ASIAN 699	Directed Study (must have permission from faculty)	3

## NAMED OPTIONS

View as listView as grid

- **ASIAN LANGUAGES AND CULTURES: EAST ASIAN STUDIES ([HTTPS://GUIDE.WISC.EDU/UNDERGRADUATE/LETTERS-SCIENCE/ASIAN-LANGUAGES-CULTURES/ASIAN-LANGUAGES-CULTURES-BA/ASIAN-LANGUAGES-CULTURES-EAST-ASIAN-STUDIES-BA/](https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/letters-science/asian-languages-cultures/asian-languages-cultures-ba/asian-languages-cultures-east-asian-studies-ba/))**
- **ASIAN LANGUAGES AND CULTURES: SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES ([HTTPS://GUIDE.WISC.EDU/UNDERGRADUATE/LETTERS-SCIENCE/ASIAN-LANGUAGES-CULTURES/ASIAN-LANGUAGES-CULTURES-BA/ASIAN-LANGUAGES-CULTURES-SOUTH-ASIAN-STUDIES-BA/](https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/letters-science/asian-languages-cultures/asian-languages-cultures-ba/asian-languages-cultures-south-asian-studies-ba/))**
- **ASIAN LANGUAGES AND CULTURES: SOUTHEAST ASIAN STUDIES ([HTTPS://GUIDE.WISC.EDU/UNDERGRADUATE/LETTERS-SCIENCE/ASIAN-LANGUAGES-CULTURES/ASIAN-LANGUAGES-CULTURES-BA/ASIAN-LANGUAGES-CULTURES-SOUTHEAST-ASIAN-STUDIES-BA/](https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/letters-science/asian-languages-cultures/asian-languages-cultures-ba/asian-languages-cultures-southeast-asian-studies-ba/))**

## RESIDENCE AND QUALITY OF WORK

- 2.000 GPA in all ASIAN, ASIALANG, and approved courses for the major

- 2.000 GPA in 15 upper-level major credits, taken in residence<sup>2</sup>
- 15 credits in the major, taken in residence

## HONORS IN THE MAJOR

Students may declare Honors in the Major in consultation with the Asian Languages & Cultures undergraduate advisor.

### HONORS IN THE MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

To earn Honors in the Major, students must satisfy both the requirements for the major (above) and the following additional requirements:

- Earn a 3.300 University GPA
- Earn a 3.300 for all courses accepted in the major
- Complete the following coursework, with a grade of B or better:
  - ASIAN 699 or any course from the list below when taken for at least 3 credits. This course must be taken before ASIAN 681.

Code	Title	Credits
ASIAN/ RELIG ST 505	The Perfectible Body in Religions, Medicines, and Politics	3
ASIAN 533	Readings in Early Modern Japanese Literature	3
ASIAN 563	Readings in Modern Japanese Literature	3
ASIAN 573	Readings in Classical Japanese Literature	3
ASIAN 600	Capstone Seminar in Asian Humanities	3
ASIAN/ ART HIST 621	Mapping, Making, and Representing Colonial Spaces	3
ASIAN 630	Proseminar: Studies in Cultures of Asia	3
ASIAN 631	History of the Chinese Language	3
ASIAN 632	Studies in Chinese Linguistics	3
ASIAN 633	Chinese Applied Linguistics	3
ASIAN 641	History of Chinese Literature I	3
ASIAN 642	History of Chinese Literature II	3
ASIAN/ RELIG ST 650	Proseminar in Buddhist Thought	2-3
ASIAN 655	Ethnography in Asia	3
ASIAN 672	Studies in Chinese Fiction	3

- A two-semester Senior Honors Thesis in ASIAN 681 and ASIAN 682, for a total of 6 credits.

## FOOTNOTES

<sup>1</sup> Students who test above 4th semester language must still complete a minimum of 32 credits in the major. These students may complete another language sequence or other coursework as approved by the advisor.

<sup>2</sup> Intermediate and Advanced level major courses are upper-level.