

Vassar College

Department of Chinese and Japanese

To Potential Majors
Revised Spring 2025

We are pleased that you are considering Chinese/Japanese as a major. We believe that our dedicated faculty and the full curriculum in Chinese/Japanese language, literature, and culture will provide you with an excellent and exciting home base for your studies at Vassar. Our department is committed to helping students learn the target language(s) and gain a coherent and comprehensive understanding of Chinese and/or Japanese literature and culture. We also encourage our majors to study in China or Japan through JYA programs and summer programs when available.

Attached is a statement of the requirement for the major. To discuss declaring a Chinese or Japanese major, please make an appointment with the Chair of the department or any of the faculty members. Please read the statement of requirements before the appointment. This information may answer some questions you have, and may also raise new questions you had not previously considered. You may choose to fill out the application form at this time, or you may want to wait until you have met with the department chair. You may also wish to discuss your interests with one of the Academic Interns for the department, two senior majors, one each for Chinese and Japanese, chosen for their outstanding qualifications within the major. The Administrative Assistant for the department will provide more information on the person you wish to contact.

Please be advised that any and all information sheets available from the department are revised as needed and that any requirements, courses, etc. are subject to change. Please consult with a faculty member for the most up to date information.

Department of Chinese and Japanese
Kathleen Panebianco, Administrative Assistant
Sanders Classroom Building, 3rd Floor, Room 319
437-7630
kapanebianco@vassar.edu

Chinese and Japanese

Professors: Haoming Liu (Chinese), Peipei Qiu (Japanese), Bryan Van Norden (Philosophy and Chinese literature)

Associate Professors: Hiromi Tsuchiya Dollase (Japanese), Wenwei Du (Chinese)

Assistant Professors: Pier Carlo Tommasi

Instructors: Yuko Matsubara (Japanese)

Requirements for Chinese or Japanese Concentration/Major:

- 10 units (9 units if the student starts language study from CHIN 205 or 207/JAPA 205; 8 units if the student starts language study from CHIN 305/JAPA 305 or above) chosen from the Chinese-Japanese curriculum.
- Three units must be language courses at advanced level
- Three units must be content courses, of which one should be 300 level.
- Four additional electives such as: CHIN 105, 106,107,108, 205, 206, 207, 208/JAPA 105, 106, 205, 206.
- Intensives – none required, however, Senior Project or Senior Thesis are optional intensives.
- One non-departmental course from the approved course list can be taken to fulfill the major requirements.
- Courses taken under the Non-Recorded Option cannot serve to fulfill the requirements. Courses that are ungraded (such as Independent Study and Field Work) cannot count toward the major.
- For students seeking to double major in Chinese and Japanese, no more than two units may be double counted.
- Junior Year Abroad and summer courses may substitute for the required courses only with prior approval from the department. The department strongly encourages students to study abroad in China or Japan and commits to providing students with supervised study away programs.

Honors Requirements:

Students who wish to be considered for departmental honors must complete a thesis or project of sufficient quality. Students are required to have at least a 3.6 major GPA. A thesis is normally written in both semesters of the senior year. A senior project may be done either as a one-unit course in one semester, or a half-unit course in each of two semesters.

Departmental courses are arranged in three groups: 1) courses in Chinese-Japanese literary and cultural studies (CHJA); 2) courses in Chinese language and literary/cultural studies (CHIN); and 3) courses in Japanese language and literary/cultural studies (JAPA).

Chinese /Japanese Major Study Plan Worksheet

Student's Name _____ Date _____

Anticipated year of graduation _____

Three units of 300-level language courses:

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

Three units of content courses:

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

Electives:

_____ , _____

_____ , _____

Intensives:

_____ , _____

_____ , _____

Senior thesis/project? _____

- Senior thesis/project can be counted toward the 300-level content course requirement.
- With departmental approval, **one** non-departmental course from the approved list may be counted toward the content course requirements for the major.

Total: _____ units

JYA? _____

Advisor's signature: _____ date: _____

Note: Please submit a copy of this form to the Chair of the department.