

ASIAN STUDIES

PREPARATION FOR THE MAJOR

High School Preparation

Recommended as part of or in addition to UC's "a-g" admission requirements:

- English composition
- European history and literature
- American history and literature
- Foreign language (preferably Chinese or Japanese)
- Social science courses

Transfer Preparation

To make normal progress in the major, complete the following courses prior to transfer:

- Two years (24 quarter units) of an Asian language, or the equivalent demonstrated level of competence.
- One course in East Asian culture, e.g. anthropology, philosophy, religion or sociology of an Asian civilization.

Please see the UCSB *General Catalog* (www.catalog.ucsb.edu) or your school counselor for more information on course preparation. California community college students should see www.assist.org.

Asia today increasingly touches the economic, political, and cultural lives of all Americans. What, then, is the character of this region of the world that affects each of us so profoundly? Why study Asia? We study Asia for many reasons:

- To develop an appreciation for the richness and complexity of its ancient civilizations;
- To gain insight into the current state of affairs of its varied nations;
- To recognize its role in the contemporary social, economic, and political scene;
- To understand its tremendous influence, both past and present, in shaping artistic expression, religious, and philosophic thought, and perhaps most importantly;
- To better understand ourselves and the world in which we live.

In Asian Studies at UCSB, students explore one area of Asia through a variety of disciplines. This interdisciplinary approach allows students to discover the many facets of Asian culture, ranging from its art, language, literature, philosophy, and religion to its history, sociology, politics, and economics. Students explore in-depth one of the following two areas of Asia:

China - the billion-person nation and experiment in social and economic development whose role in the balance of world power is increasingly critical.

Japan - the fascinating study of economic growth and social transformation in a traditional society whose tremendous prosperity is delicately balanced on a network of resource import and trade export.

The Major

UCSB offers the Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree in Asian Studies. Asian Studies students must complete at least two years of an Asian language (Chinese, Hindi, Japanese, Korean, Sanskrit, or Tibetan) relevant to their area of interest, or demonstrate an equivalent level of competence. In addition, they must take 8 units of East Asian Cultural Studies and one course in the cultural history, sociology or religion of China, Japan or Korea.

The major consists of upper-division courses selected from three or more disciplines and generally concentrating on East Asia (China, Japan, Korea) or South Asia (India). It is recommended that one of the disciplines be history. In any case, all majors are required to complete an Asian history course from the upper-division list. UCSB majors from which students may choose courses to complete the Asian Studies major are:

- Anthropology: Medicine in Chinese Culture, Peoples and Cultures of India
- Art History: The Art of Japan, Chinese Painting
- Chinese: New Taiwan Cinema, Contemporary Chinese Culture and Society
- Theater: Asian Performance Past and Present
- Film Studies: Korean Cinema, Japanese Cinema, Indian Cinema
- History: Samurai Japan, Modern Japanese History
- Japanese: Topics in Japanese Culture, Survey of Japanese Literature
- Korean: Korean History and Civilization, Korean Literature Survey
- Political Science: Government and Politics of East Asia
- Religious Studies: Buddhist Traditions in East Asia, Religious Traditions of India

Students are encouraged to study abroad through the Education Abroad Program at institutions such as the University of Hong Kong or Tokyo University. Asian Studies students, with their awareness of the culture and knowledge of the relevant language, readily qualify for such opportunities.

Asian Studies and Careers

Asian Studies students, with their solid liberal arts education and exposure to a variety of disciplines, are uniquely qualified to pursue graduate and professional programs in areas such as business, journalism, law, and education. More specifically, students may pursue careers in international business and affairs, foreign correspondence and news analysis, politics, and academic research and scholarship. Students may also consider careers in government and foreign service, the State Department, Immigration and Naturalization, the Foreign Exchange, and Customs. Other career opportunities are found in the United Nations and international humanitarian efforts such as the Peace Corps/Vista program. Students who become fluent in an Asian language can consider careers in diplomacy, interpreting, and translating. Students who are interested in art and art history can pursue an Asian art specialty in careers such as museum curating, art criticism, art conservation and preservation, and art restoration. The major's flexibility allows students to develop programs of study that prepare them for specific career goals. For example, students pursuing international business careers can combine Asian studies, economics, and political science courses, while students interested in museum work can emphasize Asian history and art history courses.

Students interested in teaching and research at the university level should plan to complete a Ph.D. degree. Students interested in teaching at the community college level should pursue graduate work at least through the master's degree. Teaching at the high school (secondary) level requires the California Single Subject Teaching Credential. Students considering this last option should discuss their plans with the credential advisor in UCSB's Graduate School of Education early in their academic careers.

For more information on UCSB's Asian Studies major, please call or write to:

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