

THE FIELD

Chinese is spoken by one-fourth of the world's population and is the vehicle for an extremely large body of literature (in the broadest sense) that began to develop over 3,000 years ago. Chinese civilization reached high levels in the development of literature and the arts, government and economics, historical documentation, and philosophy and religion, as well as in technology and material culture. China is a major economic and political power in the modern world. Consequently, China will play a crucial role in world events in the next 25 years, and the Chinese language will be an essential tool for communicating with and understanding this large country that occupies the geographic and cultural center of Eastern Asia.

UMass Amherst is the only public institution of higher education in New England to offer bachelor of arts degrees in Chinese language and literature and Chinese language and linguistics. The program offers students a sound command of the language, as well as a solid background in literature, linguistics, culture, and civilization.

A minor in Chinese is available.

THE MAJOR

The prerequisite to enter the major is the successful completion of four semester-long courses in Mandarin Chinese (24 credits): 126, 246, 326, 327, or the equivalent. Students also complete 31 credits in Chinese language, linguistics, literature, and culture. Courses offered include media Chinese, business Chinese, history of China and Chinese language, teaching Chinese, premodern and modern Chinese literature, Chinese popular culture, performing arts, mythology, and film.

JOINT MAJOR IN LINGUISTICS AND CHINESE

Students may also elect an interdisciplinary major in linguistics and Chinese offered by the linguistics department. The requirements include the successful completion of four courses in Mandarin Chinese (24 credits): 125, 246, 326, and 327, or the equivalent. Students must also complete at least 38 credits distributed between linguistics and Chinese. Visit the linguistics website (umass.edu/linguistics) for more information.

HONORS

Students may pursue honors opportunities within the major. Contact the Chinese honors program director for information on how to pursue honors opportunities within the major.

STUDY ABROAD

The Chinese Program supports study abroad programs in the People's Republic of China, Hong Kong, and Taiwan, which are aimed at increasing students' fluency in Chinese and the understanding of those cultures.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Asia-related courses can play an important role in general education, and a major in Chinese can lead to exciting career prospects in the following areas:

TEACHING: English as a Second Language in the United States and Asia; Asian literature courses in junior high and high schools; basic language skills in elementary schools

BUSINESS: International and national banking; travel organizations; publishing houses; shipping firms; import-export houses; advertising/public relations

GOVERNMENT SERVICE: National Security Agency; Central Intelligence Agency; Departments of State, Defense, Treasury; Peace Corps; public relations

PROFESSIONAL: Librarian; museum research/curator; ministry; international law; international labor relations

GRADUATE STUDY: Comparative literature; linguistics; East Asian languages; history; law; international law; international management; international marketing research; library science; art history; business administration; computer science; economics

THE COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES AND FINE ARTS

The humanities focus on human creativity, endeavor, and culture. The imaginative and creative arts—literary and performing—derive from life and teach about human behavior and constructs of social reality. The history of social, political, and economic systems illuminates and shapes the present and future. Students in the College of Humanities and Fine Arts are expected to broaden their perspectives on individual and cultural expression within their own and other societies, to understand the development and evolution of the discipline of study in relation to the culture from which it emanates, and to learn the methods by which knowledge in the discipline is gained.

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