College of East Asian Studies Major

Admission to the Major

Prospective majors are urged to start their language and premodern core courses early in their Wesleyan careers. This will leave more time for study abroad and for more meaningful work in the concentration of the student’s choice. To help students chart their way, the college faculty has designed the concentrations listed below. Admission to the college is via application (http://goo.gl/forms/43Ktx0ks0) during the spring semester of a student’s first year. Sophomores or above may petition to the CEAS chair for admission; petitions will typically be granted so long as the student has a clear path to completing the major’s requirements.

Major Requirements

Majoring in the College of East Asian Studies (CEAS) requires seven courses. These include three core courses plus four in a concentration. Other requirements include language courses, study abroad, and a senior capstone project. Starting with the class of 2020, only courses taken for a grade may be counted towards the major.

Core courses. Each CEAS major is expected to take our interdisciplinary Proseminar (CEAS201) in his or her sophomore year, as well as one survey course on traditional Chinese culture or history and one survey course on traditional Japanese history and culture (these can be taken at any time; a similar course on Korea can be substituted for either of these core survey courses). The goal is to ensure that each CEAS major is firmly anchored in the classical texts and key events that shaped the development of East Asian cultures before the 19th century. Details on the courses that count for the core courses are available at wesleyan.edu/ceas/majoring/core.html.

Concentrations. Each CEAS major must choose one of the six concentrations listed below. Our goal is to ensure that each major’s course of study has methodological coherence in a specific area of study. Course offerings for each concentration may vary in some years according to faculty on campus. Details on the courses that count for the concentrations are available at wesleyan.edu/ceas/majoring/concentrations.html.

- Art history and art
- History
- Language, literature, and film
- Music
- Philosophy and religion
- Political economy

Student Learning Goals

The College of East Asian Studies (CEAS) has two mutually reinforcing core missions: to cultivate an outstanding group of students with strong language abilities, wide-ranging knowledge about East Asia, and an area of particular expertise; and to promote knowledge of and engagement with the histories, cultures, and contemporary significances of East Asia across the campus, curriculum, and broader community.

Study Abroad

All CEAS majors are required to study abroad to develop their language competency and acquire a more concrete grasp of a specific East Asian cultural context. This requirement may be fulfilled through a semester or one year in an approved program.

For more information, see wesleyan.edu/ceas/majoring/studyabroad.html.

Questions about study abroad should be addressed to Prof. Xiaomiao Zhu (China), Prof. Naho Maruta (Japan), or Prof. Hyejoo Back (Korea).

Language Requirement

CEAS majors are expected to reach a minimum of advanced-level (completed third year) competency in Chinese, Japanese, or Korean. Majors who are native speakers of Chinese, Japanese, or Korean are expected to study another East Asian language. All students need to maintain a grade of B or above by the time they reach advanced-level competency. All students must take a minimum of four semesters of East Asian language courses; this may mean being required to take language classes beyond the advanced level. Evaluation of an individual student’s language competence will be undertaken by the relevant language coordinator, who will also determine how language courses not taken at Wesleyan count toward this requirement.

Questions about Chinese should be addressed to the Chinese language and cocurriculum coordinator, Prof. Xiaomiao Zhu. Questions about Japanese should be addressed to the Japanese language and cocurriculum coordinator, Prof. Naho Maruta. Questions about Korean should be addressed to the Korean language and cocurriculum coordinator, Prof. Hyejoo Back.

Capstone Experience

All majors must complete a written or (with approval) creative project during their senior year. This should involve the use of East Asian language materials to the extent that the student’s preparation permits. There are several ways in which this requirement can be fulfilled:

- Write a substantial essay, focusing on East Asia, as assigned in a regular class. The instructor must approve of this project and may suggest revisions as needed. Similarly, faculty approval is required also for a creative project done in the context of a class or as a tutorial. If the class instructor is not a CEAS faculty member, the essay or the creative arts project must be approved by the student’s CEAS advisor. Please note that this class can simultaneously fulfill other requirements.
- Write a one-semester senior essay in a tutorial, preferably given by a CEAS faculty member. The tutorial may be for a full credit or for 0.5 credit.
- Write a senior thesis, typically in a two-semester tutorial with a CEAS faculty member.
- Furthermore, each student will be expected to present his or her research at a poster presentation toward the end of the spring semester of the senior
year. This presentation is in addition to and apart from the actual research project.