# ASIAN STUDIES

## What can I do with this major?

### AREAS

**EDUCATION**
- Higher Education:
  - Teaching
  - Research
- Student Affairs Administration Including:
  - International Student Services
  - Study Abroad
  - Multicultural Programming
  - Student Support Services
- Information/Library Science
- Primary and Secondary Education
- Community Education:
  - Literacy
  - English as a Second Language
  - GED Preparation

### EMPLOYERS

- Universities and colleges
- Campus cultural centers
- Support programs, e.g. Educational Advancement Program, Upward Bound
- School and community libraries
- K-12 schools, public and private
- Head Start programs
- Non-profit organizations including those promoting literacy, e.g. VISTA
- Adult education programs, e.g. those focusing on GED preparation

### STRATEGIES

- Earn a Ph.D. to teach and research at four-year institutions. The interdisciplinary nature of Asian Studies makes it good preparation for advanced education in a variety of fields.
- Obtain a master’s degree in student affairs or library/information science to prepare for those fields.
- If interested in K-12 teaching, fulfill requirements for certification. This may involve a double major or minor. Research alternative paths to certification such as Teach for America and other similar programs.
- Get involved in leadership roles on campus including peer mentor, resident advisor, or orientation leader.
- Join related professional associations as a student member.
- Interact with students from Asia and the Middle East. Participate in international programming on campus.
- Plan to study or work in Asian and Middle Eastern countries.
- Develop strong communication and public speaking skills. Learn to speak relevant languages such as Chinese, Japanese, Korean, or Arabic.
- Volunteer with community organizations that serve the Asian population. For example, tutor non-native English speakers.
- Secure strong recommendations from faculty, and maintain a high grade point average. Assist a professor with research or take an independent study class to develop research skills.
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<th>AREAS</th>
<th>EMPLOYERS</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ADVOCACY</strong></td>
<td>Community action agencies</td>
<td>Volunteer at local social service agencies that work with Asian communities to gain experience and demonstrate interest.</td>
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<td>Domestic and International Advocacy</td>
<td>Non-profit organizations, e.g. Asian American Alliance</td>
<td>Participate in an international service learning experience or church-led mission trip to Asia.</td>
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<td>Humanitarian Services</td>
<td>Private voluntary organizations</td>
<td>Learn to speak relevant languages such as, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, or Arabic.</td>
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<td>Development:</td>
<td>Faith based organizations (FBO’s) and Asian-American church communities</td>
<td>Get involved with cultural and international events or organizations on campus.</td>
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<td>Economic</td>
<td>International aid and relief organizations</td>
<td>Take additional courses in social work, global studies, or other relevant areas.</td>
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<td>Community</td>
<td>Non-governmental Organizations (NGO’s), e.g. International Red Cross</td>
<td>Develop excellent research, writing, communication, and organizational skills. Learn how to motivate individuals and groups.</td>
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<td>Housing</td>
<td>Federal government agencies with an international focus, e.g. Peace Corps, USAID or focus on community assistance, e.g. Americorps</td>
<td>Plan to move to geographic regions where the Asian population is growing.</td>
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<td>Disaster/Disease Relief</td>
<td>State and local government agencies</td>
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<td>HIV/AIDS Advocacy</td>
<td>Research organizations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Policy Development</td>
<td>Community action agencies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Program Administration</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>Volunteer Coordination</td>
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<td>Grant Writing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising/Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research</td>
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| HUMAN SERVICES | Mental health institutions | Supplement curriculum with courses in psychology, social work, or child and family studies. |
| Counseling | Hospitals and clinics | Obtain a graduate degree in psychology, counseling, or social work for increased counseling opportunities or advancement into administrative work. |
| Psychotherapy | Residential treatment facilities | Gain essential practical experience through part-time or summer jobs and internships. |
| Mental Health Services | Private and group practice | Volunteer with organizations that assist people of diverse backgrounds, particularly the Asian population. |
| Case Management | Correctional institutions | Participate in training opportunities, e.g. suicide prevention or crisis hotline response. |
| Programming | Federal, state, or local government, including: | Gain a firm understanding of various Asian cultures and how culture impacts individuals and families. |
| Community Relations | Department of Human Services | Become bilingual in a relevant language in order to better assist some clients. |
| Fundraising/Development | Organizations that aid immigrants, migrant workers, and refugees or focus on cultural issues | Acquire knowledge of government and community resources available for those in need. |
| Administration | Youth organizations and camps including: |<p></p>|
| YMCA’s | Boys and Girls Clubs |<p></p> |
| Non-profit and social services organizations including: | United Way |<p></p> |
| Non-profit and social services organizations including: | Goodwill Industries |<p></p> |
| United Way | Salvation Army |<p></p> |
| Church-based programs | Church-based programs |<p></p> |
### AREAS

**BUSINESS**
- International Business
- Importing/Exporting
- Logistics
- Banking
- Management
- Customer Service
- Sales
- Marketing
- Advertising
- Training and Development
- Human Resources
- Equity and Diversity Functions
- Travel and Tourism
- Consulting

**EMPLOYERS**
- Public and private corporations in various industries including:
  - Banks and financial institutions
  - Insurance companies
  - Retail stores
  - Hotels and restaurants
  - Consumer goods manufacturers
- Businesses targeting Asians
- Staffing agencies
- Consulting firms
- Market research firms specializing in Asians
- Public relations agencies
- Asian firms operating in the U.S.
- U.S. firms with operations in Asia
- Asian chambers of commerce
- Minority Business Development Centers
- Asian trade associations, e.g. Asian Pacific American Chamber of Commerce (APACC)
- Travel agencies and tour operators
- Convention and visitors’ bureaus

**STRATEGIES**
- Double major or minor in business.
- Gain business experience through internships or part-time and summer jobs.
- Through research, identify corporations that have a reputation for reaching out to Asian populations.
- Join campus organizations or professional societies and seek leadership roles.
- Understand the skills employers’ desire and be prepared to demonstrate them, such as communication (oral and written), computer, interpersonal, leadership, and teamwork.
- Conduct informational interviews with professionals to learn more about career fields.
- When job searching, seek employers interested in hiring “any major.”
- Learn how to sell your Asian Studies major to companies that value cultural diversity.
- For international assignments, plan to start in U.S. based positions and gain experience with the company/industry. Usually more seasoned employees are given international assignments.
- Earn an MBA or a graduate degree in another area of interest for more advanced opportunities.

### LAW AND POLITICS

**Law:**
- Corporate Practice
- Public Interest Law
- Civil Law
- Lobbying
- Government Relations
- Elected or Appointed Leadership
- Public Policy
- Research
- Intelligence
- Campaign Management
- Special Interest Advocacy
- Program Administration

**Law firms**
- Corporate legal departments
- Public defenders offices
- District attorneys
- Public interest groups, e.g. Asian American Legal Defense & Education Fund (AALDEF)
- Civil rights organizations, e.g. Asian Americans Advancing Justice
- Legal aid
- Sole practitioner
- Government agencies, e.g. Department of State (foreign service)
- Lobbying groups

**Obtain the J.D. for law positions or an advanced degree in public administration, public policy, or international relations for government positions.**

**Supplement curriculum with relevant courses to prepare for law school.**

**Participate in activities that develop strong debate and public speaking skills such as mock trial.**

**Get involved with the pre-law society on campus.**

**Gain relevant experience through jobs or internships with law firms, government agencies, or mediation centers.**

**Maintain a high grade point average and secure strong faculty recommendations.**

**Prepare for and take the Law School Admission Test (LSAT).**
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<tr>
<td>LAW AND POLITICS CONTINUED</td>
<td>Apply for federal government internship programs while in school.</td>
<td>The Foreign Service requires passage of the Foreign Service Exam, after obtaining a master’s degree or significant work experience.</td>
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<tr>
<td>MEDIA AND THE ARTS</td>
<td>Broadcast media companies including television and movie industry.</td>
<td>Pair an interest in Asian Studies with communication skills to write about Asia, write on topics of interest to minorities, or for publications targeting an Asian audience.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Journalisim</td>
<td>Radio stations</td>
<td>Study a second field such as journalism, English, or broadcasting to prepare for career in media.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Creative Writing</td>
<td>Foreign news agencies</td>
<td>For positions in the arts, consider a minor in art history. Plan to pursue a relevant graduate degree such as museum studies.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Freelance Writing</td>
<td>Trade, professional, or consumer publications</td>
<td>Write for campus publications such as college newspapers, magazines, or department/program newsletters. Work at campus radio or television stations.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Copy Writing</td>
<td>Internet sites marketed toward Asian Americans</td>
<td>Intern with a publishing house, magazine, radio or television station depending upon area of interest.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Editing</td>
<td>Advertisig agencies</td>
<td>Create a portfolio of writing samples, especially those that have been published. For other areas, create a website or digital portfolio to promote skills to potential employers.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research and Analysis</td>
<td>Publishing houses</td>
<td>Seek opportunities for recognition and networking through writing contests and freelance writing submissions.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Broadcasting:</td>
<td>Large corporations</td>
<td>Become familiar with the proposal and submission process involved in freelance writing.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Television</td>
<td>Freelance</td>
<td>When job searching, research media outlets to find those that target Asian populations.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Radio</td>
<td>Museums</td>
<td>Volunteer in local museums or galleries.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Media Sales</td>
<td>Galleries</td>
<td>Travel to Asian countries and visit local museums and cultural attractions.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Museum Work</td>
<td>Organizations and centers dedicated to promoting Asian visual and performing arts, e.g. Asian American Arts Alliance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arts Programming</td>
<td>Smithsonian Institution (Freer &amp; Sackler Galleries)</td>
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</table>
GENERAL INFORMATION

- Asian Studies provides an interdisciplinary background that helps students develop analytical, critical thinking, and writing skills while gaining knowledge about the cultures, histories, and languages of Asian countries.
- When paired with a major in another field, Asian Studies can enhance the employability of a student because of a deeper understanding of the Asian experience which many organizations will value. Training in this field can lead to a better appreciation of certain customers or clients.
- Some students may choose to pursue Asian Studies because they enjoy the subject but wish to pursue careers requiring “any major.” In this scenario, it is critical to develop skills relevant to targeted field through internships, part-time or summer jobs, or volunteer experiences.
- Asian Studies majors are excellent candidates for a number of graduate school options because of their broad liberal arts background as well as specific interests that may set them apart from other students. For those wishing to pursue graduate education, maintain a high GPA, establish relationships with faculty to secure strong recommendations, and gain experience through volunteer, work, or research opportunities.
- Travel as much as possible to Asia to experience it first-hand. Complete at least one study abroad experience. In the U.S., look for ways to interact with people from Asia who are living in or visiting the States.
- More job opportunities may exist in parts of the United States where the Asian population is the largest or growing such as California, Washington, and New York.
- Read and stay abreast of politics and current events in regions of interest.