

ASIAN STUDIES (BA)



This program was approved for students entering the university in the Summer 2025-Spring 2026 catalog year. For more information about catalog year, go to Catalog Year Information (<https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/university-wide-unit-specific-policies/catalog-year/>).

Bachelor of Arts in Asian Studies

Unit: College of Arts and Sciences (AS) (<http://www.louisville.edu/a-s/>)

Department: Political Science (<http://louisville.edu/politicalscience/>)

Program: Asian Studies (<http://louisville.edu/asianstudies/>)

Academic Plan Code(s): ASSTBA

Program Information

Asia is the home of 60 percent of the world's population. China and Japan are the second and third largest economies in the world, and India has also experienced very rapid economic growth in the last three decades. Asia has some of the world's most ancient civilizations in the world, such as the Chinese civilization and the Indian civilization.

The Bachelor of Arts in Asian Studies program at UofL is an undergraduate-level interdisciplinary program in the College of Arts and Sciences.

Completion of this degree requires work to be submitted for the department's Learning Outcomes Measurement. For details, contact the department.

Degree Summary

Code	Title	Hours
	General Education Requirements (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/) ¹	31
	College/School Requirements	22
	Program/Major Requirements ¹	39
	Supporting Courses	29
	Minimum Total Hours	121

¹ Some credit hours from the General Education Requirements may be satisfied by courses defined by the program, in which case additional electives will be required to complete the minimum hours for the degree.

Specific coursework information can be found on the Degree Requirements tab.

Departmental Admission Requirements

Admission to the BA in Asian Studies requires a minimum 2.0 cumulative University of Louisville GPA.

The Change Major Request form can be found under the Academic Progress tile on ULink (<https://ulink.louisville.edu/>).

General Education Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
	General Education Requirements (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/) [*]	31

^{*}All degrees require the completion of the University-wide General Education Program (link provided above). Some General Education requirements may be met in the requirements for the major or supporting coursework, in which case additional electives may be required to complete the minimum hours for the degree.

College/School Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
Arts & Sciences Requirements		
GEN 100 or GEN 101	Student Success Center First Year Experience Arts & Sciences First Year Experience	1
	Foreign Language ¹	12
	Electives in Humanities or Natural Sciences ²	9
	WR—two approved courses at the 300 level or above ³	
	Minimum Total Hours	22

Program/Major Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
Asian Studies Program		
AST 310	Introduction to Asian Studies - D2 (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/), SB (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	3
Art and Literature⁴		
	Select one of the following:	3
ARTH 339	Architecture and Gardens in China and Japan	
AST/ARTH 290	Survey of Asian Art - AH (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	
AST 330/ ARTH 335	Twentieth Century Chinese Artists and Architects - AH (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/), WR (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	
AST/ARTH 331	Chinese Art	
AST/CHST 351	Chinese Literature in Translation I - AH (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/), D2 (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	
AST/ARTH 531	Special Topics in Asian Art	

CHST 353	Chinese Literary Theory	
CHST 361	Western Literature in China	
HUM 369	Asian Theatre	
Philosophy and Religion ⁴		
Select one of the following:		3
AST 340/ HUM 341	South Asian Religious Thought and Culture - AH (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	
AST/CHST 341	Ethnicity and Religion in China	
AST/HUM 343	East Asian Religious Thought and Culture - AH (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	
CHST 331	Chinese Culture and Tradition	
HUM 218	Introduction to Eastern Religious Traditions - AH (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	
HUM 342	Eastern Mysticism	
HUM 307	East Asian Cultures	
HUM 314	Buddhist Scriptures	
PHIL 315	Asian Philosophy - AH (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	
History ⁴		
Select two of the following:		6
HIST 396	History of India	
AST/HIST 397	Traditional China	
AST/HIST 398	Modern China	
AST/HIST 399	Modern Japan	
HIST 584	Women in East Asian History	
Politics ⁴		
Select one of the following:		3
AST/ANTH 347	Global Capitalisms	
AST/POLS 365	The People's Republic of China - D2 (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/), SB (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/), WR (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	
AST/POLS 366	Politics of East Asia - D2 (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/), SB (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	
AST/POLS 367	Politics and Government of Southeast Asia	
AST 598	Nationalism and Modernity in East Asia	
POLS 345	Russia and Eurasia - WR (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	
POLS 362	Comparative Political Economy	
Popular Culture ⁴		
Select one of the following:		3
M L 271	Chinese Popular Culture - AH (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	

M L 310	Japanese Culture Through Film - AH (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	
or JPST 310	Japanese Culture Through Film - AH (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	
M L 312	Japanese Popular Culture - AH (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	
or JPST 312	Japanese Popular Culture - AH (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	
Contemporary Asia ⁴		
Select one of the following:		3
AST/GEOG 308	Understanding China: People, Environment and Development	
AST 314	Introduction to Japanese Society - D2 (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/), SB (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	
AST/GEOG 316	Geography of South Asia	
AST/ANTH 317	Contemporary Chinese Society - D2 (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/), SB (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	
AST 323	Doing Business in China	
AST/CHST 333	Contemporary China	
AST/CHST 335	China Through Film - AH (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/), D2 (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	
Language Courses ⁵		
Select one of the following sequences:		6
CHNS 301 & CHNS 302	Advanced Intermediate Chinese I & Advanced Intermediate Chinese II	
JAPN 301 & JAPN 302	Third-Year Japanese I & Third-Year Japanese II	
AST 495	Senior Seminar - CUE (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	3
One Asian Studies Humanities elective ⁶		3
One Asian Studies Social Science elective ⁷		3
Minimum Total Hours		39
Code	Title	Hours
Supporting Courses		
Electives in Social Sciences and Humanities, other than Asian Studies, at the 300-level or above		15
Minimum Electives ⁸		14
Minimum Total Hours		29

Consult your Asian Studies advisor about how independent study and special topics courses (AST 491, AST 500, AST 501) count in your major.

At least 50 of the total minimum hours required must be at the 300 level or above.

Code	Title	Hours
Culminating Undergraduate Experience (Graduation requirement)		
Requirement fulfilled by completing:		
AST 495	Senior Seminar - CUE (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	
¹ Completion of the intermediate level of a single foreign language. ² In addition to courses counted toward General Education; 6 hours must be at 300 level or above. ³ May be incorporated into other degree requirements. ⁴ AST 390, AST 391, AST 500, AST 501 and CHST 313 are special topics courses. They may be used to satisfy any area degree requirement depending on topic appropriateness with the program director's approval. ⁵ Other Asian languages may be substituted upon approval of the Director of the Asian Studies Program ⁶ Asian Studies Humanities electives include the following: AST 290/ARTH 290, AST 330/ARTH 335, AST 331/ARTH 331, ARTH 339, AST 270/CHST 270/M L 270, AST 323/CHST 323, CHST 313, CHST 331, AST 333/CHST 333, AST 335/CHST 335, AST 341/CHST 341, AST 351/CHST 351, CHST 353, CHST 361, HUM 218, HUM 307, AST 340/HUM 341, HUM 342, AST 343/HUM 343, HUM 369, AST 531/ARTH 531, M L 310, M L 313 (when topic is appropriate and approved by the program director). ⁷ Asian Studies Social Science electives include the following: AST 317/ANTH 317, AST 347/ANTH 347, AST 308/GEOG 308, AST 316/GEOG 316, AST 397/HIST 397, AST 398/HIST 398, AST 399/HIST 399, AST 365/POLS 365, AST 366/POLS 366, AST 367/POLS 367, HIST 396, HIST 584, POLS 345, POLS 362. ⁸ Students who satisfy General Education Requirements by courses defined by the program will require additional electives to complete the minimum hours for the degree.		
Flight Plan		
Year 1		
Fall		
GEN 100 or GEN 101	Student Success Center First Year Experience or Arts & Sciences First Year Experience	1
ENGL 101	Introduction to College Writing - WC (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	3
General Education: Cardinal Core Quantitative Reasoning - QR		3
General Education: Cardinal Core Natural Sciences - S		3
General Education: Cardinal Core Social & Behavioral Sciences - SB		3
CHNS 101 or JAPN 101	Elementary Chinese I or First-Year Japanese I	3
Hours		16
Spring		
ENGL 102	Intermediate College Writing - WC (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	3
General Education: Cardinal Core Natural Sciences with Lab - B		3
General Education: Cardinal Core Social & Behavioral Sciences Historical Perspective - SBH		3
General Education: Cardinal Core Oral Communication - OC		3
CHNS 102 or JAPN 102	Elementary Chinese II or First-Year Japanese II	3
Hours		15

Year 2		
Fall		
General Education: Cardinal Core Arts & Humanities US Perspectives - AHP1		3
CHNS 201 or JAPN 201	Intermediate Chinese I or Second-Year Japanese I	3
General Elective		3
General Elective		3
General Elective		3
Hours		15
Spring		
Humanities or Natural Science Elective		3
CHNS 202 or JAPN 202	Intermediate Chinese II or Second-Year Japanese II	3
AST 310	Introduction to Asian Studies - D2 (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/), SB (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	3
Asian Studies Area Elective		3
General Elective		3
Hours		15
Year 3		
Fall		
Humanities or Natural Science WR Elective (300 level or above)		3
Social Science Elective (not Asian Studies) (300 level or above)		3
Asian Studies Area Elective		3
Asian Studies Area Elective		3
CHNS 301 or JAPN 301	Advanced Intermediate Chinese I or Third-Year Japanese I	3
Hours		15
Spring		
Humanities or Natural Science Elective (300 level or above)		3
Social Science WR Elective (not Natural Science) (300 level or above)		3
Asian Studies Area Elective		3
Asian Studies Area Elective		3
CHNS 302 or JAPN 302	Advanced Intermediate Chinese II or Third-Year Japanese II	3
Hours		15
Year 4		
Fall		
Social Science Elective (not Asian Studies) (300 level or above)		3
Asian Studies Area Elective		3
Asian Studies Area Elective		3
Asian Studies Humanities Elective		3
AST 495	Senior Seminar - CUE (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	3
Hours		15
Spring		
Social Science Elective (not Asian Studies) (300 level or above)		3
Social Science Elective (not Asian Studies) (300 level or above)		3
Asian Studies Social Science Elective		3
General Elective		3
General Elective		3
Hours		15
Minimum Total Hours		121

The Flight Plan outlined above is intended to demonstrate one possible path to completing the degree within four years. Course selection and placement within the program may vary depending on course offerings and schedule, elective preferences, and other factors (study abroad, internship availability, etc.). Please consult your advisor for additional information about building a flight plan that works for you.

Degree Audit Report

Degree Audit reports illustrate how your completed courses fulfill the requirements of your academic plan, and which requirements are still outstanding. Degree audits also take transfer credits and test credits into account. "What-if" reports allow you to compare the courses you have completed in your current academic plan to the courses required in another academic plan. Should you have questions about either report, please consult with your academic advisor.

Flight Planner

The Flight Planner tool is available for you to create a personalized Flight Plan to graduation. Advisors have access to review your Flight Planner and can help you adjust it to ensure you remain on track to graduate in a timely manner.

To create these reports:

1. Log into your ULink account.
2. Click on the Academic Progress tile.
3. Select the appropriate report.
 - a. To run a Degree Audit report, click on "View my Degree Audit."
 - b. To create a What-if report, click on "What-if Advisement Report."
 - c. To run a Flight Planner report, click on "Use My Flight Planner."

Click here to run a Degree Audit report, create a What-if report, or run a Flight Planner report. (<https://ulink.louisville.edu>)