

CHINESE, B.A.

Begin Campus: Any Penn State Campus

End Campus: University Park

Program Description

Currently more than a billion people speak Chinese, making it one of the most widely spoken languages in the world. As a rising superpower with an increasingly global impact, China is a major international presence. The major in Chinese is designed to develop skills in speaking, understanding, reading, and writing Chinese, as well as to promote an understanding of the diverse literatures, cultures, and traditions of the Chinese-speaking world, ranging from China itself to Chinese-speaking America. The major can help students prepare for professional careers in which knowledge of Chinese, especially Mandarin, is useful. Students are strongly encouraged to study abroad.

Students planning to teach in public schools should schedule the appropriate courses leading to certification in consultation with an adviser in the College of Education.

What is Chinese?

The Chinese program provides students with an opportunity to concentrate on acquiring expertise in an important modern language and its culture. Giving students a strong working knowledge of the Chinese language and understanding of Chinese culture, the program can help prepare students for work in contexts where the language and culture are pertinent, to live and work in Sinophone areas of the world as informed and capable individuals equipped with appropriate intercultural skills and awareness, or for graduate study in China-related fields. Graduates may work in government service, domestic and foreign offices, or international agencies. Many go on to teach English in China, or to do translation work. Employment may also be available with trade organizations, international banking houses, or U.S. companies abroad. Domestic and multinational companies are increasingly seeking employees with backgrounds in multicultural studies as a way of dealing with the global market.

You Might Like This Program If...

- You are interested in Chinese language, culture, history, or society.
- You want to live or work in a Sinophone country.
- You are aiming for a career involving travel to Sinophone countries and interaction with native speakers of Chinese.