

Chinese

Learning Goals

1. To be able to understand and appreciate the complex literary and cultural traditions of China, both ancient and modern.
2. To develop the ability to reflect critically on the literatures and cultures of China.
3. To have the skills to conduct research using primary and secondary sources, and using traditional as well as electronic methods.
4. To clearly and critically think about, discuss, evaluate, and write about findings on cultural, linguistic, and literary topics.

About the major

At Middlebury, students interested in the study of Chinese and China have access to a Chinese Department with faculty who are scholars of Chinese literature and linguistics as well as experienced teachers of Mandarin Chinese.

Our sequence of language courses, which for many students includes study in the summer Chinese School and a semester abroad in China, is designed to train students to read authentic Chinese-language texts, including Web pages, magazine and newspaper articles, blog posts, white papers, letters, textbooks, and novels; to express themselves with sophistication, depth, and nuance in written Chinese; and to engage native speakers of Chinese fluently and naturally in the entire range of linguistic interaction, from casual conversation to serious discussion and debate. Many of our alumni live and work in China, Taiwan, and Hong Kong and use their language skills daily.

Chinese majors complete our sequence of language courses, take a selection of our courses on literature and culture, and undertake senior work on Chinese literature or culture that uses Chinese language primary and secondary materials.

“Studying in the Chinese Department was profoundly enriching, and from a professional perspective, has served me very well. With regard to my legal career, I believe my experience is proof that one really can do anything with a language major.”

—Zachary Chen '07
Assistant State's Attorney, Vermont

Reasons you might choose this major

- You are interested in one of the world's oldest continuous civilizations.
- You want to learn to read closely, analyze carefully, and share what you think through thoughtful discussion and clear, effective writing in both English and Chinese.
- You want to develop a stronger and deeper appreciation for the rich literary and cultural heritage of China.
- You want a marketable edge by learning to speak the world's most widely spoken language, native to the second largest economy.



Translating Learning into Professional Competencies

Throughout your time at Middlebury, you will develop and enhance the following core professional competencies, skills, and dispositions highly valued by employers that will prepare you for leadership and success in any given field:

Critical Thinking: Exercise sound reasoning to analyze issues, make decisions, and overcome problems.

Oral/Written Communications: Articulate thoughts and ideas clearly and effectively in written and oral forms.

Teamwork/Collaboration: Build collaborative relationships with colleagues and customers from diverse backgrounds.

Leadership: Leverage the strengths of others to achieve common goals, and use interpersonal skills to coach and develop others.

Professionalism/Work Ethic: Demonstrate personal accountability and effective work habits.

Global/Intercultural Fluency: Value, respect, and learn from diverse cultures, races, ages, genders, sexual orientations, and religions.

Digital Technology: Leverage existing digital technologies ethically and efficiently to solve problems, complete tasks, and accomplish goals.

Career Management: Identify and articulate one's skills, strengths, knowledge, and experiences relevant to career goals, and identify areas necessary for professional development.

Where Chinese majors go

Applying your learning through internships . . .

Students pursue internships and research in a variety of fields, enabling them to apply their liberal arts learning in real-world settings. Internships, research, and self-directed projects enrich your academic experience and help prepare you for life after Middlebury. Students have interned or done research at the following:

Family Health International China	U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom
Embassy of the Kingdom of Lesotho in China	The James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies
Tian Shan Policy Center	Bank of China
Asian University for Women Support Foundation	Makible Ltd.
The China Institute	Emerging Asia
Focus Advisory Services LLC	Department of Homeland Security
Inter-American Development Bank	U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Foreign Affairs
State Street Media	Council on Hemispheric Affairs
J.P. Morgan Chase	South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics, and the Environment
World Vision (China)	
Agriculture Bank of China	

. . . leading to meaningful, dynamic, and engaging career paths.

See just some of the many interesting ways our graduates have applied their liberal arts learning to engage the world. If you want to see what other Middlebury alumni are doing now, log into Midd2Midd and search by major. go/midd2midd

Natural Resources Group IIED, <i>Senior Researcher on China</i>	Yuuyi Digital Technology Co., Ltd., <i>Courseware Consultant and Planner</i>
Google Inc., <i>Hiring Innovation Manager</i>	Asbara Audio LLC, <i>Cofounder, CEO and Owner</i>
Procter & Gamble/Guangzhou, <i>Greater China Security Manager</i>	New York University (Shanghai), <i>Director of Development</i>
Barclay's Capital, <i>Vice President, Financial Sponsors</i>	One World Direct, <i>President</i>
US Department of Commerce, <i>International Trade Specialist</i>	NBC News, <i>Producer</i>
Shorelight Education, <i>Director, Global Operations and Strategy</i>	Caterpillar Inc., <i>Asia Advocacy Manager</i>
U.S. Department of Defense, <i>Language Analyst</i>	inVentiv Health Inc., <i>Managing Director, Communications (China)</i>
Linklaters (Hong Kong), <i>Attorney</i>	Center for Intelligence Research and Analysis, <i>Research Associate</i>
Facebook, <i>Global Business Accounts</i>	MAP Magazine, <i>Senior English Editor</i>
Standard Chartered Bank of Hong Kong, <i>Head, Highyield Product Group</i>	BBC Worldwide, <i>Regional Manager</i>
	U.S. Department of State, <i>Foreign Service Officer</i>