

Japanese (BA)

Japanese is the 9th most spoken language in the world and a global powerhouse in the culture industry. The Japanese major at the University of Oregon helps you turn language skills into real-world opportunities. You'll build advanced proficiency in Japanese while developing practical abilities in communication, translation, and cross-cultural understanding—skills that employers value in fields like international business, government, education, media, and nonprofit work.

Through both Japanese-language courses and courses taught in English on Japan's society, culture, media, literature, linguistics, and global role—plus study abroad and internship opportunities—you'll gain hands-on experience applying what you learn. Whether you're aiming for a global career or graduate study, the major gives you the tools to work confidently across cultures and industries. The top employers of our graduates include Amazon, Nike, and Intel. Housed in the Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures, the program fosters a supportive learning environment that prepares students to navigate an interconnected world with linguistic confidence and cross-cultural insight.

Students have the option of three different tracks in the Japanese major: language, culture, or linguistics. In consultation with department advisors, you can choose a track that will allow you to study and master those aspects of Japanese that interest you most.

Program Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this program, students will be able to:

- Content objectives (literature/film/culture): for culture and language intensive: Identify, describe, and explain materials, terminologies, methodologies, and theories in Japanese literature, film, media, or linguistics. For linguistics intensive: Identify, describe, and explain materials, terminologies, methodologies, and theories in Japanese linguistics.
- Critical thinking/Analytical skills: for culture and literature intensive: Read, discuss, and evaluate texts from both historical sources and contemporary works in literature, film and media, and linguistics, employing methodologies and criteria. For linguistics intensive: Discuss and evaluate descriptive grammars of Japanese, as well as studies on various levels of Japanese linguistics including, phonetics, phonology, semantics, syntax, pragmatics, sociolinguistics and the relationship between language, cognition and culture.
- Argumentation: Formulate original arguments, anticipating objections and responding in conscientious fashion.
- Communication: Communicate knowledge, ideas, and reasoning in written, oral, or other forms of languages, in English or Japanese. Reach intermediate/advanced proficiency level in written and spoken modern Japanese.

Japanese Major Requirements

- Culture Intensive (<https://catalog.uoregon.edu/arts-sciences/school-global-studies-languages/east-asian-lang-lit/ba-japanese/#conc-culture>)
- Language Intensive (<https://catalog.uoregon.edu/arts-sciences/school-global-studies-languages/east-asian-lang-lit/ba-japanese/#conc-language>)

- Linguistics Intensive (<https://catalog.uoregon.edu/arts-sciences/school-global-studies-languages/east-asian-lang-lit/ba-japanese/#conc-linguistics>)

Bachelor of Arts in Japanese: Culture-Intensive Option

At least five of the required courses must be completed within the Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures.

Code	Title	Credits
JPN 301	Third-Year Japanese I	4
JPN 302	Third-Year Japanese II	4
JPN 303	Third-Year Japanese III	4
Select two of the following:		8
JPN 411	Fourth-Year Spoken Japanese	
JPN 412	Fourth-Year Spoken Japanese	
JPN 413	Fourth-Year Spoken Japanese	
JPN 414	Fourth-Year Reading and Writing Japanese	
JPN 415	Fourth-Year Reading and Writing Japanese	
JPN 416	Fourth-Year Reading and Writing Japanese	
JPN 434	Advanced Readings in Japanese Literature	
JPN 435	Advanced Readings in Japanese Literature	
JPN 436		
JPN 437		
JPN 455	Japanese Business Culture and Language	
Select two of the following:		8
JPN 305	Japanese Literature 8-16th Century	
JPN 306	Japanese Literature 17th Century-World War II	
JPN 307	Japanese Literature World War II-Present	
JPN 315	Introduction to Japanese Linguistics	
Four upper-division courses ¹		16
Total Credits		44

¹ Courses must be in Japanese culture, literature, linguistics, film, or other advisor-approved areas taken from this or other departments. Of these, at least three must be from the Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures, with two having the JPN subject code. A third non-JPN course chosen from within the department may also count toward the culture-intensive option.

Bachelor of Arts in Japanese: Language-Intensive Option

At least five of the required courses must be completed within the Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures.

Code	Title	Credits
JPN 301	Third-Year Japanese I	4
JPN 302	Third-Year Japanese II	4
JPN 303	Third-Year Japanese III	4
JPN 411	Fourth-Year Spoken Japanese	4
JPN 412	Fourth-Year Spoken Japanese	4
JPN 414	Fourth-Year Reading and Writing Japanese	4

JPN 415	Fourth-Year Reading and Writing Japanese	4
JPN 413	Fourth-Year Spoken Japanese	4
or JPN 416	Fourth-Year Reading and Writing Japanese	
Select two of the following:		8
JPN 305	Japanese Literature 8-16th Century	
JPN 306	Japanese Literature 17th Century-World War II	
JPN 307	Japanese Literature World War II-Present	
JPN 315	Introduction to Japanese Linguistics	
Upper-division course ¹		4
Total Credits		44

¹ Courses must have the JPN subject code. Courses outside the department require advisor approval.

Bachelor of Arts in Japanese: Linguistics-Intensive Option

At least five of the required courses must be completed in the Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures.

Code	Title	Credits
JPN 301	Third-Year Japanese I	4
JPN 302	Third-Year Japanese II	4
JPN 303	Third-Year Japanese III	4
Select two of the following:		8
JPN 411	Fourth-Year Spoken Japanese	
JPN 412	Fourth-Year Spoken Japanese	
JPN 413	Fourth-Year Spoken Japanese	
JPN 414	Fourth-Year Reading and Writing Japanese	
JPN 415	Fourth-Year Reading and Writing Japanese	
JPN 416	Fourth-Year Reading and Writing Japanese	
JPN 434	Advanced Readings in Japanese Literature	
JPN 435	Advanced Readings in Japanese Literature	
JPN 436		
JPN 437		
Select three of the following:		12
EALL 209	Languages and Societies in East Asia	
JPN 315	Introduction to Japanese Linguistics	
LING 301	Introduction to Linguistics Analysis	
Three upper-division courses ¹		12
Total Credits		44

¹ At least two courses must be EALL linguistics courses. All of them require advisor approval.

Four-Year Degree Plans

Sample Cultural-Intensive Option (<https://catalog.uoregon.edu/arts-sciences/school-global-studies-languages/east-asian-lang-lit/ba-japanese/#Cultural>)

Sample Language-Intensive Option (<https://catalog.uoregon.edu/arts-sciences/school-global-studies-languages/east-asian-lang-lit/ba-japanese/#Language>)

Bachelor of Arts in Japanese: Cultural-Intensive Option

The degree plan shown is only a sample of how students may complete their degrees in four years. There are alternative ways. Students should consult their advisor to determine the best path for them.

Course	Title	Credits	Milestones
First Year			
Fall			
JPN 101	First-Year Japanese	4	
WR 121Z	Composition I	4	
Area-satisfying courses		8	
		Credits	16
Winter			
JPN 102	First-Year Japanese	4	
WR 122Z	Composition II	4	Complete writing requiremer
or WR 123	or College Composition III		
Area-satisfying courses		8	
		Credits	16
Spring			
JPN 103	First-Year Japanese	4	
Area-satisfying courses		12	
		Credits	16
Second Year			
Fall			
JPN 201	Second-Year Japanese I	4	
One major survey course (JPN 305, 306, 307, 315)		4	
Area-satisfying courses		8	
		Credits	16
Winter			
JPN 202	Second-Year Japanese II	4	
One major survey course (JPN 305, 306, 307, 315)		4	Complete major survey requirement
Area-satisfying course		8	
		Credits	16
Spring			
JPN 203	Second-Year Japanese III	4	Complete lower-division language requiremer
Upper-division elective course		4	
Area-satisfying course		4	Complete area requiremer
Elective course		4	
		Credits	16
Third Year			
Fall			
JPN 301	Third-Year Japanese I	4	

Upper-division elective course	4
Elective courses	8
Credits	16
Winter	
JPN 302 Third-Year Japanese II	4
Upper-division elective course	4
Elective courses	8
Credits	16
Spring	
JPN 303 Third-Year Japanese III	4
Complete third-year language requirement	4
Upper-division elective course	4
Complete upper-division elective requiremer	4
Elective courses	8
Credits	16
Fourth Year	
Fall	
One 400-level Japanese language course	4
Elective courses	8
Credits	12
Winter	
One 400-level Japanese language course	4
Complete fourth-year language requiremer	4
Elective courses	8
Credits	12
Spring	
Elective courses	12
Credits	12
Total Credits	180

Bachelor of Arts in Japanese: Language-Intensive Option

The degree plan shown is only a sample of how students may complete their degrees in four years. There are alternative ways. Students should consult their advisor to determine the best path for them.

Course	Title	Credits Milestones
First Year		
Fall		
JPN 101	First-Year Japanese	4
WR 121Z	Composition I	4
Area-satisfying courses		8
Credits		16
Winter		
JPN 102	First-Year Japanese	4

WR 122Z or WR 123	Composition II or College Composition III	Complete writing requiremer	4
Area-satisfying courses			8
Credits			16
Spring			
JPN 103	First-Year Japanese		4
Area-satisfying courses			12
Credits			16
Second Year			
Fall			
JPN 201	Second-Year Japanese I		4
One major survey course (JPN 305, 306, 307, 315)			4
Area-satisfying courses			8
Credits			16
Winter			
JPN 202	Second-Year Japanese II		4
One major survey course (JPN 305, 306, 307, 315)		Complete major survey requirement	4
Area-satisfying courses			8
Credits			16
Spring			
JPN 203	Second-Year Japanese III	Complete lower-division language requiremer	4
Upper-division elective		Complete upper-division elective	4
Area-satisfying course		Complete area requiremer	4
Elective course			4
Credits			16
Third Year			
Fall			
JPN 301	Third-Year Japanese I		4
Elective courses			12
Credits			16
Winter			
JPN 302	Third-Year Japanese II		4
Elective courses			12
Credits			16
Spring			
JPN 303	Third-Year Japanese III	Complete third-year language courses	4
Elective courses			12
Credits			16

Fourth Year

Fall

JPN 411	Fourth-Year Spoken Japanese	4
JPN 414	Fourth-Year Reading and Writing Japanese	4
Elective course		4
Credits		12

Winter

JPN 412	Fourth-Year Spoken Japanese	4
JPN 415	Fourth-Year Reading and Writing Japanese	4
Elective course		4
Credits		12

Spring

JPN 413 or JPN 416	Fourth-Year Spoken Japanese or Fourth-Year Reading and Writing Japanese	4
Elective courses		8
Credits		12
Total Credits		180