

Asian Studies (Southeast Asia Concentration) Assessment Snapshot

The BA degree in Asian Studies (Southeast Asia Concentration) is administered by the Center for Southeast Asian Studies and has been in operation for over twenty-five years. The mission of the program is to provide interested undergraduate students with Southeast Asian language training and multidisciplinary knowledge about Southeast Asia. The program, therefore, is focused on the acquisition of area knowledge rather than on any single discipline or on any specific theoretical/methodological approach.

The Center has no faculty of its own and the program coordinates course offerings on Southeast Asia in most of the departments of the College of Letters and Science, as well as those in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, the School of Education, and the Business School. To complete the BA degree students must reach 2nd-year proficiency (4th semester) in a SE Asian language (selected regular offerings being Filipino, Hmong, Indonesian, Thai, and Vietnamese) and take thirty credits of coursework on SE Asia, which must include three eight-credit concentrations, one social science, one in humanities, and one in a single discipline. There are no required capstone courses for the major, though most students take one of the two gateway courses: *Introduction to Southeast Asia* (Hist 244 and crosslisted in 4 other departments) and, when appropriate, *Introduction to the Cultures of Asia* (LCA 100). Likewise, most students complete the program by taking several undergraduate seminars, with regular offerings in Anthropology, Geography, History, International Studies, Languages and Cultures of Asia, and Music.

Student assessment is concentrated on three major activities: 1) language proficiency assessments administered at the end of each semester (conducted by the language instructor and departmental language pedagogy coordinator in the Department of Languages and Cultures of Asia); 2) student grades and occasional faculty assessments in the form of references for financial support and study abroad participation; and 3) regular meetings between majors and the program adviser aimed at assessing the student's performance and progress toward the degree. The input from these three avenues is annually reviewed by the CSEAS Education Committee in consultation with the Director and Associate Director to consider revisions and innovations in the program.

Program assessment is concentrated through four on-going processes: 1) routine faculty-course evaluations submitted by students in every class; 2) classroom visits and regular workshops for language instructors administered by the departmental language pedagogy coordinator (in LCA); 3) regular meetings between majors and the program adviser aimed at providing course and faculty assessments; and 4) follow-up communication with graduates to determine career and employment information.