

HONORS in Chinese

The Honors Seminar in World Languages and Cultures is a solid 2-term course in which a self-directed student pursues an individual interest that culminates in an academic research paper or a social initiative in a community of the target language. In order to be considered for Honors Seminar: Chinese, a student must provide to the department a portfolio of past work that displays at least intermediate-high competency and proficiency. Upon admission, a student will choose a track (Social Initiative or Academic Research) and design their own topic and project within that track's requirements.

Prerequisites

HONORS candidates must be enrolled in or have completed a fourth year or Advanced Placement course in the target language. Students must also supply a portfolio of past work in Chinese.

Honors Seminar: Social Initiative

The Honors Seminar: Social Initiative track is based on the Design Thinking model, in which a student identifies a need in a Chinese community. The student works through research, surveys and personal narratives to design a product or service that will ultimately meet the need of the Chinese community.

Honors Seminar: Academic Research

The Honors Seminar: Academic Research track is one in which a student proposes and designs a thesis and then completes research using authentic resources to produce a 18-20-page academic paper in support of that thesis.

Honors Project

The student will complete all speaking, reading, and writing components in the target language regardless of their choice in track. Outside of the Honors Seminar teacher, who will facilitate their independent learning process, each student will have a Language Mentor in their target language so as to provide added language-specific support and guidance on their project. The Language Mentor must approve the student's project in order for the student to proceed with research.

At the end of the seminar, the student will defend their project in the target language in a presentation before a committee from the Department of World Languages and Cultures. A student's HONORS plan must be approved by an advisor and the work defended in the target language before an HONORS committee.