

The Doctor of Philosophy Degree in East Asian Languages and Literatures at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa

CHINESE LANGUAGE/LINGUISTICS

PROGRAM SCOPE AND OBJECTIVES

The Ph.D. degree in East Asian Languages & Literatures aims to train future scholars for the academic profession. The Ph.D. specialization in Chinese language/linguistics offers students the opportunity to develop scholarly expertise in Chinese historical linguistics, phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, sociolinguistics, and/or language pedagogy.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

In addition to the requirements for admission to the M.A. program, admission to the Ph.D. program requires evidence of the M.A. earned with distinction, or its equivalent. Applicants will be asked to demonstrate their potential as scholars by submitting a research paper or thesis with their application.

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Residency requirement. The Graduate Division residency requirement is three semesters of full-time work as a classified student.

Language Requirement(s). Further language study is tailored according to the area of specialization and to make it best fit the needs of the individual student’s immediate research and intended professional career. In all cases this will involve, as a minimum, knowledge of a second East Asian language equivalent to two years of study; in some cases a third East Asian language or an additional European language may also be required.

Coursework Requirements. The University has a residency requirement for all Ph.D. students of three semesters of full-time coursework (a total of 24 credits) beyond the courses counted toward the M.A. degree. Students should consult with their advisors and plan a course of study that will best meet their academic needs.

Fields of mastery. The student shall take a comprehensive exam in four fields, one of which will be outside of the student’s area of specialization, followed by an oral examination on all of them. In this case, the expression “area of specialization” refers to the student’s concentration: Chinese language/linguistics.

Chinese language/linguistics concentration area: History, Structure Analysis (Syntax/Morphology/Phonology), Semantics, Sociolinguistics, or Pedagogy. The outside of the student’s area of specialization: General or other East Asian Linguistics, Second Language Studies.

Examinations

A qualifying assessment, required for all students regardless of where they earned their M.A., must be completed within the first three semesters of Ph.D. residency. The assessment format is prepared by a committee appointed by the Chair of the Graduate Field of Study and covers general knowledge of the language/linguistics of the concentration area. The assessment format will be a written examination (one week take-home) covering three fields of five areas (Historical Linguistics, Structure Analysis-Syntax/Morphology/Phonology, Semantics, Pedagogy, and Sociolinguistics). The results will be recorded in the student’s file.

A comprehensive examination consisting of written and oral parts will be given in the year of completion of coursework, or the following year, and after the student's committee agrees that the student is ready for it. The oral examination will cover all fields with emphasis on the field in which the candidate intends to specialize. The examination will cover three fields [from Historical Linguistics, Structure Analysis (Syntax/Morphology/Phonology), Semantics, Sociolinguistics, and Pedagogy] selected by the student, with emphasis on the field in which the student intends to specialize and one non Chinese language/linguistics area which can be chosen from General or other East Asian Linguistics or Second Language Studies. The format of the comprehensive examination is take-home and one week per field.

Scholarly/Publishable Paper requirement. Chinese Language/Linguistics students must additionally write a scholarly paper and receive an evaluation of "PASS" before the Ph.D. Comprehensive Examination can be scheduled. Two of Chinese linguistics graduate faculty members must evaluate the paper as a "PASS." A paper published in a reputable journal or in a refereed conference proceedings, or an M.A. thesis will be accepted as fulfilling this requirement.

Dissertation proposal. The student shall submit for his or her committee's approval a written dissertation proposal that includes an outline of the methodology to be used, and a bibliography. Student's should work closely with their doctoral committee chair when preparing the proposal. Defense of the dissertation proposal will be held subsequent to the comprehensive examination.

Advancement to Candidacy. Following the successful completion of the above requirements, the student is officially advanced to PhD candidacy, becoming an "ABD" – All-but-Dissertation – candidate. An "ABD Certificate" will be issued by the Graduate Division to the student.

Upon completion of the dissertation, an original contribution to the major field of study, the candidate will undergo a final oral examination in defense of the dissertation.

The Ph.D. in East Asian Languages and Literatures is a recognized WICHE regional graduate program. Residents of Alaska, Arizona, California (from Fall 2010), Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming are eligible, upon admission, to enroll at resident rates.