

Korean

The Korean major is offered by the Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures and includes courses in the language, culture, literature, drama, and linguistics of Korea. Students studying Korean progress from an elementary working knowledge of the language to oral and written fluency. From the very beginning, students familiarize themselves with Korean phonology and orthography, thereby getting a firm understanding of how the writing system decodes the sound of Korean. In the Korean Individualized Instruction channel, students opt to first familiarize with basic patterns of pronunciation and language structure by use of Romanization, then swiftly transition to the Korean writing system. The rich body of Korean literature and performance tradition is first studied in English translation; as students progress in the major and develop their language skills, they perform readings and workshops in Korean.

Pursuing Korean at Ohio State

All Ohio State freshman applicants are considered within a competitive admission process for the Columbus campus. The primary criteria for admission are the completion of the applicant's high school college preparatory program, performance in that program as indicated by class rank and/or grade-point average, and performance on either the ACT or SAT. Upon admission to the university, students can declare a major in Korean within the Arts and Humanities. Interested students should contact the undergraduate advisor in the Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures and in Arts and Sciences Advising.

Korean Requirements

Korean majors are required to design their programs from courses in language, culture, literature, and linguistics. Majors must complete at least 55 credit hours in Korean and Korean-related work. Programs should be planned in consultation with an advisor.

Core courses include Korean 101 through 104, and Korean 231. These courses do not apply toward the major.

Additional electives and General Education Curriculum requirements totaling 181 hours are required by the College of the Arts and Sciences for graduation.

Success in Korean requires a commitment to daily preparation and a willingness on the part of the student to use the opportunities provided in class to speak the language. In addition, students should begin considering and planning for a study abroad program as soon as they have decided to major in Korean.

Co-Curricular Opportunities

Ohio State offers many opportunities for students to learn and grow outside of the classroom. These range from cooperative education (co-op) and internships to study abroad programs to student organizations. Co-ops and internships place students in professional environments while they are Ohio State students. Ohio State offers more than 100 study abroad programs in 40 countries around the world. In addition, there are hundreds of student organizations on campus to meet the interests of a diverse student population.

These experiences enable students to gain valuable work experience, learn about cultures, and take on leadership roles before they enter the workforce. All of these experiences enhance learning and may provide an advantage in the job market.

Students interested in studying abroad during their junior or senior year can get specific information about various programs from their coordinating advisor in the Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures.

Honors & Scholars Programs

Ohio State offers the Honors and Scholars programs to create an environment of intellectual support and stimulation within a close-knit community of high-ability undergraduate students. Through these programs, students have access to smaller classes, undergraduate research opportunities, close working relationships with faculty, priority scheduling, and unique housing options.

Honors and Scholars programs represent great opportunities to be part of a smaller community within a large university. Good candidates for these programs will receive additional information after admission to the university. Learn more about the Honors and Scholars program at honors-scholars.osu.edu.

Study Abroad in Korea

There are numerous internships, fellowships, and study abroad opportunities available for students majoring in Korean. In addition to the programs established with Yonsei University and Ewha University, more programs, options, and locations are being considered.

Career Prospects in Korean

Korean is applicable to a variety of settings in the United States and abroad. Mastery of Korean allows students to consider careers in such fields as education, translation and interpretation, government, international trade, banking, print or electronic media, social work, diplomatic services, tourism, or art. Korean majors may also continue into graduate/professional school

For more information, check these web sites:

East Asian Languages and Literatures: deall.osu.edu

Arts and Humanities: artsandhumanities.osu.edu

Ohio State: osu.edu

Admissions: undergrad.osu.edu

Multicultural Center: multiculturalcenter.osu.edu

First Year Experience: fye.osu.edu

Curriculum Sample

This is a sample list of classes a student may take to pursue a degree in Korean. Since university students need more than specific education in a narrow field, they also will take classes to complete the General Education Curriculum (GEC). The GEC will allow students to develop the fundamental skills essential to collegiate success across major programs. Course work options satisfying the GEC often come from a variety of academic areas of study allowing students to tailor their GEC toward their interests. Note: This sample represents one of several possible paths to a degree in Korean. Consult the departmental web site, deall.osu.edu, for details on each specific track.

Freshman Year	
First-Year Korean	15
Elements of Korean Culture	5
Asian Philosophies	5
GEC (English composition)	5
GEC courses	15
Arts and Humanities Survey	1
Freshman Seminar	1
Total hours	47
Sophomore Year	
Second-Year Korean	15
Thoughts in East Asia	5
Korean Literature in Translation	5
GEC (second writing course)	5
GEC courses	15
Total hours	45
Junior Year	
Third-Year Korean	15
Korean Performance Tradition	5
GEC courses	25
Total hours	45
Senior Year	
Fourth-Year Korean	5
Linguistic structure of Korean	5
Electives	20
GEC courses	15
Total hours	45

in Korean, East Asian, Asian-American studies, and related fields. Many employers are eager to hire graduates who are fluent in Korean because their businesses interact with Korean speakers.

Careers in which Korean is the primary emphasis include teaching Korean at all levels; interpreting and translating for the United Nations, government, or for private and public organizations; and a variety of positions in the travel and hospitality industries at home or abroad, such as flight attendant, travel agent, tour guide, or hotel management personnel. Careers in which proficiency in Korean is a good secondary tool include banking and finance, business, sales, export purchasing, foreign market analysis, journalism, foreign correspondence, science and research, library science, hotel management, publishing, radio broadcasting, and teaching English in universities and private institutions in Korea and to employees in corporations abroad. All who study Korean find that the experience sharpens their understanding of language in general and makes them more attentive to nuance in their first languages, thus helping them exercise a greater amount of control over their own lives, no matter what their eventual fields of interest or occupations.

Possible jobs suitable for Ohio State graduates with Korean language majors include trade specialist for the Ohio Department of Development, consultant for the Ohio Chamber of Commerce, translation and interpretation services catering to the business and government sectors, and employment overseas and/or with corporations based in the Republic of Korea. Fluency in Korean language and culture prepares students for careers in international/global contexts.

Beginning salaries depend on candidates' skills and experience, and whether Korean is of primary or secondary importance in daily job performance. Korean language graduates find their marketable skills considerably enriched by their humanities education.

Career Counseling and Job Placement

Students can explore career options by utilizing Career Connection as well as the Arts and Sciences Career Services Office. Providing complimentary services, Career Connection focuses on helping students establish a career direction while the Arts and Sciences Career Services Office assists students with finding internships—experiences that are essential to testing out the suitability of career fields under consideration. Located in 48 Townshend Hall, the Arts and Sciences Career Services Office also assists seniors and recent graduates with finding entry-level, career employment. More information about both offices is found at ascareerservices.osu.edu and careerconnection.osu.edu.

Revised September 2009. For the most up-to-date information on the Korean program, please visit deall.osu.edu.

Contact information:

East Asian Languages and Literatures
398 Hagerty Hall | 1775 College Road | Columbus, Ohio 43210-1340
(614) 292-5816