Teaching Endorsements

General information on Washington State public school teacher certification is available from the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

The department of Asian Languages and Literature provides teaching endorsements in Chinese, Japanese and Korean in conjunction with the College of Education. The department of Asian Languages and Literature does not provide teacher certification. Please note that UW does not have dedicated teacher training programs in any Asian language. Some other institutions in the state provide broader educational opportunities.

Information about getting endorsements in conjunction with the College of Education’s Master in Teaching degree can be found at the Teacher Education Program site.

Teachers who already have a certification, and wish to add an endorsement, should determine which endorsement pathway is appropriate. (Currently, Pathway III is the only one available for adding endorsements in Chinese, Japanese and Korean.)

Please note that an endorsement in Chinese, Japanese or Korean may require additional coursework in the department. We do not offer evening or weekend courses.

If you are interested in an endorsement, first contact the College of Education to determine your eligibility and endorsement pathway. If you decide to proceed, contact one of the faculty members listed below for a departmental endorsement evaluation. You should bring an Endorsement Evaluation Form.

Email Michael Nielsen, Certification Coordinator in the College of Education, with questions about the Masters in Teaching program, certification or endorsements.

Chinese

First, review the application requirements for the Master in Teaching program through the College of Education at UW on the Teacher Education Site, and then download the Endorsement Evaluation Form. Second, download the department’s detailed coursework requirements for an endorsement (PDF). (The department may accept substitutions of some courses if equivalent coursework has been taken elsewhere).

Email Professor Chan Lü with questions about Chinese courses.

Japanese

Review the information on the College of Education’s Teacher Education Site to learn about UW’s teacher certification/endorsement programs.
To satisfy Japanese subject requirements, courses vary depending upon the individual's backgrounds. Those educated in Japan generally need to take a Japanese linguistics course. Those educated in the US who have "Japanese major" or "Japan studies" backgrounds probably also need something similar. Those with language proficiency who were not educated in Japan AND lack Japan-related college coursework will need more courses.

Please send Professor Amy Ohta your answers to the following questions, and she will work with you to determine what course or courses you might need to take, if any:

1. In what country did you receive your high school and college educations? What was the language of instruction in your high school and in your college?
2. Please list Japan-related college social sciences and humanities courses you have completed.
3. Have you had one or more college courses in linguistics? If so, please list these.
4. Please attach a scan of your college transcripts.
5. For those who did not graduate from a Japanese-medium high school or college in Japan: Have you passed the ACTFL OPI (speaking and writing) with scores of advanced low or higher in Japanese? (This is required by the College of Education in order to earn a World Languages endorsement, but is not part of the Japanese subject requirements overseen by Asian Languages & Literature.)

Korean

Review the information on the College of Education's Teacher Education Site to learn about UW's teacher certification/endorsement programs.

Those educated in the US must:

1. Minor* in Korean

2. Take one course each in: 1) Korean literary and cultural studies offered by the Department of Asian Languages and Literature, 2) Korean political and historical studies offered by the Jackson School of International Studies, 3) Linguistics (either LING 200 or LING 400).  
   (This requirement may be satisfied by courses taken for your Korean minor.)

3. Prove your proficiency in Korean via the ACTFL OPI and WPI tests with scores of advanced low or higher in Korean. (This is required by the College of Education in order to earn a World Languages endorsement, but is not part of the Korean subject requirements overseen by Asian Languages & Literature.)

   *If you are not able to minor in Korean because you place out of "required" language courses, the minor requirement can be waived, but you must satisfy the other requirements 2 and 3.

   Email Dr. Heekyoung Cho with questions about Korean courses.

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