Application Packet for Becoming a CAPS Major

Thank you for your interest in the China and Asia-Pacific Studies (CAPS) Program at Cornell University, included in this packet you will find:

- The CAPS Major Introduction Sheet
- Request to Become a CAPS Major Form
- CAPS Major Worksheet Form
- CAPS Honors Program Information Sheet
- Photo, Video, and Audio Consent and Release Form

Application Procedure and Requirements

Any Cornell College of Arts and Sciences student wishing to become a CAPS major must officially apply to the program. Entrance is limited to twenty students per academic year. So students are encouraged to apply for the major early upon their admission to the College of Arts and Sciences. Students who are interested in the CAPS major should:

- Schedule a meeting with the CAPS Program Manager, Professor Xu Xin. He can be reached by phone at 607-255-4741 or by email at xx12@cornell.edu.
- Fill out the CAPS Major Application forms
- Obtain an official transcript from the University Registrar’s office at: http://transcript.cornell.edu/
- Return the following application documents to the CAPS Main Office in 105A Morrill Hall:
  - Request to become a CAPS major form
  - CAPS major worksheet form
  - Photo, video, and audio Consent and Release form
  - Copy of your Cornell transcript

If you have any questions regarding the above procedures, please feel free to contact us.

CAPS Program
105A Morrill Hall
Phone: 607-255-2654
Email: caps@cornell.edu
The CAPS MAJOR: An Introduction

China and Asia-Pacific Studies (CAPS) offers a unique approach to the study of China’s language, history, politics, economy, society, and foreign relations by providing students with experience both on- and off-campus, including three years in Ithaca; one semester in Beijing, China; and one (optional) semester in Washington, D.C.

Students interested in the CAPS major should speak to Professor Allen Carlson, the CAPS Director, or Professor Xu Xin, CAPS Program Manager, as early as possible to arrange for a major advisor.

There are no prerequisites to the major. Upon enrollment in the program, CAPS majors must complete six or seven required CAPS courses and two elective CAPS courses (totaling 34 to 36 credits) with a grade average of C or better. Students are required to take one gateway courses and a student may declare the CAPS major before taking any required or elective courses.

One CAPS gateway course. CAPS majors must take any one of the following courses (taught in Ithaca), normally during the first two years.

- CAPS 3049 China's Next Economy (crosslisted GOVT 3044);
- CAPS 3403 China under Revolution and Reform (crosslisted GOVT 3403)
- CAPS 3827 China and the World (crosslisted GOVT 3827)
- CAPS 3907 Crises in Asia (crosslisted GOVT 3907)
- CAPS 3967 What is China? (also GOVT 3967)

Other required courses. CAPS majors must complete all the following required courses:

- ALS 4200 Immersion and Engagement in DC (taught at Cornell in Washington);
- CAPS 3000 Seminar in American Relations with China (taught at Cornell in Washington);
- CAPS 4998 Inquiry in Politics and Policy (also GOVT 4998) (taught at Cornell in Washington);
- CAPS 4001 China in Transition (taught in Beijing);
- CAPS 4002 Chinese Perspectives on International and Global Affairs (taught in Beijing);
- CAPS 4030 Issues in China and Asia-Pacific Studies (taught in Ithaca spring of senior year).

For students opting out of the D.C. semester, they will be required to take the following courses offered in Ithaca as a replacement:

- CAPS 3502 Becoming a China Hand (Ithaca)
- Two 4000-level seminars (in any department or college) that has a China focus (subject to approval by the CAPS Program Director) (Ithaca)

Two CAPS elective courses. CAPS majors may choose any two of the following courses to fulfill the CAPS elective requirements see the current list at CAPS Major web site: https://caps.cornell.edu/major. Students may choose other CAPS-related courses to fulfill the CAPS elective requirement upon permission of the Program Director. Taking additional CAPS gateway courses counts toward fulfillment of the CAPS elective requirement.
Chinese Language Requirements

CAPS majors are required to complete three years of college-level Chinese-language courses (CHIN 1000 level through 3000 level) and acquire the high-intermediate (CHIN 3000) Chinese proficiency or higher upon graduation (effective Fall 2018). They are expected to maintain a minimum grade of B+ in their Chinese language courses; failure to maintain this expectation may result in dismissal from the major.

CAPS majors are strongly encouraged to take 4000-level advanced Chinese-language courses during the CAPS semester in Beijing. Two 4000-level Chinese courses may count as one CAPS elective course. Only those who reach the 4000-level Chinese proficiency are eligible for candidacy in the CAPS Honors Program (see "CAPS Honors Program").

All CAPS minors need to complete the equivalent of second-year Chinese (CHIN 2000 level), or if they place beyond the second year, they must complete any single Chinese-language course at a higher level.

Students who have graduated from a Chinese high school (not an international school) in the PRC or Taiwan are exempt from the Chinese language requirement. They need to submit a copy of their high school diploma to the Director of the Chinese Language Program in the Department of Asian Studies in order to finalize the process. Students who do not have this qualification are required to take the placement test. If they can demonstrate the linguistic skills of the Chinese high school graduate, they are granted exemption.

Visit the CAPS Major page https://caps.cornell.edu/major to see the explanations about the placement testing, exemptions, and CAPS Chinese language course sequencing in detail.

Internships:  CAPS majors hold internships in diverse areas, including government, business, the media, and in other organizations during the semester they study in Beijing, China, (and in Washington, D.C., if they choose to participate in Cornell in Washington). Majors are encouraged to coordinate the two experiences. For example, in successive years students might hold internships at the China desk of the Washington Post in Washington, D.C., and at the China bureau of the Washington Post in Beijing, China. More information about CAPS internships can be found at http://caps.cornell.edu/internships.

Honors:  To become a candidate for honors, a CAPS major must maintain an overall grade average of B+ and a grade average of A- in courses pertinent to the major and have received approval for an honors project proposal from a CAPS faculty advisor. Only those who reach the 4000-level Chinese language proficiency are eligible for candidacy in the CAPS Honors Program. During the senior year, a CAPS honors candidate completes the research and writing of an honors thesis by taking two tutorials, CAPS 4010 in Beijing and CAPS 4020 in Ithaca. More information about the CAPS Honors program can be found at http://caps.cornell.edu/major.
CAPS Major Worksheet

Name: ____________________________     Date: ____________

Net ID # ____________     Cornell ID # ____________     Class Year: ____________

CAPS COURSES

One gateway course:

Please circle course taken:

CAPS 3049     CAPS 3403     CAPS 3827     CAPS 3907     CAPS 3967

Other Required Courses

Please list the semester taken or will take:

_____ ALS 4200     _____ CAPS 3000     _____ CAPS 4998   (CIW Semester)

_____ CAPS 4001     _____ CAPS 4002   (Beijing Semester)

_____ CAPS 3502 *    Two 4000-level courses with a China focus* _____ _____   (Ithaca Campus)

(* For students opting out of the CIW Semester)

One Capstone Course

_____ CAPS 4030

Two CAPS Elective Courses  Please list numbers of courses that you have or plan to take:

________________     __________________

CHINESE LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT

Freshmen year _____ and _____     Sophomore year _____ and _____

Junior year _____ and _____     Senior year _____ and _____

April 2019
Request to Become a China and Asia-Pacific Studies Major

Please print or type the following information:

CUID #: __ __ __ __ __ __ ______ Date: _____________

Name: ____________________________________________
(Last, First, M.I.)

E-mail Address: _____________ @cornell.edu

School address: __________________________________________
____________________________________________________

Cell phone #: ________________________________________

Home address: ____________________________
____________________________________________________
____________________________________________________

Home phone #: ____________________________

I am applying for: (   ) Major
(   ) Double Major Current major with: _____________

Graduating Class of: _______ ________
(Month) (Year)

OFFICE USE: Tentative Advisor: ____________________ pending consent of advisor.
Honors in China and Asia-Pacific Studies
Qualifications and Requirements

Candidates for honors must maintain an overall average of B+ (3.3) and an average of A- (3.7) in courses pertinent to the major. To be eligible for a degree with honors in China and Asia-Pacific Studies (CAPS), a student must in the senior year write an honors essay and take an oral examination in the declared area of research. Only those who reach the 4000-level Chinese language proficiency are eligible for candidacy in the CAPS Honors Program. Students must make their own arrangements for a thesis advisor. Students should select an advisor from the China & Asia-Pacific Studies program faculty before the end of their junior year and discuss with that person plans for a project. After securing a thesis advisor, the student must submit an Honors Application which includes a description of the proposed honors thesis and the endorsement from their thesis advisor stating that he/she will supervise the student's honors thesis. Once the application has been approved, the honors student, in consultation with their thesis advisor, must find a reader among the CAPS faculty by the end of the 3rd week of classes in the spring semester of their senior year.

To research and write their thesis, senior honors candidates, in most cases, enroll in CAPS 4010 in the fall of their senior year (while at Peking University) and continue in CAPS 4020 in the spring. Theses (three copies) are due in the China and Asia-Pacific Studies program Main Office by the 13th week of classes in the spring semester. The deadline will be announced. Theses may not exceed 60 pages of text.

After submitting the thesis to the department, students need to arrange an oral exam date with their supervisor and one other reader (selected by the student in consultation with the thesis advisor) from the China and Asia-Pacific Studies program faculty. That exam should take place sometime in the last week of the spring term or during study period. The level of honors awarded to the honors thesis student will be determined by the CAPS Director on the basis of the evaluation by the student's Honors Thesis Advisor and reader and the student’s grade record in the major. Students are awarded one of four designations: (1) no honors, (2) honors (cum laude), (3) high honors (magna cum laude), and (4) highest honors (summa cum laude). For further information on CAPS Honors, please check the CAPS Honors page at http://caps.cornell.edu/major.