WHAT CAN I DO WITH A MAJOR IN … ASIAN STUDIES

OCCUPATIONAL OVERVIEW:
The UNM Asian Studies (2013) website describes the program as, “an interdisciplinary program bringing together the resources and faculty of various departments at the University of New Mexico relating to Asia.” The UNM Asian Studies program fosters a unique understanding relating to the global village from a perspective that consists of historical and daily experiences of Asian countries and their diverse cultures. Employers in a variety of industries, including local or international business, education, non-profits, and government organizations, seek out qualified graduates who have personal and professional intercultural understanding and skills developed in an Asian Studies program.

EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENT:
A bachelor's degree is the minimum formal education required and this degree also provides both skills for making a living and learning as life-long endeavor. Consult O*Net for more information on the specific KSAs (Knowledge, Skill, Ability) that are required for this career.

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO:
The UNM Asian Studies Program offers a Bachelor’s of Arts in Asian Studies as well as an Undergraduate Minor. You can find further information on the UNM Asian Studies website.

INDUSTRIES & TARGET EMPLOYERS:
A variety of employers specifically recruit UNM students and alumni. Consult UNM's Lobo Career Connection for a complete list of employers and current job postings. Speak with a Career Development Facilitator at the UNM Office of Career Services for help with identifying employers or additional resources for your occupation of choice. The following occupations listed beneath may be directly or indirectly related to Asian Studies and some of these careers may require additional education beyond a Bachelor's degree.

Government
- Public affairs officer, cultural affairs, foreign service officer, census work or surveying, policy analyst, regional/urban planner, community development, AmeriCorps or Peace Corps volunteer, affirmative action worker, assistant to member of parliament, community liaison officer, consular services, cultural affairs specialist, customs inspector, development director, diplomat, foreign correspondent, human rights officer, immigration officer, immigration services worker, intelligence service, international public health worker, international relations officer, international worker, interpreter, national security agency director, overseas representative, population specialist, rural development officer, political analyst

Education/Student Affairs
- K-12 teaching/administration, college preparation, counseling/advising, adult/GED education, missionary, University/college teaching/administration, research, advising/counseling, multicultural affairs, residence life, Greek affairs, student activities, admissions officer, affirmative action officer, librarian, archivist, curator, admissions director, college placement officer, continuing education specialist, educational administrator, exchange student program coordinator, financial aid director, independent caring trainer, instructor, international education specialist, international student advisor, language school director

Business/Industry
- Multicultural communication specialist, public relations, employment counselor, management, training and development, sales representative, advertising, consulting, marketing, entrepreneur, non-profit director, grants specialist, fundraising director, campaign planner, bank administrator, catalogues, consultant, cultural resource management, customer support specialist, data analyst, data entry manager, economic risk analyst, economist, employment coordinator, employment equity officer, health and human resources director, hospitality worker, hotel manager, import specialist, international marketing analyst, international trade and development, interviewer, management trainee, multinational marketing, planning assistant, program developer

Communications
- Public relations, editor, publishing, writing, journalism
Human Services/ Public Health
Human resources, community organizer, case worker, mental health services, rehabilitation, health education/counseling, occupational health and safety, community health workers, nurse, physician, physician assistant, bilingual/bicultural program specialist, career counselor, child welfare officer, conciliator, cultural center coordinator, family guidance clinic worker, family services specialist, guidance counselor, nutritionist, occupational therapist, physical therapist, recreation director, residence counselor, volunteer coordinator, youth program leader

Law/Politics
Law, lobbying, government relations, public policy, research, immigration services, campaign management, elected/appointed civil servants, arbitrator, corrections officer, court administration, court translator, criminal investigator, criminologist, intellectual properties attorney, judge, political analyst, political geographer

Performing/Creative Arts/Others
Artist management, musician, performer, playwright, foreign publications editor, freelance author, fundraiser, guide book writer, international airport visitor’s center, exhibit assistant, international health care systems analyst, international visitors escort/consultant, news correspondent, news producer, publishing staff, radio host speech writer, sports reporter, travel planner

Research
Academic researcher, census research, cultural artifact specialist, ethnic/cultural research, heritage assistant, historian, populations studies researcher, radio researcher, securities examiner, survey researcher

SUGGESTED STRATEGIES:
• Consider specializing your skill set through a double major or minor in another area.
• Gain professional experience in your area of interest through involvement in internships, student employment, Co-ops, and/or volunteer opportunities.
• Shadow professionals in your field of interest to gain a better understanding of their occupation and to build relationships with professional mentors.
• Build your network and get involved on campus through student organizations and campus events. Some related student organizations are Asian Student In America (ASIA), Chinese Student Friendship Association, India Students Association, and the Turkish Student Association. You can find more organizations and events at the Student Activities Center website.
• Attend career-related campus events such as career fairs, company information sessions, and or career workshops.
• Students who are interested in graduate school should maintain a high undergraduate GPA and develop relationships with faculty and community leaders.
• Speak with mentors and faculty about career opportunities.
• Job leads can be found on your department’s website, list-serv, newsletters, and social media sites.
• Consider working in multiple departments throughout campus to gain experience in areas you are interested in through work study or student employment.
• Focus on developing “transferable skills” such as computer competency, written/verbal communication, and project management.
• Seek leadership opportunities on campus. Some positions may require an advanced degree.
• Research government internship program and think about interning with a government agency to get a foot in the door, as well as building your resume.
• Make sure to research organizations’ values, so it could be congruent with yours. Knowledge about organizations is critical, because it shows to employers that you’ve done your research and committed to work for them.

ASIAN STUDIES GRADUATE PROGRAMS IN WESTERN UNITED STATES
Arizona State University
Brigham Young University
California State University, Long Beach
California State University, Los Angeles
San Diego State University
San Francisco State University
Stanford University
University of Arizona
University of California, San Diego
University of California, Santa Barbara
University of Colorado at Boulder
University of Denver
University of Hawaii at Manoa
University of Oregon
University of San Francisco
University of Southern California
University of California, Berkeley  
University of California, Irvine  

University of Texas, Austin  
University of Washington

INFORMATIONAL WEBSITES:
United States Department of State  
http://www.state.gov/careers/

East Asia  
Stanford University, Center for East Asian Studies  
University of California, Berkeley, Institute of East Asian Studies  
University of Hawaii, National Resource Center for East Asia  
University of Kansas, Center for East Asian Studies  
University of Southern California, UCLA/USC East Asian Studies Center  
University of California, Los Angeles, Asian Institute  
University of Washington, East Asia Center

South Asia  
University of California, Berkeley, Center for South Asian Studies  
University of Texas, Center for Asian Studies

Southeast Asia  
University of California, Los Angeles, Center for Southeast Asian Studies  
University of California, Berkeley, Center for Southeast Asian Studies  
University of Hawaii, Center for Southeast Asian Studies  
University of Washington, Center for Southeast Asian Studies

http://onetonline.org  
http://www.bls.gov/

REFERENCE  