JAPANESE / MINOR IN JAPANESE STUDIES
Exchange Program with Seigakuin University, Tokyo

INTRODUCTION
LaGrange College shares a cooperative international exchange agreement with Seigakuin University of Tokyo. Students who wish to complete a minor in Japanese Studies must complete successfully at least two (2) semesters (6 hours) of Japanese language study at LaGrange College and at least six (6) hours of study at Seigakuin University. In most cases, students spend one (1) semester at Seigakuin University. The Japanese Studies Program Director advises students who wish to study at Seigakuin University.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES
The exchange agreement between LaGrange College and Seigakuin University states that its intent — is to promote international friendship and world peace by encouraging students and faculty from each institution to develop friendships within and learn more about the culture of the other country. In addition, the agreement allows each student to have an extensive international experience and to learn Japanese in a total immersion environment.

ASSESSMENT OF LEARNING OBJECTIVES
Program goals are assessed by meeting the following criteria:
Successful completion of at least two (2) semesters of Japanese study at LaGrange College with an overall average of B or above.
Admission to the Seigakuin exchange program after review by the Program Director and the selection committee.
Completion of at least six (6) hours of study at Seigakuin University with grades of C- or above in each class.

REQUIREMENTS FOR A MINOR IN JAPANESE STUDIES
1. Courses Offered at LaGrange College
   - JAPN 1101 Beginning Japanese I 3 hours
   - JAPN 1102 Beginning Japanese II 3 hours
   - JAPN 2103 Intermediate Japanese I 3 hours
   - JAPN 2105 Intermediate Japanese II 3 hours

Students must successfully complete at least JAPN 1101 and 1102 with a grade of B or better before they can study abroad. It is recommended that students complete at least the third semester of Japanese (JAPN 2103) with a grade of B or better.
2. Courses Offered at Seigakuin University

Seigakuin University has exchange relationships with several international universities and offers a slate of courses each semester that serves their needs. These courses are of three types:

- Courses taught in English and about Japanese history and culture
- Courses taught in simplified Japanese (i.e., using a limited number of Kanji)
- Courses taught in Japanese for regular Japanese Seigakuin students, but that allow international students to turn in papers and exams written in English

Courses cover a broad range of topics, including the Japanese language, history, culture, and economy. In consultation with the Japan Studies minor advisor, students select a slate of courses from the Seigakuin schedule during the pre-registration period at LaGrange College. The student registers for several sections of this course:

- JAPN 3000: Special Topics in Japanese Studies: [subtitle varies according to course topic] (variable credit)

In consultation with the LaGrange College Registrar and the Provost, the Japan Studies advisor will establish correct hours earned and will develop course subtitles that best describe the contents of each course. Course credits will be transferred to LaGrange College if the student receives a course grade of C- or higher.

SELECTION OF STUDENTS

Participation of LC students in the exchange program is necessarily limited and competitive. Each year the Japanese Studies Director, in consultation with a selection committee of faculty and staff, selects those students who are best prepared to pursue studies in Japan and who will best represent the college. Criteria for selection include:

- Japanese language skills, based on semesters in Japanese completed and grades earned;
- ability to articulate clear goals for participating in the program;
- the maturity to handle the stress of living in a foreign country;
- character that represents the mission and values of LaGrange College.

Studying abroad requires a great deal of paperwork and planning. Students who wish to study at Seigakuin University should consult with the Japanese Studies program advisor as soon as they begin to consider studying abroad. Students must contact the program advisor no later than the beginning of the semester before they wish to study abroad. For example, students who wish to study in Japan in the fall term must initiate contact with the program advisor no later than the beginning of the prior spring term. Students who wish to study in Japan in the spring term must initiate contact no later than the beginning of the prior fall term.
While the Program Director will advise students through the application process, the preparation ultimately is the student’s own responsibility.