

Reilly Aldrich, Economics, Chinese Flagship, Certification in Applied Business Data Analytics, Class of 2023

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Written: Spring 2022

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Reilly Aldrich is a junior from Hendersonville, Tennessee. She is majoring in Economics and earning certification in Applied Business Data Analytics. She is also majoring in Chinese as a part of the Chinese Flagship Program. After college, she hopes to work in data analytics for an international business. She chose to study Chinese in addition to economics because she believes it will make her more competitive in the job field and in the work place, and it will allow her to travel abroad and do work in Asia.

Before college, Reilly did not know any Chinese. Now, almost three years into the Chinese Flagship Program, she has achieved an intermediate level of proficiency in the language. She will continue taking these intensive classes with the goal of achieving a superior level of Chinese proficiency, as determined by the ACRFL scale. Through the Chinese Flagship Program, she will also have the opportunity to take a capstone year abroad. This would give her an immersive experience to utilize all that she has learned and achieve a higher level of fluency in Chinese.

Reilly emphasizes that she could not have gotten this far in the program without the supportive faculty in the Modern Languages Department and her incredible group of peers. She says, “Everyone in the program is very supportive, and there is a very tight-knit community of people because of our shared experience of learning such a difficult language.”

Her advice for anyone pursuing a language is, “The first semester is hard and feels awkward, but I promise you will eventually impress everyone with your language skills. You just need to dedicate your time and effort to it.”

