

Maeve Wilcox, Chinese, Class of 2023

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Maeve Wilcox is a second semester student in the WKU Department of Modern Languages. She is originally from Marseilles, Illinois, but came to WKU last semester to take part in the Chinese major program. Wilcox chose the program because of her interest in the Chinese language, which she also studied before coming to the Hill.

Wilcox has a strong interest in using her Chinese to help her reach her professional goals. In addition to Chinese, she is also in the Teaching English as a Second Language (TESL) undergraduate program that offers a wide array of courses on linguistics, pedagogy, and practicum courses. She explained to Modern Languages that her goal is to teach both English and Chinese at a high school or pursue Chinese film marketing. Her basis in the two languages will certainly help her achieve those goals.

When asked about the importance of language learning and advice that Wilcox could offer to students thinking about learning another language, she said: "I think that it is an important skill to have - and having a language major gives you an advantage in the workplace. You will be able to interact with a more diverse group of people in a more meaningful way. I think that it is also important that you have a passion for the language you choose to study as oftentimes it is hard to truly push yourself unless a motivator is there." In this way, Wilcox sees language as a core asset and skill in the workforce and that it bridges communication barriers between all groups of people. She also recognizes the importance of passion and motivation in learners, which serves as the oil fueling the language learning process.

