German MAJOR (B.A.)

https://cola.unh.edu/languages-literatures-cultures/program/ba/german-major

Description

The German major is offered by the Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures. This program is of interest to the following groups of students:

- Those who have a special interest in the German language, literature and culture.
- Those who intend to enter fields in which a background in foreign languages and cultures is desirable, such as business, engineering, the sciences, law, international affairs, government service and international service.
- Those who plan to teach German in secondary schools. Since most secondary schools require their teachers to teach more than one subject, students planning to enter teaching at this level should plan their programs carefully. They should combine a major in one culture and language with a minor or at least a meaningful sequence of courses in another subject. Dual majors also are possible. For certification requirements, see the section coordinator.

All German majors are strongly encouraged to double major or include a relevant minor in their studies.

Requirements

A major consists of 10 courses in German beyond GERM 402 Elementary German II. Courses required for the major (or their equivalents):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GERM 503</td>
<td>Intermediate German I</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>GERM 504</td>
<td>Intermediate German II</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>GERM 525</td>
<td>Introduction to German Culture and Civilization</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>GERM 631W</td>
<td>Advanced Communications Skills I</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GERM 632</td>
<td>Advanced Communications Skills II</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Select four courses, taken at the 600 or 700 levels 1</td>
<td>16</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Capstone: Select one course at the 700 level 2</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Total Credits</td>
<td>40</td>
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1 A successful IROP or SURF application may count as one of the 700-level courses. One upper-division German course can be replaced with one of the following courses:
- GERM 521 Major German Authors in English
- LCC 55A Professional Culture in European Union - - Case Study: Germany
- LCC 55 Comparative Literature: Masterpieces of World Literature I
- LCC 55 Comparative Literature: Masterpieces of World Literature II
- ENGL 693 Special Topics in Literature
- PHIL 496 Topics
- ARTH 680 Iconoclasm and Collecting: The Art of Early Modern Northern Europe
- POLT 552 Contemporary European Politics

Students are strongly encouraged to take a GERM or LLC course to complete their major. Students must petition the German Program for the acceptance of non-GERM or LLC courses towards the German major. Courses not listed above must be discussed ahead of time with a German faculty member.

2 Including GERM 797 Special Studies in German Language and Literature and GERM 798 Special Studies in German Language and Literature

A grade of C- or better is required in all major coursework. Majors are required to spend a minimum of one semester in an approved German-speaking study abroad program, or at least eight weeks in a summer study program. For students spending one semester abroad, two or three of the five upper-level courses are normally taken in Durham. For students spending a whole academic year abroad, one or two of the five upper-level courses are normally taken in Durham. LLC 791 Methods of Foreign Language Teaching does not count for major credit; LLC 791 Methods of Foreign Language Teaching is recommended as an elective and required for teacher certification.

The required minimum overall GPA in major coursework is 2.0.

Candidates for a degree must satisfy all of the University Discovery Program requirements in addition to satisfying the requirements of each individual major program. Bachelor of arts candidates must also satisfy the foreign language proficiency requirement.

German majors may use two major-required courses to satisfy two Discovery category requirements.

Student Learning Outcomes

Specific outcomes for Linguistic Competency The German Program applies the ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines to evaluate the linguistic competency of its graduates.

- Speaking Proficiency: Graduates of the program achieve a speaking proficiency of Intermediate High to Advanced Mid, with the majority of students achieving the level of Advanced Low. Students demonstrate an ability to speak clearly and with precision about personal, professional, and academic topics.
- Writing Proficiency: Graduates of the program achieve a written proficiency of Intermediate High to Advanced Mid, with the majority of students achieving the level of Advanced Low. Students demonstrate an ability to write clearly about professional or academic topics, including introductory research in the area of literature and culture studies.
- Listening Proficiency: Graduates of the program achieve a listening proficiency of Advanced Low to Advanced High, with the majority of students achieving the level of Advanced Mid. Students demonstrate an ability to understand conventional as well as complex narratives that may use uncommon vocabulary or address difficult topics, such as theater plays in the target language.
- Reading Proficiency: Graduates of the program achieve a reading proficiency of Advanced Low to Advanced Mid. Students demonstrate an ability to read and interpret conventional quotidian texts as well as complicated narratives from the 18th-21st centuries, addressing a wide range of topics and genres, including literary, scientific, and cultural theory.

II. Specific outcomes for Integrative Knowledge Accompanying the acquisition of German language skills is the study of cultural phenomena, which provides German majors with a breadth of knowledge as found in a traditional liberal arts program. The acquired knowledge helps students engage with various additional fields of study across the UNH campus. Through transferable practice in abstract reasoning, critical examination,
and constructive articulation, students extend their intellectual curiosity and learn to aspire to life-long learning.

• Interpretive Reasoning Particularly in the advanced courses that analyze art in its various forms – literature, film, painting, performance art, et al., we (students and faculty alike) wrestle with interpretation and contextualization. In these courses, we are invested in humanistic inquiry and address tough questions — those concerning value and meaning, realms of knowledge ungraspable by natural science alone. Patterns of narrative, traditions of rhetoric, and history all inform the analyses of the cultural artifacts under study. By fostering the skills of close reading and listening, German majors become more articulate (both in German and their native language) and more proficient in analyzing and synthesizing the various types of knowledge.

• Critical-Constructive Thinking In the analysis of cultural artifacts, students learn to consider a multitude of perspectives. In addition to critical thinking skills, German majors become better versed at the constructive synthesis. Term papers and presentations in the target language are the culmination of linguistic comprehension and production as well as of interpretation and critique. In assembling such larger projects, German majors learn to construct well-informed arguments that are based on interpretation and scholarly critique.

• Interdisciplinarity Language study entails a wide range of applications, both personal and professional. It opens up possibilities for travel, genuine encounter, and the fostering of diplomatic and business relationships. German is of particular interest for political, economic, historical, and cultural reasons. With strengths in engineering and heavy manufacturing, Germany is of vital political-economic importance. Our students are encouraged to explore the connections in various scientific fields, the business world, and the humanities at large.

• Transformative Education Close mentoring of our German majors leads to relevant study-abroad opportunities in which our students make tangible use of their intellectual skillsets in the target culture. Of equal importance, however, is the notion that the actual application of the skillsets during the study abroad experience (but also in our classrooms) offers an opportunity for students to achieve meaningful personal growth by realizing their own cultural underpinnings. As a result of their study of German, some students choose to go to or to return to Germany for work or travel. Thus, the study of German can result in transformative moments in the lives of our students.