

German, BA

Learning Outcomes

The BA in German is directed toward graduates' ability to converse effectively in German; write coherent short texts; interpret literary, cultural, and linguistic phenomena; and exhibit an understanding of alternative cultural perspectives.

- **Interpersonal speaking:** the capacity to engage effectively in conversations in German on a range of topics, recount events and personal experiences, and produce explanations and descriptions; correlates with "intermediate high" on the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) scale.
- **Writing:** the capacity to produce a cohesive piece of writing in German, such as an essay, a paper, or a narrative.
- **Interpretation and analysis:** the capacity to critically interpret and analyze literary texts and other cultural artifacts written in German using appropriate sources to support their arguments.
- **Cultural understanding:** the capacity to demonstrate understanding of alternative cultural perspectives acquired through coursework, study abroad, and other cross-cultural experiences.

Requirements

The Bachelor of Arts with a major in German requires a minimum of 120 s.h., including at least 30 s.h. of work for the major. Students must maintain a grade-point average (GPA) of at least 2.00 in all courses for the major and in all UI courses for the major. They also must complete the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences GE CLAS Core. Students who plan to earn licensure to teach in elementary and/or secondary schools should see "Teacher Licensure" below.

The German Language and Culture Advanced Placement (AP) exam with a score of 4 or higher is considered to be the equivalent to one of the 3000-level electives.

A maximum of 15 s.h. of approved transfer credit may be counted toward the major, including study abroad coursework. Students may count up to 21 s.h. earned from the Academic Year in Freiburg program toward the major in German.

Students who begin a German major with no previous German language experience must complete the following courses or their equivalents. The course GRMN:2002 Intermediate German II (or the equivalent) is a prerequisite for all 3000- and 4000-level courses.

Course #	Title	Hours
GRMN:1001	Elementary German I	4
GRMN:1002	Elementary German II	4
GRMN:2001	Intermediate German I	4
GRMN:2002	Intermediate German II	4

This requirement also may be satisfied by various combinations of GRMN:1010 First-Year German Review and GRMN:2020 Intensive Intermediate German.

The 30 s.h. required for the major must include at least five German courses numbered 3000 or above taken at the University of Iowa. Students should note that GRMN:3501 German Writers Engaged (or the equivalent) is a prerequisite for some other German literature courses.

The BA with a major in German requires the following coursework.

Requirements	Hours
Core Courses	9
Linguistics Course	3
Literature/Film Courses	6
Culture Course	3
Electives	9

Core Courses

Courses GRMN:3103 and GRMN:3104 may be taken in any order.

Course #	Title	Hours
Three of these:		
GRMN:3103	Composition and Conversation I	3
GRMN:3104	Composition and Conversation II	3
GRMN:3214	Business German	3
GRMN:3845	The Structure of German	3

Linguistics Course

Course #	Title	Hours
One of these:		
GRMN:3855	The Sounds of German	3
GRMN:3860	German Language and Society	3

Literature/Film Courses

Course #	Title	Hours
This course:		
GRMN:3501	German Writers Engaged	3
One of these:		
GRMN:3010	Stories in German	3
GRMN:3236	German Film	3
GRMN:3850	Twentieth- and Twenty-first-Century German Children's Literature	3
GRMN:4540	Literature in Film	3
GRMN:4730	Beautiful Souls and Scandalous Writing	3

Culture Course

Course #	Title	Hours
One of these:		
GRMN:3405	German Cultural History	3
GRMN:4315	German Society Today	3

Electives

Course #	Title	Hours
Three electives (prefix GRMN; with language of instruction in German) numbered 3000-4999		
		9

Independent Study (GRMN:4900) may be applied toward the major when taken for 3 s.h. Only one independent study course may be applied toward the major.

Students may count a maximum of two Department of German courses taught in English numbered 2500-2999 toward the major by registering for 4 s.h. of credit for each

course instead of 3 s.h.; the additional 1 s.h. of credit reflects an added research component. See "Four Semester Hour Courses Taught in English" below.

Courses taught in English that are taken for 3 s.h. do not count toward the major in German. In addition, courses numbered at the 1000 level do not count toward the major.

Four Semester Hour Courses Taught in English

A maximum of two courses (4 s.h. each) may count toward the major.

Course #	Title	Hours
Students may use two of the following courses toward the major (some may apply toward GE CLAS Core requirements):		
GRMN:2550	Mardi Gras and More: Cultures of Carnival	4
GRMN:2600	Witch Hunts in Fact and Fiction: A Global History of Exclusion	4
GRMN:2618	Film and Literature of the Holocaust	4
GRMN:2620	Anne Frank and Her Story	4
GRMN:2630	German Cinema: Greatest Hits	4
GRMN:2666	Pact with the Devil	4
GRMN:2675	The Politics of Memory: Holocaust, Genocide, and 9/11	4
GRMN:2720	Germany in the World	4
GRMN:2750	The Work of Franz Kafka: Adventures in Language and Imagination	4
GRMN:2785	Cyborgs, Monsters, and the Uncanny	4
GRMN:2949	Accountability, War Crimes, and Justice	4

Three Semester Hour Courses Taught in English

These courses do not count toward the major.

Course #	Title	Hours
GRMN:1200	Disabilities and Inclusion in Writing and Film Around the World	3
GRMN:2248	The Invention of Writing: From Cuneiform to Computers	3
GRMN:2275	Scandinavian Crime Fiction	3
GRMN:4800	Seminar in Comparative Literature	3

German majors are urged to supplement their degree programs with relevant courses in areas such as German history, philosophy, and business.

Study Abroad

The University of Iowa offers a number of opportunities for study in Germany, Switzerland, and Austria. Students frequently choose to participate in the summer USAC Lüneburg program, the Dortmund University Exchange, or the Academic Year in Freiburg program at the Albert Ludwig

University of Freiburg. Students should consult Study Abroad and the German undergraduate advisor to select a program that fits their interests.

For German majors, the year-long Freiburg program provides the most comprehensive linguistic and professional preparation for a future career involving German. The Academic Year in Freiburg program is offered by a consortium made up of the University of Iowa, Michigan State University, the University of Michigan, and the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Students arrive during the first week of September and participate in a four-week intensive language program. Then they take a blend of special program classes and regular German university courses. Organized field trips are designed to give students a broader perspective on German culture. Vacation periods permit extensive travel throughout Europe, and students are encouraged to use weekends for shorter trips in the region.

To apply, students must have reached at least sophomore standing by the beginning of the program, have completed at least the first four semesters of college German or the equivalent with a GPA of at least 3.00 in German, and be in good academic standing at a U.S. college or university.

Students earn resident credit in all courses successfully completed in the program. They may count up to 21 s.h. earned at Freiburg toward the major.

For more information about study abroad opportunities, contact the Department of German or International Programs Study Abroad.

Teacher Licensure

Students interested in teaching in elementary and/or secondary schools should seek admission to the Teacher Education Program (TEP) in the College of Education.

To qualify for licensure in secondary teaching, students in the TEP complete a degree in education as well as a related College of Liberal Arts and Sciences degree. See Apply on the College of Education website for details on requirements and deadlines for applying to the College of Education and about TEP choices of majors leading to licensure.

Combined Programs

BA/MA in German

The combined BA/MA program in German enables undergraduate students majoring in German to begin work toward the MS while completing the bachelor's degree. Students admitted to the program may count 12 s.h. of credit toward both the BA and MA degree requirements. They also have the opportunity for early entrance into advanced courses in German.

Honors

Honors in the Major

Students majoring in German have the opportunity to graduate with honors in the major. Students who choose to graduate with honors in German must satisfy these requirements:

- maintain a cumulative University of Iowa grade-point average (GPA) of at least 3.33 and a GPA of at least 3.50 in all coursework for the major;
- complete GRMN:4990 Honors Research or the equivalent, such as one course for the major (3 s.h.) as an honors contract course; for equivalent courses taken abroad, students should consult with the honors advisor or director of undergraduate studies in German;
- complete GRMN:4991 Honors Thesis; and
- submit an acceptable honors thesis, and present and discuss their research findings in a defense meeting with their faculty mentor and two additional UI faculty members.

The courses, GRMN:4990 and GRMN:4991, will count toward the 30 s.h. for the major. Students are encouraged to participate in the Office of Undergraduate Research (OUR) and apply for research scholarships.

University of Iowa Honors Program

In addition to honors in the major, students have opportunities for honors study and activities through membership in the University of Iowa Honors Program. Visit Honors at Iowa to learn about the university's honors program.

Membership in the UI Honors Program is not required to earn honors in the German major.

Career Advancement

Students majoring in German may combine their studies with courses in education to prepare for positions in high school teaching and administration. Many combine other skills and studies with their major in German to prepare for careers in business, travel, communications, foreign service, and other fields where the knowledge of languages is essential.

German graduates go on to earn graduate and professional degrees in German, English as a second language, history, library science, medicine, law, and sustainable agriculture. They find work in industries with strong connections to German-speaking countries and organizations such as the Goethe Institutes in the United States.

Completion of a German major ensures that students enter their professional lives as informed global citizens with a strong skill set in cross-cultural literacy. German is spoken by an estimated 126 million people, with the largest number of native speakers in the European Union. Germany has the third largest economy across the globe and was until recently the largest export nation in the world.

Coursework builds strong reading, communication, and teamwork skills which are sought by many employers.

The Pomerantz Career Center offers multiple resources to help students find internships and jobs.

Academic Plans

Four-Year Graduation Plan

The following checkpoints list the minimum requirements students must complete by certain semesters in order to stay on the university's Four-Year Graduation Plan.

Before the third semester begins: language competency equal to first-year German.

Before the fifth semester begins: language competency equal to second-year German.

Before the seventh semester begins: four courses in the major and at least 90 s.h. earned toward the degree.

Before the eighth semester: two or three additional courses in the major.

During the eighth semester: enrollment in all remaining coursework in the major, all remaining GE CLAS Core courses, and a sufficient number of semester hours to graduate.

Sample Plan of Study

Sample plans represent one way to complete a program of study. Actual course selection and sequence will vary and should be discussed with an academic advisor. For additional sample plans, see MyUI.

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Course	Title	Hours
Academic Career		
Any Semester		
GE CLAS Core: Sustainability ^a		
Hours		0
First Year		
Fall		
GRMN:1001	Elementary German I ^{b, c}	4
ENGL:1200	The Interpretation of Literature	3 - 4
	or RHET:1030 or Rhetoric	
GE CLAS Core: Diversity and Inclusion ^d		3
Elective course ^e		2
CSI:1600	Success at Iowa	2
Hours		14-15
Spring		
GRMN:1002	Elementary German II ^{b, c}	4
ENGL:1200	The Interpretation of Literature	3 - 4
	or RHET:1030 or Rhetoric	
GE CLAS Core: Historical Perspectives ^d		3
GE CLAS Core: Values and Culture ^d		3
Elective course ^e		2
Hours		15-16
Second Year		
Fall		
GRMN:2001	Intermediate German I ^{b, c}	4
GE CLAS Core: Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts ^d		3
GE CLAS Core: Quantitative or Formal Reasoning ^d		3
Elective course ^e		3
Elective course ^e		2
Hours		15
Spring		
GRMN:2002	Intermediate German II ^{b, c}	4
GE CLAS Core: International and Global Issues ^d		3
GE CLAS Core: Natural Sciences with Lab ^d		4
Elective course ^e		3
Elective course ^e		1
Hours		15
Third Year		
Fall		
GRMN:3501	German Writers Engaged	3

Major: core German course ^f	3
GE CLAS Core: Natural Sciences without Lab ^d	3
Elective course ^e	3
Elective course ^e	3

Hours 15

Spring

GRMN:4315 or GRMN:3405	German Society Today or German Cultural History	3
GRMN:3855 or GRMN:3860	The Sounds of German or German Language and Society	3

Major: core German course ^f	3
Elective course ^e	3
Elective course ^e	3

Hours 15

Fourth Year

Fall

Major: core German course ^f	3
Major: German elective course ^g	3
Major: approved German literature/film course numbered 3XXX or 4XXX ^h	3
Elective course ^e	3
Elective course ^e	3

Hours 15

Spring

Major: German elective course ^g	3
Major: German elective course ^g	3
GE CLAS Core: Social Sciences ^d	3
Elective course ^e	3
Elective course ^e	3

Degree Application: apply on MyUI before deadline
(typically in February for spring, September for fall)ⁱ

Hours 15

Total Hours 119-121

a Sustainability must be completed by choosing a course that has been approved for Sustainability AND for one of these General Education areas: Natural Sciences; Quantitative and Formal Reasoning; Social Sciences; Historical Perspectives; International and Global Issues; Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts; or Values and Culture.

b GRMN:1001, GRMN:1002, GRMN:2001, and GRMN:2002 do not count for credit toward the major. Language level placement will be determined by placement exam score and/or oral interview. Students who place into the 5th semester level of the language will begin major level coursework and not be required to take semesters 1-4 of the language.

c Students who have completed four years of a single language in high school have satisfied the GE CLAS Core World Languages requirement. Enrollment in world languages courses requires a placement exam, unless enrolling in a first-semester-level course.

d GE CLAS Core courses may be completed in any order unless used as a prerequisite for another course. Students should consult with an advisor about the best sequencing of courses.

e Students may use elective courses to earn credit towards the total s.h. required for graduation or to complete a double major, minors, or certificates.

f Students must complete three courses from the following: GRMN:3103, GRMN:3104, GRMN:3214, GRMN:3845.

GRMN:3103 and GRMN:3104 can be taken in any order.

g Students must complete at least 9 s.h. total from courses taught in German (prefix GRMN) numbered 3000-4999; this may include GRMN:4900 when taken for 3 s.h. Students may count toward the major a maximum of two Department of German courses taught in English numbered 2500-2999 by registering for the 4 s.h. option; the additional 1 s.h. of credit reflects an added research component. GRMN courses taught in English that are taken for 3 s.h. do not count toward the major in German. Electives may include approved honors coursework, including GRMN:4990 and GRMN:4991.

h See General Catalog or consult advisor for approved courses.

i Please see Academic Calendar, Office of the Registrar website for current degree application deadlines. Students should apply for a degree for the session in which all requirements will be met. For any questions on appropriate timing, contact your academic advisor or Graduation Services.