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 the “Teacher Licensure” section that follows.

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 electives numbered 3000 or above. The course (or the equivalent) is a prerequisite for some other German literature courses.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirements</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tr>
<td>Language Core Courses</td>
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<td>Culture Core Courses</td>
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<td>Linguistics Course</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Electives</td>
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</table>

Language Core Courses

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course #</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Three of these:</td>
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<tr>
<td>GRMN:3103</td>
<td>Composition and Conversation I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRMN:3104</td>
<td>Composition and Conversation II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRMN:3214</td>
<td>Business German</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRMN:3845</td>
<td>The Structure of German</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Culture Core Courses

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

Linguistics Course

One of these:

- GRMN:3855 The Sounds of German 3
- GRMN:3860 German Language and Society 3

Electives

Students must take four electives (12 s.h.) of additional German courses (prefix GRMN). All students pursuing a German major are encouraged to take as many courses taught in German as possible. This applies particularly to students who have completed their World Language requirement in German before beginning their studies at the University of Iowa.

Students may apply up to 9 s.h. of German courses (prefix GRMN) taught in English towards the major, selected from courses numbered 1501–1999 and 2500–2999.

Either GRMN:4900 Independent Study or GRMN:4920 Research in German Studies may be applied toward the

Students with basic knowledge of German can enroll in GRMN:1010 First-Year German Review before continuing with intermediate German.
major, but not both. For students pursuing a German major with honors, GRMN:4990 Honors Research and GRMN:4991 Honors Thesis will both count as electives toward the major. Students pursuing a second major in an adjacent field that overlaps with German (i.e., linguistics, history, cinematic arts, art history, etc.) can consult with the director of undergraduate studies in German to see if they might apply a non-German course (prefix GRMN) numbered 3000 or above with predominantly German-based content towards the 30 s.h. of coursework required for the German major. These courses do not count toward the major.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course #</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GRMN:1200</td>
<td>Disabilities and Inclusion in Writing and Film Around the World</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRMN:2248</td>
<td>The Invention of Writing: From Cuneiform to Computers</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRMN:2275</td>
<td>Scandinavian Crime Fiction</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRMN:4800</td>
<td>Seminar in Comparative Literature</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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 second-year 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 18 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.

**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 the following 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.
- 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 Honors Research and GRMN:4991 Honors Thesis 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.

**German, BA**

This sample plan is being reviewed and will be added at a later date.