German, BA

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.

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 18 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 courses numbered 3000 or above. The major may include up to 6 s.h. total from the courses GRMN:2001 Intermediate German I or GRMN:2002 Intermediate German II, or from equivalent transfer, Furthering Language Incentive Program (FLIP), or Advanced Placement (AP) credit.

Students with basic knowledge of German can enroll in GRMN:1010 First-Year German Review before continuing with 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 must complete at least 21 s.h. of courses taught in German, with the remaining 9 s.h. fulfilled by courses taught in either German or English.

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.

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

Course # | Title | Hours
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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

Culture Core Courses

Course # | Title | Hours
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GRMN:3501 | German Writers Engaged | 3
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

Course # | Title | Hours
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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 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.

Course # | Title | Hours
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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
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.