German

Director, Division of World Languages, Literatures and Cultures
• Jill N. Beckman (Linguistics)

Interim Chair, Department of German
• Jill N. Beckman

Interim Director, Department of German
• Glenn Ehrstine

General Education Language Coordinator
• Bruce H. Nottingham-Spencer (first year), Elke Heckner (second year)

Undergraduate major: German (BA)
Undergraduate minor: German
Graduate degree: MA in German
Faculty: https://german.uiowa.edu/people
Website: https://german.uiowa.edu/

The Department of German offers a comprehensive undergraduate program of study in German—in German language and in the culture and literature of German-speaking Europe. Students learn to use German with intercultural competency in fields as diverse as international business, teaching, engineering, medicine, music, museum studies, and linguistics or literature. Courses focus on the cultures of Germany, Austria, and German-speaking Switzerland, including migration to and from those areas, to provide an understanding of the historical and contemporary importance of these countries in a globalized world.

The Department of German supports outreach, extracurricular activities, and contributions to the visibility of German-related issues in the state of Iowa. The department fosters an environment of diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Undergraduate students in all majors may satisfy the World Languages requirement of the GE CLAS Core with courses in German; see “Language for GE CLAS Core” below. They may satisfy other GE CLAS Core requirements with courses on German literature and culture that are taught in English; look for courses with the prefix GRMN in the area lists under “Culture, Society, and the Arts” in the GE CLAS Core section of the catalog. GE CLAS Core courses on German literature and culture also are listed with departmental courses taught in English under Courses [p. ] in this section of the catalog.

The Department of German is one of the academic units in the Division of World Languages, Literatures and Cultures.

Language for GE CLAS Core

The department offers several sequences of German language courses that students in all majors may use to satisfy the World Languages requirement of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences GE CLAS Core. Students who have had experience with German should take the online placement test, which helps determine the level at which a student should begin German language study at the University of Iowa. Students with no background in German should begin their study with GRMN:1001 Elementary German I.

The following sequences satisfy the World Languages requirement of the GE CLAS Core. Students using German to