

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 must also 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.

GRMN:3501 German Writers Engaged or the equivalent is a prerequisite for some other German literature courses. Students should enroll in GRMN:4995 German Graduation Portfolio in their final year of study.

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.

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

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

Requirements	Hours
Language Core Courses	9
Culture Core Courses	6
Linguistics Course	3
Graduation Portfolio	0
Electives	12

Language 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

Culture Core 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

Linguistics Course

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

Graduation Portfolio

Course #	Title	Hours
This course:		
GRMN:4995	German Graduation Portfolio	0

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, especially those who have completed their World Languages requirement in German before beginning their studies at the University of Iowa.

Course #	Title	Hours
12 s.h. from these:		
German courses (prefix GRMN) numbered 3000-4999		
Up to three German courses (prefix GRMN) numbered 1500-1999 and 2500-2999, taught in English		

Up to 6 s.h. from GRMN:2001, GRMN:2002, equivalent transfer credit, Furthering Language Incentive Program, or Advanced Placement credit with a score of 4 or higher

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

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 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.
- Complete GRMN:4991 Honors Thesis.
- 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

Course	Title	Hours
Academic Career		
Any Semester		
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.		
GE CLAS Core: Sustainability ^a		
Hours		0
First Year		
Fall		
GRMN:1001	Elementary German I ^b	4
ENGL:1200 or RHET:1030	The Interpretation of Literature or Rhetoric: Writing and Communication	3 - 4
GE CLAS Core: Understanding Cultural Perspectives		3
CSI:1600	Success at Iowa	1
Elective course ^e		3
Hours		14-15

Spring

GRMN:1002	Elementary German II ^b	4
ENGL:1200 or RHET:1030	The Interpretation of Literature or Rhetoric: Writing and Communication	3 - 4
GE CLAS Core: Historical Perspectives ^d		3
GE CLAS Core: Values and Society ^{d, f}		3
Elective course ^e		3
Hours		16-17

Second Year

Fall

GRMN:2001	Intermediate German I ^{b, g}	4
GE CLAS Core: Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts ^{d, h}		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, g}	4
GE CLAS Core: International and Global Issues ^{d, i}		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: German elective course (if needed) ^j		3
Major: language core course ^k		3
GE CLAS Core: Natural Sciences without Lab ^d		3
Elective course ^e		3
Hours		15

Spring

GRMN:3860 or GRMN:3855	German Language and Society or The Sounds of German	3
Major: German elective course (if needed) ^j		3
Major: language core course ^k		3
Elective course ^e		3
Elective course ^e		3
Hours		15

Fourth Year

Fall

GRMN:3850 or GRMN:3010 or GRMN:3236	Twentieth- and Twenty-first- Century German Children's Literature ⁱ or Stories in German or German Film	3
Major: German elective course (if needed) ^j		3
Major: language core course ^k		3
Elective course ^e		3
Elective course ^e		3
Hours		15

Spring

GRMN:4995	German Graduation Portfolio	0
Major: German elective course (taught in German) ^j		3
GE CLAS Core: Social Sciences ^d		3

Elective course ^e	3
Elective course ^e	3
Elective course ^e	3
Degree Application: apply on MyUI before deadline (typically in February for spring, September for fall)	

Hours	15
Total Hours	120-122

- 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 Society.
- b Students who have completed four levels of a single language or two levels of two different languages in high school or college have satisfied the GE CLAS Core World Languages requirement. Students who have completed three levels of a single language may complete a fourth-level course in the same language or may choose an approved World Language and Cultural Exploration course. Enrollment in world languages courses requires a placement exam, unless enrolling in a first-semester-level course. Contact your academic advisor or CLAS Undergraduate Programs Office with questions concerning the World Languages requirement.
- c To satisfy both the GE CLAS Core Understanding Cultural Perspectives requirement and part of the 12 s.h. elective requirement for the major, students may opt to take one of following GRMN courses that are taught in English: GRMN:2600, GRMN:2620, GRMN:2675.
- 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 To satisfy both the GE CLAS Core Values and Society requirement and part of the 12 s.h. elective requirement for the major, students may opt to take GRMN:2618.
- g 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.
- h To satisfy both the GE CLAS Core Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts requirement and part of the 12 s.h. elective requirement for the major, students may opt to take one of following GRMN courses that are taught in English: GRMN:2630, GRMN:2666, GRMN:2785.
- i To satisfy both the GE CLAS Core International and Global Issues requirement and part of the 12 s.h. elective requirement for the major, students may opt to take GRMN:2720.
- j Students must take four electives (12 s.h.) of additional German courses (prefix GRMN). 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 or GRMN:4920 may be applied toward the major, but not both. For students pursuing a German major with honors, GRMN:4990 and GRMN:4991 will both count as electives toward the major.

k 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.

l GRMN:3010 is typically offered in spring semesters only. Check MyUI for course availability since offerings are subject to change.

m 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 Degree Services.