



German Language and Cultural Studies Major and German Minor

www.German.Pitt.edu

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The study of foreign language and culture is a cornerstone of education in today's world. It teaches intercultural competence by increasing students' understanding of their own background and their sensitivity for other traditions and values. Knowledge of foreign language and culture brings obvious competitive advantages in careers with an international dimension. As a liberal arts discipline, it improves analytic-conceptual and communication skills necessary for professional careers. Enhanced with appropriate course work, a major in German serves as a foundation for professional training in such subjects as business, law, politics, and medicine, as well as the media and communication industry. Students with a bachelor's degree in German will compete well in non-technical fields for jobs requiring an undergraduate degree.

Requirements for the German Language and Cultural Studies major

The German Language and Cultural Studies major requires the completion of 33 to 35 credits distributed as follows. If necessary to fulfill credit requirements, higher-level language courses can be substituted for GER 0201 through GER 0204.

Required language courses

One of the following pairs of courses. The equivalency of other courses will be determined by the department.

GER 0201 Intermediate German 1
GER 0202 Intermediate German 2

GER 0203 Intensive Intermediate German 1
GER 0204 Intensive Intermediate German 2

Required writing course; choose one course

GER 1001 German Writing
GER 1003 Professional German 1

1000 level course requirement

One course at the 1000 level

Literary analysis course requirement

GER 1105 Literary Analysis

1100 level course requirement

Two courses at the 1100 level

1200 to 1400 level course requirement

One seminar in German at the 1200 to 1400 level

Two of the following courses

- Any seminar in German at the 1200-1400 level
- 1500-level course in the Department of German (with some work in German, arranged with the instructor and preapproved by the Director of Undergraduate Studies in German)
- German studies courses in other departments with a 1-credit trailer in German

Capstone

GER 1399 Senior Capstone Seminar *

* This course should be taken in the fall term of the senior year.

Outcomes assessment

In the fall term of the senior year, majors will enroll in a capstone seminar, where they will research a topic in detail and produce a senior thesis, which will be presented publicly. During this term, students will also take a Goethe Institut exam to certify their language level.

Grade requirements

A minimum GPA of 2.0 is required in each course that counts toward the major.

Satisfactory/No Credit option

No course that counts toward the major can be taken on an S/NC basis unless the student receives special permission from the major advisor.

Writing (W) requirement

Students must complete at least one W-course in the major. GER 1001 and GER 1003 fulfill this requirement.

Honors major requirements

To earn departmental honors in German, students must demonstrate superior performance in departmental courses by:

- earning at least a 3.5 GPA average in their major courses;
- demonstrating a high level of proficiency in speaking and writing German; and
- completing a three-credit senior honors project (in addition to 31 credits of the major) that has been accepted by the departmental faculty. Senior honors projects may include:
 - a semester-long, independent research project, as an extension of the senior thesis written during the capstone project; or
 - taking an exam on a comprehensive reading list derived by the student in consultation with the faculty; or
 - enrolling in a graduate seminar and completing a graduate paper.

Study abroad

Study and residence in a German-speaking country is an invaluable component of a German major's education. German majors are encouraged to study at a German-speaking institution and are given assistance with the selection of a program. Our partnership with the University of Augsburg (near Munich) offers an excellent and relatively inexpensive opportunity to enroll in regular university courses during the summer (May-July). Numerous other possibilities exist, and financial aid may be available. Students can transfer credits from abroad for their major in accordance with the credit transfer policy of the University of Pittsburgh. A maximum of 12 credits from abroad may apply toward the major. All study abroad credits have to be pre-approved by the Director of Undergraduate Studies. For information on other study abroad opportunities, consult the [Study Abroad Office](#) in WPU 802.

Advising

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Checklist for the German Language and Cultural Studies major

Prerequisites

_____ GER 0101
_____ GER 0102
_____ GER 0103

Required language courses

One of the following pairs of courses. The equivalency of other courses will be determined by the department.

_____ GER 0201
_____ GER 0202

_____ GER 0203
_____ GER 0204

Required writing course; choose one course

_____ GER 1001 _____ GER 1003

1000 level course requirement

_____ GER 1000-1099

Literary analysis course requirement

_____ GER 1105

1100 level course requirement

_____ GER 1100-1199 _____ GER 1100-1199

1200- to 1400-level course requirement

_____ One seminar in German at the 1200-1400 level

Two of the following courses

_____ Any seminar in German at the 1200-1400 level
_____ 1500-level courses with work in German
_____ German Studies courses in other departments with a 1-credit trailer in German

Capstone

_____ GER 1399 *

* This course should be taken in the fall term of the senior year

Checklist for the German minor

The German minor requires completion of at least 15 credits of coursework as described below. Students interested in the minor may tailor their course selection according to their interest in German language, literature, and film studies, but must complete at least two 3-credit courses taught in German.

Students must pass GER 0202 or GER 0204 with a minimum grade of B- before taking any German course taught at the 0300-level.

Five courses, at least two of which must be taught in German

_____ GER 0101-GER 1599
_____ GER 0101-GER 1599
_____ GER 0101-GER 1599
_____ GER 0101-GER 1599
_____ GER 0101-GER 1599

GER 1000-1499 are taught in German. GER 1500-1599 are taught in English.

Grade requirements

A minimum GPA of 2.0 is required in each course that counts toward the minor.

Satisfactory/No Credit option

No course that counts toward the minor can be taken on an S/NC basis unless the student receives special permission from the minor advisor.

Note: Students must apply for any official minor they will complete or have completed at the time they apply for graduation.