

## German Major and German Studies Minor

[www.pitt.edu/~germanic](http://www.pitt.edu/~germanic)

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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.

### **Required courses for the German major**

The German major requires the completion of 31 credits distributed as follows.

#### **Advance language**

GER 1000 Reading  
GER 1001 Writing  
GER 1101 Media  
GER 1102 Advanced German Structures

#### **Literature and culture**

GER 1051 Introduction to Literary Analysis  
GER 1052 Major Cultural Periods 1  
GER 1053 Major Cultural Periods 2

#### **Advanced literature and/or culture seminars**

Three courses from the GER 1200 – GER 1399 series

#### **Senior thesis**

GER 1990 Senior Thesis

**Note:** This one-credit course should be taken in the fall term of the senior year, in conjunction with one of the advanced literature or culture seminars.

**Outcome 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. In the final term of their senior year, majors will take an exam (the University of Pittsburgh Oral Language Assessment Instrument – UPOLAI), assessing their language ability.

**Grade requirements:** Students must earn a B- or better in GER 0004 to enter the major. 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 fulfills this requirement.

**Related area:** A minimum of 12 credits is required in any one Arts and Sciences department chosen in consultation with the major advisor. The completion of an official Arts and Sciences minor or an Arts and Sciences or UCIS certificate also satisfies 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 seminar; 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.

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### **Checklist for the German major**

#### **Prerequisites**

\_\_\_\_\_ GER 0001 (does not count toward major)  
\_\_\_\_\_ GER 0002 (does not count toward major)  
\_\_\_\_\_ GER 0003 (does not count toward major)  
\_\_\_\_\_ GER 0004 (does not count toward major)

#### **Advanced language**

\_\_\_\_\_ GER 1000  
\_\_\_\_\_ GER 1001  
\_\_\_\_\_ GER 1101  
\_\_\_\_\_ GER 1102

#### **Literature and culture**

\_\_\_\_\_ GER 1051  
\_\_\_\_\_ GER 1052  
\_\_\_\_\_ GER 1053

\_\_\_\_\_ GER 1 \_\_\_\_\_ (1200-1399)  
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\_\_\_\_\_ GER 1 \_\_\_\_\_ (1200-1399)

\_\_\_\_\_ GER 1900

**Note:** Students must earn a B- or better in GER 0004 before taking any course that counts toward the major.

### **Checklist for the German Studies minor**

#### **Option 1 (15 – 19 credits)**

##### **Language: two of the following**

\_\_\_\_\_ GER 0001  
\_\_\_\_\_ GER 0002  
\_\_\_\_\_ GER 0003  
\_\_\_\_\_ GER 0004

##### **Literature and film: three courses**

\_\_\_\_\_ GER 1051 – GER 1542  
\_\_\_\_\_ GER 1051 – GER 1542  
\_\_\_\_\_ GER 1051 – GER 1542

#### **Option 2 (15 credits)**

##### **Literature and film: five courses**

\_\_\_\_\_ GER 1051 – GER 1542  
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\_\_\_\_\_ GER 1051 – GER 1542  
\_\_\_\_\_ GER 1051 – GER 1542

#### **Option 3 (19 credits)**

##### **Language: five courses all in German**

\_\_\_\_\_ GER 0001  
\_\_\_\_\_ GER 0002  
\_\_\_\_\_ GER 0003  
\_\_\_\_\_ GER 0004 \*  
\_\_\_\_\_ GER (1000-level course) \*\*

\* Students must pass GER 0004 with a minimum grade of B- before taking any German course taught at the 1000 level.

\*\* Courses to fulfill this requirement include: GER 1000, GER 1001, GER 1003, GER 1004, GER 1051, GER 1052, GER 1053

##### **Desired outcomes**

Students who complete Option 3 should be able to perform on the UPOLAI test at the level of intermediate mid. This level would allow them to engage in a range of everyday conversational situations related to their personal biography, interests, activities, read/understand the main ideas of authentic texts on topics of general interest (e.g. newspapers, internet, short prose), communicate general content in writing (personal letters, request specific information), and understand the main ideas communicated in audio/video documents (film, video, television). This level of proficiency is one step above that which we assume is appropriate for students who complete our GER 0004 at the A grade level.

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