

School of Arts and Sciences

GERMANIC LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

www.pitt.edu/~germanic

The study of foreign language, literature, and culture is a cornerstone of a liberal arts education, bringing enhanced communication skills, improved ability to analyze and interpret, a better informed understanding of one's own background, and increasing sensitivity for other traditions and values.

German language, literature, and culture, like classics or English, is a traditional liberal arts discipline worth studying in its own right. Pitt's Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures provides you with a well-rounded understanding of Germanic peoples, literature, and language. The University maintains a close relationship with its sister colleges in Germany, and the department offers you the chance to conduct directed studies with faculty over a range of topics in German studies from the early modern period through contemporary Germany.

Students with BAs in German compete well in nontechnical fields for jobs requiring a bachelor's degree. Further, when supplemented with appropriate additional courses, a major in German can serve as a foundation for professional training in such subjects as business, politics, medicine, or law.

Knowledge of foreign language and culture gives students competitive advantages in careers with an international dimension. The rapidly changing political, economic, and cultural scene in Europe suggests that German language and culture, in particular, will play an increasingly important role in international events for the foreseeable future. An undergraduate degree in German also can be used as a foundation for a career in teaching. Students who wish to teach in public schools should contact the School of Education for certification requirements.

Requirements for a BA in German

Admission to the German major requires completion of GER 0004 Intermediate German II, with at least a B-grade or a minimum score of 70 on the department's placement test. Once in the program, the required courses are as follows (all courses are 3 credits unless noted otherwise):

I. Advanced Language

GER 1000 Reading Literary Texts

You will read a selection of texts of various genres, lengths, and levels of difficulty. Extensive and intensive reading skills are practiced. The course emphasizes the relationship between meaning and grammatical structure.

GER 1001 Writing in German

Your composition skills will be strengthened throughout this course, through constant practice in writing, revising, and editing. The goal of the course is to be able to express your thoughts effectively in correct and well-structured German prose, including business correspondence.

GER 1101 Advanced German 1—Media

This course is intended to be a challenging upper-level language course. It will strengthen your linguistic skills, primarily in speaking and listening, but also in reading and writing. Specific aspects of daily life (housing, work, youth, family, etc.), will be examined via contemporary print, audio, and video media.

GER 1102 Advanced German 2—Structure

If you wish to use German as an effective professional tool or enroll at a German university, you will benefit the most from this course. You will investigate and practice the structure and style of written German, participate in discussions on public and academic issues, listen to German lectures and broadcasts, and present German papers on topics of your choice.



II. Literature and Culture

GER 1051 Introduction to Literary Analysis

You will explore the terms, techniques and major theoretical approaches to the study of literary texts.

GER 1052 and 1053 Major Cultural Periods

These courses, consider the outstanding cultural developments in the German-speaking countries from antiquity to the 21st century. By acquiring a solid historical foundation, you will expand your vocabulary, acquaint yourself with many important figures, and develop an understanding of the political and cultural geography of central Europe, as well as the turning points of intellectual history and the shaping of the German cultural tradition.

III. Three Courses from GER 1200–1399

These courses are advanced literature and culture seminars. Courses numbered in the 1500s can count in this category only in those exceptional cases in which the student does not need additional language practice. Courses numbered in the 1190s (professional translation) do not count in this category.

Requirements for a Minor in German Studies

The minor consists of 15–19 credits. Students interested in the minor may tailor their course selection according to their interest in German, language, literature, and film studies. They may select literature and film courses that are offered either in English or German. Two options are available as follows:

I. German Literature and Film (15 cr.)

You must complete five 3-credit courses offered by the German department in either literature, culture, or film courses in German (GER 1051–1420), or German literature, culture, or film courses in English translation (GER 1500–1542).

II. German Language, Literature, and Film (15–19 cr.)

You must complete the following requirements:

Two semesters of German language acquisition courses, including GER 0001 Elementary German 1 (5 cr.) and GER 0002 Elementary German 2 (5 cr.).

Three 3-credit courses offered by the German department in either German literature, culture, or film courses in German (GER 1051–1410) or German literature, culture, or film courses in English translation (GER 1500–1542).

Requirements for a Certificate in German Language

The Certificate in German Language is designed for students in all schools and departments of the University who want to use German with a high level of proficiency. Two separate tracks are available: liberal arts and professional purposes. Both tracks are aimed toward preparing students for international careers. The certificate requires 18 credits of work beyond GER 0001 and 0002. Up to 9 credits may be transferred from study abroad programs in German-speaking countries. The requirements are as follows:

I. German for the Liberal Arts

GER 0003 Intermediate German I

This course is conducted entirely in German and provides structured practice in understanding, speaking, reading (unedited texts), and writing.

GER 0004 Intermediate German II

This course also is conducted entirely in German and teaches you how to describe in past, present, and future time, and to initiate and sustain a conversation. The class discusses contemporary texts and topics, participates in small group activities, and strengthens writing skills through journal writing.

Two of the following:

GER 1000 Reading Literary Texts

GER 1001 Writing in German

GER 1002 German Phonetics

One of the following:

GER 1101 Advanced German 1—Media

GER 1102 Advanced German 2—Structure

One of the German 1200–1399 seminars or German 1051 (taught in German)

II. German for Professional Purposes

GER 0003 Intermediate German I

GER 0004 Intermediate German II

GER 1003 Professional German I

This course is an advanced language acquisition course, and aims to familiarize students with specialized vocabulary and practices of German-speaking countries in professional environments of areas such as communication, advertise-

ment, international trade, engineering, and law.

GER 1104 Professional German II

Subject-oriented, authentic texts and videos serve as the vehicle for an efficient and accelerated introduction to business German. The course emphasizes reading, writing, and speaking skills.

GER 1101 Advanced German 1—Media

GER 1102 Advanced German 2—Structure

Credit by Examination and Directed Study

Students who receive a score of 3 or above on the high school Advanced Placement test can receive 3 credits for GER 1490.

Related Area

The major advisor must approve all courses that are to count as a student's related area. These may consist of 12 credits taken from a single area (e.g., another foreign language) or from a field related to German (e.g., interdisciplinary German studies).

For more information about the Germanic languages and literatures program, contact:

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Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures
1409 Cathedral of Learning
Pittsburgh, PA 15260
412-624-5909
E-mail: germanic@pitt.edu
www.pitt.edu/~germanic

For more information about other majors, contact:

University of Pittsburgh
Office of Admissions and Financial Aid
Alumni Hall, 4227 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15260
412-624-PITT
E-mail: oafa@pitt.edu
www.oafa.pitt.edu

Special Programs and Opportunities

German Language Club

The German Club is a social and educational group dedicated to learning about German language and culture in informal settings, and is organized by undergraduate students at the University of Pittsburgh. One of the group's regular activities is a weekly German-speaking evening. Other activities include music recitals, film presentations, dinners, and field trips.

University Honors College (UHC)

UHC offers many resources for talented, active students—unique courses, special degrees, opportunities to perform independent research or teach, supplemental advising, and a social and academic community of similarly motivated students. UHC courses offer a more in-depth treatment of the material covered in a nonhonors course. Students work more problems, write more, read more, and discuss topics in greater depth. Although UHC does not have a formal membership and does invite all students to participate in honors courses, there are certain qualifications that must be met to be eligible to take UHC courses. Entering freshmen are automatically considered for UHC participation on the basis of their admissions applications. A minimum quality point average of 3.25 is required for current Pitt students.

Volunteer Service

Volunteering gives you valuable experience that enhances your learning, personal development, and the process of discovering your interests. The Student Volunteer Outreach center coordinates a variety of volunteer opportunities with more than 100 local community agencies and annual programs such as the mentoring and tutoring programs, Junior Achievement, Alternative Spring Break, annual volunteer agency fair, and Scouting for Food. The German department also has repeatedly matched up individual German majors with high school students for tutoring in German.

Study Abroad

Studying abroad is an exciting way to add an international perspective to your undergraduate education and strengthen your credentials as a graduate. The University of Pittsburgh encourages you to take advantage of this opportunity (almost 5 percent of Pitt students study abroad compared with 1.3 percent, nationally). Study abroad will not only distinguish you when you enter the job market or pursue graduate study, but also help broaden your experience of the world beyond your own country's borders, giving you an appreciation of other cultures and peoples while allowing you to earn credits toward your degree. Scholarships are available, and financial aid is applicable.

Some study abroad programs of particular interest to German majors are:

Augsburg Program

The University of Pittsburgh is pleased to offer a summer abroad program at the University of Augsburg in Germany. The

program is designed to afford Pitt students the opportunity to participate in German university studies and to experience German culture. The program is well suited for independent and mature students. Participants are directly enrolled in regular Universität Augsburg courses and/or in the university language center courses, all of which are taught in German. Students can design a highly individualized program based on the course offerings in Augsburg after consulting with Pitt's German department advisor. During the summer, the Universität Augsburg offers a wide range of courses in many subject areas. Students usually take three to four courses for a total of 6–8 credits. For students in the School of Arts and Sciences, studying at Universität Augsburg fulfills all but the non-Western portion of the foreign culture requirement.

Institute of European Studies (IES)—Vienna, Austria

This study abroad program provides you with lots of options for your time abroad. You can travel to beautiful Vienna, Austria for a semester, full-year, or summer program. Course work includes English-taught classes in anthropology, art history, business, economics, history, literature, music history, political science, psychology, and women's studies. German-taught classes include business German, theater, cultural history, Austrian literature, and film studies. For students with advanced language skills, direct enrollment into the University of Vienna is available, as well as access to master classes and private lessons at the Vienna Conservatory for qualified musicians. Field study trips to Prague and Budapest are included in the program as well as optional field trips in Austria and Central and Eastern Europe. Furthermore, you can intern in Germany in the fields of education and business.

IES—Berlin, Germany

A crossroads of European history in the 20th century, Berlin has been a center of cultural experimentation and a focal point of the Cold War, and is now an important part of the emerging new Europe. This study abroad program takes you to the heart of this vibrant, exciting city for either a year or a semester. All courses are taught in German, and housing is in German homes or apartments. Course work includes German, art history, business, cinema, economics, history, literature, political science, and women's studies. Course-related field study and optional field trips in Germany and Central and Eastern Europe are included in the program. In addition, you can intern in art, business, social and educational organizations, theater, politics, and mass media.