

GERMAN (BA)

Department Website (<http://as.nyu.edu/german/>)

NYSED: 08134 **HEGIS:** 1103.00 **CIP:** 16.0501

Program Description

The department's undergraduate program offers a broad range of courses in the language, cultures, and literatures of German-speaking countries.

The department offers a major in German, a joint major in German and Linguistics, a joint major in German and Global Liberal Studies, and a minor in German Language.

Along with its German language program, the department offers interdisciplinary courses taught in English that address issues of German culture, history, philosophy, art, and literature for students not yet proficient in the German language.

The department sponsors a monthly lunch series, tutoring, and the activities of the German club Goethes Tisch, as well as a series of annual awards in recognition of outstanding achievement by undergraduate students in the study of German language and literature. Deutsches Haus, the German cultural center at NYU, provides a varied program of films, concerts, lectures, and exhibitions.

The Department of German places high priority on fostering personal contact between faculty and students, maintains small class sizes (15 or fewer students, on average), and offers comfortable spaces for socializing, studying, and holding informal meetings. Advanced courses and some basic language courses are taught by full-time faculty members, all of whom are also involved in student advising.

Honors Program in German

Majors in German can be admitted to the program on the basis of superior work after at least two semesters of study in German at the advanced level. The minimum eligibility requirements are cumulative and major GPAs of 3.65. Both the director of undergraduate studies and the director of the honors program review all applications, which are due no later than spring of junior year and must include an unmarked copy of a paper submitted for a German major course.

In their senior year, students accepted to the honors program complete a two-course, 8-credit sequence, consisting of GERM-UA 999 Senior Honors Seminar in the fall semester and GERM-UA 500 Honors Thesis in the spring semester.

The Senior Honors Seminar is a small workshop with a primary focus on research, methodology, and academic writing. Students also learn strategies for grant writing and presentation. Honors majors define a thesis topic, develop a bibliography, read broadly in their area, and begin their research and writing. A substantial portion of the research, usually including a rough draft of one-third to one-half of the thesis, should be completed by semester's end.

During the spring semester of their senior year, students enroll in GERM-UA 500 Honors Thesis. In close consultation with the thesis adviser, students work on completing research, a final draft, and revisions of the thesis. Students also choose a second reader, typically another faculty member from the department. In cases of an interdisciplinary thesis, the second reader may be from another department.

The finished thesis must be a work of scholarship and/or criticism in the field of German studies and should be between 40 and 60 double-spaced pages in length. If it is written in English, the student must also write an abstract of five to seven pages in German. There will also be an oral presentation of the senior thesis with the student's two readers. In consultation with the second reader, the student's adviser determines whether or not to recommend them for honors. A grade of at least A-minus is required for the award of honors in German. Students receiving a lower grade will simply be awarded 8 credits of coursework towards the major.

Admissions

New York University's Office of Undergraduate Admissions supports the application process for all undergraduate programs at NYU. For additional information about undergraduate admissions, including application requirements, see How to Apply (<https://www.nyu.edu/admissions/undergraduate-admissions/how-to-apply.html>).

Program Requirements

The major in German requires eight 4-credit courses (32 credits) at the 100 level or higher, three of which may be in English and represent a coherent area of concentration (such as history, politics, or philosophy); courses in English outside of the department must have approval of the program adviser. No courses may be counted toward the requirements of another major or minor. All courses must be completed with a grade of C or better (Pass/Fail grades do not count).

Course	Title	Credits
General Education Requirements		
First-Year Seminar		4
EXPOS-UA 1	Writing as Inquiry	4
Foreign Language ¹		16
Quantitative Reasoning		4
Physical Science		4
Life Science		4
Texts and Ideas		4
Cultures and Contexts		4
Societies and the Social Sciences		4
Major Requirements		
GERM-UA 111	Conversation/Composition	4
GERM-UA 152	Introduction to German Literature	4
Select six 200- and 300-/400-level courses ²		24
Electives		
Other Elective Credits		48
Total Credits		128

¹ The foreign language requirement is satisfied upon successful completion through the Intermediate level of a language. This may be accomplished in fewer than 16 credits, but those credits must then be completed as elective credit.

² A maximum of three can be at the 200 level (i.e., taught in English).

Students are strongly encouraged to fulfill some of the program requirements through a semester or year of study away, either at NYU Berlin or NYU Prague.

Sample Plan of Study

Course	Title	Credits
1st Semester/Term		
GERM-UA 10	Intensive Elementary German ¹	6
Physical Science		4
Texts and Ideas		4
First-Year Seminar		4
Credits		18
2nd Semester/Term		
GERM-UA 20	Intensive Intermediate German ¹	6
Life Science		4
Cultures and Contexts		4
EXPOS-UA 1	Writing as Inquiry	4
Credits		18
3rd Semester/Term		
GERM-UA 111	Conversation/Composition	4
Quantitative Reasoning		4
Elective		4
Elective		4
Credits		16
4th Semester/Term		
GERM-UA 152	Introduction to German Literature	4
Societies and the Social Sciences		4
Elective		4
Elective		4
Credits		16
5th Semester/Term		
GERM-UA XXX	Major Elective 1 of 6 ²	4
GERM-UA XXX	Major Elective 2 of 6 ²	4
Elective		4
Elective		4
Credits		16
6th Semester/Term		
GERM-UA XXX	Major Elective 3 of 6 ²	4
GERM-UA XXX	Major Elective 4 of 6 ²	4
Elective		4
Elective		4
Credits		16
7th Semester/Term		
GERM-UA XXX	Major Elective 5 of 6 ²	4
Elective		4
Elective		4
Elective		4
Credits		16
8th Semester/Term		
GERM-UA XXX	Major Elective 6 of 6 ²	4
Elective		4
Elective		4
Elective		4
Credits		16
Total Credits		132

Note: Students may choose the "extensive" sequence of GERM-UA 1, 2, 3, and 4 in lieu of the "intensive" sequence of GERM-UA 10 and 20, and graduate with the minimum 128 credits.

¹ Prerequisite for entering the major; does not count toward major requirements.

² To be chosen from the 200, 300, 400, and 900 levels, of which a maximum of three courses can be at the 200 level, i.e. taught in English.

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of program requirements, students are expected to have acquired:

1. Proficiency in German language skills, including listening, speaking, reading, and writing, at a level equivalent to (or above) B2 on the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages.
2. An understanding of German culture, literature, and history, including key movements and works in German literature and the cultural, social, and political factors that have shaped German history.
3. Critical thinking skills that enable them to analyze German-language texts and media, to identify and evaluate different perspectives, and to develop well-reasoned arguments and ideas in both oral and written communication.
4. An appreciation for the global relevance of German language and culture, including the importance of the German-speaking world in international business, politics, and culture.
5. The ability to apply German language and cultural knowledge in a variety of contexts, including careers in academia, business, government, or non-profit organizations.

Policies

Program Policies

General Information

The prerequisite for entering all majors in the department is completion of German language training through the full intermediate level (GERM-UA 4 or GERM-UA 20). Students who have equivalent language training or proficiency may satisfy the prerequisite with the CAS placement examination. Students who wish to major or minor in German must register with the department and have their programs approved by the director of undergraduate studies. Majors and minors will be assigned a departmental adviser, usually the director of undergraduate studies, with whom they should consult before registering each semester.

With the permission of the director of undergraduate studies, up to 4 credits of independent study or internship work may also be counted toward the major.

NYU Policies

University-wide policies can be found on the New York University Policy pages (<https://bulletins.nyu.edu/nyu/policies/>).

College of Arts and Science Policies

A full list of relevant academic policies can be found on the CAS Academic Policies page (<https://bulletins.nyu.edu/undergraduate/arts-science/academic-policies/>).