The German studies program teaches and conducts research in the language, literature, and culture of the German-speaking nations of Europe: Germany, Austria, and Switzerland. There is a major in German studies, a minor in German, and a minor in Dutch studies; these major and minor programs include study of language as well as of literature, philology, culture, and civilization.

The department recommends study abroad in a German-speaking country for at least six months in order to acquire cultural familiarity and language fluency. Students may apply appropriate coursework to a German studies major or German minor. The University is affiliated with exchange programs in Berlin and Freiburg for both one- and two-semester stays. There are also other possibilities for study at many additional German, Austrian, and Swiss universities.

**Preparatory Coursework**

The Graduation Proficiency Test in German. Students may declare the major at any time during the preparatory coursework.

**Degree Requirements**

Students must complete at least 120 credits to graduate, including at least 35 credits in the major. This includes a core curriculum of 20-24 credits (5-6 courses) and an additional 12-15 credits of electives (4-5 courses) selected according to the guidelines of the two emphases: literature, culture, and society, and linguistics and philology. Students in the first emphasis may take one of these electives in a program outside of German—for example in art history, history, political science, philosophy, or international relations—if the course examines German-speaking areas, subject to the approval of the director of undergraduate studies. For students in the linguistics and philology emphasis, one of the electives must be taken in the linguistics program. The major program must be approved by the director of undergraduate studies.

Placement: The standard first-year classroom sequence consists of Ger 1001 and 1002. To enroll for second-year courses, CLA students must pass 1002 or the Entrance Proficiency Test. Consult the Language Testing Program for more information on placement and testing (http://langtest.umn.edu or 624-0862).

**Required Courses**

Core required of all students (5-6 courses)

- Ger 3011-3012—Conversation and Composition (3012 may be skipped if an A is earned in 3011)
- Ger 3104—Reading and Analysis of German Literature
- Ger 3511-3512—German Culture and Civilization
- One of the following sequences:
  - **Literature, Culture, and Society Emphasis**
    - This emphasis is designed to deepen students’ familiarity with German literature, film, and culture; to familiarize students with the contemporary socio-cultural scene of the German-speaking areas, as well as their historical development; and to introduce students to various critical and theoretical approaches in the study of German culture.
    - Students planning on future graduate studies will find that this track is geared to the admission requirements of most graduate programs. This track is also well suited to those students interested in teaching German at the high school level.

- **Placement: The standard first-year classroom sequence consists of Ger 1001 and 1002. To enroll for second-year courses, CLA students must pass 1002 or the Entrance Proficiency Test. Consult the Language Testing Program for more information on placement and testing (http://langtest.umn.edu or 624-0862).**
What can I do with a major in German studies?

Skills

German studies majors develop skills that are applicable to a wide variety of careers. These skills include:

- Verbal and written communication skills
- Strong cultural knowledge and understanding
- Ability to formulate clear and persuasive messages
- Listening, clarifying, questioning and responding skills
- Ability to work well with diverse groups

Employment

Common areas of employment for this major include but are not limited to:

- Business—marketing, human resources, sales, recruiting, international business
- Education—teaching, research, student affairs
- Government—public information, campaigns, policy, elected official
- Social services—social work, therapy, ESL instruction
- Nonprofit—fundraising, programming, management
- Law—litigation, advocacy, lobbying

How do I declare a German studies major?

You will be required to declare a major by the time you have completed 60 credits. Remember, you have not declared a major until you complete steps 1-3 below.

1. Talk with the director of undergraduate studies to learn more about the major and its requirements.
2. When you decide upon a German studies major, meet with the director of undergraduate studies to complete a Major Program form.
3. Bring a copy of the form to your CLA student community.
4. If you decide to change your major, contact your student community for information about the major’s declaration process.

Remember!

You have not declared a major until you have:

- completed a Major Program Form with your major adviser
- filed a copy with the major department
- filed a copy with your CLA student community
- be sure to keep a copy for yourself

Minor Requirements

Students take five courses (minimum of 17 credits), including:

- Ger 3011-3012—Conversation and Composition (3012 may be skipped if an A is earned in 3011) (4-8 credits)
- Ger 3104—Introduction to Literary Analysis (4 credits)
- and two to three more 3xxx, 4xxx, or 5xxx courses (6-9 credits).

The minor program must be approved by the director of undergraduate studies.

Linguistics and Philology Emphasis

The purpose of this sequence is to acquaint students with the structure of modern German and its dialects, and with the history and development of the Germanic languages. This track is especially useful to students interested in graduate studies in linguistics or Germanic philology.

- Three to four more courses in German linguistics and philology: 37XX courses and 5101
- One linguistics course chosen from Ling 3001, 3011, 3601, 5001, or 5601

Final Project

Students complete GSD 3451—Major Project Seminar. The final project in the linguistics and philology emphasis must deal with German language, historical or modern.

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Education—teaching, research, student affairs

Government—public information, campaigns, policy, elected official

Social services—social work, therapy, ESL instruction

Nonprofit—fundraising, programming, management

Law—litigation, advocacy, lobbying
About the German studies major:
Undergraduate Advising
205 Folwell Hall
(612) 625-2080
http://www.folwell.umn.edu/gsd

About CLA requirements, graduation, and other information about majors:
CLA Languages and Math Student Community
114 Johnston Hall
(612) 624-7540
http://langmath.cla.umn.edu
langmath@class.cla.umn.edu

or
CLA Martin Luther King, Jr. Program
19 Johnston Hall
(612) 625-2300
http://www.mlk.umn.edu/
mlk@class.cla.umn.edu

About careers, internships, and community learning opportunities in this major and others:
Career and Community Learning Center
135 Johnston Hall
(612) 624-7577
www.cclc.umn.edu
cclc@class.cla.umn.edu

About graduation with honors:
Students interested in graduating with honors should contact:
CLA Honors Division
115 Johnston Hall
(612) 624-5522
www.cla.umn.edu/honors/
honors@class.cla.umn.edu