

GERMAN, B.S.

Begin Campus: Any Penn State Campus

End Campus: University Park

Program Description

The B.S. degree in German is designed to allow students to combine fluency in the German language and culture with other academic disciplines. The German-Business option develops basic German business-communication skills as well as fundamental knowledge of German economics. The German-Engineering and Applied German options have a required overseas study and internship component.

Courses in German literature and culture are essential to all German B.S. options, and students in the German-Business option are encouraged to participate in the University's study abroad programs in Germany.

Applied German Option

This option is designed to provide German majors with a background in an area of study where knowledge of German is useful. In consultation with an adviser, majors in this option are required to either study abroad or do an internship that corresponds with their related area of study.

German Business Option

This option is designed to introduce German majors to the principles of business administration. The curriculum combines an exposure to managerial processes with foreign language competency in German.

German Engineering Option

This option is designed to combine the study of German and Engineering in order to internationalize and enhance the study and practice of the engineering profession. (Open only to students enrolled in an engineering major.)

What is German?

German Studies is an interdisciplinary academic sub-field of the Humanities concerned with the languages, literatures, arts, and politics of German-speaking communities in Europe and across the world (e.g., Pennsylvania Germans). In pursuing each of these areas German Studies intersects with the related fields of linguistics, literary studies, visual studies, and history, respectively.

You Might Like This Program If...

- You are passionate about the language, literature, and arts in Germany, Austria, Switzerland, and other German-speaking regions.
- You understand the critical role Germany plays in the EU and the world today.
- Your other major is in one of the numerous other fields in which knowledge of the German language and culture is advantageous, such as Comparative Literature, Philosophy, History, or Political Science.
- You are considering an academic or professional career requiring knowledge of a foreign language and critical thinking skills.

Entrance to Major

In order to be eligible for entrance to this major, a student must:

1. attain at least a C (2.00) cumulative grade-point average for all courses taken at the University; and
2. have at least third-semester classification (<https://www.registrar.psu.edu/enrollment/semester-classification.cfm>).

READ SENATE POLICY 37-30: ENTRANCE TO AND CHANGES IN MAJOR PROGRAMS OF STUDY (<https://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/37-00-entrance-to-a-college-or-major/>)

Degree Requirements

For the Bachelor of Science degree in German, a minimum of 120 credits is required:

Requirement	Credits
General Education	45
Electives	20-23
Requirements for the Major	52-66

0-13 of the 45 credits for General Education are included in the Requirements for the Major. This includes: 0-6 credits of GS courses; 0-3 credits of GWS courses; 0-4 credits of GQ courses.

Per Senate Policy 83-80.5, the college dean or campus chancellor and program faculty may require up to 24 credits of coursework in the major to be taken at the location or in the college or program where the degree is earned. For more information, check the Suggested Academic Plan for your intended program.

Requirements for the Major

A grade of C or better is required for all courses in the major. To graduate, a student enrolled in the major must earn at least a C grade in each course designated by the major as a C-required course, as specified by Senate Policy 82-44 (<https://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/#82-44>).

Common Requirements for the Major (All Options)

Code	Title	Credits
Prescribed Courses		
<i>Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
GER 301	Intermediate Speaking and Listening	3
GER 302W	Intermediate Composition and Grammar	3
GER 310	Introduction to the Study of German Literature	3
GER 344	Intermediate German Culture	3
GER 401Y	Advanced Composition	3
Additional Courses		
<i>Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
GER 201 or GER 208Y	Conversation and Composition	4
GER 431 or GER 432	History of German Literature and Culture I History of German Literature and Culture II	3
Requirements for the Option		
<i>Requirements for the Option: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
Select an option		30-44

Requirements for the Option Applied German Option (30 credits)

Code	Title	Credits
Prescribed Courses		
<i>Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
GER 200N	Contemporary German Culture	3
GER 399	Foreign Study--German	3
GER 499	Foreign Study--German	3
Supporting Courses and Related Areas		
<i>Supporting Courses and Related Areas: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
Select 18 credits in related areas such as Hospitality Management, Linguistics, Applied Linguistics, Sociology, Economics, Science, Technology and Society, or in another professional area where competency in German is desirable. The courses are to be selected in consultation with an adviser. At least 6 credits of such courses must be at the 400 level.		18
Select 3 credits in German at the 300 or 400 level		3

Note: A work experience in a German-speaking country may be substituted for GER 399 or GER 499. The work experience may take the form of an internship (LA 495 or GER 495). If the number of work-experience credits for which a student registered is less than 6, the difference in the number of credits must be earned by taking additional courses in consultation with the Department of Germanic and Slavic Languages and Literatures.

German Business Option (44 credits)

Code	Title	Credits
Prescribed Courses		
<i>Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
ACCTG 211	Financial and Managerial Accounting for Decision Making	4
BA 301	Finance	3
BA 303	Marketing	3
BA 304	Management and Organization	3
ECON 102	Introductory Microeconomic Analysis and Policy	3
ECON 104	Introductory Macroeconomic Analysis and Policy	3
ENGL 202D	Effective Writing: Business Writing	3
GER 308Y	German Business Communication	3
GER 408	Advanced German Business Communications	3
IB 303	International Business Operations	3
IB 403	International Business and National Policies	3

Additional Courses

<i>Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
SCM 200 or STAT 200	Introduction to Statistics for Business Elementary Statistics	4
Select 3 credits from:		3
ECON 333	International Economics	
MGMT 461	International Management	
MKTG 445	Global Marketing	
Select an additional 3 credits of German courses at the 400 level		3

German Engineering Option (33 credits)

Open only to students enrolled in an engineering major.

Code	Title	Credits
Prescribed Courses		
<i>Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		

GER 308Y	German Business Communication	3
GER 399	Foreign Study--German	3
GER 408	Advanced German Business Communications	3
GER 499	Foreign Study--German	3

Supporting Courses and Related Areas

<i>Supporting Courses and Related Areas: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
Select 21 credits of engineering courses in consultation with the engineering adviser		21

General Education

Connecting career and curiosity, the General Education curriculum provides the opportunity for students to acquire transferable skills necessary to be successful in the future and to thrive while living in interconnected contexts. General Education aids students in developing intellectual curiosity, a strengthened ability to think, and a deeper sense of aesthetic appreciation. These are requirements for all baccalaureate students and are often partially incorporated into the requirements of a program. For additional information, see the General Education Requirements (<https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-education/baccalaureate-degree-general-education-program/>) section of the Bulletin and consult your academic adviser.

The keystone symbol appears next to the title of any course that is designated as a General Education course. Program requirements may also satisfy General Education requirements and vary for each program.

Foundations (grade of C or better is required and Inter-Domain courses do not meet this requirement.)

- **Quantification (GQ):** 6 credits
- **Writing and Speaking (GWS):** 9 credits

Breadth in the Knowledge Domains (Inter-Domain courses do not meet this requirement.)

- **Arts (GA):** 3 credits
- **Health and Wellness (GHW):** 3 credits
- **Humanities (GH):** 3 credits
- **Social and Behavioral Sciences (GS):** 3 credits
- **Natural Sciences (GN):** 3 credits

Integrative Studies

- **Inter-Domain Courses (Inter-Domain):** 6 credits

Exploration

- **GN**, may be completed with Inter-Domain courses: 3 credits
- **GA, GH, GN, GS, Inter-Domain courses.** This may include 3 credits of World Language course work beyond the 12th credit level or the requirements for the student's degree program, whichever is higher: 6 credits

University Degree Requirements

First Year Engagement

All students enrolled in a college or the Division of Undergraduate Studies at University Park, and the World Campus are required to take 1 to 3 credits of the First-Year Seminar, as specified by their college First-Year Engagement Plan.

Other Penn State colleges and campuses may require the First-Year Seminar; colleges and campuses that do not require a First-Year Seminar provide students with a first-year engagement experience.

First-year baccalaureate students entering Penn State should consult their academic adviser for these requirements.

Cultures Requirement

6 credits are required and may satisfy other requirements

- United States Cultures: 3 credits
- International Cultures: 3 credits

Writing Across the Curriculum

3 credits required from the college of graduation and likely prescribed as part of major requirements.

Total Minimum Credits

A minimum of 120 degree credits must be earned for a baccalaureate degree. The requirements for some programs may exceed 120 credits. Students should consult with their college or department adviser for information on specific credit requirements.

Quality of Work

Candidates must complete the degree requirements for their major and earn at least a 2.00 grade-point average for all courses completed within their degree program.

Limitations on Source and Time for Credit Acquisition

The college dean or campus chancellor and program faculty may require up to 24 credits of course work in the major to be taken at the location or in the college or program where the degree is earned. Credit used toward degree programs may need to be earned from a particular source or within time constraints (see Senate Policy 83-80 (<https://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/#83-80>)). For more information, check the Suggested Academic Plan for your intended program.

Integrated B.S. in German and M.I.A. in International Affairs

Requirements for the Integrated B.S. in German and M.I.A. in International Affairs can be found in the Graduate Bulletin (<https://bulletins.psu.edu/graduate/programs/majors/international-affairs/#integratedundergradprogramtext>).

Program Learning Objectives

- Students will have developed oral skills in German that allow them to communicate efficiently in a range of settings from informal to professional.
- Students will have developed literacy skills that allow them to both read and write in German. Majors should be able to read and interpret a variety of media ranging from newspapers to literary texts to formal academic prose.
- Students will have developed an understanding of the structure of the German language.
- Students will have developed an understanding of the significance of the major cultural and historical events, personages and developments in Germany, Austria, and Switzerland.
- Students will be familiar with major authors and literary works in German.

Academic Advising

The objectives of the university's academic advising program are to help advisees identify and achieve their academic goals, to promote their

intellectual discovery, and to encourage students to take advantage of both in-and out-of class educational opportunities in order that they become self-directed learners and decision makers.

Both advisers and advisees share responsibility for making the advising relationship succeed. By encouraging their advisees to become engaged in their education, to meet their educational goals, and to develop the habit of learning, advisers assume a significant educational role. The advisee's unit of enrollment will provide each advisee with a primary academic adviser, the information needed to plan the chosen program of study, and referrals to other specialized resources.

READ SENATE POLICY 32-00: ADVISING POLICY (<https://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/32-00-advising-policy/>)

University Park

Liberal Arts Academic Advising

814-865-2545

Use the Liberal Arts Meet the Academic Advisers web page (<https://la.psu.edu/student-services/academic-advising/meet-the-academic-advisers/>) to see the contact information for the specific adviser(s) of this program

SUGGESTED ACADEMIC PLAN

The suggested academic plan(s) listed on this page are the plan(s) that are in effect during the 2023-24 academic year. To access previous years' suggested academic plans, please visit the archive (<https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/archive/>) to view the appropriate Undergraduate Bulletin edition (*Note: the archive only contains suggested academic plans beginning with the 2018-19 edition of the Undergraduate Bulletin*).

Applied German Option: German, B.S. at University Park Campus and Commonwealth Campuses

The course series listed below provides **only one** of the many possible ways to move through this curriculum. The University may make changes in policies, procedures, educational offerings, and requirements at any time. This plan should be used in conjunction with your degree audit (accessible in LionPATH as either an **Academic Requirements** or **What If** report). Please consult with a Penn State academic adviser on a regular basis to develop and refine an academic plan that is appropriate for you.

First Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
GER 1	4 GER 2	4
ENGL 15, 30H, 137H, CAS 137H, or ESL 15 [†]	3 CAS 100A, 100B, or 100C [‡]	3
General Education Course (N)	3 General Education Course (GQ) [‡]	3
General Education Course	3 General Education Course (N)	3
First Year Seminar (FYS)	3 General Education Course	3
	16	16

Second Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
GER 3	4 GER 201 or 208Y (IL) [*]	4
Applied Option Course, in consultation with adviser [*]	3 Applied Option Course, in consultation with adviser [*]	3

General Education Course (GQ) [‡]	3 GER 200N (GH;IL)*	3
General Education Course	3 General Education Course	3
General Education Course	3 US Cultures Course (US)	3
16		16
Third Year		
Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
GER 301 (IL)*	3 GER 401Y (IL)*	3
GER 302W*	3 GER 344 (IL)*	3
Applied Option Course, in consultation with adviser*	3 GER 399 (IL)*	3
Applied Option Course, in consultation with adviser*	3 GER 499 (IL)*	3
General Education Course	3 General Education Course	3
15		15
Fourth Year		
Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
GER 310 (IL)*	3 Select 3 credits of 300- or 400- level courses in GER, in consultation with adviser*	3
GER 431 or 432 (IL)*	3 400-level applied option course, in consultation with adviser*	3
400-level Applied Option Course, in consultation with adviser*	3 General Education Course (GHW)	1.5
ENGL 202 (GWS) [‡]	3 Elective	3
General Education Course (GHW)	1.5 Elective	2
13.5		12.5
Total Credits 120		

* Course requires a grade of C or better for the major

‡ Course requires a grade of C or better for General Education

Course is an Entrance to Major requirement

† Course satisfies General Education and degree requirement

University Requirements and General Education Notes:

US and IL are abbreviations used to designate courses that satisfy Cultural Diversity Requirements (United States and International Cultures).

W, M, X, and Y are the suffixes at the end of a course number used to designate courses that satisfy University Writing Across the Curriculum requirement.

General Education includes Foundations (GWS and GQ), Knowledge Domains (GHW, GN, GA, GH, GS) and Integrative Studies (Inter-domain) requirements. N or Q (Honors) is the suffix at the end of a course number used to help identify an Inter-domain course, but the inter-domain attribute is used to fill audit requirements. Foundations courses (GWS and GQ) require a grade of 'C' or better.

All incoming Schreyer Honors College first-year students at University Park will take ENGL 137H/CAS 137H in the fall semester and ENGL 138T/CAS 138T in the spring semester. These courses carry the GWS designation and satisfy a portion of that General Education

requirement. If the student's program prescribes GWS these courses will replace both ENGL 15/ENGL 30H and CAS 100A/CAS 100B/CAS 100C. Each course is 3 credits.

Advising Notes:

- All incoming freshmen must take a First-Year Seminar (FYS) during Fall or Spring of their first year. Academic advisers can provide a list of FYS being offered and help the student enroll. Most FYS in the College of the Liberal Arts are worth 3 cr. and count as a General Humanities (GH) or General Social Sciences (GS) course. For this reason, the FYS is not listed separately on this eight-semester plan; most students will be able to fulfill the FYS requirement while also fulfilling a GH or GS requirement.
- Students pursuing this major at a Commonwealth Campus might require summer attendance, study abroad, or additional semesters to complete the major coursework. Students should contact the University Park adviser to plan their major courses accordingly.

German Business Option: German, B.S. at University Park Campus and Commonwealth Campuses

The course series listed below provides **only one** of the many possible ways to move through this curriculum. The University may make changes in policies, procedures, educational offerings, and requirements at any time. This plan should be used in conjunction with your degree audit (accessible in LionPATH as either an **Academic Requirements** or **What If** report). Please consult with a Penn State academic adviser on a regular basis to develop and refine an academic plan that is appropriate for you.

First Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
GER 1	4 GER 2	4
ENGL 15, 30H, 137H, CAS 137H, or ESL 15 (GWS) [‡]	3 CAS 100A, 100B, 100C, 138T, or ENGL 138T (GWS) [‡]	3
ECON 102 (GS) ^{*††}	3 ECON 104 (GS) ^{*††}	3
General Education Course (GQ) [‡]	3 General Education Course (N)	3
General Education Course (FYS)	3 General Education Course	3
	16	16

Second Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
GER 3	4 GER 201 or 208Y (IL) [*]	4
BA 301 [*]	3 ACCTG 211 [*]	4
STAT 200 (GQ) ^{*††}	4 BA 303 [*]	3
General Education Course (N)	3 General Education Course	3
General Education Course (GHW)	1.5	
	15.5	14

Third Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
GER 301 [*]	3 GER 310 [*]	3
GER 302W [*]	3 GER 401Y [*]	3
ENGL 202D (GWS) ^{*††}	3 ECON 333, MGMT 461, or MKTG 445 [*]	3
BA 304 [*]	3 General Education Course	3
General Education Course	3 Elective	3
	15	15

Fourth Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
IB 303 [*]	3 GER 408 (IL) [*]	3
GER 344 [*]	3 GER 431 or 432 [*]	3
GER 308Y [*]	3 IB 403 [*]	3
General Education Course (GHW)	1.5 Elective	3
Elective (US)	3 Elective	3
	13.5	15

Total Credits 120

† Course satisfies General Education and degree requirement

University Requirements and General Education Notes:

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General Education includes Foundations (GWS and GQ), Knowledge Domains (GHW, GN, GA, GH, GS) and Integrative Studies (Inter-domain) requirements. N or Q (Honors) is the suffix at the end of a course number used to help identify an Inter-domain course, but the inter-domain attribute is used to fill audit requirements. Foundations courses (GWS and GQ) require a grade of 'C' or better.

All incoming Schreyer Honors College first-year students at University Park will take ENGL 137H/CAS 137H in the fall semester and ENGL 138T/CAS 138T in the spring semester. These courses carry the GWS designation and satisfy a portion of that General Education requirement. If the student's program prescribes GWS these courses will replace both ENGL 15/ENGL 30H and CAS 100A/CAS 100B/CAS 100C. Each course is 3 credits.

Advising Notes:

- Students pursuing this major at a Commonwealth Campus might require summer attendance, study abroad, or additional semesters to complete the major coursework. Students should contact the University Park adviser to plan their major courses accordingly.

* Course requires a grade of C or better for the major

‡ Course requires a grade of C or better for General Education

Course is an Entrance to Major requirement

German Engineering Option: German, B.S. at University Park Campus and Commonwealth Campuses

The course series listed below provides **only one** of the many possible ways to move through this curriculum. The University may make changes in policies, procedures, educational offerings, and requirements at any time. This plan should be used in conjunction with your degree audit (accessible in LionPATH as either an **Academic Requirements** or **What If** report). Please consult with a Penn State academic adviser on a regular basis to develop and refine an academic plan that is appropriate for you.

First Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
GER 1	4 GER 2	4
ENGL 15, 30H, 137H, CAS 137H, or ESL 15 (GWS) [‡]	3 CAS 100A, 100B, 100C, 138T, or ENGL 138T (GWS) [‡]	3
General Education Course	3 General Education Course	3
General Education Course (GQ) [‡]	3 General Education Course (N)	3
General Education Course (FYS)	3 General Education Course	3
	16	16

Second Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
GER 3	4 GER 201 or 208Y (IL) [*]	4
Engineering Course ^{*1}	3 Elective (US)	3
General Education Course (GQ) [‡]	3 Engineering Course ^{*1}	3
General Education Course (N)	3 Engineering Course ^{*1}	3
General Education Course (GHW)	1.5 General Education Course	3
	14.5	16

Third Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
GER 301 [*]	3 GER 399 [*]	3
GER 302W [*]	3 GER 499 [*]	3
ENGL 202 (GWS) [‡]	3 GER 310 [*]	3
Engineering Course ^{*1}	3 Engineering Course ^{*1}	3
General Education Course	3 Engineering Course ^{*1}	3
	15	15

Fourth Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
GER 401Y [*]	3 GER 408 (IL) [*]	3
GER 344 [*]	3 GER 431 or 432 [*]	3
GER 308Y [*]	3 Engineering Course ^{*1}	3
General Education Course (GHW)	1.5 Engineering Course ^{*1}	3
Elective	3 Elective	3
	13.5	15

Total Credits 121

^{*} Course requires a grade of C or better for the major

[‡] Course requires a grade of C or better for General Education

[#] Course is an Entrance to Major requirement

[†] Course satisfies General Education and degree requirement

¹ Engineering Courses are planned in consultation with the engineering adviser. All German-Engineering majors are required to participate in a one-semester study abroad experience.

University Requirements and General Education Notes:

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W, M, X, and Y are the suffixes at the end of a course number used to designate courses that satisfy University Writing Across the Curriculum requirement.

General Education includes Foundations (GWS and GQ), Knowledge Domains (GHW, GN, GA, GH, GS) and Integrative Studies (Inter-domain) requirements. N or Q (Honors) is the suffix at the end of a course number used to help identify an Inter-domain course, but the inter-domain attribute is used to fill audit requirements. Foundations courses (GWS and GQ) require a grade of 'C' or better.

All incoming Schreyer Honors College first-year students at University Park will take ENGL 137H/CAS 137H in the fall semester and ENGL 138T/CAS 138T in the spring semester. These courses carry the GWS designation and satisfy a portion of that General Education requirement. If the student's program prescribes GWS these courses will replace both ENGL 15/ENGL 30H and CAS 100A/CAS 100B/CAS 100C. Each course is 3 credits.

Advising Notes:

- Students pursuing this major at a Commonwealth Campus might require summer attendance, study abroad, or additional semesters to complete the major coursework. Students should contact the University Park adviser to plan their major courses accordingly.

Career Paths

German is one of the three official working languages of the European Union, and it is the most widely spoken native language in Europe. A degree in German opens up doors to a variety of careers in the US government and military, international business, international relations, international law, human rights, information technology, professional translation, publishing, education, the travel industry, and more. A number of our graduates have been awarded Fulbright and DAAD grants, and some have gone on to pursue graduate degrees in German Studies or related fields (Comparative Literature, Linguistics).

Contact

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