

# Germanic Languages and Literatures

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Why study German? Many of the greatest minds of the modern era thought and wrote in German, the language most often required or recommended in academic programs. German is the most widely spoken language in Europe, and Germany's economy is the world's third largest. Moreover, study of Germany's troubled history can serve as a kind of laboratory in which the promise and the perils of modernity can be examined in their most extreme manifestations.

## SKILLS & ABILITIES

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Intense study of another language and culture sharpens interpretive and communicative skills: reading critically, speaking and writing clearly, and appreciating diversity. Study of other languages and cultures expands aesthetic sensibilities and provides a new perspective on one's own language and culture. Encountering new values and novel modes of experience can be profoundly transforming. Today's era of "globalization" will likely accelerate as multinational corporations become ever more dominant, and national institutions gradually give way to regional and even global networks, institutions, and alliances.

The interdisciplinary German Studies curriculum leads to either a major or a minor in German. A minor in Scandinavian Studies is also available, as are courses in Dutch and Yiddish. The Max Kade German Residence Program, various opportunities to study abroad, and summer internships arranged through the Department provide valuable immersion experiences.

Graduates of Germanic Languages and Literatures choose careers in a wide variety of fields, ranging from education and engineering to medicine, business, and law.

Those who achieve some measure of cultural cosmopolitanism can hope to thrive in the new world.

Deep knowledge of a Germanic language and culture is a highly marketable skill. German remains an important scientific language, and is the second most common language on the Internet. German scientists are world leaders in many aspects of engineering, pharmaceuticals, pollution control, and natural resources. Germany is our largest European trading partner, and many German and American companies have formed strategic partnerships.

### Communication

- Speaking to groups
- Reading/writing another language
- Reporting and editing
- Clarifying ideas
- Writing clearly
- Understanding different business and social conventions

### Research

- Working with original sources in many fields (e.g., philosophy, history, art, music, natural sciences)
- Interpreting texts in historical context
- Learning how to approach different intellectual traditions

### Faculties

- Reading critically
- Interpreting texts
- Evaluating evidence
- Comparing translations/interpretations
- Enhanced aesthetic sensibilities

### Interpersonal Relations

- Collaborating as part of a team
- Understanding cultural diversity
- Determining the needs of others
- Gaining new perspectives through acknowledging different value systems

## OCCUPATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

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Occupational opportunities for students in Germanic Languages and Literatures can be found in all areas of the economy. Below is a selected list of career paths pursued by concentrators in this field, compiled from national data and follow-up surveys of language program graduates.

For some occupations listed below, such as economist or technical writer, additional training or specialized experience may be desirable. Advanced study is generally expected for those occupations marked with a • on the following list.

<b>Business</b>	<b>Government/Public Sector</b>	<b>Health/Human Services</b>	<b>Education/ Communications</b>
Economist	Volunteer recruiter, Peace Corps	Director, health and human resources	Exchange student program coordinator
Insurance adjuster	•Social science analyst	•International health care systems analyst	Conservator
Technical writer, corporate publications	International education specialist, Agency for International Development	•Counseling psychologist	Teacher
International marketing analyst	•Securities examiner	•Psychiatrist	•Librarian
•Policy analyst	Criminologist	•Physician	•Guidance counselor
District sales manager	Mediator trainee	Cataloger	•Intellectual properties attorney
Staff human relations training coordinator	Translator/interpreter	Laboratory technician	•Professor
Management consultant	Customs inspector	•Science information and research specialist	Coordinator, cultural arts center
Customer support specialist	Import specialist	•Social worker	Publisher, foreign language books
•Patent attorney	International relations officer, Commerce Department	Director, international airport visitors center	•Foreign film distributor
Technical translator		Youth program leader	Guidebook writer
Overseas representative		•Bioengineer	Abstractor
			Editor of foreign publications

## CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS

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**German:** A major requires a minimum of 30 hours beyond German language proficiency, including courses in speaking and writing, German literature, linguistics, culture, and film.

**Scandinavian:** A minor requires at least 15 hours, including Scandinavian 331, 349, and 375, plus two electives cho-

sen from a variety of courses in Scandinavian Studies, Film/Video, English, or Philosophy.

Students can receive credit towards these degrees for study abroad or summer internships. Please see the departmental website for further details.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

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For information about choosing a career, about graduate or professional school, internships, or job descriptions; and for library resources.

The Career Center  
3200 Student Activities Building  
764-7460  
[www.careercenter.umich.edu](http://www.careercenter.umich.edu)

For information about the concentration and degree requirements.

Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures  
3110 Modern Languages Building  
764-8018  
[www.lsa.umich.edu/german/](http://www.lsa.umich.edu/german/)

LS&A Academic Advising Center  
1255 Angell Hall  
764-0332