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Real-world thinking.



MINNESOTA STATE
UNIVERSITY
MANKATO

WORLD LANGUAGES AND CULTURES: GERMAN

College of Humanities and Social Sciences

OVERVIEW

In our changing global environment, communication is the key to understanding other peoples and cultures. More than 220 million people speak German worldwide and the German program prepares its students to thrive as global citizens in a diverse world. Students acquire language proficiency and cultural competence that provide insight into the culture, literature, and history of German-speaking countries. They are trained to think critically and interdisciplinary which enables them to travel, study, and work in areas where the target language is used.

Students will gain an understanding of German cultures, literature and history and to foundational texts that shaped the modern world. It will give them an edge when looking for job opportunities that are based in or do business with other companies in German-speaking countries.

DEGREES & CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Degrees:

German, Bachelor of Arts (BA)
German, Bachelor of Science (BS)
German, Minor
German Teaching, Bachelor of Science (BS)

Careers:

Most students who choose to major in a language offered at Minnesota State University, Mankato are double majors in other fields, including Communications Studies, Business, International Relations, Computer Science, the Humanities and many more. In many cases, they have chosen to do so because their future professional or academic plans include goals that require advanced linguistic and cultural proficiency.

The German language is widely spoken in countries and regions on all continents, including Antarctica. It is actively used in technological, cultural, literary, and scientific fields and is usually one of the official languages of communication for international organizations.

In other words, you can do just about anything and go just about anywhere with a German degree: You are limited only by your imagination and ambition!

QUALITY OF OUR PROGRAM

Accreditation:

CAEP (Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation).

Faculty:

The Department of World Languages and Cultures has eight full-time faculty with degrees from major universities in the United States and Europe. The number of graduate assistants teaching classes varies.

Faculty in the Department of World Languages and Cultures are teachers and active scholars in their specialty areas. They serve as mentors of students participating in the Undergraduate Research Conference, one of the largest conferences of its kind in the U.S. They serve on university committees and are active in university shared governance. World Languages and Cultures faculty are sponsors of student organizations such as the French, German, Scandinavian, and Spanish clubs; they advise students on study abroad and career planning and mentor students in graduate programs. The department sponsors two language honor societies.

Our faculty have received Fulbright grants, faculty research grants, faculty improvement grants, and teaching awards. Faculty publications include books, articles, on-line publications, translations, videos, and electronic media.

STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Faculty/Student Ratio:

The average is 1:17 in the Department; for German it is 1:12.

Specialized Facilities:

The Global Learning Lab is a state-of-the-art language laboratory. Using specialized software, hardware and networked storage, instructors can create assignments that give students opportunities to work individually, in pairs or small groups, or as an entire class. The lab is also equipped with multiple projectors and a variety of media players, allowing for dynamic and effective classroom presentations and other activities.

Our main classrooms in Armstrong Hall have modern, configurable furniture layouts, as well as large Internet-connected touchscreen monitors, document cameras, and all-region Blu-Ray players. In some cases, rooms are also outfitted with tablet computers and other tools to further enhance students' classroom experience.

Study Abroad:

All students are encouraged to travel and study in countries where their second language is spoken. The Department of World Languages and Cultures has programs in Costa Rica, Ecuador, France, Germany, Norway, Spain, and Sweden.

The German program has partner universities in Erlangen-Nuremberg and Karlsruhe, Germany where students can pursue studies for a semester or academic year in German and their second major. The German program at Minnesota State Mankato also has short-term study opportunities, which are led by University faculty. Minnesota State Mankato collaborates with exchange programs throughout the world. Study abroad enhances student proficiency in language and promotes cultural understanding and sensitivity to cultural difference.

Scholarships:

The department awards scholarships to returning students based on academic merit and need. Some of those scholarships are aimed toward study abroad opportunities.

Other Opportunities:

The Department collaborates with local schools in providing clinical experiences and internships for pre-service teachers.

The Department has active language clubs (French, German, Scandinavian, Spanish) and students have the opportunity to get engaged in community and university activities that allow them to use their language and understanding of culture. Some activities include film nights, collaboration with the Hispanic-Latino

Conference, the International Festival, conference planning and participation, volunteer service programs in the community and fundraising for club activities.

PLACEMENT EXAM

Students interested in studying a language will need to take a placement exam to determine what courses he/she would be eligible to register for. High-school language experience or previous college level language courses prepare students for placement in our programs.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION
Department of World Languages and Cultures**

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SAMPLE FOUR-YEAR CURRICULUM

German B.A.	
Skills: GER 201 Intermediate German I GER 202 Intermediate German II GER 340 Topics in Language (may be repeated for credit with different topic) GER 341 Composition and Conversation I GER 441 Composition and Conversation II	Literature: GER 342 Selected Readings GER 442 German Literature (may be repeated for credit with different topic)
Civilization: GER 343 German Civilization (may be substituted with GER 150W) GER 443 Topics in German Studies (may be repeated for credit with different topic)	Major Electives: Additional required credits may be selected from a preapproved list (see current bulletin)
Required Minor: Students pursuing a B.A. in German must also minor in another field. Popular choices are other languages, business related fields, Art, and History. Please note that if a student is already majoring in another field, this requirement does not apply. Students may be allowed to substitute other courses for the requirements listed above. Often, this will occur when a student chooses to participate in a study abroad program, when special one-time course is offered, or when a motivated student chooses to pursue an independent study or capstone project with a program faculty member.	
German B.S. in Teaching	
Additional Courses: Students pursuing a German B.S. in Teaching are required to take four teaching methods courses taught by Department of World Languages and Cultures faculty. These courses provide instruction in both the theoretical framework and practical implementation of language instruction and acquisition in the classroom. WLC 460 Methods of Teaching Modern Language WLC 461 Applied Modern Language Teaching Methods WLC 462 Foreign Language Elementary School (FLES) Methods WLC 463 Applied FLES Methods	Additional Requirements: While there is no required minor, students are required to complete additional courses in the College of Education for K-12 licensure. Students selecting this option must also demonstrate an intermediate high level speaking proficiency as defined in the ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines established by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages or their equivalent. Firsthand experiences in relevant target cultures are also required.

For additional information about course requirements, please visit hss.mnsu.edu/german

