

German Studies

This is a transnational and interdisciplinary major that encompasses the various German-speaking regions of central Europe and offers an intellectually diverse program—which can include literature, history, politics, arts, philosophy, and business. Currently, Germany is a leading trade partner and ally of the U.S. and is a linchpin in the European Union. The cultural and linguistic traditions of Austria and Switzerland enrich the field of German Studies.

Acquiring proficiency in the German language is an integral part of German Studies at all levels.

German Studies majors are strongly encouraged to complete a pre-approved study, internship, or work experience of one to two semesters in a German-speaking country, or in an approved immersion program. NMU's exchange partner in Germany, Oldenburg University, offers excellent support services at an affordable cost. Elective courses toward the major may be taken abroad and may substitute for the electives with departmental approval.

Skills and Competencies

The multinational tech firm Google surveyed its work force and many of the top characteristics of Google employees are skills acquired in the German language, literature, and culture classrooms. Those abilities include:

1. Being a good coach, having empathy, and being supportive.
2. Communicating and listening well.
3. Possessing insights into others (including others' different values and points of view).
4. Being a good critical thinker and problem solver.
5. Being able to make connections across complex ideas.

The German Studies Program emphasizes aptitude in cultural diversity, communication, critical thinking, reading, and writing, thus providing students with marketable and practical skills regardless of their career path. Students learn to gauge nuanced cultural differences and to communicate effectively with people of different backgrounds, making them ready to navigate today's diverse professional environment. Students develop critical thinking, leading them to approach difficult and abstract challenges with creativity and confidence. While studying German language, literatures, and cultures, students learn about international customs, gestures, attitudes, politics, history, world views, and artistic contributions of Germans and German-speaking peoples around the globe.

Course Work

This degree includes the following courses as part of the program requirements, and specific major requirements along with general education and graduation requirements.

Core

GR301	Advanced German I (4 cr.)
GR302	Advanced German II (4 cr.)
GR310	German Cultures and Counter Cultures(4 cr.) or GR311X Central European Culture and Civilization (4 cr.) or GR119 Death in Vienna (4 cr.)
GR411	Der Krimi or GR412 Identity and Belonging in German Literature (4 cr.)
LG499	Grad Assessment for Language Majors

German Studies Electives (16 cr.)

At least 8 credits must be at the 300 level or above

A minor is not required, but is highly recommended (20 cr.)

Detailed course descriptions can be found at www.nmu.edu/bulletin.

Career Development

You should begin the resume-building process as soon as you can. The Academic and Career Advisement Center can assist you with career planning, while Career Services will help you fine tune your resume. In the meantime, we highly recommend that you study abroad. A study abroad experience stands out to future employers because it demonstrates your adaptability and ability to engage with people from diverse backgrounds. Obtaining a professionally related internship, membership in the German Club (and/or serving as an officer of the club), and work as a German tutor in the Language Resource are ways to develop your skills and gain experience, and enhance your resume. Your academic course work is important as well, so be sure to maintain a high grade point average.

Additional Considerations

Many German Studies majors also double-major. Some popular major pairings include Public Relations and Communications (especially for students interested in graduate school or marketing), Mechanical Engineering (especially for students interested in working in the auto industry), International Studies (especially for students who plan to study abroad in a German-speaking country), Biology, and Environmental Studies, just to name a few.

Job Outlook

Jobs in need of skills and competencies that are acquired while studying German are varied both in terms of specialty and salary. Examples of potential careers are listed on this brochure.

Potential Careers

NMU's German Studies Program prepares students for employment in the following careers:

- Law: Lawyer and Immigration Specialist
- International Business
- Translation and Publishing: Translator or Interpreter
- Education: German Language Teacher
- Customer Support
- Journalism: Journalist and Writer
- Air travel: Flight attendant and Pilot
- Government
- Military
- Non-governmental Organizations
- International Finance
- Tourism and Hospitality Management

Jobs that don't even exist yet! A German Studies major shows that you are a flexible, curious, culturally-aware thinking open to new ideas.

Additional Resources and Information

For Career Planning and Opportunities:
Academic & Career Advisement Center
3302.1 C.B. Hedgcock
906-227-2971
www.nmu.edu/acac

Languages, Literatures & International Studies
145 Whitman Hall
906-227-2940
www.nmu.edu/languages

For Job Search, Resume and Career Information:
Career Services
3302.3 C.B. Hedgcock
906-227-2800
www.nmu.edu/careers

For Information about NMU Student Organizations Associated with this Major Contact:
Center for Student Enrichment
1206 University Center
906-227-2439
www.nmu.edu/cse

German Club

Internet Resource Links:
www.careers.org
www.bls.gov

For Career Information with National Organizations:

www.aifs.org -American Institute for Foreign Study
www.mla.org -Modern Language Association
www.actfl.org -American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages

www.aatg.org -American Association of Teachers of German
www.state.gov -U.S. Department of State



**NORTHERN MICHIGAN
UNIVERSITY**

MARQUETTE, MICHIGAN

The Academic & Career Advisement Center
2022



What to do with
a major in...

German Studies

