

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—covering literature, history, politics, the arts, philosophy, and business. Currently Germany is a leading trade partner and ally of the U.S. and is a linchpin in the European Community. 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 and an affordable cost. Elective courses toward the major may be taken abroad and may substitute for the area electives with departmental approval.

Skills and Competencies

A language and literatures degree emphasizes communication, critical thinking, reading, and writing. It therefore gives you the opportunity to master many skills and competencies. Writing skills—necessary in any career field today—are developed and fine-tuned, as are your critical thinking and research skills. Reading skills are developed to help you not only analyze texts and interpret material, but also to identify various word patterns and structures. And unlike most other degrees, a language degree gives you the opportunity to learn about international culture—customs, gestures, attitudes, politics, history, world views, and artistic contributions of people from around the world, specifically Germany.

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** Intro to German Civilization and Culture (4 cr.) or **GR311** Central European Culture and Civilization (4 cr.)
- GR320** Great Works 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

No Minor required, but 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 and look for jobs related to your field. In the meantime, the more hands-on experience you have, the better for future employment. Becoming involved in a professional related internship is a way to develop your professional skills and gain experience. Your academic course work is important as well, so be sure to maintain a high grade point average.

Additional Considerations

Foreign language skills are valuable or even required for some of the positions listed. You can gain excellent experience in the government field by finding an internship related to your interests.

A business minor may be helpful, but sometimes relevant work experience is more beneficial. Coupling the two is optimal.

Remember to take any necessary exams early; it can take six weeks for results to be sent to the schools to which you applied. Foreign language competency, sometimes in two languages, is required in many graduate programs.

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:

Education

International Business

International Education

Interpretation

Government (State Department, etc.)

Military (Linguistics, etc.)

Non-Government Organizations (NGOs)

Teaching of English as a Second Language

Translation

Travel

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



**NORTHERN MICHIGAN
UNIVERSITY**

MARQUETTE, MICHIGAN

The Academic & Career Advisement Center
2020



What to do with
a major in...

German Studies

