FROM STUDY TO SKILLS

All academic programs offered at the UM help students develop valuable transferable skills. So why study German? German is the most widely spoken language in Europe, and the German economy is one of the world’s largest. Many of the great minds of the last 300 years thought and wrote in German, and German is often required or recommended for graduate study in the humanities and social sciences.

In addition to the German concentration, minors in German and in Scandinavian studies are also available, as are courses in Dutch and Yiddish. In our increasingly global world, the intense study of another language and culture will help you develop a broad range of linguistic, cultural, and analytical skills.

Related fields include Linguistics, History, Political Science, Economics, Business, Philosophy, History of Art, Music, Slavic and Russian, and Sociology.

SKILLS AND ABILITIES

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

Analytical Skills
Reading and thinking critically
Interpreting texts
Viewing issues from several perspectives
Evaluating evidence
Comparing translations/interpretations
Developing enhanced aesthetic sensibilities

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

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

BUILDING YOUR SKILLS OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

Employers seek out individuals who can demonstrate excellent verbal and written communication skills, teamwork and interpersonal skills, initiative, and a strong work ethic. Student organizations and campus employment offer valuable opportunities to add to the skills you are developing in your classes. Study abroad experiences are particularly helpful to improve language proficiency and gain intercultural skills. The Max Kade House, a Michigan Learning Community (MLC), is the only language house on campus and provides a unique opportunity to undergraduates. German Club, a student organization, meets weekly for social events and German conversation. Other options include off-campus employment or volunteering in the community. Finally, a summer internship may be the best way of all to test out a career field and develop marketable skills.
FROM SKILLS TO CAREER

As a German concentrator, you will develop both cultural and language skills and find career opportunities in all areas of the economy. For example, cross-cultural communication skills may be equally useful whether working as a translator, an import specialist, or a freelance journalist. Moreover, the ability to work in both Germany and the U.S.A. can provide twice as many career opportunities. Many concentrators go on to graduate or professional school. The list below is a sample of careers undertaken by German graduates.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Research Skills</th>
<th>Analytical Skills</th>
<th>Interpersonal Skills</th>
<th>Communication Skills</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Economist</td>
<td>Insurance adjuster</td>
<td>District sales manager</td>
<td>Technical writer, corporate publications</td>
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<tr>
<td>Securities examiner</td>
<td>International marketing analyst</td>
<td>Human relations coordinator</td>
<td>Translator/interpreter</td>
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<tr>
<td>Criminologist</td>
<td>Policy analyst</td>
<td>Customer support specialist</td>
<td>Technical translator</td>
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<td>International health care systems analyst</td>
<td>Social science analyst</td>
<td>Volunteer recruiter, Peace Corps</td>
<td>Overseas representative</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cataloger</td>
<td>Patent attorney</td>
<td>Mediator</td>
<td>International education specialists</td>
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<tr>
<td>Laboratory technician</td>
<td>Intellectual property attorney</td>
<td>Social worker</td>
<td>Customs inspector</td>
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<tr>
<td>Science information and research specialist</td>
<td>Import specialist</td>
<td>Director, health and human resources</td>
<td>K-12 language teacher</td>
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<tr>
<td>Librarian</td>
<td>International relations officer</td>
<td>Psychologist/counselor</td>
<td>College language instructor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Abpositor</td>
<td>Commerce Department</td>
<td>Psychiatrist</td>
<td>Coordinator, cultural arts center</td>
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<td>Physician</td>
<td>Guidance counselor</td>
<td>Publisher, foreign language books</td>
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<td>Bioengineer</td>
<td>Director, international airport visitors center</td>
<td>Guidebook writer</td>
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<td>Conservator</td>
<td>Youth program leader</td>
<td>Web writer</td>
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<td>Exchange student program coordinator</td>
<td>Editor of foreign publications</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Foreign language film distributor</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

= Green Jobs
= Further Study Required

For more career information, see O*Net at online.onetcenter.org

CONCENTRATION REQUIREMENTS

The German major requires a minimum of 30 hours beyond German language proficiency, including courses in speaking and writing, German literature, history, politics, culture, and film. The German minor requires a minimum of 18 credit hours. The Scandinavian minor requires at least 15 hours, including Scand 331, 349, and 375, plus two electives chosen from a wide-ranging list of relevant courses. Students may receive academic credit for study abroad or summer internships. Please see the department for details.

NEXT STEPS/RESOURCES

To begin exploring opportunities for overseas study and work, go to: lsu.umich.edu/cgis or global.umich.edu

To begin connecting to professionals in fields that interest you, create your own LinkedIn account: careercenter.umich.edu/article/getting-started-linkedin

To identify internships or job opportunities, visit Career Center Connector: careercenter.umich.edu/article/c3

Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures
3110 Modern Languages Building
734-764-8018
lsu.umich.edu/german

Newman Advising Center
1255 Angell Hall
734-764-0332
lsu.umich.edu/advising

On-campus jobs (work-study and non work-study jobs) are listed at: studentemployment.umich.edu/jobX_Home.aspx

Maize Pages list hundreds of organizations for students to get involved in: maizepages.umich.edu

Connect to Community lists volunteer opportunities in local organizations: connect2community.umich.edu

The Career Center
3200 Student Activities Building
734-764-7460
careercenter.umich.edu
facebook.com/careercenter.umich
twitter.com/careercenter
linkedin.com/company/the-career-center-at-the-university-of-michigan