



# THE CAREER CENTER

## Germanic Languages & Literatures

### 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.





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## 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.





### Research Skills

Economist   
Securities examiner   
Criminologist  
International health care systems analyst   
Cataloger  
Laboratory technician  
Science information and research specialist  
Librarian   
Abstractor


### Analytical Skills

Insurance adjuster  
International marketing analyst  
Policy analyst   
Social science analyst   
Patent attorney   
Intellectual property attorney   
Import specialist  
International relations officer, Commerce Department  
Physician   
Bioengineer    
Conservator


### Interpersonal Skills

District sales manager  
Human relations coordinator  
Customer support specialist  
Volunteer recruiter, Peace Corps  
Mediator  
Social worker   
Director, health and human resources  
Psychologist/counselor   
Psychiatrist   
Guidance counselor   
Director, international airport visitors center  
Youth program leader  
Exchange student program coordinator  
Foreign language film distributor

### Communication Skills

Technical writer, corporate publications  
Translator/interpreter  
Technical translator  
Overseas representative  
International education specialists  
Customs inspector  
K-12 language teacher  
College language instructor   
Coordinator, cultural arts center  
Publisher, foreign language books  
Guidebook writer  
Web writer  
Editor of foreign publications

 = Green Jobs

 = Further Study Required

For more career information, see O\*Net at [online.onetcenter.org](http://online.onetcenter.org)

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## 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.

### Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures

3110 Modern Languages Building  
734-764-8018  
[lsa.umich.edu/german](http://lsa.umich.edu/german)

### Newnan Advising Center

1255 Angell Hall  
734-764-0332  
[lsa.umich.edu/advising](http://lsa.umich.edu/advising)

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## NEXT STEPS/RESOURCES

To begin exploring opportunities for overseas study and work, go to: [lsa.umich.edu/cgis](http://lsa.umich.edu/cgis) or [global.umich.edu](http://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](http://careercenter.umich.edu/article/getting-started-linkedin)

To identify internships or job opportunities, visit Career Center Connector: [careercenter.umich.edu/article/c3](http://careercenter.umich.edu/article/c3)

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On-campus jobs (work-study and non work-study jobs) are listed at:

[studentemployment.umich.edu/JobX\\_Home.aspx](http://studentemployment.umich.edu/JobX_Home.aspx)

Maize Pages list hundreds of organizations for students to get involved in: [maizepages.umich.edu](http://maizepages.umich.edu)

Connect to Community lists volunteer opportunities in local organizations: [connect2community.umich.edu](http://connect2community.umich.edu)

### The Career Center

3200 Student Activities Building  
734-764-7460  
[careercenter.umich.edu](http://careercenter.umich.edu)  
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