German, BA

Emphases: German Teaching
Department: Languages, Philosophy and Communication Studies Department
College: College of Humanities and Social Sciences

Overview

About This Degree

The goal of the German program at USU is to prepare students for advanced studies in German language, literature, and culture. German majors at USU take extensive language courses where they develop speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills. They also have the option to participate in study abroad programs in Germany where they gain proficiency in German and experience exciting travel opportunities.

The faculty in this department have culturally diverse expertise in all aspects and areas of language. Students have access to their knowledge, as well as a language lab and many tutors to help them through their classes and prepare for a number of exciting careers in government, education, travel, and foreign affairs. German majors gain a solid grounding in another language and culture, which helps them function effectively as members of the international community.

Career Options

With a degree in German, students may pursue the following careers:

- Translator or interpreter
- Customs worker
- Government translator
- Immigration services
- Language teacher or tutor
- Social services
- International business or development
- Peace Corps
- Tour guide

German Teaching Emphasis

- German teacher in middle school or high school

Career Services provides counseling and information on hundreds of job and internship opportunities and even helps students apply and interview.

What it takes

Admissions Requirements

In addition to Utah State University's admissions requirements, the German program has additional requirements:

- **Freshmen:** New freshmen admitted to USU in good standing qualify for admission to this major.
- **Transfer students:** Transfer students from other institutions and students transferring for other USU majors need a 2.5 total GPA for admission to this major.
- The department administers placement tests for new German students who have had prior exposure to the German language.
- **STEP Requirements (German teaching with secondary school licensure emphasis only):** In order to be accepted into STEP, students must go through an application process, which includes the following:
    - Complete 60 semester credits with a minimum GPA of 2.75
    - Complete certain core courses (see department for more information)
    - Complete a speech and hearing test
    - Pass the Teacher Education Writing Exam
    - Provide an unofficial copy of your transcript

- Pass a criminal background check (this should be done one semester before submitting the application)

International students have additional admissions requirements.

Major Requirements

Click here to see course requirements for the **Bachelor of Arts**.

Contact

Advising

All new USU students participate in a New Student Orientation program, where they receive detailed information about major requirements, registering for classes, and other important advising information.

Doris McGonagill
Assistant Professor of German
Office: MAIN 002 E
Phone: (435) 797-9181
Email: doris.mcgonagill@usu.edu

Suzann Winn
Advisor
Office: MAIN 204
Phone: (435) 797-1211
Email: suzann.winn@usu.edu

Get Involved

Professional Organizations, Honor Societies, and Clubs

American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages: This is the only national organization dedicated to the improvement and expansion of the teaching and learning of all languages at all levels of instruction. ACTFL is an individual membership organization of more than 9,000 foreign language educators and administrators from elementary through graduate education, as well as government and industry.

German Club: USU's German Club is open to any interested student on campus. The club meets to discuss academic topics, job opportunities, and compete and participate in a number of different activities with organizations around campus.

Phi Sigma Iota: This is the highest academic honor in the field of foreign languages. This honor society recognizes outstanding accomplishment in the study or teaching of academic fields related to foreign language, literature, or culture. These fields include foreign languages, as well as classic languages, linguistics, philology, comparative literature, bilingual education, second language acquisition, and other interdisciplinary programs with a significant foreign language component. Phi Sigma Iota promotes the principles of dedication, enthusiasm, and initiative at both the graduate and undergraduate level by encouraging leadership opportunities in chapter development and scholarship awards.

Labs, Centers, Research

With the second oldest undergraduate research program in the nation, USU offers students a wide range of opportunities to gain hands-on research experience. The Undergraduate Research and Creative Opportunities program allows students to apply for grants and receive funding. USU's Honors Program prepares students for excellent graduate programs by helping them build relationships with professors, participate in research projects, take smaller, more intensive classes, and develop leadership skills.

Technology Assisted Language Center: This center serves primarily as a self-paced, language practice facility for students majoring in foreign languages. Also included in the TAL Center, is a tutoring room where students can meet with language tutors.