GERMANIC AND SLAVIC LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES MAJOR, B.A.—GERMAN LITERATURE AND CULTURE CONCENTRATION

The German literature and culture concentration in the Department of Germanic and Slavic Languages and Literatures (GSLL) equips students with linguistic, communicative, literary, cultural, and medial competencies necessary to thrive in a diverse networked world. With this major concentration, Carolina students succeed in an endless variety of professional fields.

Courses in German range from basic language instruction to advanced research in the cultures of Germany, Austria, and Switzerland. These offerings focus on medieval and modern literature, philosophy, and cultural theory as well as film and theater. Praxis-oriented courses include business German, translation studies, and internship courses. Carolina also offers for rising sophomores and beyond an extensive portfolio of study abroad options in German-speaking Europe.

German at Carolina offers a thorough and rigorous education in small personal college-like classes. German students are closely mentored for a variety of exciting career paths. Some go on to graduate or professional schools such as law or medical school. Others start their professional career in sectors like banking and business, education, government, IT, journalism, law, military or civil service, non-governmental organizations, non-profits, policy think tanks, start-ups, research labs, and more.

Many Carolina students who pursue a German degree have a second major in biology, chemistry, economics, environmental science, history, philosophy, psychology, or public policy. By combining German with a social or natural science major, Carolina graduates certify their balanced mastery of all that the liberal arts and sciences embody: qualitative critique and quantitative analysis.

Student Learning Outcomes

Students will acquire linguistic proficiency, cultural competence, and critical and analytical skills through the study of Germanic and Slavic languages and cultures in visual, textual, and oral forms. The curricula in Germanic and Slavic languages and literatures are broadly interdisciplinary and place the comparative study of languages, literatures, and cultures in dialogue with other germane fields of knowledge, such as philosophy, film and media studies, history, and music. Particular attention is paid to the development of student research interests that can bridge their acquired linguistic and cultural knowledge with their aspirations in other disciplines. Upon completion of the Germanic and Slavic Languages and Literatures program, students are able to:

• Speak effectively in the target language in a variety of social, academic, and professional settings, as well as use their native language for effective cross-cultural communication
• Write accurately in both the target language and English on a variety of topics relevant to the discipline
• Understand another culture’s practices as meaningful sites for the articulation of identities and the negotiation of values
• Connect the critical interpretation of aesthetic texts to broader fields of intellectual inquiry
• Gain knowledge of the cultural history of Germanic and Slavic lands and link its relevance to both American and global histories
• Utilize disciplinary methods and theories in order to produce original, innovative research

Requirements

In addition to the program requirements, students must:

• earn a minimum final cumulative GPA of 2.000
• complete a minimum of 45 academic credit hours earned from UNC–Chapel Hill courses
• take at least half of their major core requirements (courses and credit hours) at UNC–Chapel Hill
• earn a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.000 in the major core requirements. Some programs may require higher standards for major or specific courses.

For more information, please consult the degree requirements section of the catalog (https://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/degree-requirements/).

### Core Requirements

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<td>A minimum of eight GERM courses (24 credit hours) beyond GERM 204. These must include:</td>
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<tr>
<td>GERM 204</td>
<td>Advanced Communication in German: Media, Arts, Culture</td>
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<tr>
<td>GERM 301</td>
<td>Advanced Applied German: Life, Work, Fun</td>
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<tr>
<td>GERM 302</td>
<td>German Literature and Culture</td>
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At least two additional courses must be conducted in German and must be beyond GERM 306.

The three remaining courses must be selected in consultation with the director of undergraduate studies; these may be GERM courses numbered beyond GERM 204. GSLL courses numbered above 200 may only count toward the major with the approval of the director of undergraduate studies.

### Additional Requirements

Students must establish credit for GERM 204 (or GERM 206) as a prerequisite for a German major concentration. Students who desire to pursue a major in a German concentration should have a grade of B or better in GERM 203 and GERM 204 (or in GERM 206).

Three German LAC credit hours may be used as a substitute for one three-hour course taught in German for the major. (See “Opportunities” above.)

Dutch language courses (DTCH 402, DTCH 403, and DTCH 404) may not count toward the German major. However, DTCH 396 and DTCH 405 may be counted toward the German major as courses taught in the target language (i.e., not in English).
At least four courses (12 credit hours) beyond GERM 206 must be taken at UNC–Chapel Hill to fulfill the requirements of the major. Majors who study abroad or wish to transfer credit from another institution may apply to transfer a maximum of four courses counting toward the major. Before their departure for a study abroad program, students should consult with the director of undergraduate studies about appropriate courses taken abroad for the major.

Students who receive placement credit (PL) or By-Exam credit (BE) for GERM 301 and/or GERM 302 must substitute this credit with coursework (three credit hours each to replace GERM 301 and/or GERM 302) to complete the requirements for the concentration. The additional coursework must be numbered above GERM 303. Students may not re-enroll in a course for which they have received PL or BE credit.

Only one of the following courses may count toward the major:

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<th>Code</th>
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<tr>
<td>GSLL 691H</td>
<td>Honors Course</td>
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<tr>
<td>GSLL 692H</td>
<td>Honors Course</td>
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<tr>
<td>GSLL 693H</td>
<td>Honors Seminar</td>
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German (GERM) and Germanic and Slavic Languages and Literatures (GSLL) course descriptions (https://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/departments/germanic-slavic-languages-literatures/#coursestext).

### Special Opportunities in Germanic and Slavic Languages and Literatures

#### Honors in Germanic and Slavic Languages and Literatures

Students majoring in Germanic and Slavic languages and literatures who are qualified for honors work are strongly encouraged to consider writing an honors thesis during their senior year. Undertaking an honors project gives students the opportunity to explore a topic in depth under the direction of a faculty member. Students who wish to do honors work should confer with the director of undergraduate studies and choose an honors thesis advisor during the first or second semester of their junior year, and complete an honors thesis contract. Second-semester juniors or first-semester seniors will be enrolled in GSLL 691H (honors reading and special studies) for their first semester of honors thesis work, once the honors thesis contract is fully approved. For the second semester, once an updated contract is completed, students will be enrolled in GSLL 692H (writing the honors thesis). When GSLL 693H is offered, the course replaces GSLL 692H and provides an opportunity for students majoring in any of our concentrations to complete their thesis in the context of a small seminar with other honors students. One of these honors courses may count toward the major.

### Student Involvement and Cultural Enrichment beyond the Classroom

Numerous social and educational events hosted by the department, as well as by student clubs such as the German Club, provide an atmosphere for effective learning and for enjoying German and Slavic culture. There are weekly opportunities in German, Russian, and other languages for informal conversation suitable for both beginning and advanced students. The department periodically sponsors lectures, roundtables, small conferences, and film series for the various languages. Those considering an undergraduate major or minor should request to be added to the appropriate e-mail listserv in order to ensure they receive information regarding special events and opportunities.

The department also hosts receptions and informational meetings for students interested in pursuing a major or minor; or for those seeking opportunities for internships, study abroad, graduate study, and employment in Germany, Russia, and Eastern or Central Europe. Every spring the department presents a Slavic and East European talent night, or Spektakl', featuring skits, songs, puppet shows, plays, and poetry readings in the Slavic and East European languages students are learning. The department also presents full-length plays and dramatic readings in German performed by undergraduate students.

### Study Abroad

The department encourages students to study and/or engage in internships abroad. These opportunities maximize students' linguistic and cultural proficiency, particularly once they have acquired sufficient language skills to benefit most from this immersion experience. Students may participate for a whole year, a single term, or a summer.

The Study Abroad Office offers German programs at all universities in the German state of Baden-Württemberg, as well as a dedicated exchange program with the Eberhard-Karls-Universität Tübingen; the Freie University (FU-BEST) in Berlin, and the University of Freiburg; at the University of Zürich, Switzerland (new, starting in fall 2024); at the IES European Union and Environmental Programs in Freiburg, Germany; and at the IES Program (3 tracks) in Vienna.

Most German programs require that participating students have passed GERM 204 (or its equivalent); however, students with no prior knowledge of German may attend the FU-BiS or FU-BEST programs in Berlin, the University of Zürich, or the IES program in Freiburg, or also the Baden-Württemberg exchange University of Mannheim which offers a number of courses in English. These programs generally include intensive language instruction in addition to content courses taught in English, and most programs offer an orientation course prior to the start of the semester. The yearlong term typically begins in late August and ends in late July, with a two-month vacation between semesters that many students use for travel. Students going abroad for only one term generally do so in the spring semester, which typically begins in late February and ends in late July.

The DAAD in conjunction with German universities usually offers some summer internships. Please see an undergraduate advisor in the department office about these opportunities.

Students who choose to study Dutch may study abroad in Amsterdam through the IES, or attend SIT Netherlands' program "International Perspective on Sexuality and Gender." Exchange programs also are offered at Radboud University in Nijmegen, the University of Groningen, and the Erasmus University Rotterdam. Most courses are offered in English but students can study Dutch and even German. Students in
Students can study Russian during the summer, semester or yearlong terms through the RLASP (Advanced Russian Language and Area Studies Program) while earning credit towards their Carolina degree. UNC–Chapel Hill offers semester and summer programs in Prague, Czech Republic, Dobrovnik, Croatia, Budapest, Hungary, and Krakow, Poland.

For more information about these and other programs in eastern and central Europe, go to the Study Abroad website (https://studyabroad.unc.edu/). Majors and minors should consult with the director of undergraduate studies or the appropriate undergraduate advisor in advance of going abroad about courses they plan to take for the major or minor.

Opportunities specifically for language studies:

- DTCH: SIT Netherlands
- CZCH: NCSU Prague semester or summer programs, API Czech Republic, SIT Czech Republic
- BCS: API Croatia, API Serbia, Bosnia and Kosovo
- PLSH: API Poland

Languages across the Curriculum

The Languages across the Curriculum (LAC) Program encourages majors and minors to enroll in one-credit-hour recitation or discussion sections that are conducted in German or another of our languages, but associated with a variety of courses offered in English on a related subject. Each of these discussion and recitation sections counts as one German language credit (in addition to the credit granted for the course).

Undergraduate Awards

Membership in the Beta Rho chapter of Delta Phi Alpha, the German honors society, is available to majors and minors who have completed at least six credit hours of German language coursework at the 300 level and who have maintained high cumulative grade point averages and high grade point averages in the major.

The department selects annually one outstanding graduating senior majoring in German to receive the Undergraduate Ria Stambaugh Award for Excellence in German, a monetary award that is presented at the Chancellor’s Awards Ceremony each spring. Ria Stambaugh was a popular professor of German; after her death in 1984 her sister, friends, and colleagues contributed to a memorial fund to establish the Ria Stambaugh Awards. The undergraduate award was first presented in 1987.

Established in 1999, the Paul Debreczeny Prize is awarded each spring to a graduating senior whose work in Slavic languages and literatures has been judged outstanding. This monetary prize honors one of the founding faculty members of the program in Slavic languages and literatures.

Undergraduate Research

In addition to honors thesis work, students are encouraged to work on course-complementary or independent research projects with department faculty. Funding may be available through the Office of Undergraduate Research.

Contact Information

Department of Germanic and Slavic Languages and Literatures
Visit Program Website (https://gsll.unc.edu/)
426 Dey Hall, CB# 3160
(919) 966-1642
Chair
Richard Langston
relangst@email.unc.edu

Director of Undergraduate Studies
Aleksandra Prica
gslldus@unc.edu

Assistant Director of Undergraduate Studies
Radislav Lapushin
gslldus.unc.edu

Administrative Manager
Valerie Bernhardt
gsll@unc.edu

Graduate Programs

- M.A. in German Studies (https://catalog.unc.edu/graduate/departments/germanic-slavic-languages-literatures/)
- Ph.D. in German Studies (https://catalog.unc.edu/graduate/departments/germanic-slavic-languages-literatures/)

Minors

- German Minor (https://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/german-minor/)
- Russian Culture Minor (https://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/russian-culture-minor/)
- Slavic and East European Languages and Cultures Minor (https://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/slavic-east-european-languages-cultures-minor/)


Germanic and Slavic Languages and Literatures Major, B.A.–German Language and Culture Concentration (p. 1)

Germanic and Slavic Languages and Literatures Major, B.A.–German Media, Arts, and Culture Concentration (https://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/germanic-slavic-languages-literatures-literatures-major-ba-german-media-arts-culture-concentration/)


Germanic and Slavic Languages and Literatures Major, B.A.–Slavic and East European Languages and Cultures Concentration (https://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/germanic-slavic-languages-literatures-literatures-major-slavic-east-european-languages-cultures-concentration/)

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