

GERMAN, MA

We offer a vibrant MA program in German, with areas of study in literature, linguistics, and interdisciplinary studies. Our graduate students, former and present, have come from a variety of countries (e.g., Cameroon, Germany, Lithuania, Poland, Ukraine, and others) besides the US, making for a truly international group, all united by an interest in German. Tuscaloosa is also home to Mercedes-Benz US International, and the city has a substantial German community. All of this provides for a rich learning environment.

The German MA program, which is open to native and non-native speakers alike, is designed to provide students with enhanced proficiency in German (for non-native speakers) and intercultural competence relevant to Germany and other Germanophone nations, regions and minorities in an interconnected global context. The development of analytical skills in relation to German and Germanophone literature, culture, and linguistics, as well as familiarity with cutting-edge pedagogical practices, all aim at optimal preparation for success in attaining academic and professional goals. The department is committed to providing this training by means of the best facilities and technology available, and by relying on a staff of teachers and scholars with commensurate international experience and expertise.

The German MA program has areas of interest for students, all with or without thesis: German Literature, German Studies, and German Philology/Linguistics. All three areas are open to qualifying Accelerated Masters Program students who complete their BA while commencing the MA.

Admissions

In addition to the minimum Graduate School admission requirements, to be considered for regular admission an application must include:

- Three Letters of Recommendation
- A curriculum vita or resume

Applicants to any German are of focus are not required to submit an entrance exam score. However, applicants to all programs who want to position themselves for possible consideration for additional financial support in the form of an enhanced assistantship or fellowship should submit an entrance exam score, even when it is not required for admission. Applications for both full-time and part-time status are welcome. All applicants seeking full-time student status are considered for financial support in the form of a graduate teaching assistantship.

For students with deficiencies in undergraduate preparation, admission may be contingent upon completion of designated undergraduate requirements. In particular, all three tracks of the Master of Arts program in German, as described below, presuppose completion of an undergraduate survey of German literature or a survey of German culture/civilization that includes a substantial literary component. Students lacking this requirement who are nevertheless admitted to the German Master of Arts program must make up this course concurrent with their other coursework.

All prospective graduate students (non-native speakers) are encouraged to pass the German language proficiency exam level C1 (or equivalent thereof), at the latest towards the end of their studies.

See the Admission Criteria section of this catalog for more information.

Curricular Requirements

The German master of arts incorporates three focused areas of study. Upon completing coursework for any of the three focused areas of study, a student must pass a comprehensive examination based on the coursework and on a pre-established reading list, as indicated below.

The following descriptions of requirements pertain to the three focused areas of study of the German MA program.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Regardless of focused area of study, all graduate teaching assistants must enroll in the teaching practicum, currently offered under GN 514 Teaching Methodology.

German Literature - Thesis

Plan I (24 hours of coursework: In addition to German literature courses, students must take GN 510 History of the German Language and GN 515 Middle High German. With the approval of the German graduate advisor, 6 hours of graduate work in a related field may be applied to the degree.

Plan I - Thesis		Hours
Required Courses		
GN 510	History of the German Language	3
GN 515	Middle High German	3
Thesis Course		
GN 599	Thesis Research	6
Elective Courses		
18		
GN 551	Spec Prob Direct Readngs	
GN 552	Spec Prob Direct Readngs	
GN 571	Selected Authors	
GN 576	Seminar on a Literary Theme	
Total Hours		30

German Literature - Non-Thesis

Plan II (30 hours of coursework, no thesis): In addition to German literature courses, students must take GN 510 History of the German Language and GN 515 Middle High German. With the approval of the German graduate advisor, 6 hours of graduate work in a related field may be applied to the degree.

Plan II - Non Thesis		Hours
Required Courses		
GN 510	History of the German Language	3
GN 515	Middle High German	3
Elective Courses		
24		
GN 551	Spec Prob Direct Readngs	
GN 552	Spec Prob Direct Readngs	
GN 571	Selected Authors	
GN 576	Seminar on a Literary Theme	
Total Hours		30

Germanic Philology - Thesis

Plan I - Thesis		Hours
German Literature		
6		
GN 515	Middle High German	
GN 520	Renaissance Baroque Lit	
GN 525	Literature Age of Goethe	

GN 551	Spec Prob Direct Readngs
GN 552	Spec Prob Direct Readngs
GN 571	Selected Authors
GN 576	Seminar on a Literary Theme
And other approved Literature/Culture courses	

Philology Courses 18

GN 510	History of the German Language
GN 514	Teaching Methodology
GN 515	Middle High German
GN 518	Historical Linguistics
GN 551	Spec Prob Direct Readngs
GN 552	Spec Prob Direct Readngs

Related Fields

With the approval of the German graduate advisor, 9 hours of graduate work in a related field may be applied to the degree.

Options include:

RL 514	Qual Methds/Applied Ling Res
RL 523	Quantitative Methods in Ling
RL 580	Special Topics
RL 586	Pragmatics
RL 587	Bilingualism
EN 523	History English Language
EN 524	Modern English Grammar
EN 525	Dialectology
EN 612	Topics In Applied Linguistics
EN 613	Second Language Development
CD 509	Language Development
And other advisor approved Courses	

Thesis Course 6

GN 599	Thesis Research
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Total Hours 30**Germanic Philology - Non-Thesis****Plan II - Non Thesis Hours****German Literature 6**

GN 515	Middle High German
GN 520	Renaissance Baroque Lit
GN 525	Literature Age of Goethe
GN 551	Spec Prob Direct Readngs
GN 552	Spec Prob Direct Readngs
GN 571	Selected Authors
GN 576	Seminar on a Literary Theme

Philology Courses 24

GN 510	History of the German Language
GN 514	Teaching Methodology
GN 515	Middle High German
GN 518	Historical Linguistics
GN 551	Spec Prob Direct Readngs
GN 552	Spec Prob Direct Readngs

Related Fields

With the approval of the German graduate advisor, 9 hours of graduate work in related fields may be applied to the degree.

Options include:

RL 514	Qual Methds/Applied Ling Res
RL 523	Quantitative Methods in Ling
RL 580	Special Topics
RL 586	Pragmatics
RL 587	Bilingualism
EN 523	History English Language
EN 524	Modern English Grammar
EN 525	Dialectology
EN 612	Topics In Applied Linguistics
EN 613	Second Language Development
CD 509	Language Development
And other advisor approved Courses	

Total Hours 30**German Studies - Thesis****Plan I - Thesis Hours****German Literature, Culture, and Philology Courses 15**

GN 515	Middle High German
GN 520	Renaissance Baroque Lit
GN 525	Literature Age of Goethe
GN 551	Spec Prob Direct Readngs
GN 552	Spec Prob Direct Readngs
GN 571	Selected Authors
GN 576	Seminar on a Literary Theme
GN 510	History of the German Language
GN 514	Teaching Methodology
GN 518	Historical Linguistics
And other advisor approved Courses	

German History 3

An advisor approved course with a strong German history component

Interdisciplinary Seminar 3

An advisor approved course with an interdisciplinary approach including options in GN, EN, HY, and MUS

Related Fields 3

With the approval of the German graduate advisor, 9 hours of graduate work in related fields may be applied to the degree

Thesis Course 6

GN 599	Thesis Research
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Total Hours 30**German Studies - Non-Thesis****Plan II - Non Thesis Hours****German Literature, Culture, and Philology Courses 15**

GN 515	Middle High German
GN 520	Renaissance Baroque Lit
GN 525	Literature Age of Goethe
GN 551	Spec Prob Direct Readngs
GN 552	Spec Prob Direct Readngs
GN 571	Selected Authors
GN 576	Seminar on a Literary Theme
GN 510	History of the German Language
GN 514	Teaching Methodology

GN 518	Historical Linguistics	
And other advisor approved Courses		
German History		3
An advisor approved course with a strong German history component		
Interdisciplinary Seminar		3
An advisor approved course with an interdisciplinary approach including options in GN, EN, HY, and MUS		
Related Fields		9
With the approval of the German graduate advisor, 9 hours of graduate work in related fields may be applied to the degree		
Total Hours		30

Transfer Credit

Graduate School information on Transfer Credit.

Accelerated Master's Program

The Accelerated Master's Program (AMP) in German is an exciting way to jump-start your graduate studies.

Undergraduate students with 90 credits, at least a 3.3 GPA, and a declared FLL major with a course of study in German at the undergraduate level may apply to the German, MA program before beginning of their junior year. Once admitted, up to 12 hours of graduate-level German courses double count toward both the Foreign Languages and Literature degree and the MA in German. Students typically complete their two degrees in only five years at The University of Alabama.

Graduate School information on the Accelerated Master's Program.

Comprehensive Exam

Upon completing coursework for any of the three areas of study in German, a student must pass a comprehensive examination based on their coursework and on a core reading list. The written exams consist of three parts with a total of six written exam questions (1.5 hours per question). The written exams are conducted on three consecutive days, and are scheduled by the German Graduate Advisor. The oral exam follows a week later and lasts 1 hour.

German Literature Exam

Part I: Reading List (Students answer **two** questions from a choice of three or four)

Part II: History of the Language/Linguistics (Students answer **one** question from a choice of two or three) and Reading List (Students answer **one** question from a choice of two or three)

Part III: Special Topics in Literature (Students answer **two** questions from a choice of three or four)

Part IV: Oral Exam (Addresses Written Exams, Reading List, and Special Topics)

German Studies Exam

Part I: Reading List (Students answer **two** questions from a choice of three or four)

Part II: Linguistics (Students answer **one** question from a choice of two or three) and German Studies Special Topics (Students answer **one** question from a choice of two or three)

Part III: German Studies Special Topics (Students answer **two** questions from a choice of three or four)

Part IV: Oral Exam (Addresses Reading List, Special Topics, and Written Exams)

Exam Structure

The Germanic literature and Germanic studies exams are structured as follows:

An exam committee consists of at least three faculty members and is set up by the student with the graduate advisor. Students pass each part by majority vote. In case of a tie, the student passes. All written parts must be passed in order to proceed to the oral exam. If a student fails part of the written exam, only that part must be retaken.

Students should have passed the German language proficiency exam C1 (or equivalent thereof) before being admitted to the comprehensive exams.

Special topics are usually based on coursework and must be established in consultation with the graduate advisor.

Each written exam will last three hours (i.e., one hour and thirty minutes per question). The oral exam may last up to one hour.

Practice questions may be discussed with the graduate advisor.

Students may view their corrected exams but may not make copies or remove them from the department.

Germanic Philology Exam

Part I: Applied Linguistics (Students answer **two** items from a choice of three or four). Items are typically based on coursework.

Part II: General Linguistics (Students answer **one** item from a choice of two or three) and German Literature (Students answer **one** item from a choice of two). Items are typically based on coursework.

Part III: Germanic Linguistics: Synchronic and Diachronic (Students answer **two** items from a choice of three or four). Items are typically based on coursework and the Linguistics Reading List.

Part IV: Oral Exam (Primarily addresses Coursework and Written Exams, but also includes Linguistics Reading List).

Exam Structure

The Germanic philology exam is structured as follows:

An exam committee consists of at least three people and is set up by the student with the graduate advisor. Students pass each part by majority vote. In case of a tie, the student passes. All written parts must be passed in order to proceed to the oral exam. If a student fails part of the written exam, only that part must be retaken.

Students should have passed the German language proficiency exam C1 (or equivalent thereof) before being admitted to the comprehensive exams.

Each written exam will last three hours (i.e., one hour and thirty minutes per item). "Item" may refer to one in-depth question, several shorter questions, brief identifications, or a combination thereof. The oral exam may last up to one hour.

Practice questions may be discussed with the graduate advisor.

Students may view their corrected exams but may not make copies or remove them from the department.

Students are encouraged to have an external M.A. exam committee member if that best reflects their coursework.

Plan I - Thesis Process Requirements

Candidates for the master's degree under Plan I must earn a minimum of 24 semester hours of credit in coursework plus earn a minimum of 6 additional hours of thesis research hours, for a total of 30 hours.

Plan II - Non-Thesis Process Requirements

Candidates for the master's degree under Plan II must earn a minimum of 30 semester hours of credit in coursework.

Time Limits for Degree Completion Requirements

Graduate School information on Time Limits.

Student Progress Requirement

Graduate School information on Student Progress.

Academic Misconduct Information

Graduate School information on Academic Misconduct.

Withdrawals and Leave of Absence Information

Graduate School information on Withdrawals and Leave of Absence.

Academic Grievances Information

Graduate School information on Academic Grievances.

Scholastic Requirements

Graduate School information on Scholastic Requirements.

Graduate School Deadlines Information

Information on Graduate School Deadlines.

Application for Graduation Information

Information for the Application for Graduation.