

FOREIGN LANGUAGE, BACHELOR OF ARTS (B.A.) WITH A CONCENTRATION IN GERMAN

worldstudies/languages (<https://worldstudies.vcu.edu/academic-programs/foreign-languages/>)

In today's world, language learning is more important than ever. The ability to navigate across diverse language, ethnic, racial and cultural borders allows connection with others, helping create a more inclusive and mutually respectful society. Additionally, employers the world over value the communication skills, cultural competence and practical experiences language students acquire through course work, internships, service learning and study abroad. Proficiency in a second language offers special practical benefits: VCU graduates with language skills are among the more qualified candidates for jobs in international businesses, nonprofits and government agencies. They also qualify for jobs as language teachers in schools, where they often serve as role models, mentors and leaders.

VCU's B.A. in Foreign Language curriculum allows students to focus on either one or two languages, including the option to combine their major with other disciplines as they work with advisers to plan for their future careers. VCU course work leads majors to explore cultural traditions and historical developments in various parts of the world, and to pursue applied vocabulary and practices that they can use in real-world situations locally, nationally, globally and virtually. Special effort is made to develop intercultural communication competence.

Becoming a language major is one of the best decisions a student can make! Most will find a seamless transition to VCU from high school or community college programs. Placement testing and the transfer of Advanced Placement, IB and other college-level courses from high school or from a community college can shorten time to degree completion and make it easier for students to pursue dual or double majors and build on minors or certificate programs from across VCU.

Student learning outcomes

Upon completing this program, students will know how to do the following:

Foreign language program core outcomes

- Demonstrate oral and aural communication skills in context
- Demonstrate written communication skills
- Demonstrate critical and analytical reading skills
- Demonstrate literary and cultural competency

German concentration-specific outcomes

- Demonstrate proficiency in speaking, listening, reading and writing in German
- Demonstrate historical, literary and cultural competency in the German-speaking world

Experiential learning and study abroad

Each student completing a degree program within the School of World Studies is required to complete a World ePass as part of their experiential learning requirement; students are also encouraged to participate in a study abroad program. For more information on the ePass portfolio and

study abroad opportunities, students may visit the overview page for the School of World Studies (<http://bulletin.vcu.edu/undergraduate/college-humanities-sciences/school-worldstudies/>).

Special requirements

To earn a Bachelor of Arts in Foreign Language, students must complete **at least** 39 credits within **the** major, **33** credits of which must be upper-level (300-level or above), with a minimum **major** GPA of **2.25**.

All foreign language majors, students transferring credits from study abroad and **transfer** students who **intend to** major in a foreign language must **include in their target-language course work a minimum of 12 VCU credits**. Both credit and distribution **requirements** (minimum of **11 courses in target language**) for the concentration must be satisfied.

Foreign language majors who plan on becoming language teachers in the K-12 school system are required to complete a total of 30 credits of upper level (300- and 400-level) course work in one target language to meet certification requirements.

Degree requirements for Foreign Language, Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) with a concentration in German

Course	Title	Hours
General education (http://bulletin.vcu.edu/undergraduate/undergraduate-study/general-education-curriculum/)		
Select 30 credits of general education courses in consultation with an adviser.		30
Major requirements		
• Major core requirements		
WRLD 302	Communicating Across Cultures	3
WRLD 490	Seminar in World Cultures and Languages	3
• Additional major requirements		
GRMN 201	Intermediate German I ¹	3
GRMN 202	Intermediate German II ¹	3
GRMN 300	Communication and Composition	3
GRMN 301	Self and Society: Effective Writing	3
GRMN 305	Oral Communication	3
or GRMN 307	German Conversation and Film	
or GRMN 311	German Through the Media	
GRMN 320	From the Vandals to Kant: Civilization and Literature I	3
GRMN 321	From Faust to Nazism: Civilization and Literature II	3
GRMN 322	From Kafka's World to the EU: Civilization and Literature III	3
• Major electives		
Select 300-level (or higher) German course		3
Select GRMN courses (400 level or higher); may include up to three credits of FRLG 493		6
Ancillary requirements		
HUMS 202	Choices in a Consumer Society	1
WRLD 495	World ePass Portfolio	0
Experiential fine arts (course offered by the School of the Arts)		1-3

• Experiential learning	0-3
Select one of the following:	
Major-specific service-learning course	
Study abroad program	
Internship (FRLG 493, INTL 493, WRLD 493 or other preapproved internship opportunities)	
• Foreign language through the 102 level (by course or placement) ²	0-6
Open electives	
Select any course	38-49
Total Hours	120

1

Higher level placement score for these 200-level courses determines the starting point of the degree. Students who test above the course level fulfill the surpassed course credits with 300- or 400-level electives.

2

In order to begin upper-level course work in any foreign language, students must have consecutively completed these courses or must prove the equivalent proficiency level through placement testing.

The minimum number of credit hours required for this degree is 120.

What follows is a sample plan that meets the prescribed requirements within a four-year course of study at VCU. Please contact your adviser before beginning course work toward a degree.

Freshman year

Fall semester	
GRMN 101 Beginning German I	3
UNIV 111 Focused Inquiry I (satisfies general education UNIV foundations)	3
Play course video for Focused Inquiry I	
General education course (select quantitative foundations)	3-4
General education course	3
Open elective	3
Term Hours:	15-16

Spring semester	
GRMN 102 Beginning German II	3
UNIV 112 Focused Inquiry II (satisfies general education UNIV foundations)	3
Play course video for Focused Inquiry II	
General education course	3
General education course	3
General education course	3
Term Hours:	15

Sophomore year

Fall semester	
GRMN 201 Intermediate German I	3

UNIV 200 Advanced Focused Inquiry: Literacies, Research and Communication (satisfies general education UNIV foundations)	3
General education course	3
General education course	3
Open electives	3

Term Hours: 15

Spring semester

GRMN 202 Intermediate German II	3
HUMS 202 Choices in a Consumer Society	1
WRLD 302 Communicating Across Cultures	3
Experiential fine arts (course offered by the School of the Arts)	1-3
Open electives	5-7

Term Hours: 15

Junior year

Summer semester

Study abroad (recommended):

Upper-level GRMN courses that meet concentration, elective or experiential learning requirements	0-6
WRLD 391 on VCU faculty-led study abroad program (meets experiential learning requirement)	0-3

(Note that credits completed during study abroad will decrease open electives needed in subsequent semesters.)

Term Hours: 0-9

Fall semester

GRMN 300 Communication and Composition	3
GRMN 320 From the Vandals to Kant: Civilization and Literature I	3
or GRMN 322 or From Kafka's World to the EU: Civilization and Literature III	
Open electives	9

Term Hours: 15

Spring semester

On-campus or study abroad semester	
GRMN 301 Self and Society: Effective Writing	3
GRMN 321 From Faust to Nazism: Civilization and Literature II	3
GRMN upper-level elective	3
Open electives	6

Term Hours: 15

Senior year

Fall semester

FRLG 493 World Languages Internship (or other experiential learning opportunity)	3
GRMN 322 From Kafka's World to the EU: Civilization and Literature III	3
or GRMN 320 or From the Vandals to Kant: Civilization and Literature I	
GRMN 400-level elective	3
Open electives	6
World ePass site creation	

Term Hours: 15

Spring semester

WRLD 490	Seminar in World Cultures and Languages (capstone)	3
WRLD 495	World ePass Portfolio	0
GRMN 400-level elective		3
Open electives		9
Term Hours:		15
Total Hours:		120-130

The minimum number of credit hours required for this degree is 120.

Accelerated B.A. and M.S.

The accelerated B.A. and M.S. program allows qualified students to earn both the B.A. in Foreign Language with a concentration in German and M.S. in Business with a concentration in marketing management in a minimum of five years by completing up to 12 credit hours of approved graduate courses during the senior year of their undergraduate program. Students in the program may count up to three credit hours of graduate courses toward both the B.A. and M.S. degrees. Thus, the two degrees may be earned with a minimum of 147 credits rather than the 150 credits necessary if the two degrees are pursued separately.

In their senior year students would also take up to nine credit hours of graduate-level foundations courses, which are prerequisites for the graduate program.

Students holding these degrees will be very competitive due to the combined knowledge and skills in language, culture and business and will be well prepared for success in an increasingly global marketplace.

Entrance to the accelerated program

Interested undergraduate students should consult with their adviser as early as possible to receive specific information about the accelerated program, determine academic eligibility and submit (no later than two semesters prior to graduating with a baccalaureate degree, that is, before the end of the spring semester of their junior year) an Accelerated Program Declaration Form to be approved by the graduate program director. Limited spaces may be available in the accelerated program. Academically qualified students may not receive approval if capacity has been reached.

Minimum qualifications for entrance to this accelerated program include completion of 90 undergraduate credit hours including WRLD 302 and 21 credits earned at the 300-level in GRMN; an overall GPA of 3.25; and a GPA of 3.0 in the major course work. Students who do not meet the minimum GPA requirements may submit GRE scores to receive further consideration. Students who are interested in the accelerated program should consult with the faculty adviser to the M.S. in Business with a concentration in marketing management program before they have completed 90 credits. Successful applicants would enter the program in the fall semester of their senior year.

Once enrolled in the accelerated program, students must meet the standards of performance applicable to graduate students as described in the “Satisfactory academic progress” section of the Graduate Bulletin, including maintaining a 3.0 GPA. Guidance to students admitted to the accelerated program is provided by both the undergraduate School of World Studies adviser and the faculty adviser to the graduate program.

Admission to the graduate program

Entrance to the accelerated program enables the student to take the approved shared courses that will apply to the undergraduate and graduate degrees. However, entry into an accelerated program via an approved Accelerated Program Declaration Form does not constitute application or admission into the graduate program. Admission to the graduate program requires a separate step that occurs through a formal application to the master’s program, which is submitted through Graduate Admissions no later than a semester prior to graduation with the baccalaureate degree, that is, before the end of the fall semester of the senior year. In order to continue pursuing the master’s degree after the baccalaureate degree is conferred, accelerated students must follow the admission to graduate study requirements outlined in the VCU Bulletin. Three reference letters (at least one from a School of World Studies faculty member) must accompany the application.

Degree requirements

The Bachelor of Arts in Foreign Language degree will be awarded upon completion of a minimum of 120 credits and the satisfactory completion of all undergraduate degree requirements as stated in the Undergraduate Bulletin.

A maximum of 12 graduate credits may be taken prior to completion of the baccalaureate degree. These graduate credits will apply toward open elective credits for the undergraduate degree. Three of these credits, MKTG 672, are shared with the graduate program, meaning that they will be applied to both undergraduate and graduate degree requirements. Nine credits are foundation courses for the graduate program and apply to the undergraduate degree only.

The graduate business courses that may be taken as an undergraduate once a student is admitted to the program – and how they apply – are shown in the table below.

Course	Title	Hours
ACCT 507	Fundamentals of Accounting (graduate foundation; satisfies open elective in undergraduate program)	3
MKTG 672	Influencing Consumer Behavior (shared between undergraduate and graduate programs)	3
FIRE 520	Financial Concepts of Management (graduate foundation; satisfies open elective in undergraduate program)	3
SCMA 524	Statistical Fundamentals for Business Management (graduate foundation; satisfies open elective in undergraduate program)	3

Recommended course sequence/plan of study

What follows is the recommended plan of study for students interested in the accelerated program beginning in the fall of the junior year prior to admission to the accelerated program in the senior year.

Course	Title	Hours
Junior year		
Fall semester		
GRMN 300 or GRMN 301	Communication and Composition Self and Society: Effective Writing	3

GRMN 307	German Conversation and Film	3
or GRMN 311	German Through the Media	
ECON 300	Contemporary Economic Issues	3
ECON 301	Microeconomic Theory	3
Open elective		3
Term Hours:		15
Spring semester (on-campus or study abroad semester)		
GRMN 301	Self and Society: Effective Writing	3
or GRMN 300	Communication and Composition	
GRMN 321	From Faust to Nazism: Civilization and Literature II	3
GRMN elective (400-level)		3
ECON 302	Macroeconomic Theory	3
Open elective		3
Term Hours:		15
Senior year		
Fall semester		
ACCT 507	Fundamentals of Accounting	3
GRMN 322	From Kafka's World to the EU: Civilization and Literature III	3
or GRMN 320	From the Vandals to Kant: Civilization and Literature I	
FRLG 493	World Languages Internship (or other experiential learning opportunity)	3
GRMN elective (400-level or higher)		3
SCMA 524	Statistical Fundamentals for Business Management	3
World ePass completion		0
Term Hours:		15
Spring semester		
FIRE 520	Financial Concepts of Management	3
MKTG 672	Influencing Consumer Behavior	3
WRLD 490	Seminar in World Cultures and Languages	3
GRMN elective (400-level or higher)		3
Open elective		3
Term Hours:		15
Fifth year		
Fall semester		
MKTG 671	Marketing Management	3
MKTG 675	Digital Marketing	3
MKTG 679	Brand Strategy	3
Electives		6
Term Hours:		15
Spring semester		
MKTG 657	Market Planning Project	3
Electives		9
Term Hours:		12

GRMN 101. Beginning German I. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Enrollment requires any student with previous exposure to German to take the placement test to determine eligibility. For students with no prior knowledge of German. Beginning grammar, reading, writing and oral skills.

GRMN 102. Beginning German II. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: GRMN 101 or a satisfactory score on the VCU Language Placement Test within the one-year period immediately preceding the beginning of the course. Continuation of beginning grammar, reading, writing and oral skills.

GRMN 201. Intermediate German I. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: GRMN 102 or a satisfactory score on the VCU Language Placement Test within the one-year period immediately preceding the beginning of the course. Conducted in German. Building toward intermediate-level cultural competence and proficiency in listening, speaking, reading and writing through authentic materials.

GRMN 202. Intermediate German II. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: GRMN 201 or a satisfactory score on the VCU Language Placement Test within the one-year period immediately preceding the beginning of the course. Conducted in German. Increasing intermediate-level cultural competence and proficiency in listening, speaking, reading and writing through authentic materials.

GRMN 205. Intermediate Conversation. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: GRMN 201. Conducted in German. Designed to increase the student's proficiency in the spoken language through audio-oral exercises, dialogues and free conversation.

GRMN 300. Communication and Composition. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: GRMN 202, GRMN 205 or a satisfactory score on the VCU Language Placement Test within the one-year period immediately preceding the beginning of the course. Conducted in German. Building toward intermediate-high proficiency in the three modes of communication: interpretive, interpersonal and presentational. Authentic materials enhance intercultural competence and communication skills.

GRMN 301. Self and Society: Effective Writing. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: GRMN 202, GRMN 205, GRMN 300 or a satisfactory score on the VCU Language Placement Test within the one-year period immediately preceding the beginning of the course. Conducted in German. Students advance their knowledge of the German language and German-speaking cultures while developing their reading and writing skills. Students examine a variety of texts and media and gain strategies for interpretation and discussion, with a focus on effective writing.

GRMN 305. Oral Communication. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: GRMN 202, GRMN 205, GRMN 300 or a satisfactory score on the VCU Language Placement Test within the one-year period immediately preceding the beginning of the course. Conducted in German. Practice in the spoken language with emphasis on discussions relating to topics of current interest.

GRMN 307. German Conversation and Film. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: GRMN 202, GRMN 205 or GRMN 300; GRMN 300 recommended. Conducted in German. The course is designed to develop the student's communication skills, oral comprehension ability and knowledge of contemporary culture through discussion of selected German films. Emphasis is also placed on vocabulary development and writing practice.

GRMN 311. German Through the Media. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: GRMN 202, GRMN 205 or GRMN 300; GRMN 300 or GRMN 301 recommended. Designed to develop language proficiency by using material available through the various media: newspapers, magazines, films, Internet, podcasts and radio broadcasts.

GRMN 314. Commercial German. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: GRMN 301. Designed to develop the student's ability to use German as a means of oral and written communication in the business world. Emphasis on the acquisition of technical tools necessary for business exchanges in specialized fields.

GRMN 320. From the Vandals to Kant: Civilization and Literature I. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: GRMN 202, GRMN 205 or GRMN 300; GRMN 300 or GRMN 301 recommended. Conducted in German. A survey of German-speaking culture and literature from its origins to the Enlightenment. Also emphasizes enhancing German-language skills in vocabulary, reading, speaking and writing.

GRMN 321. From Faust to Nazism: Civilization and Literature II. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: GRMN 202, GRMN 205 or GRMN 300; GRMN 300 or GRMN 301 recommended. Conducted in German. A treatment of German culture and literature from the Age of Goethe to the rise of Nazism. Also emphasizes enhancing German language skills in vocabulary, reading, speaking and writing.

GRMN 322. From Kafka's World to the EU: Civilization and Literature III. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: GRMN 202, GRMN 205 or GRMN 300; GRMN 300 or GRMN 301 recommended. Conducted in German. A survey of German culture and literature from the 1920s to today. Also emphasizes enhancing German language skills in vocabulary, reading, speaking and writing.

GRMN 420. The Turn of the Century. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: GRMN 300; GRMN 305 or 307 or 311; GRMN 301 or 320 or 321 or 322. Conducted in German. A course dealing with the major intellectual, philosophical, artistic and cultural trends from the turn of the century through the Weimar period as reflected in the writings of authors such as Kafka, Mann and Hesse. Includes impressionism, expressionism and neue Sachlichkeit.

GRMN 421. The Postwar German Scene. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: GRMN 300; GRMN 305 or 307 or 311; GRMN 301 or 320 or 321 or 322. Conducted in German. A course dealing with the political, social and intellectual developments of the German-speaking countries from the end of World War II to the present as reflected in the literary works of their major authors.

GRMN 422. German Film. 1-3 Hours.

Semester course; 1-3 lecture hours. 1-3 credits. May be repeated with different topics for a total of 6 credits. Prerequisites: GRMN 300; GRMN 305 or 307 or 311; GRMN 301 or 320 or 321 or 322. Study of selected topics in German film from the beginnings to today, particularly as seen in their social, historical and cultural contexts. See the Schedule of Classes for the specific topic to be offered each semester.

GRMN 423. Folk/Popular Culture. 1-3 Hours.

Semester course; 1-3 lecture hours. 1-3 credits. May be repeated with different topics for a total of 6 credits. Prerequisites: GRMN 300; GRMN 305 or 307 or 311; GRMN 301 or 320 or 321 or 322. Study of selected topics related to folk traditions and/or popular culture in German-speaking countries. See the Schedule of Classes for the specific topic to be offered each semester.

GRMN 424. Culture and Society. 1-3 Hours.

Semester course; 1-3 lecture hours. 1-3 credits. May be repeated with different topics for a total of 6 credits. Prerequisites: GRMN 300; GRMN 305 or 307 or 311; GRMN 301 or 320 or 321 or 322. Study of issues in the culture and society of German-speaking countries today. See the Schedule of Classes for the specific topic to be offered each semester.

GRMN 425. Language in Context: _____. 1-3 Hours.

Semester course; 1-3 lecture hours. 1-3 credits. Course can be repeated with different topics up to a total of 6 credits. Prerequisites: GRMN 300; GRMN 301, 305, 307 or 311; and GRMN 320, 321 or 322. Conducted in German. Study of German language and linguistics. See the Schedule of Classes for the specific topic to be offered each semester.

GRMN 491. Topics in German. 1-3 Hours.

Variable hours. 1-3 credits. May be repeated with different topics for a maximum of 9 credits. Prerequisites: GRMN 300; GRMN 305 or 307 or 311; GRMN 301 or 320 or 321 or 322. An in-depth study of selected topics in German. See the Schedule of Classes for specific topics to be offered each semester.

GRMN 492. Independent Study. 1-3 Hours.

Semester course; variable hours. Variable credit. Maximum of 3 credits per semester; maximum total of 6 credits for all independent study courses in German. Prerequisites: GRMN 301; GRMN 320 or 321 or 322; GRMN 420 or 421 or 422 or 423 or 424 or 491; and senior standing with a minimum of 85 credits earned toward the degree. A course designed to give students an opportunity to become involved in independent study in a literary or linguistic area or subject in which they have an interest.