

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

Note: Program admission is suspended pending closure.

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 (<https://bulletin.vcu.edu/undergraduate/college-humanities-sciences/school-worldstudies/>).

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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 (https://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.

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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	Introduction to Focused Inquiry:	3
Play course	Investigation and Communication (satisfies video for general education UNIV foundations)	
Introduction to Focused Inquiry:		
Investigation and Communication		
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		
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
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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.

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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	Communication and Composition	3
or GRMN 301	Self and Society: Effective Writing	
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