GERMAN STUDIES, CERTIFICATE

Requirements for an undergraduate certificate may be completed at any campus location offering the specified courses for the certificate.

Program Description

The German Studies certificate offered at Penn State Behrend is designed for students who wish to specialize in interdisciplinary German Studies by acquiring advanced German language skills and taking courses in culture, film, history, literature, music, or politics of the German-speaking countries. In-depth knowledge of the German-speaking countries prepares students for a global workforce and careers in international business, engineering, finance, politics, or the sciences.

What is German Studies?

German Studies is an interdisciplinary academic sub-field of the Humanities concerned with the languages, literatures, arts, and politics of German-speaking communities in Europe and across the world (e.g., Pennsylvania Germans). In pursuing each of these areas German Studies intersects with the related fields of linguistics, literary studies, visual studies, and history, respectively.

You Might Like This Program If...

- You’re interested in German language, culture, and history.
- You envision working in a German-speaking country or for a German company within the United States.
- You wish to study abroad.
- You plan to apply for fellowships or internships in Germany or Austria.
- You are an engineering student who wants to take advantage of Behrend’s relationship with Rosenheim University of Applied Sciences in Rosenheim, Germany.
- You recognize that speaking a second (or third!) language doubles (or triples!) your career options.

Admission Requirements

Students who have not reached the third level of German Language proficiency may need to take Elementary German I (GER 1) and Elementary German II (GER 2) first.

Program Requirements

To earn an undergraduate certificate in German Studies, a minimum of 16-17 credits is required.

Students must have a C or better in each certificate course.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GER 189N</td>
<td>German Film</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>GER 190</td>
<td>Twentieth-Century German Literature in English Translation</td>
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<td>GER 200</td>
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<td>HIST 121</td>
<td>History of the Holocaust 1933-1945</td>
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<td>HIST 143</td>
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<td>HIST 144</td>
<td>The World at War: 1939-1945</td>
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<td>HIST 427</td>
<td>Germany Since 1860</td>
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<tr>
<td>MUSIC 5</td>
<td>An Introduction to Western Music</td>
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<td>PLSC 20</td>
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Certificate Learning Objectives

- **Application:** German Studies Certificate students apply classroom experience and textbook knowledge in a real world, authentic setting by using their expertise in German language and culture. They can reside as global border ambassadors in Trippe Hall (opened fall 2018), work as German language tutors on campus, get involved in clubs, obtain summer internships at cultural institutions such as the Goethe Institute or the DAAD or German/Austrian/Swiss businesses in the US or abroad, study abroad with Penn State Global programs in Marburg, Freiburg, Berlin, Pforzheim et al. Behrend international business and engineering major can participate in the Rosenheim exchange.
- **Historical Context:** German Studies Certificate students will be able to critically set current political developments in the German-speaking worlds in a historical context.
- **Intermediate Language Proficiency:** German Studies Certificate students will be able to demonstrate intermediate language proficiency in reading, writing, speaking, and listening. They will be able to:
  - read a variety of texts in German (short stories, poems, fairytales) and demonstrate in writing and orally the comprehension, analysis, and interpretation of those texts.
  - write essays using complex sentence structures with dependent clauses, and different tenses (present, simple past); summarize texts from a specific viewpoint, and revise their work using a correction key. They will critically evaluate their progress toward intermediate German proficiency in a self-reflective essay required for their course portfolio.
  - discuss a variety of topics and demonstrate their intermediate oral proficiency in a final presentation.

Academic Advising

The objectives of the university’s academic advising program are to help advisees identify and achieve their academic goals, to promote their intellectual discovery, and to encourage students to take advantage of both in-and out-of class educational opportunities in order that they become self-directed learners and decision makers.

Both advisers and advisees share responsibility for making the advising relationship succeed. By encouraging their advisees to become engaged in their education, to meet their educational goals, and to develop the habit of learning, advisers assume a significant educational role. The advisee’s unit of enrollment will provide each advisee with a primary academic advisor, the information needed to plan the chosen program of study, and referrals to other specialized resources.
Career Paths
The certificate in German Studies can be pursued by students in most Penn State Behrend degree programs. Penn State Behrend has a comprehensive support system to help you identify and achieve your goals for college and beyond. Meet with your academic adviser often and take advantage of the services offered by the Academic and Career Planning Center beginning in your first semester.

Careers
Immersive education in German language and culture is a competitive advantage in many professions. Adding a certificate in German Studies to your Penn State Behrend major degree program permits sub-specialization and increases the number of internship and career opportunities available to you.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT POTENTIAL CAREER OPTIONS FOR GRADUATES WITH A CERTIFICATE IN GERMAN STUDIES

Opportunities for Graduate Studies
Graduate study in German opens doors to more specialized careers. These might include translation, technical translation, German language education, English-language learning education, applied linguistics, and diplomacy.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OPPORTUNITIES FOR GRADUATE STUDIES

Professional Resources
- American Association of Teachers of German (http://www.aatg.org/)
- Austrian Studies Association (http://www.austrian-studies.org/)
- German Studies Association (https://www.thegsa.org/)
- German Missions in the United States (http://www.germany.info/gic/)
- Goethe Institutes (http://www.goethe.de/de/)
- Cultural Vistas Program (https://culturalvistas.org/)
- DAAD Rise Fellowships (https://www.daad.de/rise/de/)
- USTA Austria Program (https://www.usta-austria.at/)

Contact
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