



Twin Cities Campus

German Advanced-Level Proficiency Certificate

German, Nordic, Slavic & Dutch

College of Liberal Arts

- Program Type: Undergraduate credit certificate
- Requirements for this program are current for Fall 2018
- Required credits to graduate with this degree: 6 to 8
- This certificate requires an intensive German-language immersion experience. See certificate requirements for the options to fulfill this requirement.
- Degree: German Advanced-Level Proficiency Certificate

This certificate is designed for students interested in achieving advanced-level proficiency in German and having their skills formally recognized. People who have advanced-level proficiency in German possess the speaking, reading, writing and listening skills sufficient to satisfy the requirements of everyday situations at home and at work. They also generally understand and are understood by native speakers of German. For an extended definition of advanced-level proficiency, please visit the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages website: www.actfl.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/ACTFLProficiencyGuidelines2012_FINAL.pdf

The Certificate of Advanced-Level Proficiency is open to all University of Minnesota undergraduate students, especially those who seek higher levels of German proficiency in order to become more competitive for graduate or professional programs, careers with domestic German-speaking populations, or international careers.

Program Delivery

This program is available:

- via classroom (the majority of instruction is face-to-face)

Admission Requirements

For information about University of Minnesota admission requirements, visit the [Office of Admissions website](#).

General Requirements

All students are required to complete general University and college requirements including writing and liberal education courses. For more information about University-wide requirements, see the [liberal education requirements](#). Required courses for the major or minor in which a student receives a D grade (with or without plus or minus) do not count toward the major or minor (including transfer courses).

Program Requirements

German LPE

Pass the German Language Proficiency Exam (LPE). This exam is typically taken after 4 semesters of college-level study, or the equivalent. For more information, please visit <http://langtest.umn.edu/lpe>.

Composition, Communication, and Content-Based Courses

There are three options for completing this requirement. The first option is to take GER 3011W or its equivalent abroad and one pre-approved content-based course. The second option is to take two pre-approved content-based courses. The third option is to take both GER 3011W and GER 3012W.

Take exactly 2 course(s) totaling 6 - 8 credit(s) from the following:

German Composition and Communication

Take 0 - 2 course(s) from the following:

- GER 3011W - Conversation and Composition [WI] (4.0 cr)
- GER 3012W - Conversation and Composition [WI] (3.0 cr)

Pre-approved content-based courses

GER 3014, 5011, or any GER 31xx, 34xx, or 35xx may count as a pre-approved content-based course, provided they meet the writing requirements.

• A content-based course is defined as one that is either taught almost exclusively in German, or for which the discussion section is delivered in German, and explores literature, culture, media, or other issues from an academic perspective. A minimum of 10 pages of written work in German must be completed, including at least one single assignment of at least 5 pages. This same requirement must be met if the courses are taken abroad.

Take 0 - 2 course(s) from the following:

- GER 3014 - German Media (3.0 cr)
- GER 3104W - Reading and Analysis of German Literature [LITR, WI] (3.0 cr)
- GER 3421 - 18th-Century German Literature (3.0 cr)



- GER 3431 *(Inactive)*(3.0 cr)
- GER 3441 - 20th-/21st-Century Literature (3.0 cr)
- GER 3501 - Contemporary Germany (3.0 cr)
- GER 3510 - Topics in German Studies (3.0 cr)
- GER 5011 - Advanced Conversation and Composition (3.0 cr)

German Language Immersion

Participate in an intensive German language immersion experience. There are three options for completing this requirement:

Option 1

Participation in an academic study abroad experience of at least six weeks that includes at least one course taught in German

or Option 2

Completion of an pre-approved immersion experience

or Option 3

Completion of two full semesters of weekly language exchange with a native speaker through the CLA Language Centers TandemPlus program including 15 hours devoted to conversation in German

Self-assessment Instrument

Take the self-assessment and use this information to gauge your own proficiency level. It is strongly recommended that you do not attempt the ACTFL exam until the self-assessment results indicate that you may have achieved advanced-level proficiency.

Critical Reflection Essay

Submit a short essay (of 450-600 words) written in English that; (1) reflects on your German self-assessment results; (2) describes your current level of German language proficiency; (3) demonstrates how you have used your language and cultural understanding skills at the University and beyond through completion of some or all of the Additional Recommended Experiences listed below.

Achieve Advanced-Low or Higher on the ACTFL

When your self-assessment results indicate that you may be at advanced-level proficiency, you may take the ACTFL Advanced-level Exam. In order to complete your certificate, you must achieve a rating of Advanced-Low or higher in all 4 sections: speaking, writing, listening and reading.

The cost for 4 sections of the ACTFL is \$200. However, if you participate in the PACE Project you will be able to take the reading, listening and speaking exams at no cost and pay only for the writing exam.

Additional Recommended Experiences to Increase German Language Proficiency

- Study abroad in a German-speaking country for at least a semester (this is highly recommended).
- Additional upper division coursework taught in German (see the Certificate website).
- Service learning, volunteer work, or internship in a German-speaking context for at least a semester.
- Participation in TandemPlus.
- Participation in the GSD House.
- Spend an average of 15-20 hours per week outside of class actively using your German (reading, writing, speaking, listening)