

German

Learning Goals

1. To be able to communicate effectively in German, both orally and in writing.
2. To demonstrate understanding of spoken German.
3. To use close reading and critical thinking skills to analyze German texts and materials.
4. To write documents of sufficient consistent and reasonable clarity to be readily intelligible to an educated outside reader.
5. To successfully complete courses within the regular academic curriculum at institutions of higher learning in Germany.
6. To develop cross- and intercultural sensitivity to be able to function in a German-speaking cultural environment.
7. To understand major historical and social developments that have shaped Germany, Austria, and Switzerland and understand their place in today's globalized context.

About the major

The German Department provides its students with a thorough training in German language and culture, enabling them to interact freely and easily with German native speakers in all areas of linguistic competency. Students will acquire a fundamental understanding of the major cultural, social, and historical forces that have shaped German society, including significant developments in German literature, as well as the basic skills required for cultural and intercultural analysis.

The Department of German's interactive, communicative approach to language teaching provides an exciting multimedia classroom setting in which to absorb the culture of one of Europe's leading economic and political powers.

Reasons you might choose this major

- You want to be able to connect with some of the over 100 million people speaking German in Europe and worldwide.
- You are interested in learning about the culture and language of one of the key players in European history and its historiography.
- You want to further your knowledge of the language in which some of the world's greatest thinkers, writers, artists, musicians, historians, and scientists lived, thought, and wrote—Kant, Nietzsche, Goethe, Brecht, Mozart, Wagner, Einstein, Heisenberg.
- You want to connect with one of the major cultures that has shaped America's national history and character.
- You are interested in engaging with the German and European markets and the designation "Made in Germany."
- You have a strong interest in science, environmentalism, and technology, have a passion for linguistics, and are considering going to graduate school.
- You are interested or invested in soccer or winter sports and want to reach out to fellow enthusiasts overseas and at home.

"My study of Europe through the lens of history gave me an appreciation for how the European Union came into being, the origin of long-standing questions around national and regional identity and key events that shape Europe's relationship with the United States. By becoming [nearly] fluent in German and studying abroad, I also was able to gain a non-U.S. perspective on these issues while also learning how to operate in a different culture and environment."

—Elena Ziebarth '01
Director of Marketing, FIA



Translating Learning into Professional Competencies

Throughout your time at Middlebury, you will develop and enhance the following core professional competencies, skills, and dispositions highly valued by employers that will prepare you for leadership and success in any given field:

Critical Thinking: Exercise sound reasoning to analyze issues, make decisions, and overcome problems.

Oral/Written Communications: Articulate thoughts and ideas clearly and effectively in written and oral forms.

Teamwork/Collaboration: Build collaborative relationships with colleagues and customers from diverse backgrounds.

Leadership: Leverage the strengths of others to achieve common goals, and use interpersonal skills to coach and develop others.

Professionalism/Work Ethic: Demonstrate personal accountability and effective work habits.

Global/Intercultural Fluency: Value, respect, and learn from diverse cultures, races, ages, genders, sexual orientations, and religions.

Digital Technology: Leverage existing digital technologies ethically and efficiently to solve problems, complete tasks, and accomplish goals.

Career Management: Identify and articulate one's skills, strengths, knowledge, and experiences relevant to career goals, and identify areas necessary for professional development.

Where German majors go

Applying your learning through internships . . .

Students pursue internships and research in a variety of fields, enabling them to apply their liberal arts learning in real-world settings. Internships, research, and self-directed projects enrich your academic experience and help prepare you for life after Middlebury. Students have interned or done research at the following:

Bundestag	Mare Verlag
NBC Universal	National Securities Investigation Division
Brooklyn District Attorney's Office	Literaturwerkstatt Berlin
J.P. Morgan Chase	Greenpeace
State Parliament Rhineland-Palatinate	Pacific Investment Management Co.
Johannes Gutenberg-Universität	JFK School Berlin
Landesbank Berlin	Department of Homeland Security
McLean Hospital	House of Representatives Committee on Foreign Affairs
Filmmuseum, Potsdamer Platz	Council on Hemispheric Affairs
City Hall of New York City	The Consortium on Gender, Security, and Human Rights
U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom	

. . . leading to meaningful, dynamic, and engaging career paths.

See just some of the many interesting ways our graduates have applied their liberal arts learning to engage the world. If you want to see what other Middlebury alumni are doing now, log into Midd2Midd and search by major. [go/midd2midd](https://go.middlebury.edu/midd2midd)

Volkswagen Ag, <i>Head of Group Experiential Marketing</i>	<i>Management and Services</i>
Yahoo!, <i>Vice President, Global Advertising Operations</i>	<i>Dell, Marketing Operations Director, Global Brand and End User Comp.</i>
Heidelberg University, <i>President</i>	<i>Macy's Inc., Senior Counsel</i>
Cohen & Steers, <i>Senior Vice President and Director, European Research</i>	<i>Truven Health Analytics, Senior Creative Manager</i>
IDC, <i>Vice President and Regional Director, Central Europe</i>	<i>CageFree Music, LLC; CageFree Records, Owner, President</i>
Department of Defense, <i>Research Analyst</i>	<i>GE Onshore Wind, Global Treasurer</i>
Apex Foundation, <i>President</i>	<i>Moravian Archives, Associate Archivist</i>
German Unlimited, <i>Copartner and Translator</i>	<i>OSG Europe Corp S.A., Director of Corporate Planning</i>
Foreign Exchange Translations, <i>Vice President of Operations</i>	<i>Lyst, Head of Business Intelligence and Strategy</i>
JP Morgan, <i>Vice President, International Tax Planning and Analytics</i>	<i>U.S. Department of State/Office of Children's Issues, Country Officer</i>
Global School Access, <i>Director of Student</i>	<i>Diction GmbH, Translator/Editor</i>
	<i>Teachers Love Travel LLC, Cofounder</i>