

GERMANIC STUDIES (PHD)

Graduate School

Program Website (<https://german.cornell.edu/graduate/>)

CIP: 05.0125 | HEGIS: 1103.00 | NYSED: 13357

Graduate Field

Germanic Studies (<https://catalog.cornell.edu/graduate-school/germanic-studies/>)

Program Description

**Please note that students are not admitted into a terminal-M.A. program in Germanic Studies, but may earn the M.A. on the way to earning the Ph.D. For complete information, please contact the field.*

The concentration in German area studies combines relevant courses in history, international relations, and comparative economics with courses in German literature, culture, and language.

The concentration in German intellectual history draws on faculty members of other fields such as philosophy, history, government, anthropology, psychology, music, etc. Students may concentrate on a theme or in a historical period from the Middle Ages to the present. The focus of the major is generally on the history of ideas as reflected in German written documents. Students may also concentrate in German cinema studies.

The concentration in Germanic linguistics aims to ensure familiarity with the basic tools of research in linguistics and philology and to provide the student with a thorough knowledge of selected areas of specialization. Students may focus on one or more of the following: the structure of modern German; the history of German; comparative Germanic linguistics; and the older Germanic languages.

The concentration in Germanic literature is uniquely flexible: in general, requirements are defined in terms of competence, not in terms of credits or specific courses. Students are expected to acquire a general knowledge of German literature and to become familiar with the tools and methods necessary for research and analysis. In addition, students are expected to acquire a more detailed knowledge of one of the following areas: medieval; Renaissance, Reformation, Baroque; enlightenment, Sturm und Drang, Schiller, Goethe; romanticism, Biedermeier, Restoration through Vormärz; realism, naturalism; or twentieth century.

The university's collection of Old Norse materials (the Fiske Icelandic Collection) is probably the best of its kind outside Scandinavia.

Concentrations

- German area studies
- German intellectual history
- Germanic linguistics
- Germanic literature
- Old Norse (minor)

Program Information

- Instruction Mode: In Person
- Location: Ithaca, NY
- Minimum Credits for Degree: 174

Program Requirements

- Minimum Semesters for Degree: 10

Graduate School Milestones

- Responsible Conduct of Research Training: Required
- Open Researcher and Contributor ID (ORCID): Required
- Student Progress Reviews (SPR) begin: Second Year
- Examination for admission to candidacy (A Exam): Spring or summer of third year
- Defense of Dissertation (B Exam): Sixth year

Field Specific Milestones

- Qualifying Examination (Q Exam): Spring of first year

Course Requirements

Additional course requirements may be set by the student's Special Committee. Program specific requirements that apply to all students are included below.

- GERST 5070 Teaching German as a Foreign Language: Principles and Practices (Taken fall semester of second year)

University Graduation Requirements Requirements for All Students

In order to receive a Cornell degree, a student must satisfy academic and non-academic requirements.

Academic Requirements

A student's college determines degree requirements such as residency, number of credits, distribution of credits, and grade averages. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of the specific major, degree, distribution, college, and graduation requirements for completing their chosen program of study. See the individual requirements listed by each college or school or contact the college registrar's office (<https://registrar.cornell.edu/service-resources/college-registrar-directory/>) for more information.

Non-academic Requirements

Conduct Matters. Students must satisfy any outstanding sanctions, penalties or remedies imposed or agreed to under the Student Code of Conduct (Code) or Policy 6.4. Where a formal complaint under the Code or Policy 6.4 is pending, the University will withhold awarding a degree otherwise earned until the adjudication process set forth in those procedures is complete, including the satisfaction of any sanctions, penalties or remedies imposed.

Financial Obligations. Outstanding financial obligations will not impact the awarding of a degree otherwise earned or a student's ability to access their official transcript. However, the University may withhold issuing a diploma until any outstanding financial obligations owing to the University are satisfied.

Learning Outcomes

- Demonstrate comprehensive knowledge of the field, including historical and cultural diversity, including:
 - Proficiency in German (and, if needed, additional languages)
 - Familiarity with historical, political, cultural, and literary developments in German speaking countries and regions in which German culture/language may have been the majority or a significant minority influence, including immigration and influx from, as well as intersections, conflicts and cross-fertilization with, other cultures.
 - In-depth knowledge of their major area(s) of expertise (including canonical as well as neglected literary and cultural works; relevant cultural and political developments; local and continental histories, etc.), as well as competency in pertinent interdisciplinary areas of concentration.
- Demonstrate advanced research skills, including
 - Independent critical thinking
 - Broad knowledge of a wide range of critical and theoretical approaches relevant to their field of research
 - The ability to identify novel questions and formulate corresponding research projects
 - The production of original and substantial contributions to the field in the form of publishable scholarship.
- Communicate research findings effectively in written and spoken form.
- Be familiar with and follow ethical guidelines for work in the field.
- Demonstrate effective skills in undergraduate teaching (in their special field and as generalists, in both German and English) and potential for advanced/graduate teaching.
- Be knowledgeable about different theoretical paradigms in German studies as well as the literary humanities at large, and have developed habits of reflection that permit them to gauge the applicability of their skill set to situations and problems in academic and non-academic contexts. In particular, the question of how theoretical knowledge is transformed into know-how in the university and other academic and cultural institutions, but also in industry ought to be foregrounded in order for students to develop their professional profiles for successful academic and non-academic careers.