

Graduate Program in German:
Master of Arts (M.A.) and Master of Teaching (M.A.T.)
Learning Goals and Assessment
Adopted December 2011

The Graduate Program in German offers two Master degrees: Master of Arts (M.A.) and Master of Teaching (M.A.T). While Masters students are integrated into courses with Ph.D. students, they are required to do different exams and research geared toward their later job expectations.

M.A. students are required to do 30 credits in course work, 6 of which may be devoted to a research problem if the candidate elects to write a thesis. Students must complete the program with a minimum 3.4 GPA in course work. They must also successfully complete a written M.A. examination.

The M.A.T in German is designed for those already teaching German or working toward certification. Undergraduates majoring in German (or Education) and intending to teach German may wish to augment the BA with this degree. The course requirements of this program may be satisfied by course work taken during the regular academic year, during the summer session, and abroad. Students are required to do 30 credits -- 27 credits of regular course work and the 3 remaining credits dedicated to the development of an individual teaching portfolio based upon course work. While the M.A.T. degree does not lead directly to teacher certification, credits earned toward the M.A.T. may apply toward certification requirements.

Learning Goal 1 for M.A. and M.A.T. Students: Attain mastery of critical reading, writing, and analytic skills in the literatures, cultures, and languages of the German-speaking world.

Assessment of student achievement of Goal 1:

- Grades in graduate courses
- Review by faculty of student progress with close advising and mentoring
- For M.A. students a written comprehensive examination assessing depth and breadth of knowledge
 - Assessment of examination by committee of graduate faculty members
- For M.A.T. students no written comprehensive examination is required. Instead, the teaching portfolio is used to assess the student's comprehensive grasp of the program's goals. This teaching portfolio is a compendium of documents, lesson plans, and teaching materials pertinent to the work situation (teaching level, class focus, particular school system, etc.) of each candidate
 - Assessment of portfolio by committee of graduate faculty members

Roles of the program in helping students to achieve Goal 1:

- Close advising to assure that students are being prepared in a coherent and academically rigorous way
- Effective monitoring of student progress
- Evaluations of teaching effectiveness of instructors in graduate courses

- If effectiveness is below expectations, work with instructors to improve effectiveness
- Periodic review of curricular offerings, degree requirements and assessment tools
 - By program faculty
 - In consultation with the office of the dean of the graduate school and/or the unit dean

Learning Goal 2 for M.A. and M.A.T. Students: Attain mastery of current German language teaching methodologies.

Assessment of student achievement of Goal 2:

- Performance in Methodologies course
 - Assessment of weekly journal and end-of-semester report
 - Two peer observations per semester
- Review by faculty of student teaching with close advising and mentoring

Roles of the program in helping students to achieve Goal 2:

- Close mentoring to assure that students are being prepared in a coherent and academically rigorous way
- Effective monitoring of student progress
- Evaluations of teaching effectiveness of instructor in methodologies course
 - If effectiveness is below expectations, work with instructor to improve effectiveness
- Periodic review of curricular materials and assessment tools
 - By program faculty
 - In consultation with the office of the dean of the graduate school and/or the unit dean

Learning Goal 3 for Students: Prepare to be professionals in the field of German culture and language education

Assessment of graduate student achievement of Goal 3:

- Grades in graduate courses
- Participation in teaching apprenticeships, professional development and other work tailored to career goals, assessed accordingly
- Collection of data on professional placement or continuation of graduate studies

Role of the program in helping students achieve Goal 3:

- Host professional development and career exploration activities
- Develop internship opportunities
- Develop curricular projects such as the portfolio for teachers in M.A.T. program

The leadership of German M.A. and M.A.T. graduate programs will regularly review the structure and content of the program and the feedback received from assessments and surveys.