

Graduate Program in German:
Ph.D. Degree Learning Goals and Assessment
Adopted December 2011

The doctoral program trains students at the highest level to pursue academic careers in the field of German Studies. Students may also use the skills acquired in the Ph.D. program to pursue careers at cultural institutions and international foundations as well as in publishing, journalism and translation.

Learning Goal 1 for Students: Attain the ability to read critically and creatively, developing analytic skills and a comprehensive knowledge of German literary, cinematic and cultural traditions

Assessment of student achievement of Goal 1:

- Grades in graduate courses
- Qualifying examinations assessing depth and breadth of knowledge
- Review by faculty of student progress with close advising and mentoring
- Placement in positions and careers that require ability and scholarship in the field of German Studies

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

- Close advising to ensure that students are being prepared in a coherent and academically rigorous fashion
- 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 Students: Ability to teach German language, literature and culture

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

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

- Effective supervision of student teaching apprenticeships
 - Includes mentoring of students in methodologies course, bi-semester teaching observations, and review of student evaluations

- Close mentoring to ensure 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: Engage in and conduct original research

Assessment of graduate student achievement of Goal 3:

- Seminar papers
- Preparation and defense of Ph.D. dissertation proposal
- Assessment of quality of Ph.D. dissertation:
 - Public defense of dissertation
 - Critical reading of dissertation by committee of graduate faculty members and a committee member from outside of the German graduate program.
 - Submission and acceptance of peer-reviewed articles and conference papers based on the dissertation
- Achievement of students as evidenced by professional placements, selection for conference presentations, peer-reviewed publications, and individual grant attainment

Role of the graduate program in helping students achieve Goal 3:

- Provide early introduction to research methods and opportunities for research
- Provide opportunities to present research and receive feedback
- Maintain adequate funding levels through the research phase
- Provide comprehensive advising and assist in the identification of mentors

Learning Goal 4 for Students: Prepare to be professionals in careers that require training at the highest levels in the field of German Studies

Assessment of graduate student achievement of Goal 4:

- Review evidence of papers presented, publications and professional networking
- Evaluations of teaching effectiveness of graduate student instructors
- Collection of placement data
- Review by external advisory committees composed of leading scholars in the field
- Survey alumni/ae

Role of the program in helping students achieve Goal 3:

- Develop discipline-specific programs in concert with the German Studies Association, Modern Language Association, American Comparative Literature Association, and Association of Jewish Studies as well as with academic journals and presses.

- Provide funding for students to attend scholarly conferences and present work
- Host conferences and visiting scholars
- Encourage participation in professional development programs in such areas as language pedagogy, film studies, library use, course management software, interview skills, presentation skills, development of c.v.'s, use of research tools, training in the responsible conduct of research, and proposal writing
- Host discipline-specific training when appropriate
- Teach students how to do assessments in their future professional capacities
- Provide flexible options for students with interdisciplinary interests related to German Studies
- Develop or enhance programs related to job and networking skills, including activity in professional societies
- Acquaint students with non-academic career opportunities

The leadership of the German graduate program will regularly review the structure and content of the program and the feedback received from assessments and surveys. These reviews will be used to provide the best possible education to students in order to meet the needs for highly trained individuals in the field of German Studies.