GERMAN STUDIES - DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PHD)

The interdisciplinary PhD in German studies is designed so that students can complete their coursework and their dissertation in four years. The program welcomes applicants who wish to pursue careers in government, business and the nonprofit sector, in addition to applicants interested in an academic career.

In Germany, Austria, Switzerland and many other European countries, it is a strongly held conviction that a doctorate demonstrates to potential employers intellectual independence, superior research and writing skills, the perseverance and ingenuity to complete an original piece of scholarship and deep familiarity with a different culture. These qualities are equally valuable in the 21st-century American economy, and indeed in the global marketplace.

The German Studies PhD program provides intensive and personalized mentoring, directed reading advice and clinics devoted to dissertation and conference-paper writing, digital and archival research, oral presentation and interview preparation. Our PhD strongly emphasizes interdisciplinary work within a secondary concentration area of the student’s choice, and includes one year spent abroad at CU Boulder’s partner universities of Göttingen and Regensburg or at other leading institutions in the German-speaking world. A wide range of graduate-level course offerings is designed to ensure content coverage and to move research projects into publishable scholarship. The expanded graduate faculty includes scholars in disciplines such as political science, comparative literature, Jewish studies, business and library science.

For more information, contact the department at gsll@colorado.edu or visit the German Program (http://www.colorado.edu/gsll/german-program) webpage.

Requirements

Academic Preparation

If a student has gaps in their academic preparation, the department may require them to take additional courses.

Course Requirements

The PhD program requires 30 hours of coursework at the 5000 level or above. Students who have completed an MA degree may be able to apply up to 21 hours toward this requirement.

In addition to coursework, students must take a total of at least 30 credit hours of doctoral dissertation, with not more than 10 of these taken in any one semester and not more than 10 dissertation credit hours taken before the semester during which the comprehensive examination is passed. Students must be enrolled in a minimum of 5 dissertation hours during the semester in which they defend their dissertation (including summer session, if the defense is held over the summer).

Transfer credit from accredited institutions may be accepted by CU Boulder after approval by the graduate associate chair. PhD students are allowed a maximum of 21 hours of transfer credit. Thesis hours may not be transferred. All courses accepted for transfer credit must be graduate-level courses and must have a grade of B or above. Coursework completed more than five years prior to acceptance to the PhD program will be evaluated by the department with regard to current relevance and applicability to the degree requirements. Credit may not be transferred until the student has completed at least six credits of CU graduate-level coursework as a degree-seeking student on the CU Boulder campus with a 3.0 GPA. Thesis hours do not count toward the required 30 hours and cannot be used as transfer credit.

Required Courses and Credits

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GRMN 5010</td>
<td>Theory and Practice of German Studies</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRMN 5020</td>
<td>Applied Linguistics and Foreign Language Teaching Methodology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRMN 7010</td>
<td>Writing Colloquium</td>
<td>1-3</td>
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Electives

At least one course with a focus on pre-20th-century content:

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<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GRMN 5210</td>
<td>Seminar: The Age of Enlightenment</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRMN 5220</td>
<td>Seminar: Topics in the Age of Goethe</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRMN 5310</td>
<td>Seminar: Topics in the 19th Century</td>
<td>3</td>
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At least 6 credit hours in an interdisciplinary area of concentration. ¹

Additional courses to meet 30-credit minimum. ¹

Total Credit Hours

30

¹ Students design this concentration in close consultation with their faculty mentor and comprehensive examination and dissertation advisor, and with the approval of the graduate associate chair.

Examples of interdisciplinary concentrations include (but are not limited to): critical thought, political science, philosophy, history, comparative literature, gender studies, film studies, Russian studies, Jewish studies, women’s studies, geography, environmental studies, economics and international affairs.

Language Requirement

In addition to demonstrating a high level of proficiency in German, you must demonstrate moderate proficiency in an additional foreign language. You can do this by fulfilling one of the following requirements either before or after enrolling at CU Boulder:

- completing a fourth-semester (second-semester sophomore) college language course with a grade of “pass,”
- completing a proficiency exam administered at CU, or
- presenting other evidence of moderate proficiency to the graduate associate chair.

Students should consult with the graduate associate chair at the beginning of their first semester to discuss procedures. This requirement must be fulfilled before or during the semester in which the student advances to candidacy.

Comprehensive PhD Examination

The comprehensive exam tests a student’s knowledge in areas of specialization appropriate for their anticipated dissertation topic. The exam takes place in the second or third year, depending on whether the student entered the program with a BA or MA and, if the latter, how many coursework credits were applied from the MA. Students take the exam in the spring semester. The exam is based on a reading list the student assembles in close consultation with the members of their committee.

It consists of a take-home written exam followed by a two-hour-long oral examination that concentrates on the written exam, but may also address
texts and topics on the reading list that are not covered in the written exam. The composition of the comprehensive exam committee follows the guidelines of the prospectus & dissertation committee composition below.

For more information, visit the department’s Comprehensive Examination, Prospectus & Dissertation (http://www.colorado.edu/gsll/comprehensive-examination-and-dissertation) webpage.

Prospectus & Dissertation Committee
After successful completion of the comprehensive examinations, the student forms a dissertation committee and prepares a dissertation prospectus, to be followed by its defense a week later. The dissertation committee should be finalized and a dissertation prospectus submitted no later than the end of the fifth week of the semester following the successful completion of the comprehensive examination.

For more information, visit the department’s Comprehensive Examination, Prospectus & Dissertation (http://www.colorado.edu/gsll/comprehensive-examination-and-dissertation) webpage.

Dissertation
The student formally begins to write their dissertation after successfully completing the comprehensive exam and defending the dissertation prospectus. The student should work closely with their dissertation advisor and committee members while writing the dissertation. In particular, students are advised to submit draft copies of each chapter to all members of their committee. Any subsequent changes to the student’s "timeline for completion" need to be circulated to the committee for approval. A final draft must be submitted to the committee members at least three weeks before the defense.

Students are required to register continuously for a minimum of five dissertation hours in the fall and spring semesters of each year, beginning with the semester following the passing of the comprehensive exam and extending through the semester in which the student successfully defends their dissertation.

A student who fails to register continuously for dissertation credit hours after passing the comprehensive exam must retake and pass the exam, and validate any coursework more than five years old, to regain status as a student in good standing with the graduate school.

For more information, visit the department’s Comprehensive Examination, Prospectus & Dissertation (http://www.colorado.edu/gsll/comprehensive-examination-and-dissertation) webpage.

Recommended Coursework
Internships
Students are strongly encouraged to complete at least one internship during their doctoral studies. Three hours of internship credit can count toward the 30 required hours of coursework for the PhD. GSLL graduate students have completed internships with businesses, nonprofit agencies and schools, and at locations including Colorado, Germany and Washington, DC. Internship offerings vary by semester. To enroll in a graduate internship, see the associate chair for graduate studies.

Graduate Exchange Opportunities
Students are recommended to spend one academic year abroad during their doctoral studies, on either a CU graduate exchange or an exchange funded by an agency such as the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) or the Fulbright Commission. For more information concerning DAAD, Fulbright and other grants, see the department’s Scholarships & Awards (http://www.colorado.edu/gsll/scholarships-awards) webpage.

In partnership with CU’s Office of International Education, GSLL offers funded graduate exchanges at the University of Göttingen and the University of Regensburg. These exchanges offer matriculation at the host institution for one academic year (10 months), plus a monthly stipend for living expenses. One position is offered per year at each institution. To qualify for an exchange, the student must demonstrate fluency in German and evidence of superior academic work.

Students interested in either program should notify the graduate associate chair by Feb. 1 for study abroad the following academic year and formally apply by Feb. 15.

Graduate Certificate Programs
Students are also encouraged to consider completing a graduate certificate program at CU. GSLL offers a critical theory graduate certificate (catalog.colorado.edu/graduate/colleges-schools/arts-sciences/programs-study/germanic-slavic-languages-literatures/critical-theory-graduate-certificate). Other graduate certificates include the women and gender studies graduate certificate (catalog.colorado.edu/graduate/colleges-schools/arts-sciences/programs-study/women-gender-studies/women-gender-studies-graduate-certificate) and the comparative ethnic studies graduate certificate (catalog.colorado.edu/graduate/colleges-schools/arts-sciences/programs-study/ethnic-studies/comparative-ethnic-studies-graduate-certificate).