



University of California, Santa Barbara  
Program Learning Outcomes

**B.A. in German**

***Students graduating with a B.A. in German should be able to:***

*I. Knowledge of Language*

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- Demonstrate communicative and grammatical competence in German at a sufficiently advanced level to be able to engage in conversation in informal speaking contexts.
- Read and translate German texts accurately at an advanced level.
- Using the process approach, write well organized essays on an advanced level in different modes (e.g., narrative, argumentative, compare/contrast) in German. (The “process approach” is defined by an emphasis on the different stages of the construction of an essay (rather than on the final product only), whereby instructor and peer review contribute to the emergence, development and formulation of ideas. Sample stages include Pre-writing, Focusing ideas, Evaluating, Structuring and Editing.)

*II. Knowledge of Literature and Culture*

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- Demonstrate knowledge of fundamentals of German literature and culture and of their historical context, from the 18th Century to the present, including minority cultures.
- Demonstrate a basic knowledge of some of the most influential German philosophical and theoretical movements (such as Enlightenment, Marx’s thought, Freud’s psychoanalysis, etc).
- Use basic tools of literary and cultural analysis such as close reading, archival research, and critical theory.
- Command a general understanding of German intellectual and political history.

*III. Critical Thinking and Writing*

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- Construct a well-developed thesis and a clear argument when analyzing texts from the German tradition.
- Describe the ethnic differences that characterize today’s German speaking countries, and discuss the devastating consequences of intolerance and persecution of differences.
- Demonstrate the critical thinking characteristics needed to be open, informed and engaged world citizens.