



Office of the Provost

Proposed Change to an Existing Degree: Academic Component

eCAP is Boston University's peer review process for the creation, modification, and dissolution of academic programs.

Please answer all relevant questions below. Consultation with the appropriate Associate Provost on a draft of the proposal is recommended.

Using the relevant template, please submit a budget even if no additional resources are needed.

Current Title of Degree (e.g., Bachelor of Arts in History): BA in German Language and Literature

Proposed Title of Degree (if applicable): n/a (no change)

Proposing/Supporting Department: World Languages & Literatures

Proposed Start Date: September 2021

1. Please provide the name, title, email address, and phone number of the primary contact person for this academic program:

Peter J. Schwartz, Associate Professor of German, pjs8@bu.edu, (617) 645-4717

2. Please describe briefly the proposed change to the existing degree:

We propose to retire a rigid set of constraints whose poor alignment with the Hub and with student goals has become unignorable, depleting the ranks of German majors and leading to frequent cancellations, even of courses mandatory for majors. The proposed revisions also bring the German BA requirements into alignment with those for other majors in the department (Russian, Japanese, Chinese, MESALL, Comp. Lit.): only German has till now effectively steered majors *away* from our own courses on German culture, literature, history and society taught in English – even as the Hub has made such courses increasingly relevant to students and essential for us to staff.

The proposed revisions concern the distribution of eight German courses. (A four-semester set of prerequisite language courses and three breadth requirements remain unchanged.) The existing

program enumerates these eight punctiliously: students must take both LG 250 and LG 350 (two different introductions to German literature) and six other courses from highly specific ranges that nevertheless, confusingly, partly overlap: one from LG 302–309; one from LG 302-345; one from LG 310-345 or LG 403-404; one from LG 450-470; and two from “LG 220-299; 351-399; or 400+.” The rationale for this level of constraint was tied to past patterns of enrollment and staffing that no longer obtain.

The revision distributes these eight courses more intelligibly and flexibly by defining two broad curricular tiers. Three courses will be advanced content classes taught in German and numbered LG 302 or higher. Five will be German language, linguistics, literature, film, history, art or culture courses taught in either German or English and numbered LG 220 or higher.

3. Please provide the academic rationale for the proposed change to the existing degree. This may include aspects related to budgetary issues, student demand, or peer/disciplinary trends:

WLL’s assessment process and clear trends in enrollment patterns have both shown that the old German major requirements are out of step with the diverse group of our German students today, who are primarily interested in building language proficiency, studying abroad, and preparing to work in German-speaking countries, and who are also balancing Hub requirements and the requirements of another major (students majoring only in German have not existed for at least ten years).

4. Please describe how the proposed change(s) advances the Strategic Plans of the department, of the school/college, and of the University:

A revised German major manifestly serves the University’s reaffirmed priorities in the Academic and Global categories; it also contributes to initiatives aligned with these and other priorities, including both the BU Hub and the Howard Thurman Center for Common Ground. Finally, as noted above, the new program, in part a response to increased student diversity, also enables faculty to develop German-related courses addressing the Diversity priority (e.g., by developing a course on race and ethnicity in German culture with the help of the new BU Center for Antiracist Research).

Revising the German program answers directly the CAS strategic plan’s stress on nurturing the breadth of our academic programs while bearing in mind “realistic assessments of our likely success and sustainability”: the revisions aim exactly at realism and full sustainability. The CAS plan also notes that undergraduate education is the “bedrock” of the university, and that the College serves “all BU undergraduates who depend on CAS for developing foundational academic skills and completing general education.” With the revisions the German program aims not only to serve our majors better but also to build a wider array of courses that can address a wider audience across BU.

5. Please list all the program requirements for the current and revised programs so that review committees can easily see the changes: (Expand the table as needed and **denote new courses in bold print and courses already approved for conveying Hub units with an asterisk.** Please include total credits, specific courses, and any additional degree requirements. Note: New courses included in the degree that are intended to convey Hub units must be submitted separately for Hub unit approval via CourseLeaf)

Current program	Revised program
CAS XL 100 Explorations in World Literature: Leaving Home*	CAS XL 100 Explorations in World Literature: Leaving Home*
CAS LG 250* Masterpieces of German Literature (in English translation)	Five LG courses in German language, linguistics, literature, film, or culture numbered LG220 or higher, taught in German or in English. With advisor approval, up to two of the five may be German-studies courses taken outside the WLL department; for example, in history, art history, the Pardee School, or political science. Courses or internships at Study Abroad programs in Germany or another German-speaking country may also be counted here.
CAS LG 350* Introduction to German Literature (in German)	---
Three additional courses in German language, literature, linguistics and/or culture: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One course numbered LG 450–470 (German literature in German) • Two additional courses numbered CAS LG 220–299, 351–399, or 400 or higher (German literature, film, linguistics, culture, or advanced language). Courses taken at BU Study Abroad Programs in Dresden can also count for the major. 	---
Three German language courses above LG 212: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One course numbered CAS LG 302–309 • One course numbered CAS LG 302–345 • One course numbered CAS LG 310–345 or CAS LG 403–404 	Three advanced courses taught in German numbered LG 302 or higher.
One WLL elective course, chosen with approval of the advisor. (May also be satisfied by taking both CAS CC 101* and CAS CC 102,* by CAS LX 250* (Introduction to Linguistics) or a higher-level linguistics course, or by a literature course in Romance Studies, English, or Classics. Students wishing to do	One elective course in World Languages and Literatures , chosen with approval of the advisor. (May also be satisfied by taking both CAS CC 101* and CAS CC 102,* by CAS LX 250* (Introduction to Linguistics) or a higher-level linguistics course, or by a literature course in Romance Studies, English, or

more comparative work may count an additional WLL elective in place of one of the five courses in German language, literature, linguistics and/or culture.)	Classics. Students wishing to do more comparative work may count an additional WLL elective in place of one of the five courses in German language, literature, linguistics, film and/or culture.)
CAS XL 479* WLL Senior Seminar. A capstone course with a paper or translation project that makes use of German-language sources.	CAS XL 479* WLL Senior Seminar. A capstone course with a paper or translation project that makes use of German-language sources.

6. How does this change reflect the result of [program learning outcomes assessment](#) and/or [academic program review](#)?:

WLL’s assessment process has shown that our German students are a diverse group primarily (but not exclusively) interested in building language proficiency, studying abroad, and preparing to work in German-speaking countries. This more streamlined and flexible set of major requirements will help more of them to do that.

7. Please list learning outcomes for the revised program:

- Advanced knowledge of major themes and genres in German literature and culture in their historical contexts, including links to other European and world literary traditions.
- Critical thinking, communication, and writing skills within areas of content and cultural knowledge.
- Proficiency in speaking, reading, writing, and listening comprehension in German at or above a level (ACTFL intermediate-mid to intermediate-high) where these skills can be used for communication in everyday and academic situations.

8. How does the change place your program in the context of programs at peer institutions?

Our 11-course German Language & Literature major (with an additional 4-course prerequisite of LG 111-212) is in line with German Language & Literature majors at peer and peer-plus institutions. BU is distinctive in its emphasis on intercultural grounding: by requiring German majors to “situate” their German study in a global context through the requirements of XL 100, 1-2 courses from other WLL subdivisions, and a capstone course completed alongside students majoring in other languages or in Comparative Literature, our German majors will continue to graduate with nearly a minor in world literature. Our 11-course major is now at the high end of the scale, especially since at BU we presuppose (but do not count) the four foundational language courses. Most comparable programs concentrate their requirements, as BU does, on content courses covering topics in German literature, film, history, culture, or linguistics. All specify some number of these that must be conducted in German and encourage students, as we do, to overshoot that minimum.

A few examples in detail:

- Wellesley College, whose German program we have previously cited as “peer-plus,” [requires only nine courses for a BA](#). Since Wellesley counts among those nine the 211-

212 equivalents that we treat as prerequisite, BU's program in fact requires four courses more than Wellesley's. Two of Wellesley's required courses may be taught in English. WLL's three-course breadth requirement, asking students to situate their focus on German in a broader or "global" landscape of different cultures, languages and literatures, has no equivalent at Wellesley.

- Reed College, cited as a "peer" program in our self-studies, offers two tracks in German: Culture Studies and Literature. Reed's German Literature track requires eight courses including a thesis above the 212-equivalent level; majors also complete (or used to complete, before Covid-19) at least one semester or summer institute in Germany. Six of the eight required courses are in [German literature](#); many or most appear to be conducted in English with optional readings in German. Reed's German Culture Studies track requires ten courses above the 212 equivalent, of which three must be taught in German. BU's revised major, **requiring a minimum of three upper-level courses** conducted in German (most students choose to take more) and with offerings spanning linguistics, culture, film, history and literature, steers a deliberate course between Reed's two tracks. (We feel that the two-track arrangement, which several institutions have adopted, does students a disservice by narrowing their horizons.)
- Bryn Mawr-and-Haverford, which we have also considered a "peer" program, likewise has two majors, German and German Studies. Both require ten courses *including* their 111-212 equivalents, in other words a mere six courses beyond our prerequisites.
- Tufts, a German program with only one professorial-rank faculty member but housed in a similarly structured department, offers a major in German Language and Cultural Studies (GLCS) as well as a separate, interdepartmental German Studies (GS) track with half of its requirements fulfilled by courses in History, Philosophy, Economics, and the like. Each major requires 10 courses, one less than BU. GLCS requirements are distinctive in their heavy emphasis on language proficiency, specifying that fully seven of the ten required courses be taught in German or taken abroad. Tufts' language programs are sustained by a notably different academic ecosystem from ours; the large I.R. program at Tufts requires of its majors (in marked contrast to IR at BU), rigorous advanced language study (generally fourth-year if not higher). Advanced language classes at Tufts are therefore ensured of robust enrollments. This institutional difference may also help explain why Tufts has appointed only one professor but numerous lecturers and adjuncts.

9. How does the change affect other academic units and existing programs at the University?

n/a

10. How will you notify current students of the proposed changes and implement the requirements? How will you assure that current students are able to complete their programs under the requirements that were in place at the time of their matriculation?

We will update the program requirements on the Department website and mention the new (simplified) requirements when advertising the program. Current students will be encouraged to switch to the new requirements, as they are easier to fulfill.

11. How many students are currently enrolled in the program? Does the school/college anticipate that this change will increase or decrease enrollments? If yes, please indicate the numerical (headcount) increase or decrease you anticipate. If yes, how will the school/college support the increased enrollments:

The numbers fluctuate year to year, but although we currently have we have 121 students in German language & literature courses, we have only one German major; for some time now our course enrollments above LG 212 have been sustained by minors. The intent of the proposed changes is to increase enrollments in the German program. While it is impossible to quantify the likely increase, no one could imagine it will be on a scale large enough to require additional resources.

12. Please document any implications that the change has on professional accreditation or licensure at the program or school/college level:

n/a

13. If the change includes a new course or courses, please indicate who will teach the course and how the rest of that faculty member's course load will be affected (courses(s) redistributed to other faculty, taught less frequently, no longer taught, etc.). Please be specific about affected courses. This information should be reflected in the budget form that accompanies the proposal, e.g. the cost for a new faculty member to teach the new course or a redistributed course:

n/a

14. Please list other resources needed including new staff, IT, technology enhanced classrooms, office space, and other facilities. This information should be reflected in the budget:

n/a

15. Please describe the budgetary impact that the proposed change will have:

n/a

16. Please provide the Bulletin copy (exactly as it should appear) related to the proposed change, including all text connected to the program (requirements, description, learning

outcomes) [NOTE: this Bulletin copy is in a final form and cannot be changed. It must include program learning outcomes.]:

BA in German Language & Literature

The major in German Language & Literature allows students to gain a high level of proficiency (ACTFL intermediate-mid) in the German language and develop an in-depth critical understanding of German-language cultural life, past and present. Graduates are prepared to communicate effectively in German and English, to function well in cross-cultural contexts, and to contribute meaningfully to addressing today's global challenges. This flexible 11-course program works well as a second major alongside a major such as History, IR, European Studies, the sciences, or Engineering.

Like all World Languages & Literatures (WLL) majors, German Language & Literature majors generally begin with CAS XL 100 Leaving Home: Explorations in World Literature, a team-taught course in which students meet the WLL faculty through guest lectures and become oriented in the rich diversity of the world's literary traditions. They start German language study as early as possible and complete at least three language courses above the fourth semester. Five additional courses in German language, literature, film, linguistics, and/or culture provide greater depth in areas of interest to the student. A WLL elective focused on a language, literature, or culture other than German helps regional, global and/or historical comparison.

Finally, German majors reconvene with all WLL majors in the senior capstone seminar XL 479, where they share the expertise they have gained and work with a faculty mentor on a final project using German language materials. Student presentations build oral communication skills and the ability to describe one's work to others. Possible final projects could include a research paper on literature, film, or popular culture; an annotated translation or work of subtitling; a video essay; or a digital humanities project. Students producing excellent capstone projects will be encouraged to develop them into senior honors work.

Learning Outcomes

- Advanced knowledge of major themes and genres in German literature and culture in their historical contexts, including links to other European and world literary traditions.
- Critical thinking, communication, and writing skills within areas of content and cultural knowledge.
- Proficiency in speaking, reading, writing, and listening comprehension in German at or above a level (ACTFL intermediate-mid) where these skills can be used for communication in everyday and academic situations.

Requirements

All first-year, first-time students pursue coursework in the BU Hub, a general education program that is integrated into the entire undergraduate experience. BU Hub requirements are flexible and can be

satisfied in many different ways, through coursework in and beyond the major (or minor) and, in some cases, through co-curricular activities. Students majoring in German Language & Literature will satisfy BU Hub requirements in many Hub areas through coursework in the major, for the rest selecting from a wide range of available courses outside the major.

A total of 11 four-credit courses are required, all completed with a grade of C or higher.

- CAS XL 100 Explorations in World Literature: Leaving Home.
- Three advanced courses taught in German numbered LG 302 or higher.
- Five LG courses in German language, linguistics, literature, film, or culture numbered LG220 or higher, taught in German or in English. With advisor approval, up to two of the five may be German-studies courses taken outside the WLL department; for example, in history, art history, the Pardee School, or political science. Courses or internships on study-abroad programs may also be proposed for consideration here..
- One elective course in World Languages and Literatures, chosen with approval of the advisor. (May also be satisfied by taking both CAS CC 101 and CAS CC 102, by CAS LX 250 (Introduction to Linguistics) or a higher-level linguistics course, or by a literature course in Romance Studies, English, or Classics. Students wishing to do more comparative work may count an additional WLL elective in place of one of the five courses in German language, literature, linguistics and/or culture.)
- CAS XL 479 WLL Senior Seminar. A capstone course with a paper or translation project that makes use of German-language sources.

17. What is the average number of years for a full-time student to complete the program?

4

18. What is the maximum number of years allowed to complete the program?

n/a (undergraduate)

19. If a credit-bearing certificate, should the students be eligible for Title IV funds?

n/a

20. Please propose a CIP code for any new HEGIS (CIP – Classification of Instructional Programs used for IPEDS reporting <https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/cipcode/browse.aspx?y=55>):

n/a

21. Is the new HEGIS STEM eligible? (Contact the Registrar’s Office with questions):

n/a

22. Are you phasing out or replacing another program? If so, what program?

no

The following questions relate to a change in the format, e.g. blended, online, face-to-face, of an existing degree.

23. For proposed changes to format of existing programs, please provide an indication of non-standard scheduling for the proposed format:

24. Please provide a communication and promotion plan for the proposed changed format. Are you working with an outside vendor/contractor? If yes, please outline this relationship and the role of the vendor:

25. If applicable, please provide a request for non-standard tuition rates for the proposed changed delivery format:

26. What charges (tuition, fees, etc.) are to be applied to this program? How will the charges be structured? Please make the figures correspond with the Budget Form submission.

Tuition/Fee Item	Amount
n/a (CAS undergraduate)	

Examples:

<i>Fulltime Tuition</i>	<i>\$25,490</i>
<i>Graduate Student Services Fee</i>	<i>\$162</i>
<i>Health and Wellness Fee</i>	<i>\$206</i>

or

<i>Program Fee (bundled charge)</i>	<i>\$27,985</i>
<i>Tuition component</i>	<i>\$21,985</i>

<i>Fees component</i>	<i>\$6,000</i>
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