

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA ASHEVILLE
FACULTY SENATE

Senate Document Number SD4923S
Date of Senate Approval 04/27/2023

Statement of Faculty Senate Action:

APC Document 37 (LL/GERM): Change the major and minor requirements for German

Effective Date: Fall 2023

1. Delete: On page 212, the requirements for a **Major in Languages and Literatures with a Concentration in German:**

- I. Required courses in the concentration—38 hours: LL 313; GERM 210, 220, 310, 320, 490, 16 additional hours at the 300-400 level, to include at least 4 hours at the 400-level. Students whose level of proficiency does not allow them to start with GERM 210 will be required to complete the appropriate prerequisite courses. Students who place out of one or more of the required courses must still complete 36 hours of German, not including the prerequisite courses, for the concentration. At least one-half of the hours required for the concentration must be completed at UNC Asheville.
- II. Required courses outside the major—None.
- III. Other departmental requirements—Competency in German will be demonstrated by a capstone project consisting of research plus oral presentations to be carried out in GERM 490. Oral proficiency will be demonstrated by successful completion of GERM 320.

Add: On page 212, in place of deleted entry:

- I. Required courses in the concentration—38 hours: LL 313; GERM 110, 120, 210, 220, 310, 320, 490, 8 additional hours at the 300-400 level. Students who place out of one or more of the required courses must still complete 36 hours of German for the concentration. At least one-half of the hours required for the concentration must be completed at UNC Asheville.
- II. Required courses outside the major—None.
- III. Other departmental requirements—Competency in German will be demonstrated by a capstone project consisting of research plus oral presentations to be carried out in GERM 490. Oral proficiency will be demonstrated by successful completion of GERM 320.

2. Delete: On page 213, the requirements for a **Minor in German:**

German: 22 hours: LL 313; GERM 210, 220, 310, 320, and one course from 390, 490 or 499. Students whose level of proficiency does not allow them to start with GERM 210 will be required to complete the appropriate prerequisite courses. Students who place out of one or more of the required courses must still complete 20 hours of German for the minor.

Add: On page 213, in place of deleted entry:

German: 22 hours: LL 313; GERM 110, 120, 210, 220, and one course from 310, 320, or 390. Students who place out of one or more of the required courses must still complete 20 hours of German for the minor.

Impact Statement: The impact of the proposed curricular changes will be beneficial to both students and faculty. The total hours required for students to complete the German major or minor will remain the same at 38 and 22, respectively. By including GERM 110 and 120 in the credit hours for the major or minor rather than as prerequisites for entry into the program, and reducing the number of required upper-level courses, students who begin studying German at UNC Asheville will need eight fewer credit hours in German to complete the major or minor (see Tables 1 and 2 in Appendix). This change will make the degree program more accessible to students, especially those without prior knowledge of German and/or those minoring or double majoring in the subject. With this increased accessibility, we anticipate greater enrollment in German classes beyond the 100-level and an increase in the number of German majors and minors.

As no new courses will be added to the curriculum, we anticipate that current faculty resources will be sufficient to cover the necessary courses each semester. Faculty workload will be reduced by the decreased need for independent studies. Current enrollment and faculty resources in the German program allow for two 300-400 level classes to be offered each semester, including GERM 310 and 320, which students can take only once for credit. With the present major/minor requirements, students often need to take more 300-400 level courses than the Department of Languages and Literatures is capable of offering, necessitating frequent independent study courses. Such courses are often undesirable, as they (a) provide less opportunity for student engagement, (b) demand uncompensated labor from faculty, and (c) remove the social and communicative classroom setting that language courses in particular benefit from. The proposed changes will significantly reduce, if not entirely eliminate, the need for students to take independent studies in order to attain the credit hours necessary for the major or minor, in turn relieving the strain frequent independent studies place on faculty.

Rationale: The decision to include GERM 110 and 120 in the German major and minor while maintaining the same number of overall credit hours for both is intended to serve three main purposes: (1) to align more appropriately with the German program's revised curriculum; (2) to increase the accessibility and feasibility of the German major and minor for students; (3) to enable more students to double major in German and another subject.

- 1) **Alignment with German program's revised curriculum** – Over the past few years, the German Program in the Department of Languages and Literatures has undergone a systematic reworking of our curriculum in keeping with the most recent research on pedagogy pertaining to adult foreign language study, as well as with the ever-increasing importance of intercultural and global competence.

A significantly revised GERM 110 curriculum was implemented in Fall 2020 and a similar revision was introduced in GERM 120 the following semester. This new 100-level curriculum is content-oriented from the beginning. It is based on a holistic model of language learning that dispenses with the once standard division between lower-level “language” courses, in which grammar and vocabulary are taught and learned without any readily discernible connection to content, and upper-

level “content” courses, in which culture and literature are taught and learned under the assumption that language is sufficiently acquired. Rather, language and intellectual content are integrated and taught concurrently throughout the German program.

Our curriculum is rooted in a conceptual framework that understands language as functional, contextualized, and meaning- and discourse-oriented, rather than formal, generalized, and rule-oriented. At all stages of language development, our curriculum prioritizes the complex relationships between meaning and form, asking students to analyze and interrogate the function and potential of language itself. Through an explicit foregrounding of language and its purposeful integration with cultural content, the German program invites students to explore the contingent nature of cultural concepts such as knowledge, identity, and power, and to examine how these are socially and linguistically produced, maintained, and challenged.

The academic rigor and intellectual engagement demanded by GERM 110 and 120 are comparable to that of introductory classes in other subjects and should therefore similarly count towards the major and minor in this field.

- 2) **Increased accessibility and feasibility of the German major and minor** – Requiring 38 SCH, the German program rests firmly in the middle of Humanities majors in terms of credit hours, as shown in Table 3 in the Appendix. However, because students currently must complete two four-credit hour courses of prerequisites (GERM 110 and 120), the total number of credit hours necessary to complete a degree in German for students entering UNC Asheville with no prior German instruction rises from the nominal 38 to 46. This is a greater amount of required credit hours than any other Humanities major. This disparity is even starker when examining required course hours for minors. At 22 SCH, the German minor requires an average amount of credit hours for minors offered at UNC Asheville. When the eight prerequisite hours are added, the German minor rises to 30 total credit hours, which along with French, is the greatest number of total credit hours required by any minor at UNC Asheville (see Table 4 in Appendix).

While the Spanish and French majors and minors likewise require prerequisites (SPAN/FREN 110 and 120 or SPAN/FREN 130), it is typically possible for students to take introductory Spanish and French classes during high school and to place into higher levels upon entering UNC Asheville. This is less feasible for students of German, given that German language courses are offered at increasingly fewer high schools. Spanish classes are offered in all Buncombe County and Asheville City High Schools and French in about half. In contrast, no high school in the county or city school system offers German classes. The American Association of Teachers of German (AATG) collected data on German programs in schools and universities in the United States, and only 20 public and four private high schools in the state of North Carolina offer German courses.¹ The majority of these are located in Charlotte and the Triangle region, with only one high school located in Lenoir offering German in Western North Carolina. Out of North Carolina’s nearly 1000 high schools, only 2% offer students the opportunity to complete German courses before entering college.

¹ For a map of universities and schools offering German classes in the USA, see: <https://datastudio.google.com/reporting/3cbffc1a-b4cb-4f7d-b4bc-8e2e35d694ba/page/bGCOC>. For further information on the AATG and its data collection, see: <https://www.aatg.org/page/germanprogramnetwork>.

This means that the vast majority of our students in the German program start in GERM 110. Treating GERM 110 and 120 as prerequisites rather than major or minor courses puts these students at a disadvantage compared to their peers from other Humanities degree programs, including those in the Department of Languages and Literatures studying Spanish or French. Including GERM 110 and 120 in the German major and minor will allow more students to enroll in and complete these degree paths once they enter university. Tables 5 and 6 in the Appendix depict matriculation models for the German major for both traditional students and those who transfer into UNC Asheville, respectively.

- 3) **Ability for more students to double major** – Many students who major in a language also double major in another subject. A 2012 report from the liberal arts-focused Teagle Foundation on the prevalence and impact of double majors found that foreign languages are the most popular concentration among students with a double major, appearing in six out of the top ten most common double major concentrations. However, languages are comparatively less often chosen as a single major, with only 1.7% of single majors choosing a language as their major and 10.5% of double majors choosing a language.²

As most UNC Asheville courses are four credit hours, students typically enroll in four courses a semester, amounting to about 32 courses before graduation. Under a three-credit hour system, students take five courses each semester, for a total of 40 courses. Our four-credit hour system, while certainly beneficial in many ways, makes double majoring or even sometimes minoring in a subject more difficult, as our students take eight fewer classes.

Reducing the total number of courses needed to major in German will result in an increased opportunity for students to double major in German and another program. This will increase enrollment in 200-400 level German courses and help further UNC Asheville's mission as the only designated liberal arts university in the UNC system by enabling students to gain in-depth knowledge in multiple disciplines.

² See: Richard N. Pitt and Steven Tepper, "Double Majors: Influences, Identities & Impacts," A Curb Center Report Prepared for the Teagle Foundation, 2012.

Appendix

Table 1: Current vs. Proposed Major

Current Major	Hours	Proposed Major	Hours
<i>GERM 110 (prerequisite)</i>	4	—	—
<i>GERM 120 (prerequisite)</i>	4	—	—
GERM 210	4	GERM 110	4
GERM 220	4	GERM 120	4
GERM 310	4	GERM 210	4
GERM 320	4	GERM 220	4
GERM 490	4	GERM 310	4
300-400 Level	4	GERM 320	4
300-400 Level	4	GERM 490	4
300-400 Level	4	300-400 Level	4
400 Level	4	300-400 Level	4
LL 313	2	LL 313	2
TOTAL	46	TOTAL	38

Table 2: Current vs. Proposed Minor

Current Minor	Hours	Proposed Minor	Hours
<i>GERM 110 (prerequisite)</i>	4	—	—
<i>GERM 120 (prerequisite)</i>	4	—	—
GERM 210	4	GERM 110	4
GERM 220	4	GERM 120	4
GERM 310	4	GERM 210	4
GERM 320	4	GERM 220	4
GERM 390/490/499	4	GERM 310/320/390	4
LL 313	2	LL 313	2
TOTAL	30	TOTAL	22

Table 3: Credit Hour Requirements of UNC Asheville Humanities Majors

Major	Required SCH	Prerequisite SCH	Total SCH
French	34	8	42
Music B.A.	36	-	36
Religious Studies	36	-	36
Ancient Mediterranean Studies	36	8	44
Spanish	38	4	42
German	38	8	46
Art History	40	-	40
English: Literature	40	-	40
History	40	-	40
Philosophy	40	-	40
Drama	43	-	43
Art B.A.	44	-	44
English: Creative Writing	44	-	44

Table 4: Credit Hour Requirements of UNC Asheville Minors

Minor	Required SCH	Prerequisite SCH	Total SCH
Environmental Studies	18	-	18
Health and Wellness	18	-	18
American and Indigenous Studies	18	-	18
Asian Studies	18	-	18
Legal Studies	18	-	18
U.S. Ethnic Studies	18	-	18
Accounting	18	-	18
Africana Studies	18	-	18
Human Rights Studies	18	-	18
Astronomy	18	-	18
Political Science	18	-	18
Psychology	18	-	18
Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies	18	-	18
Atmospheric Sciences	19	-	19
Management	19	-	19
Humanities	19	-	19
Economics	20	-	20
English	20	-	20
Creative Writing	20	-	20
Professional Writing and Rhetoric	20	-	20
History	20	-	20
Mass Communication	20	-	20
Music	20	-	20
Philosophy	20	-	20
Religious Studies	20	-	20
Anthropology	20	-	20
Sociology	20	-	20
Computer Science	21	-	21
New Media	21	-	21
Neuroscience	22	-	22
Chemistry	23	-	23
Arts Management and Entrepreneurship	23	-	23
Biology	20	4	24
Art	24	-	24
Art History	24	-	24
Dance	24	-	24
Mathematics	21	4	25
Physics	21	4	25
Latin American and Transatlantic Studies	18	8	26
Spanish	22	4	26
Drama	26	-	26
Ancient Mediterranean Studies	20	8	28
International Studies	21	8	29
French	22	8	30
German	22	8	30

Table 5: Traditional Student Matriculation Model**Single Major in German**

Fall Semester 1			Spring Semester 1		
FYS 178	4	LAC	LANG 120	4	LAC
HUM 124	4	LAC	GERM 120	4	Major/LAC
GERM 110	4	Major/LAC	Scientific Perspectives	4	LAC
Quantitative Perspectives	4	LAC	Social Science	4	LAC
TOTAL SCH	16		TOTAL SCH	16	
Fall Semester 2			Spring Semester 2		
GERM 210 (DI)	4	Major/LAC	GERM 220	4	Major
HUM 214	4	LAC	Lab Science	4	LAC
ARTS	4	LAC	Elective	3	
Elective	4		Elective	3	
TOTAL SCH	16		TOTAL SCH	14	
Fall Semester 3			Spring Semester 3		
GERM 310	4	Major	GERM 320	4	Major
LA 378 (DI-R)	4	LAC	Elective	4	
GERM 390	4	Major	Elective	3	
Elective	4		Elective	3	
TOTAL SCH	16		TOTAL SCH	14	
Fall Semester 4			Spring Semester 4		
GERM 390	4	Major	GERM 490	4	Major
HUM 414	4	LAC	Elective	4	
LL 313	2	Major	Elective	3	
Elective	4		Elective	3	
TOTAL SCH	14		TOTAL SCH	14	

*Total SCH: 120***Table 6: Transfer Student Matriculation Model****Single Major in German**

Fall Semester 1			Spring Semester 1		
HUM 214	4		GERM 320	4	
GERM 310	4		Lab Science	4	
GERM 390	4		ARTS	4	
Quantitative Perspectives	4		Elective (DI)	4	
TOTAL SCH	16		TOTAL SCH	16	
Fall Semester 2			Spring Semester 2		
GERM 390	4		GERM 490	4	
LA 378 (DI-R)	4		LA 478	4	
Social Science	4		Elective	4	
Elective	4		Elective	4	
TOTAL SCH	16		TOTAL SCH	16	

Transfer Credit: GERM 110, GERM 120, GERM 210, GERM 220, HUM 124, LANG 120, Scientific Perspectives, electives

*Hours in Residence: 64; Transfer Hours: 56**Total SCH: 120*

Table 7: Traditional Student Matriculation Model**Double Major in Psychology and German**

Fall Semester 1			Spring Semester 1		
PSYC 100	4	Major 1/LAC	PSYC 200	4	Major 1
GERM 110	4	Major 2/LAC	GERM 120	4	Major 2
FYS 178	4	LAC	Lab Science	4	LAC
HUM 124	4	LAC	ARTS	3	LAC
TOTAL SCH	16		TOTAL SCH	15	
Fall Semester 2			Spring Semester 2		
PSYC 201	4	Major 1	PSYC 202	4	Major 1
GERM 210 (DI)	4	Major 2	PSYC 208	4	Major 1
HUM 214	4	LAC	GERM 220	4	Major 2
Quantitative Perspectives	4	LAC	Scientific Perspectives	3	LAC
TOTAL SCH	16		TOTAL SCH	15	
Fall Semester 3			Spring Semester 3		
PSYC 214	4	Major 1	PSYC 328	4	Major 1
PSYC 334	4	Major 1	GERM 320	4	Major 2
GERM 310	4	Major 2	LA 378 (DI-R)	4	LAC
GERM 390	4	Major 2	Elective	3	
TOTAL SCH	16		TOTAL SCH	15	
Fall Semester 4			Spring Semester 4		
PSYC 329	4	Major 1	PSYC 412	4	Major 1
GERM 390	4	Major 2	GERM 490	4	Major 2
LL 313	2	Major 2	HUM 414	4	LAC
Elective	2		Elective	3	
TOTAL SCH	12		TOTAL SCH	15	

Total SCH: 120

Table 8: Traditional Student Matriculation Model
Double Major in Environmental Studies and German

Fall Semester 1			Spring Semester 1		
ENVR 130	3	Major 1/LAC	CHEM 111	1	Major 1/LAC
GERM 110	4	Major 2/LAC	CHEM 132	3	Major 1/LAC
FYS 178	4	LAC	GERM 120	4	Major 2/LAC
MATH 167	4	Major 1/LAC	HUM 124	4	LAC
			LANG 120	4	LAC
TOTAL SCH	15		TOTAL SCH	16	
Fall Semester 2			Spring Semester 2		
ENVR 241	4	Major 1	CHEM 145	1	Major 1
ENVR 105	4	Major 1	ENVR 282	3	Major 1
GERM 210 (DI)	4	Major 2	GERM 220	4	Major 2
HUM 214	4	LAC	STAT 185	4	Major 1
			Social Science	4	LAC
TOTAL SCH	16		TOTAL SCH	16	
Fall Semester 3			Spring Semester 3		
ENVR 106	3	Major 1	ENVR 320	4	Major 1
ENVR 338	4	Major 1	ENVR 385	4	Major 1
GERM 310	4	Major 2	GERM 320	4	Major 2
GERM 390	4	Major 2	LA 378 (DI-R)	4	LAC
TOTAL SCH	15		TOTAL SCH	16	
Fall Semester 4			Spring Semester 4		
ENVR 480	3	Major 1	ENVR 499	2	Major 1
ENVR 381	4	Major 1	ENVR 310	3	Major 1
CHEM 236	3	Major 1	GERM 490	4	Major 2
ENVR 383	3	Major 1	HUM 324	4	LAC
GERM 390	4	Major 2	ARTS	3	LAC
TOTAL SCH	17		TOTAL SCH	16	

Total SCH: 127