The WWU German program was one of only two nationwide to be recognized in 2013 as a "National Center of Excellence" by the American Association of Teachers of German, the governing body for German instructors at all levels. Ours is so far the only undergraduate program at a public university in the United States with this designation.

Our students participate in a variety of extracurricular activities, such as the German Table (Stammtisch) at Rudy’s Pizzeria in downtown Bellingham, the intramural German soccer team, and the German Club. The faculty also regularly organizes special events. Recent highlights include outings to the Frye Art Museum in Seattle and a Rammstein concert in Tacoma, our version of German Day “German Rocks” with an evening dance party, and presentations by a Microsoft employee on the advantages of having a foreign language degree in the business world. These activities bring students and faculty together, helping to build a strong sense of community!

Our courses are taught by well-trained, experienced, innovative, and dedicated educators.

You can choose from a wide range of courses in language, literature, culture, drama, film, and linguistics. For a list of required courses and electives, please visit our website at chss.wwu.edu/mcl/degree-programs

Our student voices:

CARLA WIDMAN
"My Western experience was greatly heightened by my decision to study German. Not only were the professors highly qualified, but they also taught with inspirational enthusiasm and methods which were motivating and enjoyable. They were concerned for both my language abilities and my personal development and were always accessible. I have no doubt that this degree will help me succeed in my further education and future career."

ANDREW ERICKSON-LAPIDUS
"The student centered support of the German Faculty at Western does not end in the classroom! The professors support and advise students on opportunities to study abroad, scholarships, and work opportunities. Their help culminated in my receiving a Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship this year!"

JULIA MATSCHUKAT
"As an incoming freshman, I had no intent on seriously studying German - my main focus was the Arts. After my first German course at Western, my heart changed. This was due to the excellence of the professors in the department, their genuine concern for their students' well-being and academic success, and an indelible passion for teaching."

VALERIA FISHER
"Whether raising money and walking together for Relay4Life, teaching underprivileged youths German at “Compass2Campus” events, weekly Stammtisch dinners, creating a soccer team, attending a Rammstein concert, theater-nights, or even dancing together at the “German Rocks!” event through Radio Goethe, one thing is certain: our department never has a dull moment, and is accepting of all."
German is an official language in Austria, Germany, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, and Switzerland and is the most commonly spoken native language in the European Union with 100 million native speakers.

Germany is the United States' biggest European trading partner, and the German language is the second most commonly used business language in the world.

Germany is a world leader in the arts, business, engineering, environmental studies, the natural sciences, and solar energy technology.

Students who study German learn important communicative and problem-solving skills while improving their chances on the job market. Western's German majors and minors have obtained attractive positions in a wide variety of fields:

- the arts
- (international) business
- communication technologies
- education
- engineering
- environmental studies
- finance
- journalism
- law
- national security
- politics
- publishing
- science
- tourism

Knowledge of the German language and culture will open up doors for students to apply for competitive grants for research and study in Germany, such as those from the Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (German Academic Exchange Service).

Since 2009, our German students have won 17 nationally and internationally competitive scholarships for studying, teaching, and working in German-speaking countries, including the following:

- Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange for Young Professionals (CBYX)
- Fulbright English Teaching Assistantships
- German Academic Exchange Service Graduate Scholarships
- German Academic Exchange Service RISE (Research Internship in Science and Engineering)
- German Academic Exchange Service University Summer Grant
- German Academic Exchange Service Bundestag Internship

Our alumni have used their German major or minor in their careers or in graduate school. Here is a sample of careers and degree programs that our students have pursued nationally and internationally:

- Account Development Manager at Limelight Networks, Seattle, WA
- Senior Analyst, Business Operations at T-Mobile, Seattle, WA
- Senior Project Manager, German Language Services, Seattle, WA
- Global Project Manager for PTI Global, Portland, OR
- Teaching Assistant at the German American School in Portland
- Washington State German Teacher
- Forestry and Tourism
- Travel and Tourism
- Graduate studies in various fields (e.g., computational engineering, Germanic literature and language, international studies, political science)

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Gain a global perspective through study abroad! Western has study abroad programs to numerous Austrian, German, and Swiss universities as well as direct exchanges with the Georg-August-Universität Göttingen, Rheinisch-Westfälische Technische Hochschule Aachen, Universität Duisburg-Essen, and Karl-Franzens-Universität Graz. You may enroll at the host university for a semester or whole academic year and will receive credit toward your German major or minor. For more information, please contact the German Study Abroad Advisor, Cornelius Parisch (cornelius.parisch@wwu.edu), and/or the Program Coordinator of the Office of International Programs and Exchanges, Dan Lindeman (dan.lindeman@wwu.edu).

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