

German Major Assessment Plan

German has established the following student learning objectives for the major:

1. Achieve competence in all four skill areas of German: listening, speaking, reading, and writing;
2. Acquire general knowledge of the major literary, intellectual, and historical trends and texts of German-speaking cultures from the Enlightenment to today in various media;
3. Use appropriate critical tools and research skills for analyzing cultural texts at a basic level.
4. Integrate general and specialized knowledge to ask productive questions and pursue them rigorously in extended work;
5. Demonstrate skill in finding, understanding, evaluating, and integrating secondary sources.
6. Express all the above in clear and compelling ways.

Our assessment of these objectives includes:

1. Direct assessments by instructors within relevant core and supporting classes, as well as successful completion of the language requirement (at least 204 or its equivalent).
2. A review of the senior project, framed by rubrics for both the written text and the oral presentation.
3. An exit survey completed by majors, normally during the winter or spring term of senior year.
4. A discussion by GERM faculty, occurring at least once every three years (or when a reasonable sample size is accrued), focusing on student work, including a review of exit survey results, placed in the context of results from previous years. Discussion will be framed by rubrics, and will focus on one learning objective per cycle.
5. A discussion by GERM faculty about what, if anything, might be changed in the curriculum in order to address any general weaknesses.