

## **Mission Statement and Program Learning Outcomes for the German Studies Program in the Department of Modern and Classical Languages**

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The following Mission Statement and Program Learning Outcomes are informed by research presented at the ACTFL Convention in November 2015 by Professor Christina Isabelli, Illinois Wesleyan University.

### **Mission Statement**

The German Studies Program will enable students to

- develop the four language skills of speaking, reading, listening, and writing in German;
- develop an understanding of the nuances of German speaking cultures they study, compare and contrast their own culture with that of the cultures they study and use this knowledge and their intercultural communication skills in a world of diverse cultures;
- recognize and use elements of the German language to increase knowledge of their own language and use their knowledge of the second language and intercultural communication skills in a multilingual world.

### **Program Learning Outcomes**

Students who complete the German Studies Minor requirements will be able to function at the “Intermediate Mid” level of German language proficiency and intercultural competence according to *American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL)* guidelines, or the B 1 level according to the *Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR)*.

Specifically, they

- can connect sentences in order to describe experiences, events, and opinions by narrating a story or giving simple factual presentations;
- can summarize, describe, or explain familiar topics and support their views with some details;
- can understand ideas on familiar topics expressed through a series of sentences as in conversations and different forms of media;
- can understand most details in texts that contain familiar vocabulary and the main ideas and many details in texts that contain unfamiliar vocabulary;
- can describe and analyze cultural products and practices;
- can clearly explain and make comparisons/contrasts of cultural perspectives with patterns of their own culture and identity;
- have an increased knowledge of their own language as a direct consequence of using the second language.