

SCANDINAVIAN STUDIES, MA

Candidates for the master of arts in Scandinavian studies will specialize in one of the following three fields: literary and cultural studies, philology, or area studies.

Scandinavian studies is in the oldest such program in the Americas, tracing its roots to 1875. Department faculty have received numerous awards and other marks of recognition for their teaching and scholarship. The department offers the master of arts and the doctor of philosophy in Scandinavian studies. A doctoral minor is also available. The program offers the possibility to attain a broad education in Scandinavian culture that has proven to be extremely useful in students' professional careers. Students will become well-versed in theory and methodology as well as in cultural history. The department possesses particular strengths in Scandinavian literature and film, Old Norse philology, and Nordic folklore. Within these broader categories, students may pursue interests in such topics as mythology, Sámi studies, saints' lives, modernism, sagas, gender studies, immigration studies, national identity—to name only a few. Languages offered in the department include Danish, Finnish, Icelandic, Norwegian, Sámi, and Swedish. The department has an excellent record of placing its PhD graduates in good positions in the field.

ADMISSIONS

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Please consult the table below for key information about this degree program's admissions requirements. The program may have more detailed admissions requirements, which can be found below the table or on the program's website.

Graduate admissions is a two-step process between academic programs and the Graduate School. **Applicants must meet the minimum requirements (<https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/requirements/>) of the Graduate School as well as the program(s).** Once you have researched the graduate program(s) you are interested in, apply online (<https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/>).

Requirements	Detail
Fall Deadline	January 2
Spring Deadline	This program does not admit in the spring.
Summer Deadline	This program does not admit in the summer.
GRE (Graduate Record Examinations)	Not required but may be considered if available.
English Proficiency Test	Every applicant whose native language is not English, or whose undergraduate instruction was not exclusively in English, must provide an English proficiency test score earned within two years of the anticipated term of enrollment. Refer to the Graduate School: Minimum Requirements for Admission policy: https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1241 (https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1241/).
Other Test(s) (e.g., GMAT, MCAT)	n/a

Letters of Recommendation Required 3

Applicants should have a BA degree from an accredited institution in a field of humanities or social studies. Applicants are expected to have preparation equivalent to an undergraduate major in Scandinavian Studies at UW–Madison and should preferably either have taken three years of a Scandinavian language or must demonstrate (by examination) equivalent competence in one Scandinavian language or Finnish. A GPA of 3.25 (on a 4.0 scale) is required for admission; students with a GPA below 3.25 but above 3.00 may be considered for admission on probation. A writing sample (in English or a Scandinavian language) is required.

Reentry students need to contact the program before applying for admission to terms outside of the fall term.

FUNDING

FUNDING GRADUATE SCHOOL RESOURCES

Resources to help you afford graduate study might include assistantships, fellowships, traineeships, and financial aid. Further funding information (<https://grad.wisc.edu/funding/>) is available from the Graduate School. Be sure to check with your program for individual policies and restrictions related to funding.

PROGRAM RESOURCES

The department has a number of scholarships, fellowships, teaching assistantships, and readerships at its disposal and makes a serious effort to provide qualified students with adequate financial assistance and teaching experience throughout their graduate careers.

REQUIREMENTS

MINIMUM GRADUATE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

Review the Graduate School minimum academic progress and degree requirements (<http://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/#policiesandrequirements>), in addition to the program requirements listed below.

MAJOR REQUIREMENTS MODE OF INSTRUCTION

Face to Face	Evening/ Weekend	Online	Hybrid	Accelerated
Yes	No	No	No	No

Mode of Instruction Definitions

Accelerated: Accelerated programs are offered at a fast pace that condenses the time to completion. Students typically take enough credits aimed at completing the program in a year or two.

Evening/Weekend: Courses meet on the UW–Madison campus only in evenings and/or on weekends to accommodate typical business schedules. Students have the advantages of face-to-face courses with the flexibility to keep work and other life commitments.

Face-to-Face: Courses typically meet during weekdays on the UW-Madison Campus.

Hybrid: These programs combine face-to-face and online learning formats. Contact the program for more specific information.

Online: These programs are offered 100% online. Some programs may require an on-campus orientation or residency experience, but the courses will be facilitated in an online format.

CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS

Requirement Detail

Minimum Credit Requirement	30 credits
Minimum Residence Credit Requirement	16 credits
Minimum Graduate Coursework Requirement	15 credits must be graduate-level coursework. Refer to the Graduate School: Minimum Graduate Coursework (50%) Requirement policy: https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1244 (https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1244/).
Overall Graduate GPA Requirement	3.25 GPA required.
Other Grade Requirements	n/a
Assessments and Examinations	All MA pathways require a comprehensive written and oral examination and offer a thesis option.
Language Requirements	All pathways require an advanced competency in a modern Scandinavian language. If the modern Scandinavian Language is Finnish or Icelandic, a working knowledge of Norwegian, Swedish, or Danish is required. For all pathways a minimal competency in German or another research language approved by the department is required. The philology pathway requires two semesters of Old Norse. For the literature pathway a competency in Old Norse is encouraged.

REQUIRED COURSES

Each pathway has specific course requirements to be met.

Literary and Cultural Studies Pathway ¹

Code	Title	Credits
Core		
SCAND ST 401	Contemporary Scandinavian Languages	3
Select one of the following:		3-4
SCAND ST/MEDIEVAL 407	Introductory Old Norse	
SCAND ST/MEDIEVAL 430	The Vikings	

SCAND ST/LITTRANS 435	The Sagas of Icelanders in English Translation	
Select one of the following:		3
SCAND ST/HISTORY 431	History of Scandinavia to 1815	
SCAND ST/HISTORY 432	History of Scandinavia Since 1815	
SCAND ST/HISTORY 577	Contemporary Scandinavia: Politics and History	
Select one of the following, depending on individual circumstances and determined in consultation with the graduate advisor:		3
SCAND ST 634	Survey of Scandinavian Literature: 1500-1800	
SCAND ST 635	Survey of Scandinavian Literature: 1800-1890	
SCAND ST 901	Seminar in Special Topics ²	
Professional Development:		3
GNS 700	Graduate Seminar in Professional Development	
Electives:		14-15
Students consult with their advisor to select courses numbered 300 and above. Recommended courses may be found below.		
Total Credits		30
Recommended courses:		
SCAND ST 419	Scandinavian Children's Literature	
SCAND ST 422	The Drama of Henrik Ibsen	
SCAND ST 423	The Drama of August Strindberg	
SCAND ST 424	Nineteenth-Century Scandinavian Fiction	
SCAND ST 426	Kierkegaard and Scandinavian Literature	
SCAND ST 427	Contemporary Scandinavian Literature	
SCAND ST/LITTRANS 428	Memory and Literature from Proust to Knausgard	
SCAND ST 434	The Art of Isak Dinesen/Karen Blixen	
SCAND ST/FOLKLORE/MEDIEVAL 446	Celtic-Scandinavian Cultural Interrelations	
SCAND ST 450	Scandinavian Decadence in its European Context	

¹ These pathways are internal to the program and represent different curricular paths a student can follow to earn this degree. Pathway names do not appear in the Graduate School admissions application, and they will not appear on the transcript.

² Students must take SCAND ST/HISTORY 577 and SCAND ST 901 for 3 credits to count toward these requirements.

Philology Pathway ¹

Code	Title	Credits
The following are departmental guidelines for a philology specialization, though ultimately everything must be approved by the graduate advisor.		

Core		
SCAND ST 401	Contemporary Scandinavian Languages	3
SCAND ST/ MEDIEVAL 407 & SCAND ST/ MEDIEVAL 408	Introductory Old Norse and Intermediate Old Norse	6
SCAND ST 410	Introduction to Scandinavian Linguistics	3
Select one of the following:		
SCAND ST 415	History of the Scandinavian Languages II: Standard Languages	3
or SCAND ST 510	Topics in Scandinavian Linguistics	
Select one of the following:		
SCAND ST 496	The Scandinavian Heritage in America	3
or SCAND ST/ MEDIEVAL 409	Survey of Old Norse-Icelandic Literature	
Professional Development		3
GNS 700	Graduate Seminar in Professional Development	
Electives		9
Students consult with their advisor to select courses numbered 300 and above. Recommended courses may be found below.		
Total Credits		30
Recommended Courses:		
SCAND ST/ LITTRANS 435	The Sagas of Icelanders in English Translation	
SCAND ST/ FOLKLORE/ MEDIEVAL 446	Celtic-Scandinavian Cultural Interrelations	
GERMAN/ MEDIEVAL 755	Old Germanic Languages	
GERMAN 768	Comparative and Historical Grammar of the Old Germanic Languages	
ENGL/ MEDIEVAL 520	Old English	
ENGL 417	History of the English Language	
ENGL/HISTORY/ RELIG ST 360	The Anglo-Saxons	

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Area Studies Pathway¹

Code	Title	Credits
Select one of the following:		3
1. One Seminar in the student's emphasis area.		
SCAND ST 901	Seminar in Special Topics	
2. A thesis of ca. 40-50 pages on a topic agreed upon by the student and advisor.		
SCAND ST 799	Independent Study	

Required Courses:		
One course in Scandinavian literature or literary history.		3-4
SCAND ST 401	Contemporary Scandinavian Languages	3
Professional Development:		3
GNS 700	Graduate Seminar in Professional Development	
Electives:		17-18
Students consult with their advisor to select courses numbered 300 and above. Recommended courses may be found below.		18
Total Credits		30
Recommended courses:		
SCAND ST/ HISTORY 431	History of Scandinavia to 1815	
SCAND ST/ HISTORY 432	History of Scandinavia Since 1815	
SCAND ST/ LITTRANS 435	The Sagas of Icelanders in English Translation	
SCAND ST/ FOLKLORE 440	Scandinavian American Folklore	
SCAND ST/ FOLKLORE 443	Sami Culture, Yesterday and Today	
SCAND ST/ MEDIEVAL 444	Kalevala and Finnish Folk-Lore	
SCAND ST/ FOLKLORE/ MEDIEVAL 446	Celtic-Scandinavian Cultural Interrelations	
SCAND ST 496	The Scandinavian Heritage in America	
Possible courses of interest:		
FOLKLORE 320	Folklore of Wisconsin	
FOLKLORE/ RELIG ST 326	The Supernatural in the Modern World	
FOLKLORE/ RELIG ST 359	Myth	
FOLKLORE 460	Folk Epics	
FOLKLORE/ GEN&WS 467	Women and Politics in Popular Culture and Folklore	
FOLKLORE/ ANTHRO 520	Ethnic Representations in Wisconsin	
FOLKLORE/ COM ARTS 522	Digital Storytelling for Social Media	
FOLKLORE 540	Local Culture and Identity in the Upper Midwest	
ART HIST 364	History of American Art: Art, Material Culture, and Constructions of Identity, 1607-present	
ART HIST 601	Introduction to Museum Studies I	
ENGL/HISTORY/ RELIG ST 360	The Anglo-Saxons	
ENGL/ MEDIEVAL 427	Chaucer's Canterbury Tales	
GEOG 342	Geography of Wisconsin	
GERMAN 650	History of the German Language	

GERMAN/ MEDIEVAL 651	Introduction to Middle High German
GERMAN/ MEDIEVAL 755	Old Germanic Languages
HISTORY 359	History of Europe Since 1945
HISTORY/ SCAND ST 577	Contemporary Scandinavia: Politics and History
LAND ARC 677	Cultural Resource Preservation and Landscape History
LAND ARC/ ANTHRO/ ART HIST/DS/ HISTORY 764	Dimensions of Material Culture
RELIG ST/ FOLKLORE 352	Shamanism

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POLICIES

GRADUATE SCHOOL POLICIES

The Graduate School's Academic Policies and Procedures (<https://grad.wisc.edu/acadpolicy/>) provide essential information regarding general university policies. Program authority to set degree policies beyond the minimum required by the Graduate School lies with the degree program faculty. Policies set by the academic degree program can be found below.

MAJOR-SPECIFIC POLICIES

PRIOR COURSEWORK

Graduate Credits Earned at Other Institutions

With program approval, students are allowed to transfer no more than 9 credits of graduate coursework from other institutions. Coursework earned ten or more years prior to admission to a master's degree is not allowed to satisfy requirements.

Undergraduate Credits Earned at Other Institutions or UW-Madison

Refer to the Graduate School: Transfer Credits for Prior Coursework (<https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1216/>) policy.

Credits Earned as a Professional Student at UW-Madison (Law, Medicine, Pharmacy, and Veterinary careers)

Refer to the Graduate School: Transfer Credits for Prior Coursework (<https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1216/>) policy.

Credits Earned as a University Special Student at UW-Madison

With program approval, students are allowed to transfer no more than 9 credits of coursework numbered 300 or above taken as a University Special student. Coursework earned ten or more years prior to admission to a master's degree is not allowed to satisfy requirements.

PROBATION

Refer to the Graduate School: Probation (<https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1217/>) policy.

ADVISOR / COMMITTEE

In order to encourage progress toward the degree and to determine the status of a student's program, the department requests an annual activities report from all continuing students to be submitted by the end of January. In the case of first-year students, this report will, of course, only cover work done during the fall semester. A copy of this report will be placed in the student's permanent file. Students are expected to consult regularly on their progress with their advisor.

CREDITS PER TERM ALLOWED

15 credits

TIME LIMITS

Refer to the Graduate School: Time Limits (<https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1221/>) policy.

GRIEVANCES AND APPEALS

These resources may be helpful in addressing your concerns:

- Bias or Hate Reporting (<https://doso.students.wisc.edu/bias-or-hate-reporting/>)
- Graduate Assistantship Policies and Procedures (<https://hr.wisc.edu/policies/gapp/#grievance-procedure>)
- Hostile and Intimidating Behavior Policies and Procedures (<https://hr.wisc.edu/hib/>)
 - Office of the Provost for Faculty and Staff Affairs (<https://facstaff.provost.wisc.edu/>)
- Dean of Students Office (<https://doso.students.wisc.edu/>) (for all students to seek grievance assistance and support)
- Employee Assistance (<http://www.eao.wisc.edu/>) (for personal counseling and workplace consultation around communication and conflict involving graduate assistants and other employees, post-doctoral students, faculty and staff)
- Employee Disability Resource Office (<https://employee disabilities.wisc.edu/>) (for qualified employees or applicants with disabilities to have equal employment opportunities)
- Graduate School (<https://grad.wisc.edu/>) (for informal advice at any level of review and for official appeals of program/departamental or school/college grievance decisions)
- Office of Compliance (<https://compliance.wisc.edu/>) (for class harassment and discrimination, including sexual harassment and sexual violence)
- Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards (<https://conduct.students.wisc.edu/>) (for conflicts involving students)
- Ombuds Office for Faculty and Staff (<http://www.ombuds.wisc.edu/>) (for employed graduate students and post-docs, as well as faculty and staff)
- Title IX (<https://compliance.wisc.edu/titleix/>) (for concerns about discrimination)

Students should contact the department chair or program director with questions about grievances. They may also contact the L&S Academic Divisional Associate Deans, the L&S Associate Dean for Teaching and Learning Administration, or the L&S Director of Human Resources.

OTHER

n/a

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT GRADUATE SCHOOL RESOURCES

Take advantage of the Graduate School's professional development resources (<https://grad.wisc.edu/pd/>) to build skills, thrive academically, and launch your career.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

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1. Articulates, critiques, or elaborates the theories, research methods, and approaches to inquiry or schools of practice in the field of study.
2. Identifies sources and assembles evidence pertaining to questions or challenges in the field of study.
3. Demonstrates understanding of the primary field of study in a historical, social, or global context.
4. Selects and/or utilizes the most appropriate methodologies and practices.
5. Evaluates or synthesizes information pertaining to questions or challenges in the field of study.
6. Communicates clearly in ways appropriate to the field of study.
7. Possesses an advanced competency in a Nordic language and a serviceable master of an additional research language.
8. Recognizes and applies principles of ethical and professional conduct.

PEOPLE

PEOPLE

Faculty: Professors Brantly, DuBois, Krouk, and Wolf; Assistant Professors Andersen, Mier-Cruz, and Roos; Teaching Professor Mellor; and Teaching Faculty III Cederstrom