SCANDINAVIAN STUDIES, M.A.

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

Scandinavian studies is in the oldest such department 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. Graduate students must be fluent in one Scandinavian language and specialize in one particular area, but they may expect to gain a knowledge of the wider Nordic region during their studies. 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, 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 criticism, 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 Ph.D. graduates in good positions in the field.

ADMISSIONS

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/).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirements</th>
<th>Detail</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall Deadline</td>
<td>January 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring Deadline</td>
<td>November 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer Deadline</td>
<td>The program does not admit in the summer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRE (Graduate Record Examinations)</td>
<td>Required.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English Proficiency Test</td>
<td>Every applicant whose native language is not English or whose undergraduate instruction was not in English must provide an English proficiency test score and meet the Graduate School minimum requirements (<a href="https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/requirements/#english-proficiency">https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/requirements/#english-proficiency</a>).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Test(s) (e.g., GMAT, MCAT)</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Letters of Recommendation Required</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Applicants should have a B.A. degree from an approved institution, a major in a field of humanities or social studies, and an outstanding record. Applicants are expected to have preparation equivalent to an undergraduate major in Scandinavian studies at UW–Madison, and must 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 3.0 may be considered for admission on probation. All applicants must submit Graduate Record Exam (GRE) scores.

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/#policiesandrequirementstext), in addition to the program requirements listed below.

MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

MODE OF INSTRUCTION

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

Mode of Instruction Definitions

Accelerated: Accelerated programs are offered at a fast pace that condenses the time to completion. Students are able to complete a program with minimal disruptions to careers and other commitments.

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

Requirements Detail

Minimum Credit Requirement

Minimum Residence Credit Requirement

Minimum Graduate Coursework Requirement

Half of degree coursework (15 credits out of 30 total credits) must be completed graduate-level coursework; courses with the Graduate Level Coursework attribute are identified and searchable in the university’s Course Guide (https://registrar.wisc.edu/course-guide/).

Overall Graduate GPA Requirement

3.25 GPA required. GPA of 3.0 or above may be considered for admission on probation.

Other Grade Requirements

No other requirements.

Assessments and Examinations

All M.A. tracks require a comprehensive written and oral examination.

The literature and area studies tracks offer a thesis option.

Language Requirements

All tracks 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 tracks a minimal competency (e.g., ETS score of 525) in German or another research language approved by the department is required.

The philology track requires two semesters of Old Norse or its equivalent. For the literature track a competency in Old Norse is encouraged.

REQUIRED COURSES

Each track has specific course requirements to be met.

Literary and Cultural Studies Track

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>30 graduate degree credits, minimum. Required Courses (15-17 credits)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCAND ST 401</td>
<td>Contemporary Scandinavian Languages</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Select one of the following:</td>
<td></td>
<td>3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCAND ST/ HIST 407</td>
<td>Introductory Old Norse</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCAND ST/ MEDIEVAL 407</td>
<td>The Vikings</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCAND ST/ MEDIEVAL 430</td>
<td>The Sagas of Icelanders in English Translation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCAND ST/ LITTRANS 435</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Select one of the following:</td>
<td></td>
<td>3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCAND ST/ HIST 431</td>
<td>History of Scandinavia to 1815</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCAND ST/ HIST 432</td>
<td>History of Scandinavia Since 1815</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Philology Track

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>30 graduate credits, minimum. Required courses (21 credits)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCAND ST 401</td>
<td>Contemporary Scandinavian Languages</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCAND ST 419</td>
<td>Scandinavian Children’s Literature</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCAND ST 422</td>
<td>The Drama of Henrik Ibsen</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCAND ST 423</td>
<td>The Drama of August Strindberg</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCAND ST 424</td>
<td>Nineteenth-Century Scandinavian Fiction</td>
<td>3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCAND ST 426</td>
<td>Kierkegaard and Scandinavian Literature</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCAND ST 427</td>
<td>Contemporary Scandinavian Literature</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCAND ST/ LITTRANS 428</td>
<td>Memory and Literature from Proust to Knausgard</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCAND ST 434</td>
<td>The Art of Isak Dinesen/Karen Blixen</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCAND ST/ FOLKLORE/ MEDIEVAL 446</td>
<td>Celtic-Scandinavian Cultural Interrelations</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCAND ST 450</td>
<td>Scandinavian Decadence in its European Context</td>
<td>3-4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These tracks are internal to the program and represent different pathways a student can follow to earn this degree. Track names do not appear in the Graduate School admissions application, and they will not appear on the transcript.
SCAND ST 415 History of the Scandinavian Languages II: Standard Languages
SCAND ST 510 Topics in Scandinavian Linguistics

Select one of the following: (3 credits)
SCAND ST 496 The Scandinavian Heritage in America

SCAND ST/ MEDIEVAL 409 Survey of Old Norse-Icelandic Literature

Select a course that includes professional development: (3 credits)
SCAND ST 630 Fundamentals of Bibliography and Research

GNS 700 Graduate Seminar in Professional Development

Total credits: 21

Other 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 359 Myth
FOLKLORE 451 The Supernatural in the Modern World
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 Digitally Documenting Everyday Communication
FOLKLORE/ MUSIC 535 American Folk and Vernacular Music
FOLKLORE/ ANTHRO/MUSIC/ THEATRE 539 The Folklore of Festivals and Celebrations
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

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Area Studies Track

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SCAND ST 415</td>
<td>History of the Scandinavian Languages II: Standard Languages</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCAND ST 510</td>
<td>Topics in Scandinavian Linguistics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCAND ST 496</td>
<td>The Scandinavian Heritage in America</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCAND ST/ MEDIEVAL 409</td>
<td>Survey of Old Norse-Icelandic Literature</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCAND ST 630</td>
<td>Fundamentals of Bibliography and Research</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GNS 700</td>
<td>Graduate Seminar in Professional Development</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Four (4) courses agreed upon by the student and advisor; Courses need not be within the Scandinavian Studies program, but should be identified by the student and advisor during the first year of study. (12-16 credits)

Total credits: 24-29

Other 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 359 Myth
FOLKLORE 451 The Supernatural in the Modern World
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 Digitally Documenting Everyday Communication
FOLKLORE/ MUSIC 535 American Folk and Vernacular Music
FOLKLORE/ ANTHRO/MUSIC/ THEATRE 539 The Folklore of Festivals and Celebrations
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

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If a student at any time fails to meet the above criteria for satisfactory progress, he/she is placed on probation. If, by the end of the following semester, progress has not been brought to a satisfactory level, a committee of three faculty members will be established to determine whether any circumstance exists that prevent the dropping of the student from the program.

**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 CONSTRAINTS**

The normal time for completing the requirements for the M.A. is three to four semesters, although more time can be allowed if a student is entering with deficiencies or has had teaching assistantships, which necessitate a lower credit load.

**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://employeedisabilities.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/departmental 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

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**GERMAN/ MEDIEVAL 755**
Old Germanic Languages 3

**HISTORY 359**
History of Europe Since 1945 3-4

**HISTORY 408**
American Labor History: 1900-Present 3-4

**HISTORY/ SCAND ST 577**
Contemporary Scandinavia: Politics and History 3-4

**LAND ARC 677**
Cultural Resource Preservation and Landscape History 3

**LAND ARC/ANTHRO/ ART HIST/DS/ HISTORY 764**
Dimensions of Material Culture 4

**RELIG ST/ FOLKLORE 352**
Shamanism 3

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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

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

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