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: literary and cultural studies, 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. 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 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>Not 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 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.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Face to Face</th>
<th>Evening/Weekend</th>
<th>Online</th>
<th>Hybrid</th>
<th>Accelerated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirements</th>
<th>Detail</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Minimum Credit Requirement</td>
<td>30 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum Residence Credit Requirement</td>
<td>16 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum Graduate Coursework Requirement</td>
<td>15 credits must be graduate-level coursework. Details can be found in the Graduate School's Minimum Graduate Coursework (50%) policy <a href="https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1244/">https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1244/</a>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall</td>
<td>3.25 GPA required.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate GPA Requirement</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Grade Requirements</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessments and Examinations</td>
<td>All M.A. pathways require a comprehensive written and oral examination and offer a thesis option.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language Requirements</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**REQUIRED COURSES**

Each pathway has specific course requirements to be met.

**Literary and Cultural Studies Pathway**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SCAND ST 401</td>
<td>Contemporary Scandinavian Languages</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCAND ST/</td>
<td>Introductory Old Norse</td>
<td>3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HISTORY 577</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCAND ST/</td>
<td>The Vikings</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEDIEVAL 407</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCAND ST/</td>
<td>The Sagas of Icelanders in English</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEDIEVAL 430</td>
<td>Translation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCAND ST/</td>
<td>History of Scandinavia to 1815</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LITTRANS 435</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCAND ST/</td>
<td>History of Scandinavia Since 1815</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HISTORY 431</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCAND ST/</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HISTORY 432</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Select one of the following, depending on individual circumstances and determined in consultation with the graduate advisor:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SCAND ST 901</td>
<td>Seminar in Special Topics</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCAND ST 634</td>
<td>Survey of Scandinavian Literature:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1500-1800</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCAND ST 635</td>
<td>Survey of Scandinavian Literature:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1800-1890</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCAND ST 419</td>
<td>Scandinavian Children's Literature</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCAND ST 422</td>
<td>The Drama of Henrik Ibsen</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCAND ST 423</td>
<td>The Drama of August Strindberg</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCAND ST 424</td>
<td>Nineteenth-Century Scandinavian Fiction</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCAND ST 426</td>
<td>Kierkegaard and Scandinavian Literature</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCAND ST 427</td>
<td>Contemporary Scandinavian Literature</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCAND ST/</td>
<td>Memory and Literature from Proust</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HISTORY 577</td>
<td>to Knausgard</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LITTRANS 428</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCAND ST 434</td>
<td>The Art of Isak Dinesen/Karen Blixen</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCAND ST/</td>
<td>Celtic-Scandinavian Cultural</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FOLKLORE/</td>
<td>Interrelations</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEDIEVAL 446</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCAND ST 450</td>
<td>Scandinavian Decadence in its European Context</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SCAND ST 401</td>
<td>Contemporary Scandinavian Languages</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

**Required courses:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SCAND ST 401</td>
<td>Contemporary Scandinavian Languages</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SCAND ST/ MEDIEVAL 407
& SCAND ST/ MEDIEVAL 408
SCAND ST 410

Introductory Old Norse and Intermediate Old Norse

Introductory Old Norse and Intermediate Old Norse

3

Introduction to Scandinavian Linguistics

3

Select one of the following:

SCAND ST 415
History of the Scandinavian Languages II: Standard Languages

3

SCAND ST 510
Topics in Scandinavian Linguistics

Select one of the following:

SCAND ST 496
The Scandinavian Heritage in America

3

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

Professional development:

GNS 700
Graduate Seminar in Professional Development

Electives

Students consult with their advisor to select courses 300+. Recommended courses may be found below.

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
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/ 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&W 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/ 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

GERMAN/ MEDIEVAL 755
Old Germanic Languages

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.

Area Studies Pathway

Code Title Credits

Select one of the following:

1. One Seminar in the student’s emphasis area.
2. A thesis of ca. 40-50 pages on a topic agreed upon by the student and advisor.

Required courses:

One course in Scandinavian literature or literary history.

3-4

SCAND ST 401
Contemporary Scandinavian Languages

Professional development:

3

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
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/ 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&W 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/ 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
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GEOG 342
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Old Germanic Languages
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.

### MAJOR-SPECIFIC POLICIES

#### PRIOR COURSEWORK

**Graduate Work from Other Institutions**

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

**UW–Madison Undergraduate**

This program follows the Graduate School's policy for Satisfying Requirements with Coursework from Undergraduate Career at UW–Madison. ([https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1216/](https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1216/))

**UW–Madison University Special**

With program approval, students are allowed to count no more than 9 credits of coursework numbered 300 or above taken as a UW–Madison University Special student. Coursework earned five or more years prior to admission to a Master’s degree is not allowed to satisfy requirements.

#### PROBATION

This program follows the Graduate School's Probation policy. ([https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1217/](https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1217/))

### 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

This program follows the Graduate School’s Time Limits policy. ([https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1221/](https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1221/))

### 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/](https://doso.students.wisc.edu/bias-or-hate-reporting/))
- Graduate Assistantship Policies and Procedures ([https://hr.wisc.edu/policies/gapp/#grievance-procedure](https://hr.wisc.edu/policies/gapp/#grievance-procedure))
- Hostile and Intimidating Behavior Policies and Procedures ([https://hr.wisc.edu/hib/](https://hr.wisc.edu/hib/))
  - Office of the Provost for Faculty and Staff Affairs ([https://facstaff.provost.wisc.edu/](https://facstaff.provost.wisc.edu/))
- Dean of Students Office ([https://doso.students.wisc.edu/](https://doso.students.wisc.edu/)) (for all students to seek grievance assistance and support)
- Employee Assistance ([http://www.eao.wisc.edu/](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/](https://employeedisabilities.wisc.edu/)) (for qualified employees or applicants with disabilities to have equal employment opportunities)
- Graduate School ([https://grad.wisc.edu/](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/](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/](https://conduct.students.wisc.edu/)) (for conflicts involving students)
- Ombuds Office for Faculty and Staff ([http://www.ombuds.wisc.edu/](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/](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

**GRADUATE SCHOOL RESOURCES**

Take advantage of the Graduate School's professional development resources ([https://grad.wisc.edu/pd/](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