

SCANDINAVIAN STUDIES, PH.D.

The Ph.D. degree is offered in the fields of literature, folklore, and philology. The basic requirements for all students entering the Ph.D. program correspond to the requirements for the M.A. degree in Scandinavian Studies with concentration in literature, area studies, or philology, as appropriate. Every incoming graduate student should consult with the general graduate advisor upon arrival at UW–Madison. They will discuss the student's academic and career plans, and between them will decide which faculty member will most appropriately act as a committee chair.

Scandinavian Studies is 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, 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/>).

Requirements	Detail
Fall Deadline	January 2
Spring Deadline	November 15
Summer Deadline	The program does not admit in the summer.
GRE (Graduate Record Examinations)	Not required.
English Proficiency Test	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 (https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/requirements/#english-proficiency).

Other Test(s) (e.g., GMAT, MCAT)	n/a
Letters of Recommendation Required	3

Students applying directly for the Ph.D. program should have an M.A. in a related field. New Ph.D. students will be expected to acquire competencies equivalent to the M.A. in Scandinavian Studies, and this will be assessed at the time of the preliminary exam.

As in the case of admissions to the M.A. program, 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. In ordinary circumstances, graduate students entering the program with a B.A. will be required to take the M.A. before they can proceed to the Ph.D. 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/#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	51 credits
Minimum Residence Credit Requirement	32 credits
Minimum Graduate Coursework Requirement	26 credits credits must be graduate-level coursework. Details can be found in the Graduate School’s Minimum Graduate Coursework (50%) policy (https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1244 (https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1244/)).
Overall Graduate GPA Requirement	3.5 GPA required.
Other Grade Requirements	Ph.D. candidates should maintain a 3.5 GPA in all courses. If a student’s grades drop below the average indicated, the GPA must be brought up to the minimum by the end of the following semester. The grade C is regarded as unsatisfactory. Incompletes must be removed within the following semester or summer session of residence.
Assessments and Examinations	All Ph.D. tracks require a comprehensive written and oral examination. All tracks require a dissertation.

Language Requirements Unless already completed for the UW–Madison Scandinavian Studies MA 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 in German and another research language approved by the department is required in German or another research language.

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

Graduate School Breadth Requirement All doctoral students are required to complete a doctoral minor or Graduate/Professional certificate of at least 9 credits in another field. These courses should be selected in consultation with the candidate’s advisor.

REQUIRED COURSES

Each track has specific course requirements to be met.

Literary and Cultural Studies Pathway ¹		
Code	Title	Credits
<i>Required courses (if not already taken as part of the MA degree):</i>		
SCAND ST 401	Contemporary Scandinavian Languages	3
<i>Select one of the following:</i>		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	
<i>Select one of the following:</i>		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 ²	
<i>Select one of the following, depending on individual circumstances and determined in consultation with the graduate advisor:</i>		3
SCAND ST 901	Seminar in Special Topics ²	
SCAND ST 634	Survey of Scandinavian Literature: 1500-1800	
SCAND ST 635	Survey of Scandinavian Literature: 1800-1890	
<i>Professional development:</i>		3
GNS 700	Graduate Seminar in Professional Development	
<i>Breadth Requirement</i>		9
<i>Electives beyond the M.A.</i>		12

Students consult with their advisor to select courses 300+. Recommended courses may be found below. If a student enters the PhD program with an MA from another program, then additional classes may be required in order for the candidate to attain a sufficiently broad background in Scandinavian Studies. 990 does not count toward elective credits.

<i>Remaining credits to meet minimum credit requirement</i>	14-15
May include 990 research credits.	
Total Credits	51

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 Pathway¹

Code	Title	Credits
<i>Required courses (if not already taken as part of the MA degree):</i>		
SCAND ST/ MEDIEVAL 407	Introductory Old Norse	3
SCAND ST/ MEDIEVAL 408	Intermediate Old Norse	3
SCAND ST 511	Paleography and Philology - Old Norse	3
<i>Select one of the following:</i>		3
SCAND ST 415	History of the Scandinavian Languages II: Standard Languages	
SCAND ST 510	Topics in Scandinavian Linguistics	
SCAND ST/ MEDIEVAL 409	Survey of Old Norse-Icelandic Literature	
<i>Professional development:</i>		3
GNS 700	Graduate Seminar in Professional Development	

Breadth Requirement 9

Electives beyond the M.A. 12

Students consult with their advisor to select courses 300+. In ordinary circumstances, graduate students entering the program with a B.A. will be required to take the M.A. before they can proceed to the Ph.D.

Remaining credits to meet minimum credit requirement 15

May include 990 research credits.

Total Credits **51**

1

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Folklore Pathway¹

Code	Title	Credits
In consultation with their advisors, graduate students should select a suite of courses that provide a detailed knowledge of the folklore of one Nordic culture and a general knowledge of Nordic folklore more generally, as well as a firm command of the folklore of Nordic Americans. Familiarity with the history, institutions and cultural history of the Nordic countries is fundamental to the degree. Students consult with their advisor to select courses 300+. Recommended courses may be found below. 990 may count toward total minimum credit requirements.		39
<i>Professional development:</i>		3
GNS 700	Graduate Seminar in Professional Development	
<i>Option B doctoral minor focusing on folklore, which must include FOLKLORE/L IS 490</i>		9
Total Credits		51

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	Digital Storytelling for Social Media
FOLKLORE 539	
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

1

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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 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 ten years or more prior to admission to a doctoral 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/>)

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 ten or more years prior to admission to a doctoral degree is not allowed to satisfy requirements.

PROBATION

If a student at any time fails to meet the criteria for satisfactory progress in the Graduate Program Handbook, they are 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 at 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/>)

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

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 research problems, potentials, and limits with respect to theory, knowledge, or practice within the field of study.
2. Formulates ideas, concepts, and techniques beyond the current boundaries of knowledge within the field of study.
3. Creates research and scholarship that makes a substantive contribution.
4. Demonstrates breadth within their learning experiences.
5. Advances contributions of the field of study to society.
6. Communicates complex ideas in a clear and understandable manner.
7. Possesses an advanced competency in a Nordic language and a serviceable mastery of one or more research languages.
8. Fosters ethical and professional conduct.

PEOPLE

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