The Scandinavian Studies major provides the opportunity to learn the literature, folklore, history, and culture of the Nordic countries in the original languages and in English translation. Partly in cooperation with other departments, we offer courses in Scandinavian language, history, culture, social institutions, gender and women’s studies, arts, myths, and folklore.

Students also may continue graduate studies toward an MA in Scandinavian philology, literature, or area studies, and toward a PhD in Scandinavian literature, philology, or folklore.

The program strongly encourages a junior year abroad in a Nordic country; several exchange programs in Sweden, Norway, Denmark, and elsewhere are available.

Students may apply to Norden House, a residential language immersion program for UW students studying Norwegian, Danish, or Swedish, housed in Adams Residence Hall.

Scholars who major in the field are equipped for careers in the countries that are the world leaders in gender equity, societal welfare, and 21st-century business practices, as well as a range of careers including education, law, international trade, translation, civil service, non-profits, the arts, linguistics, literature, environmental sciences, conservation, diplomacy, and more.