Medieval Studies, B.A.

Begin Campus: Any Penn State Campus

End Campus: University Park

Program Description
This is an interdisciplinary program of study designed to give students an integrated knowledge of medieval civilization. While the main area of study is the fifth to sixteenth centuries in Europe, a global perspective is offered with particular attention to the Near East and the Pacific Rim.

What is Medieval Studies?
Medieval Studies is an interdisciplinary field that ranges widely across periods and geographies. We usually imagine the Middle Ages as the millennium between the end of classical antiquity and the start of the Renaissance. But concepts and institutions that we take as distinctively modern—the individual, companionate marriage, the state, vernacular languages as expressions of national identity—begin in the Middle Ages. And the Middle Ages return as a powerful source for imaginative expression in the art and literature of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries and in digital culture in the twenty-first century.

You Might Like This Program If...
• You want to grow as an analytical thinker with good writing skills, the ability to synthesize disparate materials, and a deep sense of context.
• You have an interest in studying a rich and dynamic period, and wish to further understand the time through its history, literature, philosophy, and culture.

Entrance to Major
In order to be eligible for entrance to this major, a student must:
1. attain at least a C (2.00) cumulative grade-point average for all courses taken at the University; and
2. have third-semester classification (http://www.registrar.psu.edu/registration/semester_classification.cfm).

READ SENATE POLICY 37-30: ENTRANCE TO AND CHANGES IN MAJOR PROGRAMS OF STUDY (http://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/37-00-entrance-to-a-college-or-major)

Degree Requirements
For the Bachelor of Arts degree in Medieval Studies, a minimum of 123 credits is required:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Education</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electives</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor of Arts Requirements</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Requirements for the Major</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Per Senate Policy 83-80.5, the college dean or campus chancellor and program faculty may require up to 24 credits of coursework in the major to be taken at the location or in the college or program where the degree is earned. For more information, check the Recommended Academic Plan for your intended program.

General Education
Connecting career and curiosity, the General Education curriculum provides the opportunity for students to acquire transferable skills necessary to be successful in the future and to thrive while living in interconnected contexts. General Education aids students in developing intellectual curiosity, a strengthened ability to think, and a deeper sense of aesthetic appreciation. These are requirements for all baccalaureate students and are often partially incorporated into the requirements of a program. For additional information, see the General Education Requirements (http://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-education/baccalaureate-degree-general-education-program) section of the Bulletin and consult your academic adviser.

The keystone symbol appears next to the title of any course that is designated as a General Education course. Program requirements may also satisfy General Education requirements and vary for each program.

Foundations (grade of C or better is required.)
• Quantification (GQ): 6 credits
• Writing and Speaking (GWS): 9 credits

Knowledge Domains
• Arts (GA): 6 credits
• Health and Wellness (GHW): 3 credits
• Humanities (GH): 6 credits
• Social and Behavioral Sciences (GS): 6 credits
• Natural Sciences (GN): 9 credits

Integrative Studies (may also complete a Knowledge Domain requirement)
• Inter-Domain or Approved Linked Courses: 6 credits

University Degree Requirements
First Year Engagement
All students enrolled in a college or the Division of Undergraduate Studies at University Park, and the World Campus are required to take 1 to 3 credits of the First-Year Seminar, as specified by their college First-Year Engagement Plan.

Other Penn State colleges and campuses may require the First-Year Seminar; colleges and campuses that do not require a First-Year Seminar provide students with a first-year engagement experience.

First-year baccalaureate students entering Penn State should consult their academic adviser for these requirements.

Cultures Requirement
6 credits are required and may satisfy other requirements
• United States Cultures: 3 credits
• International Cultures: 3 credits

Writing Across the Curriculum
3 credits required from the college of graduation and likely prescribed as part of major requirements.

Total Minimum Credits
A minimum of 120 degree credits must be earned for a baccalaureate degree. The requirements for some programs may exceed 120 credits. Students should consult with their college or department adviser for information on specific credit requirements.
Quality of Work
Candidates must complete the degree requirements for their major and earn at least a 2.00 grade-point average for all courses completed within their degree program.

Limitations on Source and Time for Credit Acquisition
The college dean or campus chancellor and program faculty may require up to 24 credits of course work in the major to be taken at the location or in the college or program where the degree is earned. Credit used toward degree programs may need to be earned from a particular source or within time constraints (see Senate Policy 83-80 (http://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/#83-80)). For more information, check the Suggested Academic Plan for your intended program.

B.A. Degree Requirements

Foreign Language (0-12 credits): Student must attain 12th credit level of proficiency in one foreign language. See the Placement Policy for Penn State Foreign Language Courses (http://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/academic-information/#advisingandplanningadegreeprogramtext).

B.A. Fields (9 credits): Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences, Arts, Foreign Languages, Natural Sciences, Quantification (may not be taken in the area of the student's primary major; foreign language credits in this category must be in a second foreign language or beyond the 12th credit level of proficiency in the first language)

Other Cultures (0-3 credits): Select 3 credits from approved list. Students may count courses in this category in order to meet other major, minor, elective, or General Education requirements, except for the General Education US/IL requirement.

3 of these 24 credits are included in the Requirements for the Major, General Education, or Electives and 0-12 credits are included in Electives if foreign language proficiency is demonstrated by examination.

Requirements for the Major
A grade of C or better is required for all courses in the major. To graduate, a student enrolled in the major must earn at least a C grade in each course designated by the major as a C-required course, as specified by Senate Policy 82-44 (http://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/#82-44).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
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<tr>
<td>MEDVL 107</td>
<td>Medieval Europe</td>
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<tr>
<td>or HIST 107</td>
<td>Medieval Europe</td>
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<tr>
<td>MEDVL 108</td>
<td>Medieval Civilization</td>
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Additional Courses

Select 24 credits (at least 12 credits at the 400-level) from the program list of courses dealing with the Middle Ages from no less than three of the following areas:

**Art**
- ARTH 201 Ancient to Medieval Architecture
- ARTH 312 Romanesque and Gothic Art
- ARTH 402 The Illuminated Manuscript
- ARTH 412 The Gothic Cathedral

**Historical Studies**
- HIST 105 The Byzantine Empire
- HIST 108 The Crusades: Holy War in the Middle Ages
- HIST 141 Medieval and Modern Russia
- HIST 165 Islamic States, Societies and Cultures c. 600-1500
- HIST 407 Early Medieval Society
- HIST 408 Church and State in the High Middle Ages
- HIST 411 Medieval Britain
- HIST 412 Intellectual History of the Middle Ages
- HIST 413 Medieval Celtic Studies
- HIST 471 Classical Islamic Civilization, 600-1258
- HIST 480 Japan in the Age of Warriors

**Literature and Language**
- CMLIT 1 Introduction to Western Literatures Through the Renaissance
- CMLIT 106 The Arthurian Legend
- ENGL 221W British Literature to 1798
- GER 175 Germanic Heroic and Medieval Literature in English Translation
- HEBR 10 Jewish Civilization
- SPAN 130 Iberian Civilization
- FR 351 French and Francophone Literature I
- SPAN 353 Topics in the Cultures of Spain
- CMLIT 401 The Western Literary Heritage I
- CMLIT 408 Heroic Literature
- ENGL 441 Chaucer
- ENGL 442 Medieval English Literature
- GER 430 History of the German Language
- GER 431 History of German Literature and Culture I
- IT 415 Dante
- IT 490 Dante in Translation
- SPAN 418 The Evolution of Spanish

**Medieval Studies**
- MEDVL 197 Special Topics
- MEDVL 199 Foreign Studies
- MEDVL 294 Research Project
- MEDVL 299 Foreign Studies
- MEDVL 395 Internship
- MEDVL 399 Foreign Studies
- MEDVL 411 Medieval Britain
- MEDVL 413 Medieval Celtic Studies
- MEDVL 494 Research Project
- MEDVL 496 Independent Studies
- MEDVL 497 Special Topics
- MEDVL 499 Foreign Studies

**Philosophy and Religious Studies**
- RRLT 120 New Testament
- PHIL 201 Medieval Philosophy
- RRLT 420 Major Christian Thinkers (upon advising)
### Academic Advising

The objectives of the university’s academic advising program are to help advisees identify and achieve their academic goals, to promote their intellectual discovery, and to encourage students to take advantage of both in-and out-of class educational opportunities in order that they become self-directed learners and decision makers.

Both advisers and advisees share responsibility for making the advising relationship succeed. By encouraging their advisees to become engaged in their education, to meet their educational goals, and to develop the habit of learning, advisers assume a significant educational role. The advisee’s unit of enrollment will provide each advisee with a primary academic adviser, the information need to plan the chosen program of study, and referrals to other specialized resources.

READ SENATE POLICY 32-00: ADVISING POLICY (http://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/32-00-advising-policy)

### University Park

**Liberal Arts Academic Advising**

814-865-2545

http://starfish.psu.edu

http://www.la.psu.edu/current-students/undergraduate-students/education/majors-and-minors

### Suggested Academic Plan

The course series listed below provides **only one** of the many possible ways to move through this curriculum. The University may make changes in policies, procedures, educational offerings, and requirements at any time. This plan should be used in conjunction with your degree audit (accessible in LionPATH as either an Academic Requirements or What If report). Please consult with a Penn State academic adviser on a regular basis to develop and refine an academic plan that is appropriate for you.

#### First Year

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Credits Spring</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 15, 30, 137H, CAS 137H, or ESL 15†</td>
<td>3 MEDVL 108*</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>MEDVL 107‡</td>
<td>3 GENERAL EDUCATION COURSE</td>
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<tr>
<td>GENERAL EDUCATION COURSE</td>
<td>3 GENERAL EDUCATION COURSE</td>
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<tr>
<td>WORLD LANGUAGE LEVEL 1</td>
<td>4 WORLD LANGUAGE LEVEL 2</td>
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#### Second Year

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<td>CAS 100</td>
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<td>COURSE AT ANY LEVEL IN RELATED AREA</td>
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<td>WORLD LANGUAGE LEVEL 3</td>
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### Third Year

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<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Credits Spring</th>
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<tr>
<td>400 LEVEL COURSE IN MEDI VL OR RELATED AREA*</td>
<td>3 ENGL 202B</td>
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<tr>
<td>COURSE AT ANY LEVEL IN RELATED AREA*</td>
<td>3 400 LEVEL COURSE IN MEDI VL OR RELATED AREA*</td>
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<tr>
<td>GENERAL EDUCATION COURSE</td>
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<td>B.A. KNOWLEDGE DOMAINS</td>
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### Fourth Year

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<td>3 400 LEVEL COURSE IN MEDI VL OR RELATED AREA*</td>
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<td>OTHER CULTURES</td>
<td>3 HEALTH AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY</td>
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</table>

Total Credits 123

* Course requires a grade of C or better for the major

‡ Course requires a grade of C or better for General Education

# Course is an Entrance to Major requirement

† Course satisfies General Education and degree requirement

### University Requirements and General Education Notes:

US and IL are abbreviations used to designate courses that satisfy University Requirements (United States and International Cultures).

W, M, X, and Y are the suffixes at the end of a course number used to designate courses that satisfy University Writing Across the Curriculum requirement.

GWS, GQ, GHW, GN, GA, GH, and GS are abbreviations used to identify General Education program courses. General Education includes Foundations (GWS and GQ) and Knowledge Domains (GHW, GN, GA, GH, GS, and Integrative Studies). Foundations courses (GWS and GQ) require a grade of ‘C’ or better.

Integrative Studies courses are required for the General Education program. N is the suffix at the end of a course number used to designate an Inter-Domain course and Z is the suffix at the end of a course number used to designate a Linked course.

All incoming Schreyer Honors College first-year students at University Park will take ENGL/CAS 137 in the fall semester and ENGL/CAS 138 in the spring semester. These courses carry the GWS designation and replace both ENGL 30 and CAS 100. Each course is 3 credits.

### Bachelor of Arts Requirements:

- Bachelor of Arts Requirements:
Bachelor of Arts students must take 9 credits in Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) Fields (Humanities; Social and Behavioral Sciences; Arts; World Languages [2nd language or beyond the 12th credit level of proficiency in the 1st]; Natural Sciences; Quantification). The B.A. Fields courses may not be taken in the area of the student’s primary major. See your adviser and the Degree Requirements section (http://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/academic-information) of this Bulletin.

Bachelor of Arts students must take 3 credits in Other Cultures. See your adviser and the full list of courses approved as Other Cultures courses (http://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-education/course-lists/ba-other-cultures).

Career Paths

The Bachelor of Arts degree in Medieval Studies prepares students for those careers which require a broad knowledge of the humanities. Many students combine a Medieval Studies major with a major such as art history, broadcasting, art, language and literature, political science or any of the liberal arts majors, or students may take courses in areas like economics, speech communication, and sociology.

Careers

- Publishing
- Teaching
- Museum Curatorship
- Archiving
- Business
- Medicine

Opportunities for Graduate Studies

Graduate work is required for teaching at the college or university level. Former students in the Penn State major have continued their studies at universities such as Oxford, Catholic University, Bryn Mawr, St. Andrews, and Dublin. Many students continue their work in medieval studies or related fields like art, music, theatre, literature, history, or philosophy at the graduate level.

Contact

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rre1@psu.edu

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