

Medieval Studies

The Medieval Studies Program at UC Berkeley is an interdisciplinary group that coordinates and sponsors lectures, events, and visiting professorships; promotes scholarly interests common to medievalists of different academic departments; and communicates information of interest among them. The committee on Medieval Studies offers a concurrent PhD program in which candidates have both a home department and training in the core disciplines of medieval studies. The degree granted is the concurrent PhD in the departmental discipline and medieval studies (e.g., English and medieval studies, history and medieval studies). The concurrent PhD is designed to preserve an established standard of training in a major subject while broadening the student's experience in other aspects of the field. A candidate for the concurrent PhD is expected to fulfill all the PhD requirements of the major field of study.

Admission to the University Applying for Graduate Admission

Thank you for considering UC Berkeley for graduate study! UC Berkeley offers more than 120 graduate programs representing the breadth and depth of interdisciplinary scholarship. The Graduate Division hosts a complete list (<https://grad.berkeley.edu/admissions/choosing-your-program/list/>) of graduate academic programs, departments, degrees offered, and application deadlines can be found on the Graduate Division website.

Prospective students must submit an online application to be considered for admission, in addition to any supplemental materials specific to the program for which they are applying. The online application and steps to take to apply can be found on the Graduate Division website (<https://grad.berkeley.edu/admissions/steps-to-apply/>).

Admission Requirements

The minimum graduate admission requirements are:

1. A bachelor's degree or recognized equivalent from an accredited institution;
2. A satisfactory scholastic average, usually a minimum grade-point average (GPA) of 3.0 (B) on a 4.0 scale; and
3. Enough undergraduate training to do graduate work in your chosen field.

For a list of requirements to complete your graduate application, please see the Graduate Division's Admissions Requirements page (<https://grad.berkeley.edu/admissions/steps-to-apply/requirements/>). It is also important to check with the program or department of interest, as they may have additional requirements specific to their program of study and degree. Department contact information can be found here (<https://guide.berkeley.edu/archive/2024-25/graduate/degree-programs/>).

Where to apply?

Visit the Berkeley Graduate Division application page (<http://grad.berkeley.edu/admissions/apply/>).

Admission to the Program

Graduate students must be accepted for admission to a regular department (e.g., English or History) before applying for a concurrent degree in Medieval Studies.

Candidates for this concurrent degree program must fulfill the following requirements:

1. Completion of three courses, which must include:
 - a. MED ST 200, the proseminar introduces students to a broad range of approaches to medieval materials from across multiple subdisciplines and familiarizes them with specialized research tools and resources.
 - b. HISTORY 275B or another course on a solely medieval topic (Other appropriate graduate courses in history may be substituted with the consent of the graduate adviser.) Students whose home department is History must take two courses in category (c), below.
 - c. Any course from outside the student's home department, normally drawn from the following:

COM LIT 212	Studies in Medieval Literature	4
ENGLISH 205B	Old English	4
ENGLISH 211	Chaucer	4
ENGLISH 212	Readings in Middle English	4
FRENCH 210A	Studies in Medieval Literature	4
FRENCH 211A	Reading and Interpretation of Old French Texts	4
GERMAN 205	Studies in Medieval Literature	4
HISTART 258	Seminar in Late Medieval Art in Northern Europe	2,4
ITALIAN 212	Seminar on Dante	2,4
MED ST 205	Medieval Manuscripts as Primary Sources	4
MED ST 250	Seminar in Medieval Culture	2-4
SCANDIN 201B	Norse Literature	4
SCANDIN 220	Early Scandinavian Literature	4

(In addition to the courses listed, any graduate-level course in the relevant departments whose content is wholly medieval may, with the permission of the graduate advisers, be counted toward this requirement.) All courses for this requirement must be completed for a letter grade.

2. Advanced competence in Latin, which will normally be demonstrated through two graduate-level or upper division courses in medieval Latin literature (one of which must normally be Latin 140, Latin 155A or 155B, or Classics 241). The Latin proficiency exams that are offered by some departments may not be used to fulfill this requirement.
3. Reading proficiency in at least one medieval vernacular, one of which must be outside the major field of study. Ordinarily such knowledge will be demonstrated through graduate-level or approved upper division coursework, drawn from the following:

CELTIC 105A	Old and Middle Irish	4
CELTIC 146A	Medieval Welsh Language and Literature	4
or CELTIC 146	Medieval Welsh Language and Literature	
ENGLISH 104	Introduction to Old English	4
ENGLISH 111	Chaucer	4
ENGLISH 112	Middle English Literature	4
ENGLISH 205B	Old English	4

ENGLISH 211	Chaucer	4
ENGLISH 212	Readings in Middle English	4
FRENCH 112A	Medieval Literature	4
or FRENCH 112B	Medieval Literature	
FRENCH 114A	Late Medieval Literature	4
FRENCH 210A	Studies in Medieval Literature	4
FRENCH 211A	Reading and Interpretation of Old French Texts	4
GERMAN 105	Middle High German for Undergraduates	4
GERMAN 205	Studies in Medieval Literature	4
GERMAN 273	Gothic	4
GERMAN 276	Old High German	4
GERMAN 280	North Sea Germanic	4
GERMAN 282	Old Saxon	4
ITALIAN 109	Dante's Commedia (in Italian)	4
ITALIAN 110	Literature and Culture of the 13th and 14th Centuries	4
ITALIAN 212	Seminar on Dante	2,4
SCANDIN 101A	Introduction to Old Norse I	4
SCANDIN 101B	Introduction to Old Norse II	4
SCANDIN 201A	Old Norse	4
SCANDIN 201B	Norse Literature	4
SCANDIN 220	Early Scandinavian Literature	4

Other courses offering readings exclusively in a medieval vernacular may be substituted with the permission of the graduate adviser. Also with the permission of the graduate adviser, medieval versions of other relevant languages (such as Arabic, Greek, Hebrew, or Old Church Slavonic) may be accepted in fulfillment of this requirement.

4. Working knowledge of the material sources of medieval culture. Ordinarily, this requirement is met through coursework, or approved specialist training, in the study of medieval manuscripts: e.g., palaeography, diplomatics, or codicology. Students may also demonstrate their mastery of primary material sources through an extended essay making substantial and original use of these skills. When appropriate, and with the consent of the graduate adviser, training in allied disciplines making use of primary materials (such as epigraphy or medieval archaeology) may be accepted.
5. A field statement of 30-50 pages, which situates the major area of interest in an interdisciplinary setting. This is not a prospectus setting out the specific plan of research for a dissertation, but a broader and more preliminary contextualizing essay, placing the present state and resources of the student's home discipline in relation to those other disciplines of medieval studies of which the student will need to have a sophisticated apprehension in order to conceive such a plan of research. This statement will be evaluated by the student's adviser and the Medieval Studies representative to the examination committee (see [6], below). *The field statement must be approved by both the adviser and examiner at least 30 days prior to the oral qualifying examination.* It should thus ordinarily be submitted to the relevant faculty members about six weeks prior to the date of the oral examination.
6. A special committee for the PhD qualifying examination. A representative of Medieval Studies must serve on the PhD orals examination committee. In the event of a failure on either the field statement or the Medieval Studies portion of the qualifying exam, the candidate may revise the field statement and/or retake the Medieval

Studies portion of the orals in accordance with the policies of the Graduate Division, Policies and Procedures F.2.7.

7. Regular participation in the Medieval Studies Colloquium, and one presentation of dissertation-work in progress to that colloquium.

Medieval Studies

MED ST 200 Introduction to Research Materials and Methods 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2023, Spring 2021

The graduate proseminar. Basic materials and resources in fields represented in the Medieval Studies program, and in some subjects involving expertise in more than one discipline (e.g., liturgy, codicology). Emphasis on methods of interdisciplinary research, research tools, and critical evaluation of their use.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Graduate standing or consent of instructor

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Medieval Studies/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

MED ST 205 Medieval Manuscripts as Primary Sources 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2012, Fall 2007, Fall 1998

This course explores the use of medieval manuscripts as primary sources for contemporary scholarship and as evidence of book culture in the medieval West.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Graduate standing or consent of instructor

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Medieval Studies/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

MED ST 210 Paleography and Codicology 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2019, Fall 2017, Fall 2016

Instruction in Medieval Latin paleography and/or the paleography of one or more of the medieval vernacular languages of Western Europe, emphasizing the evolution of scripts as well as practice in reading them. Ancillary instruction in the principles of codicology with attention to the process of text-making and book manufacture.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Consent of Instructor required

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Medieval Studies/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

MED ST 250 Seminar in Medieval Culture 2 - 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2018, Fall 2017, Spring 2010

Taught by the Distinguished Visiting Professor of Medieval Studies on a topic related to his or her specialty. In the event that the instructor is in residence for fewer than 15 weeks, the course will be offered for either 2 or 3 units of credit, in proportion to the number of actual contact hours.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Graduate standing

Credit Restrictions: Course may be taken for less than 4 units on a <satisfactory/unsatisfactory> basis with consent of instructor.

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Medieval Studies/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.