The Department of German, Scandinavian, and Dutch offers a major, several minors, and a broad range of courses in the languages, literatures, intellectual history, media, cultures of Germany, the Scandinavian countries, Finland, Austria, Switzerland, and the Netherlands.

The German, Scandinavian, Dutch (GSD) major gives students the flexibility either to combine coursework in any of the languages and literatures of the department or to designate an emphasis in German or in Scandinavian and Finnish. Many of our students also have majors in such fields as business, computer science, biology, English, history, linguistics, or political science, or have interdisciplinary concentrations like global, media, and sustainability studies. In the GSD major, students develop advanced language competency, come to understand changing cultural and social contexts in relation to various forms of media (from oral and manuscript traditions to book culture, film, and hypermedia), and deepen their interdisciplinary understanding of other cultures. A major in GSD is ideally suited for students wishing to work in public, private, and non-profit organization fields, especially in areas where multilingual and transcultural knowledge is essential. The department recommends study abroad in the target language for at least six months to strengthen cultural familiarity and language fluency. Students may apply appropriate study abroad coursework to the major or minors. Minors are available in Dutch, German, Finnish, Norwegian, Swedish, and Austrian & Central European Studies.

The College of Liberal Arts Advantage: More Than a Major

When you study German, Scandinavian, and Dutch at the University of Minnesota,
you gain the added advantage of a College of Liberal Arts education. At CLA, the liberal arts mean you get more than just a degree in one major or another; it means you will be exposed to different areas of study, to different ways of thinking and learning. In fact, the liberal arts teach you how to learn — how to ask the right questions, how to problem solve, and how to innovate. The liberal arts highlight the complexities of our world, because here at CLA you will study not just, say, politics or art but also where politics and art intersect, where science and ethics intersect, where economics and the environment intersect.

Meet Our Students

2018 senior Annika Kohrt isn’t afraid to make waves; with four areas of study, she brings something new to everything she does. She writes, “I really decided that if I was gonna go to the U, then I was gonna dig in and... make the most out of what was given to me. And fall in love with the city and fall in love with the campus. I made the conscious decision to do that, and I feel like that was really helpful.” With majors in linguistics and German and minors in neuroscience and computer science, senior Annika Kohrt has certainly accomplished what she set out to do.

Read more about Annika's story, and learn more about our undergraduate program.

Student Experiences

Learning Abroad Options in German, Scandinavian, and Dutch: Prepare to Lead in a Global Economy
Learn more about study abroad for German, Scandinavian, and Dutch majors.

Undergraduate Research: Turn Curiosity into New Knowledge

The faculty of our department are committed to pursuing disciplinary research in depth and expanding interdisciplinary thinking. Whether looking at medieval documents, literary works, visual arts, film or digital productions, we continually explore new ways to understand these texts and other cultural artifacts.

Student Organizations: Find Friends and Grow as a Leader

- Der Deutschverein
- Den Svenska Klubben
- Russian Student Speaking Association

Meet Our Faculty

Philosopher Immanuel Kant’s work delves deep into the concept of freedom in both his moral and political philosophies—so what does a Kant scholar do when these treatments of freedom don’t quite seem to line up? Professor Matthias Rothe explains how inconsistencies in Kant’s work must be understood in a broader historical, social, and political context.

Read more about Professor Rothe's work.
Dr. Nadya Clayton illustrates Russia’s rich history in the arts and role as a critical cultural player in connecting the east and west. In collaboration with the Museum of Russian Art in south Minneapolis, she works to provide students with opportunities to learn about the over 200 ethnic groups and minorities in Russian culture and their unique impact on the world.

Read more about Professor Clayton's work.

Meet Our Alumni

“Once you find your passion and the piece of you that clicks, everything else falls into place.” That’s the advice of 2018 graduate Lily Obeda, whose double major in GSD with a Scandinavian & Finnish emphasis and speech-language-hearing sciences has prepared her for an exciting career in academia.

Read more about Lily's story.

CLA Graduates: Successful Careers and Purposeful Lives

CLA graduates succeed in many different careers — law, health care, medicine,
business, government, teaching, advertising, arts and entertainment, international relations, and more — precisely because they understand how to navigate a complex and interconnected world. As our alumni explain below, “Being a good employee means being curious, and continuing to evolve, and learn, and educate yourself, and I can think of no stronger foundation for doing that than a liberal arts education.

“An education in the liberal arts is a springboard to lifelong career success”
-- Dean John Coleman

You might also explore

Dutch Studies Minor
German Minor
Early Childhood
Journalism and Mass Communication
Marketing
Communication Studies

Associated Careers

Advertising, Marketing, and Public Relations Managers; Elementary, Middle, and High School Teachers; Interpreters; News Analysts, Reporters, and Correspondents; Postsecondary Teachers; Translators
Admission Information

FRESHMAN: Admission information

TRANSFER STUDENTS: Requirements for the College of Liberal Arts

Beyond admission, if you have questions about transferring, the College of Liberal Arts (CLA) has transfer advisors to help. Please feel free to contact them about any of the topics below!

- Course plans before transferring
- Estimated time to graduation
- Career preparation in CLA
- Getting ready for orientation, if admitted
- Connecting with major/minor departments