Folklore and Public Culture (MA/MS)

The master of arts (MA) or master of science (MS) degree in folklore and public culture is interdisciplinary. In consultation with an advising committee, students take designated courses from faculty members in anthropology, arts and administration, English, folklore and public culture, German, Scandinavian, and music in addition to elective courses that strengthen their areas of expertise. A public folklore track is available to students preparing for careers in the public sector. A thesis or terminal project is required for completion of the degree. Students working toward an MA degree must demonstrate competence in a second language.

Students in the masters degree program in Folklore and Public Culture may choose from two tracks with differing emphases. The General Folklore Track provides students with a strong foundation in folklore studies while also allowing students to take elective courses in their areas of focus. The General Folklore Track requires students to take specific classes from Folklore and Public Culture program faculty in a variety of subjects including anthropology, arts and administration, English, and music, among other disciplines. The Public Folklore Track prepares students who plan to work in the public sphere by building professional skills such as ethnographic research, documentation, grant writing, administration and programming. The program also focuses on building scholarly fundamentals of folklore and establishing relationships within the folklore field.

Program's Admission Requirements

Please visit the program's website (https://folklore.uoregon.edu/admission-requirements/).

Program Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this program, students will be able to:

- Identify and explain key concepts in folklore studies.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the research methods associated with folklore studies.
- Understand and apply fieldwork methods and proper documentation techniques necessary for submission of fieldwork for archival preservation.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the multiple theoretical orientations contributing to an understanding and analysis of folkloric expression.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the types of folkloric expression and various types of folk groups in relationship to historical, cultural, and social contexts.
- Understand and give examples of what academic and public folklorists do.
- Understand ethical issues and responsibilities relating to fieldwork, professionalism, and the writing and publishing of scholarly papers.
- Conduct independent research and analysis, culminating in a thesis or a terminal project based on original research, presented within a scholarly framework, that makes a substantive contribution to current knowledge in the field.

- General Folklore (p. 1)
- Public Folklore (p. 1)

General Folklore Track (62 credits)

Code	Title	Credits
Required Courses		
FLR 681	History and Theory of Folklore Research	5
FLR 595	Folklore Fieldwork [1]	4
Interdisciplinary Core Courses [2]		**28**
Folklore Core Courses		
FLR 511	Folklore and Religion	
FLR 515	Folklore and Foodways	
Anthropology Core Courses		
ANTH 529		
ANTH 611	Ethnographic Research: Epistemology, Methods, Ethics	
German and Scandinavian Core Courses		
GER 625	Translations-Transformations (Fairy Tales on the Move)	
Music Core Courses		
MUS 551	Introduction to Ethnomusicology	
MUS 552	Musical Instruments of the World	
MUS 562	Popular Musics in the African Diaspora	
Planning, Public Policy and Management Core Courses		
PPPM 571	Cultural Policy	
PPPM 573	Cultural Programming	
Electives		**16**
Select courses from the folklore core or outside that bolster areas of student expertise		
Thesis or Terminal Project		
FLR 503	Thesis [3]	9
or FLR 609	Terminal Project	
Total Credits		**62**

1 Or other fieldwork course approved by advising committee.
2 12 of the 28 credits must be earned in folklore (FLR) courses.
3 Students complete a thesis or terminal project based on original research. The number of thesis or terminal project credits that a candidate may complete has no maximum, although only 9 credits count toward the degree.

Courses are chosen in consultation with the student's advising committee. Students may substitute courses not listed above to fulfill requirements with the approval of their advising committee.

Master of Arts: Public Folklore Track (63 credits)

Code	Title	Credits
Required Courses		
FLR 550		4
FLR 681	History and Theory of Folklore Research	5
FLR 684	[1]	5
PPPM 573	Cultural Programming	4
Interdisciplinary Core Courses		

Select 20 credits from the following courses: [2]		20
Folklore Core Courses		
FLR 507	Seminar: [Topic] (Video Production)	
FLR 511	Folklore and Religion	
FLR 514		
FLR 515	Folklore and Foodways	
FLR 516		
FLR 518		
FLR 583		
Anthropology Core Courses		
ANTH 511		
ANTH 519		
ANTH 529		
ANTH 593		
ANTH 611	Ethnographic Research: Epistemology, Methods, Ethics	
German and Scandinavian Core Courses		
GER 625	Translations-Transformations (Fairy Tales on the Move)	
Music Core Courses		
MUS 551	Introduction to Ethnomusicology	
MUS 552	Musical Instruments of the World	
MUS 562	Popular Musics in the African Diaspora	
Planning, Public Policy and Management Core Courses		
PPPM 571	Cultural Policy	
Electives		**12**
Select courses from the folklore core or outside that bolster specialization areas		
Internship		
FLR 604	Internship: [Topic] [3]	4
Thesis or Terminal Project		
FLR 503	Thesis [4]	9
or FLR 609	Terminal Project	

1 Or other fieldwork course approved by advising committee.

2 Students may substitute other courses not listed to fulfill requirements with the approval of their advising committee.

3 An internship related to public folklore amounting to 120 clock hours of service on-site, organized through the Folklore Program or the Oregon Folklife Network.

4 The number of thesis or terminal project credits that a candidate may complete has no maximum, although only 9 credits count toward the degree.

Language Requirement for the MA Degree

The master of arts degree requires the satisfactory completion of a second-year level of proficiency in a second language, as required for the B.A. degree (see Bachelor's Degree Requirements (https://catalog.uoregon.edu/archive/2025-2026/admissiontograduation/bachelorrequirements/) in the catalog for details). Competency may be demonstrated by either a standardized test or with adequate undergraduate course work. Language competence must be demonstrated within the overall seven-year limit for completion of a master's degree.

Additional Courses

Consult the program's website or members of its faculty each term for special offerings that fulfill degree requirements. Visit the program website for a list of additional approved courses.

Other undergraduate and graduate courses with related subject matter may be applied to folklore and public culture certificate programs by arrangement with the instructors and the folklore and public culture director. For a list of these courses, visit the program website.