

February 26, 2025

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees

FROM: Anne D'Alleva, Ph.D.  
Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

RE: Program Closures: MA and Ph.D. in Medieval Studies



RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of Trustees approve the closure of the MA and Ph.D. Programs in Medieval Studies.

BACKGROUND:

Graduate degrees in Medieval Studies have been offered at the University of Connecticut for over 50 years. The history of the program goes back to 1967, with the formation of an interdisciplinary Medieval Studies Committee within CLAS. In the spring of 1969, a graduate program offering degrees of Master of Arts and Doctor of Philosophy in Medieval Studies was established, with the admittance of graduate students the following fall. The initial proposal of the Medieval Studies Program included the following descriptions: "This program, intended to provide a synthesis of broad areas of medieval culture and thought as a basis for constructive research in specialized aspects of medieval cultural and intellectual history, is interdepartmental in nature and would include course offerings in the areas of medieval languages and literature..., history, art, philosophy, and philology."

However, there has been a nationwide steady decline in the field. In 2023, across the United States, there was a total of only 29 master's or doctoral completions in the field. At UConn, there were MA Medieval Studies completions in AY 2018-2019, and one the following year. There have been no completions or enrollments in the MA program since this date. The Medieval Studies Ph.D. had two completions in AY2018-2019, three the following year, and one in AY 2021-2022. There is one ABD student currently enrolled in the Ph.D. program.

In December 2024 Medievalist faculty from several departments (English; History; Literatures, Cultures, and Languages; Music; and Art and Art History) met and concluded that the University no longer has sufficient faculty across departments to support graduate students in an interdisciplinary Medieval Studies program. A decision was made to close the MA and Ph.D. programs, effective fall 2025. As the only student in the programs is completing their doctoral studies, no impact on current students is anticipated, and no teach-out plan is required. The Ph.D. program will continue to be included on our State program listings until the final student has completed their degree.