

HISTORY, MA

Award-winning and internationally recognized faculty serve graduate students in a program that provides opportunities for close mentorship and advising. With a strong commitment to research and teaching, as well as training the next generation of historians, the faculty have published extensively and are active participants in national and international historical organizations.

Admissions

Admission recommendations for all graduate programs in the Department of History at The University of Alabama are made to the Graduate School based on a composite of subjective and quantitative information, including the applicant's statement of purpose and letters of recommendation, an academic writing sample, the academic standing of the programs in which the applicant has studied, evidence of appropriate college or graduate-level work in history courses, previous grades, and the recommendation of the Graduate Committee of the Department of History. Each application is considered in the context of other applications to the program, with due consideration given to the availability of space in the program. Not every student whose credentials meet stated quantitative standards is admitted.

See the Admission Criteria section of this catalog for more information.

Curricular Requirements

Course load

Resident students are expected to register for full loads each semester—at least 9 hours, except in the case of .50 FTE teaching assistants, who must take at least 6 hours. All courses must be numbered 500 or above, but HY 699 Dissertation Research does not count toward the course hour requirement for any graduate degree.

Total credit hours

The MA in History requires 30 credit hours of graduate-level coursework.

History Colloquium

All incoming graduate students (MA or PhD), unless specifically exempted by the Graduate Committee, must take the History Colloquium HY 665 Special Studies in the Fall semester of their first year.

Historiography course requirement

All incoming graduate students (MA or PhD), unless specifically exempted by the Graduate Committee, must take at least two of the basic historiography courses (HY 601, HY 602, HY 603, HY 605) in different geographic areas as part of their degree program. :

Code and Title	Hours
HY 601/602 Literature Of American History	4
HY 603 Literature European Hist	4
HY 605 Lit Latin Amercn History	4

Seminar requirement

All MA students who choose Plan II (described under "Requirements for the MA Program" below) must take at least one research seminar.

Plan I - Thesis	Hours
HY 665 Special Studies (History Colloquium)	4
Historiography Courses:	
Students choose two of the following	8
HY 601 or Literature Of American History	

HY 602 Lit American History Sc 1865	
HY 603 Literature European Hist	
HY 605 Lit Latin Amercn History	
HY 599 Thesis Research	6
Elective Courses	12
HY 600 Teaching History	
HY 602 Lit American History Sc 1865	
HY 606 Prosem Us Histry To 1877	
HY 607 Prosem Us HY Since 1877	
HY 608 Prosem Southern History	
HY 631 Early Mod Brit Eur Hy	
HY 635 Recent Brit Eur History	
HY 639 Prosem Military/Naval Hy	

NOTE: This list is not comprehensive.

Courses in closely related disciplines may be taken with the approval of the Director of Graduate Studies.

Total Hours 30

Plan II - Non-Thesis

HY 665 Special Studies (History Colloquium) 4

Historiography Courses:

Students choose two of the following 8

HY 601 or Literature Of American History	
HY 602 Lit American History Sc 1865	
HY 603 Literature European Hist	
HY 605 Lit Latin Amercn History	

Research Seminar 3

HY 698 Directed Research 4

Elective Courses 11

HY 600 Teaching History

HY 602 Lit American History Sc 1865

HY 606 Prosem Us Histry To 1877

HY 607 Prosem Us HY Since 1877

HY 608 Prosem Southern History

HY 631 Early Mod Brit Eur Hy

HY 635 Recent Brit Eur History

HY 639 Prosem Military/Naval Hy

NOTE: This list is not comprehensive.

Courses in closely related disciplines may be taken with approval of the Director of Graduate Studies.

Total Hours 30

Transfer of Credit

Graduate School information on Transfer Credit.

Accelerated Master's Program

Advanced undergraduate History majors of exceptional promise may apply to the Accelerated Master's Program in History. Students who meet the following criteria are eligible to join the Accelerated Master's Program:

- completion of 90 total credit hours
- an overall University of Alabama GPA of 3.75 or above
- completion of the University's core curriculum, with the foreign language option
- completion of the required courses for the History major (including HY 497 OR HY 498/HY 499 and the geographic area distribution requirements)
- completion of 3/4 of the required History major hours

Students wishing to apply to the Accelerated Master's Program submit the same application materials as all other applicants to the MA program in History (see "Admission Requirements" above.) Please note that not all applicants who meet eligibility criteria are accepted into the program.

Students in the Accelerated Master's Program fulfill the exact same degree requirements as those in the standard MA program. They may also count of up to 15 hours of graduate coursework taken during their time in the program towards their undergraduate degrees.

Graduate School information on the AMP Program.

Comprehensive Examination

The Comprehensive MA exam in History will consist of one hour oral exam based on the submission of a ten-page synthetic essay the student's final Master's Thesis (for Plan I students) or seminar paper (for Plan II students). The examination committee will consist of three faculty members from the Department of History, including the faculty member with whom the student has written his/her thesis or seminar paper, and two other professors with whom the student has taken at least one course. In the event that the student intends to pursue a PhD in the Department of History of The University of Alabama and the potential dissertation advisor is not included in this group, he or she will be added to the examination committee as a fourth member. The use of faculty from outside the department to serve on MA examination committees must be approved well in advance by the Graduate Committee.

The oral exam should follow within two or three weeks of submission of the written material (final version of the thesis/seminar paper and synthetic essay) to the examination committee. The oral exam will last approximately one hour and will consist of questions evenly divided between those on the student's thesis/seminar paper and those on the student's broader coursework (for which the synthetic essay will serve as a starting point).

The examination is graded pass/fail. Two negative votes constitute failure of the examination. History graduate students may repeat failed oral examinations one time only, after an interval specified by the examining committee.

Plan I - Thesis Process

The topic of the thesis will be selected by the student in consultation with his or her advisor. After the topic has been agreed upon, the student will prepare a prospectus describing the topic and the proposed plan of approach, including the principal sources to be used. Copies of the prospectus will be distributed to the student's advisory committee, which shall consist of three members, all of whom must indicate their acceptance of the topic.

Students writing a thesis must enroll in 6 credit hours of HY 599 Thesis Research.

The final defense of the thesis will take place as part of the student's Comprehensive Examination (see "Comprehensive Examination" above.)

Plan II - Non-Thesis Process

Plan II students will complete a Research Seminar and write an article-length seminar paper based on original historical research (see "Curricular Requirements" above.) A discussion of the student's final seminar paper will form an integral portion of the student's Comprehensive Examination (see "Comprehensive Examination" above.)

Time Limits for Degree Completion Requirements

Graduate School information on Time Limits.

Student Progress Requirement

Any student who receives 6 hours of "C" grades or 3 hours of "D" or "F" grades in history courses may be dismissed from the program. A student that is dismissed from the program may petition the Graduate Committee for reinstatement.

A student on probation or whose transcript carries a grade of "I" will ordinarily be ineligible for a teaching assistantship or other departmental financial support.

Additional Academic Requirements

Foreign Language Proficiency requirement

MA students in History are required to demonstrate reading proficiency in one foreign language. Students may fulfill this requirement by passing a translation examination administered by the Department of Modern Languages and Classics, or by passing a translation examination administered by a faculty member in the Department of History with the requisite expertise in the language. MA students must pass their language exams before taking their comprehensive examinations.

Academic Misconduct Information

Graduate School information on Academic Misconduct.

Withdrawals and Leave of Absence Information

Graduate School information on Withdrawals and Leave of Absence.

Academic Grievances Information

Graduate School information on Academic Grievances.

Scholastic Requirements

Graduate School information on Scholastic Requirements.

Graduate School Deadlines Information

Information on Graduate School Deadlines.

Application for Graduation Information

Information on the Application for Graduation.