

The Master's degree in History

REQUIREMENTS FOR STUDENTS ADMITTED BEFORE FALL 2008

NOTE: *The department recently adopted new guidelines for M.A. students entering in Fall 2008 and subsequent years. Students who entered before this date are still subject to the requirements spelled out in this document.*

Language requirement

All students are required to **pass** a departmental language exam that tests the ability to read and comprehend a passage of average difficulty drawn from primary sources or the secondary literature. The language exam is offered once each quarter during the regular academic year.

Plan of study

By the end of the first quarter in the program, students are required to file a Plan of Study, signed by the advisor, in which they state their major field, list all anticipated course work and specify their language requirement. The Plan of Study may be modified later by agreement of both student and advisor. All Plans of Study are reviewed and approved by the Director of Graduate Studies.

Major field requirement

Students must declare a major field of study. The major field will be chosen from the list of [Major and Minor Fields](#).

Credit requirements

The Graduate School requires a minimum of 45 graduate credit hours and a minimum grade point average of 3.0. At least 30 graduate credit hours must be taken in History, and 24 of the 30 must be graded. Additional credit requirements include:

1. at least 3 credit hours each quarter, including the quarter when the thesis defense is held,
2. at least 30 graduate credit hours (24 of them graded) taken in residence over at least two quarters, and
3. a maximum of 15 graduate credits accepted in transfer credit.

Course requirements

In addition to the HIST 612, 613, 614 sequence (Historical Methods and Writing), students must complete at least one HIST 507 or 607 seminar.

Writing requirements

There are two options for satisfying the major writing requirement for the M.A.:

Option One. Students complete a master's thesis in their major focus of study and pass an oral defense of the thesis before a committee of three faculty members.

Option Two. Students complete two substantial research papers and pass an oral defense of these papers before a committee of three faculty members. For the purposes of this option, a research paper is defined as a paper of 25 pages or more, based on primary source research.

Time to degree

Under ordinary circumstances, it takes students two full years of work to complete this program.