Master of Arts in History

Program information

College	Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters		
Department or school	Department of History		
Degree abbreviation	M.A.	**CIP code**	54.0101
Program website	www.fau.edu/artsandletters/history/graduate		

Our commitment to you

This Academic Learning Compact describes the program's mission, what students who complete the program will know and be able to do and how faculty assess that learning. Florida Atlantic University publishes a compact for every degree program and standalone certificate so students, families, employers and the community can see what each program commits to providing its graduates.

Program mission

The master's program in history prepares graduates for doctoral work in history, museum and public history work, and careers in education, government or industry. It also prepares instructors for community college teaching and strengthens the skills of secondary school social studies teachers.

Florida Atlantic University's mission

Florida Atlantic University is recognized as an opportunity university and R1 research institution dedicated to transforming lives through education, discovery, and innovation. We empower students to achieve economic mobility, advance knowledge that creates meaningful impact, and forge partnerships that drive prosperity and connection in the communities we serve.

How the program supports the university mission

The program supports the university's mission by transforming lives through education and discovery. Students build advanced research skills in original sources that prepare them for careers in teaching, public history, government and doctoral research.

About the program

Master's students study European, U.S. or world history and learn to research original historical sources. Students can explore public history and internships and choose a thesis or non-thesis track. The program is a great fit for future teachers, public historians and doctoral students.

Student learning outcomes

By graduation, students will be able to demonstrate outcomes in three core areas: content/discipline knowledge and skills (Outcome 1), communication skills (Outcome 2) and critical thinking skills (Outcome 3). Faculty assess all three core outcomes every year.

A. Content/Discipline Knowledge and Skills

What graduates will know and be able to do in their field

Areas this program addresses (check at least two)

- ☒ **Declarative knowledge:** key vocabulary, history, theories and concepts of the field
- ☒ **Research skills:** finding, gathering, analyzing and reporting information the way the field does
- ☐ **Technical skills:** hands-on tools and methods of the field, such as software, instruments, lesson plans or business reports

Graduates will be able to explain major developments and scholarly debates in their field of history.
Graduates will be able to conduct advanced research in original historical sources.

How students show it

Name at least one type of student work faculty review directly, e.g., an exam, research project, portfolio or senior capstone

Where it is assessed

HIS 5060 Historical Experience

B. Communication Skills

How graduates will share ideas and work with others

Areas this program addresses (check at least two)

- ☒ **Written communication:** clear, well-organized writing suited to the audience and purpose
- ☒ **Oral communication:** well-organized presentations that connect with an audience
- ☐ **Other forms of communication:** visual, media, performance or exhibit work
- ☐ **Team/collaborative communication:** contributing to group projects and shared goals

Graduates will be able to present analysis and interpretation of original historical research in writing.
Graduates will be able to present analysis and interpretation of original historical research in oral presentations.

How students show it

Name at least one type of student work faculty review directly, e.g., a paper, presentation, performance or group project

Where it is assessed

HIS 5060 Historical Experience

C. Critical Thinking Skills

How graduates will analyze, create and solve problems

Areas this program addresses (check at least one)

- ☒ **Analytical skills:** weighing evidence, comparing ideas and judging arguments
- ☐ **Creative skills:** combining knowledge to create something new, such as a design, performance or proposal
- ☐ **Practical skills:** applying knowledge to real situations, such as a business proposal, lesson plan or grant

Graduates will be able to interpret historical evidence to build sophisticated scholarly arguments.

How students show it

Name at least one type of student work faculty review directly, e.g., an essay, case study, design project or capstone

Where it is assessed

HIS 5060 Historical Experience

Assessment approaches

Every year, faculty review samples of student work to see how well students are meeting all three outcomes, and they use what they learn to improve the program.

In two to four sentences of plain language, summarize the types of assessment students will encounter and how faculty use them, such as a capstone project scored with a shared rubric, a licensure or field exam, a portfolio review, or alumni and employer surveys.

Assessment methods may change over time.