

MASTER'S PROGRAM

HISTORY

MASTER OF ARTS (M.A.)

(Minimum of 30 or 36 credits required)

Admission Requirements

The Master of Arts degree in History is designed to prepare graduates for doctoral work in history; for museum, preservation and public history work; for employment in education, government or industry; for admission to law school; to qualify instructors in history for community college teaching; and to enhance historical skills and content for secondary school social studies teachers.

1. Each applicant should have a baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution, preferably with an undergraduate major in history. Applicants without an undergraduate history major may be admitted on condition that appropriate undergraduate coursework in history be completed in addition to all requirements for the M.A. degree.
2. Applicants must have a minimum 3.0 grade point average (GPA) for the last 60 undergraduate credits attempted.
3. Applicants must have two letters of recommendation sent directly to FAU via the online application portal.
4. Applicants must upload, as part of their online application, a writing sample. This should be a term paper or lengthy essay.
5. Applicants must upload, as part of their online application, a two-to-three-page typed, double-spaced autobiographical statement indicating the nature of their preparation for graduate work and the reasons for seeking the M.A. in history.
6. Prospective applicants for graduate work in history are encouraged to schedule an interview with the department's director of Graduate Studies.
7. Applicants who fail to meet the GPA requirements, and/or who lack a strong background in history, may be admitted on a conditional basis.

Degree Requirements

The Master of Arts in History has two options: 1) the thesis option, requiring 30 credits with a minimum of 24 credits of graduate coursework and completion of the M.A. thesis, for which a minimum of 6 additional credits must be earned; and 2) the non-thesis option, requiring 36 credits of graduate coursework. Graduate courses in history are of two types: readings (5000 level) and research seminars

(6000 level). These readings and research seminars are offered in the following fields: Asian, Comparative, European, Florida, Latin American, Middle Eastern, Public, U.S. and World History. Students must choose a major field from among the following: European, U.S., and World History. Those who select U.S. History as their major field may include in their total program up to two public history courses, including internships.

While students may take additional credits of directed independent studies (DIS), only 3 credits may be counted toward the degree requirements. Similarly, even though students may take more internship credits, only 3 credits may be applied to the total number required for the degree.

A grade of "B-" or below will not be accepted for credit toward the M.A. degree in History.

Qualifying Examination

In addition to the other degree requirements, all students must take and pass a qualifying examination at the end of their course of study. To pass, all students must earn at least a "B" grade on each question. The exam may be taken twice, but those students who do not pass the second time will be dismissed from the program. Those students who achieve a superior performance on the entire exam will be designated as having passed "with distinction."

For thesis-option students, this will consist of an oral examination that includes a defense of the thesis along with questions related to the larger field in which the thesis is located. For non-thesis students, the examination will consist of three written questions, of which two will be in the primary field and one in a secondary field.

Students must be enrolled at FAU during any semester in which they take the exam. Students in the non-thesis option who need to take the exam are expected to notify the graduate director in writing at least two weeks before the date it is administered and to abide by all of the procedures set out in the program website: www.fau.edu/history/graduate.php.

For the M.A. with Major in History (Thesis Option), more specific degree requirements are:

1. All M.A. students must take HIS 5060 (The Historical Experience), a basic course that deals with historiography and changing patterns of historical interpretation, as well as with research techniques and methodologies. Students should take this course as early in their program as possible.

2. To assure a proper distribution of courses by field, graduate students must take a minimum of 12 credits of graduate coursework in their major/thesis field (European, U.S., or World History) and a minimum of 9 credits in non-major/non-thesis fields.
3. All M.A. students must complete a minimum of 6 credits of thesis research (HIS 6971) and complete an acceptable master's thesis.
4. Graduate students may not take undergraduate courses for graduate credit.
5. Graduate students who also serve as graduate assistants in the Department must complete, in addition to all other requirements, the 3-credit course HIS 5944, Teaching Practicum. Credits for this course may not be counted as part of the requirements for the 36-credit, non-thesis M.A. degree.

Core - 3 credits

The Historical Experience

HIS 5060

Thesis Option - 27 credits

Electives - 21 credits

Select a minimum of 18 credits from the Department of History, including a minimum of 9 credits at the 5000 level in reading seminars and a minimum of 9 credits at the 6000 level in research with prefixes of AMH, EUH, HIS, LAH or WOH. Students may substitute up to 3 credits from outside the Department for History credits, with permission of the Director of Graduate Studies.

Thesis - 6 credits

Master's Thesis

HIS 6971

(may be taken over multiple terms)

Application for the M.A. Thesis Option

All students admitted to the M.A. program in History will be on a non-thesis trajectory. Students may switch to the M.A. thesis option under the following conditions:

1. Students must have achieved a minimum overall GPA of 3.75 in their graduate program by the end of the second semester of full-time study (or after completing 15 credits studying part time);

2. Students must submit the following to the director of Graduate Studies prior to the last day of class of the second semester of full-time study (or the last day of class of the semester when the student will have completed 15 credits studying part time):
 - a. A brief paragraph indicating which professor ideally would serve as thesis advisor and explaining why the student would like to work with that particular professor;
 - b. A 3-5 page overview of the thesis (explain what the thesis is about, how existing literature on the topic is deficient, and what the thesis is proposing that is new) and a preliminary bibliography.

After grades are in for the semester during which the student is applying for the thesis option, the director of Graduate Studies will verify the applicant's overall GPA; if this falls below 3.75, the student must pursue the non-thesis option.

If the student meets the GPA requirement, the director of Graduate Studies will forward the application to the graduate committee members. The committee will communicate its decision to the Graduate Studies director, who will inform the student whether the project is accepted and, if so, under what conditions the student may proceed to write the thesis. If the application is not approved, the student must pursue the non-thesis option.

If approved for a thesis, the student's thesis advisor will put together a three-member thesis committee to oversee the research and writing of the thesis. This proposal and determination of the thesis committee must be submitted and approved by the graduate director and department chair before the student can register for thesis credits. The foreign language requirement must also be met before the student is permitted to enroll in thesis research.

For an M.A. with Major in History (Non-Thesis Option), more specific degree requirements are:

1. All M.A. students must take HIS 5060 (The Historical Experience).
2. To assure proper distribution of course by field, graduate students in the non-thesis option should take 18 credits in their major field (European, U.S., or World History) and the remaining 15 credits in other fields.
3. Graduate students in the non-thesis option may not take undergraduate courses for graduate credit.
4. Graduate students who also serve as graduate assistants in the department must complete, in addition to all other requirements, the 3-credit HIS

5944: Teaching Practicum. Credits for this course may not be counted as part of the requirements for the 36-credit non-thesis M.A. degree.

Core - 3 credits

The Historical Experience

HIS 5060

Non-Thesis Option - 33 credits

Select a minimum of 30 credits from the Department of History, including a minimum of 12 credits at the 5000 level in reading seminars and a minimum of 18 credits at the 6000 level in research with prefixes of AMH, EUH, HIS, LAH or WOH. Students may substitute up to 3 credits from outside the Department for History credits, with permission of the Director of Graduate Studies.

The Plan of Study

All students in the M.A. program in history must file with the Graduate College a Plan of Study upon completion of 9 credits of qualified coursework. This form is completed by the student in consultation with the graduate director. Approval of this plan certifies that the student has demonstrated the ability to do acceptable graduate work. Those students who make changes to their Plan of Study after the original plan is submitted are required to file a Revision to an Existing Plan of Study form in the last semester before graduation. The forms for completion can be accessed through the [Graduate College website](#). Failure to file these forms as required will prevent the student from graduating.

Foreign Language Requirement

In addition to the other degree requirements, all students must fulfill the department language requirement before conferral of the degree through one of the following three options.

1. Passing one semester of a foreign language at the intermediate level (2220) at FAU or the equivalent at another university, as determined by the History Department's graduate committee.
2. Passing an equivalency exam at the intermediate (2220) level.
3. Passing the graduate Reading for Research course (FRE/GER/SPN 5060).

It is strongly encouraged that students fulfill this requirement soon after beginning their graduate studies.

To qualify for the M.A. degree in history, all students must have the recommendation of the graduate director and the department chair, as well as the dean of the Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters.