

 <b>FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY</b>	<b>NEW/CHANGE PROGRAM REQUEST</b> <b>Graduate Programs</b>		UGPC Approval _____ UFS Approval _____ Banner _____ Catalog _____
	Department <u>History</u> College <u>Arts and Letters</u>		
<b>Program Name</b> Master of Arts (M.A.) Combined Program		<input type="checkbox"/> <b>New Program*</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Change Program*</b>	<b>Effective Date</b> (TERM & YEAR) Spring 2026
<p><b>Please explain the requested change(s) and offer rationale below or on an attachment.</b></p> <p>The Department of History would like to remove the foreign language requirement for the M.A. program.</p> <p><b>Rationale:</b>          There are two parts to this rationale: first, History M.A. students have struggled recently to complete this requirement in a timely manner, and second, that the requirement itself is not in place in similar institutions.</p> <p>As departments across the university have cut their language requirements, students have had fewer opportunities to fulfill the requirement to learn a foreign language through the intermediate level. At present, only the History M.A. and the Comparative Studies Ph.D. program in the College of Arts and Letters require this for graduation. The language requirement is creating a bottleneck for our students as they move toward graduation. In order to fulfill the foreign language requirement, many History M.A. students have in the past taken a graduate Reading for Research course (FRE/GER/SPN 5060). With so few programs requiring a foreign language now, enrollments in these courses are low, and as a result, LLCL is not able to offer these courses frequently enough for students to fulfill the requirement during our two-year M.A. program.</p> <p>After looking into the requirements for the History MA at other SUS institutions, the Department found that many have already phased out their language requirement. Continuing to require a language at the intermediate level puts us out of sync with FAU's graduate programs and with other MA-granting institutions in the state of Florida.</p> <p><small>*All new programs and changes to existing programs must be accompanied by a catalog entry showing the new or proposed changes.</small></p>			
<b>Faculty Contact/Email/Phone</b> Adrian Finucane afinucane@fau.edu 508-740-2675		<b>Consult and list departments that may be affected by the change(s) and attach documentation</b> Languages, Linguistics and Comparative Literature	
<b>Approved by</b> Department Chair _____ College Curriculum Chair _____ College Dean <u>Eric Berlatsky</u> _____ UGPC Chair _____ UGC Chair _____ Graduate College Dean _____ UFS President _____ Provost _____		<b>Date</b> <u>9/8/25</u> <u>9-22-25</u> <u>09/22/2025</u> 10/14/2025 10/14/2025 10/14/2025 _____ _____	

Email this form and attachments to [UGPC@fau.edu](mailto:UGPC@fau.edu) 10 days before the UGPC meeting.

## Department of History requested changes to the University Catalog:

### [Under: Application for the M.A. 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.~~

### **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.~~

**Sunday, September 7, 2025 at 18:02:08 Eastern Daylight Time**

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**Subject:** Re: History MA Program Requirement Change  
**Date:** Monday, August 25, 2025 at 4:12:53 PM Eastern Daylight Time  
**From:** Adrian Finucane  
**To:** Eric Berlatsky

Hi Eric,

The department has concerns beyond the frequency of FRE 5060. The French course technically meets the requirements for the M.A., but we don't have faculty specializing in France or the French empire, so other languages would serve our students better. Many other MA programs in the SUS are also dropping these requirements, so we are currently not in line with the other departments on this.

I would be happy to meet about this sometime this week or next if you are available.

Best,  
Adrian

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**From:** Eric Berlatsky <[eberlats@fau.edu](mailto:eberlats@fau.edu)>  
**Date:** Monday, August 25, 2025 at 4:02 PM  
**To:** Adrian Finucane <[afinucane@fau.edu](mailto:afinucane@fau.edu)>, Douglas Kanter <[Dkanter1@fau.edu](mailto:Dkanter1@fau.edu)>, Michael Hamilton <[mhamilton@fau.edu](mailto:mhamilton@fau.edu)>  
**Subject:** Re: History MA Program Requirement Change

Hi Adrian,

I'd like to talk about it with my department if you don't mind. We can offer it this upcoming summer, so that should give us some time to reach a conclusion. As you may know, only History and Comp Studies really still have this requirement. If you drop it...it will make it even harder for us to run it and harder for Comp Studies students to fulfill their requirement.

Maybe we could offer it more often...I'd like to discuss.

Can you wait?

EB

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**From:** Adrian Finucane <[afinucane@fau.edu](mailto:afinucane@fau.edu)>  
**Date:** Monday, August 25, 2025 at 3:52 PM

**To:** Eric Berlatsky <[eberlats@fau.edu](mailto:eberlats@fau.edu)>

**Subject:** History MA Program Requirement Change

Dear Eric,

In our department meeting today, History decided to propose a change to our MA program requirements. As we discussed last year, in order to fulfill our language requirement, students must complete an intermediate-level course in a language or take the Reading for Research Course offered by LLCL in French, German, or Spanish. In particular, our students were regularly taking FRE 5060, but based on our conversations, I understand that this will only be offered every other summer going forward.

Given the existing requirements for credits within the History Department, our students are generally not able to take additional language credits during the Fall or Spring semesters.

If we retain the language requirement for graduate students in the History MA, we will be significantly delaying graduation for many of our students. It is our belief that it would be best to eliminate the requirement, given that we are not able to provide the classes that would allow them to complete a language requirement.

Before filing paperwork to make this change, I wanted to check in with you about LLCL's position on the removal of the language requirement.

Best,  
Adrian