M.A. in History

Degree Requirements

- **Credit Hours:** Students are required to complete a minimum of 30 credit hours in History at the graduate level. Up to 12 credits can be at the 400 or 500 level.

- **Grade Point Average:** Students must earn a minimum overall GPA of 2.75, and a GPA of 3.00 in coursework applied to their graduate program.

- **Graduation Requirement:** Students have the option of either taking a comprehensive examination or completing a thesis.
  - **Master’s Thesis:** The thesis must be based on original research that demonstrates a critical engagement with primary sources and the secondary literature and is developed in multiple chapters. Students must first prepare a thesis prospectus, which must be approved by their thesis committee, before writing and successfully defending the thesis in an oral examination. A maximum of six hours of credit for HIST 697 (http://catalog.wvu.edu/search/?P=HIST%20697) can be taken for writing the thesis.
  - **Comprehensive Examination:** Students who choose this option must register for HIST 795 while preparing for their exam. In their final semester, they complete comprehensive exams in their major and minor fields, based on their coursework and in consultation with a faculty adviser for each field. The comprehensive exams include a written component and an oral defense.

- **Progress toward completion:** Students will be evaluated annually. If adequate progress is not made, students may be placed on probation or suspended from the program. All students should complete a plan of study by the end of their second semester. Students who choose the thesis option should defend their thesis proposal prior to the beginning of the semester in which they intend to graduate, and submit and defend their thesis during the semester in which they intend to graduate. Students who choose the examination option should take HIST 795 and complete written and oral examinations during the semester in which they intend to graduate.

- **Additional Requirements:** Individual faculty may require their students to master one or more languages or to demonstrate proficiency in particular research methods (quantitative analysis, paleography, GIS, etc.) or to develop other skills as necessary for their areas of study and thesis projects.

**THESIS OPTION CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS**

**Core Courses**

- **Historiography Requirement:**
  - HIST 700 Historiography 3

- **Primary Field:**
  - Select one of the following sequences:
    - HIST 701 & HIST 702: Readings in Medieval History and Seminar in Medieval History
    - HIST 705 & HIST 706: Readings in Early Modern History 3 Hr and Seminar in Early Modern History
    - HIST 708 & HIST 709: Readings In Central European History and Seminar in Central European History
    - HIST 714 & HIST 715: Readings in Eastern European History and Seminar In Eastern European History
    - HIST 717 & HIST 718: Readings In Modern European History and Seminar in Modern European History
    - HIST 721 & HIST 722: Readings in Asian History and Seminar in Asian History
    - HIST 725 & HIST 726: Readings in African History and Seminar in African History
    - HIST 729 & HIST 730: Readings in Latin American History and Seminar In Latin American History
    - HIST 757 & HIST 758: Readings in United States History: 1787-1850 and Seminar in United States History: 1787-1850
HIST 759 & HIST 760  
Readings in United States History: 1840-1898  
and Seminar in United States History: 1850-1898

HIST 763 & HIST 764  
Readings in United States History: 1898-Present  
and Seminar in United States History: 1898-Present

HIST 765 & HIST 766  
Readings in United States Diplomatic History  
and Seminar in United States Diplomatic History

HIST 773 & HIST 774  
Readings in Appalachian Regional History  
and Seminar in Appalachian Regional History

HIST 775 & HIST 776  
Readings in Science and Technology  
and Seminar in Science and Technology

HIST 785 & HIST 786  
Readings in Environmental History  
and Seminar in Environmental History

Any 2 HIST courses related to the field at the 400 level or above.*

**Secondary Field:**  
Select any 2 HIST courses related to the field at the 400 level or above *

**Electives:**  
Select any HIST course at the 400 level or above *

**Thesis**  
HIST 697  
Research  
6

Total Hours  
30

* Except HIST 697, 700, 790, 797, 799

**THESIS OPTION NON-COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

Thesis Prospectus  
Oral Examination

**COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION OPTION CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS**

**Core Courses**

**Historiography Requirement:**

HIST 700  
Historiography  
3

**Primary Field:**

Select one of the following sequences:

HIST 701 & HIST 702  
Readings in Medieval History  
and Seminar in Medieval History

HIST 705 & HIST 706  
Readings in Early Modern History 3 Hr  
and Seminar in Early Modern History

HIST 708 & HIST 709  
Readings In Central European History  
and Seminar in Central European History

HIST 714 & HIST 715  
Readings in Eastern European History  
and Seminar In Eastern European History

HIST 717 & HIST 718  
Readings In Modern European History  
and Seminar in Modern European History

HIST 721 & HIST 722  
Readings in Asian History  
and Seminar in Asian History

HIST 725 & HIST 726  
Readings in African History  
and Seminar in African History

HIST 729 & HIST 730  
Readings in Latin American History  
and Seminar In Latin American History

HIST 731 & HIST 732  
Readings In American History: 1585-1763  
and Seminar in American History: 1585-1763

HIST 755 & HIST 756  
Readings in American History: 1763-1800  
and Seminar In American History: 1763-1830

HIST 757 & HIST 758  
Readings in United States History: 1787-1850  
and Seminar in United States History: 1787-1850
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Any 2 HIST courses related to the field at the 400 level or above.

**Secondary Field:** 6

Select any 2 HIST courses related to the field at the 400 level or above.

**Electives:** 3

Select any HIST course at the 400 level or above.

**Examination** 6

HIST 795 Independent Study

Additional Reading Seminar

**Total Hours** 30

*Except HIST 697, 700, 790, 797, 799

**COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION OPTION NON-COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

Major Field Comprehensive Exam

Minor Field Comprehensive Exam