HISTORY, MA

for the degree of Master of Arts in History

chair of department: Dana Rabin
director of graduate studies: Carol Symes
department website: http://www.history.illinois.edu
department faculty:
overview of grad college admissions & requirements: https://
grad.illinois.edu/admissions/apply (https://grad.illinois.edu/
admissions/apply/)
college website: https://las.illinois.edu/
department office: 309 Gregory Hall, 810 South Wright Street,
Urbana, IL 61801
phone: (217) 244-2591
email: history@illinois.edu

Students enrolled in the Ph.D. program can usually petition to earn a
Master of Arts in History within three semesters.

Graduate Degree Programs in History

History, MA (p. 1)
optional concentrations:
African American Studies (http://catalog.illinois.edu/
graduate/las/concentration/african-american-

studies/) Medieval Studies (http://catalog.illinois.edu/
graduate/las/concentration/medieval-studies/)

History, PhD (p. 1)
optional concentrations:
African American Studies (http://catalog.illinois.edu/
graduate/las/concentration/african-american-

studies/) Medieval Studies (http://catalog.illinois.edu/
graduate/las/concentration/medieval-studies/)

Teaching of Social Studies, MA
Joint degree:
History, MA and Library & Information Science, MS (http://
catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/is_las/history-ma-library-
information-science-ms/)

The Department of History offers graduate courses leading to the Doctor of
Philosophy degree, complete details of which may be found in the
Graduate Studies section of the department’s web site. Students are not
normally admitted to a terminal master’s degree program.

Admission

Applicants should have a minimum of 20 semester hours of
undergraduate work in history and cognate disciplines with an overall
GPA of 3.25 in the last two years. Applicants who have a master’s degree
should have a grade point average of 3.5 for previous graduate-level
work. All applicants are required to submit Graduate Record Examination
(GRE) scores (verbal, writing, and quantitative are mandatory; history
is optional). All applicants are required to submit a writing sample.
Language preparation may be weighted heavily, depending upon the
field of specialization. Foreign students whose native language is not
English need a paper-based Test of English as a Foreign Language
(TOEFL) score of at least 600 (250 on the computer-based test). Most
successful applicants have GRE verbal scores of over 80% and/or TOEFL
scores of over 630 (260 computer). Only in exceptional circumstances are
students admitted for the spring term. The department is not currently
admitting to the Teaching of Social Studies program. For additional
details refer to www.history.illinois.edu/graduate/prospective/
(http://
www.history.illinois.edu/graduate/prospective/).

Graduate Teaching Experience

Although teaching is not a general Graduate College requirement,
experience in teaching is considered an important part of the graduate
experience in this program.

Facilities and Resources

The extraordinary University Library is the department’s main research
facility; within it, the History, Philosophy & Newspaper Library, the
Rare Book Room, and the area studies libraries (Slavic, Africana, Latin
American, Asian Libraries) all serve faculty and students with expert
bibliographers and focused collections. Among other special collections
much used by historians are Afro-Americana and Women’s Studies; the
library is also a major repository for government documents.

Financial Aid

Financial aid is almost always awarded on an academic-year basis.
Applications by incoming students are considered with admission
applications. All fellowships and assistantships include a stipend plus
tuition and service fee waiver.

Both University and department endowment fellowships are available
to entering students and to advanced doctoral students embarked on
their research or the writing of their dissertations. Foreign Language
and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowships may support first- and second-year
students who have special interests in foreign area studies. Entering
students from underrepresented groups may be awarded one-to
two-year Graduate College Fellowships. The Illinois Consortium for
Educational Opportunity Program (ICEOP) offers renewable fellowships
to underrepresented minority students who are Illinois residents and plan
academic careers within the state. Half-time teaching assistantships
are the department’s primary form of financial aid for graduate students
in the Ph.D. program. Students who progress satisfactorily toward their
degrees and demonstrate effective teaching will have their teaching
assistantships renewed for a second, and usually a third, year.

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Thesis Option

Code Title Hours
HIST 598 (2 hours per term) is required of candidates who
hold teaching assistantships, during each semester they hold
an appointment
HIST 593 Approaches to History 8
& HIST 594 and Intro Historical Writing 8
Two additional 500-level courses in history 8
Two courses in each of two of the fields of specialization
offered by the department. 16
Language Requirement: candidate must demonstrate ability
to read one foreign language related to his or her field of
interest as approved by the graduate advisers
HIST 599 Thesis Research (8 max applied toward
degree) 8
Total Hours 32
Other Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<td>Minimum 500-level Hours Required Overall:</td>
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<td>At least one research seminar (HIST 596) with a grade of B or better must be included.</td>
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<td>Students may take up to two of the required eight courses in departments other than History, if approved.</td>
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For additional details and requirements refer to the department's graduate degree requirements (http://www.history.illinois.edu/graduate/current/requirements/) and the Graduate College Handbook (http://www.grad.illinois.edu/gradhandbook/).

Non-Thesis Option

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