HISTORY, PHD

for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy 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
college website: https://las.illinois.edu/
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Graduate Degree Programs in History

History, MA (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/has/history-ma/)
optional concentrations:
  African American Studies (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/has/concentration/african-american-studies/)
  Medieval Studies (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/has/concentration/medieval-studies/)
History, PhD (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/has/history-ma/)
optional concentrations:
  African American Studies (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/has/concentration/african-american-studies/)
  Medieval Studies (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/has/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-American 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 three-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.