

HISTORY, MA

Banner Code: LA-MA-HIST

Academic Advising

B359 Robinson Hall
Fairfax Campus

Website: historyarthistory.gmu.edu/programs/la-ma-hist

The History MA is at the forefront of both traditional historical study and innovative digital approaches to the past. Students select from a variety of course topics while also selecting an area of historical specialization that accommodates their interests and furthers their career objectives. Students come to the program with diverse career objectives, and the program is designed with that diversity in mind. Students take classes in which they discuss history alongside future academics, public historians, teachers, military officers, non-profit professionals, government officials, and entrepreneurs.

Admissions & Policies

Admissions

Applicants to all graduate programs at George Mason University must meet the admission standards and application requirements for graduate study as specified in Graduate Admissions. For specific information, see Application Requirements and Deadlines (<http://historyarthistory.gmu.edu/programs/application/LA-MA-HIST>) on the departmental website.

Policies

For policies governing all graduate degrees, see Graduate Policies.

Foundation Courses

Students may be required to take up to 12 additional credits of foundation courses, which cover broad thematic areas (HIST 601 Themes in U.S. History I, HIST 602 Themes in U.S. History II, HIST 605 Themes in European History I, HIST 606 Themes in European History II), to remedy gaps in their undergraduate preparation. If required as foundational, these credits cannot be applied toward the credits required for the degree.

If foundation courses are not required at admission, students in the concentrations in enrichment and teaching may apply up to one thematic course (3 credits) toward their degree. Students in the other concentrations may not apply these courses toward their degree.

Reduction of Credit

The program does not permit a reduction of credit based on a previously conferred graduate degree. Students may apply no more than 6 credits earned through study abroad courses toward their degree.

Requirements

Degree Requirements

Total credits: 30 or 36

Students should be aware of the specific policies associated with this program, located on the Admissions & Policies tab.

Students pursuing this degree must complete the requirements for one of the concentrations below. The concentrations in higher education and teaching require 36 credits, all others require 30 credits.

Concentration in Predoctoral History (AH1, EH1, WH1)

This concentration is for students planning to pursue doctoral studies. Students choose one of three geographic specializations and a chronological or thematic minor field within that specialization. Students complete coursework and a research seminar in their geographic specialization and an additional independent project or thesis in their minor field.

Required Course

HIST 610	The Study and Writing of History ¹	3
Total Credits		3

¹ Must be taken within the first 9 credits

Specialization

Students complete one of the following geographic specializations.

Specialization in U.S. History

Select four courses from the following:¹ 12

Origins to 1861		
HIST 613	The Colonial Origins of American Society	
HIST 618	The Age of Jackson, 1815-1854	
HIST 620	Development of the Early Republic, 1783-1815	
HIST 631	Era of the American Revolution	
HIST 661	Religion in North America to 1870	
HIST 615	Problems in American History (when topic applies and with department approval)	
Other appropriate course with department approval		
1861-1914		
HIST 617	Topics in the American Civil War Era	
HIST 622	U.S. South Since 1865	
HIST 629	The Gilded Age and Progressive Era	
HIST 633	Reconstruction	
HIST 662	U.S. Religion since 1870	
HIST 615	Problems in American History (when topic applies and with department approval)	
Other appropriate course with department approval		
1914 World War I to the Present		
HIST 622	U.S. South Since 1865	
HIST 623	Recent U.S. History, 1945 to Present	
HIST 634	Interwar America: 1918-1939	
HIST 662	U.S. Religion since 1870	
HIST 677	The Vietnam War	
HIST 615	Problems in American History (when topic applies and with department approval)	
Other appropriate course with department approval		

¹ Select at least 3 credits from each group

Specialization in European History

Select four courses from the following: ¹ 12

Ancient, Medieval, Early Modern to 1789

HIST 642	Humanism and the Renaissance
HIST 643	Religion and Society in the Reformation Era
HIST 644	Society and Culture in Early Modern Europe
HIST 645	The Russian Revolution and the Origins of the Soviet State
HIST 635	Problems in European History (when topic applies and with department approval)

Other appropriate course with department approval

1789-1914

HIST 637	Great Britain: Empire to Commonwealth, 1870-1970
HIST 639	Society and Politics in Western Europe, 1750-1914
HIST 640	Metropolitan Cities of Europe in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries
HIST 635	Problems in European History (when topic applies and with department approval)

Other appropriate course with department approval

1914 to the Present

HIST 637	Great Britain: Empire to Commonwealth, 1870-1970
HIST 640	Metropolitan Cities of Europe in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries
HIST 645	The Russian Revolution and the Origins of the Soviet State
HIST 635	Problems in European History (when topic applies with department approval)

Other appropriate course with department approval

¹ Select at least 3 credits from each group.

Specialization in World History

Select four courses from the following: ¹ 12

World

HIST 510	Approaches to Modern World History
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Africa

HIST 565	Problems in African History
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Other appropriate course with department approval

Asia

HIST 555	Problems in Asian History
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Other appropriate course with department approval

Middle East

HIST 575	Approaches to Middle East and Islamic History
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HIST 585	Problems in Middle Eastern History
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Other appropriate course with department approval

Latin America

HIST 525	Problems in Latin American History
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Other appropriate course with department approval

¹ Select at least 3 credits from two regions.

Research Seminar in a Geographic Specialization

Select one research seminar from the following: 3

HIST 711	Research Seminar in U.S. History
HIST 731	Research Seminar in European History
HIST 751	Research Seminar in Comparative World History

Total Credits 3

Minor Field Concentration

In consultation with the graduate director and other faculty, students identify a chronological or topical subspecialty and select two courses that relate directly to that subspecialty. 6

Total Credits 6

Language Proficiency

Language proficiency sufficient to conduct primary source research in the student's intended area of concentration, as demonstrated by thesis or independent research project.

Project or Thesis

Select 6 credits of Project or Thesis 6

Project and additional Elective

HIST 798	Directed Research and Writing in History ¹
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Additional 3 credits from Specialization

Thesis

HIST 799	Thesis
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Total Credits 6

¹ requires the completion of a major paper that is a substantial and original contribution to historical knowledge on the model of an article in a scholarly journal. If students choose to take , they complete an additional 3 credits in their specialization.

Concentration in Applied History (AH2, EH2, WH2)

This concentration is for students seeking expertise in applied history fields, such as archival management, museum studies, historic preservation, and historical editing. It is also suitable for professionally employed historians who desire to further their careers.

Required Course

HIST 610	The Study and Writing of History ¹	3
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Total Credits 3

¹ Must be taken within the first 9 credits

Specialization

Students complete one of the following geographic specializations.

Specialization in U.S. History

Select four courses from the following: ¹ 12

Origins to 1861

HIST 613	The Colonial Origins of American Society
HIST 618	The Age of Jackson, 1815-1854
HIST 620	Development of the Early Republic, 1783-1815

HIST 631	Era of the American Revolution
HIST 661	Religion in North America to 1870
HIST 615	Problems in American History (when topic applies and with department approval)
Other appropriate course with department approval	

1861-1914

HIST 617	Topics in the American Civil War Era
HIST 622	U.S. South Since 1865
HIST 629	The Gilded Age and Progressive Era
HIST 633	Reconstruction
HIST 662	U.S. Religion since 1870
HIST 615	Problems in American History (when topic applies and with department approval)
Other appropriate course with department approval	

1914 World War I to the Present

HIST 622	U.S. South Since 1865
HIST 623	Recent U.S. History, 1945 to Present
HIST 634	Interwar America: 1918-1939
HIST 662	U.S. Religion since 1870
HIST 677	The Vietnam War
HIST 615	Problems in American History (when topic applies and with department approval)
Other appropriate course with department approval	

¹ Select at least 3 credits from each group.

Specialization in European History

Select four courses from the following: ¹ 12

Ancient, Medieval, Early Modern to 1789

HIST 642	Humanism and the Renaissance
HIST 643	Religion and Society in the Reformation Era
HIST 644	Society and Culture in Early Modern Europe
HIST 645	The Russian Revolution and the Origins of the Soviet State
HIST 635	Problems in European History (when topic applies and with department approval)
Other appropriate course with department approval	

1789-1914

HIST 637	Great Britain: Empire to Commonwealth, 1870-1970
HIST 639	Society and Politics in Western Europe, 1750-1914
HIST 640	Metropolitan Cities of Europe in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries
HIST 635	Problems in European History (when topic applies and with department approval)
Other appropriate course with department approval	

1914 to the Present

HIST 637	Great Britain: Empire to Commonwealth, 1870-1970
HIST 640	Metropolitan Cities of Europe in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries

HIST 645	The Russian Revolution and the Origins of the Soviet State
HIST 635	Problems in European History (when topic applies with department approval)
Other appropriate course with department approval	

¹ Select at least 3 credits from each group.

Specialization in World History

Select four courses from the following: ¹ 12

World

HIST 510	Approaches to Modern World History
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Africa

HIST 565	Problems in African History
Other appropriate course with department approval	

Asia

HIST 555	Problems in Asian History
Other appropriate course with department approval	

Middle East

HIST 575	Approaches to Middle East and Islamic History
HIST 585	Problems in Middle Eastern History
Other appropriate course with department approval	

Latin America

HIST 525	Problems in Latin American History
Other appropriate course with department approval	

¹ Select at least 3 credits from two regions.

Research Seminar in a Specialization

Select one research seminar from the following: 3

HIST 711	Research Seminar in U.S. History
HIST 731	Research Seminar in European History
HIST 751	Research Seminar in Comparative World History

Total Credits 3

Applied History

These include courses in historic preservation, museum studies, archives, historical editing, or new media and information technology.

Select two to three courses from the following: 6-9

HIST 680	Introduction to Digital Humanities
HIST 685	Topics in Applied History
HIST 688	Topics in History and New Media
HIST 689	Teaching and Learning History in the Digital Age
HIST 690	The Administration of Archives and Manuscripts
HIST 691	Museum Studies
HIST 692	Historical Editing
HIST 693	Historic Preservation
HIST 694	Digital Public History
HIST 695	History Symposium
HIST 696	Clio Wired: An Introduction to History and New Media

HIST 697	Creating History in New Media	
HIST 698	Programming in History and New Media	
Other appropriate course with department approval		
Total Credits		6-9

Internship

If students chose to do a 3-credit internship, they will take an additional 3 credits in applied history course work from the list of courses above (HIST 680 - HIST 698).

HIST 794	Internship in Applied History	3-6
Total Credits		3-6

Proficiency in a Relevant Research Tool

Demonstrated by course work or exam in computers, statistics, or a modern foreign language

Concentration in Applied History with New Media and Information Technology Emphasis (AH4, EH4, WH4)

Students pursuing this concentration take:

Required Course

HIST 610	The Study and Writing of History ¹	3
Total Credits		3

¹ Must be taken within the first 9 credits

Specialization

Students complete one of the following geographic specializations.

Specialization in U.S. History

Select four courses from the following: ¹ 12

Origins to 1861

HIST 613	The Colonial Origins of American Society	
HIST 618	The Age of Jackson, 1815-1854	
HIST 620	Development of the Early Republic, 1783-1815	
HIST 631	Era of the American Revolution	
HIST 661	Religion in North America to 1870	
HIST 615	Problems in American History (when topic applies and with department approval)	
Other appropriate course with department approval		

1861-1914

HIST 617	Topics in the American Civil War Era	
HIST 622	U.S. South Since 1865	
HIST 629	The Gilded Age and Progressive Era	
HIST 633	Reconstruction	
HIST 662	U.S. Religion since 1870	
HIST 615	Problems in American History (when topic applies and with department approval)	
Other appropriate course with department approval		

1914 World War I to the Present

HIST 622	U.S. South Since 1865	
HIST 623	Recent U.S. History, 1945 to Present	
HIST 634	Interwar America: 1918-1939	
HIST 662	U.S. Religion since 1870	
HIST 677	The Vietnam War	

HIST 615	Problems in American History (when topic applies and with department approval)	
Other appropriate course with department approval		

¹ Select at least 3 credits from each group.

Specialization in European History

Select four courses from the following: ¹ 12

Ancient, Medieval, Early Modern to 1789

HIST 642	Humanism and the Renaissance	
HIST 643	Religion and Society in the Reformation Era	
HIST 644	Society and Culture in Early Modern Europe	
HIST 645	The Russian Revolution and the Origins of the Soviet State	
HIST 635	Problems in European History (when topic applies and with department approval)	
Other appropriate course with department approval		

1789-1914

HIST 637	Great Britain: Empire to Commonwealth, 1870-1970	
HIST 639	Society and Politics in Western Europe, 1750-1914	
HIST 640	Metropolitan Cities of Europe in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries	
HIST 635	Problems in European History (when topic applies and with department approval)	
Other appropriate course with department approval		

1914 to the Present

HIST 637	Great Britain: Empire to Commonwealth, 1870-1970	
HIST 640	Metropolitan Cities of Europe in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries	
HIST 645	The Russian Revolution and the Origins of the Soviet State	
HIST 635	Problems in European History (when topic applies with department approval)	
Other appropriate course with department approval		

¹ Select at least 3 credits from each group.

Specialization in World History

Select four courses from the following: ¹ 12

World

HIST 510	Approaches to Modern World History	
Africa		
HIST 565	Problems in African History	
Other appropriate course with department approval		

Asia

HIST 555	Problems in Asian History	
Other appropriate course with department approval		

Middle East

HIST 575	Approaches to Middle East and Islamic History	
HIST 585	Problems in Middle Eastern History	

Other appropriate course with department approval

Latin America

HIST 525 Problems in Latin American History

Other appropriate course with department approval

¹ Select at least 3 credits from two regions.

Research Seminar in a Specialization

Select one research seminar from the following: 3

HIST 711 Research Seminar in U.S. History

HIST 731 Research Seminar in European History

HIST 751 Research Seminar in Comparative World History

Total Credits 3

New Media and Information Technology

Select two courses in new media and information technology 6

¹
Total Credits 6

¹ Students should consult the department for relevant courses.

Internship in Information Technology

If students chose to do a 3-credit internship, they will take an additional 3 credits in applied history course work from courses numbered HIST 680 - HIST 698.

HIST 794 Internship in Applied History 3-6

Total Credits 3-6

Proficiency in a Relevant Research Tool

Demonstrated by course work or exam in computer science, statistics, information technology, or a modern foreign language

Concentration in Enrichment (AH3, EH3, WH3)

This concentration is for students who want to study history for intellectual self-fulfillment or vocational reasons. It allows more flexibility in the selection of courses and does not have a foreign language requirement.

Required Course

HIST 610 The Study and Writing of History ¹ 3

Total Credits 3

¹ Must be taken within the first 9 credits.

Specialization

Students complete one of the following specializations.

Specialization in U.S. History

Select four courses from the following: ¹ 12

Origins to 1861

HIST 613 The Colonial Origins of American Society

HIST 618 The Age of Jackson, 1815-1854

HIST 620 Development of the Early Republic, 1783-1815

HIST 631 Era of the American Revolution

HIST 661 Religion in North America to 1870

HIST 615 Problems in American History (when topic applies and with department approval)

Other appropriate course with department approval

1861-1914

HIST 617 Topics in the American Civil War Era

HIST 622 U.S. South Since 1865

HIST 629 The Gilded Age and Progressive Era

HIST 633 Reconstruction

HIST 662 U.S. Religion since 1870

HIST 615 Problems in American History (when topic applies and with department approval)

Other appropriate course with department approval

1914 World War I to the Present

HIST 622 U.S. South Since 1865

HIST 623 Recent U.S. History, 1945 to Present

HIST 634 Interwar America: 1918-1939

HIST 662 U.S. Religion since 1870

HIST 677 The Vietnam War

HIST 615 Problems in American History (when topic applies and with department approval)

Other appropriate course with department approval

¹ Select at least 3 credits from each group.

Specialization in European History

Select four courses from the following: ¹ 12

Ancient, Medieval, Early Modern to 1789

HIST 642 Humanism and the Renaissance

HIST 643 Religion and Society in the Reformation Era

HIST 644 Society and Culture in Early Modern Europe

HIST 645 The Russian Revolution and the Origins of the Soviet State

HIST 635 Problems in European History (when topic applies and with department approval)

Other appropriate course with department approval

1789-1914

HIST 637 Great Britain: Empire to Commonwealth, 1870-1970

HIST 639 Society and Politics in Western Europe, 1750-1914

HIST 640 Metropolitan Cities of Europe in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries

HIST 635 Problems in European History (when topic applies and with department approval)

Other appropriate course with department approval

1914 to the Present

HIST 637 Great Britain: Empire to Commonwealth, 1870-1970

HIST 640 Metropolitan Cities of Europe in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries

HIST 645 The Russian Revolution and the Origins of the Soviet State

HIST 635 Problems in European History (when topic applies with department approval)

Other appropriate course with department approval

¹ Select at least 3 credits from each group.

Specialization in World History

Select four courses from the following: ¹ 12

World

HIST 510 Approaches to Modern World History

Africa

HIST 565 Problems in African History

Other appropriate course with department approval

Asia

HIST 555 Problems in Asian History

Other appropriate course with department approval

Middle East

HIST 575 Approaches to Middle East and Islamic History

HIST 585 Problems in Middle Eastern History

Other appropriate course with department approval

Latin America

HIST 525 Problems in Latin American History

Other appropriate course with department approval

¹ Select at least 3 credits from two regions.

Research Seminar in a Specialization

Select one research seminar from the following: 3

HIST 711 Research Seminar in U.S. History

HIST 731 Research Seminar in European History

HIST 751 Research Seminar in Comparative World History

Total Credits 3

Course in a Field Outside of Geographic Specialization

Select one course from U.S., European, or world history (listed above) that is not in their chosen specialization. 3

Total Credits 3

Elective Courses

Students can choose to pursue a Thesis in lieu of two electives 9

Select three elective courses

Thesis

HIST 799 Thesis

Select one elective course

Total Credits 9

Concentration in Higher Education (HEDU)

The concentration in higher education is intended for students who want to teach history at community college. It includes coursework in both history and education, including a course on college teaching. Students are required to take at least one history course in each of three areas (U.S., European, and world history), and they are encouraged to take two courses in each area to prepare them to teach the U.S., western

civilization, and world history survey courses most commonly offered at the community college level.

HIST 610 The Study and Writing of History ¹ 3

Total Credits 3

¹ Must be taken with the first 9 credits.

Additional Courses in History

Select six courses in history ¹ 18

Total Credits 18

¹ Must include at least one course each from U.S. European, and world history.

Research Seminar

Select one course from the following: 3

HIST 711 Research Seminar in U.S. History

HIST 731 Research Seminar in European History

HIST 751 Research Seminar in Comparative World History

Total Credits 3

Graduate Education

Select four courses from the following: 12

HE 602 College Teaching

HE 685 Practicum

Six credits of HE electives

Total Credits 12

Concentration in Teaching (HS4)

This concentration offers students interested in a career in secondary education the option to devote part of their History MA to graduate coursework that can be applied toward the requirements for licensure in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Students who have an interest in obtaining licensure to teach should meet with a pre-Education advisor in the College Of Education and Human Development at the beginning of their program to create a plan for completion of the required content-coursework prerequisites (Endorsements). You can view information here: <https://cehd.gmu.edu/endorse/> or contact the Pre-Education Advising Coordinator at endorse@gmu.edu. Students seeking licensure must also enroll in the Secondary Education Licensure Graduate Certificate program (E1-CERG-SELCO), a state-approved educator preparation program. Upon completion of the discipline-specific content competencies coursework; the MA in History, concentration in teaching; and the Secondary Education Licensure Graduate Certificate, students will be eligible for recommendation for an initial teaching license in Secondary Education History and Social Science.

Required Course

HIST 610 The Study and Writing of History ¹ 3

Total Credits 3

¹ Must be taken within the first 9 credits.

History

Select six courses in history, at least one course each from U.S., European, and world history 18

Total Credits 18

Research Seminar

Select one research seminar from the following: 3

HIST 711	Research Seminar in U.S. History	3
HIST 731	Research Seminar in European History	3
HIST 751	Research Seminar in Comparative World History	3

Total Credits 3

College of Education and Human Development Graduate Courses

EDCI 567	Teaching Social Studies in the Secondary School	3
EDUC 522	Foundations of Secondary Education	3
EDRD 619	Literacy in Content Areas	3
EDUC 672	Human Development and Learning: Secondary Education	3

Total Credits 12

Accelerated Master's

History, BA/History, Accelerated MA

Overview

Highly-qualified Mason undergraduates may apply to the accelerated master's degree program and obtain both a BA and a MA in history after satisfactory completion of 144 credits. The BA and MA earned separately require 120 and 30 credits respectively. If accepted into the program, they must have completed 90 credits including HIST 300 Introduction to Historical Method (Mason Core) with a minimum grade of B+ before they can enter the program.

Interested students should contact the Director of Undergraduate Programs for details about the application process.

For more detailed information, see AP.6.7 Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's Degrees. For policies governing all graduate degrees, see AP.6 Graduate Policies.

Application Requirements

Applicants to all graduate programs at George Mason University must meet the admission standards and application requirements for graduate study as specified in Graduate Admissions. For information specific to the accelerated MA in history, see Application Requirements and Deadlines (<http://historyarthistory.gmu.edu/programs/la-ma-acel-hist/application>) on the departmental web site.

Accelerated Option Requirements

Applicants accepted to the accelerated MA program must have completed 90 credits including HIST 300 Introduction to Historical Method (Mason Core) with a minimum grade of B+ as a condition to entry into the program.

While undergraduate students, accelerated master's students complete two graduate courses (HIST 610 The Study and Writing of History and one additional 3 credit HIST course at the 500-level or 600-level), as indicated on their Accelerated Master's Program Application, with a minimum grade of 3.00 in each course. These credits cannot replace HIST 499 RS: Senior Seminar in History (Mason Core). Once admitted to the accelerated master's pathway, students must maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.25 in all coursework and earn a B or better (3.00 or higher) in coursework applied to their major. On completion and

conferral of the undergraduate degree in the semester indicated in the application, they submit the Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's Transition Form and are admitted to graduate status.

As graduate students, accelerated master's students have an advanced standing. They must meet all master's degree requirements except for the two courses (6 credits) they completed as undergraduates. Students must begin their master's program the semester immediately following conferral of the undergraduate degree.

Reserve Graduate Credit

Students may take up to 6 additional credits of HIST courses at the 500-level or 600-level as reserve graduate credit. These credits do not apply to the undergraduate degree. To apply these credits to the master's degree, students should use the Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's Transition Form.

The ability to take courses, including ones not listed above, for reserve graduate credit is available to all high achieving undergraduates with the permission of the department. Permission is normally granted only to qualified Mason seniors within 15 hours of graduation. See AP.1.4.4 Graduate Course Enrollment by Undergraduates.