

HISTORY, PHD

Banner Code: LA-PHD-HIST

Academic Advising

B359 Robinson Hall
Fairfax Campus

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

The PhD prepares students for careers in college teaching, digital media, publishing, educational administration, public history, and historical research. Students gain expertise in conventional historical methods and web-based technologies. Major fields include U.S. history, European history, and world history; minor fields are chosen by the student and may include such areas as public history, constitutional studies, and new media and information technology.

Depending on career goals and interests, students can also focus their degrees in one of four areas of emphases.

Emphases Areas

College and University Teaching

This emphasis is for students who are seeking a career in teaching or research at the community college, college, or university level.

New Media and Information Technology

Although all students in the program take some courses in new media, students in this emphasis seek careers specifically in new media (publishing, education, or a college or university history department where they would serve as the department's lead person in new media and information technology). This emphasis requires more advanced work in new media than any other.

Public and Applied History

This emphasis prepares students for work in applied areas of history, such as museums, archives, federal government work, preservation, and editing, or helps students already working in those areas to advance. In some cases, students will do advanced course work in their field of work; in other cases, they will acquire knowledge or skills that will foster their professional work (such as nonprofit management).

Professional Development

This emphasis responds to the needs of students who have already launched a career and want a doctoral degree to further career goals or fulfill personal intellectual goals. Candidates who need flexible scheduling will be advised on a case-by-case basis.

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-PHD-HIST>) on the departmental web site.

Policies

For policies governing all graduate degrees, see Graduate Policies.

Reduction of Credit

For students entering the doctoral program with a master's degree, the number of required credits may be reduced by a maximum of 30 credits, subject to approval of the program faculty and the dean. Requests for reduction of credit are reviewed only after acceptance to the doctoral program.

Requirements

Degree Requirements

Total credits: 72

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

Students will be terminated from the program if they receive more than one unsatisfactory grade (C or F). No more than 6 credits earned through study abroad courses may be applied towards the degree.

Core Courses

HIST 610	The Study and Writing of History	3
HIST 696	Clio Wired: An Introduction to History and New Media	3
HIST 697	Creating History in New Media	3
HIST 810	History Doctoral Colloquium (Students take 1 credit a semester until they advance to candidacy or reach a maximum of 6 credits.)	1
HIST 811	Doctoral Research Seminar	3
Select one seminar 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 16

Major Field

Select 15 credits of courses in one of three possible fields: 15

U.S. History
European History
Comparative World History

Total Credits 15

Minor Fields

Select two minor fields and take 9 credits in each ¹ 18

Total Credits 18

¹ Minor fields may include areas such as public history, constitutional studies, and new media and information technology.

Doctoral Research Skills

Students must demonstrate basic competency in computers. Students whose research requires knowledge of a foreign language must also demonstrate a reading knowledge of one foreign language. The department sets specific research skills requirements for students, depending on their field of study.

Comprehensive Exam

Students need to pass a comprehensive exam that consists of a written field exam for each minor field and an oral exam for the major field.

Advancement to Candidacy

To advance to candidacy, students must complete all course work required on their approved program of study. Students must also successfully complete and pass an oral comprehensive exam in a major field and written examinations in two minor fields. In addition, students must have a dissertation committee appointed by the Dean's Office as well as an approved proposal. Evidence of the approved proposal must be on file in the Dean's Office before a student can be advanced to candidacy.

Dissertation

Once enrolled in HIST 998 Doctoral Dissertation Proposal, students in this degree program must maintain continuous registration in HIST 998 Doctoral Dissertation Proposal or HIST 999 Doctoral Dissertation Research each semester (excluding summers) until the dissertation is submitted to and accepted by the University Libraries. Once enrolled in HIST 999 Doctoral Dissertation Research, students must follow the university's continuous registration policy as specified in AP.6.10.6 Dissertation Research. Students who defend in the summer must be registered for at least 1 credit of HIST 999 Doctoral Dissertation Research.

Students who complete less than 6 credits of HIST 810 History Doctoral Colloquium must take additional credits of HIST 998 Doctoral Dissertation Proposal or HIST 999 Doctoral Dissertation Research to reach the 72 credits required for the program.

Students may apply to this degree a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 6 credits of HIST 998 Doctoral Dissertation Proposal and a minimum of 15 credits of HIST 999 Doctoral Dissertation Research.

Dissertation Research	18
HIST 998	Doctoral Dissertation Proposal (minimum of 3 credits)
HIST 999	Doctoral Dissertation Research (minimum of 15 credits)
Total Credits	18