HISTORY, B.A. (ABINGTON)

Begin Campus: Any Penn State Campus

End Campus: Abington

Program Description
This major provides a broad introduction to the history of the great civilizations of the world and specific areas of historical inquiry. Centered in one of the basic, traditional disciplines, the History major offers invaluable preparation for students interested in a career in government, international relations, law, or librarianship, as well as essential training for those interested in a professional career as an academic or public historian, archivist, or secondary school teacher. Along with the perspective on the present that a study of the past engenders, the program develops skills in research, analysis, and synthesis that have proved useful in commerce and industry. The History major permits easy combination with minors, area studies, or even a concurrent major, providing flexibility in one’s career choice.

What is History?
History offers a compelling vision of human activity and capability—from the heights of human creativity and compassion, to the depths of cruelty. It offers a unique analytical perspective on the world, too, because it brings to bear a comprehensive view that social-science disciplines seldom match. To understand history, we need to know about culture, religion, art, as well as politics and war. The study of history permits a breadth of knowledge, an understanding of trends, and many other intellectual perspectives that allow an individual to better comprehend today’s complex world.

You Might Like This Program If...
• You want to learn to assess the credibility of sources; in today’s media-rich environment, you will put this skill to work every day.
• You want to gain a deeper understanding of complex causalities; as a history student you will practice thinking about the significance of multiple, often interlinking factors and the way they contribute to complex events.
• You’re interested in pursuing a career in law, business, or education.

Degree Requirements
For the Bachelor of Arts degree in History, a minimum of 123 credits is required:

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<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Education</td>
<td>45</td>
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<tr>
<td>Electives</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor of Arts Degree Requirements</td>
<td>24</td>
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<tr>
<td>Requirements</td>
<td>36</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

3 of the 24 credits for Bachelor of Arts Degree Requirements are included in the Requirements for the Major, General Education, or Electives and 0-12 credits are included in Electives if foreign language proficiency is demonstrated by examination.

Per Senate Policy 83-80.5, the college dean or campus chancellor and program faculty may require up to 24 credits of coursework in the major to be taken at the location or in the college or program where the degree is earned. For more information, check the Recommended Academic Plan for your intended program.

General Education
Connecting career and curiosity, the General Education curriculum provides the opportunity for students to acquire transferable skills necessary to be successful in the future and to thrive while living in interconnected contexts. General Education aids students in developing intellectual curiosity, a strengthened ability to think, and a deeper sense of aesthetic appreciation. These are requirements for all baccalaureate students and are often partially incorporated into the requirements of a program. For additional information, see the General Education Requirements (http://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-education/baccalaureate-degree-general-education-program) section of the Bulletin and consult your academic adviser.

The keystone symbol appears next to the title of any course that is designated as a General Education course. Program requirements may also satisfy General Education requirements and vary for each program.

Foundations (grade of C or better is required.)
• Quantification (GQ): 6 credits
• Writing and Speaking (GWS): 9 credits

Knowledge Domains
• Arts (GA): 6 credits
• Health and Wellness (GHW): 3 credits
• Humanities (GH): 6 credits
• Social and Behavioral Sciences (GS): 6 credits
• Natural Sciences (GN): 9 credits

Integrative Studies (may also complete a Knowledge Domain requirement)
• Inter-Domain or Approved Linked Courses: 6 credits

University Degree Requirements
First Year Engagement
All students enrolled in a college or the Division of Undergraduate Studies at University Park, and the World Campus are required to take 1 to 3 credits of the First-Year Seminar, as specified by their college First-Year Engagement Plan.

Other Penn State colleges and campuses may require the First-Year Seminar; colleges and campuses that do not require a First-Year Seminar provide students with a first-year engagement experience.

First-year baccalaureate students entering Penn State should consult their academic adviser for these requirements.

Cultures Requirement
6 credits are required and may satisfy other requirements
• United States Cultures: 3 credits
• International Cultures: 3 credits

Writing Across the Curriculum
3 credits required from the college of graduation and likely prescribed as part of major requirements.

Total Minimum Credits
A minimum of 120 degree credits must be earned for a baccalaureate degree. The requirements for some programs may exceed 120 credits.
Students should consult with their college or department adviser for information on specific credit requirements.

**Quality of Work**

Candidates must complete the degree requirements for their major and earn at least a 2.00 grade-point average for all courses completed within their degree program.

**Limitations on Source and Time for Credit Acquisition**

The college dean or campus chancellor and program faculty may require up to 24 credits of course work in the major to be taken at the location or in the college or program where the degree is earned. Credit used toward degree programs may need to be earned from a particular source or within time constraints (see Senate Policy 83-80). For more information, check the Suggested Academic Plan for your intended program.

**B.A. Degree Requirements**

**Foreign Language** (0-12 credits): Student must attain 12th credit level of proficiency in one foreign language. See the Placement Policy for Penn State Foreign Language Courses (http://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/academic-information/advising-planning-degree-program/course-placements/placement-policy-world-language-courses).

**B.A. Fields** (9 credits): Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences, Arts, Foreign Languages, Natural Sciences, Quantification (may not be taken in the area of the student’s primary major; foreign language credits in this category must be in a second foreign language or beyond the 12th credit level of proficiency in the first language)

**Other Cultures** (0-3 credits): Select 3 credits from approved list. Students may count courses in this category in order to meet other major, minor, elective, or General Education requirements, except for the General Education US/IL requirement.

**Requirements for the Major**

A grade of C or better is required for all courses in the major. To graduate, a student enrolled in the major must earn at least a C grade in each course designated by the major as a C-required course, as specified in Senate Policy 82-44 (http://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/#82-44). For more information, check the Suggested Academic Plan for your intended program.

**Integrated B.A./M.A. Program in History**

Available at the following campuses: University Park

The Department of History offers an integrated B.A./M.A. program that is designed to allow academically superior baccalaureate students to obtain both the B.A. and the M.A. degrees in History within five years of study. The first two years of undergraduate coursework include the University General Education and Liberal Arts requirements in addition to introductory coursework in the major. In the third year, students are expected to take upper-level courses and the department's undergraduate capstone seminar. By the fourth year students should have selected the primary fields of study and be enrolled exclusively in 400 and graduate-level courses in those areas. The fifth and final year of the program typically consists purely of graduate seminars. The program culminates with an M.A. oral defense of seminar papers that best represents their interests and work written in two of the graduate seminars.

By encouraging greater depth and focus by the beginning of the third undergraduate year, this program will help the student more clearly define his/her area of interest among the four main primary areas of focus in the department’s graduate program. As a result, long-range academic planning for exceptional students pursuing doctoral degrees after leaving Penn State, or other professional goals, will be greatly enhanced. With the IUG they would be highly qualified to enter directly into careers in secondary education, and other government positions that require graduate degrees. Students who have completed this program but wish to continue on to a Ph.D. will be more competitive in applying for admission to Ph.D. programs in History and Area Studies but also will be well placed to apply to other professional programs including library science, law, and museum studies.

**Admission Requirements**

The number of openings in the integrated B.A./M.A. program is limited. Admission will be selective based on specific criteria and the unqualified recommendation of faculty. Applicants to the integrated program:

1. Must be enrolled in the History B.A. program. A student enrolled in this major must receive a grade of C or better, as specified in Senate Policy 82-44.
2. Must have completed 60 credits of the undergraduate degree program (it is strongly suggested that students apply to the program prior to completing 100 credits).
3. Must be accepted without reservation into the M.A. program in History.
4. Should have a recommended overall GPA of 3.2 (on a 4.0 scale) in undergraduate coursework and a minimum GPA of 3.5 in all coursework completed for the major.
5. Must present a departmentally approved plan of study in the application process.
6. Must be recommended by the chairs of the Department's undergraduate and graduate committees.

**Degree Requirements**

Students must complete the requirements for a B.A. in history.

Students must complete the Master of History Requirements, which total 30 credit hours of graduate instruction, in addition to completing 123 credit hours of undergraduate instruction.

The 400-level courses, totaling 18 credit hours, can double-count towards both the B.A. and Master of History degrees.

Students must complete a minimum of 30 credit hours of graduate instruction over and above the 123 credit hours required of the B.A. degree in history. All 30 of these credit hours must be earned in 400-level, 500-level, or 600-level courses.

These 500-level courses must be grouped into two primary fields of study with a minimum of 6 credit hours in each field.

Student must have satisfactory academic performance to maintain enrollment in the program. A grade-point average of 3.0 in the 30 credit hours of graduate instruction is required to receive the master's degree.

**Program Learning Objectives**

Students will:

1. Master chronological thinking and historical comprehension.
2. Master historical and historiographic analysis and written interpretation.
3. Demonstrate historical research capabilities built upon the analysis of primary and secondary sources.
4. Demonstrate skills in effective written communication.
5. Demonstrate skills in effective oral communication.

**Academic Advising**

The objectives of the university's academic advising program are to help advisees identify and achieve their academic goals, to promote their intellectual discovery, and to encourage students to take advantage of both in-and out-of class educational opportunities in order that they become self-directed learners and decision makers.

Both advisers and advisees share responsibility for making the advising relationship succeed. By encouraging their advisees to become engaged in their education, to meet their educational goals, and to develop the habit of learning, advisers assume a significant educational role. The advisee's unit of enrollment will provide each advisee with a primary academic adviser, the information needed to plan the chosen program of study, and referrals to other specialized resources.

READ SENATE POLICY 32-00: ADVISING POLICY (http://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/32-00-advising-policy)

**Abington**

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**University Park**

Liberal Arts Academic Advising
814-865-2545
http://starfish.psu.edu
http://www.la.psu.edu/current-students/undergraduate-students/education/majors-and-minors

**Suggested Academic Plan**

The suggested academic plan(s) listed on this page are the plan(s) that are in effect during the 2019-20 academic year. To access previous years' suggested academic plans, please visit the archive (http://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/archive) to view the appropriate Undergraduate Bulletin edition (Note: the archive only contain suggested academic plans beginning with the 2018-19 edition of the Undergraduate Bulletin).

**Abington Campus**

The course series listed below provides only one of the many possible ways to move through this curriculum. The University may make changes in policies, procedures, educational offerings, and requirements at any time. This plan should be used in conjunction with your degree audit (accessible in LionPATH as either an Academic Requirements or What If report). Please consult with a Penn State academic adviser on a regular basis to develop and refine an academic plan that is appropriate for you.

**First Year**

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<th>Fall</th>
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<td>General Education Course</td>
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<td>World Language Level 1</td>
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<td>General Education Course</td>
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<tr>
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<td>ENGL 202B</td>
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**Second Year**

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**Third Year**

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<td>400 Level HIST Course* 3</td>
<td>3 HIST 302(or 400 Level HIST Course) *</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIST 302(or 400 Level HIST Course) 3</td>
<td>3 Elective</td>
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<td>Other Cultures (OC), Elective 3</td>
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<td>Bachelor of Arts Requirement 3</td>
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<td>Total Credits 16.5</td>
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- * Course requires a grade of C or better for the major
- † Course requires a grade of C or better for General Education
- # Course is an Entrance to Major requirement
- † Course satisfies General Education and degree requirement

### University Requirements and General Education Notes:

US and IL are abbreviations used to designate courses that satisfy University Requirements (United States and International Cultures).

W, M, X, and Y are the suffixes at the end of a course number used to designate courses that satisfy University Writing Across the Curriculum requirement.

GWS, GQ, GHW, GN, GA, GH, and GS are abbreviations used to identify General Education program courses. General Education includes Foundations (GWS and GQ) and Knowledge Domains (GHW, GN, GA, GH, GS, and Integrative Studies). Foundations courses (GWS and GQ) require a grade of ‘C’ or better.

Integrative Studies courses are required for the General Education program. N is the suffix at the end of a course number used to designate an Inter-Domain course and Z is the suffix at the end of a course number used to designate a Linked course.

### Bachelor of Arts Requirements:

Bachelor of Arts students must take 9 credits in Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) Fields (Humanities; Social and Behavioral Sciences; Arts; World Languages [2nd language or beyond the 12th credit level of proficiency in the 1st]; Natural Sciences; Quantification). The B.A. Fields courses may not be taken in the area of the student’s primary major. See your adviser and the Degree Requirements section (http://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/academic-information) of this Bulletin.

Bachelor of Arts students must take 3 credits in Other Cultures. See your adviser and the full list of courses approved as Other Cultures courses (http://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-education/course-lists/ba-other-cultures).

- 1 All students are required to complete one of three survey sequences: HIST 020 and 021 or HIST 001 and 002 or HIST 010 and 011.
- 2 All students must complete one course at the 100/200 level in each of the topic areas: European, United States, Global, and PreModern. See adviser for approved list.

- 3 All students must complete one 400 level HIST course in Global topics. See adviser for approved list.

### Additional Notes

Course selections towards the HIST major must include at least 6 credits of Global History courses. Consult department list or adviser.

All students must complete at least one 3 credit Writing Intensive course. HIST 302 required of all History majors satisfied this requirement.

All students must take a United States Cultures (US) and an International Cultures (IL) course. Some of the prescribed courses for History majors may satisfy these requirements (HIST 020 or 21 for US, HIST 001 or 002 or 010 or 011 for IL).

Students who begin the world language sequence at a level higher than 001 need to replace the skipped credits with additional elective credits.

### Career Paths

Penn State History majors have enjoyed success in a wide variety of fields. They are found in careers that relate to the major, such as historic preservation, museum work, and education; a healthy representation of our majors go on to law school and graduate school. However, it is not unusual to find former history majors in areas that might not immediately come to mind. Penn State history majors can be found in architecture, software development, web development, banking, federal government work, and the Peace Corps, to name just a few. They tend to do well because their basic skills are sound.

### Careers

- Law
- Secondary Teaching
- Historic Preservation
- Governmental Organizations
- United Nations Organizations
- Non-Governmental Organizations
- Industry Leaders

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT POTENTIAL CAREER OPTIONS FOR GRADUATES OF THE HISTORY PROGRAM (http://la.psu.edu/current-students/current-students/cen)

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OPPORTUNITIES FOR GRADUATE STUDIES (https://history.la.psu.edu/graduate)

### Professional Resources

- Phi Alpha Theta National History Honor Society (http://www.phialphatheta.org)

### Contact

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