

HISTORY, B.A. (LIBERAL ARTS)

Begin Campus: Any Penn State Campus

End Campus: University Park, World Campus

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.

Entrance to Major

In order to be eligible for entrance to this major, a student must:

1. attain at least a C (2.00) cumulative grade-point average for all courses taken at the University; and
2. have third-semester classification (<http://www.registrar.psu.edu/enrollment/semester-classification.cfm>).

READ SENATE POLICY 37-30: ENTRANCE TO AND CHANGES IN MAJOR PROGRAMS OF STUDY (<http://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/37-00-entrance-to-a-college-or-major/>)

World Campus

Direct Admission to the Major

Incoming first-year students who meet the program admission requirements are admitted directly into the major. Admission restrictions may apply for change-of-major and/or change-of-campus students.

For more information about the admission process for this major, please send a request to the college, campus, or program contact (listed in the Contact tab).

Degree Requirements

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

Requirement	Credits
General Education	45
Electives	18
Bachelor of Arts Degree Requirements	24
Requirements for the Major	36

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 (<http://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/#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 by Senate Policy 82-44 (<http://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/#82-44>).

Code	Title	Credits
Prescribed Courses		
<i>Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
HIST 302W	Undergraduate Seminar	3
Additional Courses		
<i>Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
Select one sequence of the following:		6
HIST 1 & HIST 2	Western Civilization I and Western Civilization II	
HIST 10 & HIST 11	World History to 1500 and World History since 1500	
HIST 20 & HIST 21	American Civilization to 1877 and American Civilization Since 1877	
Supporting Courses and Related Areas		
<i>Supporting Courses and Related Areas: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
Select 12 credits, in consultation with an adviser, at the 100-200-level, one course from each of the following field categories: Europe, United States, Global, Pre-Modern ¹		12
Select 3 credits at the 100-400-level		3
Select 12 credits at the 400-level, at least one course which must be in Global History		12

¹ Courses that appear in two History categories (such as HIST 174) cannot be double-counted to be applied to two field categories. However, the student may choose to which category to apply the course.

Integrated B.A. in History and M.A. in History

Available at the following campuses: University Park

Requirements for the Integrated B.A. in History and M.A. in History can be found in the Graduate Bulletin (<http://bulletins.psu.edu/graduate/programs/majors/history/#integratedundergradgradprogramstext>).

Program Learning Objectives

1. Apply a critical lens to the study of the past, understanding that history is not simply an account of what happened but the result of a process of interpretation and contextualization.
2. Analyze the complex causality of past events, articulating how and why past events are affected by a variety of causes and influences—including, but not limited to, political, economic, religious, social, and environmental conditions and/or changes.

3. Demonstrate chronological thinking, making sense of the past through periodization, and tracking patterns of change and continuity over time.
4. Evaluate and interpret both primary and secondary source materials, judging credibility, reconstructing historical context, and making inferences about genre, audience, perspective, and purpose.
5. Create historical arguments on the basis of evidence, in ways consistent with standards of academic integrity.

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/>)

University Park

Liberal Arts Academic Advising

814-865-2545

Use the Liberal Arts Majors and Minors web page (<https://www.la.psu.edu/current-students/undergraduate-students/education/majors-and-minors/>) to see the contact information for the specific adviser(s) of this program

World Campus

Undergraduate Academic Advising

301 Outreach Building
University Park, PA 16802
814-863-3283
advising@outreach.psu.edu

Abington

Sharon Holt
Program Chair, History
1600 Woodland Road
Abington, PA 19001
215-881-7807
sxh73@psu.edu

Suggested Academic Plan

The suggested academic plan(s) listed on this page are the plan(s) that are in effect during the 2020-21 academic year. To access previous years' suggested academic plans, please visit the archive (<https://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*).

University Park 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		
Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
ENGL 15, 30H, 137H, CAS 137H, or ESL 15 [†]	3 HIST SURVEY COURSE II*	3
HIST SURVEY COURSE I*	3 GENERAL EDUCATION COURSE	3
WORLD LANGUAGE LEVEL 1	3 GENERAL EDUCATION COURSE	3
GENERAL EDUCATION COURSE	3 GENERAL EDUCATION COURSE (GQ)	3
GENERAL EDUCATION COURSE (GQ)	3 WORLD LANGUAGE LEVEL 2	3
15		15

Second Year		
Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
CAS 100	3 100/200 LEVEL HIST COURSE*	3
100/200 LEVEL HIST COURSE*	3 100/200 LEVEL HISTORY COURSE*	3
GENERAL EDUCATION COURSE	3 GENERAL EDUCATION COURSE	3
GENERAL EDUCATION COURSE	3 GENERAL EDUCATION COURSE	3
WORLD LANGUAGE LEVEL 3	4 B.A. KNOWLEDGE DOMAIN	3
16		15

Third Year		
Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
HIST 302W	3 ENGL 202B	3
100/200 LEVEL HIST COURSE*	3 100/200/LEVEL HIST COURSE*	3
GENERAL EDUCATION COURSE	3 400 LEVEL HIST COURSE*	3
B.A. KNOWLEDGE DOMAIN	3 GENERAL EDUCATION COURSE	3
ELECTIVE	3 ELECTIVE	3
15		15

Fourth Year		
Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
400 LEVEL HIST COURSE*	3 400 LEVEL HIST COURSE*	3
400 LEVEL HIST COURSE*	3 HEALTH AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY	1.5
OTHER CULTURES	3 ELECTIVE	3
B.A. KNOWLEDGE DOMAINS	3 ELECTIVE	3
ELECTIVE	3 ELECTIVE	3

HEALTH AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY	1.5	
	16.5	13.5

Total Credits 121

- * 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.

All incoming Schreyer Honors College first-year students at University Park will take ENGL 137H/CAS 137H in the fall semester and ENGL 138T/CAS 138T in the spring semester. These courses carry the GWS designation and replace both ENGL 30H and CAS 100. Each course is 3 credits.

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/>).

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

University Park

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
108 Weaver Building
University Park, PA 16802
814-865-1367
bdw150@psu.edu

<https://history.la.psu.edu/>

World Campus

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<https://www.worldcampus.psu.edu/degrees-and-certificates/penn-state-online-history-bachelor-of-arts-degree/overview> (<https://www.worldcampus.psu.edu/degrees-and-certificates/penn-state-online-history-bachelor-of-arts-degree/overview/>)

Abington

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