

Pittsburg State University

MA in History

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Thank you for your interest in the Master of Arts in History Program at Pittsburg State University. The following pages should answer many of your questions.

History Program

You can find a basic description of the MA here: <https://academics.pittstate.edu/academic-programs/history-philosophy-and-social-sciences/history-masters-degree-online.html>. Our History MA is a 30-33-hour program, depending on which of the three final assessment options you take.

- **Option I - Thesis:** Students with strong research and writing skills and who want to move on to a PhD program should successfully complete a thesis. You will work with an advisor who agrees to serve as committee chair to complete an extensive research project. Thesis numbers may be limited by faculty areas of expertise and availability. This option is a 30-hour program.
- **Option II – Applied Research:** Students who have chosen careers in education or public history (museum or archival work) are encouraged to complete an applied research project. This can either be a curricular project which involves creating a complete course for secondary education or community college or a museum project which generally involves historical exhibit planning, including deep research on context. This option is a 33-hour program.
- **Option III – Coursework:** Students can also complete the program with coursework, especially if pursuing career options outside of history. This option requires completion of four seminar courses and is also a 33-hour program.



You can find the catalog here: <https://www.pittstate.edu/registrar/catalog/current/college-of-arts-and-sciences/history-philosophy-and-social-sciences/ma-in-history.html>.

For more information on these options, please contact the Graduate Director. Below is a degree guide with a specific list of course requirements for each option.

		grade	hours
Required for all (3 hours)			
_____ HIST*807 Historical Research & Historiography	3	_____	_____
Electives (15 hours of any 700-level or higher in course in history)			
_____	3	_____	_____
_____	3	_____	_____
_____	3	_____	_____
_____	3	_____	_____
_____	3	_____	_____
Seminars (6 hours of history seminars 813 or 820)			
_____	3	_____	_____
_____	3	_____	_____
		TOTAL =	24 hours
Additional Requirements (based on chosen option)			
Option I: Thesis			
_____ HIST*890 Research & Thesis (repeatable)	3	_____	_____
_____	3	_____	_____ (additional 800+ course)
		TOTAL =	30 hours
Option II: Applied Research			
_____ HIST*891 Applied Research	3	_____	_____
_____	3	_____	_____ (additional elective)
_____	3	_____	_____ (additional 813/820 seminar)
		TOTAL =	33 hours
Option III: Coursework			
_____	3	_____	_____ (additional elective)
_____	3	_____	_____ (additional 813/820 seminar)
_____	3	_____	_____ (additional 813/820 seminar)
		TOTAL =	33 hours

This section is required for all students, regardless of option chosen.

Courses

Our typical online offerings each semester include a variety of courses, including US, European, Asian, African, and Middle Eastern topics.

Graduate classes numbered 7xx are standard graduate courses. These are considered electives in the above degree plan and may be taught in conjunction with an undergraduate course.

Graduate seminars (numbered 813/820) are more intensive and are typically either readings or research seminars. A readings seminar requires a variety of readings over the topic, usually amounting to a book each week. Research seminars require students to conduct original research resulting in a significant paper over the given topic. Generally, we offer at least two seminars each semester: one in world history and one in US history.



Faculty

We have seven full-time History faculty members, covering US, British, modern European, African, Middle Eastern, Asian, and World history. Our US faculty members specialize in such topics as politics, diplomacy, military, culture, society, and healthcare; our World faculty specialize in topics such as British political history, Islamic terrorism, and Japanese social history and migration. You can find more information on our faculty here:

<https://www.pittstate.edu/hpss/faculty-and-staff/index.html>.

Timing

Courses during the Fall and Spring are sixteen weeks long. During the summer, our courses run four weeks. We usually offer at least one elective (7xx) course in June and one in July.

Most courses are online, and students are required to participate throughout the course. Course requirements may differ, but students should expect to participate in asynchronous online discussions throughout the week. Additional typical assignments include readings and quizzes as well as more rigorous assignments like book reviews and essays or research papers.

A full-time graduate student in History takes 9 credit hours per semester. The majority of our students, however, are employed; as an advisor, I recommend those students limit themselves to 3-6 hours per semester. Note that 6 hours qualifies graduate students for financial aid.

Electives (700+) *Note: Not all electives will be offered in any given semester. Consult your advisor for more information.*

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Native Americans • Colonial America • American Revolution • Early American Republic, 1789-1848 • Sectional Crisis and Civil War • Reconstruction and New South • Industrial America, 1865-1914 • Modern America, 1912-1941 • Modern America, 1941-1968 • Modern America since 1968 • U.S. as a Superpower • American Military Experience, 1607-1898 • American Military Experience, 1898 to Present • Korean and Vietnam Wars • U.S. Iraq and Afghanistan • History of U.S. Presidents • American Medicine • Women in American History • American Children and Families • Family History • American West • Kansas and the West • History of the South • Mexico and the U.S. Southwest 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • African Civilizations • Modern Africa • Modern Middle East • Radical Islam • Early China • China since 1700 • Early Japan • Japan since 1700 • Korean History • History of South Asia • Samurai: History, Literature, Myth • History of Japanese Women • U.S.-East Asia Relations • Modern Latin America • World War I • World War II • Germany, 1871-1945 • Early Modern Europe, 1500-1815 • European Imperialism • The French Revolution & Napoleon • Britain to 1688 • Britain since 1688 • Modern Scotland • Modern Britain: Politics & Society
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Our faculty members frequently offer special topics elective (7xx) classes in their academic interest areas. Some recent topics include: Black Death, Modern Ireland, U.S. Political Scandals, Military Aviation, the Opioid Crisis, and American Epidemics.

Seminars (800+)

Seminar topics are typically chosen each semester by individual professors; therefore, there isn't a set list of what will be offered. Here are some examples of seminar courses faculty have offered in past semesters.

HIST 813: Seminar in American History

- U.S. Colonial Social History
- U.S. Presidents
- American Medicine, 1783-1983
- Era of Good Feelings
- U.S. Civil War
- 19th Century U.S. Social History
- 20th Century U.S. Social History
- U.S. Political Scandals
- Crises in U.S. Politics

HIST 820: Seminar in World History

- Advanced World History
- U.S.-Asia Migration History
- Victorian Politics
- Ireland: Union & Independence
- World War I
- World War II
- Brexit

Tuition and Fees

Tuition and fees are outlined here: <https://admission.pittstate.edu/tuition-and-costs.html>. Scroll down to the section titled "Online Student Tuition." It is important to note that if you are a completely online student, you are considered in-state in terms of tuition cost, regardless of where you live.

If you are planning to attend on campus, you will want to refer to the section, "Graduate School Tuition."

Financial Aid and Scholarships

Questions about financial aid and scholarships should be directed to the Office of Student Financial Assistance at <https://www.pittstate.edu/financial-aid/> or the Graduate Office at <http://www.pittstate.edu/graduate/>.

Admission Requirements

Applications to the program will be evaluated by a committee of the History Graduate Faculty.

Students with a strong undergraduate background in history (at least 24 hours and a minimum 3.00 GPA in history courses) may be admitted unconditionally, or the committee may set conditions including minimum GPA performance to demonstrate fitness or completion of additional undergraduate coursework prior to or in parallel with graduate work.

Students with fewer than 24 undergraduate hours of history, or an average in history courses of less than 3.00, may still be considered for conditional admission (as above) if their overall GPA is 3.00 or above.

Overall undergraduate GPA must be 2.75 and above to be considered.

Applying

If you wish to apply, please complete the Graduate School application, pay the application fee, and submit official transcripts.

Additionally, applicants must submit a personal essay: "Describe your background in history, your purpose in pursuing a Master's in History, and your expectations for the program." The essay should be sent directly to me at mkthompson@pittstate.edu.

GRE scores and letters of recommendation are not required. Admissions is handled by the Graduate School office: <https://www.pittstate.edu/graduate/>. You can contact them at cgs@pittstate.edu for more specific information.

Application Deadline

- To be considered for the next Summer or Fall semester: 1 March
- To be considered for the next Fall semester: 1 May
- To be considered for the next Spring semester: 1 October

The History Graduate Faculty will hold an admissions meeting soon after semester deadlines and respond to initial applicants soon afterwards.

If you have any additional questions, please contact the Graduate Director at the above email address.