PhD in History

The PhD in History requires a minimum of 25 course credit hours above the MA degree and a minimum of 18 credits of HIST 690 Doctoral Thesis. Note that the precise credit/course requirement will be determined by the student’s doctoral committee chair in consultation with the student and the other committee members.

All students will declare a Major Field of emphasis and two Minor Areas. Major Fields include: a. History of Science and Technology; b. Environmental History; c. U.S. History. Minor Fields include a. gender; b. race; c. class, labor and economy; d. religious studies; e. imperialism; f. historical theories and methodologies; g. comparative frontiers; h. science and technology; i. environmental studies; j. philosophy of science; k. museum studies; i. American west.

The PhD program in History offers students the opportunity to obtain an area of concentration in Public History. To obtain the area of concentration, students are expected to take an additional 15 credits that include Public History (HIST 502). Students are normally expected to complete at least 9 credits of History Internship (HIST 598).

The Graduate Program is designed to train students to think historically, to conduct research effectively, and to write lucidly. Students research and write in seminar settings as well as individually under the guidance of each student’s graduate committee. The program seeks to expand students’ intellectual horizons and expose students to the variety of roles played by historians in academic and public life through seminar discussions, classroom instruction, teaching assistantships, and internships.

Admission Requirements

- M.A. degree in history or related field
- Letter of application that addresses the applicant’s areas of intended study and the applicant’s qualifications for doctoral-level work
- Three academic letters of recommendations
- Writing Sample (major research paper or M.A. thesis chapter)
- Official undergraduate and graduate transcripts

Contact Information

For more information about the History and Philosophy Department Graduate programs, please contact Tim LeCain, Director of Graduate Studies, tlecain@montana.edu or call the main History Department office: (406) 994-4395.