

HISTORY

THE SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES

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DEGREES OFFERED: BA, MA, PHD

The undergraduate program offers courses in U.S. history, ancient, and medieval history; intellectual and modern European history; and the history of Latin America, the Middle East, East and South Asia, Africa, and the Caribbean. Faculty interests range from the Byzantine Empire to colonial Brazil and modern Mexico, from Qing and 20th-century China to colonial Indonesia, and from Kant to nanotechnology. Within U.S. history, the department's particular strengths are Atlantic migrations, the Old and New South, religion, race, and the Presidency; within European history, Germany is an area of concentration. The department has a strong overall emphasis on colonialism, across regions and time periods. The department encourages its majors to acquaint themselves with other disciplines in the humanities, and social sciences, especially literature, philosophy, fine arts, anthropology, sociology, and political science. Foreign language study also is important for students of history. The graduate program, which trains a limited number of carefully selected students, focuses on the U.S. and Atlantic and offers a third (teaching-oriented) field in world history. PhD students may concurrently pursue a graduate certification through the Center for the Study of Women, Gender and Sexuality.

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS FOR BA IN HISTORY

For general university requirements, see Graduation Requirements (Undergraduate Student section, pages 2–5). Students majoring in history must complete a minimum of 30 semester hours (10 courses) in history. No fewer than 18 hours (six courses) should be taken at Rice. Transfer credit,

foreign or domestic, cannot count for more than 12 hours (four courses). AP/IB credit may not be used to satisfy any requirements for the history major (even though a student may be able to use AP/IB credit toward general university requirements). At least 18 hours (six courses) are required on the 300 or 400 level. Two courses must be chosen from a departmental list of 400-level seminars. In addition, majors must distribute their 10 courses over four fields:

Premodern—one course minimum

Europe—one course minimum

United States—one course minimum

Africa, Asia, Latin America, Middle East—one course minimum

Some foreign language proficiency is desirable and the department highly recommends that students contemplating graduate work in history study at least one foreign language in some depth.

Transfer Credit—The Department of History grants transfer credit on a case-by-case basis to enrolled undergraduates (the Office of the Registrar determines the credit hours). Courses taken at another institution must be the equivalent in required reading, writing, and testing of a Rice history course. They do not have to have an equivalent in the Rice history offerings. For the current procedures to request transfer credit, see the department homepage history.rice.edu. Rice students planning to study at a foreign university must also obtain approval from the Office of International Programs.

Honors Program—Qualified undergraduates may enroll for six semester hours of directed honors research and writing, completing an honors thesis in their senior year (these six hours are in addition to the 30 hours required for the major). Application to the program is required. For current procedures, see the department homepage, history.rice.edu. Students must complete both semesters of HIST 403 and 404 to receive credit; the grade for the final project applies to the full six hours. Limited financial assistance is available to conduct related research during the summer between the junior and senior year for all students accepted into the Honors Program.

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS FOR MA AND PHD IN HISTORY

The Rice University graduate program in history is primarily a PhD program. Students who have a BA in history (or its equivalent) are eligible to apply to the PhD program. Although many successful candidates to the PhD program have an MA or other advanced degree, advanced study is not a requirement for admission. Graduate study is offered in U.S. and other areas of history. Further information is available on request from the department. For general university requirements, see Graduate Degrees (Graduate Students section, pages 3–4).

The department awards graduate tuition waivers and fellowship stipends, within the limits of available funds, to qualified PhD candidates with demonstrated ability. University funding is not available for master's program study only. All graduate students in the history department are expected to participate in the professional activities of the department as part of their training. These include, but are not limited to, assisting with the *Journal of Southern History* or the *Papers of Jefferson Davis* and serving as research assistants or teaching assistants for department members. As far as possible, these assignments are kept consistent with the interests of the students.

MA Program—The department gives priority to applicants for the PhD. Completion of the MA degree usually takes two years; no more than three years may elapse between graduate admission and the completion of the degree unless the department graduate committee approves an extension. MA degrees are awarded in two ways: (1) completion of one year of course work (24 credit hours) and a thesis written and defended in an oral examination during the second year; and (2) completion of two years of course work (48 credit hours), normally including at least two seminar research papers.

PhD Program—Doctoral candidates must prepare themselves in three fields of history: two in their major area of concentration, whether U.S. or other history, and a third in an area outside of that concentration (e.g., if the major area is U.S. history, the third field must be in non-U.S. history). Students who wish to pursue a third field in an area outside the department should petition the graduate committee by the end of their second semester.

The requirements for completing the degree will be administered as flexibly as possible within the bounds of the general university regulations. These requirements state that the PhD degrees will be awarded after successful completion of at least 90 semester hours of advanced study and an original investigation reported in an approved thesis. Passing the qualifying exam and receiving approval of a dissertation prospectus allow the student to apply for formal admission to candidacy for the PhD degree.

For the PhD, candidates must:

- Prepare themselves thoroughly in three examination fields.
- Take eight graduate seminars, including Introduction to Doctoral Studies.
- Pass an examination in their principal language of research or, if the principal language of research is English, in one other language.
- Perform satisfactorily on written and oral examinations. For students entering with a BA, those examinations normally will be taken before the beginning of the fifth semester and no later than the beginning of the sixth semester.
- Complete a dissertation presenting the results of original research.
- Defend the thesis in a public oral examination.

See HIST in the Courses of Instruction section.