

**History Graduate Program  
The University of Alabama at Birmingham**

**(205) 934-5634**

**The Master of Arts in History at  
The University of Alabama at Birmingham**

The Master of Arts in History at The University of Alabama at Birmingham offers a strong program that allows students to increase their general historical knowledge while honing key professional skills in reading, writing, and analytical thinking.

The UAB History faculty is particularly well-qualified. Because of their extensive research and publishing activities, they can offer training in traditional fields as well as in new and developing areas of historical knowledge. They are also able to provide students with a wide-range of learning opportunities as well as references and connections to major doctoral programs.

Minimum admission requirements are an undergraduate GPA of 3.0, 18 hours of undergraduate course work in history.

**Application Deadlines**

**Spring Admission: December 1**

**Summer Admission: May 1**

**Fall Admission: August 1**

The program also offers two graduate assistantships per year on a competitive basis. The assistantships require a maximum of twenty hours of work per week in return for an annual stipend (\$12,000 to \$14,400 per year). Please contact the History Department for further information regarding an assistantship.

Students who wish to know more about the History Graduate Program should contact either Dr. Stephen Miller ([sjmiller@uab.edu](mailto:sjmiller@uab.edu)), Director of the History Graduate Program, or Dr. Jonathan Wiesen ([jwiesen@uab.edu](mailto:jwiesen@uab.edu)), Department Chair of History. Both Drs. Miller and Wiesen may also be reached at (205) 934-5634. Please apply to the UAB Graduate Program online at <https://uab.edu/graduate> and click "APPLY NOW" or call (205) 934-8227 for application information. All application materials (transcripts) should be sent directly to the UAB Graduate School ([gradschool@uab.edu](mailto:gradschool@uab.edu)).

# History Graduate Program

## The University of Alabama at Birmingham

### Guidelines for the Master of Arts in History

#### Overview

The History Graduate Program has two plans for pursuing advanced historical studies. Under Plan I (thesis plan), in addition to the 30 hours of course work, a student writes a master's thesis based on primary research. Six credit hours are applied for the thesis research in order to meet the required 36 credit hours to graduate with a Master of Arts in History. Under Plan II (non-thesis plan), the student completes 36 hours of course work in a variety of historical fields and must pass comprehensive examinations covering work completed with three different professors. In consultation with three faculty members with whom they have done coursework, students will write a ten-to-twelve-page synthetic essay that outlines how their graduate work has deepened their understanding of history. The essay will discuss the methods, historiographical debates, theoretical frameworks, and specific scholarship that have contributed most to their understanding of the field. Students specializing in public history may work with the three faculty members to incorporate the methodologies of this subfield into an alternative project. In their final semester, all MA students will have an oral examination with the three faculty members to discuss both the synthetic essay (or public history project) and the strongest research or historiography paper that they have produced during their time in the graduate program. Both plans have the goal of enhancing liberal arts skills and approaches to knowledge that are suitable for those interested in pursuing a doctoral program in history and/or a career in teaching or public history (i.e. museum or archives) as well as those who are simply hoping to enhance their knowledge and skills.

All students must demonstrate competency in both U.S. and non-U.S. fields of history (European, Asian, Latin American, World, etc.). They must take a minimum of three graduate seminars (9 hours) in U.S. history as well as a minimum of three graduate seminars (9 hours) in non-U.S. fields.

All graduate students must maintain a 3.0 GPA in course work. Full-time students normally should expect to devote no more than two academic years to completion of the basic Master of Arts degree. Students are urged not to prolong this process beyond three academic years.

#### Curricula

A student must complete at least 36 hours of graduate course work in order to graduate with a Master of Arts in History. Students may take no more than two directed readings and/or internships as part of these 36 hours. All graduate courses in history are numbered in the 600s.

Directed readings are offered strictly at the discretion of the individual faculty member and a student may not register for a directed reading without prior approval from the faculty member he or she plans to

work with. Directed readings may be taken either in conjunction with an undergraduate course or as an independent study.

The following tables list the requirements for both Plan I (thesis plan) and Plan II (non-thesis plan).

Please note that the asterisked (\*) courses are offered only once each year. Check listings in this department to plan schedules.

Plan I: The Thesis Plan

HY601: Historiography*	3 hours
HY602: Research and Writing*	3 hours
3 Seminars in United States History	9 hours
3 Seminars in Non-United States History	9 hours
2 Additional Seminars in any field	6 hours
Thesis Research	6 hours
TOTAL:	36 hours

Plan II: The Non-Thesis Plan

HY601: Historiography*	3 hours
HY602: Research and Writing*	3 hours
3 Seminars in United States History	9 hours
3 Seminars in Non-United States History	9 hours
4 Seminars: Elective Fields	12 hours
TOTAL:	36 hours

\*All students should take HY601 and HY602 during their first two semesters in the UAB History Department graduate program.

Students may take graduate electives in other departments but only with the prior approval of the director of graduate studies, Dr. Stephen Miller ([sjmillier@uab.edu](mailto:sjmillier@uab.edu)).