

HISTORY MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

The History Major Program (can be done as a first or a second major)

- 1 HIST 33000: History Workshop (“the gateway course” for the standard major), to be taken the semester following the major declaration [must be taken before the senior year]

- 4 One course from four of the following six areas, with the proviso that one course of the four must contain substantial material on the period before 1500
 - African/Asian/Middle Eastern history
 - Ancient/Medieval European history (to 1500)
 - Modern European history (after 1500)
 - Latin American history
 - United States history
 - Special (global, comparative, topical, or outside of the geographic regions above)

- 3 Three Concentration Area* courses (see below for more on concentrations)

- 1 One Departmental Seminar (HIST 43xxx), ideally in the area of concentration

- 1 One elective (any 3-credit history course)

10 total courses

***A Concentration Area should be chosen by the spring of the junior year, with the guidance and approval of the major’s individual advisor. Concentration Areas include – but are certainly not limited to – the following fields:**

Geographical

African History
Asian History
Medieval European History
Middle-Eastern History
Modern European History
United States History
Latin American History
Atlantic World History

Thematic

Political history
Women’s history
Religious history
Intellectual history
Social history
History of Science and Technology
Borderlands history
Labor History

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT COUNTING LOWER-LEVEL COURSES

History majors may count up to two lower-level courses toward the major program (courses beginning with a 1 or a 2). All others must be “major-level” courses that begin with a 3, 4, or 5. These lower-level courses may be counted toward breadth requirements, electives, or concentration area courses.

AP credit (or its equivalent through a similar program) cannot be counted toward the major program.

A course cannot count toward both the major and another requirement (such as the university requirement for history), unless approved by a student’s college dean.

MAJORING IN HISTORY

A student majoring in history at the University of Notre Dame experiences a program equally rigorous and flexible, one designed around the student's unique interests.

The history major program (which can be completed as either a first or second major) consists of ten three-credit history courses (in addition to the university history requirement which every Notre Dame student must complete). The major program begins with an exciting introductory seminar -- HIST 33000, History Workshop – which plunges the student into the work of writing history through the intensive interpretation of primary source documents. The History Workshop should be taken as early as possible, though other courses may be taken first. To gain breadth of historical knowledge, the history major will also take a variety of courses emphasizing different chronological periods, geographical areas, and approaches to studying the past. Additionally, to promote depth in a particular field of interest, the student will also declare a concentration area consisting of three electives, while a fourth elective may be taken in any field the student chooses. To complete the curriculum, a history major will take a departmental seminar, which offers the opportunity to conduct primary research and produce a substantial paper.

Studying history offers an excellent way to develop the critical thinking, writing, and communication skills necessary to be informed and active citizens in the fullest sense of the term. The educational value of history has been summed up innumerable times in the important observation that people can hardly understand their place in the world if they know nothing about how it got that way. In addition, history can provide a firm foundation for the study of literature, philosophy, theology, economics, science, law, and business, all of which are better understood when placed within historical context. In other words, history is an excellent skeleton on which to build a broader education. In sum, students of history not only develop a firm knowledge of the past; they also acquire an informed way of thinking about and looking at the world.

Many Notre Dame history majors continue on to graduate or professional school. History also prepares students for careers in the professions of teaching, government, archival and museum work, and journalism. In recent years, the corporate world has also begun recruiting graduates with liberal arts degrees such as history, emphasizing the importance of critical thinking and writing skills for success in business. But whatever vocational path a person follows, he or she will find that history is useful, indeed necessary, for navigating the increasingly complicated world in which we live and work.

If you would like to declare history as a major, please contact:

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