

HISTORY, PH.D.

The graduate program in history at Saint Louis University is one of the oldest in the country, granting its first Ph.D. in 1919. Today, the tradition of excellence is continued by training students in a variety of historical fields.

SLU's history Ph.D. program ranks among the top history programs in the nation, according to *U.S. News & World Report*. SLU's history program offers students internationally renowned faculty, an outstanding mentoring program and high-quality professional training.

Curriculum Overview

History doctoral students at SLU choose a specialized area of study from the following concentrations:

- American History
- Early-Modern European
- Medieval European

Fieldwork and Research Opportunities

History graduate students at SLU benefit from the rich archival and institutional resources available in St. Louis itself, including relationships with sites such as the Missouri Historical Society, the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial, the Circuit Court Records Project, the Pulitzer Foundation for the Arts, the Sheldon Galleries, the Contemporary Art Museum, the Saint Louis Art Museum, the Missouri Botanical Garden and the Historic Landmarks Association.

Careers

We expect that the majority of the students at the doctoral level will become professional historians and teach at the college level.

Admission Requirements

Student transcripts, grade point average and English proficiency (if applicable). Each item in the application package is required for an applicant to be reviewed.

- A master's degree in the field or the equivalent.
- An official transcript of undergraduate record and, for applicants to the Ph.D. program, graduate record
- A current resume
- Three letters of recommendation assessing potential in graduate studies
- A letter of intent describing professional and intellectual goals, and interest in graduate studies. The letter should include the specific field of historical study, a vision of how to contribute to existing research and criticism in an area of interest, and the SLU faculty members the applicant is interested in working with. While plans may well change as a result of further study, the statement will help the department assess the grasp of the field, and the ability to describe ideas coherently and compellingly.
- A 15- to 20-page writing sample which demonstrates competence in historical writing and analysis, and which may be an excerpt from a longer piece.
- Student interview

Language Requirements

Proof of competency in foreign languages is required through a written examination administered by the department or successful completion of graduate translation courses.

Doctoral students in medieval and early modern European history are required to display reading proficiency in Latin as well as one additional foreign language. Ph.D. students in world history or modern European history must demonstrate proficiency in two foreign languages. Doctoral students in U.S. history are required to demonstrate proficiency in one foreign language.

Application Procedures

Completed applications with all admission and financial aid materials must be received by Jan. 15. Students are not admitted in the spring or summer semester.

Requirements for International Students

All admission policies and requirements for domestic students apply to international students. International students must also meet the following additional requirements:

- Demonstrate English Language Proficiency (<https://catalog.slu.edu/academic-policies/office-admission/undergraduate/english-language-proficiency/>)
- Financial documents are required to complete an application for admission and be reviewed for admission and merit scholarships.
- Proof of financial support that must include:
 - A letter of financial support from the person(s) or sponsoring agency funding the student's time at Saint Louis University
 - A letter from the sponsor's bank verifying that the funds are available and will be so for the duration of the student's study at the University
- Academic records, in English translation, of students who have undertaken postsecondary studies outside the United States must include:
 - Courses taken and/or lectures attended
 - Practical laboratory work
 - The maximum and minimum grades attainable
 - The grades earned or the results of all end-of-term examinations
 - Any honors or degrees received.

WES and ECE transcripts are accepted.

Application and Assistantship Deadline

Submit an application for the following fall semester by Jan. 15.

Review Process

A standing graduate applicant review committee meets just after the expiration of the application deadline. The committee reviews each item of every complete application. The committee makes its applicant selections by the beginning of March.

Tuition

Tuition	Cost Per Credit
Graduate Tuition	\$1,310

Additional charges may apply. Other resources are listed below:

Net Price Calculator (<https://www.slu.edu/financial-aid/tuition-and-costs/calculator.php>)

Information on Tuition and Fees (<https://catalog.slu.edu/academic-policies/student-financial-services/tuition/>)

Miscellaneous Fees (<https://catalog.slu.edu/academic-policies/student-financial-services/fees/>)

Information on Summer Tuition (<https://catalog.slu.edu/academic-policies/student-financial-services/tuition-summer/>)

Scholarships, Assistantships and Financial Aid

For priority consideration for a graduate assistantship, apply by the program admission deadlines listed. Fellowships and assistantships provide a stipend and may include health insurance and a tuition scholarship for the duration of the award.

Explore Scholarships and Financial Aid Options (<https://www.slu.edu/financial-aid/>)

Learning Outcomes

1. Graduates will be able to assess relevant literature or scholarly contributions in the field(s) of study.
2. Graduates will be able to apply the major practices, theories or research methodologies in the field(s) of study.
3. Graduates will be able to apply knowledge from the field(s) of study to address problems in broader contexts.
4. Graduates will be able to articulate arguments or explanations to both a disciplinary or professional audience and to a general audience, in both oral and written forms.
5. Graduates will be able to evidence scholarly and/or professional integrity in the field of study.
6. Graduates will be able to demonstrate the ability to complete an in-depth study of at least 200 pages (excluding notes, bibliography and front matter), using primary and secondary sources, that makes an original, defensible contribution to historical knowledge.

Requirements

Program Requirements (Ph.D.)

None of the doctoral courses may be at the undergraduate level, and no more than six credits may be taken in a related department without the permission of the director of graduate studies.

For students studying American history, competency in one foreign language is required. Two languages are required for those studying medieval European and early modern European history — one of which must be Latin. In all fields of study, advisors can require additional languages if they are pertinent to the student’s research agenda.

Code	Title	Credits
Required Courses		
HIST 5900	History Teaching Practicum	0
HIST 6900	Professional Writing for Historians I	3
HIST 6901	Professional Writing for Historians II	3
Primary Concentration Courses		
Select one of the following concentrations:		12

Early Modern European Concentration with Medieval European (p. 3)		
Medieval European Concentration with Early Modern European (p. 3)		
American Concentration with World History (p. 3)		
Secondary Concentration Courses		
Select one of the following concentrations:		6
Early Modern European Concentration with Medieval European (p. 3)		
Medieval European Concentration with Early Modern European (p. 3)		
American Concentration with World History (p. 3)		
Elective Courses		
Select one course		3
Dissertation Research		
HIST 6990	Dissertation Research (taken over multiple semesters, 12hrs total)	0-6
Total Credits		39

Program Requirements (M.A. to Ph.D.)

For the Ph.D. in history, 27 credits of coursework beyond the M.A. are required, or 36 credits if pursuing the combined M.A./Ph.D. A minimum of 12 credits in the primary concentration and six credits in the secondary concentration are required.

The remaining credits are flexible. None of the doctoral courses may be at the undergraduate level, and no more than six credits may be taken in a related department without the permission of the director of graduate studies.

For U.S. history students, competency in one foreign language is required. Two languages are required for medieval and early modern European history students, one of which must be Latin. In all fields of study, advisors can require additional languages if they are pertinent to the student’s research agenda.

Code	Title	Credits
Required Courses		
HIST 5000	Theory & Practice of History: An Introduction	3
HIST 5900	History Teaching Practicum	0
HIST 6900	Professional Writing for Historians I	3
HIST 6901	Professional Writing for Historians II	3
Primary Concentration Courses		
Select one of the following concentrations:		12
Early Modern European Concentration with Medieval European (p. 3)		
Medieval European Concentration with Early Modern European (p. 3)		
American Concentration with World History (p. 3)		
Secondary Concentration Courses		
Select one of the following concentrations:		6
Early Modern European Concentration with Medieval European (p. 3)		
Medieval European Concentration with Early Modern European (p. 3)		
American Concentration with World History (p. 3)		
Elective Courses		

Select three courses 9

Dissertation Research		
HIST 6990	Dissertation Research (taken over multiple semesters, 12hrs total)	0-6
Total Credits		48

Early-Modern European Concentration with Medieval European

Code	Title	Credits
Early Modern European		
HIST 5400	Studies in Early Modern European History	3
HIST 5410	Advanced Studies in Early Modern European History	3
HIST 6820	Seminar: Early Modern European History	3
Elective in Early Modern European History		3
Total Credits		12

Secondary Concentration (6 credits)

Code	Title	Credits
Medieval European		
HIST 5310	Advanced Studies in Medieval History	3
HIST 6810	Seminar Medieval History	3
Total Credits		6

Medieval European Concentration with Early-Modern European

Code	Title	Credits
Medieval European		
HIST 5300	Studies Medieval History	3
HIST 5310	Advanced Studies in Medieval History	3
HIST 6810	Seminar Medieval History	3
Elective in Medieval European History		3
Total Credits		12

Secondary Concentration

Code	Title	Credits
Early Modern European		
HIST 5410	Advanced Studies in Early Modern European History	3
HIST 6820	Seminar: Early Modern European History	3
Total Credits		6

American Concentration with World History

Code	Title	Credits
American		
HIST 5600	Studies in American History	3
HIST 5610	Advanced Studies in American History	3
HIST 6840	Seminar in American History	3
Elective in American History		3
Total Credits		12

Secondary Concentration

Code	Title	Credits
World History		
HIST 5710	Advanced Studies in World History	3
HIST 6870	Research Seminar in World History	3
Total Credits		6

Non-Course Requirements

Following the completion of coursework, students must complete and pass a comprehensive examination that has both written and oral components.

The written examination consists of two four-hour written examinations, one each in the major and minor fields. The examinations are based on the texts on the preparatory reading list and selected from a set of choices developed by the examiners. The oral examination committee is comprised of the three faculty members from the dissertation committee and two other faculty agreed upon with an adviser in consultation with the graduate director and the department chair. The oral examination lasts two hours and is taken the week following the written examinations. The examination committee will ask about the written examination, as well as texts on the preparatory reading list.

After successfully completing the oral examination, students will meet with an adviser and the chair of the history department to discuss and give final approval to the prospectus. Students will then file an approved copy of the dissertation prospectus with the College of Arts and Sciences and proceed to write the dissertation. Twelve credits are given for the writing of the dissertation. Completed dissertations are assessed by the committee and are formally accepted after a public defense.

Continuation Standards

Students must maintain a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.00 in all graduate/professional courses.

Roadmap

Roadmaps are recommended semester-by-semester plans of study for programs and assume full-time enrollment unless otherwise noted.

Courses and milestones designated as critical (marked with !) must be completed in the semester listed to ensure a timely graduation. Transfer credit may change the roadmap.

This roadmap should not be used in the place of regular academic advising appointments. All students are encouraged to meet with their advisor/mentor each semester. Requirements, course availability and sequencing are subject to change.

Early-Modern European Concentration with Minor in Medieval History

Course	Title	Credits
Year One		
Fall		
Participation in Mentoring Events		
HIST 5400	Studies in Early Modern European History (Required course for the major)	3
HIST 5000	Theory & Practice of History: An Introduction (Required course)	3

HIST 5410	Advanced Studies in Early Modern European History	3
Credits		9

Spring

Participation in / Completion of Mentoring Events		
HIST 5300	Studies Medieval History (Required course for the major)	3
HIST 6820	Seminar: Early Modern European History (Required course for the major)	3
Students will demonstrate language proficiency in one language either by passing a class or examination.		
LATN 5930	Special Topics	3
Credits		9

Year Two**Fall**

Participation in / Completion of Mentoring Events		
HIST 5410	Advanced Studies in Early Modern European History	3
HIST 5310	Advanced Studies in Medieval History	3
LATN 5630	Introduction to Paleography	3-4
HIST 5900	History Teaching Practicum (Required course)	0
Credits		9-10

Spring

Participation in / Completion of Mentoring Events		
HIST 6820	Seminar: Early Modern European History	3
HIST 6810	Seminar Medieval History (Required course for the minor)	3
HIST 6980	Graduate Reading Course	3
Students will demonstrate language proficiency in a second language either by passing a class or examination. One of the two languages should be Latin.		
HIST 5900	History Teaching Practicum (Required course)	0
For completion of the MA, students successfully defend a seminar paper before three examiners in a one-hour examination		
Credits		9

Year Three**Fall**

Participation in / Completion of Mentoring Events		
HIST 6900	Professional Writing for Historians I	3
Students normally take their comprehensive examinations by the end of this term and definitely by the end of the sixth semester.		
Credits		3

Spring

Participation in / Completion of Mentoring Events		
HIST 6901	Professional Writing for Historians II	3
Students must write their dissertation prospectus by the end of this term.		
Credits		3

Year Four**Fall**

Participation in / Completion of Mentoring Events		
HIST 6990	Dissertation Research	6
Students may take college teaching certificate at this point.		
Credits		6

Spring

Participation in / Completion of Mentoring Events		
HIST 6990	Dissertation Research	6
Credits		6

Year Five**Fall**

Participation in / Completion of Mentoring Events		
HIST 6990	Dissertation Research	0
Credits		0

Spring

Participation in / Completion of Mentoring Events		
HIST 6990	Dissertation Research	0
A minimum 75000 words thesis is to be defended before three examiners for completion of the PHD in a two hour examination.		
Credits		0
Total Credits		54-55

Program Notes

Students entering the doctoral program with an M.A. in history only have to take 27 rather than 36 credits before their comprehensive examinations.

Students must take a studies class and a seminar in both their major and minor fields.

Students must take a minimum of 12 credits in their major field and six credits in their minor field.

Students must meet with their advisor every term to discuss their progress.

Comprehensive examinations consist of two four-hour written papers in the major and minor field followed by a two-hour oral examination before five examiners.

Medieval European Concentration with a Minor in Early-Modern History

Course	Title	Credits
Year One		
Fall		
Participation in Mentoring Events		
HIST 5300	Studies Medieval History (Required course for the major)	3
HIST 5000	Theory & Practice of History: An Introduction (Required course)	3
HIST 5310	Advanced Studies in Medieval History	3
Credits		9

Spring

Participation in / Completion of Mentoring Events		
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HIST 5400	Studies in Early Modern European History (Required course for the major)	3
HIST 6810	Seminar Medieval History (Required course for the major)	3
LATN 5930	Special Topics	3

Students will demonstrate language proficiency in one language either by passing a class or examination.

Credits 9

Year Two

Fall

Participation in / Completion of Mentoring Events		
HIST 5310	Advanced Studies in Medieval History	3
HIST 5410	Advanced Studies in Early Modern European History	3
LATN 5630	Introduction to Paleography	3-4
HIST 5900	History Teaching Practicum (Required course)	0

Credits 9-10

Spring

Participation in / Completion of Mentoring Events		
HIST 6810	Seminar Medieval History	3
HIST 6820	Seminar: Early Modern European History (Required course for the minor)	3
HIST 6980	Graduate Reading Course (Required course)	3

Students will demonstrate language proficiency in a second language either by passing a class or examination. One of the two languages should be Latin.

HIST 5900	History Teaching Practicum	0
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For completion of the MA, students successfully defend a seminar paper before three examiners in a one-hour examination.

Credits 9

Year Three

Fall

Participation in / Completion of Mentoring Events		
HIST 6900	Professional Writing for Historians I	3

Students normally take their comprehensive examinations by the end of this term and definitely by the end of the sixth semester.

Credits 3

Spring

Participation in / Completion of Mentoring Events		
HIST 6901	Professional Writing for Historians II	3

Students must write their dissertation prospectus by the end of this term.

Credits 3

Year Four

Fall

Participation in / Completion of Mentoring Events		
HIST 6990	Dissertation Research	6

Students may take college teaching certificate at this point.

Credits 6

Spring

Participation in / Completion of Mentoring Events		
HIST 6990	Dissertation Research	6

Credits 6

Year Five

Fall

Participation in / Completion of Mentoring Events		
HIST 6990	Dissertation Research	0

Credits 0

Spring

Participation in / Completion of Mentoring Events		
HIST 6990	Dissertation Research	0

A minimum 75000 words thesis is to be defended before three examiners for completion of the PHD in a two hour examination.

Credits 0

Total Credits 54-55

Program Notes

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Students must take a studies class and a seminar in both their major and minor fields.

Students must take a minimum of 12 hours in their major field and six hours in their minor field.

Students must meet with their advisor every term to discuss their progress.

Comprehensive examinations consist of two four-hour written papers in the major and minor field followed by a two-hour oral examination before five examiners.

American Concentration with a Minor in World History

Course	Title	Credits
Year One		
Fall		
Participation in / Completion of Mentoring Events		
HIST 5000	Theory & Practice of History: An Introduction (Required course)	3
HIST 5600	Studies in American History (Required course for the major)	3
HIST 5610	Advanced Studies in American History	3
Credits		9

Spring

Participation in / Completion of Mentoring Events		
HIST 6840	Seminar in American History (Required course for the major)	3
HIST 5700	Themes and Methods in World History (Required course for the major)	3
ASTD 5000	Perspectives in American Studies	3
Credits		9

Year Two**Fall**

Participation in / Completion of Mentoring Events

HIST 5610	Advanced Studies in American History	3
HIST 5710	Advanced Studies in World History	3
SPAN 5010	Spanish for Reading and Translation	3
Students will demonstrate language proficiency in one language either by passing a class or examination.		
HIST 5900	History Teaching Practicum	0

Credits	9
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Spring

Participation in / Completion of Mentoring Events

HIST 6870	Research Seminar in World History (Required course for the major)	3
HIST 6840	Seminar in American History	3
HIST 6980	Graduate Reading Course	3
HIST 5900	History Teaching Practicum	0

For completion of the MA, students successfully defend a seminar paper before three examiners in a one-hour examination.

Credits	9
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Year Three**Fall**

Participation in / Completion of Mentoring Events

HIST 6900	Professional Writing for Historians I	3
Students normally take their comprehensive examinations by the end of this term and definitely by the end of the sixth semester.		

Credits	3
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Spring

Participation in / Completion of Mentoring Events

HIST 6900	Professional Writing for Historians I	3
Students must write their dissertation prospectus by the end of this term.		

Credits	3
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Year Four**Fall**

Participation in / Completion of Mentoring Events

HIST 6990	Dissertation Research	6
Students may take college teaching certificate at this point.		

Credits	6
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Spring

Participation in / Completion of Mentoring Events

HIST 6990	Dissertation Research	6

Credits	6
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Year Five**Fall**

Participation in / Completion of Mentoring Events

HIST 6990	Dissertation Research	0

Credits	0
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Spring

Participation in / Completion of Mentoring Events

HIST 6990	Dissertation Research	0
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A minimum 75000 words thesis is to be defended before three examiners for completion of the PHD in a two hour examination.

Credits	0
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Total Credits	54
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Program Notes

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Students must take a studies class and a seminar in both their major and minor fields.

Students must take a minimum of 12 hours in their major field and a minimum of six hours in their minor field.

Students must meet with their advisor every term to discuss their progress.

Contact Us

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