

SOCIAL SCIENCES

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Graduate Faculty

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The Department of Social Sciences offers the Master of Arts (MA) in History with concentrations in thesis, non-thesis exams, and social sciences education. We also offer a program for post-baccalaureate teacher licensure in Social Sciences. All graduate programs are available online.

MA Degree, History

The MA program in History at Emporia State University is designed to transform students of history into historians. The program is intended to both broaden and to sharpen students' study of the subject. The MA degree may be obtained by following three degree concentrations: thesis, non-thesis (exams), and social sciences education. Those who successfully complete this program are highly motivated, interested in the factual and theoretical aspects of the field, and able to demonstrate through a variety of written and oral forms their commitment to excellence. Working together, the faculty and students create an atmosphere in which the requisite skills in critical thinking, research, and writing are taught, explained, nurtured, and evaluated. The program produces graduates who attain a level of performance and expertise that allows them to move on to additional graduate studies, teaching, archival work, public history, or other activities related to the discipline.

Certificate Program in History

The department also offers an 18 credit hour graduate program in history designed around licensure

requirements for teachers. Students in this program take two historiography courses and 12 hours of electives. Up to six graduate hours from another fully accredited, graduate history program may be transferred and credited toward the certificate, if the student earned a "B" or higher in each course.

Admission Requirements

Minimum admission requirements (NOTE: meeting these minimums does not guarantee admission.)

- bachelor's degree with overall GPA of 3.0;
- at least 12 hours of coursework in history, with 3.0 GPA in these courses;
- writing sample deemed "Satisfactory" by Graduate Committee.

Applicants for the MA program in History must submit to the Graduate School:

- a completed application form;
 - a 1- to 2-page statement of purpose;
 - 2 letters of recommendation from college instructors or employers addressing the applicant's aptitude for graduate study;
 - Thesis or non-thesis option: a writing sample;
 - social sciences education option: a sample lesson plan.
- The statement of purpose should briefly discuss the applicant's career goals and scholarly interests. The applicant should explain how these scholarly interests align with faculty expertise in the department.
 - The writing sample will be evaluated for basic writing competence, analytical ability, and engagement with primary and secondary historical sources. Any one of the following examples can be used to fulfill this application requirement:
 - Paper of 4–10 pages from an upper-division college course, preferably in history, though papers from humanities or social sciences courses are also acceptable.
 - Book review (3–6 pp., 1000–2000 words): Summarize and evaluate a recent history study of your choosing. History journals and scholarly sites such as H-Net list new books as they are published. H-Net's Review Guidelines (<http://www.h-net.org/reviews/guidelines.php>) provide a standard overview of history book reviews.
 - Research proposal (4–6 pp. including brief bibliography, 1500–2000 words): Develop a proposal for a research project suitable for a scholarly article of 25–30 pages or for a thesis of 60–90 pages using library and/or online

resources. Submit a brief proposal a) defining your research question, b) explaining its significance, and c) listing no more than 5 primary and 5 secondary sources.

- The sample lesson plan must be tied to state standards. It should include behavioral objectives, materials needed to teach the lesson, an introductory activity, detailed procedures that explain the learning activities, and a description of how the objectives will be assessed. Applicants should also provide a rationale for their objectives, activities, and assessment.
- Applicants may use the same letters of recommendation for GTA applications (see below).
- The Graduate Committee will evaluate the applicant's capacity for advanced study in history based on writing ability, overall GPA, history GPA, and recommenders' comments. The Graduate Committee will also consider whether the applicant's scholarly interests align with those of faculty in the department. If the applicant does not meet the minimums outlined above, the Graduate Committee can consider up to 12 hours of graduate coursework in history taken at ESU under non-degree-seeking status or 9 hours of graduate coursework in history taken at another institution.
- Each member of the Committee will independently evaluate the applicant's admission file, rating the writing sample as "Satisfactory" or "Unsatisfactory" and recommending rejection, full admission, conditional admission, or probationary admission.
 - full admission: no restrictions
 - conditional: used for graduating seniors, who must obtain a bachelor's degree before admission. Their final GPA must be evaluated, and if necessary they will be admitted on a probationary basis.
 - probationary: students must achieve a 3.0 GPA in their first 6 or first 9 hours of study. The Graduate Committee members should indicate a level of probation in their recommendation.
- The Graduate Committee will then make a decision about the applicant's status. Members may collectively decide to override the requirement of 12 hours in History or other aspects of the minimum requirements. The Graduate Committee will propose a course of

action, which all members will vote upon. The proposed course of action must receive at least 2 out of 3 votes to pass. The Graduate Program Director will notify the Graduate Office and the applicant of the Committee's decision.

Graduate Assistantship Awards and Renewals

- The Department of Social Sciences offers teaching assistantships to students in the History MA program. Graduate Teaching Assistants (GTAs) usually work with faculty teaching introductory courses in geography, US history, or world history. Assistantships may extend through the full academic year (fall and spring semesters) or for one semester only. The number of positions and the salary amounts are dependent on annual funding; typically, the department has five to six openings per academic year. GTAships are generally limited to 4 semesters and must be renewed each academic year.
- GTAs must hold a bachelor's degree (BA, BS, or BSE) from an accredited college or university at the time they take up their duties. In addition to other policies stipulated by the Graduate Policy Handbook, they must be admitted, enrolled full-time in the History MA program, and available to work in person at the Emporia campus for the duration of their appointment.
- Award and renewal decisions on Graduate Teaching Assistantships are made every spring semester for the fall and spring semesters of the next academic year.
 - Returning GTAs should notify the MA Coordinator by February 1 if they wish to renew their position. Renewal applications should include a self-reflective letter and a letter of recommendation from a professor who has supervised their assistantship. These materials will be made available to all tenured and tenure-track History faculty.
 - New applicants should submit assistantship applications to the Graduate School by March 15. Applications received after this date will be considered if positions remain unfilled.
- The Graduate Committee will review renewal and new applications by April 1.
 - The Graduate Committee will consider each renewal application on the basis of

the applicant's graduate coursework and teaching record. They will then vote on each renewal request, which must receive a plurality of votes to be granted.

- The Graduate Committee will consider each new application on the basis of the student's undergraduate record and graduate record, if any. Each committee member shall rank new applicants. The Graduate Program Director will tabulate the rankings and distribute them to committee members, who will then vote on which applicants will receive full-year or part-year positions. They will also vote on a ranked list of alternates.
- The Graduate Program Director, in consultation with faculty who supervise GTAs, will assign GTAs for the upcoming academic year.
- If a GTA's semester GPA falls between 2.5 and 3.0, the Graduate Committee will determine on a case-by-case basis whether that GTA may retain their position. If the semester GPA falls below 2.5, the Graduate School will automatically terminate the position, as per their official Graduate Policy Handbook.
- All GTAs are required to attend the department orientation session held just prior to the start of classes in August.

Program Structure

- Graduate students elect to pursue a concentration within the MA program. Beyond the stipulations below, they will have latitude in choosing classes that meet their interests and career goals, with the approval of the Graduate Program Director.
- All students must take the following courses in their first 12 hours of graduate study:
 - 1 readings seminar (HI710 or HI740, 3 hours);
 - HI701, US Historiography to 1877 (3 hours) or HI702, US Historiography since 1877 (3 hours)
- At least 22 hours must be earned in courses numbered 700 and above.
- Other coursework can include additional readings seminars, research seminars, directed readings courses, or internships.
- Students may apply a maximum of 6 hours of directed readings to their degree plan. These classes function like an independent study:

students find an instructor who agrees to oversee their work in a 1- or 2-credit course. In exceptional circumstances, students may ask the Graduate Program Director for permission to take a 3-credit directed readings.

- Students must obtain approval from the Graduate Program Director before enrolling in courses from outside the department or in 3-credit directed readings courses.
- When students complete 12 hours of graduate study, they reach a decision point for the four degree options.
 - All students must apply to the Graduate Committee for degree candidacy, indicating their chosen degree option and their advisory committee. Students may not enroll for classes beyond these 12 hours until they have filed the form.
 - The 3 faculty members on the advisory committee will evaluate the student's thesis/project and defense or written and oral exams. Students select the members with guidance from the Graduate Program Director. Only full-time tenured or tenure-track History faculty may serve as chairs.

MA in History—Thesis Option: No Concentration

Historiography seminars 6 hrs. required;

HI 701	3 hours
HI 702	3 hours

Research seminars 6 hours required:

HI 815	total of 6 hours
(maybe repeated if course has different topics)	

Reading's seminars 6 hours required:

HI 710	3 hours
HI 740	3 hours
(each maybe repeated if course has different topics)	

First year elective 3 hours

One 500-level History course taken with advisor's approval in the first year.

Electives

*Other Electives (may include graduate courses outside history) 9 hours

Thesis:

HI 890 6 hours

Total Required 36 hours

*Students work with advisor to choose appropriate coursework outside history.

MA in History—Non-Thesis Option:

No Concentration

Historiography seminars 6 hours required

HI 701 3 hours

HI 702 3 hours

Research seminars 6 hours

HI 815 total of 6 hours

(maybe repeated if course has different topics)

Readings seminars 6 hours

HI 710 3 hours

HI 740 3 hours

(each maybe repeated if course has different topics)

First year elective 3 hours

One 500-level History course taken with advisor's approval in the first year

*Other electives (may include graduate courses outside history) 14 hours

Master's Exam 1 hour required

HI 895 1 hour

Total Required 36 hours

*Students work with concentration advisor to choose appropriate course work outside history.

MA in History – Social Sciences Education Concentration – Non Thesis Only

Historiography Seminars (6 hours required):

HI 701 3 hours

HI 702 3 hours

Readings seminars (6 hours required)

HI 710 3 hours

HI 740 3 hours

*Specialty areas 12 hours

SS 740 3 hours

ED/EL 865 3 hours

IT 700 3 hours

MA Project

HI 894 3 hours

Total Required Hours

36 hours

HISTORY CERTIFICATE

Required:

American Historiography Seminars (6 hours required):

HI 701 3 hours

HI 702 3 hours

Electives 12 hours

(Elective Reading courses both in American and World History)

Total Required Hours

18 hours

PUBLIC HISTORY CERTIFICATE

Core (3 hours)

HI 701: US Historiography Through Reconstruction 3 hours

HI 702: US Historiography Since Reconstruction 3 hours

Electives (9-11 hours)

HI 701: US Historiography Through Reconstruction 3 hours

HI 702: US Historiography Since Reconstruction 3 hours

(if *not* taken to satisfy core requirement)

HI 530: Santa Fe Trail *1-2 hours

HI 595: Preserving the Past Through Performance *3 hours

HI 710: Readings in World History **3 hours

HI 740: Readings in US History **3 hours

HI 892: Museum Internship 3-6 hours

AN 701: Anthropology of Great Plains 1-3 hours

PO 510: Nonprofit Management *3 hours

Captone (1-3 hours)

HI 790: Directed Readings I 1-3 hours

*Courses offered at both the undergraduate and graduate level must be taken at the graduate level to count toward the graduate certificate

**HI 710 and HI 740 may each be repeated if not the same topic.

Total:

15 hours

Satisfactory Progress

- Satisfactory progress entails a minimum GPA of 3.0. For all graduate courses at all levels, B- or above constitutes a passing grade while a C+ or below constitutes a failing grade. If a student earns a failing grade in a required course, the course must be retaken.
- After students admitted on probation have completed a minimum of 6 hours of graduate study, the Graduate Committee will decide if they are making satisfactory progress so that probationary status can be repealed.
- Students who fail to achieve a minimum GPA of 3.0 in any semester will be put on probationary status by the Graduate School.
- In all cases of probationary status, that status must be repealed before candidacy can be granted.
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Graduation Requirements

- Courses taken to fulfill undergraduate deficiencies do not count toward graduate program requirements.
- Students completing a thesis must select 3 faculty members for their advisory committee when they have completed 12 hours of graduate study and apply for degree candidacy. They submit a thesis/proposal when they have completed 18 hours of graduate study.
 - When the student has produced a satisfactory version of the thesis, the student and the advisory committee chair will establish a timetable for its defense and final revision. The student will then submit thesis copies to the remaining members of the committee.
 - Committee members will meet with the student for an oral defense of the student's research, historiographical framework, methodology, and argument. All committee members may suggest final changes for the thesis.
 - The advisory committee will evaluate the thesis individually by commenting on the above areas. They will then vote as a group on whether to accept the thesis/project pending revisions. At least 2 of the 3 members must vote that the thesis was satisfactory.
 - The committee will then submit their completed Thesis/Project/Exam Assessment

forms on the thesis/project and defense to the Graduate Program Director. The student must also complete a Graduating Candidate Survey and submit it to the Graduate Program Director or the Department Chair. At that point, the Graduate Program Director will file the thesis signature page (approved either by advisory committee members or by the Department Chair) and a Final Examination card with the Graduate School, indicating that the student has concluded all necessary steps for the degree.

- Non-thesis students will take 4 examinations (3 written and 1 oral) from the members of their advisory committee in their last semester of study to demonstrate their mastery of content, historiography, and research methodology.
 - Students select 3 faculty members for their advisory committee when they have completed 12 hours of graduate study and apply for degree candidacy.
 - By the sixth week of the semester, each member of the advisory committee will submit several questions for these examinations to the committee chair, who will forward them to the student. Before each written exam, the faculty member responsible for that exam will choose 1 question from those submitted; other questions may be reserved for the oral exam.
 - Students will have 3 hours to complete each written exam, to be taken in the tenth week of the semester. Each member of the advisory committee will evaluate all written exams individually on a Thesis/Project/Exam Assessment form before the oral examination, commenting on the student's performance in terms of content, critical thinking, knowledge of historiography, and clarity of expression.
 - The advisory committee will then vote on the student's written performance. At least 2 of the 3 members must vote that the student's performance was satisfactory and that the student may proceed to the oral examination. If the student's performance was not satisfactory, the student may retake any unsatisfactory written examination once, either in that semester or in a later semester, and the committee will re-evaluate as above.
 - Students will have one hour to complete the oral examination, to be taken no later than fourteenth week of the semester. Committee members may ask students to expand upon

their written answers and/or ask questions that were not selected for a written exam. Then the advisory committee will evaluate the student's performance as a group by vote; at least 2 of the 3 members must vote that the student's performance was satisfactory. The committee will also individually complete

Thesis/Project/Exam Assessment forms and submit these evaluations to the Graduate Program Director. If the student's performance was not satisfactory, the student may retake the oral examination once, either in that semester or in a later semester, and the committee will re-evaluate performance as above.

- Students must pass both types of exams to receive the degree. They must also complete a Graduating Candidate Survey and submit it to the Graduate Program Director or the Department Chair. At that point, the Graduate Program Director will file a Final Examination card with the Graduate Office, indicating that the student has concluded all necessary steps for the degree.
- Social science education students complete a pedagogical project and a portfolio.
 - The student and Graduate Program Director will select members of the advisory committee when the student applies for degree candidacy upon completion of 12 hours of graduate study. The GPD will serve as the chair; the student may select the other 2 members of the committee. The members of the committee must represent the student's specialty area(s); e.g. if American history and geography are selected as the specialty areas, then the student must choose a committee member from each of those areas. If the student has only one specialty area, at least one committee member must be from that subject area. The faculty members on this committee will approve the project proposal and evaluate the student's oral defense of his or her research project.
 - Students choose a topic and prepare a project proposal when they have completed 18 hours of graduate study. The advisory committee must approve this proposal. When the student has produced a satisfactory version of the proposal, the student and the DGP will establish a timeline for the project's completion, defense, and final revision. Students must pass an oral defense on their

project when they near completion of the degree. At the time of the oral defense, committee members will vote as a group whether or not to accept the project pending recommended revisions. At least 2 of the 3 committee members must vote that the project was satisfactory. The DGP will be responsible for submitting the committee's final evaluation to the Chair of the Social Sciences.

- Students must also compile a portfolio that contains at least 7 papers and/or projects: 4 from their specialty area(s), 1 from Seminar in Teaching Social Sciences, 1 from ED865, and 1 from the required technology course. Students will submit the portfolio on the day of defense. Included in the portfolio will be a self-reflective letter that demonstrates an understanding of the integration of the social sciences and describes how the student has met the goals of the program, i.e., how the student has improved his or her skills as a Critical Thinker, Creative Planner, and Effective Practitioner.
- The student must also complete a Graduating Candidate Survey and submit it to the Graduate Program Director or the Department Chair. At that point, the Graduate Program Director will file a Final Examination card with the Graduate Office, indicating that the student have concluded all necessary steps for the degree.

Revalidation of Courses

Graduate students have 7 years to complete their MA degrees. Under exceptional circumstances, students may petition for a 1-year extension. The program will not revalidate courses that fall outside this 8-year deadline.

Dual Degree with Library & Information Management

Students simultaneously pursuing a History MA and an M.L.S. at ESU's School of Library and Information Management (SLIM) can apply up to 6 hours of SLIM coursework toward the History MA and up to 6 hours of history coursework toward the M.L.S., but the total number of hours shared between the two programs cannot exceed 10 hours.

Archives and Museum Internship

- Students interested in internships should contact the appropriate instructor at least 24 weeks (1.5 semesters) before the semester in which they intend to start the internship. The instructors need advance notice to place students at an appropriate facility; instructors, internship supervisors at the facility, and students must also agree upon the course parameters.
- Students must earn a passing grade in Intro to Public History before taking an internship.
- Students may apply no more than a total of 6 internship hours from Emporia State University or any other accredited institution toward degree requirements.

Post-baccalaureate Teacher Licensure

Post-baccalaureate students desiring to teach social sciences in the secondary schools should contact Andra Baldwin, the Licensure Officer in the Teachers College.