**Majors**

## The Major in History

**Total units required:** 28

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### Introductory Courses

- One introductory survey (100 level)
- One additional introductory course, chosen from any 100- or 200-level course listed in History and taught by history department faculty*

**Note:** Students may satisfy introductory course requirements using AP credit if they have earned a score of 5 on the AP European, U.S., or World History examinations.**

* This course can be an introductory survey, lecture, or seminar, and it can be either home-based or cross-listed in History. **History department faculty** does not include affiliated faculty.

** Students will be awarded 3 units of credit per AP exam for a maximum of 6 credits toward the major or minor. A score of 4 on any of these exams may earn 3 units of elective credit but will not be counted toward the major or minor.

### Upper-Level Courses

At least 18 300- or 400-level units plus a capstone experience (for a minimum of 22 advanced units) must be completed. Requirements at this level include the following:

- At least one course designated “premodern” and one course designated “modern”
- At least one course from three of the following geographical areas: Africa, East Asia, South Asia, Europe, Latin America, Middle East, or the United States or in transregional history (please refer to note 5 below)
- The capstone experience: History majors must, prior to graduation, complete a capstone experience that consists of the following:
  - Successful completion of the senior honors thesis; or
  - An advanced seminar; or
  - An independent research project with a significant writing component (History 500 Independent Work); or
  - Directed fieldwork in the historical or archival profession, with a significant writing component

### Additional Information

**Fieldwork:** History majors are eligible for fieldwork at the Missouri Historical Society or at other museums. Opportunities are also sometimes available in the special collections at Olin Library, with local businesses, and at historical sites.

**Study Abroad:** The Department of History strongly encourages student participation in the various year and semester abroad programs approved by the College. A maximum of 3 history credits earned may be applied to the minor, and a maximum of 6 history credits earned
may be applied to the major in history. Students must have their courses preapproved by the department’s study abroad advisor prior to departure. It is possible to pursue a senior honors thesis after study abroad, but careful planning is required.

**Senior Honors:** Students who have a strong academic record may work toward Latin Honors. Students graduating with Latin Honors must meet grade point average requirements and satisfactorily complete History 399 Senior Honors Thesis and Colloquium: Writing-Intensive Seminar while writing a thesis during the senior year.

**Awards and Prizes:** The Department of History annually awards the following prizes:

- The **Helen and Isaac Izenberg Prize** for a superior paper written for an Advanced Seminar
- The **Shirley McDonald Wallace Prize** for an outstanding first-year student enrolled in both semesters of Western Civilization
- The **J. Walter Goldstein Prize** for an excellent, well-written senior honors thesis
- The **Konig Prize in Law & History** for the best-written paper addressing the connection between law and history in any history course

**Special Opportunities:** Undergraduates interested in history are encouraged to join the Undergraduate History Association, which is the local chapter of Phi Alpha Theta (PAT). Led by the ongoing campus PAT members, the chapter usually holds an initial organizing meeting in the fall of each year. The activities of the chapter vary, but they typically include sponsorship of lectures, films, discussions and social events. Although national PAT membership requires 12 completed units of history courses, the local chapter welcomes the participation of all students interested in history. Each year, PAT publishes *The Gateway History Journal*, an anthology of the best student historical writing at Washington University.