

HISTORY, MASTER OF ARTS (078)

Program Coordinator

Alexander I. Olson, alexander.olson@wku.edu, (270) 745-4201

This program is designed to prepare students for the teaching of history in secondary schools, community colleges, or universities. It also provides the initial graduate work for those who intend to pursue a doctoral degree.

Joint Undergraduate Master's Program (JUMP)

This degree offers a Joint Undergraduate Master's Program (JUMP) which provides academically outstanding students the opportunity to complete both an undergraduate and graduate degree in an accelerated timeframe. Contact the graduate program coordinator for additional information.

Program Admission

Applicants must meet the following admission standards set forth by the History Department:

- Completion of at least 15 undergraduate credit-hours in history with a grade point average of at least 3.0 in history courses (on a 4.0 scale)
- An overall undergraduate grade point average of at least 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale)
- Applicants must submit application and all supporting materials by June 1 (fall semester start) or November 15 (spring semester start)

Applicants must also submit:

- A brief (approximately 750 words) statement of purpose that discusses why they wish to pursue the Master of Arts degree in History;
- A sample research paper (at least five pages long) that is relevant to the field of History;
- One letter of recommendation from an instructor or supervisor who can assess the applicant's ability to succeed in a professional environment. This letter must be sent directly by the writer to Graduate Studies (graduate.school@wku.edu) and should not be uploaded by the applicant.

The History Department will admit students on a rolling basis. The History Department may limit the number of students admitted to maintain the quality and size of the MA program's student body.

Graduate Studies Admission

Please refer to the admission section (<http://catalog.wku.edu/graduate/admission/>) of this catalog for Graduate Studies admission requirements.

Program Requirements (30-34 hours)

Students may be permitted to take up to six hours of graduate work in a related field in courses approved by the History Graduate Advisor.

Plan A - Thesis (30 hours)

Code	Title	Hours
Required Courses		
HIST 535	Historiography	3

HIST 536	Sources and Methods	3
HIST 599	Thesis Research/Writing	6
Electives		
Select 18 hours of HIST electives		18
Total Hours		30

Plan B - Non-Thesis (34 hours)

Code	Title	Hours
Required Course		
HIST 535	Historiography	3
HIST 536	Sources and Methods	3
HIST 598	Comprehensive Exam Preparation	1
Electives		
Select 27 hours of HIST electives		27
Total Hours		34

Comprehensive Exam

Students should contact the History Graduate Advisor early in their programs for help in selecting fields and compiling a list of books and articles for the comprehensive exam. All students must pass the comprehensive exam (written and oral), which assesses their command of the methods and scholarly literature in their fields of specialization. Students in Plan B are required to enroll in HIST 598 in their final semester. Students in Plan A are not required to enroll in HIST 598 but still must pass the exam.