

MASTER OF ARTS IN HISTORY

The Master of Arts in History program at Sam Houston State University prepares students to critically analyze historical events; to assess major interpretive problems and historiographical debates; to weigh and interpret conflicting evidence; to evaluate change over time; to acknowledge the complexities and contingencies of the past; and to appreciate the texture and diversity of human experiences. Students who complete the MA in History degree should be able to make and sustain an historical argument in professional prose; to position those arguments in larger interpretive frameworks; to evaluate the merits of an historical argument; and to pose good questions, both about the past and their own particular moment. Courses are delivered online and asynchronously, but small class sizes ensure that students have ample opportunities for engagement with their instructional faculty. This degree prepares students who wish to pursue a doctoral degree in the discipline or who wish to gain certification to teach dual-credit or two-year college courses in History. The program also serves general interest learners who wish to enrich their understanding of the past.

To organize their coursework, students select one of the following thematic tracks, each of which represent mainstays of the human experience. Each track transcends time and space, inviting students to ask thematic questions and to build connections between courses and historiographies.

Rights & Identity: Students explore how individuals and collectives have defined themselves at different times and places around the world. Students examine how such matters as social order, race, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexuality, and national origins have shaped personal identity and group consciousness. Classes in this track also explore how rights, citizenship, and belonging have been negotiated and contested by various state and non-state actors around the globe.

War & Violence: War and violence have been mainstays of human history. Students examine how various societies throughout history have experienced, conducted, and remembered military conflict, mass killing, and genocide. How has the conduct of war changed over time? What are the human, emotional, and cultural consequences of war? When and why do societies resort to armed conflict?

Encounters & Exchanges: Students examine the themes of encounter and exchange throughout history. Cross-cultural encounters have been central to the human experience since antiquity and have sometimes manifested themselves on the large scale, as is evident with the Silk Roads, the Atlantic Slave Trade, and, most recently, globalization. Trade, missionary activity, and imperialism are other avenues by which the world's diverse peoples have interacted.

Students seeking admission to the MA in History must meet the following requirements and submit all documents to the Office of Graduate Admissions (<https://www.shsu.edu/dept/graduate-admissions/transition.html>):

1. Graduate Application (<https://www.shsu.edu/admissions/apply-texas.html>): The Graduate Application is an institutional application required by SHSU. Students must provide biographical and educational information and information relevant to determining State of Texas residency.
2. Application fee (<https://www.shsu.edu/dept/graduate-admissions/application-fee.html>): An application fee is required for all applications to graduate programs at SHSU.
3. Transcripts documenting all prior degrees.*
4. Two letters of recommendation that discuss the applicant's academic and professional potential.
5. Statement of Intent: Applicants should submit a written statement explaining why they wish to pursue an MA in History; how their educational background or work experience has prepared them to undertake a graduate degree in history; and what they plan to do professionally with the degree.
6. An academic writing sample demonstrating the applicant's ability to advance an argument in professional prose.
7. Completion of at least eighteen semester credit hours in history at the undergraduate level. Courses from other disciplines may be counted toward this requirement if they had a strong historical focus.

Applicants may submit additional information about relevant coursework with their application file.

Applicants who have not completed eighteen semester credit hours in history may be probationally accepted to the program after a holistic review of their application file.

*Applicants may submit unofficial transcripts for review by the admissions committee. However, under university policy, admission decisions are contingent upon receipt of official transcripts.

Admission Deadlines:

Fall: March 1

Summer: March 1

Spring: October 1

Applicants must submit all application materials directly to the Office of Graduate Admissions by the relevant deadline. A holistic review of each applicant's file will then be completed, with admission to the MA in History program offered to applicants on a competitive basis.

Note: Incomplete applications will not be considered.

During a student's final semester of coursework, non-thesis students will submit and orally defend a portfolio of their written work. In addition to a cover sheet and table of contents, this portfolio will include one sample of written work from each course, an annotated bibliography of books and articles read in those courses, and an original essay reflecting on their major thematic track. Thesis students shall be exempt from the portfolio requirement.

Plan 1 - MA in History (Thesis)

Code	Title	Hours
Master of Arts in History (Thesis)		
Required Courses		
HIST 5301	Methods in History	3
HIST 6098	Thesis I ¹	3
HIST 6099	Thesis II ¹	3
Track Core Courses ²		12
Track Electives ²		3
General Electives ³		6
Total Hours		30

¹ Thesis must be prepared on a subject within the student's thematic track.

² See History Track listing below.

³ Complete any two graduate history courses outside of track.

Plan 2 - MA in History (Non-Thesis)

Code	Title	Hours
Master of Arts in History (Non-Thesis)		
Specified Courses		
HIST 5301	Methods in History	3
HIST 6394	Seminar in History	3
Track Core Courses ¹		15
Track Electives ¹		6
General Electives ²		9
Total Hours		36

¹ See History Track course listings below.

² Complete any three graduate history courses outside of track.

Plan 3 - MA in History with Concentration

Code	Title	Hours
Master of Arts in History with Minor		
Specified Courses		
HIST 5301	Methods in History	3
HIST 6394	Seminar in History	3
Track Core Courses ¹		15
Track Electives ¹		3
Concentration ²		12
Total Hours		36

¹ See History Track course listings below.

² Select four of any graduate courses in a field approved by a Graduate Advisor. No student should take any course outside of the History Department prior to receiving written approval for a concentration from the Graduate Director and Department Chair.

History Tracks

Code	Title	Hours
Encounters and Exchanges		
Core Courses		
HIST 5307	Intellectual History	3
HIST 5338	Empires in World History	3
HIST 5360	African Environmental History	3
HIST 5362	Seminar in American Environmental Hist	3
HIST 5370	Colonial America	3
HIST 5377	The American West	3
HIST 5381	World Historiography	3
HIST 5384	Texas History	3
HIST 5385	Latin American History	3
HIST 5396	Cross-Cultural Interactions	3
Elective Courses		
HIST 5320	Mesoamerican Civilizations	3
HIST 5342	The Japanese Colonial Empire	3
HIST 5359	The Audible Past	3
HIST 5375	Recent America, 1876-1933	3
HIST 5388	Public History	3
Rights and Identity		
Core Courses		
HIST 5340	Recent African-American Hist	3
HIST 5372	Early National America	3
HIST 5376	Contemporary Amer, 1933-Present	3
HIST 5378	American Cultural & Religious Hist	3
HIST 5380	American Historiography	3
HIST 5382	Topics In the History Of Women	3
HIST 5386	African American Civil Rights	3
HIST 5394	Early Modern Europe	3
HIST 5395	Later Modern Europe	3
Elective Courses		
HIST 5353	Legacies of the Reformations	3
HIST 5362	Seminar in American Environmental Hist	3
HIST 5371	Revolutionary America	3
HIST 5374	Seminar in the Hist of Am South	3
HIST 5375	Recent America, 1876-1933	3
HIST 5389	Great Brit & The Brit Empire	3
War and Violence		
Core Courses		
HIST 5351	Early Medieval Europe	3
HIST 5355	Holocaust & Genocide	3
HIST 5363	Seminar In Military History	3
HIST 5364	Seminar in War & Violence	3
HIST 5367	World War II	3
HIST 5373	US Civil War	3
HIST 5383	United States Diplomatic Hist	3
HIST 5390	China in Revolution	3

HIST 5392	The Ottoman Empire, 1300-1922	3
HIST 5393	European Diplomatic History	3
Elective Courses		
HIST 5333	Pre-Modern World History	3
HIST 5336	Pre-Modern European History	3
HIST 5352	High and Late Medieval Europe	3
HIST 5365	Film and War in America	3
HIST 5366	The Reconstruction Era	3
HIST 5371	Revolutionary America	3
HIST 5374	Seminar in the His of Am South	3

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) marketable skills initiative is part of the state's **60x30TX plan** and was designed to help students articulate their skills to employers. Marketable skills are those skills valued by employers and/or graduate programs that can be applied in a variety of work or education settings and may include interpersonal, cognitive, and applied skill areas.

The MA in History is designed to provide graduates with the following marketable skills:

- Engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities while promoting civil discourse and civic participation.
- Express ideas in written, oral, and visual communication.
- Think critically and analytically.
- Evaluate and interpret textual and non-textual evidence/sources of information.
- Build an informed belief system by synthesizing knowledge and posing questions about different societies and cultures.