

**2009-11 Cal Poly Catalog**

[History Department](#)

**MASTER OF ARTS DEGREE IN HISTORY**

**General Characteristics**

The program in history emphasizes concentrated study in area specialties, with students gaining a thorough grounding in the latest historiography. In addition, the program maintains that historical study must be predicated upon sustained research, engagement with historical problems, and written communication. Completion of the MA program in history will allow students the following options:

- Teach history at the elementary, secondary, or community college level.
- Give students the critical skills and knowledge to enter into the worldwide information economy.
- Allow community members to expand their historical knowledge.
- Prepare students for transfer to Ph.D. programs at other universities.

**Prerequisites**

Admission to the MA program requires:

1. Possession of an undergraduate degree from an accredited college or university.
2. An overall grade point average of 3.0 for the last 90 units of their undergraduate work.
3. Submission of a writing sample, in the form of a senior project or upper division paper.
4. Related undergraduate coursework. Students without an undergraduate degree in history are required to demonstrate adequate preparation for graduate study in history, as determined by the Graduate Coordinator.

**Program of Study**

- 48 units of graduate work in areas specified (49 units for those students writing a MA Thesis).
- a grade point average of at least 3.0 after 12 units of graduate coursework.
- MA Thesis or Comprehensive Examinations in two distinct areas of study.

**Foreign Language Study**

Students are encouraged to learn and use foreign languages in the MA program. Students who plan further graduate study in history are particularly encouraged in this direction since proficiency in two foreign languages is usually required in doctoral programs.

**Applications**

Applications for admission and requests for further information should be directed to the Admissions Office or the Graduate Coordinator of the MA History program. All applications should include a writing sample (preferably an extended research paper) and undergraduate transcripts.

**MA HISTORY**

There are two options for the MA degree in History, Comprehensive Exam or Thesis.

	<i>Units</i>
<b>Required Course</b> .....	4
HIST 504 Graduate Study in History (4)	
History Seminars .....	20
<i>Select 5 courses from the following. Each is repeatable up to 12 units.</i>	
HIST 505 Grad. Sem. in U.S. History (4-12)	
HIST 506 Grad. Sem. in Modern European History (4-12)	
HIST 507 Grad. Sem. in East Asian History (4-12)	
HIST 508 Grad. Sem. in Latin American History (4-12)	
HIST 509 Grad. Sem. in African History (4-12)	
HIST 510 Grad. Sem. in Comparative History (4-12)	
400-500 level HIST electives .....	16
<i>400-level courses include extra work for graduate students. (All courses must be taken after undergraduate degree has been awarded. Undergraduate courses or their equivalent may not be repeated.)</i>	
Culminating Experience .....	8/9
Comprehensive Exam Option (total 48 units)	
HIST 512 Supervised Reading for Comprehensive Exams (2) (2)	
400-500 HIST electives (4)	
Thesis Option (total 49 units)	
HIST 599 Thesis (3) (3) (3)	
<b>48/49</b>	